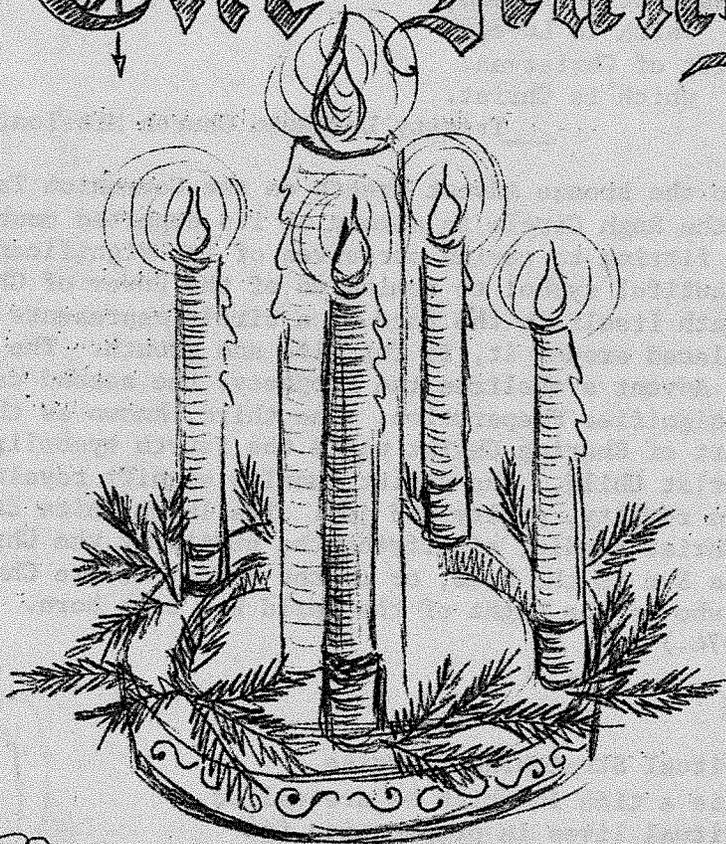


The Ranger



Advent

POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1091 Poke Run Church Road
Apollo, PA 15613-9625

(Junction of Routes 66 & 366)

Telephones:

Church Office -- 327-5563

Manse -- 327-0040

Wayne C. Blaser, Pastor

CHURCH HOURS:

Church School: 10:00 a.m. (Sunday mornings)

Service for the Lord's Day: 11:00 a.m.

Matthew 28:17-20
Volume XII

NOVEMBER, 1983

The Acts 1:8
Number 2

Dear Friends,

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you have the Spirit of Christmas,
 which is Peace,
 The Gladness of Christmas,
 which is Hope,
 The Heart of Christmas,
 which is Love,
 The Gift of Christmas,
 which is Christ.

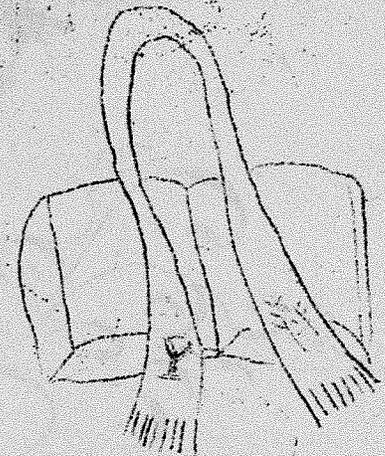
Trinity Lutheran Church Mission, KS

Nine years ago the bronze Advent Wreath on the Communion Table was presented to Poke Run Church by the Rugh Circle in memory of its departed members. In this Advent season it seems fitting to remind ourselves of its significance. Christians have long used this beautiful symbol to remind us of the Power of Christ, the Light of the World. The wreath itself in the form of a circle represents eternity, and evergreen, sometimes placed around it, is for life and growth. The candle lighted on the first Sunday of Advent symbolizes the Prophecy; the second candle, known as the Bethlehem candle, signifies Preparation. The third, known as the Shepherds candle, portrays the Art of Sharing Christ while the fourth symbolizes love and the final coming of the Christ Child. The violet candles signify royalty and repentance, while the rose color is royalty, purity and joy. The large white candle in the center is called the Christ candle, signifying the purity of the Christ. This one is lighted on Christmas Eve in the home, or on the Sunday before Christmas in the church, announcing He who is the Light of the World has been born. (Research done by Jane Gearhard in 1974.)

From The Pastor's Desk

Another Spiritual Stretching Exercise

Advent is a time in which we are called to "shape up" our spiritual lives in preparation for Christmas. It is a time to get back into the discipline of regular spiritual exercise, especially if you have let yourself slip a little recently and are getting spiritually flabby. Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. In many parts of the world it is a time for literally (as well as spiritually) sweeping our homes clean so that a fresh start can be made. So "Up and At 'em" for 15-30 minutes a day -- which can make a new person out of you.



New Exercise: Bible Reading

For stretching the mind's awareness of God's will for us and God's love for us -- for building up our confidence in God's providential care in times of need and personal turmoil -- and providing us with strength and comfort. It helps firm up our faith and sense of purpose in life, both of which tend to get flabby without proper devotion to this exercise. For maximum benefit, this exercise should be done in combination with regular prayer and worship. (Warning: Bible reading can be counter-productive possibly leading to personal or sectarian distortions, if it is not prayerfully read and interpreted as an integral part of life, guided by worship in a legitimate Christian Church.)

Instructions

1. If you don't have one, get a readable and reliable translation of the Bible, such as The Good News Bible, the New English Bible, the Jerusalem Bible, the New International Version of the New American Bible, or the Revised Standard Version. (Avoid paraphrased versions such as the Living Bible or J. B. Phillips as your primary Bible. These were not subject to critical, ecumenical, scholarly scrutiny like the recommended versions, and because they are very free interpretations of the original text. These may be considered to be helpful commentaries as long as you are comparing notes with a more reliable translation.)

