



2018 Stated Meeting

of the

Presbytery of Redstone
Presbyterian Church (USA)

March 20, 2018



First Presbyterian Church
Belle Vernon, PA

*Communicate the Word... Carry on the Work... Change the World
Together*

Directions to

First Presbyterian Church

501 Fayette Street
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

724.929.7616

Route 70 to Exit 42. Follow exit around to the left over the bridge (Route 70). This will be Fayette Street. There will be a BP Station on the left and a Sunoco Station on the right. Proceed to the top of the hill to "T" in the road. At "T" (St. Sebastian's Church will be on the left and Taylor Auto Service will be straight ahead) make a left on Broad Avenue and immediately get into the right lane to turn right at the traffic light. This again becomes Fayette Street. Proceed approximately 1-1/2 blocks and church will be on the left. Turn left into the parking lot before the church.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESBYTERY MEETING

There will be people in the parking lot to direct you for parking and entering the church. Registration, the Pine Springs Camp display, and the Minutes Reviews will be in the Fellowship Hall which is downstairs. The Prayer Room will be in the "Cry Room" behind the Sanctuary. The meeting will be in the Sanctuary. Restroom Facilities are available downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. There is a chair lift for access to each floor of the church.

HOPE IN A BAG

Please plan on bringing any collected items for "Hope in a Bag" to the Presbytery meeting. Collections will be received near the registration area in Fellowship Hall. A representative for Hope in a Bag will pick up from there.

Notes for the March 20, 2018 Presbytery Meeting!

- Presbyters are reminded to get "Prayer Requests" to the Clerk as soon as possible as they will be lifted up during the prayers in the Worship Service.
- The offering received during Presbytery worship at this meeting will be sent to South Sudan.

Presbytery of Redstone Gathering
First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon
March 20, 2018
“Engaging Congregations”

5:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Minutes Review</i> 	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
5:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Registration and fellowship</i> 	
6:00 p.m.	<p><u>Presbytery Gathering Convenes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Roll • Seating of Corresponding Members • Arrangements 	<i>Sanctuary</i> Joshua Scully Rev. Cliff Foster Rev. Suzanne Currie
	<p><u>Stated Clerk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence Log – page 4 • Statistics – page 7 • 2019 Meeting schedule – page 7 • Consent Agenda – page 7 <p><u>Nominating Committee – page 9</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer – page 10</u></p>	Rev. Skip Noftzger Rev. Cliff Foster Rev. Curtis Paul John Dickson
	<p><u>Gathered in Worship</u> (including proclamation of the Word, Lord’s Supper and commissioning of ruling elders to particular service) ...</p>	Rev. Suzanne Currie
	<p><u>Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Executive Presbyter – page 11-12</u> <p><u>Empowering Mission Partnerships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine Springs Camp – page 13-14 • Mission Network 	Rev. Skip Noftzger Greg Davis Rev. Sylvia Carlson
	<p><u>Announcements Loop</u></p>	Rev. Laura Blank
	<p><u>Operations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council – page 15-17 “Hope in a Bag” consecration <p><u>Engaging Congregations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Ministry – page 18-20 Congregational Conversations Investiture—Rev. Jay Lewis (HR) <p><u>Equipping Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee on Preparation for Ministry – page 21 Rick Watson- candidate update ○ “Next Church” Report <p><u>New Business</u></p>	Rev. Sue Washburn Ms. Dorine Kozemchak Rev. Martin Ankrum Rev. Caroline Vickery Rev. Laura Blank
	<p><u>Benediction</u></p> <p><u>Adjournment</u></p>	Rev. Suzanne Currie

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on May 15, 2018 6:00 p.m. at the Latrobe Presbyterian Church (Main street), Latrobe, PA. Minutes reading will be available prior to the meeting (5:00 p.m.)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT:

1. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.

CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Date Received	Received From	Content	Action
March 12, 2018 - mail	Patton Presbyterian Church	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. David McCabe	To COM and FILE
March 6, 2018 - mail	Cresson Presbyterian Church	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. David McCabe	To COM and FILE
March 6, 2018 - mail	Cresson Presbyterian Church	List of Session Members	To FILE
March 6, 2018 - email	United Presbyterian Church, West Newton	List of Session Members	To FILE
March 5, 2018 - mail	United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Wendy Keys	To COM and FILE
March 5, 2018 - mail	Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
March 5, 2018 - mail	New Salem Presbyterian Church	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
March 5, 2018 - mail	Rev. Susan Blank	Annual Report Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery	To COM and FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Laura Blank	To COM and FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Colleen Molinaro	To COM and FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Anthony Catullo	To COM and FILE
March 1, 2018 - hand delivered	Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence	List of Session Members	To FILE
March 1, 2018 - email	United Presbyterian Church, West Newton	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. John Manon	To COM and FILE
March 1, 2018 - email	United Presbyterian Church, West Newton	Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
March 1, 2018 - mail	Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah	Manse Inspection Report and List of Session Members	To FILE
February 28, 2018 - email	Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
February 28, 2018 - mail	Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville	Manse Inspection Report and List of Session Members	To FILE
February 28, 2018 - mail	Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton	2018 Terms of Call for CRE Eric Glisan	To COM and FILE
February 28, 2018 - mail	Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber	To COM and FILE
February 22, 2018 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Martin Ankrum and the Rev. Nicole Atkinson	To COM and FILE
February 22, 2018 - mail	Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale	Manse Inspection Report and List of Session Members	To FILE
February 22, 2018 - mail	Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale	Agreement with CRE Leonard Morgan and 2018 Terms of Call for CRE Morgan	To COM and FILE

February 22, 2018 - mail	Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown	List of Session Members	To FILE
February 22, 2018 - mail	Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown	2018 Terms of Call for Rev. Art Moffat	To COM and FILE
February 22, 2018 - mail	Latrobe Presbyterian Church	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Clark Kerr	To COM and FILE
February 20, 2018 - mail	Rev. Larry Armstrong	Annual Report Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery	To COM and FILE
February 20, 2018 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore	Stated Supply Pastor Agreement with Rev. Larry Armstrong	To COM and FILE
February 19, 2018 - hand delivered	Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell	List of Session Members	To FILE
February 19, 2018 - hand delivered	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	2017 Annual Report	To FILE
February 19, 2018 - email	Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Alan Olson	To COM and FILE
February 13, 2018 - hand delivered	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
February 13, 2018 - hand delivered	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Donna Havrisko	To COM and FILE
February 13, 2018 - email	Vandergrift Presbyterian Church	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
February 12, 2018 - email	Patton Presbyterian Church	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
February 12, 2018 - mail	Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Curtis Paul and the Rev. Marnie Silbert	To COM and FILE
February 12, 2018 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	List of Session Members	To FILE
February 12, 2018 - hand delivered	Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
February 12, 2018 - email	Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
February 12, 2018 - email	United Presbyterian Church, Boliver	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
February 8, 2018 - email	Rev. Rebecca Siddle	Annual Report Others Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery	To COM and FILE
February 6, 2018 - hand delivered	Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Geoff Rach	To COM and FILE
February 6, 2018 - fax	First Presbyterian Church, Irwin	List of Session Members and Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
February 6, 2018 - email	Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City	List of Session Members	To FILE
February 5, 2018 - hand delivered	Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton	List of Session Members, 2018 Church Directory, and 2017 Annual Financial Report	To FILE
February 5, 2018 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Robert Robinson	To COM and FILE
February 5, 2018 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance	2017 Statistical Report, Manse Inspection Report, and List of Session Members	To FILE
February 5, 2018 - mail	Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
February 5, 2018 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore	List of Session Members, Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
February 5, 2018 - email	Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
February 1, 2018 - mail	Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Craig Miller	To COM and FILE

January 31, 2018 – email	Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon	List of Session Members	To FILE
January 30, 2018 – hand delivered	Delmont Presbyterian Church	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Caroline Vickery	To COM and FILE
January 30, 2018 – email	Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Geoff Rach	To COM and FILE
January 30, 2018 – email	West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
January 29, 2018 – mail	First Presbyterian Church, Murrys ville	List of Session Members, Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
January 29, 2018 – mail	First Presbyterian Church, Murrys ville	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Ed Gray	To COM and FILE
January 25, 2018 – mail	Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell	2018 Terms of Call for the Rev. Ken Foust	To COM and FILE
January 25, 2018 – email	McClellandtown Presbyterian Church	2017 Statistical Report	To FILE
January 24, 2018 – mail	Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Mt. Washington	List of Session Members, Waiver from Rotation request for Ruling Elder Beth Wirick, 2017 Statistical Report information, and Manse Inspection Report	To COM and FILE
January 24, 2018 – mail	New Salem Presbyterian Church	Waiver from Rotation request for Ruling Elder Mark Nagy	To COM and FILE
January 23, 2018 – email	Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown	List of Session Members	To FILE
January 23, 2018 – email	Bethel United Presbyterian Church, New Florence	2018 Terms of Call for CRE James Sunseri and List of Session Members	To COM and FILE
January 23, 2018 – mail	Dunlap’s Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown	2017 Annual Statistical Report Information, Manse Inspection Report, and List of Session Members	To COM and FILE
January 22, 2018 – mail	Rev. Cynthia Cadenhead	2017 Annual Report Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery	To COM and FILE
January 20, 2018 – hand delivered	Marion Presbyterian Church, Bell Vernon	Manse Inspection Report	To FILE

