

THE RANGER

NOVEMBER
2016

POKE RUN
PRESBYTERIAN

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Often you will hear, perhaps on the daily news, or perhaps during the numerous episodes of news commentary, or even in a police report, of a "good Samaritan" stopping to help. Almost everyone in America has some sense of what this means. To be a good Samaritan means to stop and help someone in need, perhaps at some risk or inconvenience to oneself. Yet, when asked where the term originates very few can say decisively that it comes even from the New Testament; fewer still will know that the story comes from Luke 10. When asked to tell the full story, not many get it right, not many know its nuances. So here is a story embedded deep into the American psyche with its origin in the Bible and impacting our behaviors but of which we know little. Interesting.

Now I am going to explore this idea that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are somehow "authoritative" for us as Christians. We will begin by considering truth, not as facts but as biblical truth by looking at the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Next we will look at Scripture not as an object to be studied but as a subject speaking to us. We will follow this by a brief overview of today's needs in relation to the Bible as Scripture, God's Word to us.

Here in America we tend to equate truth with facts, especially facts as validated by science, history, or experience. It may well be that experience carries the most weight for most people. But do facts get us to the truth? Consider the Crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. We have the facts of the matter before us. First there is the Christian witness of the four gospels, and the apostle Paul's fabulous witness in his letters. Roman and Jewish sources also exist which validate that one Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on a Roman cross somewhere around 30 CE. Almost no one argues this fact. And, while there are many nuances to their explanations most people will agree on these witnesses that this man Jesus was seen alive and well after this crucifixion. However, for the sake of our argument, let only take the almost indisputable fact that one man, Jesus of Nazareth was crucified two thousand years ago. Knowing this tells us nothing about God's purposes in history through the life and death of Jesus, nor that God becomes human through Jesus' life, nor that this is an event of salvation with universal implications. The truth here lies beyond the facts.

The Bible has become, for a few scholars and fewer Christians, a book to be studied, a document to be perused in order to find historical facts or propositions to be turned into doctrines. A few more try to find the original meaning and somehow catapult it into today's world in some way that is relevant. All these actions tend to turn the Bible into an object, passive and obedient to our manipulations. The book of Hebrews puts it better, " ... the word of God is living and active ... " meaning, "Scripture is subject (in the sense of its (ability) ... to speak to and shape us). That is, we go to Scripture, and we read, not to discover more facts, or to disprove what is there, but to listen to the very voice of God speaking to us. If we obey what we hear, we will be transformed.

Now, we Christians of the 21st century and beyond, need to return to the Bible and read it as it was intended to be read. We read in the power and influence of the Holy Spirit with open hearts and curious minds, seeking the truth that is revealed to us within its pages, word by word, phrase by phrase, sentence by sentence. "That is, we need to recover the freedom to engage with ancient texts as our texts, and with respect and expectancy, as those who thus might embrace Scriptures (vision of God) and be molded according to its patterns and life." What is needed most perhaps is to sit down together with friends and new friends and puzzle things out together. We need this not just to discover truth but to become disciples of Jesus who live out our discoveries moment by moment and day by day.

The short way of saying all this is to ask, "What is the Bible saying to us today that we are to do?"

For some, like our "good Samaritans," it is working, whether we know it or not.

Quotes from Joel Green, Seized by Truth.

By Pastor Pete



Tuesday
November 22nd
7:30pm

Thank you to our October Greeters: Tom & Nancy Kimble, Mario & Bev Tagliati, Bob & Diane Scott, Irma McDivitt, Ruth O'Connor, Cindy Brooks, and Andy & Eva Bantrock

Thank you to our October Lectors: Brian Dombroske, Val Hansen, Debbie Seighman, Shyrl Stange and Cindy McQuaide



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, Elmer Foley, Lee & Linda Gardener, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Tiffany Jensen, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Iris Kiebler, 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, Jill Tocco, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Peter Yurtin, 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.

*Please keep **Glenn & Mary Ellen Ross** in your prayers.*

Glenn & Mary Ellen recently moved back into the area, their new address is:

314 N. Tuscan Way, Greensburg, PA 15601.



Summer Mazur shared her talents this month by singing a prelude dedicated to her grandfather Bob McBride's memory.

You're Invited:

**Redstone Presbytery meeting at Poke Run Church
Saturday, November 19, 9am**

This meeting will mark the end of Pastor Pete's term as Moderator of Redstone Presbytery – the day will start with breakfast and worship led by Pastor Pete with communion and include music by Melissa Goetschius.