2. Set aside a regular time each day for Bible reading and prayer.
3. Begin reading a modest amount and build up. Here are some helps for getting started or expanding your present program.
 - A. A good place to start is to use the devotional booklet "These Days" which is available in the Church Narthex. Be sure you read the Scripture passage as well as the devotional message. No cheating please! You'll be the one who loses out if you do!
 - B. Another easy to use resource for beginners and more advanced readers is the daily lectionary printed in our worship bulletins. It suggests three relatively short lessons for each day: one from the Old Testament, one from the Gospels, and one from the rest of the New Testament. Beginners might start with one lesson a day and in time add a second and then the third reading -- and perhaps also a psalm. The advantage of the Lectionary over most daily devotional booklets is that it guides you in a systematic approach to the reading of The Scriptures. If read in its entirety, all of the New Testament and major portions of the Old will be read over a two-year period.
 - C. For advanced Bible readers, beginning with the First Sunday in Advent, an extensive Lectionary for the continuous reading of the Bible will be provided in the bulletin. This will be a guide for reading the entire Bible (many parts several times) in about a one-year period; and is based on principles for Bible reading widely used in the early church for public worship. It will suggest the reading of one chapter from each of the major portions of the Old Testament (The Law, The Prophets, and The Writings), a Psalm, and a chapter each from the major sections of the New Testament (Epistles and Gospels.)

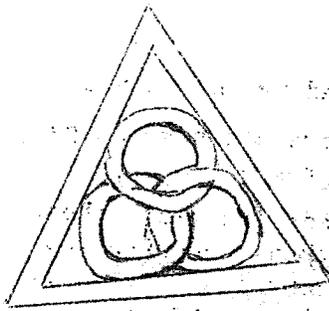
"But as for you, continue in the truths that you were taught and firmly believe. For you know who your teachers were, and you know that ever since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. For all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the man who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good work.

(II Timothy 3:14-17 -- Good News For Modern Man)

EPIPHANY LOVE FEAST

Friday, January 6, 1984 at 6 p.m.

The Feast of Epiphany traditionally commemorates the visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12). It is a major celebration of the Church Year marking the close of the Christmas Season. A major focus of the celebration is God's reaching out to all peoples, not just Israel, in the coming of the Christ. Last year we celebrated the Epiphany with a love feast (covered dish supper) featuring a mission presentation. This year we are planning to have the Rev. Clifford Bollenbacher, pastor of Mt. Olivet U. C. C., North Lima, Ohio give a presentation of his work with Heifer Project International in the Central American Nation of Belize.



***** SOME SEASONAL SENTIMENTS *****

Another birthday has passed for R. S. B. Deep thanks to all for thoughtful remembrances on or near October 10th. Once more watches and clocks have been turned back one hour, and with increasing earliness the shades of evening enfold in their embrace the busyness of the earth. The pumpkins, the corn, the leaves, the grass, the flowers, and other kinds of greenery have been visited by killing frosts. Fields and forests reflect and resound the presence of hopeful hunters. The mysterious and magical make-believe experiences of Halloween are over; and we are again fully awake to the realities of our wondrous world -- some of the realities being dreadfully fearsome and some of them inspiringly awesome.

The months of November and December hold so much in terms of precious memories and abiding joys, focusing our attention on the Eternal goodness. In the economy of God things of value have a marvelous way of remaining, to brighten our path in remarkable ways. For example, I have just been the recipient of The Pony Express materials from Poke Run Church, awakening the grateful remembrance that in years past I had the precious privilege of joining with others in sowing seeds of hopeful possibilities for Poke Run Church. Many of these seeds gradually germinated, bore fruit, and continue to be productive in the things which pertain to the work of God. For this I am very grateful. How can we ever count our many blessings, or name them one by one?

Surrounded by the numerous blessings and mercies of life, I find myself more and more grateful for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ -- grateful that through the years so many others in a variety of ways shared their experiences of Him with me; and grateful that God continues to give me health, strength, and inspirations of the Spirit, making it possible for me to join with others in conveying His saving grace to personal areas of "..... the whole creation groaning in travail together until now;" (Romans 8:22-23).

As we experience the blessings of the Advent Season may the words of Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'" have persuasive force in and through our lives. The Sovereign Heavenly Father knows the future and governs in the affairs of mankind. The Prince of Peace taught us what to say when we pray. When we pray: "lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil" may we so broaden our sense of corporate participation as to envision the whole world as being before The Throne of Grace.

Merry Christmas Greetings to Pastor Wayne, to Donna, to the Blaser Children, and to each and all of the Poke Run Church Family of Faith! May 1984 be for all a Year of Prosperity and Peace! Sincerely,

***** Roy S. Brice, Pastor Emeritus (November 1, 1983) *****

GREETINGS from The Fifes

In a letter received from Elizabeth M. Fife, mother of Rev. John M. Fife, she says, "John was so thrilled and grateful to learn that Poke Run has designated a portion of its Mission Giving to The Hispanic Refugee Program (in his church in Tucson, Arizona). And I too am deeply grateful for the love from the people at Poke Run that has followed us through the years." She went on to tell us that there are seventy-five churches around the country that are actively helping the refugees. The late Jessica Savage, in her T. V. program "Frontline", had filmed a service in John's church and interviewed him about the Sanctuary Movement. Betty's letter concluded with: "Please express our undying gratitude to the people of Poke Run."

Weddings

Nadene Linda Dunmire, daughter of Emma and Jim Dunmire, to Douglas Mark Bruce, on September 3, 1983, in the Sanctuary.



Births

A daughter, Amanda Nicole, born to Larry and Cheryl Smith on September 27, 1983. Paternal grandparents are Fred and Miriam Smith.

A son, Jonathan Adam, born to Robert and Valerie (McCutcheon) Dulude, on September 26, 1983. Olen and Thelma McCutcheon are the maternal grandparents.

A son, Edward Alan Kuckuck IV, born on February 8, 1983, in Seoul, Korea, and arriving at Kennedy Airport in New York on September 2, 1983, to be welcomed by his new parents, Ted and Sherry Kuckuck of Blairsville and his three-year old sister, Allison, (also born in Korea). Grace Kuckuck is the paternal grandmother.

