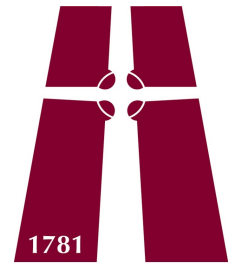


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



December 9, 2015

In This Issue

**Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone**

Let's Pray For:

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

>Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Denise Todero, Commissioned Ruling Elder District 4

>First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Alice Tondora, Pastor District 4

>Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Arthur Moffat, Temporary Supply; Carole Isley Corey, Moderator District 4

>Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Craig Miller, Pastor District 4

>Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn, George Hickok, Pastor District 3

Upcoming Events...

2nd Wednesday of Every Month: Friendship Dinner - New Kensington, United October through May: "Soup for the Soul" luncheon - Apollo, Poke Run

January 16, 2016: Presbytery Meeting - 1:00 to 4:00 - Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg (Mandatory Reporter Training at 10:00 this day as well - prior to Presbytery meeting)

January 30, 2016: Enrichment Day - 12:00 to 4:00 - Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown (Session Minute Review Prior to this at 11:00)

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

"Questions to Ponder; Vows to Keep-" *'Pray and Serve'* - Reflections from the EP



"Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?"

Often, within the context of church life and leadership, we act and function as "practical atheists." While acknowledging God, nonetheless, we move forward based upon the assumption that "we got this." No need to bother the Lord who has given us this charge. Such enacted self-sufficiency betrays our primary task in fulfilling our vows in dependence upon our God. In leadership as elsewhere, prayer is both our responsibility as well as our privilege.

Religious research often notes the number of people who "believe in" prayer and its power. Similarly, it is often noted how those believers practice prayer as a means of drawing close to God or for personal guidance. Yet, the vows that we take commit us to a ministry of intercession for those for whom we have been called to lead. Such prayer is both "good" for them and "god" for us. Lifting up before our God, the hopes, the dreams, the needs and the concerns of those within our charge is the noblest of our responsibilities. It is also the clearest reminder that this ministry does not depend upon our competence, skill or even authority. Sustained prayer for the people in our congregations becomes not the last consideration, but the first thought "day in

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

and day out."

Yet, our calling transcends just the responsibility of intercession. Paired with our commitment to serve, the two go "hand in hand." Within the New Testament, we know only too well that there is very little discussion that focuses on leadership for its own sake. The calling for disciples is to be servants. In contrast to those who would abuse authority, this remains even more the case for those who have been called to lead in our churches.

Within our own "questions to ponder, vows to keep," what becomes even more interesting to me is the modifiers of that servanthood. To serve with "energy, intelligence, imagination and love" binds together our passion and purpose, our analysis and feelings, our present reality and our future possibilities. Being willing to serve in these ways calls upon us to be able to draw upon a reservoir of God-given strengths and sometimes, weaknesses. We are challenged by the question again and again as we seek to lead. Are we serving ourselves? Are we serving our vision of the church or its ministry, but for the people? Ultimately, are we serving the people for whom we were installed? To do so, with energy, intelligence, imagination and love implies a willingness to do so using all of our gifts for their sake and in dependence upon our God.

The responsibility of leadership can often be intimidating. To reflect upon these questions and to remind ourselves of the vows we made may sometimes feel overwhelming despite our best intentions. Yet, the God whose grace has been sufficient to bring you to Jesus Christ will provide for you in the paths to which the Lord has called. **So, will you pray for the people? Will you seek to serve them?** If so, our God will bless not only your affirmation, but your efforts to fulfill these vows in dependence upon the Lord. Soli Deo Gloria!

Quick Links

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[Pine Springs Camp](#)
[PDA](#)
[Sudan](#)

[PW of Redstone](#)

Around Redstone (and beyond)

>>The Presbytery office will be closed beginning Friday, December 18, 2015 through and including Friday, January 1, 2016. We wish you all a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

>>Mandatory Reporter training will take place at 10:00 a.m. before January 16, 2016 Presbytery meeting.

>>Save the Date - The District IV Enrichment Day will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at the Westmont Presbyterian Church. This will also be the first opportunity for Clerks of Session to have their minutes reviewed. This is not only for District IV folks. Others are also invited to attend. See the calendar of events on the Presbytery website for more information.

>>Continuing Education events at PTS:

Finding Hope at Life's End with Scott Fuller, January 20
ONLINE CLASS - "Ezekiel - Prophet of the Presence and Absence of God",
Steven Tuell, 1/11-2/5/16

For more information about any of these events, please see:
www.pts.edu/continuing-education.

>>Save the Date - Confirmation Retreat at Pine Springs Camp, April 8-9, 2016. Register your group of students through the Presbytery office.

Upcoming Presbytery Meeting

**Saturday,
January 16, 2016**

Maplewood
Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg
1:00 p.m. to 4:00
p.m.

*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

>>**2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium** - July 19-23, 2016. Go to the homepage of the Presbytery website at www.redstone.org for more information.

