

# THE RANGER

POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2013

by Pastor Pete

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The picture here is what you will see as you enter the chapel at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. What you do not see is the pulpit to the left, and the circles of chairs, which make this an intimate setting for worship. But today I do not want to focus on what is not visible, but on what is visible, the baptismal font, the table, and the cross. These three can represent for us the fundamentals of the Christian life. They are the visible symbols of our faith, surrounded and nurtured by the invisible but real presence of a worshipping community, without which there is no faith. The Word, spoken from eternity, sustains us with its eternal presence, whether we see it or not.

As you leave the outside world to enter the sacred space of the chapel the first thing to catch your eye is the clear glass baptismal font. This is appropriate as baptism is the entry point of a person into the Christian community. Here sin and evil are renounced. Here promises are made to be faithful. Here Christ is accepted as Savior and Lord. Here one is dedicated, or dedicates oneself, to God for all the days of one's life, if one takes and practices one's vows with integrity. Here one is washed over by the cleansing waters of the flood, one enters the dangerous tides of sin and death and is washed clean. It is more than a splashing of water on a forehead, a cute baby, and smiles and giggles. This is dangerous business and an eternal commitment. One dies with Christ and is raised to new life. It is the crucifixion of an old life and the creation of a new being.

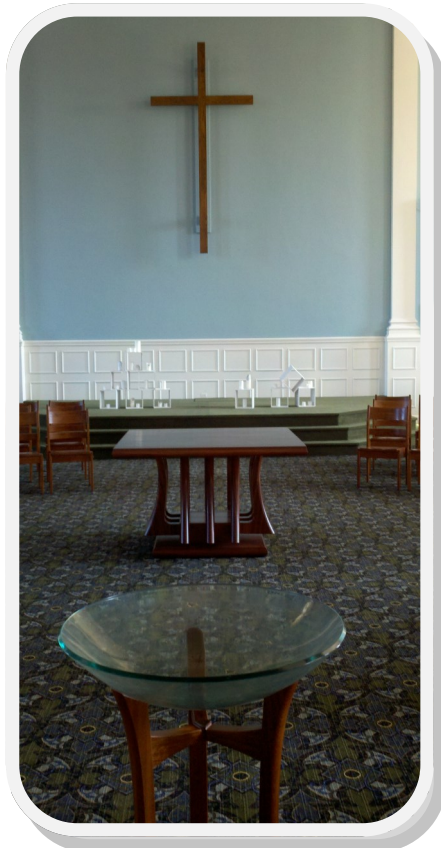
Next comes the table. It is at the same level as the baptismal font.

Here you are invited to share the meal we call "Communion" or "Eucharist" or "The Lord's Supper." This meal, which we symbolize with the cup and the bread, the fruit of the vine and the food drawn from the earth, brings to memory the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. In memory we participate in this ancient ritual. In this meal we anticipate the cosmic struggles that will take place in just hours. In this meal we remember that an innocent human being was sent to die so that we would not. In this meal we come into communion with the entire Christian church. This is a meal we all share. We gather as a single community around the table. It is not an altar, it is a table, a gathering place of grace and sharing and memory.

If we lift our gaze from here we will stand awestruck in front of the cross. Awestruck that is if we connect with the entire force of its undeniable power. Here an innocent man died. I am sure that many an innocent man died on Roman crosses. I am sure that many an innocent man suffered because the political forces of Rome wanted someone to punish. But here, on this cross, an innocent man was crucified by those who knew him to be innocent and had no reason to commit his murder except that they fulfilled their own selfish desires. And today, as we read his story, we read it not as heroes who conquered, but as those who see the story from the victim's point of view. We now see life differently, as never before seen. The entire course of the world changed with a hammer striking a nail. The weak and

forlorn and lonely cry out now against the strong and powerful. The cross represents the power of the victim. Impossible! The powers of the Universe were conquered. I will leave you to mull over that for a while.

And that is the simple story told here. We enter into the Christian life through the cleansing waters of baptism. We gather together to share an ancient and simple meal; memories flow through us. We contemplate the cross and its incomprehensible power. We live, we die to ourselves, and we renounce evil. We are fed by the bread and wine of life, food from God's earth. We are raised anew to eternal life.



