

Poke Run Presbyterian Church "The Ranger"

JANUARY 2014

From Pastor Pete



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Fear hangs heavily on the eve of destruction. Crisis permeates human minds before impending disaster. In difficult times minds become numb with inactivity. Step into this world of terror and the book of Jeremiah welcomes you. Thankfully it does not leave us here but transports us into a new world. The ultimate promise of the book is newness, restoration, and peace. Jeremiah is both truthful and cunning. The world is this way; the world will not stay this way. God will create for his faithful peoples a new world of wonder and delight.

Jeremiah writes to a people who know that they are about to lose everything. The signs are everywhere and irrevocable. They will be conquered and transported to a new land with new customs and new language and live in a new place where they have never lived before and do not wish to live now. They have no choice. Their transition will be far more violent than anything we are likely to see. I think however we can identify with their plight. We have seen one of the most rapid transitions of society ever to come upon the world. It is as if our place in the world has been displaced by a sudden newness that we do not understand and do not

accept. We feel, many of us, displaced and obsolete. We cannot speak even, the language of our children, much less grandchildren, or if we do not yet have children and grandchildren we cannot communicate with people even a few years younger than us. "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" laments the Psalmist. We nod our heads.

Perhaps this is too pessimistic and too simplistic a view to take; perhaps. Some would say that the world has always been changing. Cultures then have always lived in flux with one generation giving away to the next. There have always been wars and rumors of wars and violence is an ineradicable force of human nature. After all, they would claim, this is about survival of the fittest and if you cannot adapt, well, too bad for you. I would say that, against the biblical story, this view of the human future is the pessimistic one.

Jeremiah writes indeed to a people about to face total loss of themselves to an invading army. And we indeed face the onslaught of new technologies, social structures, and technologies that will forever change us. It will be a struggle for the Church of Jesus Christ to keep her purest identity. The reality is the Jewish

nation and the purity of her religion were not only preserved but also enhanced throughout her time of exile. I believe that we in the church today have the potential to do the same. It is time to gather together in our local church communities and worship together and discover the practices that will not only preserve the faith but also make it robust and powerful until once again God brings us to a new place. We will feel out of step with everything and everyone around us. We will however be faithful.

This is the promise given to Israel, the called people of God, through the prophet we call today Jeremiah. "Thus says the Lord, "Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work," declares the Lord, and they (you) shall come back from the land of the enemy." The same promise is given to the church. The promise comes through the birth of Jesus Christ. The promise comes when Jesus declares, "The Kingdom is at hand." There is a future time of restoration and newness. Our task in the meantime is to simply be faithful to God's call to be his people. God will provide the way back by opening a new future.



THE POKE RUN
OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
JANUARY 1ST and
20TH.

THANK YOU—

**TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CELEBRATION OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT
POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Our December Lectors: Mike Goetschius, Josh Porterfield, Eleanor Zerbini, Erin Bruce, Glenn Ross and Mary Ellen Ross.

Our December Greeters: Tim & Barbi Findley, Ron & Carole Bowman, Larry & Debbie Seighman, Karen Staymates & Jacob Slaughaupt and Andy & Eva Bantroch

Our December Advent Readers: Freda Bowman & Edyth Elwood, Tricia & Logan McGarry, Ron, Heidi, Logan & Evan Hileman, Brian & Nancy Dombroske, and Nicole Goodiski

Our December Acolytes: Logan Hileman, Jacob Slaughaupt, and Logan McGarry.



Circle 4 and "helpers" decorated the church including the Sanctuary Christmas tree. Poinsettias were added through the Poke Run Deacons. The Trustees cleaned the sanctuary lighting. And, the swags on the front doors are made of boughs from Pine Springs Camp.



Christmas Musicians

Handbell Choir:

Freda Bowman
Edyth Elwood

Connor Martin
Laurie Martin

Cindy McQuaide
Sean O'Neil

Amy Wilkinson
Jeffrey Wilkinson

Choir Members:

Soprano:

Patty Lengauer
Laurie Martin
Miriam Painter
Betty Schmidt

Alto:

Cindy McQuaide
Nikki McQuaide
Mary Ellen Ross
Amy Wilkinson

Tenor:

Josh Porterfield
Glenn Ross
Patrick Wilkinson

Bass:

Don Lengauer
Albert Moorhead
Jeffrey Wilkinson

Soloists:

Brittany Brosius
Don Lengauer
Laurie Martin

Sean O'Neil
Patrick Wilkinson

Youth Choir:

Bria Stevenson
Paige Stevenson
Morgan McGarry
Jessica Slaughaupt
Evan Hileman
Logan McGarry
Logan Hileman

Instrumentalists:

Linda Moorhead, piano
Amy Wilkinson, piano
Josh Porterfield, clarinet
Douglas Bruce, trumpet
Melissa Goetschius, trumpet
Sean O'Neil, marimba





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 Linhart, Joanne Fitzsimmons, Jim Thompson, Eugene Witt, Leland & Berenice Jones, Cathy Washburn, Kristen Fairbaugh, Jean Campbell, Tom Martin, Helen Grayem, Sandy Nemetz, the Davis Family, Mario Tagliati, Anna Mae Chicka, Roberta Caldwell, Lee & Linda Gardener, Geniene Ciuca, Joseph Silvis, Kiara Hawk, Linda Steele, SSG James Bishop (Poke Run's "adopt a soldier") and others who serve in the military.

