

The Ranger

by Pastor Pete



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I have long been fascinated by the fact that Jesus was crucified by the Jewish Sanhedrin and a Roman political figure. What could this man, obviously innocent of any capital crime have done to so anger them that they reacted in one case in a murderous rage, and in the other a disinterested self interest. We could search a long time I suspect among the dusty tombs of the inner workings of their minds and never discover the so-called real reasons for so violent a reaction to the teachings of peace. I have my own theory. It was simple fear, and self preservation.

Fear, really, what did they have to fear from this Jewish peasant? To discover this I will outline a modern replay of what might happen if someone like Jesus showed up in a local community similar to one of the towns of ancient Israel. We could model it somewhat on Nazareth in Galilee. Nazareth is nearly unknown in history books but we do know that Galilee was a hotbed of sedition and violence. In the talk of the time, "Nothing good came out of Nazareth." With this as a model we could use any small town, or small community known for its crime, poverty, and general poor health standards. It will be a place of overuse of alcohol, drug addiction, teen age pregnancies, STD's, and all that goes with poverty and degeneration of human life.

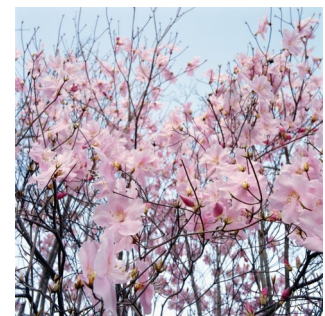
Jesus, or someone like him takes up residence in this town. Perhaps it is a small band of Christians trying disparately, and effectively, to follow in Jesus' footsteps. What will happen to them? Well, they will not be immune to the social ills around them. Life will be

challenging. But let's agree that at some point they become effective witness to the healing power of Jesus. They survive robberies and break-ins and drive-by shootings and avoid alcohol and drug habits and live moral lives. At some point this has its good effects. Alcohol use goes down, drug dealers begin to struggle to make ends meet. That in itself will be a problem that points to the greater problem. Let's suppose that alcohol use is the first social evil to be miraculously eliminated, and Christianity thrives on miracles. Now what? This is a good thing! Estimates vary but range from stating that two thirds to three fourths of the people admitted to hospitals are admitted for some reason related to alcohol abuse. Let's say that over a period of say, three years, the number of people showing up in hospitals decreases by seventy percent. Think what would happen if a hospital's revenue decreased by seventy percent. Not many people at the hospital would be happy. Expand this to across the nation and there would be a massive crisis.

It shouldn't be hard to see where this is going. If turf wars between local gangs and ganstas came to an abrupt end ... well, suppose one night there were no 911 calls, not one. One night and the local law enforcement would sigh in relief and have a welcome night off, so to speak. But then, a second night with no 911 calls, no emergencies, no stabbings, no drug deals to intersect. Then a third, and a fourth. Authorities would begin to worry. Empty emergency rooms and empty jails are not good for business. Like the

hospital, expand this to the whole nation. While we're at it let's have no unwanted pregnancies; no need for social services. Jesus' vision would be horror, for the political and religious world. And if we only bought what we truly needed, so long Walmart.

All we have to do is stop and think a moment of the logical outcome of Jesus' teaching and it is not at all difficult to see why he was executed. Self preservation. The book of Hebrews gets it. If Jesus is the one High Priest in whom every Christian is a priest, there is no need for an established priesthood. There is no need for a sacrificial system and all the trappings that go with it. There is only need for a simple loving community in which people care for each other and anyone whom they discover to be in need. We have already explored what this community would do to business, medical, and political power. Christianity, when truly practiced is a highly subversive system, tolerated only when effectively neutered by a bland caricature of what it can be. It's not at all surprising that Jesus was crucified.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who served during the Worship Services in March.

Our March Greeters: Douglas & Debora Ross, Tom & Nancy Kimble, Heidi and Logan Hileman, and Jon & Sheree Wagner.

Our March Lectors: Walt Lange, Connie Cauvel, Cindy McQuaide, Tom Kimble and Erin Bruce.



"Graduation Sunday" is May 12th. Please contact the Church Office by April 20th, if you have a graduate from High School or College to honor this year.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

April 6th **Chicken 'n Bicuits Dinner 4-6:30pm**, Spring Church Lutheran Church

April 6th **Community Roast Beef Dinner 4-7pm**, Delmont Presbyterian Church

April 6th Apollo Lion's **Annual Health Awareness Screening**, 7am—10am, Apollo First Lutheran Church

April 20th **Salem Hill Stomper 5K & 10K**, Salem Lutheran Church, Delmont—American Cancer Society

April 27th **Mystery Dinner Theater 5:30pm**, Union Presbyterian Church, Washington, Twp.



