



# The Ranger

**JUNE 2014**



## Inside this issue:

Thank You/Prayer List/ PW	2
GOOD STUFF!	3
Session Minutes	4
Happenings	5
Important Dates/ Treasurer & Office info/ Pine Springs Camp	6
Trustees/Veterans/ Cemetery	7
CE/VBS/Baptism	8
Calendar	11
VBS Advertisement	12

It is Tuesday evening. Already it has been an odd week. Yesterday was a holiday so functionally this is only the first day of the week. Yesterday began the oddness with a phone call. Could I preside at a funeral? I asked for further details. It seems that a family, originally "Baptist," had been turned down by the pastor of their claimed church. A more local "Baptist" pastor had also declined. I accepted. The funeral was one day away. I talked to the family. I prepared and showed up. When I said, "And now let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us, "Our Father ... " "no one followed. The Lord's Prayer intended for this gathered community was on this day a hollow solo.

Why did these people want a "Christian" funeral at all? If you have had no part in any church, why seek its primal practices? More and more I am having the conversation, "I want my baby baptized, ... I want to be married in a church, ... " but, I have no home church, will you do it? Is it superstition? Is it some collective memory, however weak? Is it a deep unfelt need difficult to articulate? Is it the Holy Spirit beginning to warm up the sleeping world?

After the funeral I decided to get my hair cut. I go to the same three or four persons who have cut my hair since I have been here. Getting my hair cut at this same place has allowed me to develop a set of relationships not otherwise possible with non-churched people. At first they worked in the same commercial salon and were young twenty somethings, now they are young thirty

somethings. They have moved on together, a community of sorts, and opened their own hair cutting salon. It was here I stopped, Tuesday, after a funeral, for the non-churched. Here, at the salon, it is different. They know I am a minister and where and there is between us an ongoing conversation.

One person stood at the counter. She was animated and engaged in a conversation with one hair stylist. It was impossible not to hear. She had just had a baby. It was a preemie. The child was to come home tomorrow; five pounds, six ounces. She was ecstatic. She was also aware, extremely aware of the fragility of life, her child's life. Discovering I was a minister she turned to me and asked, "Will you baptize my baby? How soon can you?" What do you say to a frightened ecstatic new mother who is eighteen, nineteen, maybe twenty? And who is clearly single, and this in a public dialogue. I asked her if she had a home church. Her answer should give us all pause, "I used to be ... (here I omit the denomination to protect the guilty) but I will never go back to that church!"

Over the years I have heard this same story from this coterie of young hair stylists. In fact, one of them, the very first time she cut my hair, on finding that I was a minister very nearly refused to continue. She stood at arms length, defiant and angry, silent at first, then followed a long venting of anger, at the church her dad made her go to, and I suspect at him as well, although I did not pry. She is bright and articulate

and often her caustic wit was deadly, and accurate. She also had the integrity to finish the haircut, and I did not get a Mohawk. Over the years she vented to me again and again. She explained to me how Buddhism was a kinder gentler religion and has looked into the nooks and crannies of many more faiths. Sometimes I commented; most times I just listened. Recently the conversation has turned again to the church. She has read the Bible and discovered that God is not a monster but that the Bible gives us a changing perspective on God until God fully reveals Godself in Jesus Christ. She has recently found a church where she feels happy and secure. Her angry rhetoric has turned to honest search and deep and honest questions.

When I paid for my last haircut she asked me if I knew why she was "in Church." "Well, no, I don't." "It is because of you, because the very first time you came in here, all those long years ago, you didn't yell at me when I yelled at you."

My suggestion today is – let the Holy Spirit lead you to one of these young persons who is way outside your comfort zone. Listen to them; let the years go by. You don't need to do anything. God calls God's own, that is sufficient.

**Pastor Pete**



Photo provided by Doug Ross.

# Thank You

To everyone who served during our Worship services in May.

**May Greeters:** Andy & Eva Bantroch, Bob & Margaret McBride, Connie Cauvel & Lizzy Wilkinson, Freda Bowman & Edyth Elwood

**May Lectors:** Nikki McQuaide, Josh Porterfield, Shyrl Stange and Lizzy Wilkinson



**Thank you to Boy Scout Troop #522 for the lovely flowers on Mother's Day!**



## 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, Jean Campbell, Helen Grayem, Sandy Nemetz, the Davis Family, Anna Mae Chicka, Roberta Caldwell, Lee & Linda Gardener, Geniene Ciuca, Linda Steele, Terry Wiester, Jean McQuaide, Terry Wiester, AbbeyBallas, Betty Schmidt, Erin Frey at Pine Springs Camp, 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.**

## Calling All Women in the Church

**Poke Run's Presbyterian Women will hold their Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00pm.** We welcome all women (and men) from our congregation to come and learn how you may support the mission of Poke Run and the Church Universal. Circle 2 will host and provide the program.