If you have requested that someone be added to our "Prayer List" - please contact the office periodically to update on the particular situation. Prayers to continue!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Circle 2: will be meeting on Thursday, January 16, at 7:30pm.
The hostess and leader will be Laurie Martin.

Circle 4: will be meeting at the church on Tuesday, January 7th at 9:30am to take down the Christmas decorations.

The PW meeting on Tuesday evening. December 3, 2013

Circle 2 had the program and served a wonderful assortment of Christmas cookies with ice cream. **Laurie Martin and Eleanor Zerbini** were installed to a two year term as Moderator and Secretary respectively. We paused to remember each of our Church Women who died since the 2012 *All Saints Day*, and to honor other Women who have played an important part in their life's journey to this point of faith and service.

The next PW meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, 2013.

From Josh Porterfield

Hello Everyone; Over the past summer I attended a Presbyterian Youth conference at Purdue University in the state of Indiana. There, I stayed for three days in a dorm on campus. While I attended, I truly experienced a grand old time packed with fun, worship, and new friends! Each day, we had a basic schedule that we followed every day, but with every new day, came new sermon and an exciting special event. As part of worship, I participated in a small group where I studied different parts of the Bible and made new friendships. To this day, I still keep in contact with my friends through different social media such as facebook, twitter and snapchat. During each sermon, a different guest pastor came to preach about a different piece of scripture. As far as my faith foes, I can truly say that it doubled from going to Triennium. Overall, I had such an awesome time, I would go back in a heart beat. In fact, I plan on going back in three years to volunteer. Thank you again to all that prayed and thought about me during my trip.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium
July 16-20, 2013 • Purdue University

The Poke Run Church Annual Audit is Saturday, January 18th

All Auditors, Treasurers, and Boy Scout Treasurers should come prepared for the 2013 Poke Run Audit. The audit is on Saturday, January 18 beginning at 8:30am and will continue until every group has been audited. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

"GIVING ENVELOPES" for 2014 are now available in the Narthex. Using the "Giving Envelopes" greatly helps Shyrl and Amy process the weekly offering; thank you for using them. If you have given on a regular basis during 2013, a box was labeled for you. If you do not find one labeled for you, please feel free to take a blank box to use. If you need help getting your box of envelopes, please contact the Church Office.

In preparation for the 2014 Directory, Information Needed

Please notify the church office if you have had any name changes, address changes, a change in your phone number or a change in your email address. You may call the office at 724-327-5563 or email your information to pokerun@windstream.net. Thank you.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Jan. 24-26—Pine Springs Camp Sr. Hi Retreat—information available in the office

Coming Up at Pine Springs Camp

Feb. 21-23—Jr. Hi Retreat

**REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
JANUARY 1ST, 3RD AND 20TH.**

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

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.

The next "Soup for the Soul" will be on Wednesday, January 8th.

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.



From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes November 11, 2013

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

MSC: To approve Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes October 20, 2013

MSC: To accept the Trustee Minutes September 26, 2013

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

Treasurer Report:

Submitted and reviewed by Budget and Finance Committee. The Road Fund has now reached the halfway mark

Committee Reports:

Christian ED – Attendance is up with our preschool class.

Mission and Stewardship: Voted to designate money to Jordan for winter supplies for Syrian Refugees \$1,000 and also \$1,000 for supplies to help western flood victims. Adelphoi will help with Santa Breakfast. Still waiting to hear from Project Crossroads about our mission trip.

Technology –The Church office is updating our Church website from the office and volunteers are maintaining the Facebook page including a daily Bible verse on Facebook.

Nominating – Good job with the 2014 slate of officers, and thank you.

Old Business:

Trustees presented proposals from Signs of Excellence in Murrysville for the new sign to be placed on Route 66. It was decided to have two signs made for each end of Poke Run Church Road, and also have placards to hang on hooks at the bottom to announce our events.

New Business:

MSC: Cub Scout Troop from Pack 500 will meet in Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 6:15 - 8:00 PM. for their Den meetings. (Electronic vote 10/22/13)

MSC: Signs of Excellence will make two signs for Poke Run Church to be placed on Route 66 at each end of Poke Run Road.

Pete will have a Study and Preparation for new members of the Session, Deacons and Trustees on November 15, and Ordination Sunday will be November 17, 2013

December Session meeting will be the annual joint meeting of the boards including dinner starting at 6pm.

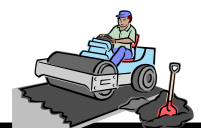
Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: December 12, 2013



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

The Trustees have established a "Road Fund." The first part of the project will include a portion of the road extending from near the manse to past the new addition. The current estimate for this project is \$30,000. Current contributions are over \$15,000. Thank you for supporting this project.