Please remember in your prayers: Dolly Remaley, Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Karen Lightner, Clifford Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Grace Hartman, Steve Morcheid, Robin, Tom Kimble, Grace Young, Amy McQuaide, John Chicka, Bob Bierer, Lil Bowman, Pat Lengauer, Norm Reinhart, Nelson Thompson and those who serve in the military.

Presbyterian Women

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle 2: will meet on April 18 at 7:00pm at the home of Valerie Hansen, the leader will be Linda Moorhead.

Circle 4: will meet April 11 at 12:00pm. The hostess will be Mildred Striner and the leader will be Eleanor Zerbini.

Spring Gathering April 13th - 9-2:30pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, PA - Deadline to register, April 6— Contact Laurie Martin if interested: 724-727-3361.

TRUSTEE WORK DAY—APRIL 6TH, 8:30—1PM

Jobs for all ages and skills—Come and help!

LOST AND FOUND

As we get closer to Community Dinner time, you might be looking for that lost pie plate! Please be aware that there are numerous dishes, including pie plates, unclaimed in the downstairs storage room. In addition, there are a couple stray glass loaf pans sitting on the top of the refrigerator in the upstairs Fellowship area. ALSO, there is a lovely little girls white fur coat, size S in the narthex.



WOW, can you imagine anyone working at a job for the church for seventy years, yes that is 70 years. Well that is what one of our most dedicated and valued members has accomplished for Poke Run. That person is none other than Ethel Jean (Tomer) Brewer. She held the job of Sunday school treasurer for all those years and then became assistant financial secretary after the Sunday school treasury was incorporated into the main church treasury. She also has the record of "most attended" for Sunday school and church and has the pins to prove it. Every year a person having perfect Sunday school attendance would receive a pin and an attachment to that pin every year after until they no longer supply them. Hers must go at least to her knees. The Congregational Life committee honored her with a special dinner in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday March 10th which was attended by her family and a very large number of well wishers. She was presented with a beautiful silk flower arrangement and a gift from the church. Dinner consisted of chicken, potato salad, baked beans, pickled eggs, coleslaw, dinner rolls, beverages and a beautiful sheet cake commending her years as Sunday school treasurer. Several members made comments both humorous and serious about their relationship with Ethel over the years. She certainly cultivated the friendships of many people. However it was emphasized that this was in no way a celebration of her retirement but only to remind her of her continued commitment to Poke Run. We all LOVE you Ethel, and our lives are much richer because of knowing you. May God always be at your side.

Submitted by the Congregational Life Committee

Pine Springs Camp

PAGE 4

Brochures are now available on-line or in the church office for attending camp at Pine Springs this summer. Again, Poke Run will offer full camperships for anyone wishing to attend retreats or summer camp. Please contact the church office (724-327-5563) or Laurie Martin (724-727-3361) if you are interested.

Other upcoming and exciting events at Pine Springs are:

Women in the Woods Retreat – April 5

Mountain Bike Race – May 4

Pine Springs is most grateful for the many forms of support that Poke Run has offered for many years. Please continue to keep the ministry of Pine Springs Camp in your prayers and actions.



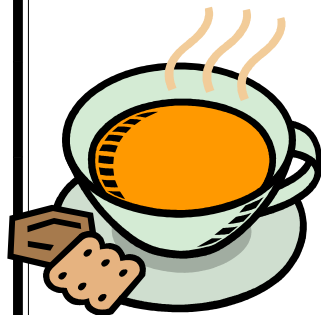
Please join us for our monthly free

Community

“Soup for the Soul”

Luncheon

AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!



April 24, 2013

Doors open at 11:30am

Soup's on at NOON!

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. 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.**

DIRECTORY UPDATE

The office has been contacting those who are listed in the Church Directory (by snail mail or email) to update church records. If you have not been contacted, it might be because your information has not been listed—contact the office to be certain you are not missed!

724-327-5563. We are hoping to have an updated Directory by the end of April.



DEACON'S MINUTES – February 4, 2013

The meeting was held at 7:00pm in the church lounge.

Members Present:

Debora Ross, Ruth O'Connor, Laurie Powers, Mary Ellen Ross and Pastor Pete Goetschius.

Treasurers Report:

Balance \$4,335.44

Receipts 818.00

Total 5,153.44

Disbursements ; 503.00

Balance 2/01/13 \$4650.44

Pastor Pete opened the meeting with prayer.