Please consider coming out for this special time.



From the Scheduled Session Meeting of September 13, 2016 (as recorded by Chad McCutcheon, asst Clerk)

A quorum was present.

Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Chad McCutcheon – Assist. Clerk, Tim Martin, Ron Hileman Linda Moorhead, Sandy Chappell, and Meri Slaugenhaupt,

Excused: Connie Cauvel – Clerk, Linda Chicka, Cindy McQuaide, Jeffrey Wilkinson

Guests: Bob Wilson, Greg Davis-Pine Springs Camp

Greg Davis addressed the Session regarding Pine Springs Camp's Capital Campaign in which they are aiming to raise funds for various projects throughout the campus. The project is primarily, a new multi-use dining room facility to better serve the camp on a year-round basis.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin – 2017 budget will be holding the line on everything from 2016. They expect to have the budget for Session approval at the October meeting.

Christian Ed – Sandy Chappell-no information

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka-met to do a Summer catch-up.

Personnel: Doug Ross & Linda Moorhead-did not meet

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel- planning a dinner after congregational meeting still going through the rolls.

Technology - Chad McCutcheon working on estimate for Wifi repeaters.

Nominating Committee: Cindy McQuaide & Sandy Chappell Progress is going well. Still one or two positions need filled by next month's meeting.

Old Business:

Bible School review- Great job Linda & Bible School Team! (see newsletters)

New Business:

MSC: by electronic vote-Heidi Hileman to use Fellowship Hall on October 11 for the Kiski Area Jr. High Soccer Banquet. (This vote was completed via email on August 25, 2016.)

MSC: For Laurie Martin to use Fellowship Hall on November 11 for the Kiski Area Cross Country banquet.

Presbytery meets at Poke Run on November 19-please mark your calendar to attend. Session members will be needed to serve Communion, welcome everyone, answer questions, facilitate technology, and host. Remind Linda Moorhead to be sure we have extra communion bread for this meeting.

MSC: to accept the bid from Sharp Paving to replace the cemetery road as per recommendation from the Trustees.

MSC: to move the Rummage Sale to October 22, 2016.

Review of Insurance Policies – Trustee Rick Slaugenhaupt provided a chart. (Copy available in office)

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

The next Session meeting will be held at 7pm on November 8, 2016.

The December Session meeting will be the JOINT meeting including all Poke Run Boards.

Pastor Pete will be on vacation through Sunday November 6th.

Please welcome to the pulpit:

November 6 - Rev. Chuck MacPherson

just in case

If you have ANY pastoral needs, please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office (724-327-5563) or Amy (412-841-4016.)

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Congregational Meeting

As a Congregation, Poke Run voted to:

Accept the Nominating Committee's slate of Board members for 2017:

Board of Trustees: *Ron Bowman, Brian Dombroske, Doug Ross and Corey Kelley (youth)*

Board of Deacons: *Tammy Kelley, Mario Tagilati (one year), Cindy Brooks and Barbi Findley*

Poke Run Elders (Session): *Chad McCutcheon, Tom Kimble, Nicole McQuaide, Logan Hileman (youth)*

2017 Nominating Committee:

Linda Chicka, Amy Wilkinson, Dolly George, Nicole Goodiski, and Bob Fitzgerald

Elect an Auditor: *Bill Craig*

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

Tim Martin presented the entire Current Fund Budget, including Pastoral Terms of Call and the Benevolence Budget proposed by the Mission & Stewardship Committee to the congregation. He pointed out that no staff salary raises were included in order to keep the budget in check considering today's Current Fund deficit. 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.

ATTENTION ALL BOARDS: Mark your calendars NOW—Tuesday, December 13th will be the annual Joint Board meeting essential for preparation for Poke Run going into 2017.



Office Hours at the Church 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! The office will be closed on November 24th, 25th and 28th.

Please share any contact information updates with the Church Office so that you do not miss out on any information. Next Ranger Deadline: November 21st.



DEACONS IN MINISTRY

Serving People on the Front Lines of Faith

The Poke Run Deacons are now taking orders for Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Please know that a typical basket includes the following (some changes do occur):

10 lb turkey	5 lb potatoes	carrots	onions	celery
dozen eggs	1 lb butter	2 cans chicken soup	2 cans tomato soup	2 boxes jello
1 can cream mushroom	1 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 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
Cranberries	stuffing	yams	pumpkin	can evap. milk

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.



