

from Pastor Pete



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Wine sends mixed messages. From time to time I meet someone who has never tasted wine, or any alcoholic drink. These people are rare. I commend them. I believe that it would be best for everyone if we never used alcohol. Statistical breakdowns show a very different picture. Approximately one-third of us seldom if ever drink. Approximately one-third drink responsibly, which is lightly and seldom. Two drinks a day for men and one for women is considered moderate, not light drinking. The remaining third show little restraint and fall into the categories from heavy drinkers to binge drinkers to alcoholics.

The Bible itself takes a divided view on drinking wine. Judges 9:13 contains this odd quip. "But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men ...'" This seems to say that there is at least some good in wine. Psalm 104 claims that God himself will "cause the grass to grow ... bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart ... " Again we find a positive assessment of wine. We can then find multiple references, there are 236 references to wine in the Bible, that make passing comments on its use as a simple beverage with meals, often as fresh pressed grape juice. That's as far as the goodness goes.

Wine is dangerous. This quote, from Proverbs 20:1 rings clear. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink (that is, beer; distillation was unknown) a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is

not wise." The ancient prophet Habakkuk states flatly, "Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest ... like death he has never enough." For those who are wiser, Proverbs displays its greater dangers. " ... wine ...when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a serpent ... Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of a (tossing) sea ... " (23:31 &ff.) These quotes warn us to proceed with caution when we consume wine, if we drink at all.

Yet the biblical picture of wine is ambiguous. Wine was the common table drink of the land. The first use of the word wine in the Bible concerns our hero of the flood, Noah. Upon disembarking from the Ark Noah plants a vineyard, makes and drinks the wine, and falls into his tent in a drunken stupor. At best, he humiliates himself in front of his offspring. Babylon falls during the last days of Revelation and its merchants no longer have buyers for their goods, including wine.

We might be surprised then to discover that in the Gospel of John Jesus turns water into wine as his first miracle. He transforms perhaps as much as 120 gallons of water into wine. We smile. Today we see a great party forming up – reread Proverbs 23:31 above. Also reread the miracle story in John, where Jesus turns water into wine. "There were six

stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification." Now this water is displaced by new wine, and good wine at that. What goes on here? Then there is the cryptic parable of wine and wine skins. Jesus it seems is up to something. He needs new people, new thoughts, new lives, and new visions. In the ever accelerating whirlwind of the coming kingdom, the old will simply not do. New wine shatters old perceptions and minds explode.

Of course the last supper makes the final interpretation. Bread and body, wine and blood take on new dimensions. The blood of Christ becomes the new wine of the Spirit that flows into the life of every believer. It all comes together at Pentecost. Fire and wind and Spirit coalesce in mass confusion. "And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." Of course they thought, only the inebriated would act this way. It was these who completely misunderstood who got it right. New wine filled the Apostles. The wine of the Spirit washed over and through them and renewed them. This wine is the life of every believer. This wine sends one message, the Word of Salvation. Drink deeply of this alone. Witness so that the whole world can taste.



Thank You

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

Our March Greeters: Laurie Powers Abbey Ballas, Tom & Nancy Kimble, Tim & Connor Martin, Walt & Becky Lange, and Mario & Bev Tagliati

Our March Lectors: Cheyenne Fazi, Patrick Wilkinson, Tom Kimble, Connor Martin and Ruth O'Connor.



Thank you to Karen Staymates for the wreaths decorating the Poke Run doors during the Lenten season.



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

An updated **Directory** will be published in May.

Thank you.



FIRST FRUITS

Poke Run Church has committed \$3,125 to Redstone Presbytery as part of their 2014 First Fruits campaign. Budget & Finance suggests a donation of \$30.00 per person for the year. To date, only 50% of our pledge has been donated. Please prayerfully consider how you can help Poke Run meet this Redstone Presbytery campaign commitment.

Your giving is important and appreciated.

Poke Run Budget & Finance Committee



Canon Copier staple cartridges available. The office has a supply of Canon copier staple cartridges that are not compatible with our new Kyocera copier. If you know of an office or organization that could use these, please contact the Church office. DETAILS: Canon Staple =J1 - 15 cartridges are available.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

April 5—9-4pm—"Craft Fair" - First Presbyterian Church of Irwin

April 5—9—2pm—"Rummage Sale" - Congruity Presbyterian Church

April 5—4-7pm—"Roast Beef Community Dinner" - Delmont Presbyterian Church

April 11-13—"Women in the Woods" - Pine Springs Camp

April 16 & 17—7:30pm "The Power of His Last Words" - dramatic presentation, Pine Run Presbyterian



Pine Springs Camp "Summer 2014" [Click on the image at right for more PSC info.](#)

Information pamphlets are available in the church office. Poke Run continues its pledge to send all campers to Pine Springs at no cost—call the office if you are interested.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

April 5—4-6:30pm "Chicken & Biscuit Dinner" - Spring Church Lutheran Church

April 19— 9am "Earth Day 5K Run/ 15K Walk—Roaring Run Park, Apollo

April 26&27—"Fort Hand Re-enactment—Kunkle Park

MAY 3RD 7am-5pm—Annual "Spring Dumpster Day" at the Washington Twp maintenance bldg. on Rt. 66—two truckloads per household, some restrictions apply.

