

THE RANGER

OCTOBER
2015

POKE RUN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



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Once upon a time, in deep mid-winter, a starving wolf pushed his way through the deep snowdrifts. The deer were herded together, out of sight and hard to find. Rabbits were impossible to catch. His hunger reached the danger point. Without food he would soon weaken and die. A dog appeared, normally a mortal enemy, but this one seemed friendly enough, although too large to safely attack and devour. They spoke. "I see that you are thin and even from here I can hear the rumblings of your stomach, ventured the dog. "Ah yes," admitted the wolf, "Food remains scarce and difficult to obtain." "Come with me," the dog offered, "My master feeds me well, gives me shelter from the storms, and sometimes lets me sleep by a nice warm fire." "Very well," said the wolf. They trotted off together, as they could, in the swirling and deepening snow. The wolf halted. "What is that on your neck," he demanded, "It looks as if you carry a deep and vicious scar?" "Oh that," said the dog, sheepishly, "That is the mark of the collar and chain with which my master binds me to his hearth." "And that is what it takes to live in comfort and be fed by your owner's hand," growled the wolf. "Yes, but it is a small price for security," offered the dog. "It is too large a price for me," said the wolf. He then turned and faced the howling wind, drifting out of sight into the unknown future.

Here is a more formal way to say approximately the same thing. This is from the thought of Alasdair MacIntyre in After Virtue where he claims:

Our current overarching social construct is in agreement on one thing, "... there are only two modes of social life available to us, one in which free and arbitrary choices of individuals are sovereign, and one in which bureaucracy (read big, big government, big business, big medicine, big education) is sovereign precisely so that it may limit the free and arbitrary choices of individuals."

Thus while it may appear that we are free and that we live in liberal and progressive times, we actually live in one of the most radically restrictive and conservative times in all of history. One is not free, to quote the Bible in public without push back, much less to pray in schools, nor to challenge Planned Parenthood. To challenge the so-called liberal agendas is to expect instant backlash. This is not liberal, nor conservative, this is the attempted use of violence enacted in an atmosphere of fear, or just old-fashioned intimidation tactics.

How then do we live in freedom? The first thing we need, paradoxically, is a standard by which to gauge our lives. Choice one, above, the free and arbitrary whims of individuals leads to anarchy and chaos. Choice two leads to a kind of social totalitarianism, or a weird kind of slavery to agendas. To live by a healthy standard leads to a solid center on which to base one's life. The standard to which Christians have always gone and still can return to is Scripture. For us The Bible is our authority, and what better authority can we have than the words of God.

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1) Rather than a long explanation here I will simply say that Paul, as an inspired writer of Scripture, intends us to be free in Christ from all that would limit our development as full human beings in the sight of God. We will not be limited by the demands and weaknesses of our bodies, minds and souls for they will be renewed through our faith in Jesus Christ. In a paraphrase of the Puritan John Owen, we are free when Christ through the effectual and gracious work of the Spirit ... (converts) us to Christ and thereafter grow in holiness and likeness to Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Pete



Thank You

Thank you to our October Greeters: Larry & Debbie Seighman, Jack & Eleanor Zerbini, Edyth Elwood and Karen Goetschius

Thank you to our October Lectors: Nikki McQuaide, Heidi Hileman, Ruth O'Connor, and Karen Goetschius

For our prayers:

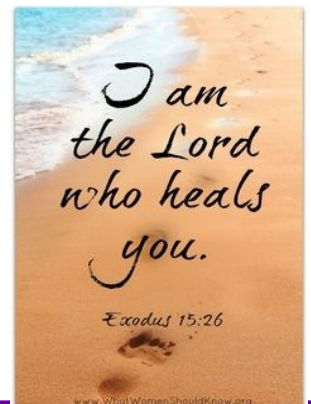
Ed Bahney, Renee Bates, Renee Beck, Bill Bert, Bob Bierer, Bryan Billeck, Donna Blaser, Lil Bowman, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Anna Mae Chicka, Irene Clark, Jeffrey Clark, Lyndsey Coulter, Elvira, Skip Elwood, Lee & Linda Gardener, Melissa Goetschius, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Caleb Hall, Leonard Hartman, Janine Hayle, Tiffany Jensen, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Pat Lengauer, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Norm Linhart, Bob McBride, Thelma McCutcheon, Irma McDivitt, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sandy Nemetz, Zachary Novickoff, Thad Overly, Wanda Petrilla, James & Winifred Powers, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Lena Snedecor, Terry Wiester, Peter Yurtin, expectant Tiffany Tatum & son Robert, Glen Shultz, those gripped by addictions, and those who serve in the military.

