

The Ranger

Poke Run Church

November 2013

New Ways of Reading by Pastor Pete

As Christians we base our faith on the Bible. Since we base our faith on the Bible we need to know what the Bible says to us. To know what the Bible says we not only have to read it, but we must have a strategy for reading and also for understanding what we read. I am going to suggest one strategy for reading the Bible that you may not have thought of, reading the Bible from the end to the beginning. This can be done by reading the last book of the Bible first, then the one before that and then the one before that and so on. This will take you from the book of Revelation to the book of Genesis.

What can be gained from reading backwards? Well, for one thing it is like reading a modern mystery story, or watching a detective show on TV. In a detective story or show you know from the beginning what the crime is. What you want to discover is the why and the how and the who. So if you begin reading Scripture at the end, you already know all of this; you know the ending. When you read in reverse, you know where you have been and it is often easier to piece the entire story together.

It also helps us to understand God in very different ways than the ancient writers understood God. We begin to read God's story from the side of unconditional love. We already know the story of Jesus and his sacrificial love. It helps us to know that we are not being left in the violence and bloodshed of so many of the first Scripture's sagas. It moves us out of archaic and mythological understandings into the loving arms of a forgiving God. It helps us to understand and be gentler with the writers and scribes of the Old Testament period, knowing that they were bound by their own time and worldview. This helps us to see that they wrote to us about God in the only ways that they could. They, like us, can perceive and explain "God" only partially.

After having read "backwards" for a time we may begin to see that the Bible takes us on a journey from Creation to New Creation. Knowing that all the time God intends for we humans to live in a perfect world, which at the current time is a little disorganized, can help us to know where we are going and how. The when is left open. Let's see how this works. We will read first in the normal way, from front to back, and then reverse the process to see how it can give us a better feel for what Scripture is doing.

Back in Leviticus 21:19-21 there is this statement: (Look here <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Leviticus+21:19-21&version=NIV> for this Scripture) A short version is, "No eunuch shall ever enter the assembly of the Lord." Too bad ... if you read on you will discover that no foreigner will ever enter the assembly of the Lord either; so much for Ruth and many of the women in Jesus' lineage. The main point here is that eunuchs and foreigners are forbidden to serve in God's house.

Now let's jump to Isaiah. 56:3-5, (Look here <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+56:3-5&version=NIV> for this Scripture.) Foreigners and eunuchs are not only welcome but prolific. This is a clear change of focus. This is also a much wider view of God's all-encompassing love. The more moderate and progressive minds of Israel begin to see that God has more in store than had been previously imagined.

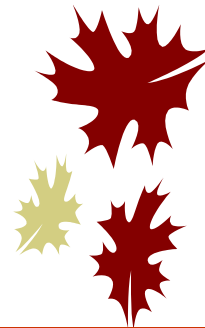
The third passage to look at is in Acts 8:26-40. Look here <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%208:26-40&version=NIV> for this Scripture.) We discover here that one of the very first converts to Christianity is, of all people, a eunuch, and also a foreigner. What in the world is God up to here?

Inside this issue:

Our Prayers/Santa's Breakfast	2
From the Church Office	3
Presbyterian Women	4-5
Poke Run Deacons	6-7
Session Minutes	8
Congregational Mtg/ Youth Choir	9
Mission & Stewardship/ Nemetz Spaghetti Dinner	10
Soup/Wilson Benefit/ Scouts	11
Happenings & Announcements	12
Calendar	13



For our prayers Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Steve Morcheid, Robin, Tom Kimble, Grace Young, Amy McQuaide, Bob Bierer, Lil Bowman, Pat Lengauer, Norm Reinhart, Joanne Fitzsimmons, Jim Thompson, Eugene Witt, Leland & Berenice Jones, Cathy Washburn, Kristen Fairbaugh, Jean Campbell, Tom Martin, Helen Grayem, Sandy Nemetz, the Davis Family, Carol Bowman, Mario Tagliati and those who serve in the military.



EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN The office is putting together an email phone chain for those who wish to ask for prayer. If you wish to be part of this outreach, please email the office.



POKE RUN CHURCH WELCOMED

Gino Athens Howard, Cayden Lee Walters & Arianna Marie Walters by baptism. Their parents are David Bandurak & Laura Mae Walters, their sponsor was their grandmother Tammy Lookhart.

Santa's Coming For Breakfast

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring their annual "**Breakfast With Santa**" on **Saturday, December 7, from 8:30 am. to 11:30 am.**

Get a great breakfast at a great price and get that special picture on Santa's knee.

