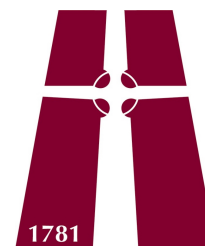


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



June 7, 2018

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
District 1

>First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Edward Gray, Pastor
District 1

>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Donna Havrisko, Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Ronald Wakeman, Pastor;
Ronald Durika, Associate Pastor
District 2

>Calvin Presbyterian Church, Scottdale, Leonard Morgan, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 3

>Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, Lee McDermott, Pastor
District 3

>Patton Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor
District 4

Upcoming Events...

June 9, 2018 - Strawberry Festival - North Huntingdon, New Hope

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 and click on the "events" tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter, Skip Noftzger

"When all else fails (and long before that), Pray"

Over the past several weeks, I have found myself on several occasions becoming frustrated with many of life's circumstances, not only in my personal affairs (excluding the Presbytery, of course ♦♦), but our lives together as a region, as a country and as a neighbor in the world. In those moments, I realize again (you would think that I would learn) that despite my best intentions or my commitment to certain tasks or my actions in pursuit of the "right," that there is a movement of God's here and coming kingdom "on earth as it is heaven" that I do not control. During these times, at least occasionally, I am reminded that is neither about me nor dependent upon me. Although my personality, I am prone to activism, In those times, I must remind myself of the advice that I often give others, remember, most of all, pray.

Praying does not excuse our necessary action, when the Lord has shown and directed us on the right path. Prayer does not become an activity of passivity. Prayer often may signify our dissatisfaction with the status quo. In a world where sin remains and its expressions in people and systems alike breed frustration that might lead to despair, prayer becomes not only the instrument of intervention, but the reminder of our dependence upon our God for real, transforming change and restoration.

"What is prayer?" serves as the 98th inquiry in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. To which, we are instructed with the response, "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies." Within this traditional definition, we might find our grounding in our faith-led dependence upon our God which both can and must be characterized by prayer. It is prayer that reminds us and shapes us beyond our Deistic tendencies, giving lip service to the Lord, but assuming all responsibility (and credit) for ourselves.

No better expression of the prayer-defining life might be found than in the Psalms. As songs and prayers of all types of experiences and emotions, Calvin referred to them as "an anatomy of all parts of the soul." In reading, meditating and praying those Psalms, I have found words for my own

>Revloc Presbyterian Church, David O'Hara, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

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, 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

responses to God in the midst of this world, whether it was in joy and thanksgiving or in anger and desperation. God speaks to us and with us and through us as pray these familiar words of the Psalms. So, whether you are feeling conflicted or just dissatisfied with the world around you, join me in crying out to our God.

"Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing. Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray. O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you and watch."

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.

>>Is God calling you? If you are a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to preach or become more involved in pastoral service, Redstone Presbytery (along with Washington, Kiski, and Upper Ohio Valley) will be continuing our training program for the preparation of possible "Commissioned Ruling Elders" for the future. New students may begin in the fall of 2018. The program is designed to be both classroom and hands-on experiences and you will receive training and mentorship that will help you grow as a leader in Christ's Church. If interested, please contact either Skip Noftzger (Executive Presbyter) or Cheryl Rhea (Chair - AP/CRE subcommittee) or go to <http://www.redstone.org/equipping-leadership2/ap-cre-committee>

>>Summer Jobs - Pine Springs Camp still has openings for college-age summer residential staff: one female counselor position and one lifeguard position are yet available. Also, half-summer openings exist for high school age volunteers to serve in support roles ("Timothy Team"), with residential privileges. Interested persons should please email justin@pinesprings.org

>>Evangelism network - If you are interested in working with others in ways that will both train and engage people in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, why not join the network for evangelism. Rev. Jim Gear, Trinity, Uniontown will be coordinating these efforts. Please get in touch with him (mtoj77@yahoo.com) or the Presbytery office to indicate your interest.

>>

Proposed Per Capita Increase to be Reduced -

A revision to the initial proposal for General Assembly per capita to be voted upon at this year's assembly will be offered. You are able to read more about the proposed revision here:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/5/30/compromise-results-smaller-capita-increase-request/>

>>Camp Conestoga in Bakersville, PA is seeking a Chaplain. The camp serves 2,000 scouts and scouters from the local area. It is believed that about 30% of scouts have their first spiritual or religious experience through scouting and for a majority of those it will occur at summer camp. At the camp, the chaplain serves as the spiritual leader for the camp. Specifically, they run two weekly religious services. These services are spiritual in nature but are non-denominational because there are scouts of numerous faiths attending the camp. Additionally, the camp chaplain serves to assist homesick campers who may be experiencing distress associated with being away from home for the first time. Traditionally, the chaplain works from June 10th - July 29th. The chaplain should stay on site as much as possible in case an incident arises during the night in which they can provide guidance and comfort to the scouts. The camp provides free housing and food for the chaplain. If you are

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

interested in this position please contact Michael Conroy at pdconestoga@gmail.com.

>>Thirst for Life music video is available through Living Waters for the World (LWW). This song, written to support LWW, and subsequently recorded by YouTube "super group" Cimorelli with an accompanying video showing the work in Cuba, has been something of a sensation, already surpassing 100,000 views. What is striking are the more than 800 comments on the video, almost all by young people. Living Waters for the World has been a grass-roots story, having trained church teams from virtually every Presbytery in the denomination, resulting in over 900 water system installations in 25 nations, bringing clean water to hundreds of thousands. For many in the communities we serve, Presbyterians are considered the "water people", bringing health, hope and Christ's love in a tangible way. By sharing this music video with the youth of your church you will raise awareness of LWW and serve as an example of how to be the church in this time and place. Without question, more clean water will flow as a result and the song will touch many more lives. To view the music video go to www.youtube.com then type Thirst for Life in the search bar. You will then choose "Cimorelli - Thirst For Life (official video)".



Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg | PA | 15601