Thankyou received from Andy for Christmas cookies sent to military.

Meals were made and delivered to shut-ins.

Palm Sunday dinner will be discussed at March meeting.

Suggested that cards be sent to Thelma McCutcheon on her 85th birthday Feb. 8, 2013.

Have heart shaped cookies for shut-ins on Sunday Feb. 10, 2013 along with communion.

Pastor Pete closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ellen Ross

Mary Ellen Ross, Secretary

POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

SESSION

Sandy Chappell (15)
 Ron Hileman (15)
 Bob Thompson (15)
 Connie Cauvel, Clerk (14)*
 Meri Slaughaupt (14)
 Tim Martin (14)
 Glenn Ross (13)
 Linda Chicka (13)
 Cindy McQuaide (13)
 Josh Porterfield (13) (Youth),
 Assistant Clerk

BUDGET & FINANCE

Tim Martin, Ch.
 Linda Chicka
 Bob Fitzgerald
 Valerie Hansen
 Doug Ross
 Ruth O'Connor
 Amy Wilkinson (staff)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Glenn Ross, Ch.
 Freda Bowman
 Connie Cauvel
 Grace Hartman
 Walt Lange
 Mary Ellen Ross
 Karen Staymates
 Amy Wilkinson
 Eleanor Zerbini

PERSONNEL

Doug Ross, Ch.
 Freda Bowman
 Laurie Martin
 Cindy McQuaide
 Linda Moorhead
 Bob Thompson

DEACONS

Nikki McQuaide (15)
 Debora Ross (15)
 Cindy Brooks (14)*
 Mary Ellen Ross (14)* Secretary
 Karen Staymates (14)
 Debbie Seighman. (14)
 Laurie Powers, Moderator (13)*
 Jan Fitzgerald (13)
 Ruthie O'Connor, Vice Mod (13)
 Sheree Wagner, Treasurer (13)
 Abbey Ballas (13) Youth

NOMINATING

Ron Hileman, Ch.
 Chad McCutcheon
 Laurie Martin
 Linda Moorhead
 Meri Slaughaupt
 Jeffrey Wilkinson

CHRISTIAN ED

Erin Bruce, Ch.
 Sandy Chappell
 Linda Chicka
 Laurie Martin

SEXTON (volunteers)

Jim Moorhead
 Bob Wilson
 Glenn Ross

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Lil Bowman
 Connie Cauvel
 Linda Chicka
 Rev. Pete Goetschius
 Chad McCutcheon
 Josh Porterfield
 Bob Wilson

TRUSTEES

Vince Goodiski (15)*
 Dave Wilkinson (15)*
 Robert Wilson (15)
 Doug Ross, V. Pres. (14)*
 Barry Kelley, Sec. (14)*
 Walt Lange (14)
 Robert Fitzgerald (13)
 Jim Moorhead (13)
 Mario Tagliati, Pres. (13)*

SCOUT COORDINATOR

Cal McCutcheon

HABITAT

Laurie Powers

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

Linda Chicka, Ch.
 Walt Lange
 Meri Slaughaupt
 Mario Tagliati
 Robert Wilson

AUDITORS

Rick Slaughaupt (16)
 Shyrl Stange (15)
 Glenn Ross (14)
 Mardi Zerbini (13)

P.W. OFFICERS

Laurie Martin, Moderator
 Amy Wilkinson, V. Moderator
 Laurie Powers, Treasurer
 Eleanor Zerbini, Secretary

TREASURER

Amy Wilkinson

Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes

Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes February 12, 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.

Elders present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Connie Cauvel - Clerk, Bob Thompson, Glenn Ross, Tim Martin, Meri Slaugenhaupt, Sandy Chappell, Ron Hileman.

Elders Excused: Cindy McQuaide, Linda Chicka, and Josh Porterfield

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of January 8, 2013

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes of January 7, 2013

Treasurer's Report – Amy Wilkinson

Finished year \$15,900 in Black 10% Mission budget also added \$1500 \$550 First Fruits

MSC: to accept Treasurer Report

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin

Leslie Craven from UBS is coming to March meeting (March 5)

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka

One Great Hour of Sharing starts this week. Visits to Adelphoi in Apollo continue on the third Thursday of the month. Bob Wilson is planning a community garden at his house that would involve the Adelphoi kids. Still considering Mission Trip in August.

