

from Pastor Pete

“ I believe that I have no prejudices whatsoever. All I need to know is that a (person) is a member of the human race. That’s bad enough for me. “ **Mark Twain**

“In the beginning ... “ Genesis is such a hard book for us. I have no idea why. It is a simple story. Perhaps that is our first clue. It is a story. Why story. Stories are perhaps the best vehicles for conveying truth. The better the story, the greater the truth it can carry. Jokes and humor may be a close second. They often catch us unawares and reveal a great deal for us or about us. After all, the jokes we laugh at can show both our values and uncertainties. But enough of jokes, let’s take a look at Genesis, in particular the Adam and Eve story, for it points us to the Truth, who is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Briefly, to orient us, God tells Adam and Eve they can eat from any tree but one. Being so very human they immediately eat from the forbidden tree. God explodes in anger. God curses Eve and Adam and the tricky talking snake. The snake may lose the most for he loses his legs and voice. Now he – how come our feminist friends do not complain about the evil snake being a he? - must crawl about on his belly and is limited to a hiss. God throws Adam and Eve out of the garden never to come back. That is why women have pain in childbirth and men have to work and sweat and snakes have no legs. That, my friends, is both an extremely literal and figurative reading of the Adam/Eve story.

How do we know that God is angry? Suppose God is sad? Suppose God realizes that Adam and Eve have crossed a line that forever fractures the trust that people must have to allow for the evolution of deep and lasting friendship? Suppose this hurts God deeply. He can no longer trust Eve and Adam nor any of their descendents. “Adam, what have you done,” is pronounced with profound pathos. And yet, while we may not be faithful, God is. God accepts the reality of who we now are, and God prepares us for the world to come. It is true; Eden no longer exists and never will. God then clothes us and sends us out into a new world. This tells us a wonderful truth about an ever-faithful God.

Another way to read this story is to see it as a story of growing up. In this reading God knows all along that we will one day push our limits. We do. God is pleased that we are now willing to grow and test our abilities, knowing that at times we would make poor decisions and fail. We have become mature adults, or, at least adolescents. Here God is more of a risk taker. He gives freedom and allows us to take risks also.

There are other readings of this story. If we take modern scholarship at face value and accept a late writing of this story, then Eve and Adam are Israel, seeking help from other nations, sometimes even worshipping their gods. It explains the Exile.

Which story is true? Are all of them true? Genesis is simple, right? We are so hung up on picking at irrelevant details that we miss the Truth. We should be careful before making bold truth claims.

Now we jump ahead six thousand or two thousand five hundred years, pick your starting point after having examined all the evidence and taken a good look at your prejudices, agendas, beliefs, and history as a human being. In a day or so, Jesus will be crucified. On the cross Jesus cries out, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” What an amazing cry. Look around. You will see the soldiers who drove the nails into his hands and feet, who handled him roughly as if he were nothing at all. He calls for their forgiveness. There are those who curse him, who make fun of him, who deride him and all the good he has done. He calls for their forgiveness. There are those who have abandoned him. They too fall under the call for forgiveness, as do a few women who stand at the cross. You and I, we too receive forgiveness.

This is not a story. This is history. Now let’s take this historical event and use it as a lens for interpreting the Adam/Eve story. This way it lets us see that our second interpretation of the Adam/Eve story points us to the deepest truth. We fracture our relationship with God. But God is faithful, always. God is love. Love never fails, never. God is always the faithful partner, always, even when hanging on a cross. God’s ultimate act is to love us, forever. It’s simple, really.

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Thank You



Thank you to everyone who served during the Worship Services in March.

Our March Greeters: Andy & Eva Bantroch, the Stevenson family, Doug & Debora Ross, Edyth Elwood and Freda Bowman

Our March Lectors: Jeff Wilkinson, Barbi Findley, Brian Dombroske and Mike Goetschius



We welcomed three new members on Palm Sunday. Brian Dombroske, Nicole Goodiski, and Tom Kimble. All three have been faithful "members" of the Poke Run Community for quite some time; Welcome them!!!!



Tom Kimble, Brian Dombroske, Nicole Goodiski, Pastor Pete and Clerk of Session, Connie Cauvel



Graduation Sunday" is May 10th.

Please contact the Church Office by April 11th, if you have a graduate to honor this year.