Congratulations to all parents and grandparents.



Baptisms

Jennifer Lynn Hunt, daughter of William Bernard Hunt and Andrea Jean (McCluske) Hunt born September 17, 1982 at Jeannette Memorial Hospital, Jeannette, PA.

Amanda Nicole Smith, daughter of Lawrence Eugene Smith and Cheryl Lynn (Dunivan) Smith born September 27, 1983 at Monroeville, PA.

Ashley Nicole Young, daughter of Donald Leroy Young and Linda Sue (Emmert) Young born May 13, 1983 at New Kensington, PA.

William Yelenik, IV son of William Yelenik, III and Catherine (Basile) Yelenik born March 18, 1980 at Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights, PA.

New Members

By Reaffirmation of Faith: Richard Allen Kemerer; Ms. Sandy Weis Woolner; and Mr. Fred Smith.

By Profession of Faith and Baptism: Miss Carole Ann Baker.

Transfers

Mrs. Emily (Silvis) Morrissey to Tully Memorial Presbyterian Church of Sharon Hill, PA.

Deaths

Mrs. Virginia Ruth (Hileman) Hartman, September 29, 1983. She united with Poke Run Church on January 8, 1961.

Lowry William Ralston, October 9, 1983, in Dubois, Pa. He united with Poke Run Church on June 30, 1916.

Pamela Jane (Lynch) Daugherty, September 15, 1983, in Melbourne, Florida. Pam was the daughter of Howard and Jane (Elwood) Lynch, and granddaughter of Mrs. Mary K. Lynch and Mrs. Dorothy Elwood.

Glenn R. Hermann, brother of Mrs. Carl (Violet) Schutzler, on October 5, 1983, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Chester Ozog, father of Mrs. Leslie (Bonnie) Thompson, on October 26, 1983, in Monroeville.

Hazel Brewer, sister of Edgar L. Brewer, on November 4, 1983, in Pittsburgh, PA.

Our sympathy is extended to all the families and friends.

Dr. David K. Allen Dies in Florida

Word came to the James Metzgars of the death of Dr. David K. Allen, ninth pastor of Poke Run Church, in Del Ray, Florida, on October 12, 1983, at the age of 87. He came to Poke Run in 1925, directly from Seminary in Pittsburgh. The following spring he was given leave of absence to attend the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he received his Ph.D. degree. He was granted dismissal from Poke Run on February 8, 1927. Although his Poke Run ministry was brief, his accomplishments were many, in comparison. The "Every Member Canvass" was started, money was raised for a new church ceiling and for grading around the church and manse -- and eighty members were added to the church roll. Dr. Allen is survived by his wife of 57 years, a son, Rev. Mark R. Allen and a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie A. Faris. Memorial services were held in Boca Raton, Florida, and Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Sunday School

For the 1982-83 Church School year, we had seven young people who received perfect attendance awards. Those receiving the awards were Robert Chappell, Shelly Chappell, Kelly Lengauer, Allison Lengauer, Eric Bowman, Brenda Staymates and Meri Staymates.

We are planning our Sunday School Christmas program for Sunday, December 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Cantata

The Poke Run Church choir will present a musical version of the Christmas story during the worship service on Christmas morning. They will give the congregation an opportunity to "Hear the joyous news! Wondrous, glorious news!" when they sing the John W. Peterson cantata Christ Is Born. The cantata is based on both the Matthew and Luke accounts of the nativity including Joseph and Mary's trip to Bethlehem and the visits of the shepherds and wise men. Solos will be sung by various members of the choir, and several additional members will be singing with the choir for the performance. Additional singers are still welcome. Practice is on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Women's Association

The Poke Run women have been very busy this fall. Five representatives attended the Presbyterial Workshops in the New Kensington United Presbyterian Church on October 11th. Two layettes were assembled to be sent to needy areas in North Carolina. Louise Hall has distributed the Christmas stockings to be made and which she will fill and distribute at Torrance. On October 1st a Community Dinner was held, the proceeds (\$1,534.53) going to the Building Fund as reimbursement for the Sanctuary storm windows. On November 4th the women served a turkey dinner, clearing \$1,588.60. Of this amount \$1,125.50 was used to pay the balance on a new furnace recently installed at the Manse. Ten percent of the proceeds of each dinner is given to the Current Fund to help pay for electricity, heat, etc. The Women's Association wishes to thank everyone who helped make these dinners a success. The next meeting of the Women's Association will be held in Fellowship Hall on December 6, 1983, at 7:30 p.m. with Circle 1 presenting a Christmas program, and Circle 2 as hostesses. Emma Dunmire, outgoing president will install the newly elected officers Freda Bowman as President and Grace Hartman as Secretary. Jane Zimmerman, Vice-President and Betty Kiebler, Treasurer will serve the second year of their two year term of office. The W. A. had it's annual Thank Offering service on November 13th with Margaret Craig Gnatuk as guest speaker. The loose offering (for Mission Work) amounted to \$113.05. With the Circle collections and donations the total Thank Offering was \$271.53.

Johnstown, Pennsylvania
The Presbyterian Home of Redstone Presbytery
787 Goucher Street

October 7, 1983

To: Poke Run Presbyterian Church and Women's Association

"At this Harvest Home time we wish to thank you for your gift toward the welfare of the guests of your Home. We do appreciate your concern and thoughtfulness. This will be used to the best advantage possible to provide efficient and loving care to our residents.

We acknowledge receipt of Cash \$262.50.

For The Board of Governors"

Note: The above is a copy of the communication mailed to the church. Miss Louise Hall, our W. A. representative to this Home also delivered all the items that were brought to the church and put on the table for the Harvest Home. Our thanks to her for her dedication to this project.



COFFEE
SUGAR
SOAP
TEA
BLEACH
PAPER PRODUCTS
FLOUR

The Fellowship

September brought the return of many activities: school, football, and of course, Fellowship. A hayride and hot dog roast marked the beginning of Fellowship's 1983-84 activities, with many attending and having a good time.