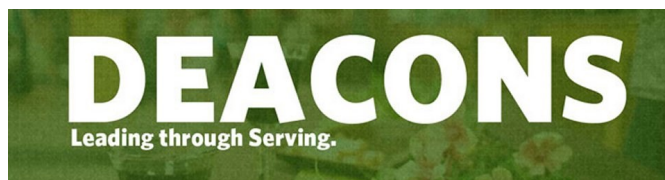
Poke Run Deacons:

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
Debora Ross	724-468-0312	Carol Thompson	724-327-6598
Deb Seighman	724-733-1991	Corey Kelley	see Tammy
Bev Tagliati	see Mario		

Please contact a Deacon or the Church office should you wish to reserve a Thanksgiving Basket . Orders are due Sunday, November 13th, You will need to provide the name and phone number of the person who will be picking up the basket. PICK-UP is Saturday November 19th at 9am.

The Deacons are eager to minister to those in need, if you know someone in need, please contact them or the Church office.

Please continue to support the work of the Poke Run Deacons in any way that you can.



The Deacon's Giving Tree will soon be set up in the Narthex. 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.



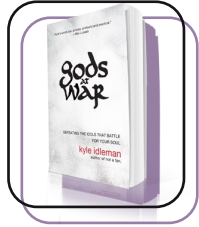


Sunday School at Poke Run Church Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS Children's Class! – music and FUN!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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"**



The class meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall) is beginning a new study series, **"God's At War – Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart"** by Kyle Idelman.

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

Santa's Coming For Breakfast The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring their annual "Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, December 3, 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 3.

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 2, beginning at 6:00pm. We start with a meal so bring a covered dish or dessert!



Please follow the Traffic patterns around the church—especially in the back of the church. Do not exit the back of the church in the reverse direction unless you are the only car in the lot—and ABSOLUTELY NOT ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. We've had a few reported "CLOSE CALLS" - keep aware and BE CAREFUL!



Circle 2 will meet on Thursday November 17th. Nancy Dombroske will be the hostess and Linda Moorhead will be the leader.

Thursday—November 12th - SAUCE MAKING—as always—ALL HELP APPRECIATED!

HELP NEEDED: Monday November 21st, 9am. Come help decorate the church for Christmas. - all help is appreciated.

Recently, Circle 2 was delighted to offer support to an organization that **Callie Martin Spaulding** works with, **Embrace Grace** of North Way Oakland Church in Pittsburgh PA. It is a 12 week Bible Study group for young women facing unplanned pregnancy.

Embrace Grace

Thank Offering

“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24 The **Thank Offering** of the Poke Run Women of the Church will be presented and dedicated on **Sunday,**

November 13th. The *Thank Offering* funds mission projects that strengthen the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the promise of God’s kingdom. We invite you to help us in supporting this ministry. Please prayerfully consider giving to this offering of thankfulness.



Thank you to everyone who donated to and shopped at the Circle 2 rummage sale. It was a great success netting over \$2,000!



NEXT: \$1.00 Spaghetti Dinner

Be a winner, come to our “Dollar Dinner!” Everyone is invited to a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, November 12, 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.



FROM THE WEBSITE: “THANKS TO ALL AT POKE RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHO MADE A WONDERFUL RUMMAGE SALE POSSIBLE. WAS THERE AND THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MYSELF. LORD BE WILLING AND THE CHURCH CONTINUES TO HAVE THESE SALES, WILL SEE YOU AT THE SALE NEXT YEAR.”

We OF COURSE invited her to come back sooner!

“Soup for the Soul” resumed last month with about 60 people attending! only 10% were from Poke Run—so put this on your calendar and come welcome the community to Poke Run Church.

Next Soup is November 9th, 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., (last month’s dessert was donated by Becky Lange and the “Come n Play” daycare—see photo below left.)

NOVEMBER SOUP: “Chicken Noodle Soup” Remember to invite a friend.



Preparing “Soup for the Soul” in October, **Ron and Carol Bowman and Judy Rubright.**

At left, **Bob Wilson** runs the first load through the new dishwasher!