For our prayers:

Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James & Winifred Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Steve Morcheid, 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, Renee Beck, Amy Kroner, Elvira, Thad Overly, Max Brooks, Leonard Hartman, Marjorie Kaiser, Linda Steele, Andrew Morris, Lyndsey Coulter, Tiffany Jensen, Allison Grundy, the Monheim family, George Lengauer, Ralph Brown, Ed Bahney, Ron Rubright, 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 in prayer the family of **Marjorie Ann (Wagner) Brinker** who passed away on March 29th, 2015.

Please keep Larry and Debbie Seighman and their family in your prayers, Debbie's mother, **Jean (Shultz) Campbell** passed away on March 30, 2015.



Joyfully Poke Run welcomed the newly baptized Monroe June Wright on Sunday, March 8, 2015. Parents Jamie(McQuaide) & William Wright, proud grandparents, Jim & Cindy McQuaide.

Pastor Pete, Jim & Cindy McQuaide, Jamie & Will Wright with Monroe June



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

VBS: It's Not Just for Summer Anymore

Vacation Bible School curriculum is making its way into the rest of the church year as a fun, accessible way to reach kids. Two Redstone churches use Christmas and Easter breaks



to provide programs for children. In the shadow of the Christmas tree, kids from New Alexandria spent a day of winter break gearing up for next summer's Vacation Bible School. The One Day Monday Funday event was held at New Alexandria UMC, where Pastors Rhea Summit, from NAUMC, and Kathy Shirey, from Community United Presbyterian Church, introduced the group to the "Everest" VBS curriculum.

Poke Run Church in Apollo does a VBS-style Good Friday children's event. The day works well because many children are off school, but their parents don't get the day off. Event planners began using the Jerusalem Marketplace VBS curriculum since it could be easily tied in to Holy Week themes and events. While the lessons and activities aren't always from a packaged curriculum, the day unfolds like a typical day of VBS. Take those old VBS materials out of the box and consider how they might be used during the rest of the church year!

Have a story or a ministry idea to share?
Tell us at redstonestories@gmail.com

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

Please join us for our monthly free

Community "Soup for the Soul"

Luncheon

AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!

April 8, 2015

Doors open at 11:30am

Soup's on at NOON!

This month - clam chowder

Let the office know if you can
volunteer a dessert.



"providing vital encounters with Jesus Christ since 1948"



2015 PSC CALENDAR

Date	Event
January 23-25	Sr. High Winter Retreat
February 8	PSC Skates - Planet Ice (Johnstown, PA)
February 14	PSC Skates - Iceoplex (Canonsburg, PA)
February 20-22	Jr. High Winter Retreat
March 8	PSC Skates - Center Ice (Delmont, PA)
April 10-12	Women in the Woods
April 18	Father/Son Day
May 2	Pedal Pine Springs Bike Race
May 9	Red-Up Day (PSC Work Day)
May 18	14th Annual Golf Outing
June 14	First Day of Camp
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST	SUMMER CAMP!!!
September 19-20	Fall Fusion (4-6 grade Retreat)
September 26-27	Women in the Woods
October 2-4	theBIGone (Jr./Sr. High Retreat)
TBA	Annual Friends Dinner

Pine Springs Camp

"providing vital encounters with Jesus Christ since 1948"

SUMMER
2015

a place to
**EXPLORE
GROW
BELONG
LEARN
God's Word
HAVE FUN**



www.pinesprings.org

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.



Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW

Judy Koontz, Mission Coordinator for Redstone Presbytery shared information about SERRV, "fair trade" and other missions of the presbytery at the March PW meeting.



Circle 2: will be hosting dinner before the Maundy Thursday service.

Circle 4: will be meeting on Thursday, April 9th, noon at Redstone, Mildred Striner will be the hostess.

April 11— will be the Redstone PW Gathering at Pleasant View Presbyterian in Smock, PA. Poke Run received a "Love Grant" for our annual Mission Trip last year from the PW ; Liz Maher and Freda Bowman will be presenting at the Gathering; sharing their stories about the VA Mission Trip.

FROM "THE REDSTONE LINK" - PW of Redstone Presbytery

Wear Orange on the 25th of each month! To raise awareness and prevent Violence against Women and Girls.

