



I used to tell people to read the Bible. I no longer do that. It is not because they will not. It is because we are too far from the Bible and its story. Too many of us did not have parents who read us the Bible stories at bedtime. Fewer still, are there any today I wonder, had parents who read through the Bible with them as they grew up. Very few have read through the Bible even once from beginning to end. Too many of us have a somewhat sketchy attendance at Sunday School. On and on the list of reasons why the Bible is a mystery to us can multiply. Knowing all this, adding the limited attention spans of most people today and their perceived time commitments, I know better than to suggest that they read the Bible. I do so because I know that they will try, and quickly be diverted to something else that requires less effort. The Bible deserves more than that.

Despite this, I am going to tell you to read the Bible. It is God's witness to us of who God is and what God is about. It is more than a collection of stories. If that were all it was, and this thanks to Ed Clowney, then David killing Goliath is just another Jack and the Bean Stalk story, Samson is just another Superman, Creation is just a myth, and all the miracles quaint little tales of ancient peoples. In the modern theological world King David never existed and Jesus is just a wandering Cynic poet/philosopher. But then, according to the Bible, King David is necessary for Jesus to have been born. This gives us an entry into the story, a starting point right in the middle. Actually, let's start more or less in the middle of the New Testament, with the Gospel of Luke, working back to the center.

In Luke, on the day of Jesus' resurrection, two men who had given up all hope in Jesus - after all he had been crucified - were on their way away from Jerusalem. They met Jesus on the road but did not recognize him. Jesus, "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them all the things concerning himself." Now where in the Old Testament does it say that or prophesy that, Jesus would live and die and be resurrected for our sins.

Luke begins his story with an angel announcing to an old priest Zechariah the miraculous birth of a son. This son, whom we know as John the Baptist, was prophesied in the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi. Malachi states, "Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me." John the Baptist picks up this prophetic language when he announces Jesus. We can connect this language to the book of Exodus and also the prophet Elijah. Luke connects Jesus clear back to Adam.

The Gospel writer John steps even further into history, in fact he begins before history or time even existed. The first verse of John states, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made through him ... Notice that the word "Word" is capitalized. That is because it refers to Christ. Christ always was with God, even before creation. There is one story here, from before time and continuing through history into eternity.

What I am saying is that there is more to the Bible than a collection of stories. We have been trained all our lives to read or see stories in isolation from each other. This is not the way the Bible is written. Each story is written to add to the main story of how God saves us. In isolation David slays Goliath becomes Jack drops the giant and Arnold destroys Predator. These are the same story. The difference between modern entertainment and the Bible is this. In "Predator" Arnold says, "If it bleeds I can kill it." The focus here is on "I." "I" can kill it. Contrast this with what David says just before he encounters Goliath, "You come to me with sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts ... This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand ..." See the difference, David claims, "This day the Lord will deliver you," very different. David is placed securely into God's story of salvation. Jesus comes from the line of David and saves us. And so it goes.

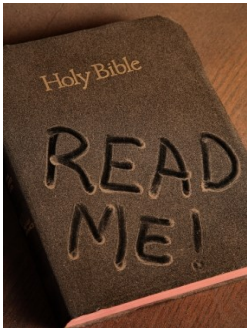
Certainly, read the Bible. Read it with open eyes and a full heart. Don't just read the stories. We have plenty of "Jack the Giant Killer Stories" out there. We have more than enough wandering prophets and wonder workers and healers and cynic poets; more than enough to go around. Begin to read the Bible as God's story, that God planned from before creation to redeem us from the mess we would get ourselves into.

Pastor Pete



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Thank you to our August Lectors:

Don Lengauer, Josh Porterfield, Connor Martin and Walt Lange

Thank you to our August Greeters:

Doug & Deb Ross, Ruth O'Connor, Cindy Brooks, Irma McDivitt, Bob & Iris Kiebler, and Cindy and Nikki 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, 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.



Please keep the family of *Leonard Hartman* in your prayers. Leonard passed away on August 1st. Leonard joined the Poke Run congregation in 1945, served as a Trustee, on many committees, and wherever and whenever needed.



Please keep the family of Poke Run member *Bob Bierer* in your prayers. Bob died on Sunday, August 21st. Bob joined the Poke Run congregation in 2008, served as an elder on the Poke Run Session and on many committees.

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.

Dear Poke Run Congregation,
Thank you so much for the prayers and support this summer! We had a great year with some great campers. You are very appreciated! Have a great rest of summer!
Maddy



Invite someone this week.



It could change their life forever.