2. Summary of 2017 Comparative Statistical Summary for the Presbytery

<u>Membership Statistics</u>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Active members	14,971	14,799	14,329	13,961	13,679	12,543	11,477	10,628	10,287
Gains by Profession of Faith - 17 under	136	105	82	102	105	101	85	70	53
Gains by Profession of Faith - 18 over	220	169	178	146	154	155	171	170	102
Gains by Certificate	126	65	85	79	95	61	56	43	48
Gains by Other	59	38	67	52	37	99	23	43	12
Losses by Certificate	81	57	95	78	243	519	437	205	65
Losses by Death	289	281	274	252	248	252	239	238	187
Losses by Other	477	211	511	417	182	781	725	732	304
Infant Baptisms	212	140	163	122	158	128	127	110	100
Adult Baptisms	29	26	25	22	35	17	24	20	9

As of the 2018 deadline for statistical reporting to the General Assembly, churches have filed at least portions of their annual statistical reports for 2017. The following churches failed to submit their Annual Statistical Report based upon the deadline: Covenant, Hopewell, Lake Lynn, and Pleasant Grove. For a summary membership report, see **Appendix A**.

3. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2019 calendar year were presented and approved by the Council. Note the change on a couple Tuesdays to reduce conflicts with a number of session meetings.

- January 26, 2019 (Saturday)
- March 26, 2019 (Tuesday)
- May 21, 2019 (Tuesday)
- September 24, 2019 (Tuesday)
- November 23, 2019 (Saturday)

Requests to serve as the host of any of these gatherings may be submitted to the Council through the Stated Clerk.

4. The following dates represent additional opportunities for Clerks to have their Session minutes and Church Registers reviewed for 2017.

- March 20---5:00 p.m.---First, Belle Vernon (pre-Presbytery)
- May 15---5:00 p.m.--- Latrobe Presbyterian (Main St.) (pre-Presbytery)
- May 21---6:00 p.m.---Trinity, Uniontown

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presents the following Consent Agenda.

From Executive Committee

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of the January 20, 2018 be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council be received and filed for audit. See **Appendix B**.
2. Council **recommends** that the reports of the Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk be received and filed.
3. Council **recommends** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp and Synod commissioner reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.

From the Committee on Ministry

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that the Rev. Jay Lewis (Honorably Retired, Pittsburgh Presbytery and former member of Redstone) be received as an Honorably Retired member of Redstone Presbytery. (Faith Statement – **Appendix C**)
2. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Paula Junk and Margaret Gilchrist (elders) on behalf of the Laurel Hill church.
3. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Mark Nagy (elder) on behalf of the New Salem church.
4. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Beth Wirick (elder) on behalf of the Mt. Washington church.
5. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Robin Vilella (deacon) and Bonnie Matthews (elder) on behalf of the First Presbyterian, Dunbar church.

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. The Committee on Preparation **recommends** the suspension of David Deutsch (at his request) as a candidate and from the preparation process.

From the Nominating Committee

From the Committee on Representation

From the Discernment Teams

1. The team **recommends** the report of the Vandergrift discernment team as included in this packet (page 22) be received and filed.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Report Items

- The Nominating Committee nominates the following people to serve open positions on the specified committees.

Pine Springs Camp

Ruling Elder Don Frey, Jeannette (2018)

Committee on Ministry

Ruling Elder John Ivey, Third, Uniontown (2020)

Ruling Elder Carol Faytol, Bethel, New Florence (2020)

Information Items

- The Nominating Committee is in need of your suggestions and recommendations for ruling elder candidates to serve within the various committees and structures of the Presbytery. Please email any nominations to Rev. Curtis Paul, Nominating Committee Chair.
- Currently, we have available openings on either the Committee on Ministry or the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving in this way, please contact either Rev. Skip Noftzger or Rev. Curtis Paul.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT REPORT

This report represents an unaudited overview of the Presbytery's finances for the second operating month ending February 28, 2018.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / INCOME

Great joy! Church Contributions received totaled \$37,495, which is above the monthly goal target of \$29,583. The monthly funds received in February closely put us back on track YTD of our targeted percentage goal of 17% for this time in the operating year.

Total and YTD Income for the month as reflected, indicate we are well above budget expectation. This however, is a result of funds from the sale of the First Presbyterian Windber Church (Miscellaneous Income / Church = \$110,901.79) being temporarily deposited into the operating account until such time being invested. Regardless of the church sale deposit, total monthly income is above goal with YTD expectations being slightly behind.

(Note: Church Commitments & Total Income should be equal to 17% of budget)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / EXPENSES

In review of the expenses for the first two operating months of the calendar year, expenses are trending appropriately at 17% of budget, with the exception of Committee on Ministry / COM-SCLD. Other line item expenses that are above the expense benchmark of 17% include Gas, Trash Collection and Maintenance items (parking lot & building).

INVESTMENTS & ASSETS

Ameriprise investment for the month ending February, experienced a negative change in value totaling - \$8,190.33 and YTD the adjusted change in value remains +\$ 3,327.63. Ending value for Ameriprise totals \$314,069.03

Carrying forward investment values of the accounts with First Commonwealth, PILP, New Covenant and Pine Springs since December 2017, total investment value of all accounts is in the range of \$705,904.

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES

For the month ending February 2018, the Presbytery although reports positive income of \$127,708, the adjusted amount after backing-out those funds deposited as a result of the church property sale is \$16,822 and YTD is \$18,480.

Respectfully Submitted,



John F. Dickson IV

Executive Presbyter

**Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger
Executive Presbyter Report**

Communicate the Word, Carry on the Work, Change the World.....Together!

VISION	1/20/2018-3/20/2018
<p>Congregation-centered (ENGAGE)</p>	<p>Visible presence within the Presbytery engaging with congregations--- Church Visits---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the January Presbytery meeting, I have visited eleven different congregations for either morning worship or special services. • Have been privileged to preach and proclaim the Word on five of those occasions. In two congregations, where their moderator serves another congregation, I moderated for their annual congregational meeting. • Continued working alongside of six Pastoral Nominating Committees in various stages of their search process. Maintained regular communication with each PNC chair and meet personally with two of those committees for orientation or to resource them in their progress. Additionally, seek out and provide weekly referrals within the CLC search system. Perform all Executive reference checks on more viable candidates. • Provided options and assistance for two different sessions as they consider appropriate options for pastoral leadership moving forward. Developed a Pastoral Transitions resource book for their use. • Helped coordinate the work of the Vandergrift discernment team both in meeting with the Vandergrift session and with the team itself in working through any issues related to a possible request for dismissal.
<p>Leadership developed (EQUIP)</p>	<p>Developing and equipping leadership within the Presbytery---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with the committee in the planning and preparation of IPLF workshops. Participation included twenty-seven in one workshop and twelve in the other. • Led worship, offered a homily and participated in the annual Enrichment Day sponsored by District Four for leadership development and training. • Coordinated examination of possible candidates interviewing for pastoral positions within our Presbytery. • Personal meetings for ministry strategy, development, vocational discernment, presbytery leadership responsibilities and personal concerns with eleven different pastors. • Organizing, developing and working with COM on new and non-traditional approaches to long term, short term and "commissioned" pastor options.

