



INSIDE THIS

Thank You/ 2  
Prayers

October 3  
Congregation

Meeting/  
Trustees

Deacons/ CE/ 4  
Soup!

Recipe/ 5  
Rummage  
Sale/ PW

News from 6  
The Pews

Redstone 7

Happenings 8

Calendar 9



When it comes to religion, much less the Christian faith or the Christian life, thoughts are shared and opinions given across a very broad spectrum of ideas. We label these ideas at one end of the spectrum of thought, liberal, and at the other end of the verbal rainbow of bitter opinions, conservative or fundamentalist. How, in this massive collection of ideas and opinions does one hope to find the truth, in particular the truth of the Christian faith?

We will approach this question in two ways; first through doubt, then through faith. First, doubt. It might seem strange to approach faith through doubt. To get there we will take a look at our own lives, which, if I am guessing right, have been filled with their own times of doubt, despair, and down right disbelief. Over the course of our lives it is never a matter of simply believing. Oh, you might argue, there were times when I simply believed, or I have come to the point where I simply accept the Bible. I will agree with you, there are times when simple faith is possible. Usually this is at the beginning and the end of life. At the beginning of our lives we accept what others tell us. At the end of our lives we want to believe. In between times our lives are complex, our thoughts shifting, and challenges overwhelming. Somewhere along the line we will meet a skeptic, a friend, a teacher, a professor who challenges our beliefs, even our deepest beliefs.

This is the time to examine your beliefs. After all, if you cannot explain and defend then to another person, you have not thought them through for yourself. It is good to have them challenged so that you can think them through and come to a fuller understanding of what you really believe. This is a time to discover what other Christians have done in times of doubt, or in times of testing and crisis. This may be a time to find out what Christians really believe and have always believed. A good resource here is C. S. Lewis's Mere Christianity. If you are bold you may want to read counter arguments to Christianity and see their flaws. One of the great turning points in my faith was reading the great atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell's "Why I Am Not a Christian" and realizing he had not a clue. When you honestly examine your beliefs, the true ones will be stronger than ever. With some of the greatest minds of all ages you will find as well that the basic truths of Christianity will hold against any attack. They will hold because they are true and will never change.

I mentioned a second way of answering the question, "How can I know the truth of the Christian faith?" First of all, " ... the gospel is a mystery being disclosed." On this side of the second coming we will never have a total grasp of what God is doing in Jesus Christ to redeem the world. We see as the apostle Paul said, "through a glass darkly." This should keep us both on our toes intellectually and humble. All of us are in a sense groping about in the dark using a flashlight with no batteries. To wind our way through this labyrinth we will turn back 1000 years or so to a man named Anselm. Anselm made it one of his great works to prove that God existed. I am not sure that his proofs will hold today - there are much better ones by current standards. There are also much better counters to these proofs. So, while there is an overwhelming weight of evidence for God's existence, a simple logical proof for God's existence does not exist and probably never will. I think that God wants it that way. God is about trust, not proof.

How through this impasse? Anselm believed that we should seek hard after God. But, again, how? Here is Anselm's answer, as good a one as I know. He writes, "Let me seek thee in my desire, let me desire thee in my seeking." Then, here is the way he gives us to find God. "**Let me find thee by loving thee.**" This is the beginning point of seeking God. This is the point of contact with God that brings on the experience of God. This is where we begin to grow in our faith so that the mystery of the gospel will begin to grow in our hearts and that we will be transformed by faith so that we believe and that we know the truth. This is freeing.

Finally, Anselm does not ask for proof. Hear his final thoughts on this matter. " ... I desire in some measure to understand thy truth, which my heart believes and loves. For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order to understand. For this too I believe, that (quoting Augustine) "unless I believe, I shall not understand.""

Blessings,  
Pastor Pete

Thank You

**Thank you to our September Greeters:** Larry & Debbie Seighman,  
Ron & Carole Bowman, Bob & Jan Fitzgerald, Shyrl Stange and Liz Maher  
**Thank you to our September Lectors:** Becky Lange, Ruth O'Connor,  
Summer Mazur, and Tom Kimble

For our prayers: Ang, Ed Bahney, Renee Bates, Bill Bert, Lil Bowman, Sarah Brank, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Cailleigh Chappell, Roxy Chickar, Irene Clark, Jim Dunmire, Elvira, Lee & Linda Gardener, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Tiffany Jensen, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, Samantha McCutcheon, Irma McDivitt, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sandy Nemetz, Thad Overly, Sarah Parrish, James & Winifred Powers, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Ed & Betty Schmidt, Callie Spaulding, Dave Speer, Dinah Staymates, John Steele, JD Strait, Arlene Switzer, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Peter Yurtin, Jill Tocco, 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.*

*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.*



**World Communion Sunday** is a celebration observed by [Christian denominations](#), taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and [ecumenical](#) cooperation. This year it will be celebrated on Sunday, October 2nd. The tradition originated in the [Shadyside Presbyterian Church](#) of Pittsburgh, PA in 1933, was adopted throughout the [US Presbyterian Church](#) in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the [National Council of Churches](#)), endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.



