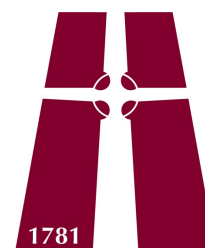


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



March 8, 2018

In This Issue

Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Community United
Presbyterian Church,
New Alexandria, Grafton
Eliason, Interim Pastor
District 1

>New Hope Presbyterian
Church, North
Huntingdon, John
Simpson, Interim Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian
Church, Fayette City,
Susan Speakman,
Moderator
District 3

>First Presbyterian
Church, Ebensburg, Alice
Tondora, Moderator
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive
Presbyter/Stated
Clerk

blog address
twitter address

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Communicate the Word...

Upcoming Events...

October 2017 through May 2018 - Community Soup for the Soul - 2nd
Wednesday - Apollo, Poke Run

March 18, 2018 - Pine Springs Camp/Five Guys Community Night

April 14, 2018 - PW Spring Gathering - Johnstown, First

May 5, 2018 - Raise the Roof Spaghetti Dinner - Johnstown, Bethany

May 29, 2018 - PW Spring Retreat - Pine Springs Camp

July 21, 2018 - Redstone Mission Tea - New Alexandria, Congruity

August 2-5, 2018 - PW Churchwide Gathering - Louisville, KY

Please go to the website at www.redstonepresbytery.org and click on the
"events" tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

Reflections from...Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter

Detours: Nuisance or Opportunity?

On my way driving home off the major highways, I approached the orange sign and the volunteer fireman redirecting me from my intended route toward home (it turned out it was from the cleanup of the train accident). I don't know about you, but my "normal" response to detours of any kind is annoyance. Convinced as I am, that I always have to be going somewhere soon, my patience wanes away quickly. Of course, because I "know" the best way there, detours represent an obstacle to my progress. They signify a deviation from those "best laid plans of mice and men." Not to be deterred, typically, I might immediately reference my phone GPS for a technologically-granted alternative (based upon miles or time). Yet, for some reason, this time, I decided I would just "go with it."

On that day, I chose not to just follow the detour signs and "make my own way" on this maze of country roads in the rural parts of Washington County. Although not of my own doing, I decided that I would "enjoy the ride" rather than focus on the destination and the earliest possible arrival. While within God's providence, planning is a "good" thing, it is qualified by the discernment of God's will and intentions.

God's leading cannot always be "mapped out" ahead of time. Sometimes it is a detour in a different direction. Sometimes, it takes you into places you could not imagine. Sometimes, it may take you across barriers (social, political, economic, ethnic) you and the "world" never thought should or would be crossed.

I am reminded of the hindrance of the Holy Spirit to Paul's attempted travels to Bithynia and vision of the Macedonian man while waiting in Troas (Acts 16). God had something different in mind. Was there something wrong or less important about Asia Minor or something intrinsically better about the land

***Carry on the
Work...***

***Change the
World...***

Together

of Macedonia? NO, but God's mission, God's kingdom which was breaking out in new ways was for the world. The Lord's first authorized missionary of this new way(Paul) would be the ONE who would be God's voice, proclaiming God's good news in this new land in part of the region we call Europe. Macedonia was not part of Paul's plan, but God intervened because it was part of God's "plan."

For us, as individuals, as congregations, as a presbytery, I wonder if God might be calling us beyond our carefully-considered plans and safe assumptions into something daring, unpredictable... maybe even unprecedented? I wonder, when we encounter the divine detours, will we "enjoy the ride?" For, where God directs us, God will lead us, where God invites us, God will precede us, where God desires us, God will provide for us.

Amen.

Around Redstone

>>Congregation (Antioch) Celebrations - In the upcoming March gathering, we want to hear from you and see some of the ways God's grace is at work in our congregations. Please plan on sharing a brief example of God's grace in your midst as a congregation. Also, send the Presbytery office any digital pictures showing God's grace at work in your congregation.

>>The review dates for the Session Minutes and Church Registers for 2017 are as follows:

March 20 - 5:00 p.m.; First, Belle Vernon, preceding Presbytery

May 15 - 5:00 p.m.; Latrobe Main Street, preceding Presbyter

>>Once again, Redstone Presbytery is offering a great opportunity to our confirmation students. This will be the seventh year for the Confirmation Retreat. The Confirmation Retreat will be held on April 13-14, 2018 at Pine Springs Camp. Workshop topics include understanding the Bible, learning about how our church governs & organizes itself (polity), what Presbyterians believe about the Sacraments, and how we respond to the needs of the world around us (stewardship & mission.) We'll also have some great group games, time around the campfire, and worship. The cost for the retreat will be \$45/person in order to cover housing and meal costs. Please let us know by March 1st, 2018 if you plan to participate in this retreat, with a firm RSVP (with number of attendees) no later than April 2nd, 2018. If you need more information please call me at 724-837-6737 or email Skip at executive@redstonepresbytery.org.

>>Five Guys Community Night - Pine Springs Camp Needs Your Support! Join us on March 18, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Greensburg, North Huntingdon, Murrysville, and Washington Five Guys. Five Guys will donate 20% of your purchase on March 18, 2018 to Pine Springs Camp. Please identify yourself at part of Pine Springs Camp at the time of purchase in order for your transaction to count!

>>"A Day with Brian McLaren"---Pittsburgh Theological Seminary workshop. Go to pts.edu/continuing-education for more information on this and other workshops and seminars being offering at the seminary.

>>The First Presbyterian Church of Windber will be having a Closing Service of Worship on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Whalley Memorial Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown campus.

Office Hours

**The Presbytery
Office Hours are:**

Monday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Friday

**The Resource
Center Hours are:**

Tuesday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Monday
and Friday

2018 Presbytery Meeting Dates

Tuesday, March 20th
Belle Vernon, First
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15th
Latrobe
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18th
Redstone Highlands,
Greensburg Campus
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17th
Dunbar, Laurel Hill
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2018 Presbytery Council Meeting Dates

April 24

May 22

June 26

August 28

September 25

October 23
November 27

**All Council meetings
begin at 6:30 p.m. and
are held
at the Presbytery
office**

>>There are several Blue Presbyterian Hymnals available at the Presbytery office. If anyone is interested in them contact the Presbytery office.



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