

# THE POKE RUN RANGER

## OCTOBER 2017



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I had an article for this Ranger ready to go. Just this morning I read a sermon by D. Martyn Lloyd Jones. His topic is prayer and I think it will be far more helpful than what I had in mind. So in what follows, the inspiration is from this sermon and the thoughts inspired by it.

Philippians 4:6-7 – *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

One of the first questions to ask of any biblical text – or anything that you are reading or watching or listening to – is “why was this written?”. Here it seems clear that Paul is addressing one or more persons who are, well, anxious. Now we all know what anxiety is like, whether it is over small and inconsequential possible or impossible events or whether we have real challenges ahead of us. Anxiety keeps our minds frazzled and our hearts racing far beyond what is healthy or helpful. We all suffer from it, lose sleep because of it, and sometimes lapse into the doldrums through it. Anxiety is not really something I have to define. It is self-explanatory.

Since we all suffer from anxiety, how do we deal with it? This is what Paul addresses. He says, “...do not be anxious about anything,” and he does not leave us here. He knows better. He goes on to say that prayer is the answer. We have all heard this too, and believe it in varying degrees. Some pray with complete faith, some in trepidation, hoping against hope. Now here is where Paul, I believe, becomes truly helpful. He lays out a process that we can all follow and a promise that is guaranteed. The final answer may surprise you.

First of all Pray. Well, what does he mean by this? What he does not mean is to begin to badger God with all our requests, personal, private, or corporate. Prayer means first of all to come before God, to meet God face to face as it were. It means for a short or a long time to sit quietly in the presence of God, in adoration of God simply as God; nothing more. This will be a time of quiet praise in the presence of the divine power that created you and all that is and came to you in Jesus Christ. This is the One with whom you will spend eternity.

After a time, you can begin to “let your requests be made known to God.” Yes, we are not only invited to ask God for His help and blessing and healing, we are in a sense commanded. Prayer is a gift and a discipline. We have many requests, often too many to list or speak and we have to talk in generalities. Still, God wishes to hear our requests and we bring them within this wrapper of praise and adoration. It is good to pray, it is good to ask. Jesus amplifies this in his few comments on prayer. Come to God, sit in silence and adoration, ask.

Ask, in a specific way; with thanksgiving. This is not always easy. Life does not always seem fair or good or particularly attractive, especially when we are anxious. There is always something to be thankful for. We can always thank God for the gift of his Son, that we are now reconciled to God by Jesus’ death and resurrection, that the Spirit now leads us. We can thank God for past blessings. We can thank God for the breath of life. With a little thought God has given and still gives us much for which to be thankful.

Now we are here, we have sat in silence and adoration, lifted our request to God with thanksgiving. What can we expect; one thing – yes, one thing. The one thing is, that “the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. We are not promised that every wish is fulfilled, no matter how sincere we may hope. We are promised peace beyond all understanding. Many a great Christian in the face of hardship and loss has discovered that strangely this is true. God gives a deep peace that no human can fathom.

I offer you this simple way of beginning to pray. To sit in silence before our awesome God, to adore and praise Him, to place your needs and others before him with thanksgiving, and receive the deep and inexplicable peace that only our Holy God can give.

Blessings,  
Pastor Pete



**Thank**



**Thank you to our September Greeters:** Mario & Bev Tagliati, Cindy McQuaide, Nikki McQuaide, Irma McDivitt, Cindy Brooks, Ruth O'Connor, Shyrl Stange, and Debbie Seighman,

**Thank you to our September Lectors:** Mike Goetschius, Don Lengauer, Karen Goetschius, and Debbie Sieghman

*For our prayers:*

Ang, Ed Bahney, Abbey Ballas, Renee Bates, Kelly Bell, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Sarah Brank, John Britz, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Irene Clark, Jim Dunmire, Shirley Elwood, Jean Fanelli, Jan Fitzgerald, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Marnee Gormley, Sylvan Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Alex Hansen, Frank Hansen, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Iris Kiebler, Kim, Rhett LaRue and the LaRue family, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, John Mango, Irma McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Sandy Nemetz, Carol O'Malley, Thad Overly, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Winifred Powers, Reno, Rafael Rincon, Terri Robinson, Steve Roman, Larry Seighman, Joanne Smith, Dave Speer, JD Stait, Mary Jane Stait, Dinah Staymates, Steiner, Mildred Striner, Kenny Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, Jill Tocco, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Wolford, Peter Yurtin, Jack Zerbini, 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.*




*"We are very thankful for such a caring, thoughtful congregation as you have been during Jack's one month stay in the hospitals. All of the many cards, visits and phone calls have been so appreciated by both of us". **Jack & Eleanor***



**Pastor Pete celebrates 15 years with Poke Run this year.** The ALLE-KISKI TODAY quoted him in 2003 after starting his pastorship at Poke Run in October 2002—

"there came a point of knowing the call," he said. He found a people "who are truly seeking to know what Christ wants in their life, a hunger for God's word," and the reporters words continue in truth today, We found "a pastor who will feed"..us.." with the word of God."