Leaders of the various groups this year are: Rick Learn - adults; Ronna Ryman and Donna Blaser - Junior High School; Pat Lengauer and Karen Heinlein - grades 3 through 6; and Kathy Moneymaker and Karen Staymates - grades 2 and under.

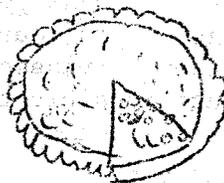
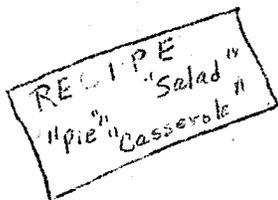
Besides the regular Sunday night meetings, Fellowship sponsored several projects during the year. In October we held a Halloween Party for the children. Costumes ranged from a lovely little Pilgrim girl, to a weird two-headed monster, to a mysterious snowman whose identity remained a secret for a long time. The Junior High group planned games and prizes, everyone donated cookies, and cider and "witches brew" were provided.

Also, in October, Fellowship sponsored a Haunted House. After a successful one-night Haunted House at the Halloween party last year, it was decided to expand and open it to the public this year. The time and work really paid off, because in ten nights, 1,176 people passed through our haunted doors, and that, combined with the generous donations of pop and snacks to sell, earned a total of \$1,400.00. Rewards were not only monetary, however. All the days and evenings of working together, getting to know new people, and laughing with one another, brought rewards too great to be counted in dollars and cents. It was a great lesson in what "Fellowship" is all about.

November finds the group planning, along with the various circles, a vegetable soup supper, featuring home-made soup and ice cream, as well as many tables of crafts, baked goods, and other home-made items.

The rest of the year promises to be just as busy and just as much fun. The group is growing, but can never be too large. Please, join us in Fellowship.

The Fellowship is collecting recipes for a Bicentennial Cookbook, and would appreciate all contributions. Please put your name on all recipes and give them to Heidi Lange, Meri Staymates or Donna Blaser or put them in the "recipe box" provided in the Narthex, or mail to the church office.



The Fellowship meets each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for all the members of the congregation.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

On Saturday, September 10th, the Sunday School held a backyard carnival to raise money for Heifer Project International. Activities included crafts for children, pony rides, water balloon tossing, a petting zoo, an obstacle course, a stuffed animal parade, and last -- but not least -- a dunking booth. Many people contributed to the Project in a number of ways: giving financial contributions; preparing, hauling, and operating booths; lending and managing ponies and goats; and helping to make plans for the activities. The carnival, along with donations from the children's Sunday School classes and from other individuals, helped to raise \$700.00. The church received the following letter from Heifer Project International.

"October 19, 1983

Rev. Wayne C. Blaser
Poke Run Presbyterian Church
R.D.1, Box 221, Apollo, PA 15613

Dear Rev. Blaser,

Please convey our sincere gratitude to the members of your congregation for their very kind and generous contribution of \$700 to Heifer Project for the purchase of animals. We are grateful to each person for their efforts in making this gift possible.

We have designated your gift of a boar to our program in Georgia, where we sent a shipment of pigs this year to be distributed in the area of Fort Valley College, where farmers are being trained, so that they can care for their animals properly.

Your gift of a local heifer, goat, rabbits and chicks has been designated to our program in Guatemala, where we are continuing to help in spite of the turmoil in that country. We are helping local rural cooperatives, which are distributing animals to poor families in remote areas of Guatemala.

Your gift of sheep has been designated to our program in Bolivia, where we just sent a shipment of animals this week. I have enclosed a news release on that project which tells what we are doing in that program, and which you can share with the members of your church.*

May God bless each one of you for sharing so generously with the poor and hungry of our world, through this kind contribution to Heifer Project International.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Dieterly, Jr.
Mid Atlantic Director

JFD:is"

*Note -- This enclosure had been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Mid Atlantic Office
New Windsor Service Center
P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, Maryland 21776
Telephone: 301 635-6464 Ext. 14 or 15

The Youth Triennium at Purdue University

The day we reached Purdue we had time to walk around and get familiar with the area. The next day the fun started. Our schedule for the week's activities started with a morning worship service which was excellent. We then had a meeting in which we were assigned to Network Groups where we got to meet other people from all over the world. It was really interesting. In the afternoon, we had two-hour classes we had chosen. Some were really interesting, but others weren't as interesting. We had classes which were optional also. After dinner we had another worship service, during the last night we had a dance.

I had a great time, and in the future anyone who has a chance to go to the Youth Triennium should go.

I want to thank all the people who sponsored me for this trip and the Women's Group that paid for the bus trip to the 1983 Youth Triennium.

Gary Linsenbigler

A GIFT FOR THE KING

We all have gifts that we may bring. We
all have songs that we may sing. We all
have kind words we may say. We all have
prayers that we may pray. We all have
love and joy to give.

And what a joy life is to live
If we just scatter everywhere
These things God's given us to share:

If you have a gift bring it.
If you have a song sing it.
If you have a talent use it.
If you have love diffuse it.
If you have sadness bear it.
If you have gladness share it.
If you have happiness give it.
If you have faith live it.
If you have a prayer pray it.

— Calvary Baptist Church
Kannapolis, NC

Ye Olde Congruity

On Sunday, October 23, 1983, the congregation of Ye Olde Congruity Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria, Pa., celebrated its 200th anniversary. In that time, the church has grown from a tent in the woods to its present building. Congruity and Poke Run are linked together historically in that for 7½ years, they shared the same pastor, the Rev. Samuel Porter. He was the first minister in both churches until Congruity felt able to support a pastor on its own. So Rev. Porter left Poke Run and went to Congruity full time, where he remained for 35 years. The present pastor is the Rev. Donald F. Stanley, Jr. Congratulations to Ye Olde Congruity, its pastor and congregation!



1983 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each year our Christmas Offering SINGS OUT PRAISES for those ministers, missionaries and their spouses who have retired after long and committed service to the church of Jesus Christ.