<p>Collaboration-Districts/Network (ENABLE)</p>	<p>Joined and initiated contact both within and outside Redstone---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as moderator of the Executive Presbyter forum within the Synod of the Trinity. Looking toward future models and collaboration across presbyteries relative to staffing. • Along with the bishops from the Carpatho-Russian, Roman Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran, provided leadership for ecumenical service in Johnstown during “Christian Unity” week. • Participation in the board of Redstone Highlands both at the full board and as a member of the Strategy committee. • Actively participate in Christian Associates including serving on the Executive Council. Engagement with other representatives in a retreat focused on the various traditions of spiritual formation. • Regular participant with other pastors in regional gatherings and special interest groups. 			
<p>Partnership in Mission promoted (EMPOWER)</p>	<p>Promoted and provided leadership in our partnerships in mission---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve actively on the Pine Springs board, consulting with the Executive Director particularly on finances and policy matters. Working with PSC and others to develop, pastor and special interest retreats. • Was privileged to be present for the commissioning of the mission trip participants from various congregations serving with PDA in West Virginia. • Working with the Sudan Mission network in collaboration with Shenango Presbytery and Pittsburgh Presbytery on collaboration and cooperation in our global partnerships. 			
<p>Operational Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Presbytery attorney in trying to resolve deed issues related to the property of the former West Leisenring congregation in order that the sale of the property may be completed. • Along with members of the Administrative Commission, coordinated the removal and distribution of materials, cancellation of suppliers, settling the sale of the property and beginning the process of membership and financial review. • Coordinated submission of necessary annual reports to the Office of the General Assembly on statistics, minister rolls, and personnel reports. 			
<p>VALUES</p>	<p>Servant Leadership</p>	<p>Flourishing Community</p>	<p>Witness to the World</p>	<p>Generous and effective Stewardship</p>
<p><i>Soli Deo Gloria</i></p>				

Pine Springs Camp

Upcoming Events

March 17, 3:30-5:30	PSC Skates-Center Ice, Delmont
March 18, Noon-4:00	Four Guys @ Four Different, Five Guys (Washington, Irwin, Murrysville, Greensburg)- Fundraising and Recruiting Event-(20% of total spent will be given to camp)
March 19, 2018	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SUMMER CAMP
April 6-8	Women In the Woods Retreat
April 13-14	Redstone Presbytery Confirmation Retreat
April 13-15	College Age Young Adult Retreat- When You Pray...Pray Like This. Developing Your Prayer Life.
April 27-29	Men's Backpacking Trip to the PA Grand Canyon-Led by Justin Shaffer
May 12	Work Day
May 21	18 th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at the Latrobe Country Club
May 30	Staff Training Begins
June 10	First Day of Summer Camp 2018!

Retreating Ministry

- We are trying to market retreat opportunities for larger and smaller groups.
- A group we hosted in the fall of over 200 from A Chapel of Akron Campus Ministry has re-booked
- A group from Peter's Creek Baptist Church of 100 held a retreat on March 9-11
- Working with Presbytery Leadership to develop seminar days and possible retreats

Summer Camp Update

- Camper Registration-3/12/2018= 300 vs. 3/10/17=305. End of March 2017-616. On-line Registration is live.
- Mission Cabin emphasis will be on a Mission picked working together with the Redstone Mission Commission and the ministry of Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Recruiting in churches and trying to set up 8-10 "home" visits or another type of visit outside of the church.

70th Anniversary-2018

- We will be doing things to celebrate the 70th Anniversary-Not BIG things like last summer
- One of those the special projects is to create a book titled *70 for 70: 70 Stories of Pine Springs Camp* (Book with a brief history and 70 stories ranging from the early history to the present)

Faith for the Future Campaign Update

Things we will be doing this summer

1. Renovate the Nurses Station
2. Add more belay tree climbing elements
3. Add Natural Playground elements
4. Buy all new canoes, pfd's and paddles
5. A cool pool thing
6. New roof and new interior sections in Polaris-(our place for VWD's)

Demolition on Old



Church and Camp a Partnership to Treasure

It is something to praise God for...the incredible partnership in ministry that churches have with Pine Springs Camp. We are certainly grateful for the many churches who support Pine Springs. It is an investment that is done together as we desire that our young people will become life-long disciples of Jesus. Thank you.

Churches Can Help Campers Attend Pine Springs by Becoming an Amen Corner Sponsor

A Way to Help Our Scholarship Golf Outing- Become an **Amen Corner Sponsor**. This is exclusively for churches. To become an Amen Corner Sponsor a church agrees to take an Amen Corner Sign and endeavor to raise at least \$100 by putting a sign out in a visible place in the church for several weeks and encourage congregants to donate by giving small (or large) currency or spare change by dropping it in a box near the sign. Some churches have people who give "autograph" the sign. Other churches have people who have gone to camp sign and some churches have campers who plan on coming this summer to camp sign the form. Whatever is done, the money received goes directly to scholarships and aid for this summer. Please call Greg or Christine at the camp office for more information. Signs will be available at the next Presbytery Meeting or can be hand-delivered. Camp Office phone is 814-629-9834. Or email Greg at greg@pinesprings.org

Do You Want Someone to Come and Talk About All the Great Camping Opportunities?

Please call the camp office if you want us to come to your church...days are filling up!

Take Advantage of Our Events for Families and Friends of Your Church

Use one or both of our "fun" events-PSC Jumps or PSC Skates to bring a group of youth, or families, or anyone else for that matter for a fun church activity. We offer these events as way to promote camp and an opportunity for our camp families to have fun and introduce others to the ministry. It also can be an opportunity for any church to offer a fun active activity for a church outing or youth group activity.

ACTION AGENDA

Presbytery Council

[Links to complete copies of the Minutes of Council can be found online at www.redstone.org under the "Presbytery Council Meeting Dates" tab.]

Council Report Items

- Receiving and consecration of donated items for the "Hope in a Bag" collections.

Information Items

Council Meeting

February 20, 2018

Summary

- It was MSP to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting of Council.

Report of the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk presented the correspondence log since the last Council meeting for review by the Council.
- The Stated Clerk reported the following on two properties that are in the process of being sold. Still awaiting word on the completion of a survey and whether that will be adequate versus filing a quiet title action on the West Leisenring property.

As authorized, the Windber property was sold and settled on February 7, 2018 with the new owner taking possession of the property. An Administrative Commission was appointed by Joshua Scully (moderator) consisting of Belinda Lambie, Jim Farrer, Bernice Adams, Doug Stevens and himself. They are working individually on various aspects of the disposition of related to the closing of the congregation.

- The Stated Clerk provided the 2017 statistics from the OGA website as updated by the clerks. There remain a few churches that may be updated by the Presbytery if we are able to receive the information
- The Stated Clerk proposed possible meeting dates for the Presbytery for 2019 and for the Presbytery Council for 2019. The rationale for possible changes included necessary preparation for the January meeting and the packet and using the fourth Tuesday on months the Council was not meeting. After discussion, MSP to approve, announce and publish the following 2019 dates:
 - January 26, 2019
 - March 26, 2019
 - May 21, 2019
 - September 24, 2019
 - November 23, 2019
- In combination with those approved dates, possible Council meetings for 2019 were established as the

following:

- January 8, 2019
- February 26, 2019
- April 23, 2019
- June 25, 2019
- July 23, 2019
- August 27, 2019
- October 22, 2019
- November 26, 2019

Executive Presbyter

- Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter requested approval of vacation time for March 25-29, 2018. **MSP** to approve the vacation request.
- Continuing the emphasis on discernment of new Christian communities, the Executive Presbyter highlighted a section from the Seven Levers book on new church development as an example of “failures and successes” from a centralized planning approach. He also distributed a brochure from the 1001 Worshiping Communities Initiative. He spoke of the need to continue to consider where God may be leading us in terms of new opportunities for ministry and Christian communities. He has invited Michael Goerhling (1001 NE representative) to do a workshop with any interested persons preceding the May Presbytery meeting. He also requested that Michael be given permission to present on the 1001 initiative at the May Presbytery gathering. **MSP** to approve an invitation for him to speak at the May meeting.
- The Executive Presbyter highlighted two upcoming programs for the benefit of the leadership of the Presbytery.
 - Confirmation Retreat – April 13-14
 - IPLF Workshops-Ethics/Boundaries; Old Testament Uses in Funerals

Treasurer

- A written Treasurer’s report for the first month of the new fiscal year. As noted, January has been a “slow” month in terms of contributions and was again in 2018. The Treasurer reviewed the report and offered insight on “benchmarks” for monthly income and monthly expenditures. The Executive Presbyter clarified that the January expenditures were reduced because with the reporting of statistics, we had not yet begun to pay the per capita. He assured the Council that he would be monitoring expenses in order that we continue to live within the income that we have available.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

- A written report from the Executive Director was received. Greg recounted the impact of the camp experience upon a particular student from First Presbyterian, Johnstown who has been attending camp for many years and was at the recent retreat. Summer camper numbers continue to be “on pace”

compared to last year and the financial campaign continues to look for the final 75-100k. He spoke the increased desire not only for camp-sponsored retreats, but the availability for church retreats.

MSP to receive and file the reports from the Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Director, and Executive Presbyter.

