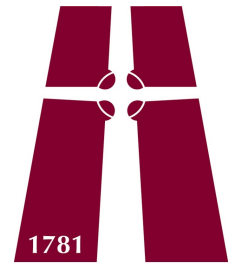


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



March 2, 2015

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Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Martin Ankrum, Pastor; Nicole Brodeur, Assoc. Pastor
District 2

>Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
District 2

>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Donna Havrisko, Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Ronald Wakeman, Pastor; Ronald Durika, Assoc. Pastor
District 2

>West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Peggy Shannon, Interim Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, Robert Fuehrer, Pastor
District 2

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

March 17, 2015: Journey Inward/Journey Outward Event at PTS

April 10-12, 2015: Women in the Woods - Pine Springs Camp

April 11, 2015: PW Spring Gathering - Smock, Pleasant View

May 26, 2015: PW Spring Retreat - Pine Springs Camp

June 18-21, 2015: PW Churchwide Gathering, Minneapolis, MN

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

"Cast in the Right Role " - Reflections from the EP

In my relatively short high school thespian career (two plays), I remember auditioning for a lead role in a particular play. While I am sure it was just a mistake (J), I found myself being assigned a different role within the production. Beyond the lessons of humility learned, it occurred to me that my wishful thinking concerning the "ideal" role for me may have been based far more on social expectations or images among my friends, rather than upon the reality of either my abilities or experience.

In the world in which we live, all of us assume various roles in relationship to this larger drama of life. Whether parent, friend, neighbor, co-worker, church member or others, we may find at times that they fit well and at times they are uncomfortable within our own sense of who we are. Yet, the significance of who we are and the roles in which that identity is expressed is centered in our calling in Christ. Beyond either the pressures of the world around us or own self awareness and desires, God, by grace, has made us new and challenges us to live into it as you "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." [...more](#)

Around Redstone - News in the Kingdom

>>>If you or your congregation has an announcement to include in the Announcements Loop to be run at the March 21st, 2015 meeting of Redstone Presbytery, please email information to [Laura Blank](#) as soon as possible. The deadline for sending info to be included is Friday, March 13th. Thanks for your help!

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive Presbyter

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

Rev. Gary Close

Stated Clerk

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Quick Links

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

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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

>>>**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.

>>>**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. **SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!**

>>>**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."

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.

>>>**The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries of the PC(USA)** are sponsoring a Training Day on Friday, April 17, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to develop a link with local congregations and Presbyterians interested in social justice and public witness opportunities. The theme for the day will be "Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration & Systems of Exploitation". To register online, you may go to:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/washington/

>>>**World Christian Pilgrimages (WMI at PTS) - October 2015**

1. South East Asia - This October 15th-27th journey led by Don Dawson will continue to build on WMI's long-standing relationship (12 years and 19 visits) with an Unreached People Group in SE Asia. Participants will meet with and encourage leaders of the Christian movement among this People Group, and share with and learn from our brothers and sisters.
2. Armenia - In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, join World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Seminary on a 10-day journey to a beautiful, ancient Christian homeland October 8-19, 2015. Enjoy worship, warm hospitality, and discussions with all three ecumenical church partners - Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical. You will be immersed in the faith-based community development projects

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

**Communicate
the Word...**

**Carry on the
Work...**

**Change the
World...**

Together

of the Jinishian Memorial Program in this post-Soviet republic. Eliza Minasyan, Executive Director and Cara Taylor of JMP will be the leaders.

See <http://www.worldmissioninitiative.org/index.php/trips/fall> for details.

>>>**We are still taking applications for the one-time grant from the Synod of the Trinity to support small congregations in meeting the additional 1.5% increase for those pastors with dependents. This is a reimbursement to the congregation for small churches needing assistance to meet this additional expense. The Committee on Ministry has approved the following criteria (below) both for eligibility and for distribution. If you are interested AND you believe your church qualifies, please get the application in as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please contact either Skip or Bobbie at the Presbytery office.**

-
Policy on Eligibility---(meet all of the following criteria)

- Effective Salary for the pastor is below \$48000 (2015)
- Pastor is a member of the medical pension program AND is enrolling dependents under her/his insurance.
- Congregation is paying some or all of the additional (1.5%)
- Congregation participates in the First Fruits program of the presbytery

Implementation

- Upon approval and with documentation, the congregation will be reimbursed up to the amount of the church's contribution toward the additional 1.5%. The actual amount that the church contributes to that 1.5% is eligible for reimbursement as expended through this grant for 2015 only.
- Accounting for actual expenditures and grant distributions will be necessary in order for the presbytery to complete the final report for the Synod of the Trinity. Any unexpended funds will be returned to the Synod of the Trinity.

We are grateful to the Synod of the Trinity as they recognize this need and their willingness to act upon our covenantal connection together for ministry in congregations throughout the region.

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