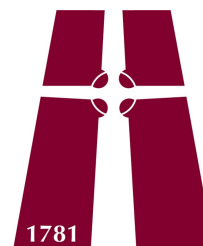


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



July 3, 2019

Let's Pray For:

>Newlonsburg
Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville, Curtis Paul,
Pastor; Marnie Silbert,
Associate Pastor
District 1

>Union Presbyterian
Church, Murrysville,
Derek Campbell, Pastor
District 1

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

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

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

>Mt. Washington
Presbyterian Church,
Farmington, James Gear,
Moderator
District 3

>Colver Presbyterian
Church, Alice Tondora,
Moderator
District 4

>First Presbyterian
Church, Cresson, David
McCabe, Pastor
District 4

Upcoming Events...

July 18, 2019 - [Mission Lunch with Sudan Visitors - Greensburg, Westminster](#)

July 25, 2019 - [Chamber Music Concert - Latrobe \(Unity Chapel\)](#)

August 22, 2019 - [Chamber Music Concert - Latrobe \(Unity Chapel\)](#)

August 24, 2019 - [Peach Fest - New Salem](#)

October 7-9, 2019 - [Wee Kirk - Laurelville Mennonite Church Center](#)

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

Reflections from Pete Goetschius, Pastor, Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo; Chair, Committee on Ministry



I have been thinking about how the early church grew. By early church I am thinking of the time beginning at the Pentecost following Jesus' resurrection and the next one hundred years or so. This is the time when the apostles of Jesus were still known, or their teaching was still known. It was a time when much of what Jesus did and taught was handed on from one person to the next. It was a time when the texts, or writings, or documents, we call the New Testament were being written and collected and formed into simple books.

It was a time when the Christian faith was first tolerated and then persecuted. We will leave to the various historians to guess at how much of each emboldened or decimated the church membership. We have stories from this time of martyrs and heroes and heroines and occasionally miracles. We, or at least some of us believe, that the early church really was persecuted and held their meetings for at least a decade or two in secret, behind closed doors, often guarded. If this is true, and I believe it is, it was not easy to become a Christian, and it was dangerous.

And the church grew, 40% per year by some estimates. I am not interested in the sociological or psychological reasons for this. I am interested in how Scripture describes the process, especially since we just passed through Pentecost which describes the emerging church (tongue fully in cheek) completely enough to see what happened. Or at least it does if we give any credence at all to the eyewitness testimony of Scripture.

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...******Together***

So, for a few moments let's take a look at Acts chapter 2. It seems that there was mass confusion. It was blamed on drunkenness. A crowd collected. If the facts be facts actual languages were spoken and native speakers and hearers heard "the mighty works of God" in their own language. Sounds pretty sober to me. A crowd assembles. The apostle Peter speaks; he quotes Scripture. Peter believes that prophesy has been fulfilled. We could summarize Peter's very short sermon a number of ways. First of all it was short, maybe that is why the church grew. It is also important, and incisive. "Jesus of Nazareth, ..., you (the crowd) crucified. God raised Him up - Scripture is quoted again to prove Peter's point - and - Jesus has now poured out the Holy Spirit that "you yourselves are seeing and hearing." Granted this is a shortened version of an already short sermon but it will do. People changed, people were baptized, and "there were added that day about three thousand souls."

Church growth - perhaps is no secret. After the powerful events of the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, people change. The disciples, the women followers of Jesus, and Jesus' mother, "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer." Peter speaks boldly. He has absolute faith in the truth of Scripture. He witnesses to what he knows to be true of Christ. He calls for repentance. God adds to their number - three thousand souls. Prayer, Scripture as God's truth, bold witness to what we know, what we have experienced in our Christian life, the call to repentance all fall to us. The rest comes from God.

Around Redstone**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

>>Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church in Murrysville is looking for a Director of Children and Family Ministries who is eager to put their faith to work to serve children and their families. To learn more about the position and/or how to apply, [click here](#).

>>Hymnal wandered to the wrong church - Does your congregation have the purple "Glory to God hymnal"? Do they have memorial plates dated November, 2013? Newlonsburg has such a hymnal and none of theirs have memorial plates so they know it wandered in. Call Marnie Silbert if its yours at 724-327-0061.

>>The 224th General Assembly (2020) will meet in Baltimore, Maryland from Saturday to Saturday, June 20-27, 2020. The Session of your church may nominate a young person to attend the General Assembly as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD). Nominations are due September 1! Contact the Presbytery office for more information.

**2019 Presbytery
Meeting Dates**

**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**

**Presbytery Council
Meeting Dates**

>>The Sudan/ South Sudan visitors will be here in Redstone Presbytery from July 17-18. Here from Nile Theological College in Khartoum, Sudan will be Dr. Aida Nasser Weran, Professor and Rev. Musa Kodi, Academic Dean; and from Nile Theological College in Juba, South Sudan will be Rev. Santino Odong Othol, Principal.

- Wednesday, July 17 is a lunch with Redstone pastors at Maplewood and the evening is still open.
- Thursday, July 18 they will meet with anyone wishing to hear them speak at noon at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensburg. Lunch will be provided and a freewill offering will be collected. Reservations are requested so that adequate food can be prepared. You may call the church office at 724-837-3540 or email Sylvia Carlson at sylviac65@comcast.net with your reservation.

June 25
August 27
October 22
November 22

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

Skip's Sabbatical

While Skip is on Sabbatical (June 10-August 5) others have agreed to serve as the "first-line" and will respond by personal intervention or referral to an appropriate person within the Presbytery.

Contact Bobbie Martin, Administrative Assistant, at the Presbytery office (724.837.6737) and she will guide you to the appropriate person to assist you with your issues and concerns.

Presbytery Staff would like to wish you all a safe and happy Fourth of July!

- Thursday evening they will be at Third Presbyterian Church in Uniontown at 6 for dinner.

If you wish to hold an event Wednesday evening please contact Sylvia Carlson via email at sylviac65@comcast.net or by phone at 724.454.5088.

>>MISSION FAIR AT NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING - At our joint presbytery meeting (Washington/Redstone) on September 24 at Pine Springs Camp, we would like to know more about what your congregation is doing in missions. Consider bringing a small display of information to tell others about a mission project your congregation really loves!

>>The Synod of the Trinity is looking for a new staff person to complement and reinforce their ministry team! CONNECTION COORDINATOR - The position will have primary responsibility for an enhanced grants program, event planning and a variety of connection and resourcing aspects of their work. This person will serve with other staff and regional leaders to live out the work of mission and governance as it serves the ends (priorities) of the Synod. The qualified candidate, preferably a college graduate with PCUSA connections, is asked to send a cover letter and resume to

trinityconnectioncoordinator@gmail.com by July 26th. We are looking for a person to start in this role by early-mid September. QUESTIONS? Contact Susan F. Wonderland, Transitional Executive, at swonderland@syntrinity.org. [Complete job description available here.](#)

>>IS GOD CALLING YOU? Maybe you (or someone you know) is being called by God to:

- Learn more about the faith
- Explore pastoral and other leadership roles
- Develop talents and skills for ministry

The InterPresbytery Leadership Formation program will be accepting new participants. If you are a Ruling Elder and you have considered pursuing Commissioned Pastor training, or you are just interested in growing as a disciple, this may be for you. For more information, please contact the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737.



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