Our gifts RING OUT JOY!....

because they give sustaining aid to approximately 1,000 of these servants of God through Supplemental Pensions. Through this added income we help them to meet the essential expenses of living today.

Our gifts RING OUT JOY!....

because they help to meet the catastrophic costs of critical medical care for approximately 100 of our elderly church workers and their spouses through Nursing Home Care Assistance.

We RING OUT JOY through our gifts to the Christmas Offering in support of Minority Education...education that challenges and encourages the development of the whole person

Academically socially emotionally spiritually vocationally

Our gifts SING OUT PRAISES!....

because Minority Education that focuses primarily on the educational needs of Native American students in Alaska, Native American students in Alaska, Native American and Hispanic students in the Southwest, and Black students in the South enables them

to learn new skills to envision new ideas

to discover new career opportunities to perceive new possibilities

Our gifts SING OUT PRAISES!....

because by encouraging the preservation of that which is vital and rich in the heritage and traditions of each ethnic community, our support of Minority Education enables these students to come from their unique situations, with their special needs, and to have those needs met in unique educational settings.

Orders for Poinsettias for Christmas -- Poinsettias may be ordered, small (4 to 6 blooms) -- \$4.00 or 6 to 9 blooms -- \$6.50. To order contact Co-Flower Chairmen for December -- Grace Hartman (telephone 327-5443) or Karen Heinlein (telephone 327-3048). Deadline for orders is Monday, December 12th.

Please check the page of this newsletter for a calendar of upcoming events from November 27th through March 7, 1984.

Interesting Items

Congratulations to the following:

Kevin D. Blair, O. D., son of Jack and Eleanor Blair, who opened his new office on November 1, 1983, for the Practice of Optometry. His office is located in Hyde Park Plaza, Allegheny Township (near Kiski High School).

Anna Hermann, mother of Mrs. Carl (Violet) Schutzler, who celebrated her 96th birthday on September 25, 1983. She is living at the Sherwood Elite Nursing Home in Kittanning, Pa.

Lynn Brinker, daughter of Milton and Audrey Brinker, who was Homecoming Queen this fall at Greensburg-Salem High School where she is a senior, and to Kelly Lightner, daughter of Clifford and Karen Lightner, also a senior, who was on the Homecoming Court.

And to Allison Lenguier, who was elected president of the Student Council at Washington Junior High.

Tim Hartman, son of Leonard and Grace Hartman, who was awarded the Rugh Scholarship from the Poke Run Church. Tim is enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg Campus, in pre-pharmacy.

Gary Long, son of Jerry and Mary Long is in the Air Force. His address is "Airman Long, Gary A. -- PSC Box 3427 -- Dyess Air Force Base, Texas 79607."

Donna and Lewis Elwood have moved to Titusville, Florida, with their young daughters, Debbi and Dawn. We miss you at Poke Run and wish all the best for you in your new home.

Dorothy Elwood and her daughter Jean Brooks spent several weeks in Florida in the early fall with their daughter and sister, Jane Lynch and her family who live at Fort Pierce, Florida.

Mary and Elwood Krusey had an enjoyable European tour in September. They visited Switzerland, West Germany, Austria, Northern Italy and even had a gondola ride in Venice!

Alta Jean and Glenn Ross enjoyed a Florida vacation in September. Joe and Freda Bowman and Leonard and Grace Hartman also traveled to Florida in November. The Bowman's visited with Freda's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Hartman. Earlier in the fall Grace and Leonard drove to Mesa, Arizona to visit Grace's brother and his wife David and Norma Custer. Mrs. Marguerite Flotta traveled with them to Wichita Falls, Texas and stayed for a visit with her son Rodger and his family and then they came back through Texas on their return trip home. Leonard and Grace were celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

Our Members in the Service

In these troubled times we are remembering in prayer you Poke Run young people in the Armed Forces all over the world, namely: Valerie (Striner) Crump, Rodger L. Flotta, Glenn E. Gearhard, Michael L. Hartman, Mark R. Lavrich, Thomas W. Lavrich, Gary A. Long, Kerry J. McDivitt, Curtis B. McQuaide and Bill Smith. Tom Lavrich has just returned to his base after being home on sick leave. He had surgery in Citizens General Hospital. The John Gearhard family was greatly relieved to receive a call from Glenn in the Phillipines. They knew he had been in the Meditteranean area -- and he told them that he had slept in the very same barracks in Beirut where the bombing took place on September 30th.

How many of you readers know that the Ranger Newsletter actually originated back in World War II when the Rugh Circle wrote monthly letters to our service people?

Hospitals

These members have been in area hospitals this fall: In Allegheny Valley, Natrona Heights; Hazel McCutcheon and Millie Wilson; in Allegheny General, Pittsburgh, Leonard McCutcheon; in West Penn, Pittsburgh, Don Hastie; in Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Gary Branthoover; in Montefiore, Pittsburgh, Frank Lavrich; in Jeannette Memorial, Jim Dunmire; in Forbes Regional Health Center (formerly called East Suburban) at Monroeville, Edgar Brewer, Reed Christy, Charles Peterson; in Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, Jessi Bates; in Latrobe Hospital, Grace Kuckuck; in Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg, Jean McQuaide, Karen Lightner, David Riggle and Ed McDivitt; in Citizens General, New Kensington, Paul Fisher, Thomas Lavrich, Miriam Emmert, Ronna Ryman, Billy Weyel, Calvin Beatty, Ruth Shields; in Harmerville Rehabilitation Center, Karen Lightner and Charles Peterson; Lloyd Miller was also in Forbes Regional Health Center, Monroeville, and Ruth Kistler; Michael Paul Billeck in Monsour, Jeannette, PA.

These members are in Nursing Homes: In West Haven (Washington Twp.), Gladys Hartman, Web Hartman, and Merle McCutcheon; in the Indiana Presbyterian Church home, Ruth Sharer.

Our prayers are also with Bob Hartman.

