

" ... then his brother's wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.' And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.' " (Deuteronomy 25:9-10)

OK! So What?

The Bible is full of these kinds of weird, confusing, and unintelligible stories, quotes, and scenes.

OK, so what?

That just seems all the more reason not to read it, much less spend a lot of time studying it. When it comes to "Bible Study" we begin with at least two strikes, the word "Bible" which brings forth all kinds of images, like the confusing quote above. The Bible itself seems ancient and irrelevant in today's world. The second strike is the word "study." Our school experiences have molded us into people who run from study. Study is hard work. And it takes time, and time is something we would rather give to other more exciting pass times.

Still, I think a case can be made for "Bible Study." I will lay out three primary reasons and one derivative reason for spending time in Scripture with other people. I hope to show that there are rich rewards for those persons who put some energy into these ancient texts. There is more there than meets the eye. Like the oceans of the world, more lies beneath the surface than upon it.

First of all we have been given a fascinating book. I will agree that much of it seems at first obscure but that is its draw. What at first seems to be mysterious and foreign slowly comes to life as we sit with it and let it reveal its message to us. Some of its stories are downright amusing, some are violent, some are sexy, and some still baffle us. Some we may never unravel. We may never understand them. It is like a dearly loved spouse. We know much, yet, there is much we do not know, and much we will never know. Human beings are much too deep to fully comprehend. The same can be said of Scripture, which from time to time exposes the mind of God through the minds of its human writers. The more we learn the more curious we become and the more we comprehend. It becomes a circular quest that spirals into infinity.

Secondly, there is the intellectual challenge. Oh, I know, you had enough of that in school, or at work, or in raising children. All of us though thrive on puzzles. We are incurably curious and find a degree of happiness in solving mysteries. If you are still alive you know this. I am not talking about gaining knowledge or adding a few facts to your brain. I am looking at this like a kind of mental exercise that can gently awaken you to new ways of thinking and being in the world which are invigorating. When you figure out what these crazy people were up too, and some of them are certifiably insane, and all of them are selfish and crafty and ego centered, then a light comes on. This is something you must experience for yourself.

Finally, the first two reasons lead to a hidden wisdom that comes with time -- time spent puzzling over the rambling and chaotic words of Scripture and suddenly seeing the big picture. God is gracious, infinitely gracious. Judgment flows into grace and grace wins. This opens to you a life that is filled with love and hope, replacing anxiety and fear.

I said that there was one derivative reward from studying Scripture. In this time when people communicate primarily by text, electronically, when two people can be in the same room and never speak a word to each other, we need to reconnect, speaking face to face. This can happen when we sit together and read and discuss and challenge and support each other in what we naively call "Bible Study" but is so much more. Gathered in the presence of God we come into fuller fellowship with each other and the Divine.

Come and join us.....Pastor Pete



2013

The Ranger

Poke Run
Presbyterian
Church



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For our prayers

Dolly Remaley, Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Karen Lightner, Clifford Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Hartman family, Steve Morcheid, Robin, Tom Kimble, Grace Young, Amy McQuaide, Bob Bierer, Lil Bowman, Pat Lengauer, Norm Reinhart, Nelson Thompson, Joanne Fitzsimmons, Jim Thompson, Eugene Witt, Nadene Bruce, Iris Kiebler, Berenice Jones, Cathy Washburn, Kristen Fairbaugh, Jean Campbell and those who serve in the military.



From the family of Bill Endlich -

"Thank you for your thoughts and the beautiful flowers. And also for the heartfelt service."



Thank You

Thank you to our August Greeters: Amy & Lizzy Wilkinson, Miriam Painter & Barbi Findley, Connie Cauvel & Jeff Wilkinson, and Andy & Eva Bantroch

Thank you to our August Lectors: Erin Bruce, Cindy McQuaide, Bob Fitzgerald and Mary Ellen Ross



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.

"Soup for the Soul" will resume in October. 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.