**Reformation  
Sunday**

Reformation Sunday is the Sunday before Reformation Day (October 31), when Martin Luther posted his [95 theses](#) on the church door in Wittenberg. The tradition of Reformation Sunday offers an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and history, to affirm our central theological convictions and to consider God's ongoing reformation of the church.



**Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 16th.  
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

The Annual Poke Run Presbyterian Church “Congregational Meeting” is scheduled for **Sunday, October, 16, 2016**. On this Sunday there will be only **one worship service at 10am** with the meeting beginning immediately after the service followed by a **luncheon** in the Fellowship Hall. Please make every effort to attend this meeting of the church. The Nominating Committee will present a slate for the 2017 Boards and the Budget & Finance Committee will present the 2017 Budget as approved by Session.

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



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



**Thank you Trustees!** Be sure to take note of the repaved roads in the Poke Run Cemetery. Although not as extensive a project as the repaving of the Poke Run Church road, this project will benefit many. In the words of **Lillian Linsengbigler**, “it is so beautiful now, Thank you.”



PAGE 2



Jeff Wilkinson celebrated his 17th birthday during Fellowship Time in September.

“ORIGINAL” artwork at left submitted by Bob Scott!



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

**Office Hours at the Church** 9:30am—3pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! The office will be closed on Monday October 10th.

**As always—please share any contact information updates with the Church Office so that you do not miss out on any information. If you have an email address to share, you can start receiving informational emails as well as the Poke Run “Ranger” online—IN COLOR.**

**Office promise: you will NOT be inundated with emails!**

**Next Ranger Deadline: October 24th.**



**Sunday School at Poke Run Church** Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

**FOR THE KIDS** Children’s Class! – music and FUN!

**FOR BIG KIDS** 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 Sovereignty of God”

Join in the fellowship area for refreshment and conversation between the early service and Sunday School.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: “Breakfast with Santa!” = Saturday, December 3rd.**

***“Soup for the Soul” will resume on Wednesday, October 12th.  
(Vegetable Soup!!!!)***

**11:30am—doors open, Noon—”Soup’s On”**

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

**Remember to invite a friend.**

***“Come and Play Daycare” will be providing dessert for October!***





Dish: \_\_\_\_\_ **Recipe** Serves: \_\_\_\_\_

CARROT SOUFLE from the kitchen of Amy Wilkinson

1 lb carrots	3 eggs - lightly beaten	TOPPING:
1/2 c sugar	3 T flour	1/4 C cornflake crumbs
1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp vanilla	( I use whatever cereal I have)
3/4 stick melted butter		3 T brown sugar
		pinch cinnamon

Grate carrots, put in sauce pot with a little water and cook until barely tender. Add remaining ingredients. Place in a greased casserole, add topping, and bake uncovered for 40 minutes ( until knife comes out clean) at 350 degrees  
*I often double the recipe .*

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR MORE RECIPES TO SHARE—SUBMIT YOURS!!!!**  
Call or email the office



## **CIRCLE 2 CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 8AM TO 1PM**

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

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



### **Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW**

**Circle 2:** will meet on October 20th - 7pm— the hostess will be Karen Goetschius and the leader will be Cindy McQuaide.

**ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AND BRING A FRIEND!**

## **NEWS FROM THE**



**Jessica Slaugenahupt and Frankie Vaia** enjoyed watching and listening to guest organist Stan Jenkins warm up.



The staff and residents of Murrysville Redstone Highlands recently went “...Orange for Hunger.” You can spot Poke Run friend Sandy Kemerer and our own Mildred Streiner. Did I miss anyone?

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

*The next Ranger deadline is October 24th . The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We’d love to include more pictures from church functions.*



Busy times for the Kimble’s. Tom and Nancy first celebrated their daughter Kristen Kimble Verruggio’s induction into the Kiski Area Sports Hall of Fame, followed by the celebration of Kaitlin’s wedding .



# Stories of Redstone

*Christ at work in our midst*

**National Recovery Month**

Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover

For 20+ years, I worked as an addictions counselor and did weekly pulpit supply. I would introduce myself and what I did full-time. Following worship, many people would approach me to share a story or seek advice about a family member or friend with a Substance Use Disorder. Often, people would tell me that they had been in recovery for many years. When I would ask if people in their church knew their story, often the answer was no. They were often unsure as to if it was a safe place to share their recovery story, because the church never talked about it. Does your congregation talk about the problems with alcohol and other drugs? Are there wonderful stories of hope and grace hiding in the shadows?