Poke Run "adopted" a 2016 Pine Springs staff member, to keep in prayer and encourage through the summer.



The Poke Run Nominating Committee has begun their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2017 year. Please keep this group and those who are called to serve the Poke Run Congregation in your prayers. And thank you for your continued prayers for the current Boards and Committees. They resume their meeting schedules this month; watch for ways you can actively support these volunteers .



Thank you to everyone who helped at Trustee Work Days held throughout the summer months. The Trustees were able to accomplish many things over a short period of time.

The manse received a new roof in July. The trustees are currently investigating ways to provide the manse with air-conditioning.

The Trustees would like to extend a special THANK YOU to **Bob Wilson, Cal McCutcheon , Ron Hileman and Brenden and Corey Kelley** for their assistance in removing a large portion of the cement ramp that extended from the rear entrance of the church to the back door of the sanctuary. It is the hopes that this will alleviate some of the water issues experienced in the Fellowship Hall area of the church.

More THANK YOU's to **Bob Wilson and Ken George** for their assistance as the Trustees work to install the commercial kitchen dishwasher purchased by the Poke Run PW.

The Trustees are planning extensive repairs to the roads of Poke Run Cemetery. Please note that no Poke Run Cemetery Road fund exists at this time for donations,. If you questions about donating to Poke Run Church, please contact the office and ask about the current "Giving Policy."

A special thank you to the Poke Run Trustees and all who see things that need done and do them. We are truly a working and giving community.



Have a student going back to College or someone separated from us for a time?

THE DEACONS are collecting names and address of our college students, service men and women, and others who are far from us at this time.

Please contact a Deacon or the church office with your information.

If you are aware of someone who might benefit from a Deacon, or Pastor Pete visit, do not hesitate to contact the Church Office.

Thank you Deacons for all that you do.

New pamphlets for the Christian Counseling Associates have been placed in the rack in the Fellowship Area.



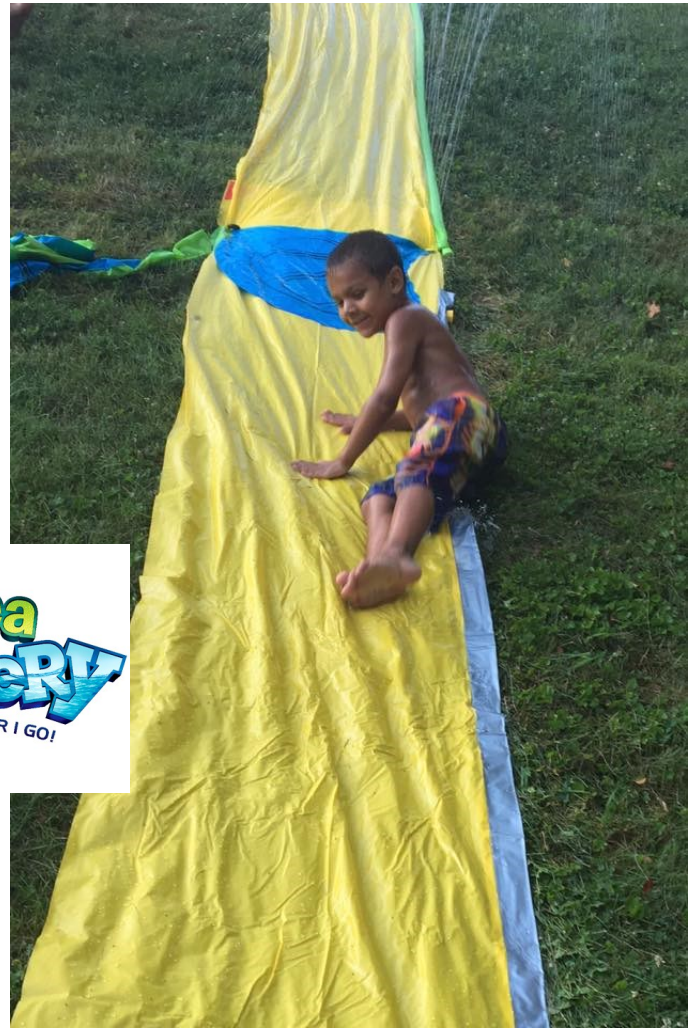
Dear Polk Run


Thank you for another
great VBS week. We always feel
so welcome like coming home,
Sophia & Nikolai had a wonderful
time.

Love & laughs
Shammy Wilson



Photos from VBS 2016





NOTE DATE CHANGE


Circle 2 will be holding their annual “Rummage Sale” on Saturday, October 22nd —

Don’t throw anything GOOD away! :)

Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW

Circle 2: will meet on October 20th - 7pm— the hostess will be Heidi Hileman and the leader will be Sandy Chappell.

ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



MISSING SOMETHING?!?!?!?!?!?

A collection of dishes ,bakeware, coats, hats, glasses and stuff that has accumulated at Poke Run Church over this past year will be on display in the Sunday School room marked “Grades 1 and 2” (first room past the Lounge.) after September 9th.

Please check and see if anything belongs TO YOU! After September 30th – EVERYTHING will be added to the “Rummage Sale” stash.



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

Call or email the office



Dish: _____

Recipe

Serves: _____

PINEAPPLE FRUIT DIP from the kitchen of Tammy Kelley

7 oz. marshmallow cream 1 C light sour cream

3.4 oz. instant vanilla pudding 5-6 T pineapple juice

Blend all ingredients with a mixer until smooth. Pour into a serving dish and chill for at least a couple hours. Serve with strawberries, fresh pineapple, apple slices, etc. Serves 8-10

Hey History Buffs—the September 1976, and 1977 “Rangers” have been added to the Poke Run Website—Check them out!

In 1976, Poke Run Christmas cards were available!

In 1977 the Poke Run History Book was published—copies are still available for sale —contact the office!



Choir practice is in session. Wednesdays: Bell Choir at 6:30pm and Chancel Choir at 7pm. Please give this ministry your consideration – we’ve lost a few choir members lately and we could really use your support! No musical training required – even if you can only help occasionally or seasonally, we’d love to have you! See Sean or a choir member for more information.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH POKE RUN CHURCH AT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOODBANK!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

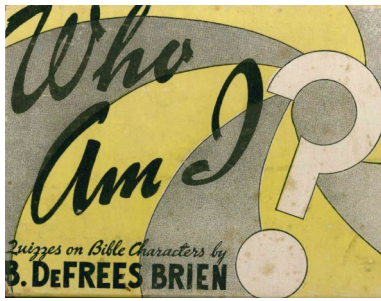
“Soup for the Soul” resumes in October. Every second Wednesday of the month, October through May—plan to come this season and certainly plan to bring a friend!

October 12th, November 9th, December 14th, January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th and May10th!

Office Hours at the Church remain at 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to sure Amy is there! The office will be closed on September 5th and Amy will be away September 10-15th. The messages and emails will be checked.

As always—please share any contact information updates with the Church Office 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!





Found this “card game” in a cabinet—trademarked 1942! How did you do with it? - ANSWERS BELOW

1. MATTHEW
2. ADAM
3. CAIN
4. TIMOTHY

1

WHO AM I?

1. I was an Apostle of Jesus.
2. After He called me, I had Him and those with Him to dinner.
3. Before following Jesus, I used to be a customs officer in a toll office near Capernaum.
4. Of course there is a Gospel which bears my name. It is the first one.

2

WHO AM I?

1. I had dominion over the birds, fishes and animals.
2. Early in life I lost a rib in order that I might have some company to enjoy the very fine garden which I possessed.
3. One day I lost the garden as a punishment for disobedience.
4. I then found it hard to earn a living for my wife, Eve, and the children, Cain and Abel.

4

WHO AM I?

1. My mother was a Jewess who believed in Jesus, and my father was a Greek. The Christian brethren of Lystra and Iconium thought very well of me.
2. St. Paul once wrote me two letters now incorporated in the Bible. These letters particularly told me how to govern myself as a minister.
3. Being a good friend of Paul, I once took care of his books, cloak and parchments.
4. The farmers have a kind of hay which is called by the same name as I am.

3

WHO AM I?

1. I was a tiller of the soil.
2. I never felt that God was pleased with the sacrifice which I offered to Him.
3. One day I slew my brother and escaped to the land of Nod.
4. Incidentally, I was the first man child born on this earth to Adam and Eve.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The McCutcheon family will be participating in the JDRF1 “Walk to Cure Diabetes” at the Pitt Greensburg campus on Saturday, October 15th .

Check out this website to help:

http://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR/Walk/WesternPennsylvaniaChapter4576?team_id=206726&pg=team&fr_id=6378.

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

The next Ranger deadline is September 22nd. The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pictures from church functions.



