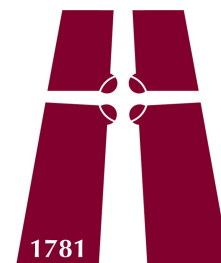


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



May 11, 2016

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Let's Pray For:

>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Caroline Vickery, Pastor
District 1

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

>Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Robert Prinkey, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 3

>Cresson Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Upcoming Events...

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

May 24, 2016: PW Spring Retreat - Pine Springs Camp

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

"Keeping the End in Sight"- the EP



Standing there in the midst of my closet with apparently a puzzled look on my face, my wife inquires of me; "what's the problem?" Turning, with a wave of my arm, I declare, "do you know that I hardly own anything that is red?" Sure enough, through the many suits and shirts and pants and ties, a variety of blues, browns and dark shades were readily apparent, but hardly a "red" in sight. Thinking that she would grasp my "Pentecost dilemma," I fully expected greater empathy, but instead I received her insightful response. "You don't even like red."

Each year at Pentecost, many churches encourage their participants to come dressed in red. As we demonstrate symbolically the tongues of fire that descended upon those first disciples signifying a new day. We commemorate and remember the "birthday" of the Church on this special Sunday, but it is a birthday whose focus draws us not to "it" as the end in itself, but what began there and continues today. It was the promise of the Holy Spirit, the One through whom the activity of God through God's people had come then and still is lived out today.

The other day I came across the posting written by Rev. Eric Parker that some of you might have seen on Facebook(I re-posted on Presbytery FB page) entitled, "Why Nothing Seems to Get People Back to Church-the Issue at the Core of the Decline." Reflecting upon the common articulated concern for why "young people aren't as committed" to church anymore, the author notes the loss of

Reflections from

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Next Presbytery Meeting

**Tuesday, May 17,
2016**

First
Presbyterian Church,
Jeannette
6:00 p.m. to 9:00
p.m.

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

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

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

Together

the built-in social commitment or societal pressure undergirding our participation in church. Too often, in worrying about the future of our own congregations, we can become focused on the "means," rather than the "ends." No doubt, our churches, over the years, have been and done many great things in the name of Jesus and brought glory to Christ and the kingdom. Yet, they never were intended to be about creating and perpetuating this organization or structure as its own ends.

From the howling of that rushing wind and the descent of those first tongues of fire where God was praised in ways that crossed the barriers of language, it was and is always about making God's activity known. This witness defines God's (and ours) mission and purpose and a church that is characterized not by its commitment to self-preservation, but to devotion to crucified and resurrected One who has called us home and called us to be together in the name and for the sake of following the Lord.

By God's grace and mercy, God has chosen these "jars of clay" to bring forth the reality of this kingdom come and coming. Whether local called out congregations, connected regions of the Body of Christ or the massive structures of the Church across the globe, we share and are reminded this Sunday not merely of our history or our legacy, but the present reality of the Spirit of God, who like the wind will blow where it will, but is still filling God's people to witness to God's glory. So, this Pentecost, let us celebrate the origin of the NT Church as we know it, but let us also know the power of God empowering us in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ.

And, I think that I will go find some red clothing to wear, because of that "end," I really do like red. Amen.

Around Redstone

>>**Is God calling you?** If you are a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to preach or become more involved in pastoral service, Redstone Presbytery (along with Washington and Upper Ohio Valley) will be beginning a new training program for the preparation of possible "Commissioned Ruling Elders" for the future. Starting in the fall of 2016, the program is designed to be both classroom and hands-on experiences, you will receive training and mentorship that will help you grow as a leader in Christ's Church. If interested, please contact either Skip Noftzger (Executive Presbyter) or Cheryl Rhea (Chair - AP/CRE subcommittee).

>>**Board of Pensions Updates.....**Prior to the upcoming May Presbytery meeting at Jeannette, Rev. Doug Portz (BOP liaison) will be available and meeting with any interested persons (pastors, church treasurers, etc.) to present changes in the Board of Pensions for 2017.

>> **Session Minutes Review Dates** - the final scheduled review being planned is for Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Jeannette. This is immediately prior to the Presbytery meeting being held there beginning at 6:00 p.m.



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