**Circle 2:** will not have any meetings in June, July or August.

**Circle 4:** will be "out to lunch!" on June 12. The leader will be Eleanor Zerbini.

***We were thrilled to learn that Poke Run has been awarded a \$500 "Love Gift" grant from the Redstone Presbyterian Women to help finance the church's mission trip in June. The "Love Gift" is an offering of Presbyterian Women organizations from all churches in the Presbytery, to be used to help finance mission ministry within the Presbytery.***

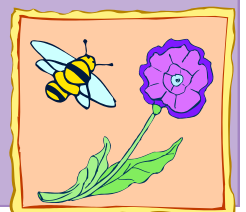
The recent Community Dinner, sponsored by the Poke Run Presbyterian Women netted a profit of \$2,100 for Poke Run's Road fund and \$210 or 10% of the dinner profit to the Current Fund. Many thanks to all that helped in any way, but especially to *Laurie Powers* for coordinating the dinner.



Redstone PW is having a "Christmas in July Tea" at Congruity Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria on Saturday, July 26 at 1pm. All proceeds will support the STOP HUNGER NOW initiative. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Martin (724-727-3361, [martinstlc3@verizon.net](mailto:martinstlc3@verizon.net).)

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!!!**

**And remember —Circle 2 will be holding their annual rummage sale in October. SAVE YOUR GOOD JUNK FOR THEM!!!!**





## Poke Run Graduates 2014—complete list in May “Ranger”

**JoElla Gearhard**—daughter of J. Herbert and Nancy Gearhard graduated from Saint Vincent College with a BS in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology.

**Lori Chappell Barger**—daughter of Bob & Sandy Chappell graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Masters Degree in Adult Education and Communications.



### CONGRATULATIONS:

Brenden Kelley, son of Barry and Tammy Kelley, was recently inducted to the National Honor Society. Brenden is a student at Greensburg Salem High School.

*If you have News to share in the “Ranger”—please submit it to the office. The next “Ranger” deadline is June 23rd.*



### CHECK IT OUT!!!

Elizabeth Cauvel (wife of Ross and daughter-in-law of Connie) is appearing as a contestant on the Fox Network reality show “Master Chef”! Elizabeth, who is an Advertising Executive in New York, beat out a nation of applicants to be a part of the competition. “Master Chef” airs on Fox network, Monday nights at 8pm.

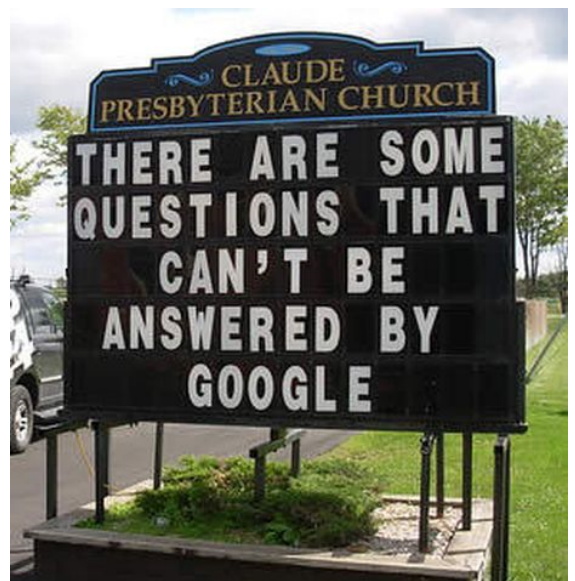


### PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

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



Anyone care to solve the mystery? “Grumpy” of “Grammy and Grumpy” received an “appropriate” mug—from an anonymous reader of the Christmas poinsettia dedications!



**FROM THE Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session meeting of April 9, 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, Chad McCutcheon Assist. Clerk, Meri Slaugenhaupt, Cindy McQuaide, Linda Chicka , Bob Thompson, Tim Martin, Ron Hileman, Josh Porterfield

**Elders excused:** Sandy Chappell, Connie Cauvel-Clerk

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget & Finance:** **Tim Martin** Tim reviewed the Treasurer's report.

**Christian Ed** - Laurie Martin is coordinating our Good Friday TGIF program.

**Mission and Stewardship:** Linda Chicka went to meet with the Apollo First Baptist Church. Bob Wilson went with her. The Mission Trip was well received and it appears they will send quite a contingent to join Poke Run on the Mission Trip.