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Youth Triennium
July 19-23 at Purdue University



"Triennium was just an eye opening experience for me. I never knew that there was this many people that enjoyed learning about God...Triennium was the best thing to have happened in my life." Ryan @ Pleasant View Presbyterian Church

"PYT was an unforgettable experience because it allowed me to share my faith freely surrounded by loving and supportive people from around the world." —Rebecca @ Delmont Presbyterian Church

This year, over 4,700 teens from all over the country gathered for a week of music teams, small groups, confetti bombs, games, energizers, and worship centered around the theme of "Go!" The week opened with worship led by Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderator for our 222nd General Assembly. Her challenge to the group was to look for the things around them that "break the heart of God." Tony De La Rosa addressed the theme in a different way; he talked about how some have left the church for various reasons and encouraged the teens to "STAY" in the church and help it through changes. While acknowledging that the church had hurt him in the past, Tony told those gathered "Don't ever leave. Don't ever give up. Don't ever give up, even when the church disappoints you." At the close of the week, teens were commissioned by Rev. Dr. Perryn Rice to bring the message of the gospel to the world; "That's Your GoMission."



Save the Date!
Women in the Woods
September 16-17, 2016
Pine Springs Camp

For more information go to
www.pinesprings.org

Spiritual Formation 2016-2017

September 14-17, 2016

The Desert Abbas and Ammas
Roberta C. Bondi



March 19-22, 2017

*In God's Image:
An Old Testament View of Dust and Clay*
Steven Tuell and Karen Bowden Cooper

May 21-24, 2017

*Immersion Experience:
An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life*
Mary Lynn Callahan and PTS Faculty

June 25-28, 2017

*Self-care as a Spiritual Practice:
A Holistic Perspective and Approach*
Lynn Holden

For more information, visit
www.pts.edu/SFC-Certificate-Program.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY & CHURCH WIDE

Sept 5—Poke Run and Redstone Offices will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday.

Sept 14-17—"The Desert Abbas and Ammas" Pittsburgh Theological Seminary presentation by Roberta C. Bondi as part of the "Spiritual Formation" series 2016.

Sept 16-17—Pine Springs Camp—"Women in the Woods" - see ad above.

Sept 18-20—Redstone PW New Windsor Trip

September 23-25 —Pine Springs Camp—"The Big One " grades 6-12

Friendship Dinner—2nd Wed of every month 5-6pm, United Presb. New Kensington

Coming in October:

Oct 1-2 —Pine Springs Camp—"Fall Fusion Retreat " 4th—6th grade retreat

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sept 4-5—Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park, 11am-7pm FREE

Sept 4—Ligonier Highland Games—Idlewild Park

Sept 30th—Oct 2nd Vandergrift Arts Festival

Tuesdays 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 Farmer's Market—Murrysville VFC

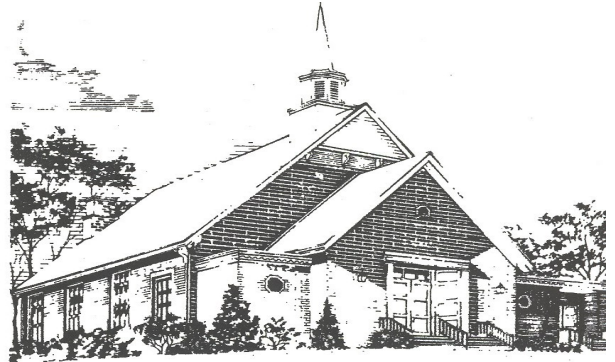
Blood Pressure Clinic for Seniors— Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at the Wash. Twp. Firehall
11:30am—noon Bring your table service and a covered dish.





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Greeters in September: Deacons	<div> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>The Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.</p> <p>Amy will be out of the office Sept. 12-17, but will be checking phone messages and emails.</p> </div>					
4 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	5 Poke Run and Redstone Offices closed. 	6 7pm Budget & Finance	7 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHIOR 7pm Mission & Stewardship	8 	9 	10
11 Communion 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	12 7pm Deacons	13 7pm Session	14 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHIOR	15 	16 	17
18 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	19 	20 10am—2pm Redstone Presbytery at Pine Springs Camp	21 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHIOR 	22 7pm Trustees	23 	24
25 8:30-11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	26 	27 	28 6:30pm BELLS 7pm CHIOR	29 	30 	



Our Mission

Poke Run Presbyterian Church is a family oriented church which has had a long and rich heritage. God has called us to be a people of prayer who are deeply committed to serving Jesus Christ. Our mission is to call the people of Washington Township and surrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ. We seek to fulfill this mission by providing programs of worship, Christian education, family nurture and support, and community outreach which help people to grow spiritually and to express their faith with confidence. We also seek, through our programs, to provide people with practical assistance in Jesus' name. Our mission is extended beyond our local region through our support and participation in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and ecumenical mission agencies.

Adopted by Session October 5, 1993

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

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