

Something has been lost, something fundamental and primal. The church lies adrift in a web of guesses, hopes, and suppositions, superstitions mostly. The Bible is no longer the source of our teaching. The Holy Spirit no longer leads and guides us. God no longer is a factor in our decisions. Granted there are a few faithful Christian communities. They are small, struggling, and not at all popular. Cross bearing, suffering, and moral living as defined in Scripture do not bring many members into the fold. Giving up one's freedom in submission to the will of God runs contrary to all we wish for and for which we live. We believe in free personal choice and we bring our choices and decision making processes into the church. This effectively cuts us off from God. This is what has been lost, a church that draws its life from God.

The book of Acts tends to be a corrective for our withdrawal from our life in Christ. It points us back to the Holy Spirit as leading and guiding us. As Luke writes the invisible force of the divine mystery shapes every decision and every act. That is, the earliest church was steeped in what is called "providence," the holy hand of God. Over the next few weeks the Lectionary readings take us through five happenings in the life of the first Christians as they gathered together, prayed together, ate together, and had all things in common; a common prayer life, a common faith, and common property. We will see that the apostle Peter's first sermon struck many with such force that many persons hearing him changed their lifestyle and beliefs. This was not a result of their own personal choice as we so often play it today, but was a result of the action of the Holy Spirit within their hearts.

Joining, or rather being called

into, this new community did not make it easier for the first Christians. It made it more difficult. We will watch as Stephen is brutally stoned to death for his faith, a harsh reminder that the world around us does not like to have its base assumptions of what is right and what is wrong challenged. In particular the religious world has much to lose if Jesus is right. They are the ones doing the stoning. Our times are no different. In an age where we hand out birth control and even the morning after pill freely to teens and pre-teens, take a stand for sexual purity and see what happens. Or, stand against Darwin, who himself admitted he may have been wrong, and see if you ever work in any American University. Ah you say, these are not my worries. My children are grown and I have no wish to work in the academic world. Try then to keep Sabbath and you will see. The stones that will be thrown have a new shape but they are just as real.

Later in Acts the newest apostle, Paul, struggles to make the growing faith make sense to the Greek world. His challenge is how, in a city of many gods, a well developed philosophy, and a band of skeptics confronting him, laughing at him, to witness to the gospel. This sounds much like our times today and we will see his answer, beginning within their own beliefs but taking them outside and beyond them, can help us in our own witness.



This lectionary series of readings in Acts ends with a return to the beginning. It is here that we discover the power that drove the early church, the source from which we find ourselves disconnected in our era as we thrash about wildly in the rip tides of philosophy, theology, psychology, and sociology, among other "ologies." We cannot much longer swim in them as they draw us deeper into the depths of secularity. They are the easy and the broad ways that lead us away from the one true God who self reveals his wish and will in Scripture. Here in the last reading before we celebrate the day of Pentecost Jesus says to his disciples, "... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Here then is the lost power that invigorates the true church, the guiding and leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for it to once again fill us so that we may continue to be God's holy people.

by Pastor Pete

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Thank you to everyone who served during our worship services in April.

Thank you to our April Greeters:

Larry & Debbie Seighman,
Jack & Eleanor Zerbini,
John & Sheree Wagner, Liz Maher and
Shyrl Stange

Thank you to our April Lectors:

Debbie Seighman, Connor Martin,
Chad McCutcheon, and Eleanor Zerbini

Special thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Community Lenten Service, Palm Sunday Luncheon and TGIF Event on Good Friday.

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,
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, Terry Wiester, SSG James Bishop (Poke Run's "adopt a soldier")
and others who serve in the military.

If you wish to add someone to our prayer list, please call the church office. The list is periodically updated; if someone has been dropped from the list that you would like to continue, please let us know.

Thank you

"There are no words I can say to you to thank you for all the love and support I have received from you upon the death of my mom, Delia Delfavero Greenacre. From the calls, cards, kind words and especially the help with the funeral luncheon, I am truly overwhelmed and grateful for your kindness to me and my family.

May God bless you all. Debbie Delfavero"

"The Tim Martin Family extends heartfelt thanks to dear friends at Poke Run for the prayers, cards, gifts of food, and words of concern and encouragement during our time of challenges and loss."



Easter 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

NATHAN WATSON (SON OF DAVE WATSON WHO HAS PREACHED HERE MANY TIMES) WILL BE JOINING OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAY MAY 5TH TO LEAD US IN SOME "PRAISE MUSIC!" DON'T MISS IT!





Poke Run Graduation Sunday, May 11, 2014

Taylor Brewer—daughter of Gary and Roxanne Brewer is graduating from Kiski Area High School.

