



# THE RANGER

## DECEMBER 2014

Poke Run Presbyterian Church



### From Pastor Pete

God is triune. God is a Trinity. God is three in one. People say, "I don't understand this," or "What difference does it make?" It makes all the difference in the world. Here is another statement I hear all the time, "We all believe in the same God." What is being asserted is, "So, we're all OK, right." I'll be quite simple and blunt. "No, we are not all OK." What we believe and who we believe in is more than a matter of life and death. It is a matter of eternal life and eternal death.

Let's talk about God and beliefs in God. Some people believe that there is no God, no gods, and no spiritual dimension to life. What you see is all there is, all there ever has been or will be, and it has always been here. They have no theory or philosophy of beginnings. They cannot and will not explain how "all there is" came to be. Then there are various versions of the philosopher's god, a god who is an abstract force, a set of cosmic laws, or a first principle. This god has little or nothing to do with the day-to-day operations of the Universe or human life, makes no demands on us morally or otherwise. This

version of god is quite convenient and innocuous, not really a god at all. Others, especially philosophically minded theologians believe that God is simple, or that God is a unity. I am not quite sure where they are going with that. We can work our way through all the religious systems claiming that God is ultimate being, the ground of all being, the void, that there are multiple sub gods, and so on. It seems that there is a god for almost anyone and to suit any purpose, and that is part of the problem. All these gods are constructions of the human imagination.

None of these gods is the one triune God revealed in the Bible containing the Old and New Testaments. None of these gods is a God who brings salvation to humanity by personally taking on their sin and sins. None of these gods wishes to come into communion and union with human beings through their faith in Christ. That is because none of them can. Most of them are imaginary and the rest are very poor

and incomplete mental constructs of the one true God.

How then are we to understand this Trinitarian God? Amazingly I found the simplest explanation coming from Karl Barth. Barth is usually extremely difficult to unravel. Here he is at his simplest and perhaps best. "... it follows from the Trinitarian God revealed in Scripture that this one God is not just to be understood as impersonal lordship, i.e. as power, but as the Lord, not just as absolute Spirit but as person, i.e. as an I existing in and for itself with its own thought and will. This is how he meets us in his revelation." His revelation is the man Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus Christ. "This is how he is thrice God as Father, Son, and Spirit."

It is because God is Lord that He commands us to live a holy and moral life. It is because God is a person that God enters into relationships of love with us. It is because God is Son that God saves us from our sin. Without this view of

God we have no God at all, no salvation, and no hope. It is the triune God who creates and redeems and sustains.

To be a Christian is to say with Paul in Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Knowing the triune God is more than important, it is ultimate.

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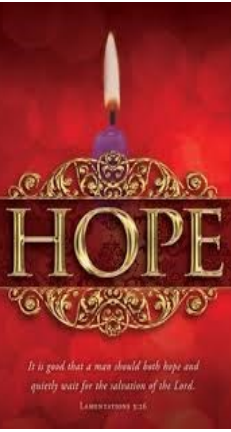




### Thank You

**Thank you to our November Lectors:** Cindy McQuaide, Walt Lange, Becky Lange, Brian Dombroske, and Patrick Wilkinson.

**Thank you to our November Greeters:** Brian & Nancy Dombroske, Andy & Eva Bantroch, Jim & Carol Thompson, Larry & Debbie Seighman and Joe & Autumn Geiser



#### *For our prayers:*

Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James and Winifred Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Steve Morcheid, Robin and Aaron, Grace Young, Amy McQuaide, Bob Bierer, Lil Bowman, Pat Lengauer, Norm Linhart, Joanne Fitzsimmons, Leland & Berenice Jones, Jean Campbell, Helen Grayem, Sandy Nemetz, Anna Mae Chicka, Lee & Linda Gardener, Terry Wiester, Bill Bert, Brian Orlic, Skip Elwood, Melissa Goetschius, Donna Blaser, Wanda Petrilla, The Church, Renee Beck, Amy Kroner, Elvira, Thad Overly, Max Brooks, the family of Ethel Brewer, Leonard Hartman, Marjorie Kaiser, Glenn Ross, Linda Steele, Jessica Slaugenhaupt, Lorenzo Tearson, Andrew Morris, Bev Tagliati, those gripped by addictions, all those soldiers receiving "Poke Run Holiday Cookies" and others who serve in the military.

