

Poke Run Presbyterian Church “The Ranger”

JANUARY 2016

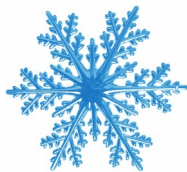
Approaching the Gospel: A Mystery revealed, and still a Mystery

From Pastor Pete



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**THE POKE RUN
OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON JANUARY
1ST and 18TH.**

For some time now I have been thinking about the Gospel. After all, if it is the good news of salvation, or The Good News of Salvation, or THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION, perhaps we should know something about it, or at least honor it with a bit of our free time. And if indeed, as I believe it is, it is the good news of salvation leading to eternal life, well, that is infinitely serious is it not?

First I will tell you of a modern, or rather postmodern, reconstruction of the gospel by a deconstructionist – OK it’s time for me to speak more clearly. Peter Rollins tells this story. Once there was a man who followed Jesus right up to the cross. He saw him die. He wept. He turned around and walked away. He decided then and there that Jesus had a vision of life that was greater than anything that he had ever known. He made a vow. He would keep this vision alive. He traveled to a far country. He established a small community living as Jesus had taught. They lived sacrificial lives of love at great cost to themselves. Some of them were martyred because this way of life was so at odds with the world around them. They lived this way for hundreds of years and may be living this way still.

I like this story. I like the idea that we should follow Jesus without regard for

ourselves. I like the greater idea that we should follow Jesus with no thought of reward, and we should. If we follow Jesus with the idea that we will be rewarded for our sacrifices then we have entered into an economic transaction with the divine. I don’t like that. Even if we follow Jesus with the thought that it will bring us eternal life, that is a quid pro quo, or something for something, proposition. I like that even less. I believe that we must learn to love God for who God is and follow Jesus for the beauty of his vision. I believe this along with Job. “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.” (Job 13:5 – echoed in Habbakuk 3:17-18) The Gospel, the Christian vision of beauty, peace, and love is the only vision of its kind and the only vision that will save humanity, and humans.

I add humans because the above story is not the gospel. The Bible goes out of its way to place the resurrection before us. It is written for us in all four of the gospels. The apostle Paul fairly revels in it. Paul’s message revolves around this: “... I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...” There is more but here is the heart, he died, was buried, and raised. Without the resurrection

the story collapses. However else we may struggle to define it, the Gospel is an announcement of the “Good News” that God has entered history in Jesus of Nazareth who lived, died, and rose from the dead.

Now comes the even more difficult question of “Why?”. Here in extreme brevity are a few incomplete attempts at definition. The Gospel is the message/good news that: God’s promises to Israel are fulfilled, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, we are saved from the wrath of God, Christ died for your sins, read Paul’s definition at Romans 1:1-4, let’s see that’s five attempts; more exist.

It would be easy to integrate all these into one longer statement. I think it would be a mistake to do that. Rather we are given multiple views of a profound mystery. Each of these views is like a facet on a diamond. As you look through it you see the gem in a new, brilliant, and beautiful way. Turn the diamond to a new facet and you will see revealed more beauty.

We know this. The Gospel occurred in time, in history. The Gospel was and is an act of supreme divine love. The Gospel is for us to show us the depths of God’s love. What else is needed, except our loving response?

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Advent and Christmas worship services.



Thank You

Our December Lectors:

Diane Scott, Mike Goetschius,
Shelly Chappell Vaia, Tom Kimble,
Heidi Hileman, and Josh Porterfield

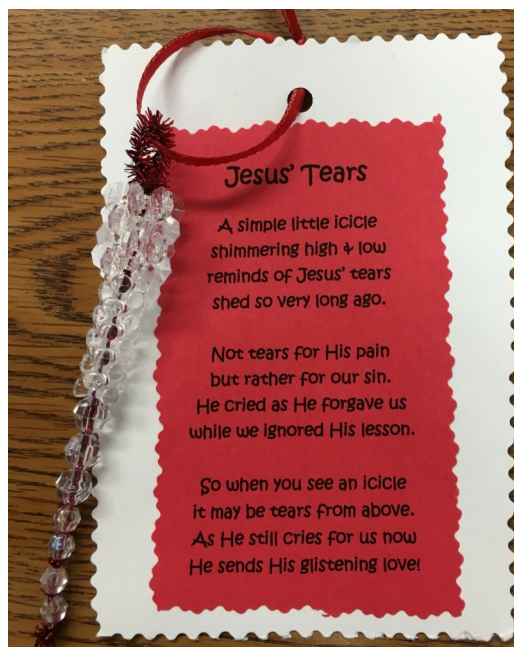
Our December Greeters:

