


# Poke Run Presbyterian Church “The Ranger”

JANUARY 2017



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Thank You	2
Prayers/ Session	3
Office News	4
Deacons/ Mission/ Soup	5
PW/ Christian Ed	6-7
Cemetery/ “News from the Pews”	8
Redstone/ Happenings	9
CALENDAR	10

THE POKE RUN  
OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED ON  
 JANUARY  
16TH and  
26-30th,

From  
Pastor Pete

Light and darkness – images that cascade throughout the Bible – define for us the pathways that we walk in our lives. Hints abound giving us guidance for faithful living. “Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,” says the Psalmist. The “Word” we believe is both Scripture and Christ. Jesus tells us, “You are the light of the world,” addressing us across the centuries. “You are the light of the world,” not someone else. There is more, “... , let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

During a time of reflection on 1 Thessalonians 4:1-13 this thought came to me. A human life is like the lamps used in biblical times.



Lamps were crafted from clay so that they contained a cavity for oil and an opening through which a wick extended from the oil into the surrounding air. When lit these lamps produced sufficient light for one to see at night, in the darkness. In these lamps the quality of the oil and the integrity of the wick determine the brightness of the flame.

A human being is a body-mind-spirit we can use as an analogy for a lamp. The body is the outer container. The oil that feeds the wick in a lamp can be compared to the food we drink and the liquids that we ingest. These sustain the body and the mind, like the oil in a lamp that feeds its flame. The TV programs we watch, the movies we see, the books we read, and the friends with whom we associate also feed us. They nourish or diminish the mind. If the food is good and the liquids pure we will, in normal circumstances, live healthy lives. Our lives are like the flame of the lamp. Our lives are what the world sees. They define us to others.

Now let's think about this from the Christian perspective. I am going to shift the analogy a bit. The Christian life is a life renewed by the Holy Spirit. In this new life the body-mind is the container for the indwelling Spirit who gives us the Christ life. This is a spiritual life given to us by grace through the Spirit. We can see this life as the oil that feeds the wick that is the source of the flame that is our life. When we are filled with the Spirit we shine with a new brightness that can be seen by others. We become lamps that shine in the darkness to show the way of Christ to the world.





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

**Our December Lectors:** Patrick Wilkinson, Valerie Hansen, Chad McCutcheon, Bob Fitzgerald, Lizzy Wilkinson, Jeffrey Wilkinson

**Our December Greeters:** Jack & Eleanor Zerbini, Jim & Carol Thompson, Mike, Tricia, & Logan McGarry,

**Our December Advent Readers:** Jim Moorhead, Sandy Chappell, Ron, Heidi, Logan, & Evan Hileman, Shelly, Cailleigh, & Frankie Chappell, Mike, Tricia, Logan, Morgan and Peyton McGarry, Brett, Mandy, Bria and Paige Stevenson, Scott, Brea and Alivia Ankney, Barbi Findley, Bob & Diane Scott, Jan & Bob Fitzgerald, Josh, Zach, & Caitlin Obringer, Cal & Julie, Nate, Aubrey, JR and Preston McCutcheon, Rick, Meri, Jacob and Jessica Slaughaupt





*For our prayers:*

Ang, Ed Bahney, Renee Bates, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Kim Boylestein, Sarah Brank, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Cailleigh Chappell, Roxy Chickar, Irene Clark, Jim Dunmire, Elvira, Shirley Elwood, Jean Fanelli, Elmer Foley, 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, Winifred Powers, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, the family of Ed and Betty Schmidt, Dwayne Smith, Mim Smith, Callie Spaulding, Dave Speer, Dinah Staymates, the family of John Steele, JD Stait, Arlene Switzer, Amy Teele, 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 the family of Ed & Betty Schmidt in your prayers. Betty died on December 5th and Ed passed away on December 29th. Ed & Betty were a faithful part of the Poke Run congregation for over 30 years. Betty contributed so very much to Poke Run's musical program. Their family shared the following words that were handwritten inside the front cover of Betty's own Bible from her youth.*

*"My Covenant Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to thee to be thine forever. Fill me with thy Holy Spirit. Use me as thou wilt; send me where thou wilt; work out thy whole will in my life at any cost; now and forever. Betty Lou Parr August 23, 195?"*



# ANNUAL MEETING

**The Joint Meeting of All Poke Run Boards** was cancelled in December due to bad weather. It has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 10th at 7pm. Because it is the desire for all Boards to share their works from 2016, and plans for 2017, it would be ideal for even those who are going "off" the boards for 2017, to attend this meeting. Thank you for planning to attend and thank you for your continued service to Poke Run Church. (Light refreshments will be served.)