*Please keep Poke Run Presbyterian Church in your prayers during the "holidays." Pray that our various outreaches touch people's hearts as God wishes. Pray that you are led to participate where and when you can. Pray for those who receive "Operation Santa" shoeboxes, "Giving tree Gifts," for those who receive Poke Run Deacon visits, and for those who attend "Soup for the Soul" and the "Dollar Spaghetti Dinner." Pray for all those led to attend a Poke Run Worship service; pray that Poke Run continues to "call the people of .....surrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ." (from Poke Run's Mission Statement 1993)*

*It is a privilege to lift up those we care about in continued prayer and Poke Run Church rejoices that many of those included on our "Prayer List" are healing and strengthening. If you placed names on our "Prayer List," please contact the office to update us.*



*Please keep especially close in prayer, the family of Poke Run's dear Ethel Jean Brewer, who passed away on November 3rd.*

On November 2nd , in honor of All Saint's Sunday, Poke Run remembered those who passed in 2014.

Allan D. Sarver February 2, 2014

Terry McDivitt February 12, 2014

Debra Lucille Wiester March 10, 2014

Cynthia Sue McQuaide June 11, 2014

Lois Jean Buckley McQuaide June 14, 2014



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



The Quarterly PW meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7pm. The 2015 officers will be installed and Circle 2 will provide a holiday program and refreshments.

**Circle 4** will meet on Thursday, December 11. The hostess and leader is Emma Dunmire.

**Circle 2** will meet on Thursday, December 11 at 7pm at the home of Barbi Findley. Nancy Dombroske will be the leader.



The PW would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Thank Offering" in November. The generosity of our congregation is most appreciated.



Thank you too, for the many donated shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child." Over 20 boxes were contributed for the children.



*Thank You - to Circle 4 and their helpers who decorated the church for the Christmas season. It is always so very beautiful. At right is the nativity displayed in the church narthex. It was hand painted by Myrtle Pfeffer and the stable was made by Robert Pfeffer.*



*Thank You to everyone who prayed for, contributed to or ATE at Circle 2's annual Spaghetti Dinner. Over 200 people were served in only 2 hours. This event gets bigger every year! DON'T MISS IT NEXT YEAR!!!!*





## From the approved minutes of Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session October 14, 2014

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, Chad McCutcheon Assist. Clerk, McQuaide, Linda Chicka, Bob Thompson, Meri Slaugenhaupt, Sandy Chappell

**Elders excused:** Ron Hileman, Josh Porterfield, Tim Martin

### Committee Reports:

**Budget & Finance:** The Road Fund @ \$28,000. The Trustees have started to accept bids to repair the road. Giving remains faithful

**Christian Ed** - Sandy Chappell- did not meet. Committee is still look for backup for Sunday School Coordinator

**Mission and Stewardship:** Linda Chicka -Adelphi kids helped with Community Dinner and will also help to pack up from the Rummage Sale. Committee is planning to give additional support for Robin and Adam as they continue their Missionary work in Jordan. Please keep them in prayer. Annual Mission Trip 2015 will leave Father's Day (June 21, 2015) and Apollo Baptist is planning to join us again. Committee reports that the partnership with Apollo has been an excellent addition to our Mission Trip..

**Nominating Committee:** Bob Thompson and Cindy McQuaide

**MSC:** to approve the slate of officers presented by the committee. (see Congregational Meeting minutes for details)

### Pastor Pete's report:

October 4, 2014 Community Dinner                      Oct. 5 Worldwide Communion

October 11 Soup for The Soul.

### Old Business:

**MSC:** To schedule our annual Hillbilly Picnic for August 9, 2015

### New Business:

Congratulations to Rev. Peter Goetschius - The new Assistant Moderator of Presbytery 2015

**MSC:** Approve vacation for Pete week including November 2

**MSC:** To approve the 2015 Budget as proposed by Budget & Finance Committee

**MSC:** To approve the 2015 terms of call for Rev. Goetschius

**MSC:** To approve the 2015 Slate of Officers

**MSC:** To approve Laurie Martin to use Fellowship Hall for Kiski Area Cross Country Banquet on Saturday November 8 - afternoon and evening

Close with prayer: Cindy McQuaide

Respectfully Submitted:

Adjourn: 9:00

Approved: 11/11/14



The next “Soup for the Soul” will be Wednesday, December 10th.  
(Potato 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.**



“Soup for the Soul” continues to grow—60 people the past two months!! In November, “Come n Play” daycare donated the cake to the left.