An Advent Prayer

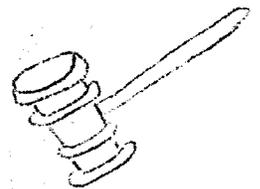
Father,
 Prepare our hearts for Your coming. Quiet the stirrings within.
 Calm the busyness without. Renew us with Your Spirit.
 We are ready, Lord--ready for Christmas...
 Ready to hear the cries of an injured neighbor;
 Ready to extend our hands to a fallen brother;
 Ready to sit with a hurting friend;
 Ready to comfort a grieving child;
 Ready for you.
 With open hearts, we receive the Christ
 Child into our lives today. Amen.

Christ United Methodist Church, Davenport, IA

Congregational Meeting -- December 4, 1983

The annual December meeting of the Congregation will be held December 4, 1983, after the 11:00 a.m. morning worship. The agenda will include the election of Board Members, Two Auditors, one member to the Nominating Committee and action on the following Amendment to the By-laws, received as a first reading at last January's meeting: Section 5 -- There shall be a Nominating committee of Nine (9).

Communicant Members of Full Age, In Good Standing --exclusive of the Pastor, who shall be a member of this Committee, Ex Officio, and without vote. This Committee shall be constituted annually as follows: 2 elected by and from the Session, one of whom shall be named by the Session as chairman-with vote; 1 elected by and from the Board of Deacons; 1 elected by and from the Board of Trustees; 1 elected by and from the Church School; 1 elected by and from the Women's Association; 1 elected by and from the Fellowship Group; 1 elected by and at the Stated December Congregational Meeting (or on the second succeeding Sunday thereafter, in case of a tie) from out of the congregation at large; and 1 elected by and at the Stated January Congregational Meeting, from out of the congregation at large. No person may succeed himself or herself to the Nominating Committee, and no more than one member from any household may serve at any given time.



The Nominating Committee has elected and will place the following in nomination for office:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Elder -- Gerald R. Christy | Deacon -- Karen L. Heinlein |
| Richard L. Learn (3 yr. terms) | Shryl J. Stange (3 yr terms) |
| Calvin S. McCutcheon | Betty Thompson |
| Robert N. Thompson | |
| Trustee -- Peter A. Balbach (3 yr. terms) | |
| Thomas W. Fitzsimmons | |
| Edgar L. Brewer (2 yr. term) | |

Bicentennial Restoration and Renovation Program

The latest Fund-raising project at Poke Run is two-fold:
 Part I -- Repairs and Renovation of Church and Education Building
 Part II-- Restoration of Academy Building

This is to be a two-year program targeted for completion for the 1985 Bicentennial Celebration. Funding is anticipated from:

1. Second-mile giving (over and beyond required giving for Home and Mission needs)
2. Special gifts and memorials
3. Fund-raising projects.

BICENTENNIAL BUILDING PROGRAM

PART I.	CHURCH AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING	\$ 13,965.00
	1. Repair of basement walls	\$ 3,500.00
	2. Replace basement floor	4,000.00
	3. Interior painting	1,500.00
	4. Exterior painting	1,480.00
	5. Topping of Chimney	135.00
	6. Storage room next to kitchen	2,000.00
	7. Office cabinets (built-in)	400.00
	8. Repair of driveways	950.00
PART II.	ACADEMY BUILDING	\$ 16,320.00
	1. Repair sidewalk and concrete	\$ 1,000.00
	2. Insulate attic	1,032.00
	3. General repairs, carpentry and plastering	1,588.00
	4. Remodel restrooms	2,000.00
	5. Kitchen fixtures	850.00
	6. Tile basement floor	2,250.00
	7. Interior and exterior painting	2,000.00
	8. Complete rewiring	5,600.00
	TOTAL	\$ 30,285.00

An Invitation to hear the Moderator

Dear Friends:

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) will speak in the Freeport United Presbyterian Church on Friday, December 2, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. You and members of your congregation are invited to attend this meeting.

