

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



July 1, 2015

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**Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone**

Let's Pray For:

>Union Presbyterian
Church, Murrysville,
Derek Campbell, Pastor
District 1

>Community United
Presbyterian Church,
New Alexandria, Kathy
Shirey, Pastor
District 1

>Congruity Presbyterian
Church, New Alexandria,
Cliff Foster, Pastor
District 1

>Bethel Presbyterian
Church, New Florence,
James Sunseri,
Commissioned Ruling
Elder
District 4

>Trinity Presbyterian
Church, New Florence,
Ron Durika, Moderator
District 4

>United Presbyterian
Church, New
Kensington, Becca
Siddle, Stated Supply
District 1

>New Salem
Presbyterian Church,
Ross Bash, Interim

Upcoming Events...

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

July 16, 2015: Airplay - WSO Woodwind Quintet - Latrobe, Unity Chapel

July 18, 2015: Mission Tea for STOP HUNGER NOW - New Alexandria, Congruity

August 1, 2015: Redstone Presbytery "FUN DAY" at Pine Springs Camp

August 9-15, 2015: Perspective Leaders' Intensive - PTS

August 13, 2015: IUP - Faculty Brass Quintet - Latrobe, Unity Chapel

August 22, 2015: Peach Fest - New Salem

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

"Right in God's Sight" - Reflections from the EP

Last week, I wrote about prayer as essential to not only express our dependence upon God, but one of the primary means by which the Lord has chosen to bring rest and renewal. Noting that the prayer of the disciples of Acts 4 speaks of their trust in the sovereign Lord even over and against the powers of their day by quoting from the second Psalm, we join them in petitioning our God in the midst of "threats."

While there is much that we might personally experience in which our faith in a resurrected Christ may cause us to be looked upon skeptically or cynically, I think we all might agree that such a response pales in comparison to the "threats" known by those first disciples. So foreign from our own experience, we can be seduced into thinking that such real persecution no longer takes place. Yet, the reality in many places around the world, these "threats" are so real they force Christians to choose between speaking about the hope of the resurrected Christ and submitting to the kings of the earth.

Many of you may be aware of the plight of the two South Sudanese pastors who have remained imprisoned for their faith in the Republic of Sudan since the beginning of the year. After various postponements, they will have a hearing on July 2 before the judge. Currently, they reside in a high security prison with no visitors allowed. It is incumbent upon us (particularly as a Presbytery who has joined in partnership with the Sudan and South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Churches) to petition our God and act upon their behalf.

**Pastor
District 3**

In a recent article published on the PCUSA website, you can read more details about their situation and how we are called to respond.

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive Presbyter

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

Rev. Gary Close

Stated Clerk

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

"The leaders of the South Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church ask the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to stand with them by lifting our collective voices in prayer and advocacy for the pastors' safety and release," says Rev. Debbie Braaksma, PC(USA) Africa area coordinator.

Please take time TODAY to pray for these two pastors. Pray that they might receive justice and that their rights might be respected. Pray that the government of Sudan might acknowledge the rights of those who choose to follow their faith. Pray that both pastors and all of us might be governed first and foremost by a resurrection-inspired commitment to do what is "right in God's sight."

Around Redstone

>>**Stated Clerk Open House** - As most of you already know, Gary Close, our current Stated Clerk is retiring from that position effective August 31, 2015. There will be an Open House with light refreshments at the Presbytery office on Tuesday, August 25 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is to provide an opportunity for those of you who would like to stop by and give Gary your well wishes for his retirement. If the August 25 date does not work for you and you would want to stop by and see Gary on another day, he is usually in the office on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. If you have any questions, please call the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737.

>>**"Mandatory Reporter" training**---For several years, clergy have been considered "mandatory reporters" regarding child abuse. With the more recent legislation, in addition to the necessary background clearances, there is an expectation of participation in training for mandatory reporters. This training is available and can be completed online (<https://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu/>)

>>**Obergefell decision**---Although same gender marriage became legal in Pennsylvania last year, some have asked questions in response to the Obergefell decision. Within our polity, any decision about either officiating (Teaching Elder) or hosting on church property (Session) ANY marriage service resides with those who have been given that authority. A short response with particular questions and answers from the PCUSA website is also available on the [Presbytery website](#).

>> **Rev. John Michael, a member of Redstone Presbytery and former mission worker to the Czech and Slovak Republics**, asks that congregations (and any other church bodies) consider celebrating the 600-year anniversary of the martyrdom of Czech Reformer, John Huss. The [attached document](#) can be used as a bulletin insert or form the basis for a minute for mission. For any questions, please contact John Michael at johnmichael@webpgh.com.

>>**Wee Kirk-October 12-14.....**Online registration is available at www.fellowship.community or brochures are in the Presbytery office.

>>**South Sudan emergency relief.....**The conflict situation in South Sudan continues, leaving thousands seeking shelter in refugee camps where hunger becomes the next enemy. The Mission Committee of Redstone received an impassioned plea for emergency food assistance from the Moderator of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. Please respond to this critical need by sending financial support to the Presbytery designated for South

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Next Presbytery Meeting

**Tuesday,
September 15,
2015**

Laurel Hill
Presbyterian Church,
Dunbar
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Together

Sudan emergency relief.

>>**Pine Springs Camp** is still receiving registrations for a number of weekly camps this summer. Don't miss out on the opportunity for your students to participate in "The Search."

>>**Redstone "Fun" Day.....**Mark your calendars (August 1; 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) for a fun day at Pine Springs Camp. There will be opportunities to enjoy the camp facilities and be together. Please RSVP by emailing revatondora@atlanticbbn.net.

>>**The Presbyterian Women's group of Community United Presbyterian Church** (New Alexandria) is desiring to hear from interested and available handbell choirs who would be able to play at their December gathering (Wed, Dec 2, 7 pm in the church sanctuary). A stipend would be offered to the performing handbell choir. Interested directors should contact Anna Jean Carnahan, program coordinator, at 724-668-2574, or email the church at cup.newalex@gmail.com.

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