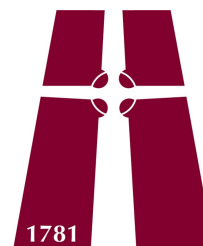


# Presbytery of Redstone

## eNews



July 26, 2018

### In This Issue

#### Around Redstone

#### Let's Pray For:

##### >Union

Presbyterian Church,  
Murrysville, Derek  
Campbell, Pastor  
District 1

##### >Community United

Presbyterian Church,  
New Alexandria, Grafton  
Eliason, Interim Pastor  
District 1

##### >First Presbyterian

Church, Jeannette,  
William King, Interim  
Pastor  
District 2

##### >Latrobe Presbyterian

Church, Clark Kerr,  
Pastor  
District 2

##### >Tent Presbyterian

Church, Uniontown, Lee  
McDermott, Moderator  
District 3

##### >Third Presbyterian

Church, Uniontown,  
Ronald Johnson, Pastor  
District 3

##### >Covenant Presbyterian

Church, Boswell, James  
Farrer, Moderator  
District 4

##### >Colver Presbyterian

Church, Alice Tondora,  
Moderator  
District 4

### Upcoming Events...

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

August 18, 2018 - Peach Festival - Delmont

August 23, 2018 - Beo String Quartet - Latrobe

August 25, 2018 - Peach Festival - New Salem

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

#### *Hearing God's Voice*

Traveling the mountains of Idaho, eastern Oregon and Washington, I was privilege to see God's handiwork on full display. Yet, one of the main purposes of my visit (in addition to seeing family members) was to attend my high school reunion. Since it had been twenty-five years since my last attendance (and twenty years before that one), I was curious about the lives of the people I once knew.

As we gathered initially, some I recognized right away based upon essential features or even mannerisms. Although they had aged (of course I believed that I had not), they were still identifiable. For others, I would have the awkward experience of going up to them and "introducing" myself. More often than not, as soon as the person spoke whether in saying their name or just responding to me, the "light" dawned on me who they were.

Even when their appearance "fooled" me, their voice revealed their identity. Whether it was the tone or the speech pattern or something else I do not know, but what I do know was hearing their voice assured me of who they were and are.

It reminded me of our own need to "hear God's voice." Whether in the private or corporate reading of God's revelation or in the "work of the people" who gather together in God's presence to worship or in the hospitable presence of the Lord's table, in knowing God we hear God's voice. It may come in the stillness or in the loud clamor, but when we hear it, we recognize God. In hearing God, we come to acknowledge our need; for mercy and forgiveness, for sustenance and support, for courage and conviction, for wisdom and guidance. Each coming by the grace-filled words of the One who "speaks" to us in Jesus Christ.

In John's gospel, when they had gathered around Jesus inquiring if he was really the Messiah, he responded that he had told them and that the works that he had done in the Father's name testified to it, yet they did not believe because they did not belong as his sheep. In contrast, he noted that "*my sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.*"

**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, 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**

Sometimes, in the everyday living, we can become "functional deists," where we implicitly believe it is really just about what we think, what we do. Our worship and our actions done "in Jesus' name," bear the marks of the teachings, but we rely upon ourselves rather than the creator, we follow a principle rather than the person. Yet, God in Jesus Christ promises eternal life, not merely as life without end, but as life lived now in the presence of the One who makes all things new. Today, you might find yourself looking at him, wondering who this One is, until the voice is heard. Then, you know. You know this is the creator and redeemer, your Lord and Saviour.

Jesus, our shepherd, continues to call out to God's people to hear his voice, to know him and to follow him. Not merely to follow in the pattern of his ways or teachings (although that is important), but to follow the good shepherd. To hear God's voice in Jesus Christ, recognize God's presence and to follow the Shepherd. In the midst of our private and collective wanderings as a people of God, may we each (individuals and congregations), pause and listen for the voice of our Good Shepherd.

**Around Redstone**

>>Rev. Donald Glunt will be installed as the Called Pastor for the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Belle Vernon on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Please plan to attend to welcome Rev. Glunt to 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. Check [pensions.org/selectingbenefits](https://pensions.org/selectingbenefits) for details about the Benefits Plan changes. If you have any questions about the Benefits Plan or the benefits selection process, call the Board at 800.773.7752.

>>The Transition-to-College Assistance grant program through the [Board of Pensions](#) is intended to help eligible families of entering college freshmen with transitional expenses such as a computer purchase and dorm furnishings! A one-time grant is available to qualifying plan members whose employer is under direct governance of the PC(USA). [Click here for the application.](#)

>>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>

>>PDA Training - At the request of several presbyteries and congregations, the Synod of the Trinity is partnering with five presbyteries to provide regional

August 28  
September 25  
October 23  
November 27

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

disaster assistance training in September and October. The flyer and registration material are [now available](#). The cost is \$10 per person to participate.

>>Tod Bolsinger, [Canoeing the Mountains](#); seminar in Beaver Butler Presbytery at Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church, September 21, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information contact the Beaver Butler Presbytery at 724.452.7515.

>>New Confirmation and Christian Education materials for the fall are available at the [PCUSA store](#).

>>Lend A Hand has special trips scheduled for August 19-25 and also September 23-29 of this year. The application fee for both of these trips will be just \$25 per volunteer thanks to several donations from churches. There is a great need for volunteers to help in the Tarboro, NC area recover from Hurricane Matthew that struck in 2016. They can take up to 24 on each trip. They currently have 12 people signed on for the August trip and 9 for the September trip. Please give joining them prayerful thought. For more information contact them at 717.731.8888.



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