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CALENDAR 12

It's always a good time to come back to Church!



The Ranger-June 2015

We find an odd little story in 2 Samuel 6:1-15. This story will give us a peek into what Karl Barth called "the strange new world of the Bible." If you haven't entered it, I invite you into this odd and puzzling world. It demands a close and careful reading. If you can't manage to plunge through the Bible word by word, just leaf through it stopping here and there and reading whatever is at hand. It will not be long before you find something intriguing, totally incomprehensible, mind boggling, crazy, or otherwise outside the pale of normal human experience. The Bible, read properly, often reverses everything you think you believe. And as Augustine, another great Christian mind reminds us, if you every peer even a little bit into the depths of Scripture, you will never be bored again.

As an example of this, turn to the second book of Samuel. In chapter 6 verses 1-15 we find a story concerning the Ark of God. The Ark was a rectangular box built to God's specifications several hundred years earlier. It was a portable shrine that was the base of the throne of God. In other words, where the Ark was God was. Israel's enemies captured the Ark. They suffered greatly as long as they kept it. They finally gave it back. King David decided to move the Ark into the capital city Jerusalem. He had a new wagon built to transport it. During the journey the oxen pulling the cart stumbled, the Ark began to fall, and a man named

Uzzah placed his hand upon

the Ark to keep it from falling. Now read from the text what happened:

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the Ark of God... and David was afraid of the Lord that day. 2 Samuel 6:8-9

Uzzah is dead. God
"struck him down." David
is afraid. Question: Does
this sound like the God
you know? Could this be
the God who died on the
cross for you? How does
this square with "God is
love?"

When you run across something like this deep thinking will be required. Remember the Bible is both God's revelation and a very human book. To read it fully we must keep both in mind. And remember too, the Bible shows clear signs of artful editing. There are at least four major lines of thought intricately intertwined within the pages of Scripture so that we have to read between the lines so to speak. The truth is there as God intended; we simply have to puzzle it out. Also keep in mind that God is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus never struck someone dead for a helpful act.

By doing a little biblical spadework, digging around in the Bible itself, we can



discover that when the Ark was built it came with very specific instructions. These instructions determined its exact measurements and how it was to be handled. It was never to be touched. It was built with rings along its borders so poles slipped through these rings could carry it.

When David decided to move the Ark he had a new wagon built, the Ark loaded upon the wagon, and the wagon pulled by oxen. When the oxen, who never should have been pulling the wagon upon which the Ark never should have been loaded stumbled, the Ark tilted and was falling or in danger of tumbling off the wagon. Uzzah, helpfully, tries to avert catastrophe. Here is where I wish the text were more helpful. Maybe the stress of the situation brought on a fullblown heart attack; maybe the Ark and wagon fell on him and crushed him. Anyway, David has a problem. Uzzah is dead and because David has not followed the specific instructions for carrying the Ark. David is at fault. David is afraid

God tells us something very important here. In this story Uzzah, and God, become the scapegoat. This is how we humans act. Think about it. Who do we blame for our problems? Did you ever hear, or say, "Why did God...?" or, "Not my fault ..." when clearly it is?

Thank You Page 2

To everyone who served during our Worship services in May.

May Greeters: Ruth O'Connor, Cindy Brooks, Irma McDivitt, Freda Bowman, Edyth Elwood,

Jim & Carol Thompson, Jeff and Amy Wilkinson, Jan & Bob Fitzgerald.

May Lectors: Eleanor Zerbini, Nikki McQuaide, Barbi Findley, Josh Porterfield, and

Ruth O'Connor

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop #552 for the lovely flowers on Mother's Day!





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 14th! See you then!

Poke Run Graduates 2015—complete list in May "Ranger"

Brenden Carl Kelley—son of Barry & Tammy Kelley, grandson of Karen Staymates, is graduating from Greensburg Salem High School. He will be attending Penn State University to study Mechanical Engineering.

Rachel Ann Martin – daughter of Dawn Elwood Martin, granddaughter of Lewis and Donna Wigle Elwood will graduate from Eastern Florida State College earning an AA, and with honors from the Astronaut High School of Titusville, FL.





In Memory of Our Veterans

Members from the Poke Run 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. 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.

Linda 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. Copies of the list will be available in the

Narthex. If you would like a mailed or emailed copy, please contact the church office.

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, Helen Grayem, Sandy Nemetz, Anna Mae Chicka, Lee & Linda Gardener, Bill Bert, Skip Elwood, Donna Blaser, Wanda Petrilla, Renee Beck, Elvira, Thad Overly, Max Brooks, Leonard Hartman, Marjorie Kaiser, Lyndsey Coulter, Tiffany Jensen, Allison Grundy, Ralph Brown, Ed Bahney, Ron Rubright, Grace Kennedy, Skip & Evelyn Pfeffer, Terry Wiester, Rafael Rincon, Danny Mangus, those gripped by addictions, and those who serve in the military.



