



Poke Run Presbyterian Church "The Ranger"

From Pastor Pete

JANUARY 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| THANK YOU / PRAYERS | 2 |
| VETERAN SERVICE/ PW | 3 |
| SESSION | 4 |
| OFFICE INFO/ CHRISTIAN ED | 5 |
| DEACONS | 6 |
| BREAKFAST WITH SANTA | 7 |
| HAPPENINGS/ MISC | 8 |
| CALENDAR | 9 |
| SOUP | 10 |

THE POKE RUN
OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
JANUARY 1ST and
19TH.



"The Christian Church possesses in its literature an abundant and incomparable treasure. But it is an inheritance that must be reclaimed by each generation." So begins the preface to Calvin's Institutes edited by John T. McNeill from which all the quotes in this essay will be taken. This quote should give us pause, first of all because we do have an incomparable treasure in our Christian literature. No other writing or group of writings makes the claim that ours makes. Second we live in a time when few people read difficult books, and the ancient Christian writers are often complex, difficult, and purposely obscure. And sadly, we live in a time when people, when confronted with something with which they disagree, simply ignore it. They do not test its truth; they simply substitute their own preferences in its place. This means then that if we wish our children and grandchildren to rediscover the Christian faith, we will have to do the initial work for them. Only God can bring them to faith.

I have found John Calvin to be a faithful guide to the Christian faith. He is nowhere near the ancients. His Institutes are barely five hundred years old. Yet he strikes deeply into the heart of the Christian faith. Each year, at the beginning of the year, I take out his Institutes and reread at least Book III chapters six to ten. In these chapters Calvin describes the Christian life. He does this about as well as any other writer and I would like to

share a few quotes from Calvin's work with you.

First of all you should know that Calvin believed and taught that the Christian life was a process. He was not a revivalist. That is he did not believe in instant conversions that led to immediate perfection. He absolutely believed that there was a definite starting point to the Christian life but he believed the pathway that followed was a treacherous and difficult one that often led through suffering. He believed that, once God grasped a person life change began. "This (life change) is not confined within a single day but extends through the whole course of our life, until, completely dead to ourselves, we are filled with the life of God." (Volume 1, p. 397) This idea that we become "filled with the life of God" is one of the incomparable treasures taught in our literature. Two hundred pages later he says it again. Here he talks about our "Rebirth in Christ." "And indeed, this restoration does not take place in one moment or one day or one year; but through continual and sometimes even slow advances God wipes out in his elect the corruptions of the flesh, cleanses them of guilt, consecrates them to himself as temples renewing all their minds to true purity that they may practice repentance throughout their lives and know that this warfare will end only at death." (Volume 1, p. 601)

What is the reason that God changes us? "The object of regeneration ... is to manifest

in believers a harmony and agreement between God's righteousness and their obedience, ... " (Volume 1, p. 684) Regeneration is the process by which God gives us grace so that we can live the life that God calls us to live. When God gives grace, and not before, we're helpless before then, several things happen. We are given faith, faith to believe that we are sinners and that we are saved by grace through Christ's death for us on the cross, and faith to repent and faith to live out God's commands. Some people see this as a two-fold event. One, we are declared righteous through faith by grace. Two, we are given, by grace as well, the power to live a righteous life. This is called sanctification.

"Now the great thing is this: we are consecrated and dedicated to God in order that we may thereafter think, speak, meditate, and do, nothing except to his glory ... We are not our own ... Conversely we are God's: let us therefore live for him and die for him. We are God's: let his wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions ... (applying) the whole force of (our) ability in the service of the Lord." (Volume 1, p. 690)

As you think forward into this new year, think about how you will order your life under God, and the grace that God has given you, first for righteousness and second for sanctification, so that more and more you can be "filled with the life of God."

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



Thank You

Our December Lectors: Connor Martin, Jodi Dupill, Amy Wilkinson, Doug Ross and Linda Chicka.

Our December Greeters: Edyth Elwood and Freda Bowman, Mario & Bev Tagliatit, Tom & Nancy Kimble, and Jack & Eleanor Zerbin

Our December Advent Readers: Sandy Chappell and Jim Moorhead, John & Linda Chicka, Bob & Diane Scott, the Calvin McCutcheon family, the Hileman family, the Dupill family, the Fazi family, and Bob Fitzgerald with Josh, Zach and Caitlin Obringer.



For our prayers:

Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James & 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, Donna Blaser, Wanda Petrilla, The Church, Renee Beck, Amy Kroner, Elvira, Thad Overly, Max Brooks, Leonard Hartman, Marjorie Kaiser, Glenn Ross, Linda Steele, Andrew Morris, Bev Tagliati, the family of Natalie George, Lyndsey Coulter, those gripped by addictions, and those who serve in the military.