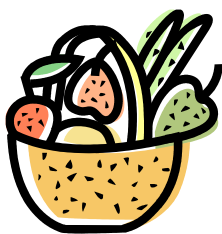
Poke Run Deacons

The Christmas season is a very busy time for our Poke Run Deacons and their ministry. They started in November by packing over 125 dozens of cookies for American troops. *Thank you to everyone who contributed time and/or cookies!*



The Deacon's Giving Tree was set up in the Narthex and gifts for needy families arrived all month long. Your generosity helped many community families enjoy the Christmas season as "truckloads" of gifts were donated.

On Sunday, December 15th Poke Run Christmas carolers visited Poke Run members who might not get out to enjoy seasonal worship music. Carolers started at the church where the Deacons provided a light lunch after the 11am service, then off they went with cookies, poinsettias and song!



The Deacons were able to provide Christmas "Food baskets" to over a dozen families. This increasingly important outreach is appreciated by all who receive and is only available as the Poke Run congregation generously supports the Deacons through financial gifts and support of their annual fundraisers.



The Poke Run Deacons decorated the sanctuary for our Christmas services with seasonal poinsettias, and the Narthex tree with ornaments marking foodbank donations - all given in honor and memory of loved ones, all donated by the Poke Run congregation

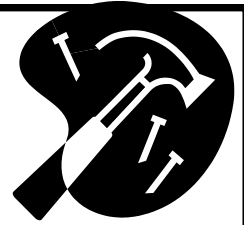


In an ongoing outreach, please join the Poke Run Deacons as they participate in "Project Frontlines" and "Adopt a US Soldier." General information about the program as well as a mailing label for you to use has been posted on the Poke Run Veteran's board in the Narthex. Our soldier is SSG

The **Poke Run Christian Ed Committee** would like to thank everyone who prayed for, donated to, helped with and attended Saturday's "Breakfast with Santa." It was a **VERY MERRY** time of fellowship and community!



The Poke Run Trustees are working on many projects:



The Trustees have identified many items that need attention in 2014.

Gutters and drains are in need of repair.

Hoping to purchase an AED unit (Automated External Defibrillator) to help upgrade our first aid needs.

Dusk-to-Dawn lighting in the front parking lot area near the pavilion.

“One Way” signs to help with traffic flow in the parking lot and driveway.

Investigating an automatic door opener at the handicap entrance under the portico.

If you can be of help to the Trustees or notice anything else that requires attention, please notify the Office.

The Poke Run Cemetery is a place rich in history—the office receives many calls from people investigating their family genealogy. Trustee Bob Wilson is transferring cemetery information into a computer program designed to catalog and organize our records. Poke Run friend Deb Delfavero recently located the two “hidden” stones pictured here that had been covered over time by soil and grass. Both are for children; on top is the stone of “June J. daughter of Samuel and Margaret Crusan” born on April 27, 1853 and died on April 27, 1857. Below that is the marker for “Alexander Dougherty” who died on March 23, 1843 at the age of 4 years, 1 month and 20 days. Debbie decorated the graves in honor of her own granddaughter who is also 4 years old.



Boy Scout Troop 552

..has added a “trophy” case in the Fellowship Hall displaying awards received during their “decades” of being chartered by Poke Run Presbyterian Church. Take the time to check it out when you are down there.

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Communion: 1/12- Meri Slaughaupt & Debbie Seighman Offering: Trustees			1 <i>New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED</i>	2 <i>6:30PM Cub & Boy Scouts</i>	3	4
5 <i>8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study</i>	6 <i>7pm Deacons</i>	7 <i>7pm Choir 7pm Budget & Finance</i>	8 <i>Noon "Soup for the Soul"</i>	9 <i>6:30PM Cub & Boy Scouts</i>	10	11
12 <i>8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study</i>	13 <i>10am Cong Life 7pm Mission & Stewardship</i>	14 <i>7pm Session</i>	15 <i>6pm Bells 7pm Choir</i>	16 <i>6:30PM Cub & Boy Scouts</i>	17	18 Poke Run Church Annual Audit 8:30am-?
19 <i>8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study</i>	20 <i>Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED</i>	21	22 <i>6pm Bells 7pm Choir</i>	23 <i>6:30PM Cub & Boy Scouts</i>	24	25
26 <i>8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study</i>	27	28	29 <i>6pm Bells 7pm Choir</i>	30 <i>6:30PM Cub & Boy Scouts</i>	31	

February Ranger Deadline: January 27th.

The Poke Run Technology Committee has been hard at work expanding Poke Run's media "presence." The website: www.pokerunchurch.com includes up-to-date information as well as past *Rangers* and other important information. Poke Run has a Facebook page that issues daily scripture as well as announcements and other ministry related "blasts." If you would like more information about any of these items, contact the church office.



Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

724-327-5563

Email: pokerun@windstream.net



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.



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



Join us on Sunday for Worship at 8:30am and 11:00 am!