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

**NEEDED** – Poke Run is in great need of someone to work with Erin Bruce to coordinate our Christian Education program (Sunday School). Erin is doing a great job, but her college work will take her out of the area eventually. Please give this your prayerful consideration and see Erin or Pastor Pete if you have an interest in helping.



**The Giving Tree** is in the Narthex. “Unwrapped” gifts & tags are due back to the church by Sunday, December 14th. Your generosity is appreciated!



Choir rehearsals for the Christmas Eve late service are starting. If you are interested in joining the choir for the holiday, see a choir member or Sean. *We would be thrilled to have your talents!*

A Youth Choir for Advent and Christmas is forming. Practice will be Sunday mornings at 10:20am during Sunday School. See Erin Bruce or Sean O’Neil if you are interested.



## Deacon Minutes for October 6, 2014

Present: Pastor Pete Goetschius, Cindy Brooks, Nikki McQuaide, Jan Fitzgerald, Deb Ross, Debbie Seighman, Sheree Wagner, Mario Tagliati.

Absent: Tammy Kelley, Karen Staymates, Jacob Slaugenhaupt, Erin Bruce.

Opening by: Nikki McQuaide with a Devotional at 7:10PM.

Agenda:

Secretary Minutes from September 2014 reviewed by all-MMC

Treasurers Report: MMC

Forwarding Balance from October,	\$1,871.63
Relay for Life \$200.00, Project Seed \$108.00, Bibles for new members \$21.38	\$ -329.38
Balance	\$1,542.25

Watkins Sale: Cindy B. passed out booklets and forms, due 10-19-2014

Discussed how to bring Shut-Ins/Friends to church occasionally for a service.

Cookies for Troops: 11-01-2014, packing at church, need volunteers.

Each Deacon asked to bring 10 dozen. Tammy K. contact Amy to put in Bulletin. Need Food Savers to pack cookies. Jan F. bringing boxes and bubble wrap. Sheree to purchase vacuum bags.

Upcoming:

November; Food Baskets- place announcement in Bulletin and Ranger. Shop Friday, November 21, 2014. Discussed alternate stores to shop at, Debbie S. volunteered to inquire at closer (Delmont) store. Pick up date set for Saturday November 22, 2014, 9:00A.M. at the church. Need volunteers to be at the church.

College Students Care Packages; Jan F. volunteered to organize and mail.

Need new Candles for Christmas Eve Service, discussed alternate holders, will decide at next meeting.

Poinsettia Order in November Ranger (Export Floral)

Christmas Caroling??? Will discuss with Music Director, get Sean's ideas.

Closed in Prayer by Pastor Pete at 8:12 P.M.



## Poke Run Deacons have projects underway.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders and Foodbank Donations; due Dec. 7th

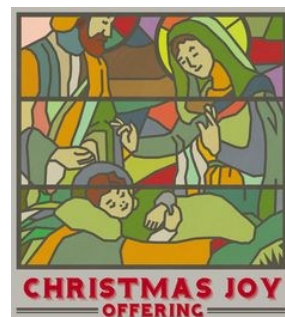


Sunday, Dec. 14—is the deadline to order Christmas Food Baskets. If you know of someone who would benefit by receiving a basket, please contact a Deacon or call the Poke Run Office. Saturday, Dec. 22—Christmas Basket pick-up. 9-10:30 am.

*All loose offerings on Christmas Eve will go to the work of the Poke Run Deacons.*

## Where does the Christmas Joy Offering help?

Fifty percent of undesignated receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Thank you for  
EVERYTHING  
she loved  
you all  
Sky Mike  
Gray Rox

Ethel Brewer family



We wish to express our sincere appreciation for all your love and support during our time of loss. Our sincere gratitude for the beautiful flowers you donated. Thank you for all the kindness shown to our family.

Ed Bungert and family  
(Lil Bowman's mom)

To our Church Family,  
A sincere thank you to the Poke Run members for their faithful prayers. I wanted to let you know that those prayers carried me through my months of treatment. Your cards, calls and e-mails helped keep my outlook positive knowing there were so many caring friends. I am now finished with the chemo treatments and await the followup in February. I would be grateful for your continued prayers. God bless you and the church. Donna Bless





## **Santa's Coming For Breakfast**

*The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring their annual "  
"Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, December 6, 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: \$3.00,  
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.*

And it's not too late to volunteer.

