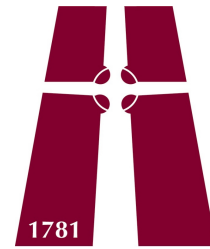


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



February 14, 2019

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
- >First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Martin Ankrum, Pastor; Niki Atkinson, Associate Pastor
District 2
- >Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
District 2
- >Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale, Leonard Morgan, Commissioned Pastor
District 3
- >Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, Lee McDermott, Pastor
District 3
- >Patton Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor
District 4

Upcoming Events...

October 2018 through May 2019 - Community "Soup for the Soul" - Apollo, Poke Run

January through March 2019 - Contemporary Christian and Old Time Gospel Open Mic - Delmont

February 24, 2019 - Spaghetti Dinner, New Alexandria, Community

March 5, 2019 - Pancake Dinner, New Alexandria, Congruity

April 28-29, 2019 - Pastor's Retreat

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 Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter

"Living the Dream (God's)"

Catching up with an old friend, I asked the normal question, "How are things going?" Like many people, he responded with enthusiasm, "I am just living the dream." Perhaps, people you know or even you might respond in this way to the standard inquiry about well-being. I do not know about you, but I often wonder what kind of dream is it, for I have dreams that both cause me to rest comfortably and others in which my own anxieties are played out, but I digress. Of course, we all know that the expression is intended to express a sense of satisfaction with your existence, that you are enjoying life and your engagement in it reflects your own fulfillment. In many ways, particularly among those of us who are older (more experienced), it may signify that our lives have come to be all that we hoped in our earlier years (personally, I wanted to be a professional baseball player, but that is another story).

So, I wonder, what is this dream? Whose dream is it anyway? When we are living that dream, I assume that we answer based upon our own visions for who we are, who we wanted to be and how it would be played out. Certainly, while I do not want to dismiss or ignore our individuality or the particularity of God's calling in each of our lives, but I wonder whether we also are tempted by the superficiality of notions of self-fulfillment that caricatures the flourishing that God intends. Perhaps, coming close, but ultimately settling for an artificial replica.

As those who have been called and claimed in Jesus Christ, we believe, affirm and rely upon a God who created humanity in God's own image. Though our own sins and failures have distorted that image in ourselves and others, nonetheless God's redeeming grace not only "saves" us from our sins, but "saves" us for renewed, resurrected, righteous image living not for our sake, but for the sake of the world. The primary teachings of Jesus concerning the kingdom indicate just that type of world where God's renewal encompasses not just us (and our friends), but God's world.

>Revloc Presbyterian Church, David O'Hara, Commissioned Pastor District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

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

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

While much of the New Testament focuses and responds to the "in house" issues of the day of these new good news communities (churches), they are grounded in the reality that to follow Jesus is to be fundamentally changed as persons, to be "renewed in knowledge according to the image of our creator. Jesus has called us by grace to be renewed in righteous and holiness, which only makes us more human, not less. Yet, to be in Christ, calls all of us to live not by easy norms that might surround us, but by faith, in hope and with love. Even being called to also take up one's cross and follow Jesus is to live the dream. It may not necessarily be an American dream or even a vision of personal fulfillment, but it may be God's dream for the world, God's people and even each one of us. I am believing, hoping and trusting that *I am living that (God's)dream.*

Around Redstone

>>2018 Minutes Reviews will be conducted on the following dates:

- > March 2, 2019 - during Polity workshop (Greensburg, Maplewood)
- > March 26, 2019 - prior to Presbytery meeting (Irwin, First)
- > May 21, 2019 - prior to Presbytery meeting (Murrysville, First)

>>On March 2nd, Redstone Presbytery will be conducting a Presbyterian Polity workshop. If you have ever wanted to understand better how and why we do things the way we do, along with interpreting the Book of Order, this is your opportunity. On that date at 9:00 a.m. (until noon), Rev. Cliff Foster, Associate Stated Clerk, will be leading this workshop available to clerks, pastors and others. *If you bring your 2018 Session minutes and Church Register, the review will be completed while you are in the workshop.*

>>2019 Confirmation Retreat - Friday, April 12 through Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Pine Springs Camp. Contact the Presbytery office if you have students that would like to participate.

>>2019 Pastors Retreat - "What We Need is Here" Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality. Dr. L. Roger Owens, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality will be the leader of this event. April 28-29, 2019 - Sunday evening, Monday morning/afternoon. Registration: \$40/overnight stay; \$25/commuter - Pine Springs Camp, Jennerstown. To register contact the presbytery office at 724.837.6737 or via email at secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.

>>2019 Youth Triennium - July 16 - 20, 2019; Purdue University. More information is located on the homepage of the Presbytery website at www.redstonepresbytery.org. Contact Rev. Laura Blank for more information at laurabblank@gmail.com.

>>*Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations* Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations is now being offered for pastors serving in the PC (USA) by the Board of Pensions. This program brings together pastors and congregational leaders to work toward financial sustainability by providing education, consultation, and theological reflection to help all build a brighter financial future together. A one-time grant of up to \$10,000 is available to eligible pastors after the pastor and congregational leaders have completed an educational seminar and the pastor has completed online educational modules, as well as financial counseling through Ernst & Young. The program is paid for by the Board of Pensions and a Lilly Grant. The grant can be used

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

Next Presbytery Meeting Date

Tuesday, March 26, 2019
First Presbyterian Church,
Irwin
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Next Presbytery Council Meeting Date

February 26

Council meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is held at the Presbytery office.

for debt reduction or for retirement savings. To check the eligibility requirements for the program [.click here](#)



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