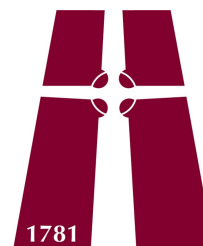


# Presbytery of Redstone

## eNews



May 3, 2018

### In This Issue Around Redstone

#### Let's Pray For:

- >Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Ken Foust, Pastor District 1
- >Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor District 2
- >New Salem Presbyterian Church, William Wiegand, Commissioned Ruling Elder District 3
- >Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Anthony Catullo, Stated Supply 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
- May 5, 2018 - Raise the Roof Spaghetti Dinner - Johnstown, Bethany
- May 15, 2018 - New Worshipping Communities Workshop - 2:00 - 5:00 - Latrobe Presbyterian Church - Pre-Presbytery event
- May 29, 2018 - PW Spring Retreat - Pine Springs Camp
- June 27, 2018 - "Soul Shop" a suicide prevention workshop - Excelsa Square, Latrobe
- 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](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org) and click on the "events" tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

#### Reflections from the Executive Presbyter, Skip Noftzger

##### *"Invited into Mission: Beneficiary and Owner of the Dream"*

With full expectation of the joys of a return visit, Paul and Barnabas part ways over the decision to include Mark. So, Paul and Silas set out through Syria, Cilicia, Derbe and Lystra to check on those new to the faith. Yet, having returned to some of the regions, they find themselves "redirected."

"Forbidden by the Holy Spirit" to speak the word in Asia, they then attempt to go into Bithynia, but "the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." Directed and re-directed until they would receive in a vision the invitation of the Macedonian man pleading, "come over to Macedonia and help us." This vision renders Paul convinced that God's new invitation was for them to go to this new region (which we later identify with Europe) and ultimately to Philippi, in order that they too might hear the good news for them.

Such dreams and visions both forbidding and re-directing may be foreign to some of our experiences of the way the Lord leads us. Yet, they are neither to be discounted nor demanded for guidance. The invitation of the Macedonian man signifies God's invitation that the gospel might come to another part of the Roman empire and the "ends of the earth" as they knew it. Willie James Jennings comments this role of God's revelation even in the specific locations to advance God's kingdom.

"Dream and vision are not counter to the concrete realities of this world, but rather they pre-sent this world in its fullness. Dream and vision are from God but also bound to our bodies, and they constitute a concourse for the activity of the Holy Spirit. Luke draws us inside his geographic imagination, which moves us through Troas, Samothrace, Neapolis, to the Roman colony Philippi, and to

**Carry on the  
Work...**

**Change the  
World...**

**Together**

following the disciples outside its city gate and down to the river to a place of prayer."

So, there in Philippi, the invitation of the Macedonian man is lived out in God's activity as their guide and going before them. And, in that place, it begins with those gathered in the "place of prayer." It begins with a woman named Lydia, from Thyatira. It begins with the one who sold purple goods, yet who was a worshiper of God. It begins with God opening her heart to "hear" what Paul proclaims. The impact of this good news is reflected both in the baptism of her household, but in the placing of her possessions and status in the service of God through her own acts of hospitality.

#### 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

From her home, the church begins in that colony of Rome. From her home, God's Spirit begins the kingdom transformation through good news grounded in the cross and resurrection. In that home, discipleship begins for Lydia, but also for those who would "hear" the call and follow the Christ. This invitation to mission came to the apostle, but Lydia and her successors would not only benefit, but it would be an invitation into mission in which they would also share. It is that same invitation that we have received with the good news that becomes ours in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

### **Around Redstone**

>>Mission Trips - if your church has an upcoming mission trip planned, let us know. If you have available "spots", let us help you promote it within the Presbytery.

>>Pine Springs Camp needs your helping hand as they get ready for the 2018 summer season. "Redd Up" Camp Work Day 2018 - Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 8:30 to 3:30. The camp will provide the main course for lunch (participants and/or groups should bring a pot-luck salad, chips, or dessert. Please call the camp office at 814.629.9834 or email Greg at [greg@pinesprings.org](mailto:greg@pinesprings.org) and let them know you are coming.

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

May 15 - 5:00 p.m.; Latrobe Main Street, preceding Presbytery meeting  
May 21 - 6:00 p.m.; Uniontown, Trinity

>>Suicide affects all of us. Most people know someone who is or has dealt with suicidal depression, has attempted suicide or has died by suicide. If you have ever wondered if there was something that you could have done, then you might want to consider attending Soul Shop. Soul Shop explores the incidence of suicide, self-injuries, suicidal thinking, and people impacted by the death of another. It offers a simple, conversational approach to talking about suicide that can *save lives* and teaches concrete ways of integrating suicide prevention into pastoral care, teaching, training, and much more. The GLMA will be hosting a Soul Shop on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM at Excelsa Square Latrobe. The cost of the event is \$20. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2HJ3oLh>. Everyone is welcome.

#### 2018 Presbytery Meeting Dates

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

