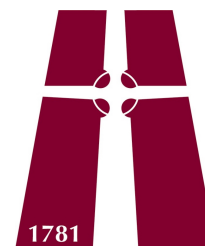


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



November 14, 2018

In This Issue

Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Caroline Vickery, Pastor
District 1

>Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Ken Foust, Pastor
District 1

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

>Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, Sue Washburn, Covenant Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator
District 3

>Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, Katy Yates Brungraber, Moderator
District 3

>First Presbyterian Church, Ebensburg, Alice Tondora, Moderator
District 4

>Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown,

Upcoming Events...

November 17, 2018 - Dollar Spaghetti Dinner for the Community - Apollo, Poke Run

December 1, 2018 - Breakfast with Santa - Apollo, Poke Run

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

Not Really For Us....A Community of Witness

One of the hardest temptations for the Church in any form to resist is that of becoming more inward focused. With all the "necessary" trappings of sustaining an organizational identity and functioning, it is altogether too easy for us to focus our time, energy, and resources on both building and maintaining what we have and who we are....just like everyone else.

Unfortunately, the gospel of Jesus Christ does not call us to be like everyone else. In the upside down values of the kingdom of heaven, a fundamental reason for existence for the Church and the local congregation is not for its own sake. Jesus and his disciples (of whatever time period) are defined in mission neither by building an empire or protecting their turf. They understand that who they are and what they are about (including everyday decision making) is based upon values that understand that even as a community who have gathered in Christ's name, it is not really about or for us.

Extending Jesus' words and actions calls us to be a community of witness within the world. Different traditions have sought to define that "witness" either through permeating the culture and society with the leavening effect of the gospel while others have sought to testify to the world through alternative expressions of living based upon this good news. The reality is that our witness will often take either or both forms.

Yet, what is fundamental about serving as a "community of witness" is the calling to "point beyond itself through and work in the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord." Such a calling exceeds charitable acts of compassion, just as it also signifies something more than adding members to our congregation. Our mission is to point toward God's grace that can and will transform individual and collective lives. Sometimes, in our history and in our patterns, we may lose sight of just how powerful that is.

We are called to be "community of witness" not because it represents merely a faithful response of carrying out our duty (although it might be that), but because we have come to know in our own lives and continue to know that in Jesus Christ, God can and will change people, groups and even, institutions. It

Denise Todero,
Commissioned Pastor
District 4

is precisely that "power" of the gospel that has made us a new creation (both created and still being formed) in Jesus Christ.

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger
 Executive
 Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)

Bobbie Martin
 Office Administrator/
 Bookkeeper

Sometimes, in mainline Protestantism, we understand the complexity of the effects and we want to speak prophetically of the need for change, but we are not so confident that there really can be change. The realities of the world around lull is into a passive stance, but our calling is active, we are and shall be those who in "word and work" believe and direct people toward Jesus Christ who can and will transform. For, like the apostle, we are "not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." When we live together with that assumption and based upon that reassuring confidence, we will be and become a Church, not really for us, but a community of witness.

Around Redstone

>>Board of Pensions Vacancy Dues Eliminated. Beginning in 2019, congregations will no longer pay dues for the first 12 months that a minister member's position is vacant. For congregations that may be struggling, the elimination of this payment frees resources to be directed toward other needs, such as a new roof or church school supplies. Some congregations might choose to put it toward mission work. At the fall Board of Directory meeting, the Board of Pensions eliminated vacancy dues. The Board is please to be able to lift this burden for the congregations they serve.

>>Employee Registration in the Board of Pensions - annual enrollment for benefits effective January 1, 2019 will continue through Friday, November 16. Go to pensions.org and click on Benefits Connect to enroll.

>>Redstone Mission Trip. We have been approved and have made reservations at the First Presbyterian Church at Ronceverte, WVa for the week of March 24-30, 2019. There is room for 30 volunteers. We agreed to pay \$100 each of the \$250 registration fee. The rest will come out of the Mission team Fund (\$150 goes to the church and the other \$100 goes to West Virginia Advocacy and Work Camps, the group PDA works under). To volunteer or if you need more info, contact Phyllis Frye at 724 468 3740 or e-mail pfrye1234@windstream.net We will also be having our Pancake dinner on March 5 to help raise funds for the trip and you will be encouraged (expected) to help. Your fee of \$100 and any paperwork needed will be due at the dinner. We will probably have another meeting closer to the dinner.

>>The New Book of Common Worship is now available on Flash Drive. This helpful resource contains electronic files from the to make worship planning and bulletin preparation easier. The flash drive edition (single-user license) contains a PDF file with extensive links to chapters, sections, and individual services that allow for easier reading, searching, and browsing. Contact the Presbytery office for more information.

>>Time to dig into the closet and look for gently used sweaters you are no longer wearing. They can be donated to the Mister Rogers Neighborhood Sweater Drive conducted by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh in collaboration with Presbyterian Media Mission to help people who need to keep warm this winter.

>>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 gathering held every three years for high school age students in the PCUSA

***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 at PTS

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

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 Redstone will be forwarding more information for our particular group in the very near future. www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

>>In the process of putting the downstairs back together after flood damage this spring, the session at the Union Presbyterian Church in Murrysville has approved replacing the stove in the kitchen. It is in good shape, but is too large for their current needs. It is a gas, commercial 10 burner range. If anyone in the Presbytery would be interested in this stove, please contact Rev. Derek Campbell at 724.337.3042.



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