**Let us keep all our Poke Run officers, volunteers and congregants in prayer as we continue into 2017, calling "... the people of... surrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ"** from the Poke Run Mission Statement, 1993.

## Church Office

**Office Hours in January** 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there!

The office will be closed on January 16th, and 26th through 30th. Phone messages and emails will be checked, but in case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete directly at 724-454-2278.

Please share any contact information updates with the Church Office so that you do not miss out on any information. **Next Ranger Deadline: January 23rd.**



**“GIVING ENVELOPES”** for 2017 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. 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*



## STAY IN TOUCH



In preparation for the 2017 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](mailto:pokerun@windstream.net) Thank you.



**The Poke Run Church Annual Audit is Saturday, January 21st, 8:30am**  
All Auditors and Treasurers should come prepared for the 2016 Poke Run Audit. The audit is on Saturday, January 21 beginning at 8:30am and will continue until every group has been audited. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

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

Poke Run’s email address: [pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net)

Poke Run web site is [www.pokerunchurch.com](http://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.



## HELP WANTED!



A group will be gathering at the church on Monday January 9th at 9am to take down and store the Christmas decorations, all help is surely appreciated. Come if you have some time and energy to spare.  
**THANK YOU!**

**The Poke Run Deacons** continue their valuable ministry in 2017. 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:

**Cindy Brooks**  
**Ruth O'Connor**  
**Diane Scott**

**Barbi Findley**  
**Deb Seighman**  
**Carol Thompson**

**Nancy Dombroske**  
**Bev Tagliati**  
**Tammy Kelley**

**Debora Ross**  
**Nancy Kimble**  
**Mario Tagliati**



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Deacon Ministry by contributing to the foodbasket, buying gifts for the Salvation Army Tree and decorating the church narthex and sanctuary by contributing to the Westmoreland County Foodbank or purchasing a seasonal poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one.



The Annual Virginia Mission Trip is scheduled for June 25th through 30th. Linda Chicka plans to have applications ready soon, so see her or call the office if you are interested in attending. Also, please remember that you must have current Youth Protection clearances on file in the office to participate in this and many of our outreaches. Call the office if you ever have any questions about this.  
**THANK YOU**



The Mission & Stewardship committee will be joining the kids from Adelphoi in their annual "Pretzel Decorating" night. Again, see Linda Chicka for more information and mark your calendar for Friday, January 27th at 6pm.

**The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, January 11th.**  
 11:30am—doors open, Noon—"Soup's On"

**Soup this month is Ron Bowman's famous "Taco Soup" - not spicy.**

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.



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



**Women of the Church** will be meeting on Thursday, January 19th, at 6:30pm at the church. The hostess will be Laurie Martin and the leader will be Amy Wilkinson. They will be planning some of their annual events including the "Friendship Brunch" coming up in February. If this is a group you might be interested in getting involved with, come out for a soup dinner on the 19th and find out what it is all about. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!.



## **Sunday School at Poke Run Church**

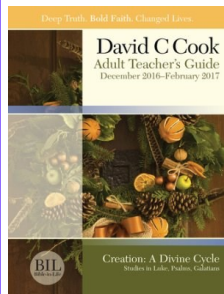
Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

**FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class! – music and FUN! Miss Karen and Miss Ruthie (with the tech help of Mike Goetschius) led the Sunday School children in a great Advent musical presentation of joyous worship.—PICTURE AT RIGHT



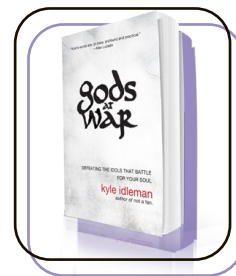
## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

There are currently two active Adult Sunday School classes each Sunday morning.



