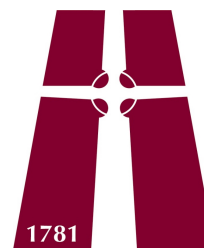


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



June 30, 2016

In This Issue

Reflections from the EP
Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

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

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

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

>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Clark Kerr, Pastor District 2

>Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Katy Yates Brungraber, Pastor District 3

>Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator District 3

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

>Second Presbyterian

Upcoming Events...

Second Wednesday of every month - Friendship Dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. FREE TO ANYONE WANTING TO ATTEND - New Kensington, United
Every Wednesday from June 14 through September 21 - "The Incredible Family" parenting series - Delmont

July 11 through 15, 2016: Common Ground Nature Camp, Newlonsburg
July 29, 2016: Blues and Barbecue - New Hope
August 27, 2016: Peach Fest, New Salem
September 18 through 20, 2016: PW New Windsor Mission Trip
October 3 through 5, 2016: Preaching Pastors' Conference

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

"How was GA?" GA Reflections from the EP



How was GA?Usually, this is the opening question that I receive upon my return from the biennial adventure that we call the General Assembly council. Yet, the story is not in the words of the inquiry, but rather portrayed in the "tone" of the questioner. As you might imagine, while there may be various nuances, often the question reflects the "ends" of the continuum.

Some will ask with more than a "touch" of either skepticism or suspicion. Others inquire as if I have been to the "mountaintop" or participated in a spiritual pilgrimage. For the first group, "GA" (as we call it) represents all that is "wrong" with the church. For the latter, "GA" reflects our highest ideals and what is "right" with the church.

My answer to those two "ends" and others in-between.....It was and is the church. Every other year a group of sinners redeemed by grace gather on a large scale. Commissioned by presbyteries, they come together in the name of Christ sanctified by the Holy Spirit together to talk, to pray, to debate, and to pursue faithfulness together. And, when they gather there is both a fellowship of like-mindedness in Christ AND a stirring one another up to love and good works. **It is the church.**

Think of your congregation or session or the presbytery, but think bigger. People agree and disagree with each other. Usually, they are gracious, but not always. In general, each one desires what is best for the church in following

Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply District 4

Christ, but each one may also be subject to the seduction of rationalization of a personal agenda. It appears to be much like every congregation I have ever served, every session I have moderated, and every presbytery I have participated.

Contact Us
Rev. Skip Noftzger
Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)
Bobbie Martin
Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Yet, think bigger. With the size and scope of this meeting of the church, the comfort and homogeneity of our particular "place" is no longer present. By definition, the meeting brings together the diversity of the church. Whether reflected in geography, types of congregations, ethnicity, or theological perspective, it is there.....**And, it is the church.**

As a national church, we are discovering that God is leading us through some transitions. Some of our congregations have been dismissed to "places" where they feel comfortable with where the theological boundaries are drawn. Yet, who we are, in those similarities and in differences in Christ remains, for **we are the church.**

In this Assembly, the historic "fights" over sexuality with each side jockeying for either change or tradition were absent for the most part. Overall, there was a calm spirit within the Assembly. Not that there were not disagreements or strongly-held convictions on display, but there appeared to be an anticipation concerning what is next for **we are the church.**

Quick Links
[Resourcenter Catalog](#)
[Our Homepage](#)

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

[PW of Redstone](#)

Transitions were reflected in leadership choices, in wrestling with vision and structure, and what would be "The Way Forward." Celebration took place with the addition of a new confession seeking to break down further barriers in which the church has permitted (and sometimes rationalized) division. Issues of social justice, Middle East conflict, and peacemaking were debated with each resulting in measured responses that noted our own failures of the past and our desire to engage with others in transformation not only for us as individuals, but for our world. **It was the church.**

Signs of vitality were present in tangible ways. Whether it was the investment of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates or in the report on 1001 Worshiping Communities, God was present. Whether it was the way in which opposing "sides" treated each other in debate about proposed actions concerning divestment, the report of Presbyterian World Missions, or a moving moment of reconciliation with the affirmation of a new confession, the Lord was there exercising grace in, through, and sometimes, in spite of us.
How was GA?.....It was the church.

[...more](#)

Next Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Pine Springs Camp,
Jennerstown
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Around Redstone

>>The Presbytery Office will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2016.

>>Below are several links for resources regarding the 222nd General Assembly meeting last week:

[GA News, GA Actions/overtures, Presbyterian Outlook Reporting](#)
[Presbyterians Today blog, Spirit of GA Videos](#)

>>Union Presbyterian Church in Murrysville has several boxes of hymnals and 20 choir robes they would like to donate to a church that may wish to have them. Please contact the church at 724.337.3042 if you are interested in either of these items.

>>The Rev. Niki Brodeur from First-Greensburg and her fiancé are supporters of the Malawi Mission Network. Back in December 2015, Mzuni Library Initiative of the Malawi Education and Children's Welfare Foundation experienced a devastating fire that completely destroyed the main library and

Communicate

the Word...

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

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

Together

its contents, including books, documents, computers, and furnishings.

The University has already had some book donations from individuals and institutions in Malawi, the UK, and elsewhere in Europe, and is cataloging them into a small but growing collection. However, they are desperately in need of books, particularly on theology for those who are working on their theology degrees. Since summertime is a great time for us all to go through our books and get rid of what we may not be using anymore, Rev. Brodeur thought you'd like to know about this opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Atlantic.

Donations from the US can help fill these gaps. Information on the needed books, many of which are available in good used condition from Amazon, may be found on the Mzuni Library Initiative website, <https://malawiedandchildwelfare.wordpress.com>. We will add the recent list of theological books to the website. Donated books may be sent to Virginia Tech (The Mzuni Library Initiative, 201 Architecture Annex, 140 Otey Street, NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061), from where they will be shipped to Mzuni by container.

Monetary donations also are needed to purchase urgently needed books not available by donation and e-reader tablets and computers that students will use to read pdf and other e-documents that faculty members are making available. Tax-deductible monetary donations may be sent to the Malawi Education and Children's Welfare Foundation (made payable to "Malawi Education Foundation", with "Mzuzu University Library" in the memo field, and sent to: Malawi Education and Children's Welfare Foundation, 507 Delburg Street, Davidson, NC 28036).



Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg | PA | 15601