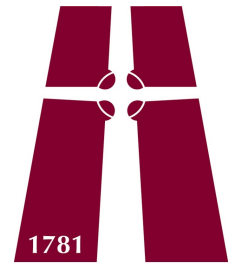


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



January 28, 2015

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**Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone**

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian
Church, Dunbar,
Suzanne Zampella,
Moderator
District 3

>Laurel Hill Presbyterian
Church, Dunbar, Jeff
Smith, Commissioned
Ruling Elder
District 3

>Ebensburg
Presbyterian Church,
Laura Blank, Stated
Supply
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger
Executive Presbyter
[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)

Rev. Gary Close
Stated Clerk

Bobbie Martin
Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Upcoming Events...

2nd Wednesday of Every Month: Friendship Dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. -
New Kensington, United

2nd Wednesday of Every Month: Soup for the Soul - Apollo, Poke Run

January 31, 2015: District 4 Enrichment Day - Johnstown, Westmont

January 31, 2015: Service of Healing for all Veterans - Apollo, Poke Run

February 11, 2015: GA Commissioner's Forum - Uniontown, Third - 7:00 p.m.

Please go to the website at www.redstone.org and click on the "events"
tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

"The Drama of Discipleship" - Reflections from the EP

Often, we hear the expression and affirm intuitively that "actions speak louder than words." Certainly, it is not a condemnation of the importance of our language and its use. Yet, we all know the necessity of the connection between what we say and what we do. In the book, Faith Speaking Understanding(a "shameless plug" for the upcoming book study), the premise of the author is that the testimony of our faith is in what the church is "doing." This "doing" is integrally connected to remaining faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ and where the reign of God is made known through disciples who are enacting God's word in fresh and compelling ways.

In an effort to connect theory and practice, doctrine and living, theology and ethics in the life, the authors uses the imagery of theater. In this view, we are involved in an interactive performance of kingdom living in front of and within this world. We are "acting" out(more than just repeating lines) what it means together to be "in Christ." We are participating in what he terms, the "drama of discipleship." It is a declaration of the Lordship of the resurrected Christ through the way we speak, both in words and actions. [...more](#)

Around Redstone - News in the Kingdom

Save the Date---The annual Redstone Confirmation Retreat will be take place at Pine Springs Camp on April 10-11. This is a great opportunity for your current or upcoming confirmation class to learn, be challenged about being part of the body of Christ as a Presbyterian and have fun with students from

Quick Links

[Resourcenter Catalog](#)
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[Synod of the Trinity](#)
[Pine Springs Camp](#)

[PDA](#)
[Sudan](#)

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First 2 of 5 2015 Presbytery Meeting Schedule

**Tuesday, January
20, 2015** - First
Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg
1:00 p.m. to 4:00
p.m.

**Saturday, March
21, 2015** - (Still
Need Host)
9:00 a.m. to 12:00
p.m.

***Communicate
the Word...***

***Carry on the
Work...***

***Change the
World...***

Together

other churches.

Pastor's Reading Group - In the month of February, we will have another reading group focused on the book, Faith Speaking Understanding; Performing the Drama of Doctrine. Mark your calendars for Thursday lunches in that month. Stay tuned for more details.

Annual Reports - Clerks are encouraged to not only begin the annual statistical report for the denomination, but submission of the statistics, manse inspection and session rolls to the Presbytery office. For your convenience, in addition to the mailed materials, there is an online form on the webpage (listed under Clerk Resources) for this submission (GA statistics are still submitted through their online form). Please complete any and all relevant sections using the tabs across the top prior to selecting the "submit" button.

Background Clearances - As a result of Act 153 of 2014 Pennsylvania General Assembly, it is important that each congregation that has a ministry program(s) that involves children and youth become familiar with the new law pertaining to child abuse. Among other items, requirements for background clearances are specified both in expanding the definition of employees and inclusion of volunteers having "direct contact with children."

Effective December 31, 2014--- **All employees(including pastors)** having direct contact with children will be required to submit the following information and will be required to be re-certified every 36 months. The Praesidium background check that we have been using the last two years in the presbytery is not enough. The statute requires these three clearance and history reports.

1. Pennsylvania Criminal History Report-PA State Police (\$10)
(<https://epatch.state.pa.us>)
2. Child Abuse History Clearance Report-PA Dept. of Human Services (\$10)
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
3. Federal Criminal History Report; (fingerprint-based background check)-
FBI(\$27.50) <https://www.pa.cogentid.com>
For persons serving as pastors of congregations in Redstone Presbytery, the documentation of these clearances should be submitted to the Presbytery as well as the session.

Effective July 1, 2015--- **All volunteers 18 years of age or older who apply for unpaid positions as volunteers responsible for the welfare of a child or having direct contact with children** will be required to submit the same information as above and will also be required to re-certify every 36 months.

An exception does apply to the FBI clearance if the individual is willing to submit an affidavit affirming that s/he is not disqualified from service under the provisions of the law.

All criminal background documentation should be collected and retained in a safe and secure location in case needed for future use.

You would be encouraged to check through your insurance carrier because it is our understanding that some insurance companies might be offering either services to assist or other resources.

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