Please keep Poke Run Presbyterian Church in your prayers. 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 Poke Run Deacon visits, and for those who attend "Soup for the Soul" and those called to the planned healing service for Veterans. Pray for all those led to attend a Poke Run Worship service; pray that Poke Run continues to "call the people ofsurrounding 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 Natalie George, who passed away on November 28th. Her immediate family, Dolly & Ken George, and Katlin & Jacob Richie are a dear part of Poke Run.



Lord,
hear my
Prayer

Recognizing a need in our community, Pastor Pete has planned a Service of Healing for Veterans.

“We look forward to providing a Service of Healing for all Veterans on January 31, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. The service will be simple. There will be opening music led by Nate Watkins on guitar. After this a time of confession and pardon followed by a message of the good news of God’s healing love. Then we will share the Lord’s Supper together and for those who wish, there will be anointing with oil. This service is open to all, veterans, families, and friends, and all the community; everyone. We hope to touch all those who carry the wounds of war and the losses that come with them, physical, emotional, and spiritual.”



As a congregation, Poke Run is urged to get the word out to those in need. Direct people to our website, invite them personally (information for distribution located in the Narthex), contact the office to offer help where needed and lift up this ministry in prayer. See Pastor Pete for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Circle 2: will be meeting on Thursday, January 15, at 7:30pm.

The hostess and leader will be Laurie Martin. Laurie says “bring a special offering in place of the covered dish that all members have brought in years past. Also, bring a small cardboard box, (6” cube or smaller!)”

Circle 4: will be meeting at the church on Monday, January 5th at 9am to take down the Christmas decorations. All help is appreciated.

The PW meeting on Tuesday evening. December 2, 2014

Circle 2 had the program and served a wonderful assortment of Christmas cookies with ice cream. **Amy Wilkinson and Linda Chicka** were installed to a two year term as Vice Moderator and Treasurer respectively. We paused to remember each of our Church Women who died since the 2013 *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 3, 2015.

From the minutes of the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session meeting of November 11, 2014

The scheduled meeting of the Session met. 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, Tim Martin, Bob Thompson, Sandy Chappell, Ron Hileman, **Elders excused:** Meri Slaughaupt, Josh Porterfield,

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of October 12, 2014

MCC: To approve the Minutes of Congregational Meeting October 19, 2014

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes- October 6, 2014

MSC: To accept the Trustee Minutes of September 25, 2014

MSC: To accept Treasurer's Report October 31, 2014

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Giving remains faithful. Tim mentioned that we should always have enough money in the bank to support the church's expenses for 6 months. The "Road Fund" is continuing to grow.

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell- did not meet -Committee is still look for backup for Sunday School Coordinator Erin Bruce. Sandy will contact Amy to put something in bulletin and Ranger

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka - Mark Stransky of Project Crossroads came to talk to both services on November 2, 2014 about the Mission work we do each year in Marion Virginia. Thanks to Walt and Becky Lange for their hospitality during his visit. The Mission Committee is considering going down to Marion this fall or next spring to help cut firewood.

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel - Committee served lunch after October Congregational Meeting. We will prepare Communion Schedule in December.

Technology – Chad McCutcheon - Did not meet

Personnel: - Doug Ross & Bob Thompson - Did not meet

Pastor Pete's report:

Vacation November 2. Funeral for Ethyl Brewer November 7, 2014

Old Business:

The December 9th Session meeting will be our annual combined meeting of the Boards of _____ Poke Run, including the Deacons and Trustees. We will gather for dinner before the meeting, at 6:30. Thanks to Cindy McQuaide and her committee for preparing dinner.

Poke Run was used as a polling place on November 4, 2014. It went very well and we are _____ pleased to have the Church used as an outreach in this way. Several people asked to go _____ upstairs to see the Sanctuary. Special thanks to Bob Wilson for his help with this project.

MSC: Loose change for Thank Offering on November 16, 2014 will go to PW.

New Business:

MSC: The \$120,000 needed to repair the road around the Church will come from: "The Road Fund" \$30,000, Cemetery Fund: \$30,000 and Unrestricted funds. \$60,000.

Rev. Goetschius led the "One Church One Community," continuing discussion.

Close with prayer: Tim Martin
Respectfully Submitted:

Adjourn: 9:00 PM
Approved: 12/09/14



Connie Cauvel – Clerk of Session

The Poke Run Church Annual Audit is Saturday, January 19th

All Auditors, Treasurers, and Boy Scout Treasurers should come prepared for the 2014 Poke Run Audit. The audit is on Saturday, January 19 beginning at 8:30am and will continue until every group has been audited. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

"GIVING ENVELOPES" for 2015 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 2014, 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 and record your number there. If you need help getting your box of envelopes, please contact the Church Office.

