

THE RANGER

NOVEMBER
2015

POKE RUN
PRESBYTERIAN

INSIDE:

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Tuesday
November 24th
7:30pm

By Pastor Pete

Sexual ethics in our late modern times are confused at best. We often want for ourselves what we would deny to others. In a time of rampant sexual freedom there are vestiges of purity; brides after all wear white. Stanley Hauerwas puts it best when he states that, we are so confused about sex that we no longer know the difference between friendship and marriage. It seems then that this is a good time to take a look at Jesus' genealogy, which includes four sexually suspicious women, and two more. That is what this article will do, take brief glances at six women without whom there would be no Christ. God indeed works in odd and mysterious ways.

The first gospel, Matthew, lists Jesus' genealogy. It contains four women whose names are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. It is not unheard of, and also not very common to list women in genealogies. When they are listed, something is being said. Before I get to these women I want to step back into last week's sermon where we left Jacob's first wife Leah, alone and rejected. We will talk about this more in a week or two, depending upon when you read this, and discover that Leah, the rejected one – does anyone see echoes of Christ here – “He was despised and rejected by (humanity)” (Isaiah 53:3) – well, Leah becomes the mother of Judah. It is through Judah that Tamar comes into the story. Thus begins a tale that leads us to Boaz and Ruth, David and Bathsheba, and then finally in another odd event to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Jesus' genealogy is much more than a list of names. It is full of information about not just where Jesus came from, his pre-history, but who he is and who he will be. This means it covers past, present, and future. We will begin in the past, with Tamar, who is the rejected and outcast daughter-in-law of Judah, son of Leah. Trickery and deceit never end it seems and she maneuvers her father-in-law into sleeping with her resulting in her pregnancy. I will not spoil the story by telling you how this happened, or its results.

Rahab was a prostitute. This is embarrassing. Over the centuries we have tried all sorts of ways to wiggle out of this. Some would say that she was an innkeeper. Some try to twist the wording of the text. Some say this is an allegory, some say anything they can to blunt the story. The hard and brutal facts are in Scripture. “... Joshua sent two men ... and they went and came in the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.” (Joshua 2:1) Ruth is a beautiful story in itself and Ruth is the most understandable of the three. Bathsheba, well, Bathsheba is shrouded in mystery. Her story seems simple, but is it? I am not sure that we have the real truth here, but we can sort out possible motives.

The point I am driving at is that there is something troubling in the lives of all these women, and in the men who interacted with them, both honorably, dishonorably, and with mixed motives. If we look far enough we will begin to understand them and their inner drives and passions for they are our inner drives and passions. We will be angry with them at times, and feel compassion for them at times, and our emotions will shift radically from time to time.

We will squirm, sometimes, at their actions; seldom at their motives. It is their motives we understand the best. We will find them flawed human beings. We will discover profound things being said. Through this long tortuous chain of human sinfulness comes our savior, Jesus Christ. We are being told that along with these women we too are included in the salvation story, the gospel is being told, if we listen to our own heart beat.

Leah, and these four women, all in some manner reflect Mary, who is not rejected. She is young, pure, seemingly happy and well adjusted, anticipating marriage. She neither seduces nor is seduced; she is not a victim of circumstance nor an opportunist. Mary is chosen, and chooses, to bear the Christ child, the one who will be rejected, a strange reversal. And, by ancient Simeon's prophecy, who tells her, “... and a sword will pierce your heart also.”

Come, over the next few weeks, and together we will watch the story of the coming of the Christ child wind its difficult way through history in the lives of these women.



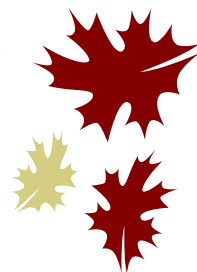
Thank you to our October Greeters: Shyrl Stange & Bob Wilson, Ron & Carole Bowman, the Slaugenhaupt's, and Jim & Carol Thompson.