The family of Eddie Linsenbigler would like to thank Rev. Pete and the congregation "...for their prayers, cards, calls and concerns during Eddie's illness and passing. God bless all of you."

Please keep the family of Robert G. Thompson in your prayers. Robert passed away on May 1. Robert was a member of Poke Run Church before transferring to Vandergrift Presbyterian, and is the uncle of Bev Tagliati and Bob Thompson.

Bob and Margaret McBride would like to thank everyone for their caring wishes and continued prayers.

Calling All Women in the Church

Poke Run's Presbyterian Women (PW) will hold their Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00pm. All women (and men) from our congregation are welcome 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 featuring Sue Nesti, Moderator of Redstone Presbytery PW

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way for the recent Community Dinner, sponsored by the Poke Run PW. Special thanks to *Laurie Powers* for coordinating the dinner and to *Katie Ballas* who provided her expertise.

FROM "THE REDSTONE LINK" - PW of Redstone Presbytery

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

Redstone PW is having a "Christmas in July Tea" at Congruity Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria on Saturday, July 18 at 1pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Martin (724-727-3361, martinstle3@verizon.net.)

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

Laurie Martin attended the recent PW Spring Retreat held at Pine Springs Camp. Sue Washburn was the leader and the program featured Jenn Frayer-Griggs, Table Minister of the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community. Laurie reports that their ministry is very similar to Poke Run's "Soup for the Soul." (see Jenn and Sue in pic at right.)



FROM THE Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session meeting of April 14, 2015

The scheduled meeting of the Session met in Sunday School Rooms @ 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 Slaugenhaupt, Ron Hileman, Linda Chicka, Connor Martin.

Excused: Sandy Chappell, Cindy McQuaide Clerk: Connie Cauvel Guests: Bob Wilson

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Deacons for help with Palm Sunday Dinner

MSC: To Approve Session minutes: March 10, 2015 and March 29, 2015, To accept Deacon minutes, To accept Trustee minutes March 26, 2015, To approve March 31 Treasurer's report.

Bob Wilson attended to explain the Road Improvement options and bids. The Trustees presented 3 bids, and recommended that we go with Sharp Paving Inc. @ \$123,000. Our base is solid therefore, he recommends using all asphalt not tar and chip. The asphalt will come from Derry. Sharp Paving Company is located near Shelocta. Ron was very impressed with the representative from Sharp, it was clear that he wanted to be proud of his work. The Trustees recommend we hire Sharp Paving to do repair and pave our driveway.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin -Giving to Current Fund is \$4,000 behind from last year, however Tim feels this could be because we have been giving to road fund. We have receive 2/3 of our First Fruits. Within the next month ask Amy to mention that the Road Fund is closed please give to the Current Fund. **Christian Ed** - Sandy Chappell & Erin Bruce -TGIF was well attended and enjoyed by all the children we had almost 40 children and 25 adults helping. We thank Laurie Martin for her planning and leadership of this very successful program. VBS materials have been purchased, we will be using the Gospel Light. **Mission and Stewardship**: Linda Chicka, Mary Slaugenhaupt Next opportunity to volunteer at the Food Bank will be April 25. Mission trip: Linda C. talked to Rick Kemerer and they may have as many as 10 coming from New Beginnings Baptist. Also First Baptist of Apollo will be joining us

Personnel: Bob Thompson. Linda Moorhead –The Church is continuing to work on Clearances. Amy is willing to work with people who need help obtaining Clearances. She has scheduled office hours on several evenings to accommodate anyone needing help.

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel Committee met April 13 to prepare food for Presbytery Meeting that evening and discuss plans for Music Appreciation Sunday.

Nominating Committee: Chad McCutcheon, Meri Slaugenhaupt First two meetings in May will be with Pete.

Old Business: Road signs from Signs of Excellence are complete.

New Business: Laurie Martin Freda Bowman, and Liz Maher went to the PW meeting and presented report on our Mission Trip.

MSC: To hire Sharp Paving INC to Asphalt the Church Driveway including the lower cemetery loop and the Manse driveway

MSC: Session will not meet in July and August

MSC: Andy Caldwell to use Fellowship Hall Saturday May 23 from 11 AM - 6 PM for their annual Hillbilly event. (Electronic Vote April 22, 2015)

Close with prayer: Ron Hileman Adjourn: 8:35 PM
Respectfully Submitted: Approved: May 12, 2015

Somie Causel



Poke Run Mission Team Returns to Marion, Virginia

This year's mission trip to the Marion Virginia area is scheduled for the week of June 21 through 26, 2015. A final planning meeting will be held on Monday, June 15 at 7:30p.m.

Please keep this group in your prayers. 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.



