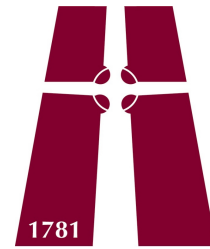


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



July 10, 2019

Let's Pray For:

>Community United
Presbyterian Church,
New Alexandria, Grafton
Eliason, Interim Pastor
District 1

<Congruity Presbyterian
Church, New Alexandria,
Cliff Foster, Pastor
District 1

>First Presbyterian
Church, Jeannette,
William King, Interim
Pastor
District 2

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

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

>Little Redstone
Presbyterian Church,
Fayette City, Joshua
Scully, Commissioned
Pastor
District 3

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

>Bethany Presbyterian
Church, Johnstown,
Denise Todero,
Commissioned Pastor

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 Joshua Scully, Commissioned Pastor, Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City



I love Byzantine history, although I'm not entirely sure of the initial cause for my fascination. The Byzantine Empire originated as the Eastern Roman Empire (which survived the collapse of its Western counterpart in the late fifth century) and was easily one of the more unique political forces during the Middle Ages. I've enjoyed Roman history since childhood, and, as the Byzantines considered their empire the true continuation of Roman power in the Mediterranean world, I suspect the appeal of this subject to me begins as a matter of identity.

Of course, one of the most significant aspects of Byzantine identity was the relationship between the empire and God. This was a time when Christianity was well rooted in most of the Eastern Mediterranean region, and Constantinople, the Byzantine capital, was evolving into one of the great Christian cities. Economically, politically, and socially, Byzantine leadership attempted to discern the will of God whenever and however possible.

As the early Byzantine Empire spanned the critical gaps between Europe, Asia, and Africa, early Christian missionaries enjoyed a measure of safety traveling through the many provinces of the empire. Great churches were built, including the Church of the Holy Apostles. This particular church, dedicated to the original twelve disciples, no longer stands but was originally intended to house the relics of those first disciples. That was truly a grand intention! Education was encouraged throughout the empire and scripture was widely read. Byzantine libraries secured some of the oldest Christian writing, while Byzantine art often celebrated the Christian service of the

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...******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, 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**

empire. Many military campaigns were purposefully conducted in a way that sought to serve God and the Church. The participation of the Byzantines in the Crusades demonstrated several such examples.

Prayer was also intended to be a significant aspect of Byzantine life for peasants and politicians alike. Remaining prayerful, especially during times of distress, was very significant to that Byzantine identity. Many of the greatest accomplishments realized by these Medieval Romans took considerable periods of time. Continued prayer certainly seemed to be the foundation for these achievements.

Despite these noble efforts, there was no way to keep the meddling of man out of the story. Byzantine history is also littered with corrupt and despotic rulers bending and twisting early Christianity however possible to serve their own ends. The people were often scandalized with these acts and attributed their eventual downfall to this unfaithfulness. The perceived and proclaimed will of God was often a political and social weapon wielded by men and women with a desire to only realize their own wants and goals.

Whenever I think about this specific topic, I know this tendency didn't end with the conclusion of the Middle Ages. Although the Byzantines perhaps offer an extreme example, we are also guilty of manipulating our perceived will of God to our own benefit. I suspect that this happens in all manner of ways, including those that are very subtle and even unperceivable (even to ourselves). History is rife with individuals seeking to justify their actions, with plenty of religious and theological arguments as the expressed motivators.

That is why seeking time for prayer is so significant to our relationship with God. If we really intend to do as God would have us do, we must open ourselves to his direction and guidance. When we seek God's way for ourselves, there is no room for assuming or distraction. Prayer is a matter of our identity as Christians. We must remain steadfast in our prayer and demonstrate our desire and willingness for God to work through us.

Around Redstone

>>Maplewood United Presbyterian Church in Greensburg, PA is seeking a Director of Music who is responsible for planning and providing music in the worship services and church-sponsored functions. This part-time position includes the duties of both organist/pianist and choir director at Maplewood. For specific information on the position and to apply for the job, [click here](#).

>>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.

>>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.

Presbytery Council Meeting Dates

June 25
August 27
October 22
November 22

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

You may call the church office at 724-837-3540 or email Sylvia Carlson at sylviac65@comcast.net with your reservation.

- 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.

>>Board of Pensions online Event!! Just in time for Employer Agreement season (opening July 15), a team of Church Consultants will bring updated information and reminders about:

- the values the Board brings to providing benefits
- the many benefits available through the Board of Pensions,
- how to use the flexibility of Menu Options to support your church's staff
- medical coverage options; included and optional benefits
- income security plans
- 'how-to's for accessing Benefits Connect, Employer Agreements and Employer Services

You can also submit YOUR specific questions as you register. Click [here](#) to register for the 2019 Virtual Benefits Connections - Monday, July 22, 2:00 to 3:30

If you aren't able to join the live event, the webinar will be recorded and available afterward.

>>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!

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