Erin Justine Bruce—daughter of Douglas & Nadene Bruce is graduating from Kiski Area High School. She will be attending Penn State—New Kensington to study Early Childhood Education and Spanish.

Josh Porterfield—son of Shelley & Bruce Bowman is graduating from Kiski Area High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh—Bradford to study Electrical Engineering.

Celia Brewer—daughter of Gary and Roxanne Brewer graduated from Slippery Rock University with a degree in Special Education.

Melissa Linsenbigler—daughter of Gary & Lisa Linsenbigler, and granddaughter of Edgar & Lillian Linsenbigler graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in December 2013 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in History. She is currently employed with ARC in Greensburg.

Stephanie Bruce Kennedy—daughter of Douglas & Nadene Bruce, graduated from DeVry University with an Associate degree in Applied Science in Health Information Technology.

Zachary Adam Kennedy, son-in-law of Douglas & Nadene Bruce graduated from Waynesburg with a Master of Arts in Counseling.

Patrick Wilkinson—son of David & Amy Wilkinson, is graduating from Saint Vincent College with a BS in Biology, Minors in Math and Chemistry and a certificate in Biotechnology. He has accepted a position at the University of Pittsburgh in their Interdisciplinary Biomedical PhD program.

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 available at the end of the month. Please communicate any changes by May 15th.

Thank you.



Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case!

FROM THE Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session meeting of March 11, 2014

Book of Order: Pete reviewed Church discipline from Calvin. How are we going to do these things Jesus calls us to do?

Elders present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Connie Cauvel - Clerk, Meri Slaugenhaupt, Linda Chicka, Chad McCutcheon, Josh Porterfield, Bob Thompson, Tim Martin, Ron Hileman, Sandy Chappell, Josh Porterfield (youth rep.)

Elders excused: Cindy McQuaide

Guests: Doug Ross

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of February 11, 2014

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes of February 3

MSC: To accept the Trustee Minutes of February 27

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin—Tim reviewed the Treasurer's report prepared by Amy Wilkinson

Giving continues to be faithful. We have collected almost 50% of First Fruits. Committee is reviewing costs for Automatic Handicapped door opener, dusk to dawn light, repair of the Narthex roof and a CD player \$17,000 Total

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka First Baptist Church in Apollo would like to partner with us on our Mission Trip. Linda will meet with them March 26 to answer any questions. Next Food Bank day is April 26. Currently working on One Great hour for sharing.

Personnel: Doug Ross Ch. (Bob Thompson, Ron Hileman Session) Doug is working on Job descriptions. Church has saved almost \$18,000 over the past 2 years on staff positions. Lil appeared in court & had to take the stand in hopes of continuing her insurance. Benefits.

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell TGIF April 18 Laurie Martin will work on program and others will lead it on Good Friday

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel Committee will prepare the refreshments for fellowship following the Community Lenten Service on April 2.

Technology – Chad McCutcheon did not meet.

Pastor Pete's report:

Soup for the Soul Feb.12, 2014. Funeral for Hannelore Heller – Feb. 13, 2014. Luncheon for Glenn Ross Feb. 23. Ash Wednesday Service at Union March 5. Communion March 2 Transfiguration Communion March 9, 1st Sunday in Lent

Old Business: Road signs are complete - Thanks Ron!

New Business:

MSC: To support "Birthright of Johnstown" by donating baby items to help unwed mothers. (Electronic vote)

MSC: Pancake / Sausage Breakfast Saturday March 29 from 8:00 – 11:00. Adults \$6, Children under 12 \$4 Infants 2 and under free.

Dave Watkins called Pete from Idaho in a place similar to Adolphi House. He son Nathan is a praise worship leader and is leaving his current position. Pete would like Nathan to join us on May 4th he will bring his keyboard and attend the 11:00 service try this out and consider Saturday eve.

MSC: Nathan Watkins to present praise music on May 4, 2014

Close with prayer: Sandy Chappell

Adjourn: 8:36 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: April 8, 2014



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

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May 4—7pm "Spring Gospel Sing" Delmont Presbyterian

May 3—Pine Springs Mountain Bike Race

May 14—6pm author Rev. Dr. Davison on "The Year of the Bible" Congruity Church

May 19—Pine Springs Camp Scholarship Golf Outing

May 27—Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp



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

May 3 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 MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 26TH.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 1, 2014—an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the [United States Congress](#), when people are asked "to turn to God in [prayer](#) and [meditation](#)".

Each year since its inception, the [president](#) has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. [Click here for more information NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER](#)



WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY

MAY 10, 2014—The WFTO [logo](#) is for organizations that demonstrate a 100% commitment to Fair Trade in all their business activities. Only monitored WFTO members are authorized to use the [logo](#).