**September is National Recovery Month** — an annual recognition of the fact that millions of Americans suffer from addiction and other mental disorders, which can be successfully treated, allowing people to live healthy, rewarding lives. These individuals have stories of hope and grace to share with us.

To read these stories shared by recovering individuals, visit the web site [recoverymonth.gov/personal-stories/read](http://recoverymonth.gov/personal-stories/read)

For additional links to other available resources, [www.mcclellandtownpresbyterian.org/recovery](http://www.mcclellandtownpresbyterian.org/recovery)

Rev. F. Lee McDermott, pastor at McClellandtown and Grace Chapel Presbyterian Churches in Fayette County, PA

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

Pastor Pete will be on vacation on Sunday October 30th and Sunday November 6th.

Please welcome to the pulpit:

October 30 -  
laypastor Linda Gossar Loesch

November 6 -  
Rev. Chuck MacPherson

*Welcome*

## September Gathering Highlights

- **Rev. Donna Havrisko** shared about the impact of the Holy Land Pilgrimage tour in her own spiritual formation. She noted another upcoming opportunity in 2017.
- Two new members of the Presbytery of Redstone were examined and received. Rev. James Gear (Trinity, Uniontown) and Rev. Alan Olson (Interim Pastor; Rehoboth, Belle Vernon) were welcomed as colleagues in ministry.
- **While hosting us, Pine Springs Camp provided an excellent update on summer campers (850) and the status of the "Faith for the Future" capital campaign (1.45 million pledged). With our generous support, they hope to receive pledges for the additional 350k in the near future.**
- Gathered in worship, we considered our "Hope in our Calling." Using excerpts from our newest confession (Belhar), Rev. Molinaro (*Third*) and Rev. Paul (*Newlonsburg*) both shared from the Word and their experiences as commissioners at the 2016 General Assembly.
- **Networking together over lunch, commissioners connected around ministry topics such as spiritual journeys, church and school, crossing the boundaries, healing prayer, short term mission and ministering with the addicted.**
- A special time of remembrance and celebration occurred as friends shared stories upon the retirement of Rev. Richard Klein from twenty-nine years of pastoral service at Rehoboth.



## HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY



Oct 1-2 Pine Springs Camp—"Fall Fusion Retreat"  
 Oct 15 PW Fall Gathering Third, Uniontown, PA  
 Oct 23—Fall Gospel Sing, at Delmont Presbyterian 7pm "COME TO JESUS"  
 Oct. 24—PW Fall Gathering at Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence PA

## HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sept 30-Oct 2 Vandergrift Arts Festival  
 Weekends in October—Autumnfest at Seven Springs!  
 Oct 1-2 Delmont "Apple Fest"  
 Oct 8—"Pugtoberfest" - 11am-4pm, Kunkle Park, Wash. Twp.  
 Oct 12—"Meet Your Community Heroes" - Wash Two Firehall 6:30-8pm  
 Oct. 22 Lion's Halloween Parade and Party—Kunkle Park, Wash. Twp. 5:30pm  
 Oct 31—Washington Twp Trick-or-Treating 6-8pm



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

Thursdays 4-7pm Export Farmer's Market—located near Kennedy Ave  
 Thursdays 3-5:30pm Vandergrift Farmer's Market—located along Columbia Ave.  
 Thursdays—3-7pm Murrys ville Farmers Market—Murrysville VFC



Poke Run is an active supporter of the Kiski Area Youth Network—KAYN [www.KVturkeytrot.com](http://www.KVturkeytrot.com)

**Gearhard Farms presents:**

 **The 17th annual Corn Maze** 

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

**[www.gearhardfarms.com](http://www.gearhardfarms.com) for more information.**





# October 2016



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>The Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Oct 10. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.</b>						1
<b>2</b> <b>World Communion</b> 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7pm Deacons	<b>4</b> 9am Congregat'l Life 7pm Budget & Finance	<b>5</b> 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR 7pm Mission & Stewardship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>10</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>11</b> 7pm SESSION	<b>12</b> 11:30 SOUP FOR THE SOUL 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9am Sunday School 10AM Worship 7pm Bible Study <b>Congregational meeting &amp; LUNCH</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> RUMMAGE SALE 8AM—1PM
<b>23</b> 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHOIR	<b>27</b> 7pm Trustees	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study <b>Reformation Sunday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Pastor Pete will be on vacation October 30 and November 6—Please contact the office for any pastoral needs you might have.</b> <b>Laypastor Linda Gossar Loesch will preach on Sunday October 30th and</b> <b>Reverend Chuck MacPherson will preach on Sunday, November 6th.</b>				

## **Poke Run Presbyterian**

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.  
Apollo, PA 15613



Poke Run Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 16th.

ONE 10am service.

Luncheon following the meeting!