In preparation for the 2015 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



PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

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



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

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

Poke Run web site is www.pokerunchurch.com



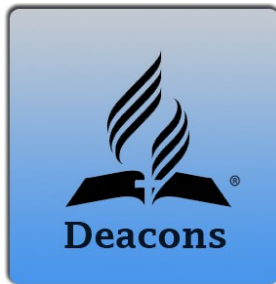
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR EMPTY TOILET PAPER ROLLS

... for a special project for TGIF—our Good Friday children's event. A collection box has been provided in the Narthex!





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 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.



The Deacons were able to provide Christmas "Food baskets" to many families. This increasingly important outreach is appreciated by all who receive and are 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—All loose offering from the Christmas Eve services went to the Deacons and their ongoing works. Thank you to all who contributed.



Deacon meeting Monday November 3, 2014

Present: Jan Fitzgerald, Nikki McQuaide, Karen Staymates, Jacob Slaugenahupt, Tammy Kelley, Sheree Wagner, Mario Tagliati, Cindy Brooks, and Debora Ross

Absent: Debbie Seighman, Erin Bruce, (Pastor Pete on vacation)

Secretary Report: Presented Minutes from last meeting MSC

Treasurer's Report: Current Balance \$166.14

Some Watkins money is still outstanding. Discussed if we could do alternate fund raisers next year, will inquire within the congregation?

Mario T. met with Walmart manager to discuss the possibility of the Deacon's shopping for Thanksgiving baskets at the Delmont location. Mario reported that would be fine, possibility of Walmart donating a gift card toward each basket. Meeting at Walmart in Delmont at 6:30pm, Friday, November 21. Basket pick-up at church Saturday morning between 9am and 10:30am.

Discussed Christmas caroling. It was decided not to carol this December 2014. In lieu of caroling, each Deacon will visit their Shut-In friends, take cookies and a Christmas poinsettia. Also discussed, we are not sending cookies to the Troops next year, 2015. This was started when a member of the church had a family member in the service. This could be done in the future, as needed, if a member of the church requests it.

Next Month Agenda: Debbie S and Mario T checking about Christmas poinsettias, Jan F offered to check with Pastor Pete to find out who purchases candles for Christmas Eve service. We discussed that church should be responsible for purchase, not from Deacon funds. Need new candles and holders before 2014 service. Will be inviting new Deacon members to our next meeting, this will be Monday, December 1, 2014. Each of us is to bring a snack for fellowship.

New Deacons: Carol Thompson, Nancy Kimble, Diane Scott, and Logan Hileman.

Closed in prayer by Cindy Brooks



Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the ever popular "Breakfast with Santa!" The proceeds from this event benefit the Poke Run Christian Education program.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Jan 23-25 Pine Springs Sr High Retreat

“Friendship Dinner 5=6pm” - Every 2nd Wednesday of the month.—New Ken United Presbyterian Church

Coming Up at Pine Springs Camp Feb. 20-22—Jr. Hi Retreat

THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN. 19TH.

THE REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN 19TH.

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.



Poke Run member, Bob Bierer front and center with his dear family in Morgantown, WV at Thanksgiving 2014. Bob will be celebrating his 93rd birthday on January 20th!



*God doesn't call the
qualified,
He qualifies the called.*

Thank you to everyone who bought a POKE RUN T SHIRT. Sale of these shirts benefitted the Poke Run Mission Trip.

Orders can still be placed, See Bob Wilson if you are interested. 724-727-7581

And mark June 21-26 for the 2015 TRIP!



Found in the church parking lot—contact the office if this is your earring!





January 2015

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

*If you have appropriate News to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office.
The next Ranger deadline is January 19th.*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Offering: Session | | | | 1 <i>Office Closed</i> | 2 6:30pm Scouts | 3 |
| 4 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 3pm scouts 7pm Bible Study | 5 7pm Deacons | 6 | 7 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship | 8 6:30pm Scouts | 9 | 10 |
| 11 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 3pm scouts 7pm Bible Study | 12 | 13 7pm Session | 14 11:30am Soup for the Soul 7pm Choir | 15 6:30pm Scouts | 16 6:30pm Scouts | 17 8:30am Poke Run Audit |
| 18 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 3pm scouts 7pm Bible Study | 19 <i>Office Closed</i> | 20 | 21 7pm Choir | 22 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Trustees | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:30-11 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 3pm scouts 7pm Bible Study | 26 | 27 | 28 7pm Choir | 29 6:30pm Scouts | 30 | 31 Veteran's Service 6pm |

**THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON JAN. 1ST & 19TH.**

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



Worship Services every Sunday at 8:30am and 11am.

The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, January 14th. (Cream of Broccoli 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.

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