Tickets are available at the door. Adults and children ages 11 and over: \$5.00
children ages 3 to 10: \$2.00, and children ages 2 and under eat free!

Breakfast includes pancakes and syrup, sausages, and your choice of beverages. Each digital photo with Santa costs only \$1.00 and is mounted for you in a specially designed card by one of Santa's elves. Picture processing takes about 30 minutes so plan to get your pictures taken with Santa prior to eating or shopping at Santa's Store. You'll find some great Christmas decorating ideas and gift giving items at this year's store. Proceeds benefit the Christian Education Programs.



Calling All Elves!

Santa is in need of lots of helpers for his breakfast at Poke Run on Saturday, December 7. If you can help him, contact Linda Chicka at lgchicka@gmail.com, or at 724-422-3688, or call the church office. Watch for volunteer cards in the bulletins.

Set up/Decorating Night, Friday, December 6, beginning at 6:00pm. We start with a meal so bring a covered dish or dessert!



Check out the new copier in the Church Office. Thank you to Trustee Bob Wilson who weighed all our options as the contract for the last copier expired. It's faster and more quiet—and operates very similar to the old one. If you have any problems using it, please do not hesitate to call Amy Wilkinson—we'll get through it!



Thank You

Thank you to our October Greeters:

Rick & Meri Slaughaupt, Doug & Debora Ross, Tom & Nancy Kimble, and Bob & Margaret McBride.

Thank you to our October Lectors:

Nikki McQuaide, Connor Martin, Chad McCutcheon, and Walt Lange.



NEW PROJECT:

The office is starting a project to record and archive information about items that have been donated to or placed in the church building. The first few are pictured here.

If you have information about these items, please contact the office (call or email).



These items are located in the Narthex. The painting is hanging on the wall and the bell & dishes are in a glass cabinet.



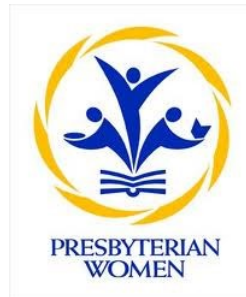
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Circle 2: will meet on November 14th, 7pm. (2nd Thursday) The hostess will be Nancy Dombroske. The leader will be Barbi Findley.

Circle 4: will meet on November 25th to decorate the Sanctuary followed by lunch “out.” Help is always appreciated for the decorating.

Poke Run Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone who helped with and/or attended the Community Dinner in October. Over \$2,000 was raised for the Poke Run Road Fund.

The next meeting of the Poke Run Presbyterian Women will be held on Tuesday evening, December 3 with Circle 2 serving as leaders and hostess.



Sunday, November 17th “Thank Offering Sunday”

November: Shoes, Shoeboxes and Cash.....A Month of Giving Thanks

On Sunday, November 17, the Presbyterian Women of Poke Run will give thanks and celebrate the gracious gifts we have received through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We extend the invitation to participate in this expression of gratitude to the Poke Run Community. Suggested ways you may express your thanks to God by showing love to your neighbor are:

Contribute to the 2013 Thank Offering; a time honored monetary offering for Presbyterian Women of PCUSA. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletins for your contribution.

Prepare a shoebox of gifts for a child ages 2-14 through Samaritan’s Purse- Operation Christmas Child. Information about Operation Christmas Child is located in the Narthex.

Donate your shoes to Redstone Presbytery’s PW project, “Stop Hunger Now”. The goal is to collect \$10,000 to fight hunger by collecting “worn but not worn out” shoes. A box is provided in the Narthex for your shoe donation.

Join Poke Run’s PW in expressing your thanks to God by showing love to our neighbors in need; “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me.”

The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining sixty percent (60%) is used for new creative ideas for mission, undesignated in advance. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations as demonstrated through their Thank Offering gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children.

\$1.00 Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday, November 23, from 4 – 6:00pm

Be a winner, come to our “Dollar Dinner!” Everyone is invited to a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, November 23, from 4:00 to 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall at Poke Run Church. The charge is only \$1. The dinner is for everyone and will be prepared by Circle 2. Mark your calendar for dinner November 17. Tell friends, tell everyone; Come and share the love of our Lord.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to or “shopped at” the Circle 2 Rummage Sale— It was a great success!



Deacon Meeting

Deacon minutes -- September 9, 2013

The meeting was held at 7pm in the church lounge.

Ruth O'Conner opened the meeting with Quotes from famous people and prayer.

Members present: Laurie Powers, Karen Staymates, Debbie Seighman, Ruth O'Conner, Jan Fitzgerald, Mary Ellen Ross, Sheree Wagner and Debora Ross.

