

REDSTONE PRESBYTERY

Origin of the Name

Redstone Presbytery is said to have taken its name from the rocks in the banks of Redstone Creek, one mile below Brownsville, Pennsylvania. It is supposed that a vein of coal in that locality was set on fire at an early day, either by the Indians or by friction caused by a land slide. In course of time the fire died out leaving the banks reddened by its heat. They present a very peculiar appearance and are quite an object of interest to any one fond of natural curiosities.

Organization of Redstone Presbytery

The Act for the organization of the Presbytery of Redstone was adopted by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia in session at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1781. It directed that the Presbytery should meet at Laurel Hill Church (now in Fayette County, Pennsylvania) on the third Wednesday of September at 11 o'clock a.m. (September 19th). The meeting was held at the appointed time, but at Pigeon Creek instead of Laurel Hill, because the incursions of the savages into Washington County rendered it very undesirable for the ministers there to leave their homes.

Before its incorporation, Redstone Presbytery consisted of some eight or nine churches which dated their birth before the organization of the Presbytery and are older than the General Assembly. Redstone Presbytery grew to thirty-three member churches by the year 1881.

The history would be incomplete without a notice of the Centennial Celebration of the Presbytery, held in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, September 22nd, 1881. This celebration was held at Uniontown rather than Laurel Hill because of its greater accessibility and superior accommodations.

Redstone Presbytery was organized by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, September 10, 1781 and under its care until 1788; a part of the Synod of Virginia from 1788-1802; of the Synod of Pittsburgh from 1802-1881; the Synod of Pennsylvania from 1881-1972; the Synod of Pennsylvania/West Virginia from 1973-1974 and the Synod of the Trinity from 1975 to the present time. Redstone Presbytery peaked at 106 churches in the year 1966 and currently (2006) has 85 member churches.



Redstone Presbytery Logo

Bringing to a close several long years of searching for a new Presbytery logo which would meet the needs well into the next century, the new Redstone Presbytery logo was introduced in 1996.

Designed by graphic artist Jeff Lawson of Washington, DC, the new logo weaves elements of the former logo design with modern graphic techniques, producing a clean, simple and bold look.

In developing the new design, Jeff examined the previous logo, read and re-read copies of the presbytery mission statement and other materials. Using a technique known as the creation of "closure" or "negative space," Jeff took the old Celtic cross--the center of the old logo--and recast it using this technique.

The four large, dark panels--representing our four county districts: Westmoreland, Fayette, Cambria, and Somerset--come together forming the Celtic cross. It is the cross which brings the panels together in a meaningful whole. Because of this technique, however, the eyes must yield to one symbol or the other--one cannot see both symbols at once.

The date, "1781", in the lower left-hand panel is also gleaned from the old design and is the year in which Redstone Presbytery was founded. The colors used for the logo are black for the text areas and a rich red for the cross portion, which is meant to symbolize wine.

One final note on the new logo--the perspective on the cross is one which looks up at it from the bottom because all of Redstone stands under the cross of Christ in a common ministry of grace and love, hope and peace.

The Presbytery is grateful to Jeff Lawson, son of Bill and Mary Ellen, for his time, creativity, and expertise in helping bring to light this innovative design which brings us "back to the future."