

## Redstone Presbytery Electronic Newsletter for April 10, 2013

### **Upcoming Events**

April 13, 2013	Spaghetti Dinner – New Alexandria, Congruity
April 19, 2013	Recital Series – Uniontown, Trinity
April 20, 2013	Hymn Festival – PTS
April 28, 2013	“Grief in the Context of Faith” presentation – Lower Burrell, Grace – 6:30
May 1, 2013	Covered Dish Dinner – New Alexandria, Congruity
May 5, 2013	Healing Prayer Ministry Network Service of Wholeness and Healing – North Huntingdon, New Hope – 4:00 p.m. – Jacob & Aliamma George speaking afterward
May 11, 2013	Turkey Dinner – New Alexandria, Congruity
May 17, 2013	Pastoral Care Conference – PTS
August 24, 2013	Peach Fest – New Salem – 4:00 to 7:00

(See the website at [www.redstone.org](http://www.redstone.org) – events list – for more information on any of the upcoming events listed above)

### **Daily Lectionary...**

AM Psalms 99, 147:1-11

PM Psalms 9, 118

Daniel 2:17-30

1John 2:12-17

John 17:20-26

### **Important News Around Redstone**

The Stated Clerk has announced the meeting dates and locations for the Review of the 2012 Session Minutes and Church Registers. They are as follows:

Monday, April 22, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m. - Johnstown, Westmont

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m. - Greensburg, First

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m. - Delmont

Saturday, May 11, 2013 @ 9:30 a.m. - Uniontown, Trinity

### **Thoughts from the Executive Presbyter...**

#### **“Practice Resurrection”**

**“So, friends, every day do something  
that won’t compute. Love the Lord.**

**Love the world. Work for nothing.**

**Take all that you have and be poor.**

**Love someone who does not deserve it.”**

In the poem of Wendell Berry (“Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front”), after describing the fruitless task of pursuing profit, acquisition and consumption as their own ends, he offers an alternative view of life in this created universe. “Life,” with all of its demands, concerns and worries, can sometimes pull us in directions we neither desired nor intended. Yet, we hear the call in the words of the poet, but more importantly, in the voice of our God. To “live” is to love and serve Him and our neighbor. In that calling, we find not only our humanness, but faithfulness as well. The redemptive work of God in Jesus Christ restores us to His image and reclaims that image of God long lost and distorted by our first parents.

With the celebration of Easter resurrection, we proclaim a resurrection that is the “first fruits” of our own anticipated resurrection. Victory has been won that affects not only our destiny, but our resurrection living of this new reality even now. Berry’s poem reflects the paradoxical nature of our lives that are “rightly lived.” Living this way doesn’t always seem to match up with the way the world either describes or prescribes the “way” the world operates. Although Berry makes his plea in way that uses the images of agriculture, I believe that his words will resonate with each of us (farmer or not). We can all understand and sense that we are called to lives that matter, that are sustainable, and that are obedient to God and the way He has made this world and us.

**“Ask the questions that have no answers.**

**Invest in the millenium. Plant sequoias.**

**Say that your main crop is the forest**

**that you did not plant,**

*that you will not live to harvest.*

*Say that the leaves are harvested  
when they have rotted into the mold.  
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.  
Put your faith in the two inches of humus  
that will build under the trees  
every thousand years."*

As "Easter people," our lives anticipate a transformed and resurrected reality. Our God, in Jesus Christ, has called us to just such a different way of both living and thinking. We may be far from being farmers, but we are called to be the "light" to a world that may not receive it, even as they did not receive Him who came to overcome darkness. Whether received or not, nonetheless, we are called to live wisely and shrewdly in service of the King who rules over a world that does not yet know it. On the basis of those "first fruits," we are called to "practice resurrection."

*"As soon as the generals and the politicians  
can predict the motions of your mind,  
lose it. Leave it as a sign  
to mark the false trail, the way  
you didn't go."*

*Be like the fox  
who makes more tracks than necessary,  
some in the wrong direction.  
Practice resurrection."*

— [Wendell Berry](#)

As we begin a new chapter in Redstone Presbytery and as we continue our Eastertide celebration, may we be reminded of the actions and the alternatives of our living that may be as unpredictable as the empty tomb in order that we might be those people who even now "practice resurrection."

Blessings,  
Skip Noftzger

### ***News in Christian Education and the Resource Center...***

**Triennium Leader Needed!** The Triennium group is in need of a female chaperone. Due to a cancellation, we need a female to accompany us to Purdue from July 16-20. Triennium is a life-changing experience for everyone that goes - both adults and students. Please contact Cheryl Croushore at the Presbytery office immediately if you are able to attend.

**A Christian Education Event** ~Journey Inward-Journey Outward, featuring Bonnie Thurston is being held at Pittsburgh Theological seminary on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. These gatherings are an excellent way to meet other people who are as dedicated to Christian Education as you and your church. Further questions can be answered by calling 412-924-1345.

**Eastern APCE** Spring event will be held at Rhodes Grove Conference Center in Chambersburg, PA on April 29 - May 1, 2013. The theme of the conference is, Church for those who don't want the Church. The keynote speaker is Rev. Landon Whitsitt the Vice Moderator of the 219th General Assembly. Along with the Keynote speaker, there are many excellent workshops that will be offered on Monday. The cost for the conference is only \$345.00. Cheryl Croushore, Associate for Christian Formation, will be attending and will be glad to provide transportation to those that will fit in her car.

**VBS** ~ If you know the dates that you will be doing VBS please let me know at the Presbytery Office, [resource@redstonepresbytery.comcastbiz.net](mailto:resource@redstonepresbytery.comcastbiz.net).

**High School Sexuality Retreat** ~ You are invited to bring your high school aged students (grades 9-12) to a Christian-based sexuality retreat at New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntington on Saturday, April 27. There is no cost to attend this one-day retreat but preregistration is encouraged. For more information please contact Rev. Janet Reid at 724-863-7702.