The stewardship letter as presented once more and Linda has created the second page listing all of Poke Run's mission support.

Received \$500 from the Redstone Presbyterian Women to be used for the mission trip.

**Congregational Life:** there will be lunch after the Palm Sunday service.

**Technology** – Chad McCutcheon - Did not meet.

MSC for Pete to take a Sunday vacation on April 27, 2014.

**Old Business:**

Road Fund Pancake and Sausage breakfast \$800 raised.

Leasing classroom space to the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit-major stumbling blocks are snow removal and conflicting dates with VBS, etc. They will get back to us as things progress.

Political fundraisers are a no go because if we were to let one have a fundraiser then we have to let all of them have a fundraiser.

Session Retreat (Fall 2014)-Pete will think about this more.

Nathan Watkins will share his music with us May 4.

District 1 Event @ Newlonsburg.

**New Business:**

Chuck Blair, new member attended the Session meeting to introduce himself. He and Gary Brewer will be joining the church on Sunday by re-affirmation of faith.

MSC to accept both Chuck Blair and Gary Brewer as new members of Poke Run Church.

Close with prayer:

Respectfully Submitted:

Adjourn: 8:18

Approved: May 13, 2014

*Chad A. McCutcheon*

Chad A. McCutcheon (Assistant Clerk)



**HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY**

June 7—4:30-7pm Strawberry Festival, Community Presbyterian, New Alexandria

June 19-21 PW Synod Gathering, Waynesburg College



**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.

Two campers signed up already!!!

**HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

JUNE 2—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.

**Pray for the Presbyterian Church USA**

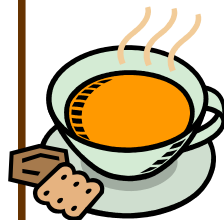
The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries. The GA is full of activities: business sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, daily worship services, and mission tours sponsored by the Committee on Local Arrangements.

The assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries.

The 221st General Assembly (2014) will be held in Detroit, Michigan - June 14 - 21.



The Synod of the Trinity, Presbyterian Women will be gathering at Waynesburg University on June 19-21. Pray for these Christian women as they spend time together. “Hope in Bloom!”



*Thank you to Ron and Carole Bowman for another wonderful year of “Soup for the Soul.” This program has grown from a regular crowd of about 20 to close to 50 every month. Ron gave a special thanks to Laurie Martin, Bob Wilson and multiple others who have faithfully helped each month. There will be a summer break and then “Soup” will resume on the second Wednesday of the month starting again on October 8<sup>th</sup>!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  
**NATHAN WATSON WILL BE JOINING OUR 11AM WOR-**  
**SHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAY JUNE 8TH**  
**AND SUNDAY JUN 15TH TO LEAD US**  
**AGAIN IN "PRAISE MUSIC!"**  
**DON'T MISS IT!**



**PUT AUGUST 24TH ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

Poke Run member Andy Caldwell and the Shriner's Three Rivers Hillbilly Clan #53 will be hosting a "Poke Run Picnic" after the 11a.m. service.



**TREASURER AND OFFICE UPDATE**

**First Fruits:** Poke Run Church has committed to giving \$3,125 to Redstone Presbytery for the "Mission of the Larger Church." To date, the congregation has given specifically to this in the amount of 60% of the pledge.; suggested donation is \$30 per member The Budget & Finance Committee hopes that you will consider giving to *First Fruits* to close the gap on the remaining balance of our pledge. (see the *First Fruits* envelope included in the boxed offering cards, or indicate *First Fruits* on your check or envelope.) **As always, all checks should be made out to "Poke Run Church."**

**The Poke Run Road Fund:** currently has over \$20,000 in it. Thank you for your support. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please indicate "Road Fund" on your gift, but **as always, all checks should be made out to "Poke Run Church."**

Secretary Lil Bowman is still out on an extended medical leave. Amy Wilkinson continues to fill in for her in the Poke Run office. **Daily office hours remain 9am-2pm, as much as possible. If you need to stop in during a weekday, it is best to call first.**

An updated **Church Directory** will be available in the Narthex after June 1. If you have any additions or corrections, please contact the office.



**History Buffs - the "June 1973 and June 1974" Rangers were just added to the website—Check it out! [www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)**

**Pine Springs Camp**

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).

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

Please continue to keep the ministry of Pine Springs Camp in your prayers and actions.