Thank you to our October Lectors: Barbi Findley, Shyrl Stange, Doug Ross, and Cheyenne Fazi

Walt Lange and his family would like to extend thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards and visits during his recent hospitalization. He truly felt Poke Run's love and encouragement. He would especially like to thank Pastor Pete for his visits and prayers.

Margaret McBride would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers extended to her and her family during this time of Bob's passing. She would like to send a special thank you to all who visited at Hart's and attended the funeral.

"Dear Poke Run Family, We thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during our time of loss. In Peace, **Jan & Bob Fitzgerald**" Jan's father, Lawrence T. "Skip" Fischer passed away in September.



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, Lee & Linda Gardener, Melissa Goetschius, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Caleb Hall, Leonard Hartman, Janine Hayle, Tiffany Jensen, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Norm Linhart, 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, Glen Shultz, Walt Lange, Ed & Betty Schmidt, Merle Lowman, 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 the family of Poke Run member **Bob McBride** in your prayers: wife Margaret, daughter Sherry (Thomas) Masisak, son Robert (Deborah) and grandchildren Summer and Keith. Bob passed to glory on October 9, 2015.

Please keep the family of Poke Run member **Clair Eugene "Skip" Elwood** in your prayers: wife Shirley, sons Eugene, James(Bonnie), daughters Melissa(Ralph), Patty(Richard) and Karen, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Skip passed away on October 10th.

Thank you to everyone who attended the memorial service for **Harry L. "Skip" Pfeffer** held in October. Skip's family appreciates all the love and support from Poke Run and community friends. Skip was Becky Lange's brother.

Please keep **Ed & Betty Schmidt** in your prayers. Ed & Betty moved from our community but not from our hearts. Their new address is : 5850 Meridian Road, Apt. 210A Gibsonia, PA 15044 PH. 724-502-4281.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for **Amy Woodhall and Charles Blair** as they begin their new life together. Amy and Chuck were married at Poke Run Church on October 17, 2015.

THANK YOU FOR
THE LOVELY FLOWER
ARRANGEMENT, AND
FOR ALL THE PRAYERS
& CARDS DURING HER
ILLNESS,

LISA & TOM Fitzsimmons

From the Session Minutes of September 8, 2015

The scheduled meeting of Session met @ 7:00 pm. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Connie Cauvel – Clerk, Chad McCutcheon – Assist. Clerk, Tim Martin, Cindy McQuaide, Linda Moorhead, Linda Chicka, Meri Slaughenhaupt, Bob Thompson, Excused: Sandy Chappell, Ron Hileman, Connor Martin,

MSC: To Approve Session minutes: June 9 **MSC:** To accept Trustee minutes September 24

MSC: To accept Deacon unapproved minutes: May 2015

MSC: To approve Treasurer's report: Amy Wilkinson

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin - We are currently \$7500 in the red. First Fruits: 65% of our giving is in. Although we are \$7500 in red Tim feels that we will make it up. Committee is working on the 2016 Budget and trying to hold the line – except for salaries, Presby recommends 3% salary increase.

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell Karen Goetschius has volunteered to teach the Children's Sunday School Class. Many thanks Karen!

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka, Meri Slaughenhaupt Met last week to work on budget. They decided not to single out One Great Hour of Sharing or Joy offering to make it easier to allocate the funds consistently. 4 people helped with Food Bank in August. Deacons will be a line item in the Budget of \$2,000 and Mission & Stewardship will allocate the remainder of the 10% set aside for Benevolence

Personnel: Bob Thompson & Linda Moorhead – Did not meet

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel Met August 31 to plan menus. Committee will serve refreshments for the 3 Healing Services and also lunch after the Congregational Meeting.

Technology Committee Will meet September 21 - plan to recruit more people to run sound system.

Nominating –Meri Slaughenhaupt & Chad McCutcheon Slate is almost complete

Old Business:

We have 19 Clearances completed - still need to continue obtaining more.

We reviewed the attendance for the four ten o'clock services in August, and it was clear that the over all attendance was down. We will return to our regular two services format next summer.