(taken from a recent email from Robin – the complete email is hanging in the hall of the Poke Run education wing)

After sharing with you the difficult news of our immediate departure from Jordan we left many of you worried and concerned. We want to first, apologize for our lack of communication during the past months. You all have been our close friends and prayer partners and there is no excuse.



The past few months have been difficult for us. It has been a journey of deep grief and sadness paralleled with joy and confirmation of walking together with the Lord. Upon returning to the states we met with our organization TEAM to discuss logistics and meet with the counseling department. The counseling program was a needed time to debrief from Jordan and reunite /understand each other as a couple...we returned to Williamsport PA near Robin's family where we were able to finally settle and begin to start a home together again with better tools and confidence. Will we return to Jordan? Answer: Not in the foreseen future, but we don't know. Will we enter back into Arab ministry? Answer: We hope, but again we do not know. What we do know is we are so thankful for the Lord and how He has walked with us through this time, and we will continue to walk with Him one step at a time.

Prayer Requests: For continue healing from the grief of having to leave Jordan. For our marriage that it will continue to strengthen as we journey together through this new stage of life. That we will continue to build on the firm foundation of our faith in Christ, trusting and believing in Him for our every need For Aaron- That he would be about to find a job locally that would plug him into the community and that would excite him. For continue healing of his heart. For the finding of a local soccer/basketball league where he could play and make friends. For Robin- That she would have the ability to support and encourage Aaron as he continues to look for jobs. For continued healing of her heart. For discernment as she makes decisions about potential jobs for herself. For friends in the local community. For us to find a local home church

Our new address: Aaron & Robin Barth, 1150 Market St. Williamsport, PA 17701

PUT AUGUST 9TH 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.





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 5 campers registered!!!!

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

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Pine Springs Campers Learn About Mission

Out of Chaos, Hope

Throughout the 2015 camping season, Redstone Presbytery will provide campers at Pine Springs the



Linda Travis paints the mission cabin at Pine Springs Camp. Blue is the PDA signature color.

opportunity to learn about the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the various ways in which PDA reaches out with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

The cabin will feature a map of the United States marked with the places where PDA has responded to natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy, as well as human-caused disasters, like the knife attack at Franklin Regional High School, here in Redstone Presbytery.

As part of the experience campers, as well as other visitors, will be invited to play the Uprooted Game. Each day thousands of people become uprooted from their homes because of disaster. The Uprooted Game is designed to help people imagine some of the realities faced by those forced from their homes.

When you are at Pine Springs this summer, please stop by the Mission Cabin.

Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World

Together!



NOTE the new campfire benches in the picture to the left. Poke Run Presbyterian Church participated in this program last year, contributing a bench to the camp. If you visit Pine Springs Camp—keep a look out for our bench, take a pic, let us know where it is located!

The picture to the left here is of the new Activities Pavillion scheduled to be ready for this year's campers!

Thank you Laurie Martin for the pictures.



FROM THE MINUTES OF: April 2015 Deacon Meeting Minutes

Present: Carol Thompson, Nancy Kimble, Logan Hileman, Jan Fitzgerald, Debora Ross

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

Opening by Jan F. with a devotional at 7:15P.M.

Secretaries report from March 2015 meeting read and accepted.

MSC: Treasurers report

Agenda: Strawberry Festival – Date Saturday, May 16, 2015

Volunteer to Chair – Sheree Wagner

Food ~ to finalize at next meeting

Jan F brought the care package goodies for College students, those present put them together.

Closing by Jan F at 8:25P.M.

Thank you to everyone who helped with or attended the POKE RUN CHURCH DEACON'S ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL. Please continue to support the valuable work of our Deacons.



Received: "Please pass on the word that the Strawberry Festival at Poke Run was the best we ever attended."

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

June 13—8am-3pm Indoor Yard Sale—C.U.P. Church - New Alexandria "Friendship Dinner" - 2nd Wednesday of every month 5-6pm—United Presbyterian, New Ken

Registrations are now being taken for the New Wilmington Mission Conference to be held at Westminster College, July 18-25. See flyer in hall of Education Wing.

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota during the week of June 18-21. This year's theme is "One Body, One Spirit," based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Keep this gathering in your prayers.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

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.

Thank you to everyone who submitted information for the 2015 Directory, Copies will be available in June.

NOTE: Amy will be out of the office June 10-12. And also please remember to contact the office before coming up during the summer. With the kids home, sometimes office hours have to be adjusted, cars shared, etc etc.

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New Address for Lewis and Donna Wigle Elwood: 2405 Cumberland Way, Crestview FL 32536

Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

There are age specific classes for Children and youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOR THE KIDS

This Sunday, May 31st will be the last children's class before the summer break.

Erin Bruce has let the Christian Ed Committee know that she will be unable to continue teaching the class this fall as she will be transferring to Penn State's main campus. Thank you Erin for your dedication to this class and our prayers are with you for this exciting move.