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 "**Deep Truth, Bold Faith, Changed Lives**"

The class meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall) is using the 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.*







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.





Please use your best judgement for coming out to church events. And remember, there is no "winter maintenance" in the Poke Run cemetery. The Trustees report that the new pavement makes things exceptionally slick up there, so please please use extreme caution when driving through the cemetery.

Vinnie Goodiski, would like you to know that Cemetery maintenance will be done in the spring after the weather improves. Poke Run would like to thank Vinnie for his 21 years of service maintaining the cemetery grounds and Poke Run roads. Thank you Vinnie.

## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**



Corey Kelley is a senior at Greensburg Salem High School. Greensburg Salem High School Advanced Art Students had an exhibition of their art work at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art on December 16, 2016.

Corey and his art display are pictured here at left.



Contributed by  
Don Lengauer

### **Excerpt from recent Tribune Review Article.**

"Betty Schmidt had a home full of antiques and a heart full of love for her family and her music. "Her life really revolved around her music, her family and her church," said the Rev. Peter Goetschius of Poke Run Presbyterian Church, where Mrs. Schmidt filled in as an organist during the past 12 years.....Music was very important to Mrs. Schmidt. ...."Our house was always full of music," Shultz said. "She spent a lot of time practicing piano and organ, and she taught private lessons, as well....Mrs. Schmidt was a church organist for many years at First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Shultz said her father used to tell stories about the children leaving the pews in church to run up front to try to join their mother on the organ bench. ....Mrs. Schmidt and her husband loved antiques and operated Schmidt's Springhouse Antiques at Route 66 and Pfeffer Road. Shultz said she will remember her mother as "a woman of grace." "She was very godly, very talented and a very generous person," Shultz said. "If she saw someone with a need, she wanted to take care of it."...Patrick Varine is a Tribune-Review staff writer.



### **PHOTOS WANTED!!!!**

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





# Stories of Redstone

## Christ at work in our midst



Christ has called us all to ministry in a variety of ways. For some, it is to preach and shepherd a congregation. For others, it is to volunteer at a soup kitchen twice a month. Perhaps it is to serve as an ordained deacon, visiting shut-ins and members that haven't been seen in a while.

We are all empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve this world in the name of Christ, no matter what our age may be.

Sarah is a nine year old girl at Level Green Presbyterian Church. She had a desire to help those who are homeless. While her big dream is to build a six story shelter in her backyard, she's starting a little more small-scale with "Sarah's Homeless Foundation." On her own, she went to Rev. John Simpson, Level Green's interim pastor, to seek his advice. With her family's support, and the support of her family of faith at the Level Green Church, "Sarah's Homeless Foundation" has begun its first collection of donations for the homeless population served by Light of Life Mission.

If you wish to donate items, "Sarah's Homeless Foundation" has collection baskets set up at Level Green Presbyterian Church. If you wish to make a financial contribution, please send to Level Green Presbyterian Church and write "Sarah's Homeless Foundation" in the memo.

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

### HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Jan-21 Redstone Presbytery Meeting,  
Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
Greensburg 1-4pm  
Jan 20-22 Pine Springs Camp Senior High  
Retreat for grades 9th through 12th  
(Junior High retreat scheduled for Feb 6-8)

2nd Wednesdays of the month—"Friendship Dinner"  
FREE at United Presbyterian Church in New  
Kensington

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime! Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God.....bring chips.

Happy  
New Year!



# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9am Christmas Decorations Down 7pm Deacons	<b>10</b> 7pm Session JOINT MEETING	<b>11</b> <b>11:30am</b> <b>"Soup  for the Soul"</b> 7pm Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>16</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7pm Choir	<b>19</b> <u>Circle 2</u>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30am Poke Run Audit
<b>22</b> 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm Choir	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED  7pm Trustees	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	<b>30</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>31</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<div> <p><i>If you have appropriate News to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office. The next Ranger deadline is January 23rd.</i></p> </div>			



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



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

The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, January 11th.  
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.**