New Business:

MSC: Wedding: Amy Heinlein Woodhall October 17, 2015 (After Rummage Sale)

MSC: Amy to use Church copier (will provide paper) for KA Boys soccer home programs. There are 9 home games (approx 30 copies per game.) Jacob Slaughenhaupt and Jeff Wilkinson on team. "Thanks to Poke Run" will be on the program.

MSC: November 14 Kiski Area Cross Country will use Fellowship Hall for their banquet

MSC: Scout Troop to use Church Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Sunday August 4 PM for Eagle Scout Ceremony (Electronic vote)

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: October 13, 2015





Thank you to everyone who attended the Congregational Meeting.

As a Congregation, Poke Run voted to:

Accept the Nominating Committee's slate of Board members for 2016 as follows:

Board of Trustees: Al Moorhead, Jacob Slaugenhaupt, Barry Kelley, and Mike Goetschius

Board of Deacons: Debra Ross, Bev Tagliati, Corey Kelley, Ruth O'Connor, Deb Sieghman,
and Nancy Dombroske

Poke Run Elders (Session): Sandy Chappell, Ron Hileman, Jeff Wilkinson, and Connie Cauvel

Elect the 2016 Nominating Committee: Bob Thompson, Heidi Hileman, Nikki McQuaide, Logan Hileman and
Calvin McCutcheon

Elect an Auditor: Bob Scott

To Accept the "Terms of Call" as proposed by Poke Run Budget & Finance Committee and approved by the Poke Run Session.

The entire Current Fund Budget, including Pastoral Terms of Call and the Benevolence Budget proposed by the Mission & Stewardship Committee were presented to the congregation. If anyone has questions or concerns about either budget, please bring them to someone on the Budget & Finance Committee. Tim Martin, Nancy Kimble, Bob Fitzgerald, Linda Chicka, Valerie Hansen, Doug Ross and Amy Wilkinson.

A very special thank you to the Poke Run Congregational Life Committee for the delicious lunch shared after Sunday's meeting. This group is always looking for helping hands, please consider contacting one of the members if you are available and willing: Jack & Eleanor Zerbini, Connie Cauvel, Shyrl Stange, Bob Wilson, Freda Bowman, Walt Lange and Karen Staymates.



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.

The next service is scheduled for **Saturday, November 28th at 6pm.**

This service is designed for **those who have questions and experience doubt—** and isn't that "All of us?" Watch for more information as the date draws closer.

Poke Run will reach out to many in many ways.

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.

Next Healing Service: January 30th = Veterans

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



"Soup for the Soul" resumed last month with about 60 people attending! This outreach continues to grow; Thank you to everyone who attends, helps with or donates a dessert each month. It's so important for the folks who visit our church to see us working together and sharing a meal.

Next Soup is November 11th, doors open at 11:30am.

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of the month October through May. If you would like flyers to distribute, can help or donate a dessert, please contact the Church office.

NOVEMBER SOUP: "Wedding Soup" prepared by chef Andy Thompson
Remember to invite a friend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS Karen Goetschius leads the Children's Class, an engaging time of song and music, crafts and games, and a Bible message. Appropriate for all school aged children. Spread the word—bring kids—invite kids.

ADULTS 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"

Santa's Coming For Breakfast The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring their annual "Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, December 5, from 8:30 am. to 11:30 am. Get a great breakfast at a great price and get that special picture on Santa's knee. Tickets are available at the door. Adults and children ages 11 and over: \$5.00 children ages 3 to 10: \$3.00, and children ages 2 and under eat free!

Breakfast includes pancakes and syrup, sausages, and your choice of beverages.
Each digital photo with Santa costs only \$1.00 and is mounted for you in a specially designed card by one of Santa's elves. Picture processing takes about 30 minutes so plan to get your pictures taken with Santa prior to eating or shopping at Santa's Store. You'll find some great Christmas decorating ideas and gift giving items at this year's store.



Proceeds benefit the Christian Education Programs.

Calling All Elves! Santa needs lots of helpers for his breakfast at Poke Run on Saturday, December 5.

