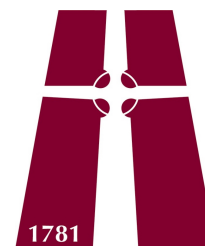


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



May 2, 2019

Let's Pray For:

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

>Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Eric Glisan, Commissioned Pastor
District 2

>Rehoboth, Belle Vernon, Donald Glunt, Pastor
District 3

>Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, John McClure, Moderator
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

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

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Upcoming Events...

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

May 4, 2019 - [Spring Craft and Vendor Show - New Salem](#)

May 19, 2019 - [Organ Recital - Lower Burrell, Grace Community](#)

May 28, 2019 - [Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat - Pine Springs Camp](#)

Click on the links above for more information
on any of the upcoming events

Reflections from our EP, Skip Noftzger

(RE)Formed and (Re)Forming

Same thing, different day. With the rhythm and routine of much of life, it is easy to find ourselves "falling into" patterns and practices of living. While such practices may make life "easier" by making decisions and actions less conscious, we would be naïve to not consider the impact upon forming and changing us. As James Smith said during the Schaff lectures (PTS), "practices are the gifts of God for the people of God, whom God knows are creatures of habit." Equally true not only for us as individuals, but together, these formative cultural practices assume even religious significance reflecting the reality of our unconscious attachment to some form of devotion to God or other (idolatry represented in some form of "ism").

So, in recent days, I have had the graceful opportunity to reflect upon some of the practices of my own life that continue to shape and re-shape who I am in Christ. At the Pastor's retreat, Roger Owens challenged and invited us into attentiveness of our posture for spiritual practices. In the PTS Schaff lectures by Jamie Smith, we were reminded of the impact of "cultural liturgies" either in forming or deforming us. Throughout the week, I have found myself "deep" into what Dr. Smith might call a liturgical "audit."

- Are the practices of my life, along with others in the body of Christ, reinforcing our own presentation of our own "bodies as living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."
- Are we aware and embodying (*not just thinking or even believing*) the reality of the resurrected presence of our God?
- In what ways is God's transforming Spirit reforming us in the image of Christ not only in personal character qualities, but in active participation in God's restoration of all things?

All questions that I have been asking and wishing that I had more meaningful (faithful?) answers.

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
Pine Springs Camp
(joint meeting with
Washington Presbytery)
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.

Presbytery Council Meeting Dates

June 25
August 27
October 22
November 26

All Council meetings
begin at 6:30 p.m. at the
Presbytery Center

Of course, this inquiry is a good start, but it is no solo mission. We are in this sanctifying process together. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we must be there both to "stir one another up" and to "bear one another's burdens" that together our lives might reflect the love, grace and justice of the One who is restoring all things. While our practices may be private at times, rarely are they individual. Each of us is caught up living within and by the stories of the world around us. Yet, while many of those accounts lead to either dead ends or deformation, there is a God-authored narrative into which we are invited by grace to both enter and participate. God's redemptive power can and will change us inside and outside, in identity and behavior, in what we say and how we live, but it will only be by means of God's grace. While the competing liturgies abound and we are not immune from their influences, in God's counter-story, we are being (re)formed for the sake of God and God's world.

Around Redstone

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

- > May 21, 2019 - prior to Presbytery meeting (Murrysville, First)
- > May 28, 2019 - Trinity Presbyterian Church, Uniontown 6:00 p.m.

>>MAKE A NEW FRIEND AND CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES WILL PICK UP THE TAB - In 2019, Christian Associates is reimbursing coffee dates for clergy who are reaching out to colleagues. They have a cup of coffee saved for you. Visit www.casp.org/300cups to learn more.

>>Nineteenth Annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference - Friday, May 10, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Christ Church at Grove Farm. Healthy Pastors, Healthy Churches, and Healthy Communities. Five tracks will include: Addiction and Recovery, Mental Health and Wellness, Family and Marriage, Community Outreach, and Reflections in Ministry. For the full agenda and to register go www.pghpcc.org

>>Pine Springs Camp Annual Golf Outing - Join PSC on May 20, 2019 for the 19th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club. Don't miss this opportunity to golf one of the finest and most historic courses in Pennsylvania and give a child a week at camp they will remember for the rest of their lives! [Click here](#) to download a brochure.

>>"Casting a Vision - Blazing a Trail" - A two-part education workshop for pastors, presented by the Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish, PhD, MSW, MDiv, MA - May 15 and 22, 9:00 am. to 11:30 at the Sewickley Presbyterian Church, 414 Grant Street, Sewickley, PA 15143. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

>>UPCOMING EVENTS AT PTS:

- ~~[A Day with Daniel Hill - 5/6/19](#)
- ~~[Archaeology Lecture: The Jewish Diaspora in Persian Egypt 5/9/19](#)
- ~~[Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor: Why an Israeli Writer Reached Out to Palestinians and What He Heard in Response - 5/13/19](#)



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