Occasionally names are removed from the prayer list when the office has not been updated, if you see one removed that should remain, please contact the office.

Please keep Jan Fitzgerald and her family in your prayers. Jan's father, Lawrence "Skip" Fischer passed away on September 16, 2015.

Please keep the family of Poke Run member Joanne Fitzsimmons in your prayers. Joanne passed away on September 22, 2015.

Please continue to pray for those who attended the "Healing Service" and all who are affected by Cancer. The service was a healing time for many; a time of reflection, of prayer, of silence and of communion. Thank you to the Congregational Life committee for providing refreshments.



Pastor Pete will continue the series of "Healing Services," with the purpose of drawing God's people near, to hear the Word and lead to the understanding of God's healing grace in all situations.

Two more services have been scheduled. Pray about who you can invite or bring. Consider that even if you feel you or someone is not directly affected; healing is needed in ever widening circles around those we love.

**November 28th = for unbelievers & those who
have questions or experience doubt
January 30th = Veterans**

If you have questions or ideas on how to spread the word about these services, contact Pastor Pete.





Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW!!!! FOR THE KIDS

Thank you to Karen Goetschius who will be leading the Children's Class! Karen has put together a plan that will engage the kids with song and music, crafts and games, and a Bible message. Appropriate for all school aged children. Spread the word—bring kids—invite kids.

FOR BIG KIDS We have two adult Sunday School classes.

The class meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall) is using the David C. Cook series titled "The Christian Community Comes Alive—A study in Acts"

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 CALENDARS: "Breakfast with Santa!" = Saturday, December 5th.

"Soup for the Soul" will resume on Wednesday, October 14th.
(Vegetable Beef 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.

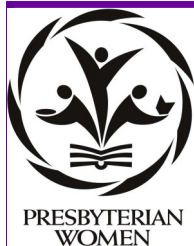


Thank you to everyone who helped at Trustee Work Day in September. The next scheduled work day is Saturday October 24th.

There are jobs for all ages and all abilities. Please consider coming out on October 24th, 8:30am—noon.

Thank you to everyone who participates. If you ever need something added to the job list—contact the church office.

As always, special thanks to all who see things that need done and do them.



THE OCTOBER POKE RUN COMMUNITY DINNER

After many years as the leader of the Poke Run Community Dinner, Laurie Powers has stepped down due to personal reasons. Please join in offering Laurie great thanks for her giving spirit that shown through every dinner and its success.

Much thought and discussion has happened in the past month, but the decision was reached by the PW to not go forward with a dinner in October and further, to pray about where God is leading this particular mission of Poke Run..

Thank you to everyone who participated in the discussions offering opinions and suggestions for the future. Whatever God reveals, it is quite evident that Poke Run is ready and willing .

Circle 2 will meet on Thursday October 15th. Heidi Hileman will host and Linda Chicka will be the leader.—meet at the church for Rummage Sale prep—



WHAT: MEAL PACKAGING EVENT

WHEN: OCTOBER 17, 2015 9AM-1PM

WHERE: COMMUNITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
1640 KEYSTONE PARK ROAD
NEW ALEXANDRIA, PA 15670

WHO: INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, YOUTH GROUPS

WHY: TO PACK 20,000 MEALS TO FIGHT HUNGER

HOW: SIGN-UP TO WORK AN HOUR OR TWO

call 724-668-7752 or e-mail judykoontz@windstream.net to register



Keep Linda Chicka and Deb Delfavero in your prayers as they participate in the PW sponsored mission trip to New Windsor, October 4-6th.



CIRCLE 2 CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 8AM TO 1PM

Donations accepted during the week before, call the church for times: 724-327-5563
NO LARGE APPLIANCES, LARGE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, COMPUTERS OR TELEVISIONS PLEASE

If help is needed for a large item for donation please contact a
Circle 2 member or the Church Office.



Annual Congregational Meeting PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Annual Poke Run Presbyterian Church "Congregational Meeting" is scheduled for **Sunday, October, 18, 2015**. On this Sunday there will be only **one worship service at 10am** with the meeting beginning immediately after the service followed by a **luncheon** in the Fellowship Hall. Please make every effort to attend this meeting of the church. The Nominating Committee will present a slate for the 2016 Boards and the Budget & Finance Committee will present the 2016 budget as approved by Session.

Great things are happening at Poke Run and through Poke Run, be a part of the mission "...to call the people of ... surrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ."

October is "Pastor Appreciation Month!" The luncheon following the Congregational Meeting will be in appreciation for Pastor Pete and all that he means to the Poke Run congregation. Please plan on attending.



