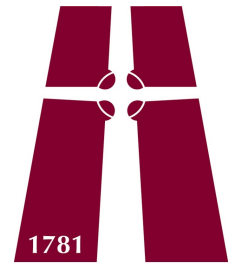


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



February 18, 2015

In This Issue

**Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone**

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian
Church, Fairchance,
Keith Conover,
Moderator
District 3

>Mt. Washington
Presbyterian Church,
Farmington, Suzanne
Zampella, Moderator
District 3

>First Presbyterian
Church, Fayette City,
Michael Shepard, Stated
Supply
District 3

>Little Redstone
Presbyterian Church,
Fayette City, Michael
Shepard, Stated Supply
District 3

Contact Us

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

Rev. Gary Close
Stated Clerk

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

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

Stewardship and Congregational Life

What season is it? The liturgical calendar shows that we are in Lent. Temperatures prove that we are in winter. Accountants know that we are in tax season, although H & R Block is promoting refund season. Recently I preached a stewardship sermon, because, contrary to what some may think, stewardship is not a Sunday nor a season. The Lord calls us to be 24/7 stewards.

I just finished a course on tithing and stewardship, where I read about John Wesley. When a member of his parish delivered the news, "Your house has burned to the ground," Wesley replied, "No. The Lord's house burned to the ground. That means less responsibility for me." From this, Wesley proposed four questions for a Christian to ask in matters of stewardship:

1. Am I/we acting as the owner or as the Lord's trustee?
2. Does Scripture require the expenditure?
3. Is the expense an offering of sacrifice to the Lord?
4. Will God reward me at the resurrection of the just for the offering?

Later Alcorn adds another question to Wesley's list.

1. Will this improve Christian character or spiritual life?[1]

As stewards we need to question stewardship decisions, because as Martin cautions, "We often err by spending too much time and things that may be good in themselves but which keep us from doing the better or best." [2]

I pray for the Spirit of Jesus to enable you to be a good and faithful steward. As friends connected by Christ, is there a way that we can help?

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

submitted by The Reverend Ms. Janet Reid, on behalf of
The Committee on Stewardship and Congregational Life

Quick Links

[Resourcenter Catalog](#)
[Our Homepage](#)

[PCUSA](#)
[Synod of the Trinity](#)
[Pine Springs Camp](#)
[PDA](#)
[Sudan](#)

[PW of Redstone](#)

2015 Presbytery Meeting Schedule

**Saturday, March
21, 2015**
Westminster
Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg
9:00 a.m. to NOON

**Tuesday, May 19,
2015**
United Presbyterian
Church, West
Newton
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday,
September 15,
2015**
Laurel Hill
Presbyterian Church,
Dunbar
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Tuesday,
November 17,
2015**
Rehoboth

[1] Randy Alcorn, *Managing God's money: a biblical guide* (Carol Stream, Illinois:Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 2011), 17-18 & 61.

[2] Alfred Martin, *Biblical Stewardship* (Dubuque, IA: ECS Ministries, 2005), 24.

Around Redstone - News in the Kingdom

MISSION TRIPS - Is your church planning a mission trip for this spring or summer? If so, please let Bobbie know so the information can be published on the Presbytery website. Please include the church, destination, type of trip, and the contact person in case others would like to participate.

There will be Presbytery Wide PDA Mission trip April 12 - 18, 2015. There are still places available. Contact Judy Koontz at the Community United Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria at 724.668.7752 for more information.

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 other churches.

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**

Presbyterian Church,
Belle Vernon -
hosted by Harmony
Presbyterian Church
9:30 a.m. to 4:00
p.m.

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.

***Communicate
the Word...

Carry on the
Work...

Change the
World...

Together***

All criminal background documentation should be collected and retained in a safe and secure location in case needed for future use. Pastors, please send your clearances to the Presbytery office as soon as possible to be retained in your file.

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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