JUNE 2ND—Presbyterian Home of Greater Johnstown Golf Outing— Champion Lake Golf Resort

Blood Pressure Clinic for Seniors— Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at the Wash. Twp. Firehall
11:30am—noon

Bring your table service and a covered dish.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE POKE RUN AND REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH.

**LOST AND FOUND**

A restaurant Giftcard was found in the *Fellowship Area* please contact the office if you lost one.

Please join us for our monthly free

Community "Soup for the Soul"

Luncheon

AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!

April 9, 2014

Doors open at 11:30am

Soup's on at NOON!

This month - taco soup (mild!)

And some chicken noodle:)



Pine Springs Camp

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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.

We've already got 2 campers registered!!!!

Other upcoming and exciting events at Pine Springs are:

Women in the Woods Retreat – April 11-13

Mountain Bike Race – May 3

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.



Since 1949, Presbyterians and have participated in this Lenten offering. This year, prayerfully consider how you will contribute. Coin banks bank will be available in the back of the church and offering envelopes will be available in the pew holders for your



Poke Run Mission Team Returns to Marion, Virginia

Applications are now available for anyone interested in attending the mission trip to the Marion Virginia area on the week of June 15 through 20, 2014. If you are interested in traveling with the team this year, please pick up an application from the back of the Narthex, from the church office or download an application from the church website at: www.pokerunchurch.com. We ask that all registrations be turned in by Monday, May 12, 2014. An informational meeting will be held on Monday, May 12 at 7:30 in the Church Lounge. The final planning meeting will be Monday, June 9 at 7:30p.m.

For those who can't travel with us, we need your prayers and financial support. For more information on how you might join hands with us, please see or call Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or the Church office at 724-327-5563.

[CLICK HERE FOR A MISSION TRIP APPLICATION](#)

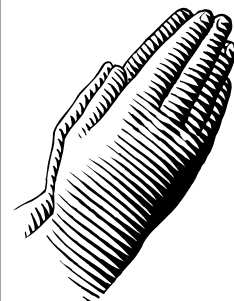
VOLUNTEER WITH POKE RUN CHURCH AT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOODBANK!

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

Saturday April 26th, 9am-noon—Foodbank warehouse in Delmont, PA

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, Ethel Brewer, Pat Lengauer, Norm Linhart, Joanne Fitzsimmons, Jim Thompson, Leland & Berenice Jones, Kristen Fairbaugh, Jean Campbell, the Martin family, Helen Grayem, Sandy Nemetz, the Davis Family, Anna Mae Chicka, Roberta Caldwell, Lee & Linda Gardener, Geniene Ciuca, Kiara Hawk, Linda Steele, the family of Deb Wiester, SSG James Bishop (Poke Run's "adopt a soldier") and others who serve in the military.



WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Each year our community joins in worship as we prepare for Easter. Services vary in location, featured music and leadership.

All services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

April 2, 2014

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

Led By Rev. John Simpson

April 16, 2014

Pine Run Presbyterian Church (517 Markle Rd.)

Dramatic Presentation—See Below

Led by Rev. Lanny Mellinger

An offering to go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program will be taken at each service.

None of the services will be cancelled in the event of bad weather. Please use your own discretion in making the decision to attend.



**You are invited
to
the dramatic presentation
of**

“THE POWER OF HIS LAST WORDS”



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

7:30 PM

at

Pine Run Presbyterian Church

1117 White Cloud Road, Apollo, PA

724-727-2125

You Are Invited:

Circle 2 would like to invite everyone to a soup and salad dinner before the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17th 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..



POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

SESSION

Linda Chicka (16)
 Chad McCutcheon,
 AsstClrk (16)
 Cindy McQuaide (16)
 Sandy Chappell (15)
 Ron Hileman (15)
 Bob Thompson (15)
 Connie Cauvel, Clerk (14)*
 Tim Martin (14)
 Meri Slaughaupt (14)
 Josh Porterfield (14) (Youth)

BUDGET & FINANCE

Tim Martin, Ch.
 Cindy Brooks
 Linda Chicka
 Bob Fitzgerald
 Valerie Hansen, Sec.
 Doug Ross
 Amy Wilkinson (staff)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Connie Cauvel, Ch
 Freda Bowman
 Walt Lange
 Shyrl Stange
 Karen Staymates
 Bob Wilson
 Eleanor Zerbini
 Jack Zerbini