## **Calling All Elves!**

Santa is in need of lots of helpers for his breakfast. If you can help him, contact Linda Chicka at [lgchicka@gmail.com](mailto:lgchicka@gmail.com), or at 724-422-3688, or call the church office.

Set up/Decorating Night, Friday, December 5, beginning at 6:00pm. We start with a meal so bring a covered dish or dessert!







Brenden and Corey Kelley hunting in Nogal, New Mexico. The spread on both boy's elks was 5 by 5. Tammy also reports that Barry's elk's spread was 0 by 0!!!!

Added to the Poke Run Website  
this month: the December  
1973 and 1974 RANGER.



You can find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook! - featuring  
the "Daily Verse"

Poke Run's email address: [pokerun@windstream.net](mailto:pokerun@windstream.net)

Poke Run web site is [www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)



#### PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

The Office can use  
emailed photos from  
cameras or cell  
phones. We'd love to  
include more pics  
from church  
functions.



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

#### Were you a Cub Scout at Poke Run Church?

"Pack 500" is gearing up for a celebration and are hoping to make contact with  
people who were scouts through the years. If you have information to share—  
contact the Poke Run Office.



### **HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY**

Dec. 6&7, 13& 14—Salem Crossroads Christmas, Delmont PA—reservations required

Dec. 7—"Celebrate the Sounds of Christmas—5pm—Grace Community Presbyterian, Lower Burrell

Dec. 10—Christmas gathering, entertainment and food. 7pm Community UP Church, New Alexandria

Dec. 11—ADVENTure 2014 = Family event 7-8:30pm—Newlonsburg Presbyterian

Coming Up at Pine Springs Camp

Jan. 23-25—Sr. Hi Retreat

Feb. 20-22—Jr. Hi Retreat

**The Poke Run Office will be closed on Dec. 24th & 25th and Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st.**

**The Redstone Presbytery Office will be closed on Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31 and Jan. 1.**

### **HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Overly's Country Christmas is OPEN NOW—at the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds

Dec. 5-7 at 7pm and Dec. 8 at 2pm—"Hometown Christmas" at Vandergrift Casino Theater

Dec. 13th—"Jingle Bell Rock" concert 7:30pm at Vandergrift Casino Theater

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.



Making our Church even more accessible—a door opener was added to the handicap accessible door. Thank you!

### **POKE RUN T SHIRTS**

Bob placed the last order for 2014. See Bob after the New Year if you are interested.

Bob Wilson 724-727-7581



**REMEMBER:** The Session will be meeting on Tuesday, December 9th. All 2014/2015 Elders, Deacons, and Trustees should plan to attend this joint meeting. Supper will be served at 6:30pm, followed by the meeting.





The joint meeting of the Session, Deacons and Trustees will be on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30pm.



## December 2014

### Poke Run Presbyterian Church

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i> 7pm Deacons	<i>2</i> 7pm PW Quarterly Meeting	<i>3</i> 6:15pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	<i>4</i> 6:30pm Scouts	<i>5</i> 6pm— Breakfast set up 6:30pm Scouts	<i>6</i> 8:30-11:30 Santa's Breakfast
<i>7</i> 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 6:30pm Joint mtg Session, Deacons, & Trustees	<i>10</i> 11:30am Soup for the Soul 6:15pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<i>11</i> 6:30pm Scouts	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 6:15pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<i>18</i> 6:30pm Scouts	<i>19</i> 6:30pm Scouts	<i>20</i> Deacon Food Basket Pick-up 9-10:30am
<i>21</i> 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 5pm & 7:30pm Christmas Eve	<i>25</i> Merry Christmas	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			



The Poke Run Office will be closed on Dec. 24th & 25th and Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st.

**In December:**

**December 6th, 8:30am to 11:30am Breakfast with Santa**

**Adults & Children ages 11 years and over \$5.00**

**Children 3 years to 10 years \$3.00**

**Children 2 years and under eat Free!**

**December 24th Christmas Eve Services**

**5:00pm Informal Worship**

**7:30pm Formal Worship**

**Poke Run Presbyterian**

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.  
Apollo, PA 15613



[www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)