Members excused: Nikki McQuaide.

Treasurers Report:

Balance \$3,397.07

Receipts 1,059.00

Disbursements 420.00

Balance \$4,036.07

Treasurers report was accepted as presented.

Went over the shut-in list and it will be updated.

World Wide Communion, Oct. 6th we will take communion to shut-ins.

We will get names and addresses of college students.

Watkins sale is coming up and Ruth O'Conner and Cindy Brooks will be in charge.

Cookies for service men will be packed on November 2nd.

The Deacons will donate \$200.00 to a needy family.

The meeting was closed at 8:50pm with prayer by Sheree Wagner

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Ross, Secretary.



You can now find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook!

Poke Run's email address: pokerun@windstream.net

Poke Run Deacons



Poke Run Deacons have several projects underway.

Saturday, Nov. 2—9 am. The Deacons will be packing “cookies for the troops” in Fellowship Hall. **YOU CAN HELP**—They need cookies , drop them off at the church some time the week prior (please call ahead to make sure someone will be there,) or bring them to the church Saturday morning by 9a.m. They will be using the “Seal-a-meal” systems for packaging. **If you have one to loan, please contact a Deacon. And they can always use a few extra hands for packing -!**



Wednesday, Nov. 20—is the deadline to order **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**. **If you know of someone who would benefit by receiving a basket, please contact a Deacon or call the Poke Run Office.**

Saturday, Nov. 23—Thanksgiving Basket pick-up. 9-10:30 am.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders and Foodbank Donations— The Deacons will be taking orders for Poinsettia flowers and/or donations to the Foodbank in honor or memory of a loved one. Order deadline will be December 1; watch the bulletin for details.



Thank you to everyone who placed a Watkin’s order with the Deacons—delivery will be in time for holiday baking!



The Deacon’s Giving Tree will be set up in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 17th with the gifts due back to the church by Sunday, December 15th. As you begin your holiday shopping , keep an eye out for good deals and then please stop by and pick up a name or a couple of name tags to help needy families have a wonderful Christmas.



Deacons will be Christmas Caroling on December 15th

A light lunch will be provided after the 11:00 am service before leaving for Caroling. Please come and join the fun. If you know of someone who would enjoy a song-filled visit please let the Deacons know.



From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes September 10, 2013

Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of June 11, 2013

MSC: To accept the Trustee Minutes

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin – Will meet to work out details of budget

Christian ED – Sandy Chappell Sunday School Rally day went very well. Committee met to decide on new curriculum.

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka Bob Wilson's garden project went very well this summer and the Adelphi Kids helped to pick the beans.

Robin will be here this Sunday to speak to both services and Sunday School.

Committee would like Dan Carney to speak to the congregation about the Union Mission of Latrobe. Poke Run will collect things for the Men's Shelter during the Month of October.

Committee is proposing Mission Trip for June 15 or June 22 with Project Crossroads.

Personnel: Bob Thompson & Doug Ross - Doug Ross and Linda Moorhead updated us on Workman's Comp. insurance claim.

Congregational Life: Glenn Ross Will meet on Sept 19 Glenn suggested that all committees put a article in the Ranger each month.

Technology – Josh Porterfield Josh, Pete, and Chad are meeting to plan for the website.

Nominating – Meri Slaugenhaupt & Ron Hileman Committee has been meeting all summer and is very close to completing their recommendations.

Pastor Pete's report:

Old Business: Ron Hileman discussed a prototype of the proposed sign with dimensions.

New Business:

Sue Washburn has completed studies and is ready to be Ordained. She has received a call from Reunion Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant. She would like to have her Ordination Service here at Poke Run.

Josh Porterfield reported on his experience at the Triennium. 5,400 kids from all over the world. Learned about the Gospel of John. Josh is hoping to go back in 3 years and volunteer to help. Josh said it took his faith to a whole new level.

Andy Caldwell would like to partner with us and do a Poke Run Cookbook. Suggests several people sit down with Andy and discuss.

MSC: Ordination Service for Sue Washburn on Sunday September 29, 2013

MSC: Loose offering this Sunday will be used to support Robin's Mission Work

MSC: Dan Carney from the Union Mission in Latrobe to speak on Sunday October 6, 2013.

MSC: for Church Mission trip for the week of June 15 or 22 with Project Crossroads.

MSC: Hillbilly Picnic August 24, 2014.

MSC: To Baptize David Bandurak and Laura Walters children: Gino Athens Howard, Cayden Lee Walters and Arianna Marie Walters on September 29, 2013.

