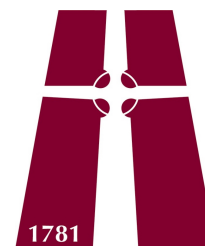


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



October 24, 2018

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

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

>Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor
District 1

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

>First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, William King, Interim Pastor
District 2

>Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Michael Shepard, Moderator
District 3

>First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance, James Gear, Moderator
District 3

>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell, James Farrer, Moderator
District 4

>Colver Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Moderator
District 4

Upcoming Events...

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

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter, Skip Noftzger

" Where the testimony becomes true.....COMMUNITY OF LOVE

In most congregations I know, the Lord's Prayer is a regular part of the liturgy. Whether closing the pastoral or prayers of the people or at some other time, nonetheless, we stand and recite (and hopefully pray) those words that Jesus taught his first disciples and us to pray. Having preached upon and prayed weekly for many years, the words are familiar. They roll off our tongues as we offer them to our God as expressions of adoration and well-formed petitions about God's reign, our daily needs whether for bread or forgiveness or deliverance.

Yet, each and every week, when we come to that middle petition of the prayer, I must confess that I wonder if I mean it. No doubt, I believe and want God's grace to be sufficient to hear my request for the forgiveness of my debts/trespasses/sins. Yet, I am plagued by what follows..."as we also have forgiven our debtors." That part, I am not so sure that I am being honest with God even as I pray. This troubling connection between requesting and asking forgiveness from the Lord and my own commitment to forgive others always causes me to pause within the prayer. Of course, making sure that there was no doubt about this connection, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus continues on, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15)

Miroslav Volf, rightly points out that our forgiveness of others is neither the "cause" of God's forgiveness nor the reason for removing it. Rather, the acts of forgiveness for others result from our own receiving God's forgiveness. And, in turn, our lack of forgiving (unforgiveness) may be "just make manifest that in fact we haven't allowed ourselves to receive God's pardon." (Free of Charge, p. 156) Similarly, he quotes from Luther about this petition, "The outward forgiveness that I show in my deeds is a sure sign that I have the forgiveness of sin in the sight of God. On the other hand, if I do not show this in my relations with my neighbors, I have a sure sign that I do not have the forgiveness of sin in the sight of God and am still stuck in my unbelief." (Luther's Works, 21:150)

This integral connection between a forgiveness that we experience that is real, permits and empowers us to offer forgiveness to others. When (and just because), we have been forgiven, we can forgive. This is equally true as

Contact Us**Rev. Skip Noftzger**

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

**Remaining 2018
 Presbytery Meeting
 Dates**

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

**Remaining 2018
 Presbytery Council
 Meeting Dates**

November 27

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

Upcoming Events

individuals and in our communities. Forgiveness may be a hallmark of whether we mean the petitions of our prayer or the reality of our own experience of grace and as a sign that our testimony is true.

We would all like to believe that our congregation testifies to the power and grace of our Savior and Lord, but the clearest testimony of all may be evidence in whether our calling is lived out. Will we be that place where "The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down." (Book of Order, F-1.03)

Around Redstone

>>After a complete renovation, Barbour Library at Pittsburgh Seminary is now open! You're invited to explore this creative space and be inspired to engage with theological ideas and others in community and collaboration. Join them Fri., Nov. 9, 2018, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. to celebrate the library's reopening! Enjoy a complimentary lunch, tours of the new space, and info about their resources designed to serve you and your colleagues in your ministry context. Make a day of it by also visiting the Seminary's Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology while you're in the neighborhood. Library tours highlight the open and closed study carrels, Active Learning Space, Garnet Integrative Learning Space, and Fred Rogers Family Room. Attend this event and receive complimentary borrowing privileges for one year. Let them know you're coming via RSVP by Nov. 2 to Katie Yates (kyates@pts.edu<<mailto:kyates@pts.edu>>; 412-924-1376) and help launch the Clifford E. Barbour Library into the next century!

>>Free Movie, Popcorn, and Friends (and Outreach!) - November 4, 6:30 p.m. Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church is excited to announce a free screening of the film "Bending the Arc" on Sunday, November 4 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The movie follows the story of Dr. Paul Farmer and the organization he founded, Partners in Health, from their beginnings in rural Haiti to Peru, Africa and around the globe. Working in remote areas against diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, the movie details the challenges of cultural barriers and resistance from members of the medical community in the United States and abroad as a team of dedicated doctors works to prevent an epidemic. Through the power of moral imagination, strategy, Providence, and sheer will, an amazing transformation is achieved. Executive produced by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, the documentary challenges us to consider the greater world in which we live. With our special relationship with Friends of Haiti in La Croix, the movie provides some additional context about the Haitian people we go to serve. So come and enjoy a movie on the house with free popcorn and drinks while learning about others serving in Haiti and abroad. This is also a great opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers as we work to share the love of Christ for all of God's children. Movie time is 102 minutes and a brief discussion about our response will occur following the showing.

>>Employee Registration in the Board of Pensions - annual enrollment for benefits effective January 1, 2019. Go to pensions.org and click on Benefits Connect to enroll.

>>SAVE THE DATE!! Confirmation Retreat 2019, Friday, April 12 through Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Pine Springs Camp. More information will follow.

>>The 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium - "Here's My Heart" - will be held July 16-20, 2019 at the Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. This is a

at PTS

The Art of Transitional Ministry, Week 2: Guiding a Congregation Through Change and Transition - with Paul Rhebergen and Jan Nolting Carter, November 5-9

Allies in Faith: Encouraging Hospitality to Immigrants - with Christian Associates and PTS Faculty and Staff, November 28-29 and March 14

For more information:

www.pts.edu/continuing-education

gathering held every three years for high school age students in the PCUSA and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth from all churches across the sponsoring denominations come together for this life changing, life giving, faith growing gathering! Five days that help form a younger generation of action Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership of gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world! Find out more about registration and event plans from the Triennium website at www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org. Redstone will be forwarding more information for our particular group in the very near future.

>> There will be a mission team meeting on Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. at Phyllis Frye's home, 162 Main Street, Slickville, to make plans for a trip in the spring. We need to pick a week so that those who have jobs can put in for time off. With so many disasters happening all over the country, our options are wide open, although we have been going somewhere within driving distance. For more info, contact Phyllis at 724.468.3740.

>>Pine Springs Camp Friends Dinner - Sunday, November 18, 2018 from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. This annual event is the major fundraising event for the camp. It is a great way to encourage enthusiasm for the mission of camp and celebrate how it contributes to your congregational life. It is a great way for current camper families to share their experiences and a great way to connect new families to the Pine Springs Camp ministry. Contact the camp at 814.629.9834 for more information.

>>We are pleased to announce that the Addictions Ministry Network of the Presbytery of Redstone has received a grant from the Westmoreland County Drug and Alcohol Commission. The purpose of the grant is to use the Life Recovery Bible and to develop curriculum for pastors, Sunday school teachers and lay leaders in the area of "Theology and Addiction. A survey questionnaire will be circulated in order that your needs might be assessed in planning this curriculum. Please plan on participating.



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