## Thank You

**Thank you to our February Greeters:** Boy Scout Troop 552 & Cub Scout Pack 500, Darlene and Bob Thompson, Andy & Eva Bantroch and Jack & Eleanor Zerbini

**Thank you to our February Lectors:**

Jeff Wilkinson, Mary Ellen Ross, Doug Ross and Connor Martin

### PW Meetings

**Circle 2** will be meeting on Thursday, March 28th at 5:45pm, eating at 6:00p.m. then worshipping together. Invite all. The hostess is Connie Cauvel.

**Circle 4** will meet on March 14th for "Lunch Out!"



### Attention "ALL" women of Poke Run

#### The PW (Presbyterian Women) Quarterly Meeting

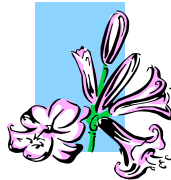
The PW will be meet on March 5th , Tuesday at 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall. The Hostess and the program will be presented by the Participating Women and Circle 4. The program will be a presentation by Leonard & Sharon Scimio about their Mission & Support work with the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

*Join in this time of information & fellowship!*

### Deacons Easter Flowers

Deacons will be taking orders for Easter Flowers through March 17th. Order forms can be found in the bulletin or in the office.

Also the Deacons will be making Food Baskets for Easter. Orders for food baskets are needed by March 17th.

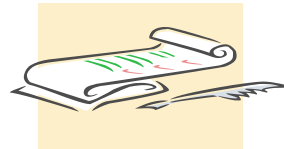


### Information Needed

If you have a new phone number, address, new email, or any changes to your family information please email them to our email address at [pokerun@windstream.net](mailto:pokerun@windstream.net). Anyone who does not have email may send them to the church office or call 724-327-5563 with the updated information. Also, if you know someone outside our congregation who would enjoy receiving the *Ranger* or other Poke Run communications, please let the office know.

## PRAYER LIST

For our prayers, please remember: Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Cliff & Karen Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt James Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Grace Hartman, Steve Morcheid, Robin, Tom Kimble, Grace Young, Amy McQuaide, John Chicka, Mary Margaret (Kiebler) Hott, Bob Bierer, Lil Bowman and those who serve in the military.



## Deacon's Palm Sunday Luncheon

The Poke Run Deacons would like to invite the Congregation to a Palm Sunday luncheon immediately following the 11a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 24th. This Luncheon will be to honor the new church members and served by the Deacon's. Plan to stay for the luncheon and enjoy good food and fellowship.



## WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

There are three remaining Wednesday evening services during Lent. A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow most services. An offering to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program will be taken at each service.

### **\*March 6 - 7:30 @ Union Presbyterian Church**

656 Route 380, Murrysville 724-337-3042

(Directions: turn right on Rt. 380, church on right)

**Preacher:** Rev. Pete Goetschius of Poke Run Presbyterian Church

**Special Music:** Mass Choir

**\*March 13 There is not a Lenten Service this week.**

### **\*March 20-7:30PM @ Plum Creek Presbyterian Church**

(see directions above)

**Musical Presentation—The Sacrifice** \*There will not be any refreshments after this service.

### **\*March 27-Pine Run Presbyterian Church**

(see direction above)

**Drama Presentation—**\*There will not be any refreshments after this service.

We pray that these services will be a blessing in your life and in our community.

**\*\* In the event of bad weather:** none of the services will be canceled, and worshippers are advised to use discretion in making a decision to attend. **\*\***

## *You Are Invited:*



Circle 2 would like to invite everyone to a soup and salad dinner before the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 28th at 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner and fellowship; then we can worship together in commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus and the Apostles at the Maundy Thursday service that begins at 7:30p.m..





Members of Cub Scout Pack 500 and Boy Scout Troop 552 celebrated “Boy Scout Sunday” by serving as lector, ushers and greeters. Both groups meet at Poke Run. Many Poke Run members are alumni of Troop 552 which has been chartered to Poke Run for a long long time. Pictured are Poke Run members and scouts, Jeff Wilkinson and Evan & Logan Hileman.