Personnel: Doug Ross

Lil will be off until at least Feb. 26 with the possibility of light duty pending Dr. advice. Amy Wilkinson will substitute in the office until Lil returns. Our prayers go out to Lil during her difficult recovery

Congregational Life: Glenn Ross

Committee will provide refreshments after Lenten Service after Feb. 20 Service. Congregation should write suggestions on the I Wish Folders

Pastor Pete's report: February 2013

Soup for the Soul – Jan 23 - Cub Scout Sunday Communion Feb.. 3 Communion to Patty Lengauer Feb 12. Last required Dr. of Ministry Course is completed - next step is a project that could take 1 or 2 years

Old Business:

Financial Review Tim Martin is looking for someone to review our financial recording.

New Business:

Discussed new mailing of post cards which will market Church activities: TGIF Soup for the Soul Cemetery and VBS. Doug Ross will discuss with Valerie Hansen

Glenn Ross discussed the condition of our road and parking lot, we will ask Trustees to take look at road and consider establishing a "Road Fund."

MSC: TGIF (Thank Goodness it is Friday) March 29, 2013 program for the children.

MSC: Nancy Goodiski Wedding June 13, 2013

Close with prayer: Connie Cauvel

Adjourn: 8:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: March 12, 2013



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

NEW!!!

Congregational Life Committee has, as you have noticed, discontinued the weekly sign in sheets, at least temporarily. In its place the communion card registration has been resurrected. This system was used probably more than a decade ago and at that time was successful to the extent of knowing how often our members were attending and participating in the worship services. This, the committee feels, is important in helping to know and keep in touch with the church membership. Please sign a card and put it in the collection plate when you participate in communion.

I WISH!!!!!!

We would also like to hear from you. Please use the “I Wish” folders found in the pew racks or write it on a piece of paper and give us your comments on what is on your mind. We would like to hear your ideas on new programs you would like to see implemented here at Poke Run, enhancements to our worship services, ways we could be of help to you, anything at all, but please keep it as positive as possible. Our aim is to reach out to you in anyway we can and also to help our absent members find their way back into the fold. You are always welcome at our meetings if you would like to talk with us. Please help us help you. We remain your servants in Christ. – Congregational Life Committee.

NEWS

Family & Friends, Spreading some joyous news. MEI (McCutcheon Enterprise) has been named the NE USA's 2012 Drilling & Well Services Company of the Year by the Oil & Gas Awards. Please check out the press release below & visit this link to learn more:<http://completewaste-mgmt.com/2013/03/mei-named-drilling-well-services-company-of-the-year/> or you can visit our Facebook or LinkedIn pages from the links in my email signature. We are honored and humbled to have received this award. It is a testament to our employees, who, as my father has always said, make the difference in business. People. Performance. Progress. It's the MEI way. submitted



Boy Scout Troop 552, chartered to Poke Run, took 2nd Place overall at the River Valley Klondike Derby! It was a cold weekend for camping—but the scouts WERE PREPARED! Troop 552 also took First Place at the River Valley First Aid Meet. We're fortunate to have such an active troop of boys in our midst. The troop includes Poke Run members Jeff Wilkinson and Logan Hileman as scouts and Ron Hileman, Dave & Patrick Wilkinson as registered adults.
submitted

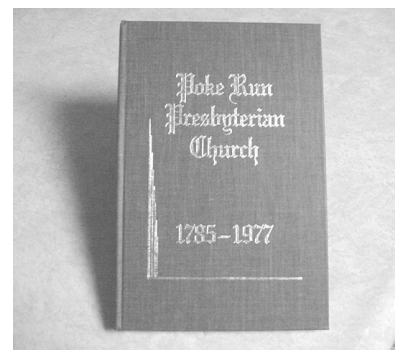
*If you have appropriate News to share in the
Poke Run Ranger—please submit it to the office.
The next Ranger deadline is April 22, 2013.*

**POKE RUN CHURCH
ROAST BEEF
COMMUNITY DINNER
MAY 4, 2013
FROM 4 TO 7 PM
ADULTS \$12.00
CHILDREN \$3.00
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL
724-396-3227**



Poke Run Church History Books Available

Poke Run Presbyterian Church has a rich and fascinating history. Established almost 220 years ago, it has been the worship center for many generations of families that have moved into this area over the past two centuries. If you have been curious about the history of our church, you'll want to pick up a copy of "The History of Poke Run Presbyterian Church 1785-1977." This book is a much expanded revision of the original "Poke Run Presbyterian History 1785-1940." Copyrighted and released in 1977, it covers many fascinating facts and information on the development of Poke Run. Among other things it includes biographies of Poke Run's pastors, the history of many organizations associated with the church, pictures of many church group members and special events, information about the buildings and property, and much more. This book will be of particular interest to genealogy buffs as it not only lists the Communicant members of Poke Run as recorded from August 1, 1940 through September 7 1977, but it also provides the names of many individuals involved in the activities and worship of the Church since its establishment in 1785. Copies of this book are still available for only \$5.00 and can be purchased in the church office. They make great gifts and keepsakes, and you will learn many fascinating facts about our church history. Checks can be made out to "Poke Run Presbyterian Church."