Deb & Doug Ross, Lizzy and Jeff Wilkinson,
Jessica Slaughaupt and Karen Staymates,
Barbi & Tim Findley

Our December Advent Readers:

Karen and Mike Goetschius with Silas & Adalie
Sandy Chappell and Jim Moorhead
Logan, and Evan Hileman with Walt Lange
Tim, Sandy, Katie & Abbey Ballas
The McCutcheon family
Brett, Mandy, Paige & Bria Stevenson
Rick, Meri, Jacob & Jessica Slaughaupt
Tony, Shelly, Frankie Vaia and Caileigh Chappell
Bob Fitzgerald with Amy, Josh, Zach and Caitlin
Obringer

***A special thank you to Karen Staymates and
Jessica Slaughaupt who crafted the "Jesus'
Tear" for our congregation. (see photo left)***



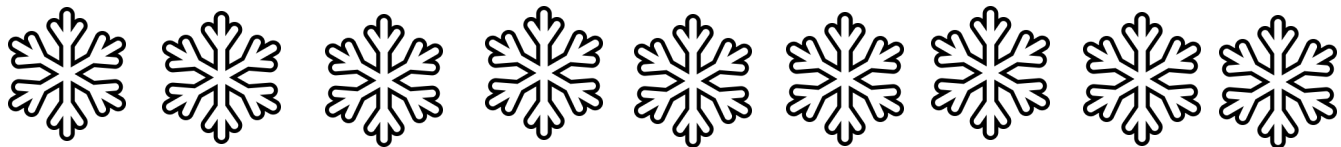
For our prayers:

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, 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, Ed & Betty Schmidt, Merle Lowman, Callie Spaulding, Kathleen, Samantha McCutcheon, Joyce Hodges, those gripped by addictions, and those who serve in the military.

Please keep Poke Run Presbyterian Church in your prayers. Pray that our various outreaches touch people's hearts as God wishes. Pray that you are led to participate where and when you can. Pray for those who receive Poke Run Deacon visits, and for those who attend "Soup for the Soul" and those called to the planned healing service for Veterans. Pray for all those led to attend a Poke Run Worship service; pray that Poke Run continues to "call the people ofsurrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ." (from Poke Run's Mission Statement 1993)

It is a privilege to lift up those we care about in continued prayer and Poke Run Church rejoices that many of those included on our "Prayer List" are healing and strengthening. If you placed names on our "Prayer List," please contact the office to update us.

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.



Congratulations to
Amy and Chuck Blair
and Blessings to all of
their family. Amy and
Chuck were married at
Poke Run on
October 17, 2015.

From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes November 10, 2015

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

Excused: Connor Martin

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin

Giving continues to be generous, and we are closing in on our deficit.

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell

Sunday School classes are going well and Linda C. Ruth O'Connor and Diane Scott are all helping Karen.

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka and Meri Slaughaupt

Adelphi helped with Rummage Sale, which is very much appreciated. They will also help with Santa's Breakfast. Helped to move Ronda from very deplorable conditions to a townhouse in subsidized housing in Harrison City. She is very appreciative and doing much better

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel

Committee prepared and served dinner after our Congregational Meeting, and will also serve refreshments at the Healing Service for Doubters and Nonbelievers.

Old Business:

Clearances for employees need completion by end of year. Volunteers need to be completed by July of 2016.

New Business:

Christmas Eve Services will continue at 5:00 and 7:30. Early service helps parents with young Children. We need to promote this to attract new families to Poke Run.

MSC: To donate \$25 to Presbyterian Historical Society The National Archives of the PC (USA)

Close with prayer: Bob Thompson

Respectfully Submitted:

Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

Adjourn: 8:25

Approved: December 8, 2015



Continuing the series of Healing Services, Pastor Pete has planned a second annual Service of Healing for Veterans. This can include

Anyone who might suffer from the stresses of being “on the frontlines”; veterans, active military, first responders, fathers, mothers, children, friends and family.



SATURDAY - JANUARY 30, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

(a light supper will be served following the service—help is certainly appreciated for this.)

The service will be simple, providing a time of confession and pardon followed by a message of the good news of God’s healing love. This service is open to all, veterans, families, and friends, and all the community; everyone. We hope to touch all those who carry the wounds of war and the losses that come with them, physical, emotional, and spiritual.”



If you have not attended one of these services, please consider coming and perhaps bringing a friend. They offer an intimate setting for worship, reflection, and prayer. As a congregation, Poke Run is urged to get the word out to those in need. Direct people to our website, invite them personally. Contact the office to obtain flyers, to offer help where needed and certainly make a point to lift up this ministry in prayer. See Pastor Pete for more information.