Launched in 2004, the Fair Trade Organization Mark (WFTO Logo) shows that an organization follows the WFTO's Principles of Fair Trade, covering working conditions, transparency, wages, the environment, gender equity and more.

[Click here for more information WFTO](#)

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!!!!

Coming Up: 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.

Click on the Cabin for the Pine Springs Website!



SUPPORT BSA TROOP 552

3rd 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

Click here for the Troop 552 website: [TROOP 552](#)



Poke Run is pleased to welcome new members Charles “Chuck” Blair and Gary Brewer—celebrated at the Poke Run Deacon’s annual Palm Sunday luncheon.



Music Appreciation Sunday

Join the Congregational Life committee on Sunday, May 18th to celebrate the Poke Run musicians who share their gifts in our worship services.



Choir:

Miriam Painter
Betty Schmidt
Laurie Martin
Pat Lengauer
Don Lengauer
Jeff Wilkinson
Albert Moorhead
Mary Ellen Ross
Cindy McQuaide
Nikki McQuaide
Amy Wilkinson
Lizzy Wilkinson
Patrick Wilkinson
Glenn Ross
Jan Fitzgerald

Hand Bell Choir:

Laurie Martin
Connor Martin
Amy Wilkinson
Jeff Wilkinson
Jan Fitzgerald
Deb Seighman
Edyth Elwood
Freda Bowman
Cindy McQuaide
Sean O'Neil

Soloists & Instrumentalists:

Linda Moorhead- Piano
Katie Ballas- Flute
Melissa Goetschius- Trumpet
Doug Bruce- Trumpet
Brittany Brosius—soloist

Music Director: Sean O'Neil

Early Service Musician:

Linda Moorhead



Please join us for our monthly
free

Community

"Soup for the Soul"

Luncheon

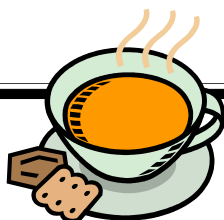
AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!

May 14, 2014

Doors open at 11:30am

Chicken Rice this month.

Soup's on at NOON!



POKE RUN CHURCH DEACON'S ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

MAY 17, 2014

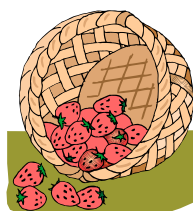
3 – 6:00 PM

ADULTS \$8.00

CHILDREN AGES 3-12 \$4.00

CHILDREN UNDER 3 – FREE

***Enjoy Ham Bar-B-Que's; Salad Bar &
a Variety of Strawberry Desserts***





Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW

Circle 2: will meet on May 15th—the hostess is Cindy McQuaide and the leader will be Laurie Martin.

Circle 4: will be meeting on Thursday, May 8th, Miriam Painter is the hostess and Freda Bowman is 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!!!**

Click here for the National Presbyterian Women website: [PW](#)

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



TRUSTEE WORK DAY

The next “Trustee Work Day” is scheduled for Saturday May 17th—8am til noon. There are jobs for all ages and all abilities—please consider helping out!!



“Volunteers are not paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!”

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"



A new Saturday (10am) morning Bible study has begun at the home of Bob Wilson (715 McQuilkin Dr., Wash. Twp) **We will use the "Community Bible Experience," designed to take you beyond fragmented reading and traditional Bible study methods so you can experience the whole New Testament.** See Liz Maher or Bob Wilson for more information.

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.



You can now find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook!

Facebook "Likes" as of April — 113 Join in!

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

Poke Run web site is www.pokerunchurch.com click here

**History Buffs - the "May 1972" Ranger was just added to the website—
Check it out!**





Plans for this year's Mission Trip to Marion Virginia in the week of June 15-20, are well underway with a new partnership with First Baptist Church of Apollo. After their plans for a mission trip to Haiti were stalled, youth leader Rachele Bonelli contacted us to inquire about participating in our mission trip to Virginia. One of First Baptist's youth members, Mikayla Boylestein, (Bev and Mario Tagliati's granddaughter) had shared her experience with her youth group about our mission trip. They were fired up about the idea of joining us and thus a new ecumenical partnership was born. With an expanded workforce, our trip to Virginia has created new opportunities for sharing the Gospel with those we will serve this summer.

Applications are available for anyone interested in attending the trip. If you are interested in traveling with the team this year, please pick up an application from the back of the church, from the church office or download an application from the church website at: www.pokerunchurch.com. All registrations are due Monday, May 12th. An informational meeting will be held on Monday, May 12th at 7:30pm in the Church Sanctuary. The final planning meeting will be Monday, June 9th at 7:30p.m. Watch the Ranger and bulletin for more information as plans for the trip develop.