**Click on the Cabin for the Pine Springs Website!**



Poke Run has "adopted" a 2014 Pine Springs staff member, to keep in prayer and encourage through the summer. *Erin Frey*, of Jeannette is a recent grad from Pitt/Greensburg and will be working as the HEAD LIFEGUARD. Linda Chicka is preparing a "care package" for Erin, if you would like to contribute something for that—see her. (gift cards, notes, candy, other fun or encouraging items) If you would like to send directly to Erin: Erin Frey, Pine Springs Camp, P O Box 186, 371 Pine Springs Camp Road, Jennerstown PA 15547





Thank you to everyone who comes out to help the Trustees on their Work Days—and to all those who see things that need done—and do them! Your acts are noticed and appreciated. This month's work included setting a pole near the pavilion in the front of the church to extend our parking lot lighting.



Photos provided by Doug Ross.



## In Memory of Our Veterans

Members from the Poke Run Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops, the Board of Trustees, and congregation members planted flowers on the graves of the veterans who are buried in Poke Run Cemetery. A single red geranium was placed to recognize the sacrifice and service these veterans gave to help our country stay free. New flags were also placed. This year all the old bronze flag holders were replaced with new aluminum markers. So far, over 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.



## 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 have given service to our country, living or deceased 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](mailto: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.



## **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 "The People of God Set Priorities"

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"



### **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.**

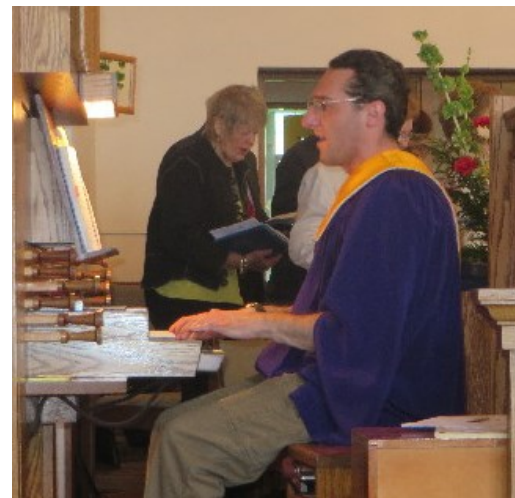
**Watch for a bulletin insert for volunteer opportunities.**

**The Saturday morning Bible study at the home of Bob Wilson will take a break over the summer months. Study will continue in the fall.**



Isaac Dean Cox, son of Eric & Jessica Lynn Cox of Vandergrift, PA. was presented for baptism on May 11, 2014. Standing with them for Isaac was Dan Hill, Chelsea Pflugh and his grandparents.

Photo provided by Connie Cauvel



Music Appreciation Sunday! May 18, 2014





## WANTED:

Unwanted, unused & expired prescription and over-the-counter medications

**1 in 5**  
high school students  
have abused  
prescription drugs.

Every day  
**2,500**  
kids abuse  
prescription  
drugs for the  
first time.

**75%**  
of people who abuse  
prescription pain relievers say  
they got them from friends or  
relatives.

Washington Township Police Department  
289 Pine Run Church Road  
Apollo, PA 15613

*Don't let unwanted or expired medicines add to the startling statistics. If you have prescriptions or over-the-counter and other unused medicines, PA MedReturn drop boxes are a safe, effective and environmentally-friendly way to dispose of them.*

Murrysville Police Department  
4120 Sardis Road  
Murrysville, PA 15668

### FREE AND ANONYMOUS

#### Products Accepted

Prescription and over-the-counter solid medications, tablets and capsules, liquid medications, inhalers, creams, ointments, nasal sprays, and pet medicines

Allegheny Township Police Department  
136 Community Building Road  
Leechburg, PA 15656

Delmont Police Department  
77 Greensburg Street  
Delmont, PA 15626

#### Products NOT Accepted

Intravenous solutions, injectables and needles

Vandergrift Police Department  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

This important information was shared by Ron Bowman at this month's "Soup for the Soul".



Poke Run Presbyterian Church and 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Apollo

## 2014 Mission Trip

Jesus said, "When you serve others, you also serve me." Matthew 25:40

**Sunday, June 15 - Friday, June 20, 2014**

There are several ways in which you can support this year's mission trip to Marion, Virginia.

**Prayer Support** – for those who go to work ... for those we serve ... for safe travel ... for safety during work ... for funds to support our work and travel ... for confidence to share the Gospel...