Sign Up Now— the 5th PW Mission Trip to New Windsor, VA is scheduled for Oct. 4-6th—Linda Chicka and Deb Delfavero attended in 2014—contact the office for more information.

Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat—PSC Jennerstown, PA May 26– 9am-2:30pm

You're Invited!

Circle 2 would like to invite everyone to dinner before the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 2nd at 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner and fellowship; then we can worship together in commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus and the Apostles at the Maundy Thursday service that begins at 7:30p.m..



POKE RUN CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER

MAY 2, 2015 FROM 4 TO 7 PM

ADULTS \$12.00, CHILDREN \$3.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 724-396-3227

Or the Church Office

Poke Run will again be hosting a Roast Beef Community Dinner. Dinner will be plated for each guest; extras will be offered with the exception of pie. Several other changes are occurring in the way the dinners are handled: No food will be returned to roasters, tickets will be picked up in the Narthex, the kitchen's left sink by the hallway will be designated for handwashing with containers of disinfectant, everyone involved with food preparation will wear gloves and a hairnet. Two types of gloves will be provided.

The PW would like to thank Katie Ballas for all her research and suggestions for the Poke Run Dinner. Katie is a student at Mercyhurst College in this line of work.

Watch for volunteer cards in April Sunday Bulletins or contact Laurie Powers or the Church office to volunteer.





This year join Poke Run Presbyterian Church in showing how
"WE BELIEVE"

On Good Friday, April 3, 2015
From 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Kids from Age 3 through 8th Grade, come out for a day of laughter and learning as we experience Christ's love for us and realize that we are able to love because God loved us first.

For more information or to register, contact the church office at 724-327-5563 or pokerun@windstream.net.

Breakfast and lunch are provided. FREE



Since 1949, Presbyterians and have participated in this Lenten offering. This year, prayerfully consider how you will contribute. Coin banks bank will be available in the back of the church and offering envelopes will be available in the pew holders for your



Poke Run Mission Team Returns to Marion, Virginia

Applications are now available for anyone interested in attending the mission trip to the Marion Virginia area on the week of June 21 through 26, 2015. If you are interested in traveling with the team this year, please pick up an application from the back of the Narthex, from the church office or download an application from the church website at:

www.pokerunchurch.com. We ask that all registrations be turned in by Monday, May 18.

An informational meeting will be held on Monday, May 18 at 7:30 in the Church Lounge. The final planning meeting will be Monday, June 15 at 7:30p.m.

For those who can't travel with us, we need your prayers and financial support. For more information on how you might join hands with us, please see or call Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or the Church office at 724-327-5563.



VOLUNTEER WITH POKE RUN CHURCH AT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOODBANK!

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

Saturday April 18th, 9am-noon—Foodbank warehouse in Delmont, PA

Contact the office for more information.



From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes of February 10, 2015

The scheduled meeting of the Session met in West Wayside @ 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, Chad McCutcheon – Assist. Clerk, Bob Thompson, Tim Martin, Meri Slaughaupt, Ron Hileman, Cindy McQuaide, Linda Chicka, Linda Moorhead, Connor Martin. **Clerk:** Connie Cauvel **Excused:** Sandy Chappell

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Presbytery for our financial commitment.

MSC: To Approve Session minutes: January 13, 2015

MSC: To accept Deacon minutes: January 5, 2015

MSC: To accept Trustee minutes January 29, 2015

MSC: To approve January 31 Treasurer's report: Amy Wilkinson

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin - Budge & Finance will meet March 3

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell & Erin Bruce - April 3 will be the TGIF program for children.

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka, Mary Slaughaupt - Committee made chocolate covered Pretzels with Adelphoi Kids and the Deacons will take them to our shut ins. Food bank volunteers needed for February 22. Getting ready for Mission Trip – paper work Robin & Aaron are back in the States. Please keep them in your prayers.

Personnel: Linda Moorhead – Committee made recommendations regarding clearances and job descriptions - see motions below under new business.

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel - Committee prepared a light supper to serve after the Veterans Healing Service on January 31.

Nominating - Pete will meet with the Committee after Easter.

Old Business: Ron ordered the new signs that will include additional Poke Run events to be placed at each end of Poke Run Road

New Business:

Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 February 18 at Poke Run. No Community Lenten Services this year due to lack of participation from other churches.

