

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## December 16, 2020



### Please pray for...

#### District 1 Churches

>>Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo,  
Pete Goetschius, Pastor

>>First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore,  
Caroline Vickery, Temporary Supply

#### District 2 Churches

>>Level Green Presbyterian Church,  
Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor

>>Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West  
Newton, Edward Gray, Moderator

#### District 3 Churches

>>First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar,  
Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

>>Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar,  
William Weightman, Commissioned Pastor

#### District 4 Churches

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

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

## Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



### "Mine, all Mine"

At the beginning of the minutes of each "council," there is normally an accounting of who was present and who was not (excused or absent). Following a rebuke from God of their disobedience, the prophet Malachi describes a gathering where those "whose lives honored God got together and talked it over." Interestingly, we are told there was more than just "talk" at this meeting. Signifying their own penitence and covenant commitment, they recorded it in writing, including their own names.

Seeing and hearing their response, God, the "Lord of Hosts," "God-of-the-Angel-Armies," makes a definitive declaration of not merely who they are, but "whose they are." "They're mine, all mine." Once more, God's parenthood and protection and all that means is confirmed.

Malachi 3:16-4:6 (The Message)

*16 Then those whose lives honored God got together and talked it over. God saw what they were doing and listened in. A book was opened in God's presence and minutes were taken of the meeting, with the names of the God-fearers written down, all the names of those who honored God's name. 17-18 God-of-the-Angel-Armies said, "They're mine, all mine. They'll get special treatment when I go into action. I treat them with the same consideration and kindness that parents give the child who honors them. Once more you'll see the difference it makes between being a person who does the right thing and one who doesn't, between serving God and not serving him."*

Just as in today's passage, in this season of Advent, may we gather together to remember and to await, writing our own "book of remembrance" as those who "revered the Lord and thought on his name."

## Peace Light of Bethlehem

Although the light did not travel by air this year (Covid), there are folks who are "keepers" of the light year-round. Rev. Laura Blank has been in touch with them and is pleased to share this special flame with you (in a socially distanced way). Please contact her ([laurabblank@gmail.com](mailto:laurabblank@gmail.com) or 412.601.1865) to make arrangements to receive the light.



### Christmas Vacation

As a result of vacation schedules, there will be minimum or no staff in the office location during the weeks of December 14 and 21. The Executive Presbyter remains available to contact throughout this period by cell phone or email.

The Presbytery Staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

### End of Year Financial Need

As we come to the end of 2020 (a year like no other), the Presbytery has fallen significantly behind projected contributions for the year. While we have reduced expenses wherever possible, there remains a need for year-contributions from both churches and individuals to address this need. The closing date for the 2020 financial year will be January 7, 2021. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and generosity.



### January Presbytery Meeting Date Moved

Because the January 2021 Presbytery gathering will now be conducted by ZOOM, the Council has moved the meeting date from Saturday, January 23 to Tuesday, January 26 @ 6:00 p.m. Further meeting information, including the ZOOM details will be forthcoming with the distribution of the packet.

### Terms of Call 2021 / Commissioned Pastor Contract

The Committee on Ministry requires that each church submit a yearly Terms of Call form for the Pastor serving that church. If you have not already done so, please submit the 2021 Terms of Call form for your pastor as soon as it has been approved by your Session. You may download a copy of the form by [clicking here](#).

Also, if a Commissioned Pastor is currently serving your church, and their current contract is expiring this year, a renewal contract will need to be submitted as well. You may download a copy of that form by [clicking here](#). If you are unsure if the contract for your Commissioned Pastor is due to expire, you may call the Presbytery office.



### Ruling Elder Training Resources

- "Coming Alive in Christ" - new training based upon constitutional

- questions ([equip.pcusa.org](http://equip.pcusa.org)) You will need to create a login to enroll.
- Preparation for Ordered Ministry -Theoacademy Videos (<http://www.theoacademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>)
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## Presbytery Staff

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Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)

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[Bobbie Martin](#)

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

*Communicate the  
Word...*

*Carry on the Work...*

*Change the World...*

*Together*

**Presbytery of Redstone**

[www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)