Redstone Highlands®



Redstone Highlands is currently looking for volunteers interested in working in their gift shops. Training would be completed on site with the gift shop coordinator. Shifts that currently need filled include week days and Saturdays. Volunteer schedules will be adjusted based on your availability. If you are interested, please contact Joe Gombita at 724-832-8402 ext 378 to find out more,



Invite someone to Thanksgiving Worship!
Tuesday, November 22nd
7:30pm



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Nov. 8—"Election Day Soup luncheon" Community Presb. New Alexandria

Nov. 12—Spaghetti Dinner 4- 6:30pm—Congruity Presbyterian Church

Nov. 20—Pine Springs "2016 Friends Dinner" -

Poke Run & Redstone Offices will be closed on Nov. 24th & 25th and 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

2nd Wednesdays of the month—"Friendship Dinner" FREE—United Presb, New Kensington

COMING UP AT POKE RUN CHURCH IN DECEMBER

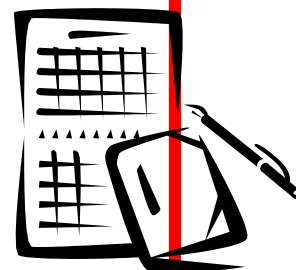
Dec. 3 – Christian Ed – Annual "Santa's Breakfast"

Dec. 4—Ordination Sunday

Dec. 13 – Joint meeting of all Poke Run Boards

Dec. 14 – "Soup for the Soul" – 11:30am.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service

**HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Nov. 5 - 6pm Pasta dinner fundraiser - benefits Orchard Hills Christian Academy—

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.

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 8, 2016.



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

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Let the Little Children Come to Me

Serving as acolytes, collecting offering, singing in the children's choir: our congregations have long found ways to include even some of the smallest members of the family of God in worship leadership.

Last Advent, the Colver and Ebensburg Churches sought out new ways to actively include children in worship. From Colver's Hanging of the Greens service to Ebensburg's "Jesse Tree" (which includes biblical symbols from Creation to the birth of Christ), it was the children who led the adults into a deeper experience of that season of hope and expectation. And during worship each Sunday, the children helped to usher a ceramic Mary and Joseph (very carefully!) ever closer to the manger at the front of the sanctuary.

On Christmas Eve, each church celebrated the culmination of that hope and waiting with their own Service of the Nativity. As the Christmas story unfolded through readings and carols, members ages one to ninety-three rose from their seats around the sanctuary and brought forward the figurines to complete the scene, beginning with Mary and Joseph and Jesus, then adding the animals, shepherds and angels. It was a very special moment when one of the most dedicated members of Ebensburg, who was also a preschooler, carefully cradled the tiny Jesus figurine in her hands and placed him on the straw. When a young couple at Colver brought their year-old daughter forward with them as they placed baby Jesus in the manger, the humanity and beauty of the Christmas story touched the congregation in a new way.

How is your congregation incorporating children into worship?

How might you include more of God's family in worship leadership?



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

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Young Presbyterian Scholars Program

\$76,000 scholarship per student at Westminster College.

Pastor Nominations due:

Dec. 15

Student Applications due:

Dec 15

**CONTACT
THE OFFICE FOR
MORE
INFORMATION.**

**WESTMINSTER
COLLEGE**



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

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



Congratulations to **Lizzy Wilkinson**, Lizzy was honored at Senior Day at Thiel College. Lizzy celebrated the culmination of over 18 years of soccer including her time at Kiski Area High School and then playing for the Thiel Tomcats where she holds College career records.

*If you have appropriate
News to share in the
Ranger—please submit
it to the office. The next
Ranger deadline is
November 21st.*



November 2016



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Pastor Pete will be on vacation through November 6—Please contact the office for any pastoral needs you might have.		1 7pm Budget & Finance	2 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	3	4	5 
6 All Saint's Sunday 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School No Bible Study	7 7pm Deacons	8 <u>Election Day</u> 7pm Session	9 11:30am "Soup for the Soul" 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	10	11 KA Cross Country Banquet	12 \$1.00 <u>Spaghetti Dinner</u> <u>4-6pm</u>
13 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study Thank Offering	14	15	16 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	17 <u>Circle 2</u> 7pm Trustees	18	19 Deacon Food Basket Pick-up 9am Redstone Presbytery 9am-1pm
20 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	21 9am Cong Life Mtg <u>Decorate the Sanctuary</u>	22 <u>7:30pm Thanksgiving Service</u>	23 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27  1st Sunday of Advent 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29	30 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<div> NOTE THAT THE OFFICE OF REDSTONE PRESBYTERY & POKE RUN'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY ON November 24, 25 and 28.—Call Pastor Pete in case of an emergency 724-454-2278 </div> 		

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613

Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 22nd,
7:30pm

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



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\$1.00 Spaghetti Dinner