## 2017 - 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION

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. **This year "Reformation Sunday" is celebrated on October 29th and marks 500 years since Martin Luther's first proclamation.**



In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God.

Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

**Poke Run members who have passed since the last commemoration, will be remembered on Sunday, November 5th .**

Information provided above is from the website of:



**World Food Day** is celebrated every year around the world on [16 October](#) in honor of the date of the founding of the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) of the [United Nations](#) in 1945. The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with [food security](#), including the [World Food Programme](#) and the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#).

The World Food Day theme for 2014 was Family Farming: "Feeding the world, caring for the earth"; in 2015 it was "Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty"; in 2016 it was Climate Change: "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too", the theme for 2017 is "ZERO HUNGER CHANGES THE WORLD"



**Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 15th.  
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

The Annual Poke Run Presbyterian Church “Congregational Meeting” is scheduled for **Sunday, October, 15, 2017**. 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 2018 Boards and the Budget & Finance Committee will present the 2018 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.”

**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT  
10AM**

**CHURCH OFFICE:** Hours at the Church remain at 9:30am—2:30pm.

Call ahead to be sure Amy is there!

**AMY WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE OCTOBER 15th-17th**, messages and emails will be checked. Contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.

**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.**



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From the office window—  
One of the members of the  
Poke Run wildlife  
population.



**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.

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

**Know someone in need ? In need of prayer? In need of a visit? In need?**

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.**



## CIRCLE 2 CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST 8AM TO 1PM**

Donations for the Rummage Sale will be received Monday through Friday, October 16-20, 2-4pm and 6-8pm.

— if you cannot make these hours, call the office. 724-327-5563

**NO LARGE APPLIANCES, LARGE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT,  
COMPUTERS OR TELEVISIONS PLEASE**

If you need help for a large item for donation, contact a Circle 2 member or the Church Office.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

**Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW**

**Circle 2:** will meet on October 21st - 7pm—

the hostess will be **Valerie Hansen** and the leader will be **Ruth O'Connor**.

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



*The family of **Betty Schmidt** has generously donated her Steinway baby grand piano located on the left at the front of the sanctuary. Betty's love of music and its pleasing place in worship continues to bless Poke Run.*



**"Soup for the Soul" will resume on  
Wednesday, October 11th. (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.

**NEEDED:**

October Desserts will be provided by the Come 'n Play Daycare!

***Come for Soup—an important part of this outreach is to be present among those who God sends—to sit and share a meal, to show a warm Christian welcome. Remember to invite a friend.***







Thank you to **Linda Chicka**, who with her family, the Gearhard's, welcomed "Poke Run People" to their annual corn maze. About 30 or so gathered for a hayride, picnic lunch and time in the corn maze. **GREAT DAY - GREAT FUN!**



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

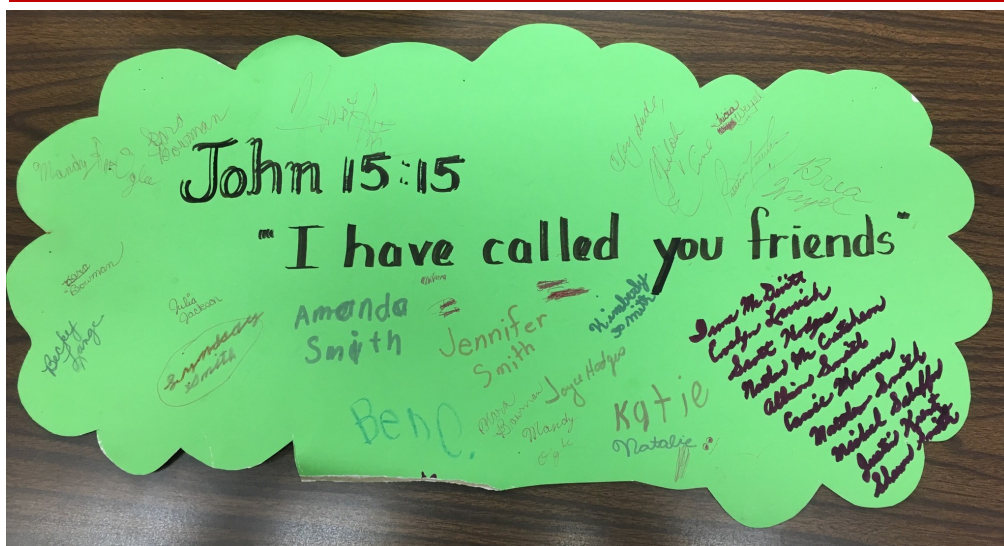
**FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class are available for all ages.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

