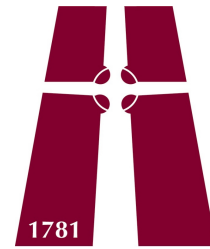


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



February 21, 2019

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, Larry Armstrong, Covenant Pastor
District 1

>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Caroline Vickery, Pastor
District 1

>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Donna Havrisko, Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Ronald Wakeman, Pastor;
Ronald Durika, Associate Pastor
District 2

>Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, Laura Blank, Pastor
District 3

>Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Lee McDermott, Moderator
District 3

>Bolivar United Presbyterian Church, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor
District 4

Upcoming Events...

October 2018 through May 2019 - Community "Soup for the Soul" - Apollo, Poke Run - 2nd Wednesday each month at NOON

January through March 2019 - Contemporary Christian and Old Time Gospel Open Mic - Delmont - Last Sunday each month - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

February 24, 2019 - Spaghetti Dinner, New Alexandria, Community
March 5, 2019 - Pancake Dinner, New Alexandria, Congruity

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

"LIVED MISSION"

Almost every organization employs some type of pithy statement intended to inspire, motivate and characterize what they are about. Perhaps, they are posted on the wall or in your weekly bulletin. Often, they serve a valuable purpose to remind each of us who we are, why we do what we do, and what we are about. Yet, as we so often know to be the case, such bromides may be reduced to merely "words" if they are not lived out in what takes place or how we steward the resources and gifts in light of that purpose.

Of course, we acknowledge and confess the inconsistency (or even hypocrisy) between our own words and deeds, creeds and commitments that reflect our individual lives. Yet, within organizations (even churches), more than just inconsistency occurs, but rather alternative "missions" begin to "take root." Beneath the inspiring words intended to define identity, the actual culture and practices of the church (organization) both initiate and reinforce who we really are and intend to be. Understanding, discerning and addressing this "enacted mission" through changing not only our priorities, but our practices begins the means to have it reflect our espoused values and mission. It won't be countered by merely a new plan or a new slogan. It must be lived out day to day in our actions and where we choose not to act, in our budgets and in our expenditures of time and energy.

The very mission of Jesus which some believed they could "put to death," remains very much alive not as a cause, but in service to a risen Lord. As people of the resurrection, that Good News mission becomes ours lived out in those particular (called) places and ministries. That mission is often expressed in our noble statements, but has become diluted by the well-intentioned structures and traditions we created to serve good purposes for a time, only to have them become our masters and demand our loyalties.

Within our churches, within our presbytery, it is not always a matter of conscious deviation or deliberate neglect of the espoused mission, but rather the permission by leaders and acceptance by followers of policies, procedures

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

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

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

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

and practices that have drawn us away from living that mission in the way Jesus calls us. Focused discipline (taking up our cross daily) upon this missional identity is ongoing and requires all of us. Such lived mission must be witnessed not only in our worship, but in our session meetings; not only in our mission activities, but in our coffee hours; not only in our bible studies, but in our budget priorities. Yes, even as we serve collectively within our region, may we live out by God's grace our mission to *Communicate the Word, Carry on the Work, Change the World... Together!*

Around Redstone

>>Stamp.com - The Presbytery has closed the account with Stamps.com and no longer need the blank sheets of stamps that we have on hand. We are not able to return them to the company and were told that we could "pay them forward" to anyone that may need them. If any of our churches use the Stamps.com software for their postage needs and could use these blank sheets of stamps, please let Bobbie know. They are FREE TO A GOOD HOME.

>>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. Deadline for registration is March 7.

>>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.

>>Continuing Educations Events at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. [Click here for more information.](#)

>>Phishing scams send emails, social media posts, text and ads that mimic reputable businesses like banks, online resources and credit card companies to trick people into sharing their financial and personal information and/or downloading malware.

Here are five simple tips to avoid Phishing Scams

1. Be cautious of all emails and messages sent to you. Be 100% sure you know

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

2019 Presbytery Meeting Dates

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
First Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 24,
2019**
Pine Springs Camp
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 23,
2019**
Pleasant View
Presbyterian Church,
Smock
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Next Presbytery
Council Meeting
Date**

February 26

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

who is sending you the email/message. Never click on link(s) unless you are 100% sure who it is from and you know it is 100% safe.

2. If are not sure of the validity of the email/message use another form of communication (like phone call, text, etc.) to reach out to that person and/or entity to confirm they sent you that email/message and that it is safe to click on their link(s).

3. Scam emails/messages are always designed to get you to react quickly and impulsively. So pause, use your common sense, and check it out before reacting.

4. If you know the entity and need to send personal or sensitive information always make sure it is to a secure website. All secure websites have https:// and a security "lock" icon. Never use public WIFI to send sensitive information, always do it from your personal WIFI account.

5. If you receive any scam emails, before deleting forward it to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov .

As our lives continue to connect with more digital technologies we will need to learn how to safeguard ourselves and our family in this new environment. As we navigate this fast-changing technical terrain we will need to stay educated and rely more on our old fashion common sense.



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