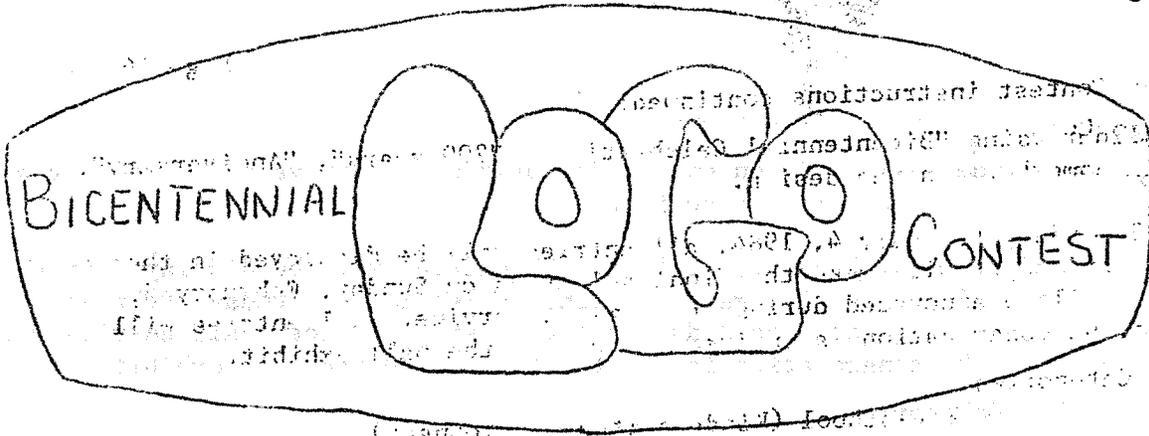
Sincerely yours,

John W. Foester, Pastor

United Presbyterian Church

411 High Street, Box J

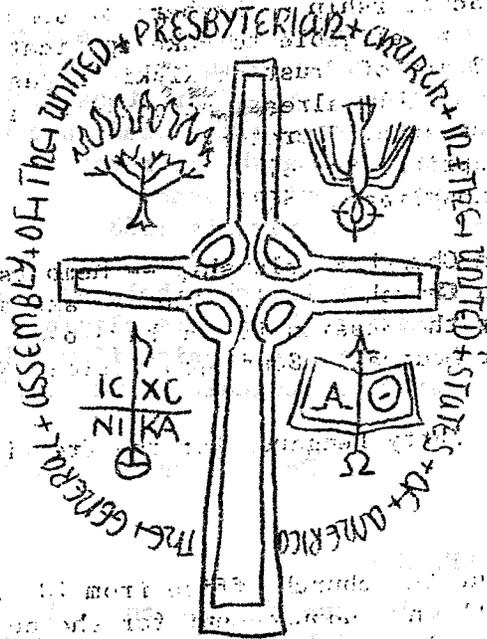
Freeport, Pennsylvania 16229



Bicentennial Logo Contest

It's time to get on your thinkin' caps and enter our Congregational Logo Contest! Our Bicentennial Celebration is scheduled for October 1, 1985, and there will be a number of opportunities to utilize a logo in our festivities. So..... review the following information and try your hand at creating a symbol that will represent our beloved Poke Run Church in a capsuled image.

An example of a logo is that of our denomination (right).



Instructions

1. Use a standard 8 1/2 X 11 paper, and make your design large enough to fill the page. The larger you can make your drawing, the easier it will be to reproduce by camera.
2. Make your drawing in a solid black (no shading). You may use paint, ink, or marker. (Optional--You may submit a color drawing for a banner, using only solid colors.
3. Place your name, address and phone number, also age category, on a separate sheet, and paper clip it to your drawing. Please do not put any identification on the drawing itself.
4. Deliver or mail your drawing to the church office --DO NO FOLD-- between Sunday January 8 and Wednesday, February 1.

Additional Suggestions -- Be original--do not copy

Consider items or objects that symbolize life in the church or the church's history.
 Eliminate any unnecessary details. Keep it simple.
 When using Scripture or a slogan, use as part of the overall design.

(over)

Bicentennial Logo Contest instructions continued:

Consider using "Bicentennial Celebration", "200 years", "Anniversary", etc. somewhere in the design.

On Saturday, February 4, 1984, all entries will be displayed in the hallway. A group of judges will make the final selection on Sunday, February 5, 1984. The winner will be announced during the worship service. All entries will be exhibited, and the congregation is invited to preview the hall exhibit.

Age Categories:

Pre-school (Kindergarten and younger)
Elementary (Grades 1 - 6)
Youth (Grades 7 - 12)
Adult

Awards will be given for the top design in each age category.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Viola C. Rugh Memorial Scholarship -- Members or sons and daughters of members of Poke Run Presbyterian Church are eligible to make application for this scholarship which is administered by the Board of Trustees Kiskiminetas Spring School. High School seniors interested and possibly already accepted at a four-year college should contact: Ms. Beverly Rumbaugh, Secretary
Kiskiminetas Springs School
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681.

Bernard M. Long Poke Run Church Scholarship -- Members or sons and daughters of members of Poke Run Presbyterian Church are eligible to make application for this scholarship which is administered by the Session if you have been accepted for graduate school in the field of Ministry or Medical. Send application to the Pastor.

Thanks to Mrs. Patty Lengauer for the frontise cover of this issue of "The Ranger".

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please telephone the church office from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, with any announcement for the bulletin. The bulletin is printed early Thursday mornings except due to holidays and it is then printed on Wednesday. The office telephone number is 327-5563. If it is not convenient for you to telephone at these times please call any time and leave your message on the answering machine.

Telephone Numbers

Manse -- Pastor Wayne C. Blaser -- 327-0040
Office - 327-5563
Bldg. Caretaker - Ruth Gebrosky -- 327-5009
Cemetery Caretaker -- Larry Baker -- 327-8197
Financial Secretary -- Mary Louise Moore -- 327-2143

POKE RUN CHURCH NEW ADDRESS

Poke Run Church now has a new address: 1091 Poke Run Church Road
Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613-9625

THE RANGER -- If you have items to be included in the next issue of The Ranger, please put them in the designated box in the Narthex. (Deadline Feb. 28, 1984)

CHRISTMAS FOR PEACE

Begun as an effort of Protestant and Catholic churches in Geneva in 1979, and now sponsored by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the Lutheran World Federation, Christmas for Peace provides the occasion for Christians of many communions around the world to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace and to proclaim our commitment to be a part of God's peace-giving.

The Christmas for Peace effort is calling for Christians to place or hold a lighted candle or lamp in their window at 9 p.m. (local time) on Christmas Eve. The call for this activity reads:

"On Christmas Eve, everybody is invited to stand at his door or window, holding a lighted candle or lamp, as a token of friendship with all the peoples of the world, near and far.

"Together, across all frontiers, we shall celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus, the birth of a new hope, the dawn of a new world.

"Amid the darkness of selfish greed and poverty
let us hold aloft the torch of justice!

Amid the darkness of loneliness and resignation
let us kindle the flame of hope!

Amid the darkness of violence let us light the light of peace!"

(From a letter to all congregations from James E. Andrews and William P. Thompson, Interium Co-States Clerks, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

I am going back home for Christmas
Back home for the Holidays.
Back to the old log cabin,
Where we lived in my childhood days.

There I'll see my father and mother,
Grandma in her old rocking chair.
And the mantle by the fireplace,
We would hang our stockings there.

There'll be homemade pies and puddings,
Pop corn, candy, cookies galore,
And a turkey for the oven,
Who would ask for any more.

As Christmas day approaches,
And its magic fills the air.
There'll be shouts of joy and laughter,
For no one will have a care.

There comes father up the pathway,
And he has got a Christmas tree.
He got it in the nearby forest,
It's a beauty you can see.

Christmas Eve we are so excited,
And after all the prayers are said,
With our hearts crammed full of visions,
We will hurry off to bed.

Bright and early Christmas morning,
As we hustle down the stairs.
And our eyes are filled with wonder,
As we behold the beauty there.

Ornaments of many colors,
Sparkle in the fire lights glow.
Stars and Angels, wreaths and holly,
Add their lustre to the show.