There is always room for more to travel with us. We encourage you to go for the entire week, but if that isn't possible, please consider a portion of the week. If you have a neighbor or friend from another church who would like to attend, please pass this information along to them. Prayerfully consider how each of you might join us. We need people to cook, to visit and talk with the residents, and those that can work or are willing to learn how to do the work. 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.

Recognizing our Service Men and Women

Our congregation has many men and women who have served in the military. Linda Chicka has posted a list of those who given service to our country, living or deceased and posted it in the Church narthex. Please take time to review it let us know of any corrections or additions. Call or email the office with this information, or Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or lgchicka@gmail.com.

Copies of the list will be available in the Narthex at the May 25th service.

If you would like a mailed copy, please contact the church office.



In Memory of Our Veterans

On Thursday, May 22, members from the Poke Run Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops, the Board of Trustees, and congregation members will be planting flowers on the graves of the veterans who are buried in Poke Run Cemetery. A single red geranium will be placed to recognize the sacrifice and service these veterans gave to help our country stay free.

On this same evening, new flags will also be placed. Jerry Deible, from Murrys ville, has placed these flags at Poke Run and 5 other local cemeteries for at least 15 years. Last year, Jerry coordinated with our planting flowers and the Poke Run Scouts assisted him in placing the flags. This year all the old bronze flag holders will be replaced with new aluminum markers. So far, nearly 160 veteran's graves have been located and marked. If you know of a veteran whose grave is not presently marked, please contact Linda Chicka or the church office. If you would like to assist in planting, please arrive in the upper cemetery area by 6:00p.m. on May 22.



Poke Run Church

May 2014

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>NEW BIBLE STUDY—Saturdays, 10am at the home of Bob Wilson and Liz Maher.</div>				1 6:30pm SCOUTS	2	3 Bible Stdy 10am POKE RUN COMMUNITY DINNER!
4 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	5 DEACONS 7pm	6 BUDGET & FINANCE 7pm	7 7pm CHOIR	8 6:30pm SCOUTS	9 6:30pm SCOUTS	10 Bible Study 10am 
11 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY 	12 MISSION & STEWARDSHIP 7pm TRIP MTG	13 SESSION 7pm	14 11:30 SOUP 7pm CHOIR	15 6:30pm SCOUTS	16	17 Bible Stdy 10a Trs Wk Day 8:am STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 3-6pm 
18 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP Luncheon for All 10am SUNDAY SCH 6:30pm SCOUTS 7pm BIBLE STUDY 	19	20	21 7pm CHOIR	22 6:30pm SCOUTS 7pm TRUSTEES <i>Cemetery Planting</i> 6pm	23 6:30pm SCOUTS	24 Bible Study 10am
25 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	26 Memorial Day 	27	28 7pm CHOIR	29 6:30pm SCOUTS	30	31 Bible Study 10am

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

Ordering Sanctuary Flowers

To order flowers for the sanctuary, please sign up on the flower chart and contact the church office with your announcement. Flower charges are: 2 arrangements \$44 (includes delivery fee) This will include mixed arrangements of mums and carnations. You can also provide your own arrangements; please let the office know this prior to the Monday before, so that a duplicate is not ordered. All checks should be made out to Poke Run Church; please note on your check that it is for flowers. Any questions? Contact the Church office.

TGIF 2014

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This year's Good Friday "TGIF" day focused on showing that **"We love because God first loved us!"** Children from Poke Run and our community gathered for a day of laughter and learning as they experienced Christ's love. There were games, crafts, song, dressing up, smiles and fun.

And of course it started with a good breakfast and ended with a great lunch!



"We don't change the message, the message changes us!"

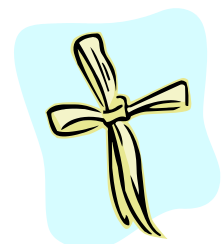




Special Thanks

to everyone who attended and volunteered at TGIF 2014!

Especially: coordinators Laurie Martin and Linda Chicka, and photographer Connie Cauvel!



DEACON'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE!

May 17, Saturday

From 3:00 to 6:00pm

Adults \$8.00

Children ages 3-12 \$4.00

Children under age 3 are Free

Come and enjoy a Buffet of Sandwiches (Ham Bar B Q; Ham Salad; Egg Salad & Hot Dogs) along with a variety of salads and for dessert- strawberries, ice cream and your choice of cakes or shortbread.



**POKE RUN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1091 POKE RUN CHURCH RD
APOLLO PA 15613**

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