MSC: To approve that we provide reimbursement for all Abuse Compliance Reports that our employees are required to obtain. PA Criminal History Report-\$10, Child Abuse History Clearance Report-\$10. Federal Criminal History Report -\$27.50. In the event any of our employees have clearance through other employers, then reimbursement does not apply and we just ask they provide a copy of their compliance documents. (From Doug Ross Personal Committee Chairperson)

MSC: To Approve: The ability to combine the Secretary's & Treasurer Job description. (We will provide the updated description for approval of the actual document during the March Session Meeting). Offer this combined position and make it official that Amy Wilkinson is responsible for this updated position. (From Personnel Committee, Doug Ross Chairperson)

MSC: Approve Presbytery Annual Report & Clerk's Annual Questionnaire for 2014.

(Report will be submitted electronically to Presbytery by February 13.)

MSC: Baptism of Monroe June Wright March 8, 2015

Close with prayer: Linda Chicka

Adjourn: 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: March 10, 2015



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

Session meetings are open to all members of the church. Complete Session Minutes are available in the office for Church member review.



Poke Run will host the Redstone Community of District 1 on Monday April 13th for their Networking and Leadership Development Gathering. The theme of the evening is "Living as Easter People Today." This event is open to everyone.

Monday, April 13th—7pm

From the Deacon Minutes of February 2, 2015 (bad weather)

Present:, Pastor Pete, Jan Fitzgerald, Carol Thompson, Nancy Kimble, Debora Ross and Logan Hileman.

Absent: Nikki McQuaide, Sheree Wagner, Mario Tagliati, Erin Bruce, Tammy Kelley, Diane Scott

Pastor Pete opened with prayer.

MSC - Secretary Report

Treasurer's Report—not available

Agenda:

Pastor Pete reviewed "How To" give communion to Poke Run Friends.

Deacon reps for PRPC committees were established. Nancy Kimble—Budget & Finance, Nominating will be set at next meeting.

Need to Update list of Shut-ins/Friends

Pastor Pete closed with Prayer.



Thank you to the Poke Run Deacons and all else who were involved with the Palm Sunday luncheon. There was much food and good fellowship.

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

April 10-12—"Women in the Woods" - Pine Springs Camp

April 11 Redstone PW gathering - Smock, PA—see PW information p. 5

April 12 "Pittsburgh Gospel Choir" at Delmont Presbyterian Church, 6pm



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRESBYTERY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

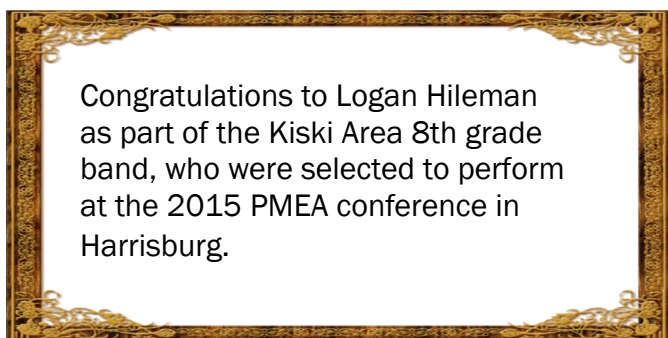
April 7—Delmont Lions Talent Contest—see flyer on p.9

May 2 7am-5pm—Annual "Spring Dumpster Day" at the Washington Twp maintenance bldg.

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.



Welcome Preston Jay Scott McCutcheon born February 7, 2015 to Nathan and Aubrey McCutcheon!



Delmont Lions Club Annual TALENT CONTEST



April 17, 2015

Salem Lutheran Church
7 PM

Sign Up Now

Applications available at
your school, or email
lions.talent@gmail.com.

Deadline to sign up: April 4

Call **724-468-1119** or

724-468 6270 for
more information.

lions.talent@gmail.com

Open to area students Grades 1 - 12

3 Divisions

- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School

Cash Awards

- Grand Prize*
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Winners
in each Division

**Grand Prize Winner moves on to
District Talent Contest*



Poke Run's Erin Bruce recently participated with fellow Penn State students with "Amizade" - a global service learning organization. They worked on community service projects in Puerto Rico over the students' Spring Break.

PHOTOS WANTED!!!!The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pics from church functions. Share your good news—contact the church office!