If you can help him, contact Linda Chicka at lgchicka@gmail.com, or at 724-422-3688, or call the church office. Watch for volunteer cards in the bulletins.



Set up/Decorating Night, Friday, December 4, beginning at 6:00pm. We start with a meal so bring a covered dish or dessert!

DEACONS IN MINISTRY

Serving People on the Front Lines of Faith

The Poke Run Deacons serve our congregation and our community all year long. The holidays are an especially busy time for them.

What do the Poke Run Deacons do?: This is just a sample of what the Deacons do in their ministry.

► **Local Mission** – the Deacons provide grocery and gas gift cards to those in need. When their funds allow, they also contribute to other individual needs as well as to other groups who minister in our community. The Christmas Salvation army tree is a spin-off from the Poke Run Deacons.

► **Palm Sunday/New Member luncheon** – the Poke Run Deacons prepare and serve – and clean-up – this traditional luncheon.

► **Seasonal Food Baskets** – Each Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Deacons provide a food basket to people in need. Recipients are submitted in various ways, but this need is ever increasing. On average, the Deacons annually spend about \$2,500 on this ministry alone.

A typical basket includes the following (some changes do occur):

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 10 lb turkey or ham | 5 lb potatoes | carrots | onions | celery |
| dozen eggs | 1 lb butter | 2 cans chicken soup | 2 cans tomato soup | 1 can cream mushroom |
| lg can pineapple | 1 lg can peaches | 2 cans green beans | 2 cans corn | 2 cans peas |
| 1 can kidney beans | 1 can baked beans | 1 lb spaghetti | lg jar spaghetti sauce | 2 boxes jello |
| 2 boxes pudding | 1 cake mix | 1 can icing | 1 jar peanut butter | 1 jar jelly |
| 1 bottle juice | 1 lg box cereal | 1 box rolled oats | 1 box saltines | 1 jar applesauce |
| 1 bag candy – seasonal | cranberries – seasonal | stuffing – seasonal | yams – seasonal | pumpkin - seasonal |
| evap. milk – seasonal | | | | |

► **Visits and Correspondence** – Many of you have probably received a card or note from the Deacons. In addition many receive a visit or the opportunity to take communion at home. The Deacons keep in touch with many of our church community who are unable to physically attend Sunday Worship services; and often provide them with CD's of the services and the means to listen to them. The Deacons also reach out to our young people away from home with a package of goodies sent twice a year.

► **Flowers** – many people think that the seasonal Easter and Christmas flower orders are a Deacon fundraiser. This is not true. The Deacons coordinate these flower orders at cost. It is an opportunity for the Poke Run Congregation to acknowledge loved ones and provide seasonal decoration to the sanctuary.

Fundraising: Traditionally, the Poke Run Deacons have raised money for their works in three ways: the annual Strawberry Festival, the fall *Watkins* sale, and contributions. **As reported at the Congregational Meeting, the Budget & Finance Committee proposed and the Session approved designating some of Poke Run's committed benevolence money to the Deacons. Beginning in 2016, \$2,000 of the money set aside for mission work will be directed to the Poke Run Deacons for their ministry.**



► The Strawberry Festival was held in the spring.

► There will be no *Watkins* product sale this year. If you wish to order items on your own, you can contact Kristin Cocco at 724-882-5246 or kcwatkins28@excite.com.

► As always, the loose offering on Christmas Eve will be dedicated to the work of the Deacons. Whenever contributing through the offering, please write checks to the "*Poke Run Deacons*;" this gets the funds into their account more quickly.

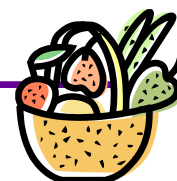
The Poke Run Deacons appreciate all the support, time, talents and contributions that the Congregation continues to provide. Please contact a Deacon when you see a need or to help.