SUBCOMMITTEES/NETWORKS/TASK FORCES

Missions

Announcement of upcoming mission trip on April 21-28, Fayetteville, NC

Budget and Finance

Request to meet afterward for scheduling a meeting with the financial advisor for possible investment of additional funds in the checking account.

Additions Ministry

Reminder about the "HOPE in a BAG" collections for the upcoming March gathering.

Discussion about the logistics of the March collection and arrangements with First Presbyterian, Belle Vernon and Doreen.

MARCH PRESBYTERY MEETING

- The Next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon. The proposed agenda and schedule was presented for review by the Council. It was **MSP** to adopt the agenda with the focus on engaging congregations and the addition of prayer for consecration of the Hope in a Bag donations and a presentation on Next Church.

Committee on Ministry

Committee on Ministry Report Items

- Sharing of congregational celebrations and witnessing to God's grace in our midst.
- Investiture service for the Rev. Jay Lewis as the newest colleague in the ministry of the Presbytery of Redstone.

Information Items

Committee on Ministry

March 1, 2018

Summary

- It was MSP to approve the minutes for the February 1 meeting as submitted.

Report of the Stated Clerk

- The Correspondence Log as it related to the Committee on Ministry was reviewed.
- The final Statistics report for member congregations as submitted by their respective clerks of session was provided and reviewed.
- Upcoming minutes review dates were announced. It was noted that twenty-two churches have completed the minutes review to date.
- The request for the renewal of the agreement between Commissioned Pastor Len Morgan and the Calvin, Scottdale session for 40% time was MSP.
- Annual reports for members at large and those in validated ministries was noted for those who have completed and those for whom the committee is waiting.
- It was MSP to recommend to the Presbytery at the May 2018 meeting to move Rev. Jim Stobaugh to "Honorably Retired."

Moderator Report

- The Moderator noted the addition of two new members (pending the March nominating report) of Carol Faytol (Bethel, New Florence) and John Ivey (Third, Uniontown). Carol was present and was introduced.

Search and Call

- The chart outlining the current status of all churches in pastoral transition was distributed and reviewed.
- Rev. Chuck MacPherson reviewed the various pastoral options that the Committee is currently using or might use within the broader categories of "temporary" and "installed" (BOO). These included a number of different approaches that are permitted within the Book of Order, but may reflect "new" ways of being flexible by Redstone Presbytery.

Examinations

- The committee reported that they had received a statement of faith and met with a candidate who was doing a neutral pulpit for the Third Presbyterian PNC.

AP/CRE

- The upcoming IPLF workshops on Ethics/Boundaries and Preaching the OT in Funerals were announced.
- A chart was distributed and reviewed concerning some new options for commissioning that the

subcommittee is proposing for consideration going forward as part of our continuing effort to be more creative in providing pastoral services to our congregations.

Congregations and Congregational Leader Relationships

- The Executive Presbyter offered a presentation on the ways of understanding the significance of a presbytery. Along with those understandings, he noted the responsibilities of this committee to be primary in fulfilling the roles of pastor, counselor, and advisor. Particularly, he presented options and strategies that each COM member might fulfill his/her role as liaison under the new COM structure.
- Northwest (I/II) region update and prayer requests
- Southwest (III) region update and prayer requests
- East (IV) region update and prayer requests

Executive Presbyter Report

- The Executive Presbyter spoke of our ongoing need to be considering new ministry opportunities where God might be leading. He announced that Rev. Michael Goerhling of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities will be with us both leading a pre-presbytery workshop and as part of the gathering in May 2018.

February 1, 2018

Summary

- It was **MSP** to approve the minutes for the January 4 meeting as submitted.

Report of the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk gave an update to the committee on the following matters:
- Correspondence Log related to COM
- Annual Reports from Clerks of Session are due and being received.
- Announcement of Minutes Review dates/completion
 - January 27 – Westmont (11 or 12 were completed)
 - February 19 – Presbytery office (6:00)
 - March 20 – First, Belle Vernon (5:00)
 - May 15 – Latrobe (5:00)
- At the January meeting, the following elders were commissioned for particular pastoral service: Eric Glisan, Len Morgan, Dave Stewart, Jim Sunseri, and Bill Wiegand.
- **MSP** a request for dismissal of Rev. Brenda Barnes to Kiskiminetas Presbytery.
- **MSP** to recommend to Presbytery waiver of term limitations for the following people and churches:
 - Dunbar – Robin Vilella (Deacon); Bonnie Matthews (Elder)
 - Mt. Washington – Beth Wrick (Elder)
 - New Salem – Mark Nagy (Elder)
 - Laurel Hill – Margaret Gilchrist (Elder); Paula Junk (Elder)
- Member at Large/Validated ministry forms will be approved at an upcoming meeting, as part of our “Consent Agenda” when we have received them all. Received so far are:
 - Cynthia Cadenhead (MAL)
 - Ross Bash (MAL)
 - Bruce Cadenhead (MAL)
 - Skip Noftzger (VAL)

Moderator Report

- Appointment of Rev. James Farrer to serve as moderator for the Covenant Presbyterian Church,

Boswell.

Search and Call- Chairperson - Chuck MacPherson

- Transition chart was included in our packet
- Rev. MacPherson and Rev. Noftzger conducted Ebensburg and Colver PNC orientation on January 27, 2018.

Examinations - Chairperson - Cliff Foster

- Received statement of faith and met with Rev. Jay Lewis about transferring, returning his membership to Redstone (HR), and asking to be added to pulpit supply.
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation of Rev. Jay Lewis to be received into Redstone Presbytery and to have the motion included in the consent agenda of the March Presbytery gathering.

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- District reports from the East (IV), Northwest (I, II) and Southwest (III).
- Cards signed and sent to the following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders: David Stewart, James Stobaugh, James Sunseri, Rick Sweeney, Denise Todero, Alice Tondora, Robert Upton, Robert Van Wyk, Caroline Vickery, and Ronald Wakeman. Please include the in your prayers throughout this month.
- Cards signed and sent for the following churches: Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell; Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell; First Presbyterian Church, Masontown; McClellandtown Presbyterian Church; Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown; Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant; First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria. Please keep them in your prayers throughout this month.

Executive Presbyter's Report

- Enrichment Day at Westmont Presbyterian Church was well-attended and the sessions were excellent.

Old Business

- **MSP** to accept Laurie Davison resignation from the COM with regret.

New Business

- Skip made a comprehensive spreadsheet of all the churches in each District which we will update each month with our Liaison reports.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Committee on Preparation Report Items

- Update on Rick Watson (candidate) and seminary student through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Information Items

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

February 6, 2018

Summary

- The agenda for the meeting was approved by consent.
- As part of organizing for the year, nominations were held for the positions of chairperson and secretary. It was MSP to elect Rev. Caroline Vickery as chairperson and Rev. Becca Siddle as secretary for 2018.
- It was MSP to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting.
- The updated roster for all inquirers and candidates was provided by the Executive Presbyter to the committee. Having reviewed and not noting any necessary changes, the roster was received by the committee.
- The checklist of requirements of all inquirers and candidates was provided by the Executive Presbyter. At this point, he also supplied the communications from David Deutsch requesting removal from the candidate's process. After discussion concerning possible future contact with David, it was MSP to suspend David from candidate status effective immediately and to be reviewed in 2019.
- A specific update was provided on candidate Rick Watson concerning his completion of coursework. It was also noted that Rick had taken and passed the Polity examination. Currently, he is completing CPE through the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute and doing it at Highlands Hospital. Discussion ensued on possible options for the additional SPM (field ed) requirements for Rick based upon the desire of the committee to have Rick participate in a larger congregation setting than his current commissioned role. Committee members are to pursue some of those options and report back.

Discernment Team Reports:

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the Discernment team met with the session of the Vandergrift Presbyterian Church to review the issues related to their possible request for dismissal. Based upon an agreed timetable, it is anticipated that the congregational meeting to consider the request to be dismissed to A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians will take place on April 15. Protocols for the moderation of the meeting and administration of voting were reviewed. Relevant issues were discussed with the session offering proposed responses to address each of those issues. The Team met at a later date to review the meeting and understanding of all of the issues and decided that the proposed resolutions were sufficient to move forward for consideration by the congregation and the presbytery. It is anticipated that the final report and request will be submitted to the May 15, 2018 Presbytery meeting.

