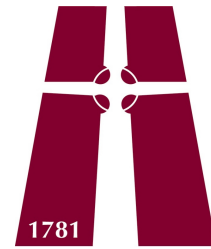


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



February 1, 2018

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Let's Pray For:

- >Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor District 1
- >First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply District 1
- >Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor District 2
- >Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Donna Havrisko, Pastor District 2
- >Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Aleda Menchyk, Stated Supply District 3
- >Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Katy Yates Brungraber, Pastor District 3
- >Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Jim Sunseri, Commissioned Ruling Elder

Upcoming Events...

October 2017 through May 2018 - Community Soup for the Soul - 2nd Wednesday - Apollo, Poke Run

April 14, 2018 - PW Spring Gathering - Johnstown, First

May 29, 2018 - PW Spring Retreat - Pine Springs Camp

July 21, 2018 - Redstone Mission Tea - New Alexandria, Congruity

August 2-5, 2018 - PW Churchwide Gathering - Louisville, KY

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

Reflections - from Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter

**"Who was I to think I could stand in God's way?"
(reflections on Peter's explanation-Acts 11)**

In Acts 11, Peter returns home and what could be worse than needing to explain your actions. Having listened to God's voice, the "unclean" is declared "clean." The message was proclaimed and the waters of baptism cross over the boundaries of nationality, race and religious community. Yet, now, Peter in returning to Jerusalem has to offer an answer, an explanation for his actions. Yet, ultimately, he offers the actions of God which have pressed upon him, with his own justifying account, "who was I to think I could stand in God's way?" (11:17)

Jennings offers in his theological commentary on the book of Acts some insight not only to the task before Peter, but its parallel to our own responsibility to sometimes "be where we are not supposed to be."

"This is an impossible assignment for Peter because he must explain the inexplicable. He must suture together a known faithfulness with an unknown faithfulness and bring together obedience to ancient Word and Spirit with obedience to Spirit and present Word. Indeed nothing has changed, but everything has changed. Peter must lay his body across the line between circumcised and uncircumcised and give witness to its transformation into a bridge. How can bodies become bridges? Only through the Spirit and the in the body of the Son may we become those who force a question from the mouths of others--- why are you where you are not supposed to be?"

So, all the best theological arguments or doctrinal justifications would not suffice to explain the actions of Peter to his "people." His recourse is to recount and interpret his actions in light of God's actions, challenging as they were. In that way, God's new work in a new way with a new people can only be understood against the grid of witnessing the gift of the Holy Spirit evidenced in others.

District 4

>Trinity Presbyterian
Church, New Florence,
Anthony Catullo, Stated
Supply
District 4

"Peter has only one option: He must give voice to his experience... He has no textual witness to fall back on, no prophetic utterances to conjure from the collective memory of his people. The prophets of old did not prepare him for this Gentile emergency. He is speaking to those who know him and know the faith. This is always the most difficult site to speak from for any servant of Jesus, one drenched in the familiar. This was also the case for Jesus. He too spoke on well-worn paths of hearing and seeing, knowing and doing to those who resisted his embodied newness. The only argument Peter could give with kinship eyes bearing down on him was no argument at all, simply an experience."

Contact Us**Rev. Skip Noftzger**

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Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

And, in his experience, he testifies not merely to his own actions, but the revelation of God. In so doing, God reveals God's work to them through the voice of this one, Peter who repeats what he knows, what God has done in and through him. Sometimes, we do not know all of the explanation of the newness of God, but we also must ask, "who are we to stand in God's way?"

Around Redstone

>> Once again, Redstone Presbytery is offering a great opportunity to our confirmation students. This will be the seventh year for the Confirmation Retreat. The Confirmation Retreat will be held on April 13-14, 2018 at Pine Springs Camp. Workshop topics include understanding the Bible, learning about how our church governs & organizes itself (polity), what Presbyterians believe about the Sacraments, and how we respond to the needs of the world around us (stewardship & mission.) We'll also have some great group games, time around the campfire, and worship. The cost for the retreat will be \$45/person in order to cover housing and meal costs. Please let us know by March 1st, 2018 if you plan to participate in this retreat, with a firm RSVP (with number of attendees) no later than April 2nd, 2018. If you need more information please call me at 724-837-6737 or email Skip at executive@redstonepresbytery.org.

>>ALICE Civilian Training being offered at no cost. ALICE stands for ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER & EVACUATE. This active shooter response training will certify a representative from your church so that they can pass on their knowledge to prepare your congregation in the event of a violent incident. Where? First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 South Maple Avenue, Greensburg - When? March 17, 2018 10 am - noon (a free lunch will be provided at noon followed by Q&A). Space is limited so attendance will be on a first come first serve basis. There is a prerequisite online class (20 minutes) to be taken before 3/17/2018, so preregistration is required. Please register by 3/1/2018. You can register by using the email at the bottom of this letter or access our website at www.donaldhammininsurance.com and email us there. You must include the following:

- First and last name of attendee(s) -maximum of 4 people per church
- Email address of attendee(s)
- The name of the church who they are representing

More information about Alice Training Institute can be found here - www.alicetraining.com.

>>The review dates for the Session Minutes and Church Registers for 2017 are as follows:

1. February 19 - 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery office
2. March 20 - 5:00 p.m.; First, Belle Vernon, preceding Presbytery
3. May 15 - 5:00 p.m.; Latrobe Main Street, preceding Presbyter

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Office Hours**The Presbytery Office Hours are:**

Monday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Friday

The Resource Center Hours are:

Tuesday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Monday and
Friday

2018 Presbytery Meeting Dates

Tuesday, March 20th
Belle Vernon, First
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15th
Latrobe
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18th
Redstone Highlands,
Greensburg Campus
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17th
Dunbar, Laurel Hill
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**2018 Presbytery
Council Meeting
Dates**

February 20
April 24
May 22
June 26
August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27

All Council meetings begin
at 6:30 p.m. and are held at
the Presbytery office

>>The Annual Statistical Report to General Assembly is filed electronically using the following link: <https://oga.pcusa.org/stats>. Please submit your electronic report to General Assembly no later than February 15, 2018. [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, or need assistance completing it, please call either Bobbie or Skip at the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737.

>>Some folks from Redstone Presbytery took a trip to the Middle East. The Synod of the Trinity has posted a story about this trip on their website. The link to that story is: <http://www.syntrinity.org/featured/redstone-group-experiences-the-bible-coming-alive-in-trip-to-holy-lands/>

>>Some Upcoming Events at Pine Springs Camp:

- }Winter Retreat - February 16-18
- }Grandmas, Moms and Tots - June 10-13; July 22-25; August 5-8
- }Springboard Discovery - June 10-13; July 22-25; August 5-8
- }Exploration 3 Day - June 10-13; August 5-8
- }Adventure Exploration - June 20; July 18; July 25; August 1

Check out the [website](#) for these and other fun things happening at the camp!



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