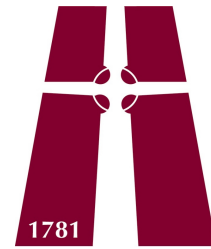


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



February 22, 2018

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
District 1

>First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray Pastor
District 1

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

>First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, William King, Interim Pastor
District 2

>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Clark Kerr, Pastor
District 2

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

>First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Gary Close, Moderator
District 3

>Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Michael Shepard, Moderator

Upcoming Events...

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

March 3, 2018 - IPLF Workshops - Maplewood

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

May 5, 2018 - Raise the Roof Spaghetti Dinner - Johnstown, Bethany

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

"Seeing God's Grace"

Surprises.. They may bring joy. They may result in anxiety or even confusion. Reactions may be based upon the event itself or loss of control in the unexpected? In our household, I often suggest that "surprises" are a "good" thing and I welcome them. Of course, my wife will remind me that is only because I am usually the person controlling the "surprise" for others and I am not so good at being the person who is surprised.

I have been reading and re-reading the Book of Acts alongside a theological commentary by Willie James Jennings. Consistently, I am amazed at the ways that the Holy Spirit(that was promised) surprises those first disciples and those who would follow. Time and again, God's grace is neither confined to their structures nor their well-laid plans. In those times of dramatic change, some were forced into the new circumstances, others entered willingly into these unexpected Holy Spirit- movements with open eyes.

In the persecuted scattering of the disciples (not the apostles), the good news was proclaimed without differentiation between Jew and all other peoples (Gentiles). Such a "surprise" to the Jewish Christian was met by a number of responses. In God's providence, they sent one to check out what they had heard. Crossing the boundaries of culture and ethnicity, the commissioned Barnabas discerns God's new ways with new people with the eyes of faith in a living, moving, surprising God.

Jennings elaborated on this grace-filled surprise and the response needed by Barnabas.

District 3

>First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance, James Gear, Moderator
District 2

>United Presbyterian Church, Bolivar, James Sunseri, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 4

>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell, James Farrer, Moderator
District 4

>Colver Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Moderator
District 4

"Barnabas goes to Antioch fully cognizant of the anxieties of Jerusalem and the power of the gospel. Not everyone who believes in Jesus is ready for newness. Not everyone who follows the savior can come into the unanticipated places of the Spirit's work.... He(Barnabas) has seen the grace of God before, and he know what it looks like in new place and on new bodies."

"If Barnabas questions the strength of this conversion of his non-Jewish people, then the reach of the gospel falters beyond Jewish bodies. If he concludes that the deliverance of Israel has indeed found a Gentile home, then what of his Levite heritage? Barnabas thankfully is not stymied by this extraordinary situation; he simply yields to the Spirit. He follows the movement of grace and presses these people he knows so well to press into the Lord."

In these changing times in which we live, will we also be open to observe the Holy Spirit at work in our world, both near and far. Even in our natural impulse to assess and criticize, will we be open by God's Spirit to "see the grace of God and rejoice."

In our own shared life, the boundaries may not be as significant as Jerusalem and Antioch. Yet, I invite each of us to come to our Presbytery gatherings ready to offer a testimony to God's work among you in order that each of us might also "see the grace of God and rejoice."

Around Redstone**Contact Us****Rev. Skip Noftzger**

Executive
Presbyter/Stated
Clerk

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

>>District 3 2018 Fellowship Gatherings - 6 PM

Monday, February 26 in Brownsville at the Classic Diner on Route 40

Wednesday, April 4 in Belle Vernon, location TBD - if that is your neck of the wood, would you recommend a location?

Thursday, August 23 in Uniontown, location TBD - we're open to suggestions.

Plans will be made for an event in the fall, likely October. Please spread the word that these gatherings and events are not just for pastors! Spouses, ruling elders on session, clerks, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and whoever feels drawn to community - all are welcome. We will share stories of how God is working through our congregations, and pray for one another. Contact Katy Brungraber for more information at 215.300.6265 (cell/no text).

>> Third Presbyterian Church Uniontown is organizing a mission trip to Tarboro, NC. The trip is March 11-17 and is \$50 per person. All skill levels are needed. We will be doing rebuild on homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 working with the United Methodist. Please contact Marilyn Fitzsimmons 724-366-4068 for more info.

>>Congregation (Antioch) Celebrations - In the upcoming March gathering, we want to hear from you and see some of the ways God's grace is at work in our congregations. Please plan on sharing a brief example of God's grace in your midst as a congregation. Also, send the Presbytery office any digital pictures showing God's grace at work in your congregation.

>>Rev. Jim Farrer's latest blog on "7 Simple Strategies to Increase a Leader's Health" has been published in the online blogs @ www.biblicalleadership.com

>>First Presbyterian Church in Jeannette has a Xerox Phaser 6600 Color Printer, new in the box, available for any congregation that is willing to pick it up and use it. You will need a pickup truck or minivan with the rear seat removed - it's a large box. If anyone would like it, please contact Neil

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

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

Zampella at 724.523.5427, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or email adminassistant@fpcjeannette.org.

>>The Presbyterian Women at the Delmont Presbyterian Church will be hosting a prayer service with continental breakfast on Friday, March 2 at 9 a.m. at the Delmont Presbyterian Church. The prayer focus is the country of Suriname and environmental concerns.

>>Newlonsburg invites you to an evening lecture - "Living in a Polarized World" - Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Dr. Leanna Fuller, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care at Pittsburgh Seminary, will give this lecture with time for questions and answers. It is sponsored by the Stephen Ministers and will focus on how we can think, pray, and relate with other individuals in our congregation and community to contribute to a healthy community when the world keeps pushing us to be polarized.

>>The Synod of the Trinity has posted a story to their website about the "Snacks, Sneakers, and Scriptures" program at the Fort Burd Presbyterian Church in Brownsville. Click [here](#) to read the story.

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

March 20 - 5:00 p.m.; First, Belle Vernon, preceding Presbytery
 May 15 - 5:00 p.m.; Latrobe Main Street, preceding Presbyter

>>You are invited to attend the IPLF workshops on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The morning workshop is Ethics and Boundaries; the afternoon workshop is Advanced Scriptures. Lunch will be catered at a cost of \$7.00/person. Please RSVP to Bobbie at the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737. Let her know if you will be staying for lunch and if you have any dietary restrictions.

>>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.

>>PTS Continuing Education events:

"Discipleship: A New Testament Examination of the Inner and Outer Life of Faith"; Tucker Ferda; March 11-14

"What Putin and Trump Want: The Religious Dimension of US/Russia Relations"; John Burgess and Michael Gleason; March 15

"Missional Engagement"; Douglas Powe; April 12

"Albright-Deering Lecture Re-Examining the Important of Wesleyan Anthropology for Racial Conversations"; Douglas Powe; April 12

"A Day with Brian McLaren"; April 25

Contact the Continuing Education Office @ PTS



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