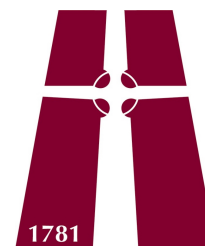


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



August 8, 2018

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Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor
District 1

>United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor
District 1

>Latrobe United Presbyterian Church, Donald Graff, Pastor
District 2

>Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, Sue Washburn, Stated Supply
District 2

>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, James Gear, Pastor
District 3

>East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt, David McElroy, Commissioned Pastor
District 3

>Cresson Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor
District 4

>First Presbyterian Church, Ebensburg, Alice Tondora, Moderator

Upcoming Events...

August 18, 2018 - Peach Festival - Delmont

August 23, 2018 - Beo String Quartet - Latrobe

August 25, 2018 - Peach Festival - New Salem

October 20, 2018 - PW Rise Against Hunger - New Alexandria, Community

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

"We care about you and your Facebook memories."

There on my Facebook posting was a picture of my wife and I celebrating the renewal of our vows on our 25th Wedding anniversary. At the pulpit was Martha's father just as he had been the 25 years earlier. Ironically, the picture appeared the day after he died, as a reminder of the role her father played within our marriage, our lives. Certainly, as a clergyman on that day, he was fulfilling a certain official capacity (both on the original date and the vows renewal), but it was so much more.

Although on that day in 1984, I am sure that he had his doubts about this person his daughter was choosing to marry, nevertheless he supported us in those early years. Consistently, he wanted to check in, to know what was going on with my wife and whenever necessary to "confer" with her about some issue or concern or just something that he needed to know or understand better. He was proud of his daughter who would finish medical school, residency and begin using her gifts and skills to serve those in need, all while having a family.

For me, I knew him as my father-in-law and former missionary, but also as a colleague in the ministry of Washington Presbytery. Some of you have heard me comment that I never intended to become an Executive Presbyter. Partly, that might be because of my perception of the role as I saw it through him. Partly, it may have been that I wanted an identity separate from his legacy. If truth be told, becoming an Executive Presbyter may have been one of the last things I pictured myself doing. Yet, we know our God has a great sense of humor.

As I have come into the role, I have grown in my appreciation for Rev. Nathaniel Roe. Persistently, he sought to serve the Lord in all that he did and that was apparent in his work and ministry within the presbytery. Through the years, we had many differences, whether in theology or in ecclesiastical matters and certainly, in politics, but in the midst of those differences, I always observed his faithful commitment to love and serve Christ and in so

District 4**Contact Us****Rev. Skip Noftzger**

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

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
 Bookkeeper

doing, to love and serve the pastors and congregations of the presbytery. It is my purpose and goal to do the same.

No, the picture brings back more than "Facebook memories" retrieved by their inscrutable algorithms. During this season of loss, it provides a tangible reminder of the grace of God of one who was a "good and faithful" servant. If a picture signifies a thousand words, it also represents countless stories. Each of these stories told by a former farmer, missionary and EP, pointed beyond his individual qualities and idiosyncrasies to the One who by grace was his Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Thank you to all of you who offered expressions of support and concern to both my wife and me.

Blessings,
 Skip

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Around Redstone

>>CHANGES IN TAX LAWS have had significant effects upon clergy expenses, reimbursements, and allowable tax deductions. Ordained teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders who itemize expenses are invited to [look here for information from Clergy Financial Resources](#) that may be helpful, and to consult with qualified tax professionals. Redstone Presbytery cannot and does not give tax preparation advice.

>>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 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 223rd General Assembly (2018) unanimously accepted *Living by the Gospel*, a guide to structuring ministers' terms of call, that spotlights the importance of benefits in supporting ministers as they devote their best gifts to kingdom work. The guide lays out the ways in which the Church supports well-being with the benefits, programs, and assistance available. [read more >>>](#)

>>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

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

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



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