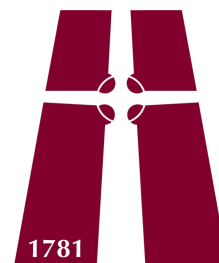


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



January 27, 2016

In This Issue

**Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone**

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian
Church, Mastontown
District 3

>McClellandtown
Presbyterian Church,
Lee McDermott, Pastor
District 3

>Dunlap's Creek
Presbyterian Church,
Merrittstown, Aleda
Menchyk, Moderator
District 3

>Reunion Presbyterian
Church, Mt. Pleasant,
Sue Washburn, Stated
Supply
District 2

>First Presbyterian
Church, Murrysville,
William King, Interim
Pastor
District 1

>Newlonsburg
Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville, Curtis Paul,
Pastor; Marnie Silbert,
Associate Pastor
District 1

Upcoming Events...

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

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

January 30, 2016: Soup on a Cold Day - New Alexandria, Community United

February 6, 2016: Souper Bowl of Caring Soup Night - Delmont

February 9, 2016: Pancake Dinner - New Alexandria, Congruity

February 14, 2016: Spaghetti Dinner - New Alexandria, Community United

March 19, 2016: Easter Vendor and Craft Show - Derry

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

"Opportunities in Disguise"- Reflections from the EP



Finishing my meal at a local Chinese restaurant with some friends, I reached for the fortune cookie. As the cookie was devoured, I turned my attention to my "fortune" which read; "Every failure is an opportunity in disguise." Similar to other self-help admonitions and calls for making yourself better, I gave it little attention. Only later, did I begin to reflect upon what were really "opportunities in disguise." Perhaps, they have been or will be failures. Or, maybe be better yet, they may be cloaked in what appears more as the unknown. A future which does not necessarily look like our past presents us with little comfort or security, but it just may be an abundance of opportunities.

Recently, as a Council of Presbytery, we have begun reading Tod Bolsinger's new book, Canoeing the Mountains. Its subtitle, "Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory," explicates the meaning of the curious assigned designation. Using the metaphor of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the author suggests that as Christians (in the local church or in organizations like the presbytery), we are in a journey where we have gone "off the map."

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Next Presbytery Meeting

**Tuesday, March
15, 2016**

Westmont
Presbyterian Church,
Johnstown
1:00 p.m. to 4:00
p.m.

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

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

"Lewis and Clark's expedition to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase was built on a completely false expectation. They believed, like everyone before them, that the unexplored west was exactly the same geography as the familiar east. This is the story of what they did when they discovered that they--- and everyone else before them--- had been wrong. And how instructive and inspiring that story can be to us today." ([Canoeing the Mountains](#), p. 13)

In many of the situations that we now find ourselves, the "old" answers don't seem to fit. Relying upon our traditional understanding of the role the Church occupies in the world will only leave us depending upon false expectations. We must recognize that this journey of the "kingdom" in our place may not occur by the route and the means we always believed to be the case. This future expedition requires that we recognize that if we are to travel into this "land," our expectations based upon the past will have to be altered. There may no longer be a "navigable river" providing direct connection to the intended destination (whether the Pacific Ocean or the consummated kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven").

For most of us, this recognition serves as an insurmountable obstacle. When we are unwilling to "see" the different reality in front of us and around us, we are no longer able to see the "opportunity in disguise" of a new way. No doubt, our own longings for maintaining, preserving life as we knew it and believed it would always be can be difficult and produce anxiety and even, fear. Yet, going forth without a dependence upon our former "maps" actually reinforces what was true all along, both then and now. By the grace of God, we walk by faith into new places. We depend not on our strength, power, wisdom or successful ways of "doing church," but upon the Lord Jesus Christ who both commissions us and promises his presence. Such "opportunities" will require of all us that we continue to learn, to adapt, to grow based not upon our previous "maps" but an unknown future, but we have the assurance of our God who will lead and guide us all the way.

Around Redstone (and beyond)

>> **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. If you are unable to attend this minutes review, other dates will be set for later in the Spring at various locations in each district as well. Those dates and locations will be announced as they are determined.

>>**2015 Annual Statistical Report** - The deadline for filing the 2015 Annual Statistical Report to General Assembly will be here before we know it. Please submit your electronic report to General Assembly **no later than February 12, 2016**. The system will close at midnight; please don't wait until the last minute or site "traffic" may lock you out. If you have questions about filing this report electronically, or need assistance in completing it, please don't hesitate to contact either Skip or Bobbie at the Presbytery office.

>>**2016 Youth Triennium - Registrations are due in the Presbytery office right away. If you have youth members planning on going, please let us know.**

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

"GO into the world and make disciples" (presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).
Go to the [Redstone Presbytery](#) website homepage for a bulletin insert and flyer to be used in your church.

>>**Save the Date** - Confirmation Retreat at Pine Springs Camp, April 8-9, 2016.
Registrations are beginning. Send information to the office or call and let us know your number of participants for planning purposes.