Summary Membership Report for 420-560 2017

Location	Pin #	Church Name	Begin Total		17 & Under		18 & Over		Cert. Gains	Other Gains	Cert. Losses	Death Losses	Other Losses	End Total	Diff
					Gains		Gains								
Adah	8271	Palmer Community	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	-1
Apollo	7238	Poke Run	189	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	2	191	2
Avonmore	7211	First	109	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	111	2
Belle Vernon	8272	First	186	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	154	-32
Belle Vernon	8273	Harmony	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	49	-25
Belle Vernon	8293	Marion	55	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	54	-1
Belle Vernon	8274	Rehoboth	197	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	191	-6
Bolivar	5146	Bolivar	36	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	37	1
Boswell	10052	Covenant	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0
Brownsville	8278	Calvin	40	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	40	0
Brownsville	9655	Fort Burd United	99	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	92	-7
Brownsville	8277	Hopewell	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
Colver	7216	Colver	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	83	-4
Cresson	7218	Cresson	76	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	78	2
Dawson	8285	Tyrone	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	41	-17
Delmont	7220	Delmont	238	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	236	-2
Derry	7221	Derry	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	58	-1
Dunbar	8286	First	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	-2
Dunbar	8287	Laurel Hill	57	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	2
Ebensburg	7222	Ebensburg	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	84	-6
Fairchance	8290	Fairchance	26	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	25	-1
Farmington	8291	Mt Washington	58	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	57	-1
Fayette City	8292	Fayette City	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	-1
Fayette City	8294	Little Redstone	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	59	-1
Greensburg	7225	First	664	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	8	9	655	-9
Greensburg	5421	Maplewood	187	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	186	-1
Greensburg	7226	Westminster	221	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	21	198	-23
Greensburg	7228	First	1098	10	6	6	6	6	0	0	5	21	10	1084	-14
Inwin	8320	West Hemphfield United	231	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	228	-3
Jeanette	7229	First	167	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	3	152	-15
Johnstown	7232	Bethany	52	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	47	-5

Summary Membership Report for 420-560 2017

Location	Pin #	Church Name	Begin Total 17 & Under		18 & Over		Cert. Gains	Other Gains	Cert. Losses	Death Losses	Other Losses	End Total	Diff
			Gains	Under	Gains	Over							
Johnstown	7230	First	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	146	-2
Johnstown	7231	Second	82	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	75	-7
Johnstown	7233	Westmont	452	3	16	0	0	0	4	12	40	415	-37
Lake Lynn	10584	Springhill Furnace	43									43	0
Latrobe	7234	Latrobe	524	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	518	-6
Latrobe	5456	Latrobe United	210	0	1	1	0	0	2	8	0	202	-8
Leisenring	8300	Leisenring	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0
Ligonier	7236	Pleasant Grove	49									49	0
Lower Burrell	5473	Grace Community	593	0	5	0	0	0	3	3	0	592	-1
Lower Burrell	5492	Puckety	192	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	189	-3
Massontown	8301	First	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	-3
McClellandtown	7704	McClellandtown	110	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	113	3
Merrittstown	8309	Dunlaps Creek	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	15	-2
Mount Pleasant	8313	Reunion	56	0	5	3	0	0	0	3	0	61	5
Murrysville	7241	First	193	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	6	186	-7
Murrysville	5465	Newlonsburg	617	8	8	6	0	10	5	25	0	599	-18
Murrysville	5467	Union	202	1	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	202	0
N Huntingdon	12124	New Hope	109	2	5	4	0	0	1	1	0	119	10
New Alexandria	7242	Community	120	0	6	1	0	0	0	1	2	124	4
New Alexandria	7227	Congruity	160	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	145	-15
New Florence	5469	Bethel	67	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	64	-3
New Florence	14739	Trinity	99	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	0	97	-2
New Kensington	10223	United	196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	192	-4
New Salem	8316	New Salem	66	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	63	-3
Patton	7249	Patton	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	103	-3
Revloc	7251	Revloc	58	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	61	3
Scottdale	9515	Calvin United	116	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	119	3
Smithfield	8328	Grace Cpl of High House	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	28	-3
Smock	8317	Pleasant View	183	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	180	-3
Trafford	5617	Level Green	218	0	3	2	0	10	3	0	0	210	-8

Summary Membership

Summary Membership Report for 420-560 2017

Location	Pin #	Church Name	Begin Total 17 & Under				18 & Over				Cert. Losses			End Total	Diff
			Gains	Gains	Gains	Gains	Gains	Gains	Cert. Losses	Death Losses	Other Losses				
Uniontown	8329	Tent	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	
Uniontown	8326	Third	260	0	4	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	254	-6	
Uniontown	8324	Trinity United	223	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	216	-7	
Vanderbilt	8330	East Liberty	80	1	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	84	4	
Vandergrift	11954	Vandergrift	160	6	10	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	171	11	
West Newton	5671	Sewickley	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	10	-3	
West Newton	8318	Sewickley United	30	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	28	-2	
West Newton	8332	West Newton United	215	0	3	1	0	0	8	1	0	0	210	-5	
Windber	7262	First	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	-54	
ZZZZZ	420560	Redstone													
Totals			<u>10628</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>10287</u>	<u>-341</u>			

Presbytery of Redstone
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, February 2018

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Percentage	Prior Year
INCOME					
CONTRIBUTION INCOME					
UNRESTRICTED					
			\$355,000.00		
Commitment/Larger Church	37,408.74	56,414.01	0.00	0.00%	46,090.40
Presbyterian Fdn Cont	86.20	86.20	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Unrestricted	37,494.94	56,500.21	355,000.00	15.92%	46,090.40
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED					
			30,000.00		
Resource Center	0.00	394.12	0.00	0.00%	317.57
PDA - Directed	190.00	740.00	0.00	0.00%	190.00
Sudan Projects	265.00	1,701.98	0.00	0.00%	2,264.82
PMA - Directed	1,108.80	1,213.20	0.00	0.00%	48.00
Minister's Assistance	0.00	813.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	1,563.80	4,862.30	30,000.00	16.21%	2,820.39
Subtotal Contribution Income	39,058.74	61,362.51	385,000.00	15.94%	48,910.79
INVESTMENT INCOME					
Investment Income	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00%	0.00
INTEREST INCOME					
Investment Interest	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00%	84.52
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME					
			4,000.00		
Oil & Gas Lease	14.89	30.70	0.00	0.00%	39.37
Preaching/Consulting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	300.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	300.00
Church Income	110,886.90	110,886.90	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Miscellaneous Income	110,901.79	110,917.60	4,000.00	2,772.94%	639.37
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS					
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE					
SCLD	-91.01	-91.01	0.00	0.00%	-311.27
PDA - Directed	-190.00	-740.00	0.00	0.00%	-190.00
Peace and Global Witness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	-1,692.77
PMA - Directed	-1,108.80	-1,213.20	0.00	0.00%	-48.00
Minister's Assistance	0.00	-813.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Temp Restricted Release	-1,389.81	-2,857.21	0.00	0.00%	-2,242.04
Subtotal Release From Restrictions	-1,389.81	-2,857.21	0.00	0.00%	-2,242.04
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION					
Released from restriction	1,389.81	2,857.21	0.00	0.00%	2,242.04
TOTAL INCOME	149,960.53	172,280.11	414,000.00	41.61%	49,634.68
EXPENSES					
MISSION PARTNERSHIPS					
SUDAN					
SUDAN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	0.00%	\$0.00
PINE SPRINGS CAMP					
PINE SPRINGS CAMP	0.00	0.00	38,000.00	0.00%	0.00
PSC - Shared	2,750.00	5,500.00	0.00	0.00%	5,500.00
Subtotal Pine Springs Camp	2,750.00	5,500.00	38,000.00	14.47%	5,500.00
PRES MISSION AGENCY					
PRES MISSION AGENCY	0.00	0.00	32,000.00	0.00%	0.00
PMA - Shared	1,600.00	3,200.00	0.00	0.00%	2,166.66

Presbytery of Redstone
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, February 2018