Poke Run Deacons:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Nancy Kimble | 724-727-2317 | Diane Scott | 724-327-0231 |
| Jan Fitzgerald | 412-798-3565 | Tammy Kelley | 724-832-1820 |
| Mario Tagliati | 724-327-7983 | Sheree Wagner | 724-468-8514 |
| Nikki McQuaide | 724-787-6028 | Debora Ross | 724-468-0312 |
| Logan Hileman | 724-325-4786 | Carol Thompson | 724-327-6598 |

Sunday, Nov. 15—is the deadline to order **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**. If you know of someone who would benefit by receiving a basket, please contact a Deacon or call the Poke Run Office. You will need to provide the name and phone number of the person who will be picking up the basket.

Saturday, Nov. 21—Thanksgiving Basket pick-up. 9-10 am.



The Deacon's Giving Tree will soon be set up in the Narthex with the gifts due back to the church by Sunday, December 13th. As you begin your holiday shopping, keep an eye out for good deals and then please stop by and pick up a name or a couple of name tags to help needy families have a wonderful Christmas. (Watch for boy tags—blue and girl tags—pink.)



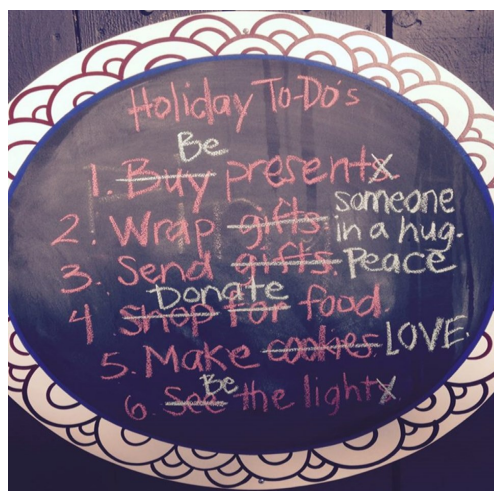
Christmas Poinsettia The Poke Run Deacons will be taking orders for Christmas poinsettias and Foodbank Donations—watch the bulletin for details or contact the office.

The Deacons are collecting names and addresses of our college students and others Away from Home! Call the office or see a Deacon.

**WHAT A GREAT WAY TO REJOICE
DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

Choir rehearsals for the Christmas Eve late service are starting. If you are interested in joining the choir for the holiday, see a choir member or Sean. *We would be thrilled to have your talents!*

And we know that there are other musical talents to share. Let Sean know if you would like to participate with your musical instrument.



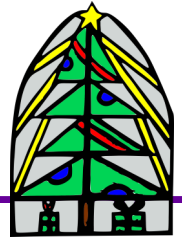
Poke Run Presbyterian Church - Presbyterian Women "PW"

Circle 2 will meet on Thursday November 19th. Linda Moorhead will host and Amy Wilkinson will be the leader. We'll be making SAUCE! - everyone welcome!



HELP NEEDED:

Monday November 23rd, 9am. Come help decorate the church for Christmas.
- all help is appreciated.



"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

Thank Offering

The **Thank Offering** of the Poke Run PW will be presented and dedicated on **Sunday, November 15th**. The **Thank Offering** funds mission projects that strengthen the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the

promise of God's kingdom. Throughout the year, women of our church give money to this important mission opportunity. We invite you to help us in supporting this ministry.

All of us have been richly blessed with God's gifts. We are entrusted to be good stewards of those gifts – time, talent, and treasure, and spur others to "love and good deeds." The **Thank Offering** is a special way for us to share our gifts and help to provide others with food, education, safe housing, clean water and health care.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Thank you to everyone who donated to and shopped at the Circle 2 rummage sale. It was a great success.

\$1.00 Spaghetti Dinner

Be a winner, come to our "Dollar Dinner!" Everyone is invited to a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, November 21, from 4:00 to 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall at Poke Run Church. The charge is only \$1. The dinner is for everyone and will be prepared by Circle 2. Tell friends, tell everyone; Come and share the love of our Lord.