McCutcheon Enterprises (MEI) was recently named "Oilfield Services Company of the Year" for the NE USA region by the Oil & Gas Awards. "The McCutcheon Family was humbled and honored to accept this award on behalf of our entire team of employees. This award is dedicated to them and is a testament of the effort they put forth each and every day. It's another example of how MEI will be there when you need us-24/7."-Calvin, Julie, Chad, Nathan, Aubrey, JR & Preston McCutcheon





COOKING FOR A CURE



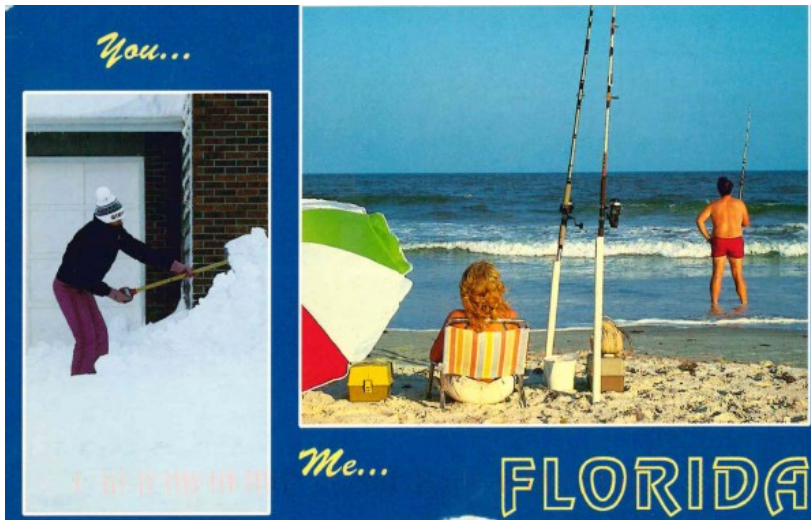
PITTSBURGH MARATHON MAY 3rd

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP ME RAISE \$\$\$\$\$ FOR UPCI, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH CANCER INSTITUTE

CANCER HAS AFFECTED SO MANY OF US OR OUR LOVED ONES. I AM PART OF A MARATHON RELAY FOR CANCER RESEARCH TO HELP END THIS EPIDEMIC. PLEASE PLEDGE ANY AMOUNT AND SEND IT TO MY ADDRESS: 219 THOMPSON ROAD, EXPORT PA 15632-MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO UPCI

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

ANDY THOMPSON



Things are tough here in Florida.
I almost got sunburned yesterday.
Photo by V. Rouse and Chris Lawson

Hi.
Just wanted to touch
base with my church family!
I will always consider
PRPC my "home" church.
I miss y'all and hope
Everyone is staying safe
& warm this winter!
I AM! God Bless
Eileen Ruston



APRIL 2015

If you have appropriate News to share in the
Poke Run Ranger—please submit it to the office.
The next Ranger deadline is April 24, 2015.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Mission & Stewardship 6:30 Bells 7pm Choir	2 5:45pm dinner 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Svc.	3 TGIF 	4
5 8:30&11am Worship 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	6 7pm Deacons	7 7pm, Budget & Finance	8 Noon "Soup for the Soul" 7pm Choir	9 Noon —Circle 4 6:30pm Scouts	10	11
12 8:30&11am Worship & Lunch 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	13 Redstone District 1 Gathering 7pm	14 7pm Session	15 7pm Choir	16 6:30pm Scouts	17 6:30pm Scouts	18 8:30am Foodbank
19 8:30&11am Worship 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	20	21 	22 7pm Choir "Earth Day"	23 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Trustees	24	25
26 8:30&11am Worship 10am Sunday Sch 7pm Bible Study	27	28	29 7pm Choir	30	Coming in May: May 2—Community Dinner May 10—Grad Sunday May 16—Strawberry Fest May 17—Music Appreciation	

Worship Together! Easter Services

April 2nd, Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30pm

April 3rd, Good Friday Youth Workshop 8:30am to 1:00pm



Easter Sunday Services, April 5th

Worship at 8:30am and 11am

Sunday School at 10am

**Poke Run Presbyterian Church
1091 Poke Run Church Rd
Apollo, PA 15613
724-327-5563
pokerun@windstream.net**

www.pokerunpresbychurch.com