Close with prayer:

Josh Porterfield

Adjourn: 8:50pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: October 8, 2013



Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Congregational Meeting—Pastor Pete’s “Terms of Call” were approved as were the following :

Elders Serving on Session

Linda Chicka (renew)
Cindy McQuaide (renew)
Josh Porterfield (youth – 1 year term)
Chad McCutcheon (new)

Deacons

Jan Fitzgerald (renew)
Sheree Wagner (renew)
Mario Tagliati (new)
Tammy Kelley (new)
Jacob Slaughaupt (Youth – 1 year term)
Erin Bruce (new/filling 2 year unfilled from 2012)

Trustees

Bob Fitzgerald (renew)
Jim Moorhead (renew)
Rick Slaughaupt (new)

2014 Nominating Committee

Becky Lange
Shyrl Stange
Val Hansen
Nancy Kimble
Connor Martin

Auditor

Jan Fitzgerald

Thank you for the hard work of the 2013 Nominating Committee and thank you to all who have been led to serve here at Poke Run Church.

A special thank you to the Congregational Life Committee for the luncheon served after the meeting. Please keep all Poke Run Boards, Committees and Volunteers in your prayers.



The “Youth Choir” will begin practicing on Thursdays at 7pm starting with November 7th – please see Sean O’Neil if you are interested.





Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Union Mission during the month of October. We were pleased to have their director, Dan Carney speak with us early in the month. Their needs continue, if you would like additional information about this very worthy cause, please contact anyone on the Mission & Stewardship Committee or call the Church office.

Please **join us** for a benefit



for **Sandy Chisnell Nemetz**

Saturday, November 2, 2013
from 1 pm to 6:30 pm

United Presbyterian Church in Ingram

30 West Prospect Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15205

\$7/adults \$4/children 12 & under (3 & under are Free)

If you can't come and stay, take-out meals will be available.

Enter to Win!

46" Flat Screen TV Raffle (\$5/each or 3 for \$10)

50/50 Raffle (\$1/each)

Chinese Auction (10 for \$5)



On August 10, 2013 our dear sister and friend, Sandy Chisnell Nemetz suffered a massive brain hemorrhage. She is an active member and deacon of the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram. She continues to be hospitalized, undergoing treatment for additional medical problems that have required surgery. The purpose of this benefit dinner is to raise funds for Sandy and her family to help with their growing medical expenses.

*If you have any questions or would like information on donating to this cause,
please contact: Jan at (412) 352-6059, Nancy at (412) 527-1620 or Bethany at (412) 225-0938.*

The next "Soup for the Soul" will be on Wednesday, Nov. 13th. (Beef Vegetable Soup!!!!)

11:30am—doors open, Noon—"Soup's On"

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of the month October through May. If you would like flyers to distribute, please contact the Church office.

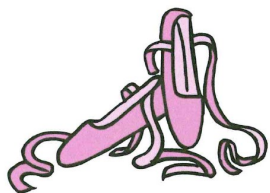
Remember to invite a friend.



If you are able to volunteer a dessert or your time, please contact the Poke Run Office.

JOIN US!

For a fundraiser Dinner to benefit



MYA WILSON

Saturday,
November 9,
2013

2 p.m.
to
7 p.m.

\$12 Donation
per person
Kids 6 and under \$6
at Door or Advance purchase

Poke Run Presbyterian Church
1091 Poke Run Church Road
Apollo, PA 15613



Mya was diagnosed with Type B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on December 7, 2011. She is currently in remission.

Revenue from this fundraiser will be used to help pay current and future medical costs as well as to improve the quality of life for Mya and her family.

Menu:

Ham, Scallop Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Cole Slaw, Bread/Butter, Dessert, Ice Tea, Lemonade and Coffee

Advance Tickets or donations:

Andy Caldwell
P.O. Box 303, Murrys ville,
PA 15668



Poke Run Church is now home to not only our long time friends, Boy Scout Troop 552, but to three Cub Scout Dens as well.

Boy Scout Troop 552 under the direction of Troopmaster Gary McWilliams meets on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Cub Scout Den 6 of Pack 500, led by Amy Heinlein has been meeting on Thursday evenings. The Tiger Cubs of Pack 500 led by Angela Matson, meet on the third Sunday of each month at 6 pm. Cub Scouts led by Dan Kuehn will begin meeting this month on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. What a blessing for Poke Run to be able to provide a meeting place for these groups. We appreciate their presence as much as they appreciate our facility.