So, we are looking for someone, or a group, of volunteers that might be interested in continuing our children's Sunday School class in the fall. Please contact the office it you think this could be YOU!

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 "God's Prophets Demand Justice"

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 26—30, 2015.

If you still need your clearances— you can get them yourself at the following websites:

PA Criminal History Clearance: https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.isp

PA Child Abuse Clearance: https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home

A REMINDER: When using the Poke Run Kitchen facilities, please do not leave any food items on the counter or in the refrigerators and freezers. It is kind to think that someone else might use it – but it is SAFER and MORE CONSIDERATE to take it with you. Please do not leave leftovers including condiments, freezer items, etc.



<u>Poke Run Presbyterian Church Recognizes those</u> who share their musical talents in worship!

Choir

Katie Ballas

Jan Fitzgerald*

Nicole Goodiski

Don Lengauer*

Patty Lengauer*

Laurie Martin*

Cindy McQuaide*

Nikki McQuaide*

Albert Moorhead*

Miriam Painter*

Betty Schmidt*

Amy Wilkinson*

Lizzy Wilkinson

Patrick Wilkinson

Wayne Hauck

*Indicates Sunday Chancel Choir Members

Instrumentalists

Katie Ballas – flute Karen Goetschius - piano Melissa Goetschius - trumpet Linda Moorhead – piano Sean O'Neil – organ, piano, marimba Amy Wilkinson – piano

Handbell Choir

Freda Bowman
Edyth Elwood
Jan Fitzgerald
Connor Martin
Laurie Martin
Cindy McQuaide
Sean O'Neil
Debbie Seighman
Amy Wilkinson
Jeff Wilkinson

Vocal Soloists

Don Lengauer Laurie Martin Lizzy Wilkinson

Children's Choir

Morgan McGarry Peytan McGarry Jessica Slaugenhaupt Bria Stevenson Paige Stevenson Director: Erin Bruce

Organist & Choir Director

Sean O'Neil

Early Service Music Director

Linda Moorhead

Poke Run T-Shirts!

Order Forms for the next order of Poke Run Tshirts are now being accepted.

A variety of colors are available—sizes S-XXL \$15, XXXL \$22
Payment is due with Order Forms (June 10)
(Make Checks out to "Poke Run")
Any profit from the TShirts will go

toward the "Poke Run Mission Trip."

Any Questions: See Bob Wilson 724-727-7581





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.

A special thank you to all who pitched in for the landscaping around the church.—JOB WELL DONE!

PLEASE REMEMBER—THE POKE RUN "ROAD FUND" IS NO LONGER TAKING CONTRIBUTIONS. Any money received, earmarked for this project, will be redirected to the Current Fund expenses.

Thank you to the Poke Run Trustees, who contracted the project, did a ton of prep work and now plan to finish the job by evening out the curbs and edges. GREAT JOB!!!!!!!!!!





The Poke Run Nominating Committee has begun their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2016 year. Please keep this group and those who are called to serve the Poke Run Congregation in your prayers.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations to Dan Spaulding—(son-in-law of Tim & Laurie Martin—Dan finished 12th in the Pittsburgh half marathon with a time of 1:11:11.

Congratulations to Andy Thompson who's marathon relay team "Cooking Up a Cure" completed the race in 6:25:37 while raising money for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

In the picture below, **Cal McCutcheon**, **Pastor Pete**, **Chad and Nate McCutcheon** recently had the "Xtreme Xperience" of driving some of the world's finest supercars at speeds WELL in excess of 100mph! After some instruction, the group got behind the wheel of the likes of Lamborghini's Porsche's and Ferrari's.



PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

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

If you have News to share in the "Ranger"—please submit it to the office.

The next "Ranger" deadline is June 26th.

Poke Run Church June 2015

Offering - Congregational Life



Sunday Monda	y Tuesday	y Wedn	esday Thursd	ay Friday	Sati	urday
	1	2 7pm PW meeting	3 7pm MISSION & STEWARDSHIP	4 BUDGET & FINANCE 7pm	5	6
7 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUN SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	8	9 SESSION 7pm	10	11	12	13
14 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUN SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	15 7:30pm MISSION TRIP MTG	16	17	18	19	20
21 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUN SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY Happy Father's	22	23	24	7PM TRUSTEES	26	27
28 8:30 & 11am WORSHIP 10am SUN SCH 7pm BIBLE STUDY	29	30 M	Pray for those on the Poke Run Mission Trip June 21-26, and for those that they serve.			

<u>History Buffs - the "June 1975, 1976 and 1977" Rangers were just added to the website—Check it out! www.pokerunchurch.com</u>

GET READY FOR POKE RUN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 26TH -30TH MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS!





You can now find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook! Poke Run's email address: pokerun@windstream.net Poke Run web site is www.pokerunchurch.com

POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