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Percentage	Prior Year
PMA - Restricted	1,108.80	1,213.20	0.00	0.00%	48.00
Subtotal Pres Mission Agency	2,708.80	4,413.20	32,000.00	13.79%	4,214.66
PRES DISASTER ASSISTANCE	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%	0.00
PDA - Restricted	190.00	740.00	0.00	0.00%	190.00
Subtotal Pres Disaster Assistance	190.00	740.00	3,000.00	24.67%	190.00
Subtotal Mission Partnerships	5,648.80	10,653.20	89,000.00	11.97%	9,904.66
COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
COUNCIL					
Council Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	0.00%	0.00
Presbytery Mtg Expense	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00%	113.49
Equipping Leadership	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00%	750.00
Engaging Congregations	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00%	0.00
Enabling Ministry Network	0.00	98.87	5,000.00	1.98%	0.00
Christian Associates	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%	0.00
Website	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00%	0.00
COMMUNICATION EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Council	0.00	98.87	19,680.00	0.50%	863.49
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY					
Committee Expense	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%	0.00
COM - SCLD	616.76	616.76	0.00	0.00%	237.44
Subtotal Committee On Ministry	616.76	616.76	500.00	123.35%	237.44
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION					
Committee Expense	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Committee Expenses	616.76	715.63	20,680.00	3.46%	1,100.93
OPERATIONS					
LEGAL AND AUDITING					
Audit	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00%	0.00
PCUSA Meetings	0.00	0.00	4,750.00	0.00%	29.95
Property/Comp. Insurance	0.00	0.00	3,656.00	0.00%	0.00
Worker's Compensation	0.00	0.00	821.00	0.00%	116.76
Telephone	295.61	591.22	3,650.00	16.20%	533.42
Postage	165.99	181.98	900.00	20.22%	181.98
Office Supplies	378.85	947.03	5,500.00	17.22%	1,097.73
RESOURCE CENTER					
RC - Shared	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	-40.00
RC - Restricted	31.10	31.10	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Resource Center	31.10	31.10	1,000.00	3.11%	-40.00
LEASES					
Copier Lease	0.00	300.00	3,000.00	10.00%	738.00
UTILITIES					
Gas	419.68	671.36	2,000.00	33.57%	523.23
Electric	88.60	189.79	1,500.00	12.65%	221.44
Water	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00
Sewage	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00%	27.00
Trash Collection	0.00	262.56	800.00	32.82%	0.00

Presbytery of Redstone
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, February 2018

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Prior Year Percentage	
Subtotal Utilities	508.28	1,123.71	5,000.00	22.47%	744.67
MAINTENANCE					
Custodial Services	84.37	178.12	1,500.00	11.87%	168.74
Yard Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	0.00
Parking Lot Maintenance	1,062.50	1,062.50	1,000.00	106.25%	0.00
Building Maintenance	300.74	789.62	1,000.00	78.96%	854.84
Subtotal Maintenance	1,447.61	2,030.24	4,500.00	45.12%	1,023.58
Subtotal Operations	2,827.44	5,205.28	38,777.00	13.42%	4,426.09
PRESBYTERY STAFF					
EXECUTIVE STAFF					
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER					
EP Salary	5,865.82	11,731.64	70,390.00	16.67%	11,722.07
EP - Board of Pensions	1,479.81	2,959.62	17,758.00	16.67%	2,810.62
EP - Continuing Education	78.44	78.44	1,500.00	5.23%	500.00
EP - Travel	0.00	0.00	4,750.00	0.00%	0.00
EP Travel - Shared	468.70	468.70	0.00	0.00%	386.80
EP Travel - Restricted	91.01	91.01	0.00	0.00%	73.83
Subtotal Ep - Travel	559.71	559.71	4,750.00	11.78%	460.63
EP - Professional Expense	196.27	238.49	1,825.00	13.07%	131.29
EP - Deferred Comp / 403B	347.66	695.32	4,172.00	16.67%	333.36
Subtotal Executive Presbyter	8,527.71	16,263.22	100,395.00	16.20%	15,957.97
STATED CLERK					
SC - Salary	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Executive Staff	8,527.71	16,263.22	101,395.00	16.04%	15,957.97
SUPPORT STAFF					
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR					
OA - Salary	2,259.50	4,519.00	27,114.00	16.67%	4,387.40
OA - Board of Pensions	1,750.48	3,500.96	22,000.00	15.91%	3,057.14
Subtotal Office Administrator	4,009.98	8,019.96	49,114.00	16.33%	7,444.54
ASSISTANT CLERKS					
Recording Clerk Salary	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	0.00%	0.00
Associate Clerk Salary	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Assistant Clerks	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Support Staff	4,009.98	8,019.96	51,614.00	15.54%	7,444.54
EMPLOYER PAID FICA TAXES					
Employer Paid FICA Taxes	621.58	1,243.16	7,797.88	15.94%	1,233.08
Subtotal Presbytery Staff	13,159.27	25,526.34	160,806.88	15.87%	24,635.59
APPORTIONMENTS					
GA Per Capita	0.00	0.00	80,000.00	0.00%	13,285.00
Synod Per Capita	0.00	0.00	24,600.00	0.00%	4,074.06

Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, February 2018

03/12/2018 10:10 AM

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Prior Year Percentage	
Subtotal Apportionments	0.00	0.00	104,600.00	0.00%	17,359.06
RESTRICTED EXPENSE					
Minister's Assistance	0.00	813.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Peace and Global Witness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	1,692.77
Subtotal Restricted Expense	0.00	813.00	0.00	0.00%	1,692.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,252.27	42,913.45	413,863.88	10.37%	59,119.10
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	\$127,708.26	\$129,366.66	\$136.12	95,038.69%	-\$9,484.42

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
February 28, 2018

	2018 PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID	% Payup as of 2/18/2018	Unpaid Pledge Balance
Adah, Palmer	400.00		0%	400.00
Apollo, Poke Run	3,125.00		0%	3,125.00
Avonmore	3,500.00	408.00	12%	3,092.00
Belle Vernon, First	7,000.00		0%	7,000.00
Belle Vernon, Harmony	1,000.00		0%	1,000.00
Belle Vernon, Marion	2,000.00	292.70	15%	1,707.30
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	6,000.00	500.00	8%	5,500.00
Bolivar	1,500.00	250.00	17%	1,250.00
Boswell				-
Brownsville, Calvin		1,560.00		(1,560.00)
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	3,813.00	3,772.00		41.00
Brownsville, Hopewell				-
Colver		483.00		(483.00)
Cresson				-
Dawson, Tyrone				-
Delmont	4,000.00	1,739.00	43%	2,261.00
Derry	1,500.00	375.00		1,125.00
Dunbar, First	2,800.00	2,800.00		-
Dunbar, Laurel Hill	500.00		0%	500.00
Ebensburg	900.00		0%	900.00
Fairchance				-
Farmington	1,800.00	1,800.00		-
Fayette City, First				-
Fayette City, Little Redstone	1,000.00		0%	1,000.00
Greensburg, First	30,000.00	5,000.00	17%	25,000.00
Greensburg, Maplewood	6,000.00	1,000.00	17%	5,000.00
Greensburg, Westminster		1,200.00		(1,200.00)
Irwin, First	25,000.00	4,166.66	17%	20,833.34
Irwin, W. Hempfield	5,000.00			5,000.00
Jeannette	6,780.00	1,173.00		5,607.00
Johnstown, Bethany	2,150.00		0%	2,150.00
Johnstown, First	10,000.00	700.00		9,300.00
Johnstown, Second	3,240.00	270.00	8%	2,970.00
Johnstown, Westmont	12,500.00	1,875.00	15%	10,625.00
Lake Lynn		501.68		(501.68)
Latrobe, Main St.	26,500.00	2,210.00		24,290.00
Latrobe, Spring St.	3,000.00			3,000.00

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
February 28, 2018

	2018	TOTAL	% Payup	Unpaid
	PLEDGE	PAID	as of	Pledge
			2/28/2018	Balance
Leisenring				-
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove				-
Lower Burrell, Grace	15,300.00	2,550.00	17%	12,750.00
Lower Burrell, Puckety		1,500.00		(1,500.00)
Masontown	500.00			500.00
McClellandtown				-
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Ck.	300.00	300.00	100%	-
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion		554.00		(554.00)
Murrysville, First	8,000.00			8,000.00
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	25,174.00	2,798.00	11%	22,376.00
Murrysville, Union	1,000.00	250.00		750.00
N. Alexandria, Community	4,000.00	1,000.00	25%	3,000.00
N. Alexandria, Congruity	7,000.00	522.00	7%	6,478.00
New Florence, Bethel	2,400.00	400.00	17%	2,000.00
New Florence, Trinity		650.00		(650.00)
New Kensington		666.67		(666.67)
New Salem	3,000.00		0%	3,000.00
N. Huntingdon, New Hope	4,920.00	820.00	17%	4,100.00
Patton				-
Revloc	1,500.00	250.00	17%	1,250.00
Scottdale	1,000.00	791.80	79%	208.20
Smithfield, Grace Chapel				-
Smock, Pleasant View	10,000.00	5,000.00	50%	5,000.00
Trafford, Level Green	3,500.00	3,500.00	100%	-
Uniontown, Tent	287.00	287.00	100%	-
Uniontown, Third	10,660.00		0%	10,660.00
Uniontown, Trinity	9,000.00	1,407.50	16%	7,592.50
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty	2,200.00	185.00	8%	2,015.00
Vandergrift				-
West Newton, Sewickley	420.00			420.00
W. Newton, Sewickley UP	600.00		0%	600.00
West Newton, United		906.00		(906.00)
Totals	281,769.00	56,414.01		225,354.99

STATEMENT OF FAITH...JAY W. LEWIS...JANUARY 2018

1 I was asked on a special occasion the date on which I was saved unto Christ; the questioner was
2 asking me when I had been ‘born again unto the Lord.’ I responded giving my natural date of
3 birth. In my belief, there has never been a day in my life that I’ve lived outside the grace of God.
4 I’ve never had a ‘Damascus Road’ thunder-from-above conversion experience. But I have had, and
5 still have, continuing ‘Emmaus Road’ experiences wherein I have come to Christ, and continue in
6 Christ, by reading, thinking, praying, experiencing, considering, weighing, having “A-hah
7 moments,” and accepting the grace of the triune God.

