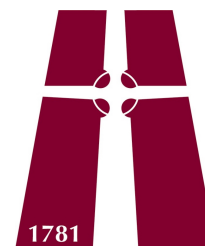


# Presbytery of Redstone

## eNews



October 10, 2018

### In This Issue Around Redstone

#### Let's Pray For:

- >Newlonsburg  
Presbyterian Church,  
Murrysville, Curtis Paul,  
Pastor; Marnie Silbert,  
Associate Pastor  
District 1
- >Union Presbyterian  
Church, Murrysville,  
Derek Campbell, Pastor  
District 1
- >First Presbyterian  
Church, Greensburg,  
Martin Ankrum, Pastor;  
Nicole Atkinson,  
Associate Pastor  
District 2
- >Maplewood  
Presbyterian Church,  
Greensburg, Steve LaSor,  
Pastor  
District 2
- >Ft. Burd Presbyterian  
Church, Brownsville,  
Katy Brungraber, Pastor  
District 3
- >Hopewell Presbyterian  
Church, Brownsville,  
Louise Corbett,  
Moderator  
District 3
- >Trinity Presbyterian  
Church, New Florence,  
Anthony Catullo, Stated  
Supply  
District 4

### Upcoming Events...

- October 12-14, 2018 - The Great Coat Giveaway - Murrysville, First
- October 13, 2018 - PW Fall Gathering - Irwin, First
- October 13, 2018 - Turkey Dinner - New Alexandria, Congruity 4-7 p.m.
- October 16, 2018 - District III Grief Event - New Salem
- October 20, 2018 - PW Rise Against Hunger - New Alexandria, Community
- October 26, 2018 - Open Mic Gospel Event - Delmont
- October 28, 2018 - Chicken Paprikash Dinner - Brownsville, Calvin 11 - 2
- November 3, 2018 - Annual Craft and Vendor Show - New Hope
- November 11, 2018 - A Patriotic Thanksgiving - Murrysville, First

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

#### "No Risk, No Reward"

When we are most honest with ourselves, we will usually acknowledge that one of our most basic "instinct" is self-preservation. In times of great danger, it may prove helpful as a natural defense system. In times of stability, such "fortress" perspectives may prove to inhibit our learning, growth and experiences in life. For if, in the living of life, it is all about preservation, much of life might "pass us by."

When we walk by faith, it means that serving and loving a living God will be our basic "instinct." While we do not act foolishly, yet we depend upon the Lord God alone, to direct our paths and guard our lives as we seek faithful obedience wherever the journey may lead. And, in so doing, God's leading us by faith may inevitably involve the same risk in the way that the Lord Jesus Christ did when he humbled himself and became obedient, even death on a cross."

Certainly, the call to live by faith is not one merely for individuals, but for our communities as well. Gathered in congregations, it is always tempting to focus on organizational stability or sustainability to the neglect of the leading of the Holy Spirit who has called us together for a purpose. That purpose is more than our ongoing existence as congregation. It is more than retaining a secure place where I and my family may live out our last days. It is more than just seeking to survive. It is the commission of Jesus Christ to be the gathered people in that place who will respond to the Lord, becoming agents of reconciliation, spokespersons of the good news and sanctifying leaven in the world....wherever God leads.

Together, we are called to step out in faith where God leads, even when it may involve risk. In fact, in my experience, it inevitably must involve some level of risk-taking. It is always tempting within groups to succumb to the lowest common denominator or retreat into ministry that is safe and involves no risk. Yet, as we acknowledge in theory within the Book of Order, "The

>Patton Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor  
District 4

#### Contact Us

##### Rev. Skip Noftzger

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

##### Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/  
Bookkeeper

Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life." Yet, it is more than merely a noble goal or worthy platitude. If we are to be the Church, who lives, walks and acts by faith, it must be our practice. It must become our first impulse not to seek "survival of our congregation," but how and where is God inviting us to be a community of faith.

Indeed, it may seem risky by all the standards of the world which would drive us toward self (organizational) interest and preservation, but it will be worth it whatever the cost. In some ways, it reminds me of that well-known quote from Jim Elliot, the martyred missionary to Ecuador, who wrote, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." For in the end, all our efforts, to walk by sight in dependence upon our own powers and desire to control our futures will not guarantee anything, while the willingness to walk by faith, even with risk, will result by God's grace in that which is imperishable.

### Around Redstone

>>BOP Employer Agreements - Employers can review, update, and submit their 2019 Employer Agreements 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](http://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.

>>In the near future, we will have the opportunity to have two visitors from the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (our South Sudan partner) within our Presbytery from October 20-23. While there will be a few different events for you and your congregation to participate with them, I want to invite you to luncheon just for pastors with our two guests on Tuesday, October 23 (12:00-1:00). This will be a great opportunity for more personal engagement and informal discussion. We will meet together with them at the Presbytery office at noon for a light lunch and conversation. Please plan on coming by an RSVP to Bobbie Martin by phone at 724.837.6737 or via email at [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org) in order that we may make sure there are appropriate arrangements for lunch.

>>On Saturday, October 20, folks from Redstone Presbytery will be the Antiochian Village for the Pittsburgh Presbytery retreat with folk from Blantyre Synod in Malawi and folk from the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. We will be welcoming the Rev. James Par Tap and Deaconess Nyankuac Ngor Chol Kadjang to Redstone Presbytery. They will be at Community United Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria on Sunday morning October 21 for Sunday School and worship at 11, followed by lunch. Sunday late afternoon and evening are open still. Monday morning they will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg to meet with the Monday morning sewing group. Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock they will meet with the staff at the Westmoreland County Food Bank in Delmont. Monday at 5 in the evening will be a gathering for mission committee folk and any other interested persons at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensburg for a labyrinth walk and supper. Tuesday noon they will be meeting with ministers

*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

Saturday, Nov. 17th  
Dunbar, Laurel Hill  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

#### 2018 Presbytery Council Meeting Dates

October 23

**November 27**

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

at the Presbytery office for lunch. They have to travel to Pittsburgh Presbytery office Tuesday afternoon. They will also need to allow some time to do a little shopping for items to take back home with them. If you would be interested in hosting our visitors on Sunday afternoon or evening please contact Rev. Sylvia Carlson at 724.755.2288 (home) or 724.454.5088 (mobile).

**Upcoming Event at PTS**

**"Allies in Faith: Encouraging Hospitality to Immigrants"**

**Wed, November 28  
Thu, November 29**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**For more information:**

**[www.pts.edu/continuing-education](http://www.pts.edu/continuing-education)**

>>Black and White copiers available through Synod office - The Synod of the Trinity has several reconditioned black and white copiers available free to anyone who would like one. They are Xerox Phaser 3635 MFP copiers that can print, scan, and copy. They are Windows and Mac compatible. Delivery will need to be arranged by the interested party. For more information or to reserve one, contact Mike Givler at the Synod office by phone at 717.737.0421 or email at [mgivler@syntrinity.org](mailto:mgivler@syntrinity.org).

>>2019-20 Young Adult Volunteer Program - applications for the 2019-20 Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program opened October 1. The YAV program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30. Volunteers accompany local agencies faithfully working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. YAVs serve during the academic year, August to July. For more information contact Blake Collins, Associate for Recruitment and Relationships at 502.528.5936 or via email at [blake.collins@pcusa.org](mailto:blake.collins@pcusa.org). You can also access more information online at [youngadultvolunteers.org](http://youngadultvolunteers.org).



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