POKE RUN COMMUNITY DINNER

OCTOBER 5, 2013

4 TO 7 PM

ADULTS \$12.00

CHILDREN \$3.00

**TAKE OUT'S AVAILABLE
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL**

724-396-3227

OR

724-327-5563

**Check the weekly bulletins for opportunities
to volunteer at this very special event.**



Nominating Committee

Please keep Poke Run and the Nominating Committee in your prayers as we contact members to serve God and our Church, on Session, the Deacons and Trustees. Thank you,

Presbyterian Women September Meetings—PW

The PW Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3 at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. The Hostess will be Circle 4 and the program will be a presentation on Poke Run Church history. All are welcome.

Circle 4 will meet on Thursday, September 12 at 12:00pm. The hostess will be Jane Blair and the leader will be Miriam Painter.

Circle 2 will meet on Thursday, September 19 at 7:00pm. The hostess is Heidi Hielman and the leader will be Laurie Martin.

Poke Run PW would like to thank everyone who contributed to the "Picnic Table" in August. If you didn't make it to the picnic—you missed out on some YUMMY treats—don't miss it next year!!!!

Circle 2's "Rummage Sale" will be coming up in October—don't throw anything good away—consider donating it to the sale!



Congregational Life Committee reports:

The Congregational Life Committee will resume their monthly meetings on September 19th at 10am. We are always looking forward to new members so please give some thought to joining us. New thoughts and ideas on the caring of the membership of our congregation are always welcome. Please feel free to talk with us.
Congregational Life Chairman -- Glenn Ross

From the Church Office:

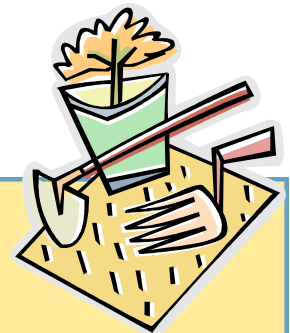
Please continue to keep church secretary Lillian Bowman in your prayers. Amy Wilkinson will continue to work in the office most days from 9am—2pm. It is still suggested that you give the office a call before coming up to the church to make sure someone is there for you.



Redstone Presbytery and the church office will be closed on Labor Day, September 2nd. If there is an emergency please call Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.



**Boy Scouts STILL Selling Mulch -
now for your fall gardening**



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 DYED - 2 CUBIC FOOT BAG - \$5.00

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Contact Jeff Wilkinson at 724-335-0710 OR Logan Hileman at 724-325-4786

Thank you for your Support!

Local FREE delivery is available.

Poke Run Picnic—August 18, 2013

Over 100 people gathered together for a picnic lunch following the 11am Worship service on Sunday, August 18th. Pittsburgh Shriner's Hillbilly clan #53 provided the sandwiches and sides, Poke Run provided the desserts. It was a great time of fun, food and fellowship. If you were not able to make it, don't miss it next year!





The "Hillbilly's" were created as an appendant organization to the Shriners. The Hillbilly's support the Shriner's Childrens Hospitals.

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Sept 10th—"Community of Redstone Event District 1" , Congruity Presbyterian, New Alexandria,
Sept 14th—"End of Summer Festival" at Puckety Church, Lower Burrell, PA. 10am-7pm
Sept 21-22—Pine Springs Camp—"Retreat 46" 4th—6th grade retreat
Sept 27-28—Rummage Sale at Union Presbyterian (Rt. 380, Wash Twp)
Sept 28—Chicken 'n Biscuit Dinner—Spring Church Lutheran 4-6:30pm
Sept 27-29—Pine Springs Camp—"Women in the Woods" - women's retreat
Coming in October—
Oct 4-6 Pine Springs Camp—The Big One" - youth retreat

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sept 1 & 2—Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park
Sept 7th & 8th Annual "Tour de Strongland" bike race
Sept 17th—Tri-City Life Center luncheon
Sept. 21-22—Annual "Fort Hand Festival" at Kunkle Park in Washington Twp.
Sept 28th—Southern Gospel music at Washington Heights Community Church, Wash Twp
Sept 28th—Vandergrift Arts Festival

Tuesdays 4-7pm Export Farmer's Market—located near Kennedy Ave.
Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at the Wash. Twp. Firehall
—11:30—noon Blood Pressure Clinic for Seniors—
Bring your table service and a covered dish.
Thursdays 3-5:30pm Vandergrift Farmer's Market—located along Columbia Ave.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—The Westmorland and Armstrong County Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) is looking for volunteers to sit with patients to allow family time out of the home and visit hospice patients—share your talents, read, play music, provide families with much needed support. For more info—call: 724-431-3502 or go to www.vna.com .