SUPPORT BSA TROOP 552 POKE RUN, PA 2ND ANNUAL MULCH SALE

**HIGH QUALITY HARDWOOD MULCH
NATURAL - 3 CUBIC FOOT BAG - \$5.00
RED, BROWN OR BLACK - 2 CUBIC FOOT BAG - \$5.00
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Contact Jeff Wilkinson at 724-335-0710
OR Logan Hileman at 724-325-4786**



The Boy Scout troop is looking for someone to help and advise them while pursuing the "Railroading" merit badge. Contact the Church office if you can help.

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Nov. 2—"Discerning Your Call to Mission" - free workshop at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary—contact office for details

Nov. 7, 8 & 9—"Arts & Crafts Festival " Pine Run Presbyterian Church

Nov. 10—Organ/Piano Concert—Delmont Presbyterian Church 7 pm.

Nov. 10—Irwin Male Chorus "Sacred Music Concert" at New Hope in North Huntingdon PA 7 pm.

Nov. 16—"11th Annual Highlands Fling—Spirit of Giving Gala" for Redstone Highlands— information available in office

Nov. 17—Spaghetti Dinner, Grace Community Church, Lower Burrell, PA

Nov. 24—Pine Springs "2013 Friends Dinner" - Ligonier PA —more info in the office

Poke Run & Redstone Offices will be closed on Nov. 28th & 29th for the holiday.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nov. 2-3 -Christian Art Show —Calvary Lutheran Church, Murrysville

Nov. 2—Spaghetti Dinner for Nancy Kimble's sister Sandy—see flyer on page 10

Nov. 9—Benefit Ham Dinner for Wash. Twp. resident Mya Wilson—see flyer on page 11.

Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at the Wash. Twp. Firehall 11:30am—noon

Blood Pressure Clinic for Seniors— Bring your table service and a covered dish.

COMING UP AT POKE RUN CHURCH IN DECEMBER

Dec. 3 - Quarterly PW Meeting

Dec. 7 - Christian Ed - Annual "Santa's Breakfast"

Dec. 10 - Joint meeting of all Poke Run Boards

Dec. 11 - "Soup for the Soul" - 11:30am.

Dec. 15 - Deacon's Christmas Caroling

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service



Do you receive your Poke Run Ranger by regular mail? If you are able to receive it by email—just think, you would receive it FASTER and view it IN COLOR!

If you would like to discontinue your "snail mailed" copy and receive it by email, please contact the office.



Thank you for faithfully contributing to the Poke Run "Road Fund" - It is estimated the initial paving project will cost approximately \$25,000-\$30,000—Current donations are over \$12,000!

TAKE CARE:
**Please be aware of the "One Way" direction
for traffic around the Church building.**





NOVEMBER 2013

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Communion:

Connie Cauvel &
Cindy Brooks
Offering: PW-



*If you have appropriate News to share in the
Ranger—please submit it to the office. The next
Ranger deadline is November 22nd.*

1
All Saint's Day

2
9am Deacons
making
cookies for
the Troops

3
8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
6pm Cub Scouts
7pm Bible Study
**Daylight Savings Time
ends**

4
7pm Deacons

5
7pm Budget &
Finance

6
6pm Bells
7pm Choir

7
6:30pm
Cub Scouts &
Boy Scouts
7 pm Youth
Choir

8
6pm Cub
Scouts

9
*Shriner's
Benefit Dinner*

10
8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
6pm Cub Scouts
7pm Bible Study

11
7pm Mission
& Steward-
ship

12
7pm Session

13
**11:30am Soup
for the Soul**
6pm Bells
7pm Choir

14
6:30pm
Cub Scouts &
Boy Scouts
7 pm Youth
Choir

15

16

17 Thank Offering
8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
6pm Cub Scouts
7pm Bible Study

18

19

20
6pm Bells
7pm Choir

21
6:30pm
Cub Scouts &
Boy Scouts
7 pm Youth
Choir

22
6pm Cub
Scouts

23
**Deacon Food
Basket Pick-up**
9-10:30am
**\$1.00 Spaghetti
Dinner 4-6pm**

24 Communion
8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
6pm Cub Scouts
7pm Bible Study

25

26
**7:30pm
Thanksgiving
Service**

27

28
**Happy
Thanksgiving**

29

30

PLEASE NOTE:

The Redstone Presbytery and Poke Run Offices will be closed on November 28th & 29th.



Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

Phone: 724-327-5563

E-mail: pokerun@windstream.net

Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26th,

7:30pm

*Mark your calendar and plan to
attend this service. Bring a friend!*



Remember “Daylight Savings Time” ends this weekend,
November 3rd —turn your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday Night!