Deb Delfavero, working hard at PW mission trip in New Windsor, VA. And a group shot of the attending volunteers that included Debbie and Poke Run's **Linda Chicka**. (Deb and Linda in the back row)



Circle 2 appreciated all the help with their annual Rummage Sale—especially from the kids of Aldphoi (above.) Shoppers found lots to browse and delicious homemade cinnamon rolls made by **Nancy Dombroske**.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Nov. 7—Spaghetti Dinner 4- 6:30pm—Congruity Presbyterian Church

Nov. 22—Pine Springs “2013 Friends Dinner” - Ligonier PA —more info in the office

Poke Run & Redstone Offices will be closed on Nov. 26th & 27th and 30th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



COMING UP AT POKE RUN CHURCH IN DECEMBER

Dec. 1 – Quarterly PW Meeting

Dec. 5 – Christian Ed – Annual “Santa’s Breakfast”

Dec. 6—Ordination Sunday

Dec. 8 – Joint meeting of all Poke Run Boards

Dec. 9 – “Soup for the Soul” – 11:30am.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service



HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nov. 14 - Spaghetti dinner fundraiser in memory of Dan Shearer, noon-6pm, Apollo Elks

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

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.

Thursdays 3-5:30pm Vandergrift Farmer’s Market—located along Columbia Ave.

REMEMBER: Poke Run is the local polling place known as Oakland Crossings. Fellowship Hall will be OFF LIMITS unless you are voting on Election Day, November 3, 2015.



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

Congratulations to **Logan Hileman** and **Kyle Piper** and the entire Kiski Area Marching Band for their big win at the PIMBA State Championships held on October 24, 2015. The band took first place in their class along with winning all three caption awards; Best Visual, Best Music and General Effect. Good luck to them as they head to Indianapolis, IN for the Bands of America Grand National Championships from November 12-14! They will be competing with over 90 bands. The band will be holding a community send-off performance on November 11 at 7:30 pm at the Kiski Area High School if you would like to check out their show. Good luck Kiski Band!!



Quincy, grandson of **Debbie Seighman** Crowned, 2nd place "Baby Apple Cheeks" at the Delmont Apple Festival!



The Slaughaupt family celebrates Senior Night with Jacob. **Jacob Slaughaupt** is part of the Kiski Area varsity soccer team. At Ranger publication date, the 14th ranked KA Cavalier soccer team has advanced through two rounds of the WPIAL playoffs upsetting teams as they go.



Evan Hileman got this 10point buck in Washington Township using a crossbow.



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 November 23rd.





\$74,000 scholarship per student at Westminster College.

Pastor Nominations due:

Dec. 1

Student Applications due:

Dec 15

**CONTACT
THE OFFICE FOR
MORE
INFORMATION.**

**WESTMINSTER
COLLEGE**



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst



Working in Good Faith

I'm Mara Sawdy, a PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Washington, D.C. from the West Newton Church in Redstone Presbytery. I am currently living in D.C. with my fellow YAVs as I work at Miriam's Kitchen and the Office of Public Witness.

Miriam's Kitchen seeks to end chronic homelessness by providing guests with a meal, an art program, and access to various services. I help people fill out paperwork to get vital records that they may need, search for jobs, and listen to their stories. The job can be extremely challenging, but it is also immensely rewarding. One day, I helped a guest apply to various jobs on the computer. The next day I saw the same guest at a bus stop, and he gave me the biggest smile and thanked me yet again for all of my help.

I also work for the Office of Public Witness to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. I recently attended a strike of low-wage federal contract workers to protest poverty pay. The entire time I was present at the strike, I felt such a feeling of unity and strength. Hearing the stories of those striking brought me to tears. I see God at work in smiles and thank yous from guests or experiencing the unity of those suffering.