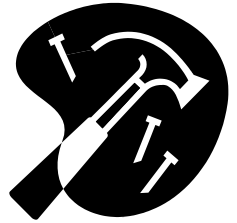
You can now find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook!

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

Poke Run web site is www.pokerunchurch.com

THE TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW:

The next Poke Run "Trustee Work Day" is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th, 8:30am to 1pm. Jobs for all ages; jobs for all skill levels!! Projects include: filling in low spots in the cemetery, hanging bulletin boards, some indoor painting, changing light bulbs and painting the cemetery gazebo.



Also, the Trustees will soon be meeting to discuss several issues regarding the cemetery. If you have concerns, questions, or input, please see one of our Trustees or contact the church office.

The Trustees have set a goal of \$30,000 needed to pave the parking lot in the front area of the church. Currently we have about \$4000 in the fund. All donations are appreciated.

Visiting Poke Run Church on Sunday, September 15th.

For the past 2 years, Poke Run has supported Robin working in the middle east. She will be visiting Poke Run to update the congregation on her work there. Please put this on your calendar.

Robin asks that we please remember to pray:

For melting of hearts and a readiness to receive the Gospel.

For the oppressed, especially the women.

and that her focus would remain on God, and she would have wisdom and discernment.



THE MISSION & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW:

Plans are being considered for a 2014 Mission Trip sometime in mid June. Please let the committee know if you have an interest in participating in this outreach.



THE DEACONS are collecting names and address of our college students, service men and women, and others who are far from us at this time. Please contact a Deacon or the church office with your information.



Joys to share



Longtime Poke Run family, the Gearhards of Murrysville were one of five families who received Century or Bicentennial Farm designations during Ag Progress Days near State College. The Gearhard Farm was established in 1769 on 340 acres. Eight generations later, 69 of those original acres comprise the current 150-acre operation. Since the program's inception in 1977 the Department of Agriculture has recognized 1,932 Century and 164 Bicentennial Farms around the state. The photo features the Gearhard family in red.



Every year we mark the birthday of the amazing "centenarian", Poke Run member Grace Young. Here is a recent picture submitted by Ed Almes. Grace is 109 years old! Pastor Pete reports that she truly is a remarkable person.

Ed Almes is a "treasure trove" of Poke Run and Washington Township historical memories and photos that he has generously shared. Below Grace's photo is a photo of a quilt received by Ed's grandmother Mitchell on the occasion of her wedding. Ed wonders if anyone knows of a quilters guild or group at Poke Run in the 1890's?



September 2013

Communion:

Bob Thompson & Laurie Powers

Offering: Trustees



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3 7pm PW Mtg 7:pm Budget & Finance	4 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	5 6:30pm Scouts	6	7
8 Communion RALLY DAY 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	9 7pm Deacons 7pm Mission & Stewardship	10 7pm Session	11 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	12 6:30pm Boy Scouts	13	14 8:30am Trustee Work Day
15 8:30 & 11 Worship 7:00 Bible Study	16	17	18 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	19 10am Cong Life 6:30 Boy Scouts	20	21
22 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7:00 Bible Study	23	24	25 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	26 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Trustees	27	28
29 8:30 & 11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7:00 Bible Study	30					

If you have appropriate News to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office. The next Ranger deadline is September 23rd.

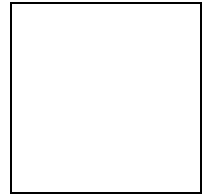


Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

Phone: 724-327-5563

E-mail: pokerun@windstream.net



Sunday School
RallyDay



Sept. 8th 9:45 AM

**The 2013-2014 Sunday
School year will kick-off on
Sunday, September 8, 2013,
from 9:45-10:45am.**

**Please come and invite a
friend to join you.**