8
9 There is a triune God. A Father who created our universe, and from whom as created beings we
10 wandered away; a Father who can correct, remind, covenant with, and guide. There is a Son who
11 can walk with me, laugh with me, put His hand over my shoulder and cry with me; a Son who
12 covered me. There is a Holy Spirit who is in and around me, under and over me, never letting me
13 wander outside the acceptance of God’s grace. I experience these different aspects of the triune
14 God in different places, with different needs, at different ages.

15
16 The Father was, and remains, the moving force behind all created things, human and material. The
17 Father created the universe with certain unchanging laws of math and physics, with a certain grace
18 to make Himself known to us. But God the Father is so much deeper, so much more universal than
19 we shall ever hope to see fully. God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. God the
20 Father, the great “I Am.”

21
22 The Christ, fully human and fully divine, is the Son who was sent back for me, the one who
23 represents the marked difference between God and humankind. One who enabled God’s
24 forgiveness, and who redeemed. It makes sense to me that God can and did intercede into the
25 human condition, from time to time, the greatest moment being in Jesus Christ. If you were able
26 to inject yourself into your children’s separate lives to hold them and carry them, to correct them,
27 to make it all right for them, to bring them back to the right path, wouldn’t you? I would....and
28 so would, and did, the Father in Jesus Christ Son. This Christ was the payment for my sin; this
29 Christ went through the death that we all shall face, but was raised by the Father into eternal life;
30 this Christ shall come again.

31
32 And how do I know this? How do I experience this? In the continuing gentle, but chiding,
33 whispers of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that I’m continually
34 reminded of the grace within which I have been saved, continually moved to walk with Christ and
35 the Father.

36
37 I confirm that my faith is in the Reformed tradition, that I can come to God through Christ directly,
38 without intercessors; I can read, study and consider the Scriptures directly; my Presbyterian faith
39 history can be confirmed in the Confessions of the Reformed tradition, and through those
40 Confessions, much like Scripture, I can witness the grandeur and scope of the work of the Holy
41 One throughout history into our current era.

42
43 Scriptures are humankind’s attempts to grasp onto, understand, and be led by the Spirit to
44 continually experience the intercessions of the Lord God into human history, into our lives, and in
45 the lives of those around us. Scripture is a library of histories, songs, romances, gospels, letters,
46 poetry; nearly all forms of literary efforts have been gathered into Holy Scripture as people have

47 encountered and recognized the triune God in different ways, different places, different ages of
48 their lives throughout history. As people of the past were urged by the Holy Spirit to confirm those
49 encounters in Scripture, we read and are guided by those words today with the help of the Holy
50 Spirit and are continually challenged to bring Scripture alive and continue its relevance to us and
51 our community in this day and into the future.

52 .
53 We are in covenant community not only with the Father, Christ and the Holy Spirit, but with each
54 other as Christians of the Church as well. Although arrayed in sometimes disparate interpretations
55 of Christ and the Father's guidelines, the load star, the keystone of all of our beliefs, is Jesus Christ.
56 As we are bound to Him as our center, we are necessarily then bound to each other. We have each
57 been drawn in our lives to the inevitable conclusion that we have been salvaged by God in the
58 work of Jesus Christ, and only Him, and in our responsive mission we are without question bound
59 together.

60
61 Our baptism is the recognition of our oneness with Jesus, and with each other, the recognition that
62 through baptism we are signaled as having been redeemed, made clean, and accepted. It is the
63 sign and seal of our birth calling into grace. We regularly recognize that calling when in the Lord's
64 Supper Christ is "re-membered" to us through common bread and wine in table fellowship with
65 the Lord, and with all the saints here now, and before. And at the end, as Paul assures us, we will
66 all be transformed into 're-union' with the returned Jesus Christ.

67
68 This is the faith within which I was born, within which I came to understand and to grow, and
69 within which I stand.

jwl 1/18

ORDER FORM
for
2018-2019
PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

CHURCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CONTACT PERSON _____
PHONE (____) _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

of *Planning Calendars* ordered for 2018-2019
@ \$9.50 PER COPY _____

TOTAL COST \$ _____

*In order to have them available for distribution at the
May meeting of Presbytery (since they begin in June)*
ORDER AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY:

APRIL 26, 2018

Please enclose this order form

Make check payable and mail to:

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GREENSBURG, PA 15601



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FINDING SIGNIFICANCE AS A SMALL CHURCH

Imagine a company with more than 300,000 small retail outlets, which are locally owned and supported. Their presence is so evenly distributed geographically that every county in the U.S. has one or more outlets—in some cases, even dozens of outlets. Almost all own their facilities and attract millions of volunteers. If such an enterprise existed, it would be widely recognized as a success story of unmatched magnitude. Such an organization does exist. It is the story of American congregations, whose founding dates go back hundreds of years. Frequently, commentators focus on the size of each church rather than the large numbers of congregations engaged in ministry in local communities. If a congregation is small, is it also small in mission or significance? What are we worth?

How Location Does and Doesn't Matter

When a small congregation claims a small corner of creation as their own, their corner is the same size as any other church. In this way, all congregations are created equal—uniquely called to a particular spot on the globe. Further, worshipers and leaders believe that God founded their church or parish at a particular moment in history. Members reveal this belief in the stories they tell about the church's founding, in the biblical characters that members reference as inspiring, and in the hymns that members find most meaningful.

The more than 150-year history of one church illustrates how often members faced the question, "Is something significant happening here?" In 1849, nine members organized a church in the heart of their Southern city. Three years later, they purchased two lots downtown as a site for their sanctuary. During the Civil War, the church closed but later reopened with six members. After demolishing the old sanctuary and rebuilding in the same spot, the congregation worshiped in their new sanctuary for the first time in 1918

just as World War I ended. In 1955, after defeating a proposal to relocate, the congregation divided into two churches, one of which relocated to a different site. Another motion to relocate was defeated in 1980. Then in 2004, a motion to merge with another congregation (with the understanding that their church would close) failed. The congregation struggled until 2007 when they called a new full-time pastor. Over the next six years, various innovations and new strategies yielded a revitalized ministry in the *same place* established in 1849.¹

Why Do We Feel Insignificant?

Lewis Parks writes in *Small on Purpose* that to say "God" is to insist that there is more here than meets the eye in the small church. He says there is always "more" in our midst, but leaders spend too much time checking for symptoms rather than looking for strengths.² He cautions against simple solutions and encourages leaders to find ways to release energy and surrender "wish dreams."



Multiple disrupters cloud the perspective of small-church leaders, their members, and even denominational leaders. Here are several foes that hinder small churches from realizing their significance.

The focusing illusion. People assume that someone who becomes disabled will be unhappy. Yet people prove to be remarkably resilient when they focus on all the things they can still do or enjoy, in spite of their disability, rather than on the activities they can no longer do. Two economists first identified this mismatch between happiness and a real life condition or living experience.³ In a similar way, when a congregation focuses on one thing—often something they regard as a deficit—the members undervalue other aspects that play a role in their vitality. A one-factor focus exaggerates the importance of that one dynamic, which then incorrectly equates significance with that one factor.

As the church story above illustrates, the congregation repeatedly faced the focusing illusion—change the location and our ministry will be revitalized—and yet their continued successful ministry came because they repeatedly rejected the single-factor solution. Location is not the only single factor subject to the focusing illusion. Congregations overestimate the difference other single factors might make, such as finding the right pastor, starting a youth program, building new educational facilities, and more parking.