Mara's blog: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/mara-sawdy/

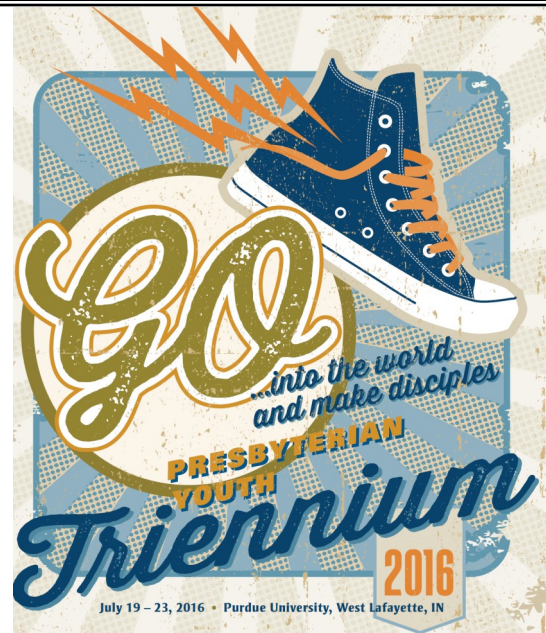


Advent Devotional

Again this year Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will observe Advent with an online devotional. We invite you to read and listen to daily messages written by members of the Seminary community. You can access the devotions in these ways:

- » **Read online or print and share.** Visit www.pts.edu/devotional.
- » **Receive daily e-mails.** Go to www.pts.edu/email, click "Sign up for Seminary News," and "Devotionals."
- » **Follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.**
- » **Download our free Android or Apple app.** Visit the store and search for "Devotions - Advent & Lent."
- » **Request your printed copy.** Call 412-362-5610 or e-mail reception@pts.edu.

Also, our Lenten Devotional will be available in February 2016. We hope you'll follow along daily, be deepened in your faith through the words of your brothers and sisters in Christ, and prepare your heart to celebrate Christ's birth.

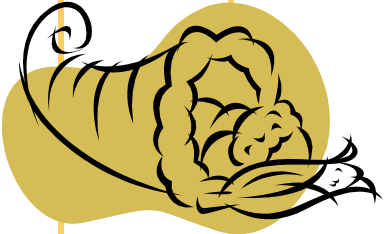




Poke Run Church

November 2015



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 All Saint's Day 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study | 2 7pm Deacons | 3 7pm Budget & Finance <u>Election</u> <u>Day</u> | 4 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Steward- ship | Pastor Pete will be on vacation November 1-10—Please contact the office for any pastoral needs you might have. Laypastor Robert Fleischman will preach on Nov 1st Laypastor Linda Loesch will preach on Nov 8th. | | |
| 8 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study | 9 | 10 7pm Session | 11 11:30am Soup for the Soul 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir | 12 | 13 | 14 KA Cross Country Banquet |
| 15 8:30 & 11 am- Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study | 16 Thank Offering | 17 Redstone Presbytery 9:30am @Rehoboth Presbyterian | 18 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir | 19 <u>Circle 2</u> 7pm Trustees | 20 | 21 Deacon Food Basket Pick-up 9-10:30am <u>\$1.00</u> <u>Spaghetti Dinner</u> <u>4-6pm</u> |
| 22 8:30 & 11 am- Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study | 23 9am <u>Decorate the</u> <u>Sanctuary</u> | 24 <u>7:30pm</u> <u>Thanksgiving</u> <u>Service</u> | 25 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir | 26 <u>Happy</u> <u>Thanksgiving</u> | 27 | 28 6pm Healing Service  |
| 29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 11 am- Worship 9:45 Sunday School 7pm Bible Study | 30 | NOTE THAT THE OFFICE OF REDSTONE PRESBYTERY & POKE RUN'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY ON November 26, 27 and 30.—Call Pastor Pete in case of an emergency 724-454-2278 | | |  | |

Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 24th,
7:30pm

***Mark your calendar and plan to
attend this service. Bring a friend!***



Be a winner, come to our "Dollar Dinner!" Everyone is invited to a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, November 21, from 4:00 to 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall at Poke Run Church. The charge is only \$1. The dinner is for everyone and will be prepared by Circle 2. Tell friends, tell everyone; Come and share the love of our Lord.



\$1.00 Spaghetti Dinner

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613