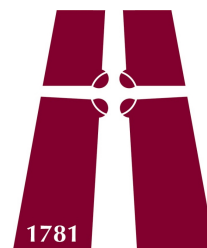


# Presbytery of Redstone

## eNews



August 31, 2016

### In This Issue

**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, Grafton Eliason, Interim Pastor District 1

>United Presbyterian Church, Latrobe, Donald Graff Pastor District 2

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

>Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson, Robert Prinkey, Commissioned Ruling Elder District 3

>First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Joshua Scully, Moderator District 3

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

>Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church,

### 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

September 18 through 20, 2016: PW New Windsor Mission Trip  
October 3 through 5, 2016: Preaching Pastors' Conference  
October 15, 2016: PW Fall Gathering - Uniontown, Third  
October 15, 2016: Craft Show - North Huntingdon, New Hope

Please go to the website at [www.redstone.org](http://www.redstone.org) and click on the "events" tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

### "To What End?"- Reflections from the EP



In each and every congregation, people gather each week to worship God. Although this central event highlights a critical feature of who we are in Christ, nonetheless, it does not exhaust our purpose as the people of God in a particular place, a local congregation or even a presbytery.

Raising the question of who we are and what we are about causes us to look at not only the repeatable promotional material of our congregation, but how and whether it is lived out in our activities, our commitments and our decision making. When we ask "to what end?" not only in our envisioning, but in our regular mundane ministry meetings (whether session or deacons or committees or elsewhere), we may begin to move beyond not merely "espousing a mission" to "enacting that mission."

...[more](#)

### Around Redstone

>>**The Board of Pensions** has made a number of significant changes to the Benefits Plan and the way employee benefits are priced and structured. There have been many communications about the changes from the Board, but there are many churches that I have encountered which have not either heard or understood the actions all churches are required to do by September 30. Here is some helpful information.

**Ligonier, John McClure,**  
**Moderator**  
**District 4**

### Contact Us

**Rev. Skip Noftzger**

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

**Bobbie Martin**

Office Administrator/  
 Bookkeeper

1. Before Sept 30 all churches will need to have the "Authorized Person" from their church ( i.e. normally the treasurer, business manager, or chair of personnel who inputs salary information into Benefits Connect for billing purposes from the Board of Pensions), access Benefits Connect and input salary information for each employee and choose the benefits/classifications for all employees. Even if there is only one employee, e.g. the pastor, the authorized person from each church will need to fill in the information on Benefits Connect by Sept 30. Once Benefits are chosen, an employer agreement would be created that would determine accurate billing.
2. Once benefits are chosen for employees, the employees and/or pastor will need to access Benefits Connect. Each employee will see only their information and the benefits offered them by their employer/church. Then, each employee and/or pastor will need to access Benefits Connect between Oct 17 and Nov 11 to choose which benefits they will select or waive from the benefits offered by their employer/church.

Here are several links that will help guide the process and help people and churches move forward.

2017 Benefits Plan Summary:

<http://www.pensions.org/AvailableResources/BookletsandPublications/Documents/pln-603.pdf>.

2017 Benefits Plan Employer Decision Support

Guide: <http://www.pensions.org/AvailableResources/BookletsandPublications/Documents/pln-604.pdf>.

To access Benefits Connect go to [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org). and in the upper right side will be a Benefits Connect "log in".

The previous "Traditional Plan for Pastors" is now simply the "Pastor's Plan". The rate for all members of this plan is 36.5% (24.5% for medical benefits, 11% for pension, and 1% for Death and Disability). All Called and Installed Pastors are required to be a part of this plan. Other Teaching Elders serving in other capacities may choose to participate in this plan but are not required to. All others employed by a church will fall under the "employees" plan (of which there are various options).

For support call Member Services or Employer Services at 800-773-7752 or you can call your regional Church Consultant Rev. Doug Portz at 267-788-4962.

>>Heifer's staff person for our region would like to share their current Christian resources - resources that encourage church members to examine their role in helping the poor and ending hunger and poverty.

- Animal Crackers - Bible study lesson plans and activities to help all ages feel part of the global family. Free. [Order online](#) or phone 888-5hunger.
- Feeding 5000 - eleven 1-hour hands-on Christian focus workshops: Art, Cooking, Drama, Games, Geography, Photography, Preschool Component, Puppetry, Science, Storytelling, Video. Free. [Download online](#).
- Fill the Ark - 4 week family calendar & giving bank program for grades 1 to 5. Free. [Order online](#) or phone 888-5hunger.
- Alternative Gift Market - ideas for hosting an alternative giving fair at Christmas or anytime. Free. [Download online](#) or phone 888-5hunger.
- Alternative Mission Trip to Massachusetts or Arkansas Learning Center- builds appreciation for the gifts in our lives and inspires us to help others. [View programs online](#).

Newly released and fun - youth groups (or runners of any age) can RACE to end hunger and poverty! The group decides how to sweat (race where Heifer is a

### Quick Links

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

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

[PW of Redstone](#)

### Next Presbytery Meeting

**Tuesday,**  
**September 20,**  
**2016**

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

**Communicate  
 the Word...**

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

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

***Together***

charity partner, local race, OR race in the church yard), sets up a quick online fundraising page, asks others for support, and transforms a community with the funds raised. Register or more info at [www.heifer.org/teamheifer](http://www.heifer.org/teamheifer) (Heifer is a charity partner at the Rock n Roll Philadelphia half marathon on September 18, 2016!)

>>**District 3 Event** - "The Vital Congregation - Transition Strategies" with Jim Farrer will be offered on Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ft. Burd Church, 200 Thornton Road, Brownsville. This is a free workshop and is open to Pastors, Ruling Elders, CRE's, Clerks, Members, and Friends.

Please bring a snack to share. Worship, learn, and connect with saints from District 3's 28 congregations.

>>**Redstone Highlands** is looking for aspiring volunteers to work in our gift shop. Do you enjoy giving back and working with an older population? Well, volunteering at Redstone Highlands is for you! We are looking for volunteers to help run our fabulous gift shop at our Greensburg campus. If you are interested, then contact Joe Gombita, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, at 724-832-8402, ext. 378 to find out more!

>>**Ruling Elder Workshops** - a series of Ruling Elder workshops will be offered on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church in Greensburg. The topics offered will be Proclaiming the Word (9:00-11:30 a.m.), Evangelism (12:30-3:00), and Children's Ministry (12:30-3:00). Contact Skip Noftzger (Executive Presbyter) at the Presbytery office if you are interested in attending.



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