Distractions. Agitations large and small can cause irreversible harm. Small ones may go unnoticed and unevaluated, yet still direct us away from what is most significant in our church's ministry. Large ones lure the congregation away by their size, complexity, and demands for attention. Recording and reviewing distractions allows leaders to objectify, and thereby evaluate and possibly dismiss many noisy but unimportant demands. Therefore, in addition to marking which distractions are worth exploration, focus can also mean discerning what you are *not* going to do.

Inward focus vs. outward focus. Clergy turnover, budget constraints, building maintenance, aging members, and declining attendance are examples of issues that can easily swallow up all the attention of church leaders. Without due diligence, a focus on these internal matters will snuff out the light the congregation offers to the community. A congregation that is “out of balance” in terms of inward vs. outward focus begins to

feel less significant in the world. Members can feel like the church only exists for current members unless they stay focused on how they can make a difference in the community. When a church finds a genuine human need in the community and develops ways to address that need, it thrives.

Imagine a Blueprint for Significance

A blogger writes about reinventing the work experience and gives a “recipe for significance.”⁴ Church leaders can translate this advice into language that helps them better grasp the significance of their congregation's ministry.⁵ When people—or in this instance, congregations—operate in survival or security mode, they lose track of what matters most to them. Ask a leadership group to discuss the following questions:

- What do we really care about? What matters most to us as a congregation?
- Can we list ten of the most significant achievements of this congregation? Why do we believe these accomplishments are significant?
- Do we have the creativity to create the next chapter of our congregation's life?

Claiming Local Religious Creativity

The scale of small-membership churches grants opportunities for broad participation. The witness of persons in the pew includes prayers, presence, gifts, and service.⁶ Parks asserts that church is one of the few places where people regularly gather and sing. He concludes that worship is the most important thing a small church does. Other small-church gifts involve serving as the community's prayer voice, providing soul care, being a surrogate family, and a place of “time out.” In every community, people whose life story has been disrupted, seek God's presence, and search for a local place of worship.⁷

1. <http://1stpresalbany.org/who-we-are/our-history>.

2. Lewis A. Parks, *Small on Purpose: Life in a Significant Church* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017), 10.

3. Daniel Kahneman and David Schkade, <https://www.economics.com/whatis/the-focusing-illusion/>.

4. <https://powertochange.com/discover/world/significantwork/>

5. See also Church Effectiveness Nugget, 25 Turnaround Strategies for Small-Membership Congregations, <https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2014%20.pdf>.

6. Parks, 38-39.

7. *Ibid.*, 60.

CHURCH ENERGY USE: CAN WE HARNESS HOPE?

Carbon dioxide emissions have been implicated as a key factor in rising global temperatures. Because all church buildings use energy, much of it derived from carbon-based sources such as oil and coal, congregations play a role in energy consumption. Although congregations represent a small piece of the big picture, they can still offer hope for the community or the wider church.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that if every house of worship nationwide (about 300,000) cut back energy use by 10%:

- \$200 million could be saved and used for other projects for the community good
- 5.4 billion kilowatt hours of electricity could be used elsewhere without generating additional pollution
- 200 million tons of greenhouse gases would *not* be emitted—the equivalent of keeping 400,000 cars off the road or planting half a million trees.¹

The Basics: What Is Energy?

Inside Energy, a collaborative journalism initiative, describes the current situation in a video titled “Energy Explained.”² Energy use was flat until the past century when it skyrocketed. The average person in the U.S. today uses 100 times the energy that his or her great grandmother did a hundred years ago. Today, worldwide, our biggest single source of energy is petroleum. The vast majority of energy use goes to generating electricity. We generate electricity by burning coal and natural gas, splitting atoms, damming rivers, and harnessing the wind and sun.

While the demand for energy in the U.S. has started to level off, energy use varies greatly across countries. The average American uses three times the energy of a typical Chinese citizen. For certain, our energy use patterns will be quite different in coming generations. For example, more cars could run on electricity than on gasoline. Whatever happens, today’s energy choices will affect how we make energy in the future.

Establish a Carbon Footprint Baseline

A carbon footprint is “the weight of carbon or carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year from the burning of fossil fuels.”³ Another way of measuring the carbon footprint is the number of acres of the Earth’s surface required to absorb the carbon once it is emitted. Several online tools allow individuals and households to calculate their carbon footprints. Congregations can use these same tools to estimate their carbon footprint. Inter-faith Power and Light (IPL)—a nonprofit organization devoted to environmental stewardship—developed the Cool Congregations calculator specifically for churches.⁴

Conduct an Energy Audit

An energy audit, a systematic analysis of how and where a building is using energy, affords a framework for determining how and where energy efficiency measures might be taken. Jerry Lawson, the National Manager of Energy Star Small Business/Congregations at the EPA, recommends that small- to medium-size churches start



“THE NEW SOUND SYSTEM IS AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADE... IT ONLY KICKS ON WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING PROFOUND.”

with a walk-through of the building with knowledgeable church members. Kansas IPL offers a do-it-yourself energy audit form for congregations.⁵ A professional consultant might be required for larger churches or those with a complicated HVAC system. Before hiring someone, ask your local utility whether it offers free consulting services. If IPL has an affiliate in your state, ask them for a professional referral.

Organize an Energy Treasure Hunt

Another option involves organizing an Energy Treasure Hunt for the whole congregation. While the EPA designed this program for businesses, the idea can be easily adapted for congregations. Gather a group to spend several hours scouring the church facility for ways to save energy. As with any treasure hunt, turn it into a contest. For ideas, download the “Energy Star Treasure Hunt Guide.”⁶

Finally, Get Down to Business

Footprints, audits, and treasure hunts supply a baseline as leaders begin to measure progress toward the goal of reducing carbon emissions. And these activities further serve an educational function when the congregation is invited to get involved. But where to start? The EPA offers an “Energy Star Action Workbook for Congregations.”⁷ The Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE) also offers additional web resources for anyone. They supply these tips for saving energy:⁸

Monitor energy usage and cost. Weight watchers know the importance of monitoring what you consume. This principle applies to church buildings and energy as well. Start by reading the utility bill. This can be intimidating, but by continually monitoring usage and cost, churches get sound feedback on progress. Ask questions: How much is being spent? What are the units being consumed (kWh for electricity, CCF for natural gas, gallons for oil)? An added bonus: you might detect billing errors.

Turn things off. No matter how small the device—lamp, computer, or air conditioner—the greatest savings come from turning it off and keeping it off. This is especially true for worship facilities, which are used intermittently. Visit when the building is empty and you might be surprised to see energy wasters still running. To reduce “standby power” (power used by equipment when switched off or in standby mode) plug appliances into a power strip and turn the strip off.⁹ For heating and AC, install programmable thermostats and set them to heat and cool at times when the building is in use.¹⁰

Look for the least expensive energy. Many states deregulated electric and gas markets. That means consumers have retail choice when it comes to which company supplies electricity and natural gas. The utility provides the transmission, while an independent supplier provides the energy. Do an internet search using the term “energy deregulated states” to see if this applies to your state.¹¹

Tune systems to optimal performance. It helps to have a single person controlling the energy system for the building. That person should learn to become a tinkerer, adjusting water temperatures, air temperatures, dampers, and pilot light flames, for example. Ask a contractor to help with an annual tuning of oil or gas burners.

Purchase energy efficient upgrades. Fortunately, with each passing year, the equipment used in most worship facilities is becoming more energy efficient, including heating and air conditioning systems, computers, dishwashers, light bulbs, and ballasts. Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing products.

Start Small!

Energy conservation represents an example of “chunking down,” moving from a complicated reality (such as climate change) to its smaller components (purchasing energy efficient LED light bulbs). George A. Miller, a psychologist, coined the term “chunking” to refer to the strategy for mastering information overload by breaking a larger whole like a phone number or shopping list into groups or “chunks” like 888-888-8888 or meat-dairy-produce. In this instance, the church building represents a small chunk, connected to a larger conglomeration of oil wells, coal mines, solar panels, power plants, utility grids, and much more. Start small and aspire to do more!

1. Rebekah Simon-Peter, *7 Simple Steps To Green Your Church* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2010), 10-11.

2. <http://insideenergy.org/2017/01/12/energy-explained/>

3. <http://www.coolcongregations.org/calculator>

4. <http://www.coolcongregations.org/calculator>

5. <http://www.interfaithpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Energy-Audit-KSIPL.pdf>

6. <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy-star-treasure-hunt-guide-simple-steps-finding-energy-savings>

7. https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy_star_action_workbook_congregations

8. <http://www.interfaithenergy.com/>

9. <https://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/3-easy-tips-reduce-your-standby-power-loads>

10. Rebekah Simon-Peter, *7 Simple Steps*, 84.

11. <https://www.electricchoice.com/map-deregulated-energy-markets/>