Reformation
Sunday

The Church celebrates **Reformation Sunday** on the last Sunday of October, commemorating a significant event in the history of the Reformed tradition. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg.
Reformation Sunday October 25, 2015



World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by [Christian denominations](#), taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and [ecumenical](#) cooperation. This year it will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4th. The tradition originated in the [Shadyside Presbyterian Church](#) of Pittsburgh, PA in 1933, was adopted throughout the [US Presbyterian Church](#) in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the [National Council of Churches](#)), endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Oct 3-4 Pine Springs Camp—"Fall Fusion Retreat"
 Oct 4—"Gospel Reunion" music event at Delmont Presbyterian 7pm
 Oct 5-6 meeting of the Synod of the Trinity, Penn State
 Oct 19—Fall Gospel Sing, at Delmont Presbyterian 7pm
 Oct. 24—PW Fall Gathering at Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence PA
 Oct 25 - Organ/Piano recital at Delmont Presbyterian, 7pm
 Oct 31—PW Meal Packaging event—see PW News on Page 2



HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Weekends in October—Autumnfest at Seven Springs!
 Oct 3-4 Delmont "Apple Fest"
 Oct 10—"Pugtoberfest" - 11am-4pm, Kunkle Park, Wash. Twp.
 Oct. 17 Lion's Club Halloween Parade and Party—Kunkle Park, Wash. Twp. 5pm
 Oct 30 - Hobgoblin Hike at Northmoreland Park 7-9pm
 Oct 31—Washington Twp Trick-or-Treating 6-8pm



Tuesdays 4-7pm Export Farmer's Market—located near Kennedy Ave.

2nd Wednesday of the month at the Wash. Twp. Firehall 11:30—noon Blood Pressure Clinic for Seniors—Bring your table service and a covered dish.

Thursdays 3-5:30pm Vandergrift Farmer's Market—located along Columbia Ave.
 Thursdays—3-7pm Murrysburg Farmers Market—Murrysville VFC



KISKI VALLEY TURKEY TROT

5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN
 KUNKLE PARK, THANKSGIVING DAY 2015

KAYN
 Kiski Area Youth Network

Poke Run is an active supporter of the Kiski Area Youth Network—KAYN www.KVturkeytrot.com

Gearhard Farms presents:

 **The 16th annual Corn Maze** 

This year's Corn Maze is open through the last weekend of October.

www.gearhardfarms.com for more information.



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Scripture and Sneakers

Once a month, fifty children from Cox-Donahey Elementary hop on a bus and come to Fort Burd Presbyterian to learn about Jesus through Bible stories, memory verses, games and songs. The children also bring their change to help children in other parts of the world.

Along with their partners in the Brownsville Area Ministerium Association, Fort Burd serves children from kindergarten through eighth grade in "Bible Release Time."

Fort Burd also cares for the children by gathering school supplies, which are an expense that many families cannot afford. Do you remember the joy of opening a fresh box of crayons or opening a new notebook? Fort Burd helps to ensure that even children from families with limited means can experience that joy!

But, it is not only during the school year that children need love and support. In June, the congregation welcomed 55 youth and teens to the church to be measured for sneakers. Mission chair Eadi Zetty then shopped for a pair specially selected for each and every child. The children were welcomed into the church with healthy snacks, friendly faces and the love of Christ.

Through Bible Release Time, School Supplies and Snacks and Sneakers, Fort Burd is showing children that they are loved and cared for, as individuals, by both their community and by the God who created them.



*Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World
Together!*

Invite someone this week.



It could change their life forever.

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
October 26th.*

CHANGED: Office Hours at the Church 9:30am—3pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! The office will be closed on Monday October 12th.

As always—please share any contact information updates with the Church Office so that you do not miss out on any information. If you have an email address to share, you can start receiving informational emails as well as the Poke Run "Ranger" online—IN COLOR. Office promise: you will NOT be inundated with emails! Next Ranger Deadline: October 26th.



Poke Run Church October 2015

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 World Communion Sunday	<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Oct 12. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.</p> </div>			1	2	3
4 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	5 7pm Deacons	6 7pm Budget & Finance	7 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	8	9	10 <i>Memorial Service</i>
11 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School	12 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	13 7pm Session	14 11:30 SOUP 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	15 <i>Circle 2</i>	16	17 8-1 <i>RUMMAGE SALE</i> 4 Wedding
Congregation Meeting 18 One Service 10am 7pm Bible Study Reformation	19	20	21 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	22 7pm Trustees	23	24 Trustee Work Day 8:30am
25 Sunday 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	26	27	28 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	29	30	31



Poke Run Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 18th.

ONE 10am service.

Luncheon following the meeting!

Poke Run Presbyterian

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613