Deacon Meeting for January 7, 2013

Attendance: Laurie Powers, Debbie Seighman, Nikki McQuaide, Ruth O'connor, Karen Staymates, Mary Ellen Ross, Debora Ross.

Laurie Powers opened with prayer.

No Treasury report.

Thank you card and picture along with donation, received from military that we sent cookies to for Christmas.

Received one thank you for Christmas food basket and one thank you for Christmas caroling.

Donation to Summer Best Camp.

Deacons assigned special friends for 2013.

Communion Schedule given out with instructions.

Set dates for:

Communion for shut ins.

Palm Sunday dinner.

Easter food baskets.

Strawberry Festival.

World Communion.

Cookies for military.

Thanksgiving food baskets.

Christmas Caroling.

Christmas food baskets.

Chose deacon for nominating committee.

Will have Easter flowers in honor and in memory and in lieu of flowers will donate to food bank and also will give Easter flowers to special friends.

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm with prayer by Laurie Powers.

Respectfully submitted

Secretary Mary Ellen Ross

# TGIF

## This year join us as we ask “Jesus, Teach us How to Pray”

on

Good Friday, March 29, 2013

From 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Kids from age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade – come out for a day of laughter and learning as we experience Christ’s love for us and realize that prayer is our lifeline for that love.

Watch for opportunities to volunteer in the Sunday Bulletin.

For more information or to register, call the church office at 724-327-5563. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 1. The theme for this year is “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me”. Please join with Christians around the world to reflect on Jesus’ identification with “the least of these” in Matthew 25 and draw on customs of hospitality found in Leviticus to paint a picture of welcoming the stranger. Put yourself in the shoes of “the stranger” remembering your own feeling of being on the outside – and the blessings of welcoming.



## Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes January 8, 2013

The scheduled meeting of the Session met in the Sunday school rooms @ 7:00 pm. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

**Election of Officers:**

**MSC:** Clerk of Session: Connie Cauvel

**MSC:** Assistant Clerk: Josh Porterfield

**MSC:** Treasurer: Amy Wilkinson

Election of Financial Secretary will take place at the end of March. Glenn Ross has volunteered to count the offering each week. Amy Wilkinson will record the data.

**Elders present:** Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Connie Cauvel - Clerk, Josh Porterfield - Assistant Clerk, Bob Thompson, Glenn Ross, Tim Martin, Cindy McQuaide, Meri Slaugenhaupt, Linda Chicka, Sandy Chappell, Ron Hileman.

**Session Members for Committees**

Budget & Finance - Tim Martin

Christian Ed and Youth Erin Bruce and Sandy Chappell

Mission and Stewardship - Linda Chicka

Personnel - Bob Thompson

Congregational Life Glenn

Technology - Josh Porterfield, Connie Cauvel

Nominating - Ron Hileman, Meri Slaugenhaupt

**MSC:** To approve the Session Minutes of December 11, 2012

**MSC:** To accept the Deacon Minutes of December 3, 2012

**MSC:** To accept the Trustee Minutes of November 29, 2012

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget & Finance:** Tim Martin

UBS is coming to February Meeting to share updates on investments

**Mission and Stewardship:** Linda Chicka

Robin was unable to come because of bad weather. Soup for the Soul will be on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month

**Congregational Life:** Glenn Ross

Anyone is welcome to join this committee it meets the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM

**Technology:** Committee will meet Monday January 21, 2013



**Pastor Pete's report: January 2013**

Ordination of new officers – Dec. 9, 2012. Communion to Grace Young – Dec. 11, 2012. Soup for the Soul – Dec. 12, 2012. 2 Christmas Eve Services with Communion.

**Old Business:**

2013 Calendar was discussed and Bible School will be Sunday July 21 - Thursday July 25 and program Sunday July 28 at the 11:00 Service

**MSC:** Approve dates for 2013 calendar.

**New Business:**

Pete discussed the idea of meeting once a month after the service ask questions pertaining to his Sermon.