Can you Help? -

Genealogy Request to the Office!!!

Recently, a Mr. Spencer Cowan from Minneapolis, MN contacted the church office while tracing his family roots in Westmoreland County, PA. He is particularly interested in the surnames Townsend, Cowan, Dickey, Shoemaker, Sample (Semple), McClellan, Thomson, and Stevenson indicating that "members of these families may have been in and around Apollo beginning in the late 1700's until roughly 1870." He is interested in any information that can be provided.

Contact the office for Mr. Cowan's information.

724-327-5633 or pokerun@windstream.net

Cemetery Preparations for Memorial Day

With Memorial Day just a short 2 months away, we want to begin our preparations for placing flowers on our veteran's graves. Over the past several years in our cemetery, we have located and marked almost 150 graves of men and women who have served in our armed forces from wars ranging from the Revolutionary to the Vietnam Wars. Members of the Trustees, Boy Scout Troup #552, and the Congregation will be planting memorial flowers in tribute of these servicemen and women on the evening of Thursday, May 23 beginning at 6:00p.m. If you would like to assist with this project, please see Linda Chicka.



Recognizing our Service Men and Women

Our congregation has many men and women who have served in the military. We would like to acknowledge all our church members who have given service to our county, living or deceased. Please let us know if you or any of your family have served, and the timeframe and branch of the military in which they were active. Please call or email the office with this information, or Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or lgchicka@gmail.com.

2013 Mission Trip Cancelled- - Alternative Plans Formed

Due to various scheduling conflicts, the Mission and Stewardship Committee has decided to not participate in the trip to Marion, Virginia to work with Project Crossroads this summer. Instead, the committee members are discussing service projects that are available locally. We are open to suggestions for small home projects and repairs which can't be done by home owners due to financial or physical ability constraints. The projects accepted will be determined by our volunteer workers' skill levels and available time, and the homeowner's physical and/or financial needs. Some possible projects could include minor construction repairs, painting, yard work cleanup, simple plumbing repairs, etc. Please contact the office or a committee member to volunteer your time and skills or to suggest a potential project. Committee members include Linda Chicka, Walt Lange, Meri Slaughaupt, Mario Tagliati, Bob Wilson and Rev. Pete.

VOLUNTEER WITH POKE RUN CHURCH AT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOODBANK!

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

Saturday April 20th, 9am-noon—Foodbank warehouse in Delmont, PA

Offering - Trustees

April 2013

“.....And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14

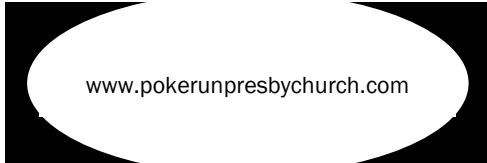
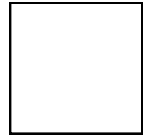
POKE RUN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 DEACONS 7pm	2 BUDGET & FINANCE 7pm	3 NO CHOIR	4 6:30 SCOUTS	5	6 TRUSTEE WORK DAY—8:30am – 1pm
7 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 7pm BIBLE STUDY	8 MISSION & STEWARDSHIP 7pm	9 SESSION 7pm	10 6pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR	11 6:30 SCOUTS	12	13
14 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 7pm BIBLE STUDY	15	16	17 6pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR	18 10:30am CONGR LIFE 6:30 SCOUTS	19	20 WESTMD COUNTY FOODBANK 9am –noon
21 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 7pm BIBLE STUDY	22	23	24 11:30 SOUP 6pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR	25 6:30 SCOUTS 7pm TRUSTEES	26	27
28 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 7pm BIBLE STUDY	29	30	The May Ranger deadline is April 22nd!			

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

www.pokerun@windstream.net



POKE RUN YOUTH

Poke Run Sunday School

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

Poke Run Youth Choir - Call the office for schedule.

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 Purdue University. Youth entering High School (9th 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.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – 2013 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – July 21 – 26th