

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



July 5, 2018

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Newlonsburg
Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville, Curtis Paul,
Pastor; Marnie Silbert,
Associate Pastor
District 1

>West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church,
Irwin, Andrew Wirt,
Pastor
District 2

>Pleasant View
Presbyterian Church,
Smock, Laura Blank,
Pastor
District 3

>United Presbyterian
Church, Bolivar, James
Sunseri, 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...*

Upcoming Events...

July 12, 2018 - Trio Phonon - Latrobe
July 21, 2018 - Redstone Mission Tea - New Alexandria, Congruity
August 2-5, 2018 - PW Churchwide Gathering - Louisville, KY
August 23, 2018 - Beo String Quartet - Latrobe
August 25, 2018 - Peach Festival - New Salem

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

Blessed... x 7

In our living in the circumstances of our lives, the mountaintops and the valleys threaten to define our state of contentment. Even more importantly, sometimes we permit our very sense of identity to be attributed to those concrete experiences. Too often, when it is going well, we give lip service to thanking God, while privately attributing it to our own strength, power or might. When we are in difficult situations or even suffering, we ignore God's presence thinking that somehow, we have been abandoned.

In all of these various conditions within the continuum of life, we need to be "anchored" in a "real reality" that transcends our immediate experiences. Sometimes, that is in the tangible reminder of our baptism. Other times, it may be confirmed in the Christ's presence with us at the Table of his invitation. Still other times, we may find our identity secure during a world of lostness through the reading and hearing the Word of God.

In one such reading of the Scriptures, I regularly return to read, to hear, to soak it in. In the universal epistle labeled Ephesians, the declaration of who we are "in Christ" becomes clear (in a run-on sort of way). Just as original hearers of the Epistle, we also find our identity in being anchored in the following ways:

- Blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (source of our blessing)
- Chosen in Christ to be holy and blameless before him in love
- Destined us for adoption as children according to his good pleasure and the praise of his grace
- Redeemed through his blood, forgiven of trespasses with the riches of grace lavished on us
- Made known the mystery of God's will in the plan to gather up all things in heaven and on earth
- Obtained an inheritance by the one who accomplishes all things to live for the praise of his glory
- Marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

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

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

Together

Indeed, no matter our circumstances (and sometimes they can appear dire), we are "blessed." For by God's grace, we have been united in Christ with all of its associated blessings. These are the "good words" that I often need to hear again and again. Take them in. Mediate upon them. Let them grow deep roots by faith in the grace of our God, both Creator and Redeemer who is redeeming all things and with whom, we have the privilege by grace of being those first fruits.

Yes, we are blessed. Amen.

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, 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

August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27

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

Around Redstone

>>BOP Employer Agreements Available July 16 - Employers can review, update, and submit their 2019 Employer Agreements beginning July 16 on Benefits Connect. Consider other key dates:

- **October 12:** Last day to submit your final 2019 Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect
- **October 29-November 16:** Annual enrollment is open for employees to elect their 2019 benefits

Remember to review your benefit groups in the Employer Agreement to make sure you have selected the benefits you intended for all employees. During annual enrollment, employees will only be able to elect benefits from the selections you choose. Read [Importance of Benefit Groups](#) in the May edition of *Employer News* and don't forget to check pensions.org/selectingbenefits for details about the Benefits Plan changes. Watch *Board Connections*, *Employer News*, your email, and your US mail for more information about Employer Agreements and annual enrollment. If you have questions about the Benefits Plan or the benefits selection process, call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

>>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>



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