**MSC:** To extend Nadene Bruce's service as Financial Secretary for three weeks with pay to include the audit.

**MSC:** Funeral dinners served by PW (Presbyterian Women) will held at Poke Run only, unless approved by Session.

**MSC:** Erin Bruce will be our volunteer Sunday School Coordinator

**MSC:** February 3, 2013 will be Scout Sunday

Close with prayer: Linda Chicka

Adjourn: 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: February 12, 2013



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

**Please join us for our monthly free**

*Community*

*"Soup for the Soul"*

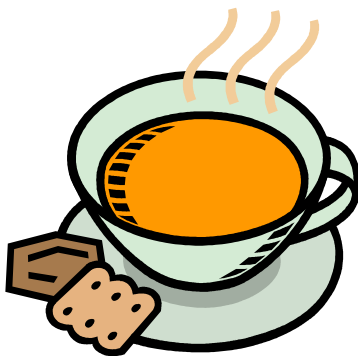
*Luncheon*

**AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

**March 27, 2013**

Doors open at 11:30am

Soup's on at NOON!



# ATTENTION POKE RUN YOUTH

**.....and the people who love you!**

**Poke Run Youth Group** .....The Jr/Sr High Youth Group has been invited to join the Vandergrift Presbyterian Youth Group during our time of transition.

Coming Up:

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12:45 - 2:00PM

March 10<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

March 17<sup>th</sup> - Famine Presentation @11:00 AM Worship Service

March 22 - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Famine Overnight - 7:00 PM Friday to 7:00 PM

All meetings will be held at Vandergrift Presbyterian Church, 193 Washington Ave, Vandergrift, PA

For more information, please contact Laurie Martin at 724-727-3361 or Bev Pounds at 724-845-7661.

## **Poke Run Annual “TGIF” Good Friday program:**

This year's theme is “Jesus, Teach Us How to Pray.” March 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30a.m. - 1p.m.

## **Poke Run Youth Sunday School**

Continues to meet each Sunday at 10:00 AM with classes for all ages.

**Poke Run Youth Choir** - Tuesday nights 7p.m.

**and ....HOT OFF THE PRESS:**

**Pine Springs Camp** – The 2013 Pine Springs Camp schedule is available! And Poke Run remains dedicated to sending kids to PSC! Contact the office for more information.

## ***“2013 Youth Triennium”***

The 2013 Youth Triennium will be held on July 16-20 at Perdue University. Youth entering High School (9<sup>th</sup> grade) thru Graduating Seniors are eligible. Please visit their website for more information: <http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org> **Scholarships are available, please call the office if interested.**

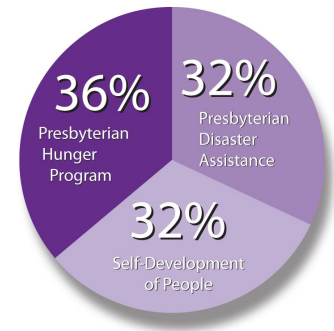
**Pine Springs Skates!!!** Come enjoy a free skating session on Pine Springs Camp (PSC) Bring a friend and learn more about what you could be doing this summer. PSC is offering skating sessions in both the Redstone and Washington Presbyteries. We can't wait to see you!

March 10, Center Ice, Delmont PA—3:30-5:30p.m. FREE ADMISSION \$1.50 SKATE RENTAL



## Poke Run Mission Trip – To Be Determined by Linda Chicka

Plans for the 2013 Poke Run Mission trip were put on hold last fall due to the uncertainty of my work schedule and the lack of an on-site leader for the trip. Since January, I have had several inquiries as to whether Poke Run will be going to Marion Virginia to participate with Project Crossroads this summer. After making a phone call to Linda and Mark Stranski, the coordinators of the project, the only remaining weeks are August 18 and after. If anyone is interested participating in a mission trip the week of August 18 or after, please contact the church office at 724-327-5563 or Linda Chicka at 724-442-3688 or [lgchicka@gmail.com](mailto:lgchicka@gmail.com). Responses are needed by April 1.