**Financial Support** – for the finances to fund project materials ... and additionally for gas and food expenses.

**Participant Support** – for individuals willing to go on the trip to work and serve. Participants may be any adults (18 years of age and older), and supervised youth (12 to 17 years of age\*). Youth under age 16 **must** be attended by a parent or appointed guardian

**Final Preparation Meeting-** Monday, June 9, at 7:30 in the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. Late registrations will be accepted contingent on transportation. Please consider joining us!

For more information, contact:

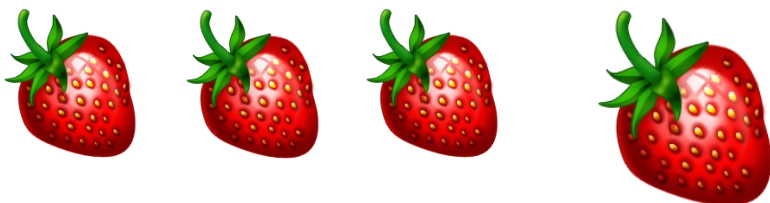
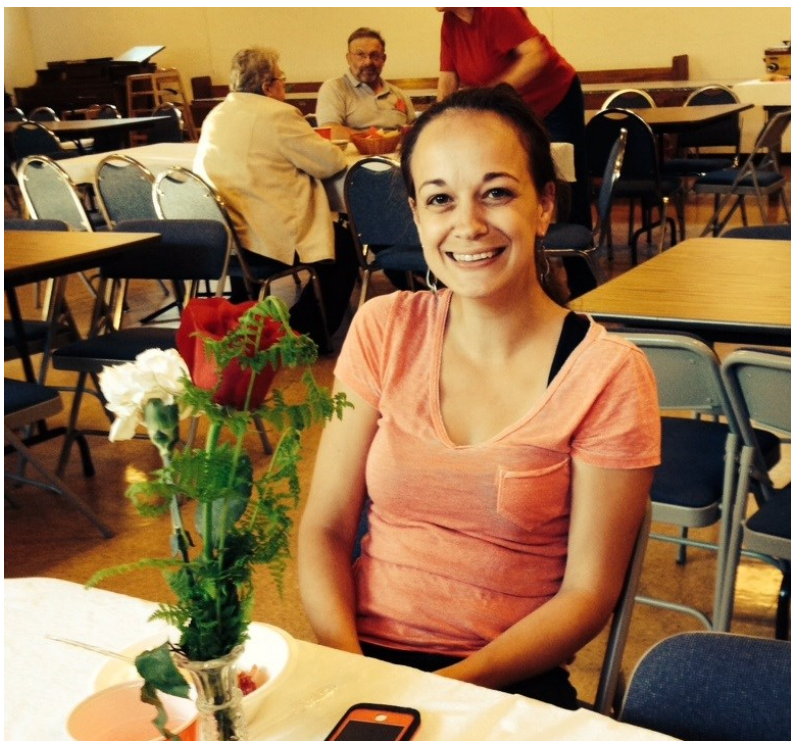
Linda Chicka – 724-422-3688 or [lgchicka@gmail.com](mailto:lgchicka@gmail.com)

Poke Run Church Office, 724-327-5563

Registration materials may be found online at: Poke Run - [www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)



*The Poke Run Deacons would like to thank everyone who helped with and/or attended their annual “Strawberry Festival” fundraiser. They raised over \$1,200! It was a great way to celebrate spring!*



Photos provided by Connie Cauvel.



# Poke Run Church



## June 2014



Offering - Budget and Finance

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good,  
for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

<b>1</b> 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>2</b> 7pm NOMINATING	<b>3</b> 7pm PW meeting	<b>4</b> 7pm Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30pm SCOUTS	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> PENTECOST 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>9</b> 7pm MISSION & STEWARDSHIP 7pm NOMINATING	<b>10</b> SESSION 7pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30pm SCOUTS	<b>13</b> 6:30pm SCOUTS	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY 6:30pm SCOUTS Father's Day	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30pm SCOUTS	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm SCOUTS TRUSTEES 7pm	<b>27</b> 6:30pm SCOUTS	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 9:45am SUNDAY SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>30</b>	<b>Pray for those on the Poke Run Mission Trip June 15-19, and for those that they serve.</b>			<p>The Church will be celebrating <i>Pentecost</i> - on June 8th. This is the day to remember the birth of the Church with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.</p> 	
						

**You can now find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook!**

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

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



**GET READY FOR POKE RUN  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JULY 20TH -24TH  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND  
TELL YOUR FRIENDS!**



**Poke Run Presbyterian Church**

1091 Poke Run Church Road  
Apollo, PA 15613  
724-327-5563