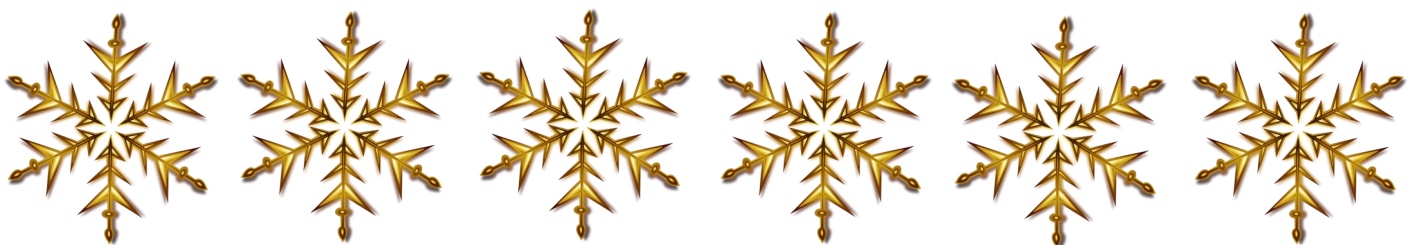
**Pastor Pete to be installed as
Moderator of 2016
for Redstone Presbytery**

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING: Saturday, January 16, 2016 -

Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg- 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Pete will be installed as the Moderator for Redstone Presbytery 2016. Sue Washburn will be installed as Vice Moderator 2016. This meeting is open to attendance for anyone who is interested.

Maplewood Presbyterian Church 108 Woodland Road, Greensburg PA





The Poke Run Deacons continue their valuable ministry in 2016. If you know of someone who would benefit by service from the Deacons, please contact them. Keep all of these men and women in your prayers:

Nancy Dombroske

Debora Ross

Ruth O'Connor

Deb Seighman

Bev Tagliati

Nancy Kimble

Diane Scott

Carol Thompson

Jan Fitzgerald

Tammy Kelley

Mario Tagliati

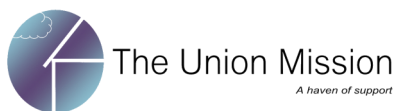
Sheree Wagner



The Poke Run Mission and Stewardship Committee plans to spread the word about all the groups that Poke Run's benevolence benefits. Watch for Ranger articles and listen for more information.

Poke Run continues to pledge to share "at least" an amount equivalent to 10% of our annual undesignated giving in benevolence to those included on the Mission & Stewardship Committee's budget.

Watch for ways YOU can give your time and talents!



**VIRGINIA
MISSION TRIP 2016
JUNE 19-24TH!**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Poke Run Presbyterian Women is in a reforming time. The group has a long and rich history at Poke Run and an active presence in the PCUSA Redstone Presbytery PW.

The stated “Purpose” of PW is:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,

To support the mission of the church worldwide,

To work for justice and peace,

To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.”

Stay tuned to hear how Poke Run Presbyterian Women will continue to walk in this path.

Circle 2: will be meeting on Thursday, January 21, at 6:30pm. The hostess will be Laurie Martin and the leader will be Val Hansen.

The next “Soup for the Soul” will be Wednesday, January 13th.

(Chicken Noodle)

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.

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



Sunday School at **Poke Run Church**

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS The Children’s Class is an engaging time of song and music, crafts and games, and a Bible message. Appropriate for all school aged children. **The kids led songs of Christmas praise during Advent Worship! (pic at right)**

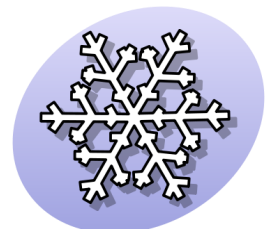
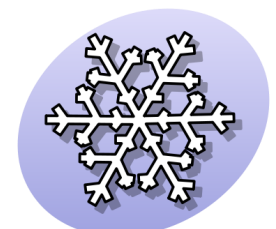
Spread the word—bring kids—invite kids.



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 “Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings”. 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”



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



The Poke Run Church Annual Audit is Saturday, January 16th

All Auditors, Treasurers, and Boy Scout Treasurers should come prepared for the 2015 Poke Run Audit. The audit is on Saturday, January 16 beginning at 8:30am and will continue until every group has been audited. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

In preparation for the 2016 Directory, Information Needed

Please notify the church office if you have had any name changes, address changes, a change in your phone number or a change in your email address. You may call the office at 724-327-5563 or email your information to pokerun@windstream.net Thank you.