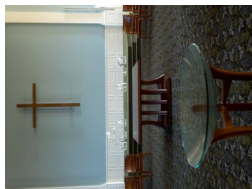


## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



**“Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God, and to Us.”**

During the Lenten season each year since 1949, the Presbyterian Church USA along with millions of other Christians, collect for The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Proceeds from the offering support the ministries of Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This year's offering is particularly critical as our east coast works to recover from Hurricane Sandy.



We have much to be thankful for in our daily lives. Most of us will never experience the hardships that we have heard about this past year in the news. But we can be part of the healing process and help those in need by sharing some of the wealth that God has given us. As we go through this season of internal reflection, let us consider how we can be part of the hope for those suffering around the world.

Please give generously to The One Great Hour of Sharing. Offering envelopes are available in the pews and coin banks are in the Narthex. On several Sundays during church, you will hear about some of the ways that past offerings have been used to support those in need around the world. Offerings will be accepted throughout Lent and the final collection of the coin banks and offering envelopes will take place on Easter Sunday, March 31 at the 11:00a.m. Worship Service. Please give generously!

## Poke Run Community Garden to Begin This Spring



The Mission and Stewardship Committee is planning to begin a Community Garden this spring which will provide the Westmoreland County Food Bank, Adelphoi Village residents at the Miller Home in Apollo, and local residents with fresh produce this summer. Bob Wilson has generously provided a piece of land on his property to begin the garden later this spring. The committee will be working with the residents of the Miller Home to plan, plant, till, weed and reap the garden throughout the summer and fall. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Bob Wilson or the church office.



### Poke Run Food Bank Volunteers for April 20

The next date for helping at the Westmoreland County Food Bank will be Saturday, April 20. Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older. The work consists of packing food boxes for Senior Citizens on a conveyer belt assembly line. 50 or 60 individuals are needed to accomplish packing some 1400-1600 boxes between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. Jobs include packers, restockers, counters, and box cleanup. New volunteers should arrive around 8:30 to complete paperwork and receive a brief orientation prior to work beginning at 9:00a.m. For more information, or if you plan to attend, please call Linda Chicka or Bob Wilson, or contact the church office.

**Daylight Saving Time  
begins March 10th. Set  
your clocks ahead!**



### Ranger Deadline for April:

**March 18th—Thank you for  
your “CONTINUED” patience  
with the office.....Amy**

### DO YOU REMEMBER?????

20 Years ago—March 1993—The Poke Run Congregation was planning Bus Transportation to the *Billy Graham Crusade* planned for the first week of June to be held at Three Rivers Stadium!



# Poke Run Church

# March 2013

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Offering:</b> Session Communion: 24—Sandy Chappell & Debbie Seighman	28—Ron Hileman & Sheree Wagner	31—Tim Martin & Ruth O'Connor			1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	4 7pm Deacons	5 7:30pm PW Mtg. 7pm Budget & Finance 7pm Youth Choir	6 7:30pm @Union	7 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir 6:30pm SCOUTS	8	9 Set your clocks ahead tonight!
10 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	11 7pm Mission & Stewardship	12 7pm Session 7pm Youth Choir	13	14 Circle 4 "Lunch Out" 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir 6:30pm SCOUTS	15	16
17 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	18	19 7pm Youth Choir	20	21 10 Congregational Life 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir 6:30pm SCOUTS	22	23 Easter Basket Pick-Up
24 <b>Communion</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 & 11 Worship Luncheon for All 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	25	26 7pm Youth Choir	27 NOON— Soup for the Soul	28 <b>Communion</b> Maundy Thursday 5:45 Dinner 7:30—Worship	29 TGIF W o r k s h o p 8:30am—1pm	30
31 <i>Communion</i>  <b>Easter</b> Sunrise 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study						



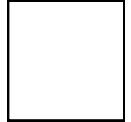
Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.

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www.pokerunchurch.com



Address Service Requested

## Your invited to our Easter Services

**March 24th Palm Sunday Service, 8:30am and 11am**

**March 28th, Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30pm**

**March 29th, Good Friday Youth Workshop 8:30am to 1:00pm**

### **Easter Sunday Services, March 31st**

**Easter Sunrise Service**

**Worship at 8:30am and 11am**

**Sunday School at 9:45am**