PERSONNEL

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

HABITAT

Laurie Powers

DEACONS

Jan Fitzgerald, CoMod. (16)
 Tammy Kelley (16)
 Mario Tagliati (16)
 Sheree Wagner, Treasurer (16)
 Erin Bruce (15)
 Nikki McQuaide, CoMod. (15)
 Debora Ross, Secretary (15)
 Cindy Brooks (14)*
 Debbie Seighman. (14)
 Karen Staymates (14)
 Jacob Slaughaupt (14) (Youth)

NOMINATING

Cindy McQuaide, CoCh
 Bob Thompson, CoCh
 Valerie Hansen
 Nancy Kimble
 Becky Lange
 Connor Martin
 Jim Moorhead
 Shyrl Stange
 Mario Tagliati

CHRISTIAN ED

Sandy Chappell, Ch
 Erin Bruce
 Linda Chicka
 Laurie Martin
 Bob Wilson

SEXTON (volunteers)

Jim Moorhead
 Bob Wilson

P.W. OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

Robert Fitzgerald (16)
 Jim Moorhead (16)
 Rick Slaughaupt (16)
 Vince Goodiski (15)*
 Dave Wilkinson (15)*
 Robert Wilson, V. Pres. (15)
 Barry Kelley, Sec. (14)*
 Walt Lange (14)
 Doug Ross, Pres. (14)*

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

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

AUDITORS

Jan Fitzgerald (17)
 Rick Slaughaupt (16)
 Shyrl Stange (15)

SCOUT COORDINATOR

Cal McCutcheon

TECHONOLOGY

Chad McCutcheon, Ch
 Connie Cauvel
 Linda Chicka
 Rev. Pete Goetschius
 Laurie Martin
 Josh Porterfield
 Amy Wilkinson
 Bob Wilson

***"Please keep all of
 Poke Run's Boards and
 Committees in your prayers***

This year join Poke Run Presbyterian Church in showing how
"WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US"
 On Good Friday, April 18, 2013
 From 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM



Kids from Age 3 through 8th Grade, come out for a day of laughter and learning as we experience Christ's love for us and realize that we are able to love because God loved us first.



For more information or to register, contact the church office
 at 724-327-5563 or pokerun@windstream.net.

Breakfast and lunch are provided.

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
 Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."
 1 John 4:7



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

And tell your friends!

Poke Run VBS is

scheduled for July 20—24, 2014.

Click on the emblem to the left for more info.

Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

There are age specific classes for Children and youth.

We have two adult classes:

The class meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall) uses the David C. Cook series titled "Jesus' Fulfillment of Scripture—Studies in the Old and New Testament"

The class meeting in the Session Room (on the right at the end of the hall) is working through a study guide from Max Lucado's Life Lessons series. "Galatians, Free in Christ"



Graduation Sunday" is May 11th.

Please contact the Church Office by April 11th, if you have a graduate from High School or College to honor this year.

Deacons Easter Baskets



Also the Deacons will be making "Easter Food Baskets" for those in need. Orders for food baskets are needed by April 6th. Delivery on April 12th.

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, April 13th.

Plan to stay for the luncheon and enjoy good food and fellowship.

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 make certain that you or any of your family who have served is recorded on the list that will be placed in the Narthex. Please add your information or call or email the office with this information, or Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or lgchicka@gmail.com.



With the weather finally changing, grounds mowing will begin; please remove any artificial flowers or grave blankets by April 26th. Thank you.



Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the PW's project supporting "Birthright of Johnstown." You donated diapers & wipes, clothes, blankets, towels and more.

Circle 2: will be hosting dinner before the Maundy Thursday service.

Circle 4: will be meeting on Thursday, April 10th, Eleanor Zerbini will be the hostess and Jean McQuaide will be the leader.

PW is still collecting shoes as part of the "ShoeBox Recycling Project." - There is a box in the Narthex for your contributions. All gently worn, paired men's women's and kids shoes that are still reusable and re-wearable. Please no ski boots, winter boots, skates, roller blades, flip flops, crocs, bedroom slippers or single shoes. CHECK YOUR CLOSETS!!!

**POKE RUN CHURCH
ROAST BEEF
COMMUNITY DINNER**

MAY 3, 2014

FROM 4 TO 7 PM

ADULTS \$12.00

CHILDREN \$3.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL

724-396-3227

Or the Church Office



The Poke Run Trustees would like to thank everyone who came out to their Pancake Breakfast last month. Your support of the Poke Run Road Fund is certainly appreciated! Over \$800 was donated to the Poke Run Road Fund from this event!

Special thanks to Valerie Hansen!



Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session February 11, 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, Meri Slaughaupt, Cindy McQuaide, Linda Chicka, Chad McCutcheon, Josh Porterfield, Bob Thompson

Elders excused: Tim Martin, Ron Hileman, Sandy Chappell,

Elders absent: Josh Porterfield

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of January 14, 2014

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes of January 13 and February 3, 2014

MSC: To accept the Trustee Minutes of December 10, 2013

Correspondence: Thank you note from Grace Young

Treasurer's Report – Amy Wilkinson

MSC: To accept Treasurer Report

Committee Reports:

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka

Pretzel making with Adelphoi kids for our shut-ins went very well. They always enjoy helping, and sharing ice cream sundaes afterward. This is always a good outreach. Several committee members are interested in attending the upcoming 2 days World Mission Initiative Conference at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on April 4-5. Linda mentioned we would invite other churches to join us on our Mission Trip. A letter was presented which the Committee would like to send to the congregation. Session would like to see additional information on the back listing the various programs Poke Run is involved with prior to it's being sent. The committee will be applying for the Love Gift Offering Grant from PW of Redstone Presbytery to seek monetary support for the Mission Trip. Most of previous year's grants have been given to support mission trips by other Redstone Presbytery churches and to support Triennium. Mission Trip: June 15 -20, 2014. Food Bank Dates for 2014: Saturday February 15 Saturday April 26 and August 16.

Personnel: Doug Ross Ch. (Bob Thompson, Ron Hileman Session)

Committee met last Thursday. Discussion included: changes in job descriptions, new insurance laws and plans to develop a Child Abuse Policy. They suggest we need "Clearances" for those working with children.

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel

Committee will be preparing a farewell dinner for Glenn and Mary Ellen Ross on Sunday February 23 after the 11:00 Service.

Technology – Chad McCutcheon

Plans to use Facebook to promote activities that will depict who we are as a church

Pastor Pete's report: December 2013

Grace Young's Birthday Party

Old Business:

MSC: To purchase 12" x32" Aluminum Placards @ \$30 each for our new Church signs and also add free to Soup for the Soul and \$1 in front of Spaghetti Dinner

New Business:

MSC: To approve letter to congregation from Mission and Stewardship committee.

MSC: To approve Poke Run's 2013 Annual Statistical Report to Presbytery.

MSC: To Approve the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire for 2013 to Presbytery

MCS: To Approve Poke Run's Annual Report pending completion of the Boy Scout's Audit

MSC: to approve 3 bank signatures. Amy Wilkinson, Linda Moorhead, and Linda Chicka.

Bob Thompson brought information from the Westmoreland County IU. They are looking to lease space for an Early Intervention Classroom for the 2014 -2015 School Year. We will meet with them to consider the possibilities

Close with prayer: Connie Cauvel

Adjourn: 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: March 11, 2014



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

APRIL 2014

If you have appropriate News to share in the
Poke Run Ranger—please submit it to the office.
The next Ranger deadline is April 21, 2014.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lenten Service At Poke Run 7:30pm	3 6:30pm Scouts Bells 6:30pm Choir 7pm	4	5 10am Bible Study (Bob Wilson)
6 8:30&11am Worship 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	7 7pm Budg & Fin 7pm Deacons	8 7pm Session	9 Noon "Soup for the Soul" 7pm Choir	10 6:30pm Scouts Bells 6:30pm Choir 7pm	11 6:30pm Scouts	12 Deacon Basket Pick-Up
13 8:30&11am Worship & Lunch 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	14 7pm Mission & Steward	15	16 7pm Choir	17 5:45pmdinner 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Svc.	18 TGIF	19
20 8:30&11am Worship 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	21	22	23	24 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Trustees	25 6:30pm Scouts	26 8:30am Foodbank
27 8:30&11am Worship 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	28	29	30 7pm Choir			



For everything you've done...

for being the special people

that you are...

thank you so very much.

We Love you all and
miss Poke Run
very much.
Helen & Mary Ellen Ross

To all of our friends
from Poke Run
Church. We so
appreciated your
caring & kindness

Sincerely
TERRY & Maryellen Debra Wiester

As difficult as these times
seem to us now,
our sorrow turns to strength
because of friends and
family like you.

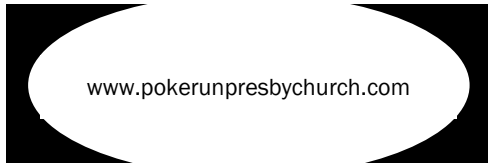
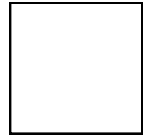
Thank you for your kindness.

The family of

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

www.pokerun@windstream.net



Your invited to our Easter Services

April 13th Palm Sunday Service, 8:30am and 11am

April 17th, Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30pm

April 18th, Good Friday Youth Workshop 8:30am to 1:00pm

Easter Sunday Services, April 20th

Worship at 8:30am and 11am

Sunday School at 10am