"GIVING ENVELOPES" for 2016 are now available in the Narthex. Using the "Giving Envelopes" greatly helps Shyrl and Amy process the weekly offering; thank you for using them. If you do not find one labeled for you, please feel free to take a blank box to use and record your number there. If you need help getting your box of envelopes, please contact the Church Office.

The **"FIRST FRUITS"** offering is Poke Run's commitment to the larger church. Please consider an offering of \$35 per member.

*Firstfruits
Offering*

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

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

Poke Run web site is www.pokerunchurch.com

If you wish to be added to the Poke Run email list or wish to have your Ranger mailed to you—please contact the office.



Dish: _____

Recipe

Serves: _____

PICKLED PRETZELS

from the kitchen of Tammy Kelley

2 BOXES PRETZELS (2#)

1 C vegetable oil

1 pkg hidden valley ranch mix—dry

1/2 tsp lemon pepper

1/2 tsp dill weed

1/2 tsp garlic powder

Mix well and pour over pretzels—Place on cookie sheet and bake at 200° for one hour!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR MORE RECIPES TO SHARE—SUBMIT YOURS!!!! -

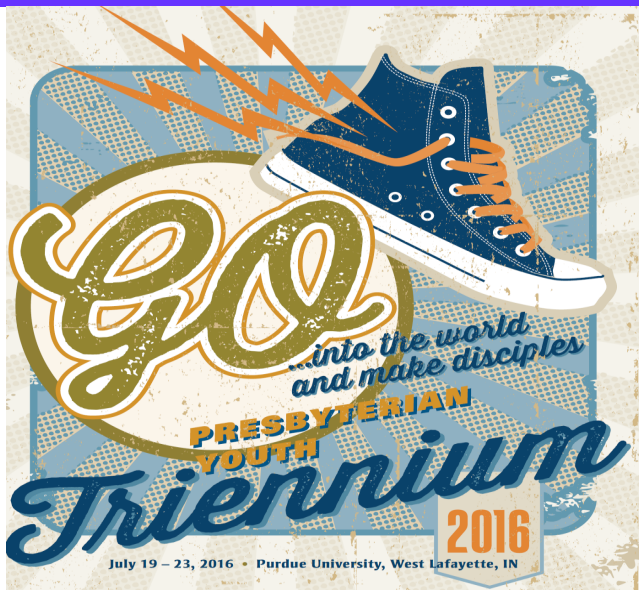
Call or email the office—personally I would like a recipe for chicken and dumplings!!!

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY


Jan. 16—1-4pm Redstone Presbytery meeting—PASTOR PETE INSTALLED AS MODERATOR!
Maplewood Prebyterian, Greensburg

THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN. 18TH.

THE REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN 18TH.



DEN 2 OF PACK 500 WANTED
TO SAY THANK YOU POKE RUN
CHURCH FOR LETTING US MEET
AT YOUR CHURCH!!!

Thank you 
Ruth Zwick

Thank you, Cody

Thank you Nathan

Thank you, Tyler

nick
Thank's

THANK YOU
DAN KUHN

Thank you
Brenden



PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

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



Murrysville Mayor Robert Brooks (far left) honored retiring senior judge Robert Scott (center) at the Murrysville Council meeting Nov. 18. With them are Ruth Hill, who ran the judge's office for 22 years, Scott's wife Diane, his daughter Kristin Scott Pardini and his grandsons Roman and Levi Pardini. Scott served as the Justice of the Peace from 1964 to 1970, when Pennsylvania moved to the District Magistrate system. He continued to serve the community in that capacity until 2000. As senior judge in the years since then, he has been called to sit on the bench in communities all over the state, and was the judge who handled the Sandusky preliminary hearing. He will be retiring at the end of this year. "It's been a nice journey," said Scott (Penn-Franklin News- Monday November 23, 2015)



ZingerBug.com

January 2016 Poke Run Presbyterian Church

If you have appropriate News to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office. The next Ranger deadline is January 25th.

Offering: Session					1 Office Closed	2
3 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study 	4 7pm Deacons	5 7pm Budget & Finance	6 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	7	8	9
10 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	11 10am Congregational Life	12 7pm Session	13 11:30am Soup for the Soul 7pm Choir	14	15	16 8:30am Poke Run Audit
17 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	18 Office Closed	19	20 7pm Choir	21 <u>Circle 2</u>	22	23
24 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	25	26	27 7pm Choir	28	29	30 Veteran's Service 6pm
31 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study						

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(Chicken Noodle Soup!!) 11:30am—doors open, Noon—”Soup’s On”

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



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