Piles of gifts for all the family,
And for those we love to see,
Christmas is a time of giving,
Loving, sharing, comradere.

Grandma now will read the story
Of that time so long ago.
When a child was born in Bethlehem
Bringing peace to earth below.

Now some eighty years are passing,
Hair once brown has turned to grey
Still those precious memories take me,
Back home again on Christmas day.

***** Arthur P. Hild *****

(Brother of Anna Moorhead)

Correspondence From Our Missionaries
Archie and Hulda Fletcher

Seattle, Washington
August 24, 1983

Dear Friends,

A radical change (in our plans to retire) came about because of a very urgent need for a surgeon at the Central Hospital at Enongal in Cameroon. This 250-bed hospital has been a project of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) in cooperation with the Cameroon Christian Church, for at least 75 years. In former years there were four or five missionary doctors working there, but for the last year or so the Program Agency has had no doctor available for a regular Fraternal Worker assignment. Volunteers have helped to keep the work going, including Dr. Bob Sandilands, who is out there now. Bob is past 70 and retired several years ago after a lifetime of missionary service in Cameroon. But Bob has to come back next month and there is no one to replace him. Of course, you have to understand that according to the system developed many years ago by the early missionaries, most of the routine work of the hospital, including even some of the basic types of surgery, is carried on by the splendid staff of medical assistants - men and women with little more than a grammar-school education who have been carefully trained to render basic services in medicine, surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics. Without these devoted and skillful people the hospital would be closed, but doctors are also needed to teach, coordinate and supervise, and especially to carry out the more complicated forms of surgery.

Besides, the presence of at least one doctor on the staff is required by the Health Department of the government. Unfortunately there are no Cameroonian doctors available, although one very promising Christian doctor is in training in Europe, sponsored by the church, and should be available in two years or so.

Well, that's the kind of urgent, even desperate, need that was presented to us. At first we thought it was out of the question but as we have thought about it and prayed about it, we have become convinced that God has this one more job for us to do. The need is obvious and urgent. Although Africa is new to us, we have a broad background of experience in Third World medicine and surgery. And both of us are blessed with good health and reasonable vigor - though at 65 our energy reserves certainly aren't what they were a few years ago! So we've accepted the challenge. The situation will be strange and difficult at first. The language will be a problem. The work will be demanding - the only doctor in a 250-bed hospital! But it will be exciting and rewarding - just as our work in India and Nepal was always exciting and rewarding.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty, we leave Seattle on August 29th, spend a few days in New York getting briefed, etc., then spend three months in a language school in a small town in France learning French, which is the official language of the part of Cameroon in which we will be working. We'll arrive at Central Hospital after Christmas and start work by January 1st. Addresses are shown below. As before we'll be regularly appointed Fraternal Workers under the Program Agency. Our term will be two years, renewable by mutual agreement. It is our hope and prayer that within two years the Cameroonian doctor will be available and that there will also be at least one long-term missionary doctor to take our place.

We'll appreciate your prayers as we tackle another language. Fortunately we both have some background in French, but it's pretty far back and our learning machinery seems to be getting more and more rusty! Also pray for our adjustment to a situation very different from India and Nepal, and for the maintenance of good health. Our next letter will tell you what things are actually like in Cameroon and at Central Hospital. At this point we don't know very much more than you do!

Thanks and God bless!

Huldah and Archie Fletcher

September 6-December 20 --c/o L'Accueil Fraternel
43400 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute Loire), FRANCE

January 1, 1984 onward --Hospital Central d'Enongal -- B.P. 91 Ebolawa,
Cameroon, WEST AFRICA

Correction: Page 12 -- It is Kelly Lengauer, who was elected president of the Student Council at Washington Jr. High. Our apologies for the error.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday -- November 27 -- First Sunday in Advent
Tuesday - November 29 -- Presbytery at Christ Church, North Huntingdon
Sunday -- December 4 -- Second Sunday in Advent
Congregational Meeting after worship for election of members to Boards, 2 Auditors, 1 member to Nominating Committee, and to take action on By-laws Amendment.
Monday -- December 5 -- Deacons, Trustees, and Session Meetings
Tuesday - December 6 -- W. A. Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m.
Wed. - December 7 -- Apollo Area Ministerial Association in Fellowship Hall
Sat. - December 10 -- Pastor Wayne's Run for Children's Hospital
Sunday -- December 11 -- Third Sunday in Advent
Sat. -- December 17 -- Rehearsal for Church School Program -- 10:00 a.m.
Sunday -- December 18 -- Fourth Sunday in Advent
Church School Christmas Program 7:30 p.m.
Sat. -- December 24 -- Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 7:30 p.m.
Sun. -- December 25 -- Christmas Day
Choir Cantata "Christ is Born" -- Communion 11:00 a.m.
Sun. -- January 1 -- First Sunday in Christmas
Friday -- January 6 -- The Feast of Epiphany 6:00 p.m.
Covered Dish Love Feast -- Communion
Mission Speaker -- Clifford Bollenbacher, former Heifer Project worker in Belize
Sunday -- January 8 -- The Baptism of our Lord
Baptism and Communion
Saturday- January 14 -- Church Audit
Sunday -- January 15 -- Congregational Luncheon Meeting
After Worship Service -- Fellowship Hall
Tuesday - January 17 -- Presbytery
Wed. -- January 18 -- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins
Community Service sponsored by Apollo Ministerial Assoc.
Location to be announced -- 7:30 p.m.
Sat. -- January 28 -- Wedding -- Ann Hill and David Troxell
Sunday -- January 29 -- Narrated Worship Service
Wed. -- February 1 -- Deadline for Bicentennial Logo Contest
Sunday -- February 5 -- Dedication of Logo in Morning Worship
Sunday -- February 28 -- Baptismal Orientation for Parents and Adult Candidates,
2 p.m. Deadline for next edition of Ranger.
Sunday -- March 4 -- The Transfiguration of The Lord
Baptism and Communion
Wed. -- March 7 -- Ash Wednesday
Communion Service -- 7:30 p.m.

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