► 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 "**Covenants with God**"

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



Look closely—lots of names from days gone by. For a closer look at this, it is hanging in the Educational Wing hallway. Anyone have an idea for the year?

## HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Oct 6-7 Pine Springs—Women in the Woods  
Oct 21 PW Fall Gathering Community, New Alexandria, PA



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

## HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Weekends through October 22—Autumnfest at Seven Springs!  
Oct 7 “All You Can Eat Breakfast” First United Church of Christ Export  
Oct 7-8 Delmont “Apple Fest”  
Oct 14—Amateur “Star Party” - Kunkle Park  
Oct. 28 Lion’s Halloween Parade—Kunkle Park , Wash. Twp. 5pm  
Oct. 21 “Risen to Save” praise band at Knead Community Café, New Kensington  
Oct 31—Washington Twp Trick-or-Treating 6-8pm

### Farmer’s Markets:

Tuesdays—4-7pm, Export— Kennedy Avenue  
Wednesdays—White Valley Amvets 3-7pm  
Thursdays—3-5:30pm , Vandergrift—Columbia Avenue  
Thursdays—3-7pm, Murrysville—Sardis Road



## KISKI VALLEY TURKEY TROT

5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN  
KUNKLE PARK, THANKSGIVING DAY 2015

KAYN



Poke Run is an active supporter of the Kiski Area Youth Net- work—KAYN

## SCIENCE!

*Conversations and Community Series*  
**October 2017 - April 2018**

Science and faith have something in common – the capacity to invoke a sense of wonder by engaging the world around us! Engage in this series of conversations led by scientists working in some of the fascinating areas that affect our daily lives. No science background necessary!

Each session will include content provided by the presenter and discussion. On most dates, participants are invited to chapel and to have lunch together as a group so the conversation can continue. Come to one, two, or all dates!



This series is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is strongly recommended for the series and required for the Feb. and March events.

*This series is underwritten by a generous grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.*

**Oct. 18, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

*The Wonder of Science*

**James Downey**, Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, PTS

**Nov. 15, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

*Our Model of the Universe*

**Arthur Kosowsky**, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh

**Dec. 6, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

*The Science of Language*

**Michael Dickey**, Associate Professor of Communication Science and Disorders, University of Pittsburgh

**Feb. 21, 2018, 9:30-1:00 p.m.**

*Teaching a Machine to Learn*

**Tim Howe**, Google, Bakery Square

**March 21, 2018, 9:30-1:30 p.m.**

*Creation, Intelligent Design, and the Evolutionary Process*

**Stephen J. Tonsor**, Director of Science and Research, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

**April 18, 2018, 9:30-1:30 p.m.**

*Genetic Engineering*

**Lisa Parker**, Professor of Human Genetics and Director of Graduate Education, Center for Bioethics and Health Law, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh



More information at  
412-924-1345 or  
ConEd@pts.edu



## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**



Congratulations to **Tom & Nancy Kimble** on the occasion of the birth of their new grandson Jack Kimble. Proud parents are Tommy & Amanda.



Poke Run member **Bob Thompson** drove Kiski Area's Becky Minda and her escort, Poke Run's **Jeff Wilkinson** in the 2017 Homecoming Parade in his black corvette convertible. Becky went on to be crowned this year's Homecoming Queen.



Pictured at left: **Freda Bowman, Edyth Elwood, and Deb Delfevero** bake Poke Run communion wafers. (**Linda Chicka**—photographer, also bakes) Thank you ladies for your contribution!



**Gearhard Farms presents:  
The 18th 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.**









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

***The next Ranger deadline is October 27th . The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pictures from church functions.***





# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study 	<b>2</b> 7pm Deacons	<b>3</b> 10am Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir  7pm Mission & Stewardship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 
<b>8</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	<b>9</b> 7pm Budget & Finance	<b>10</b> 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Session	<b>11</b> <u>11:30am</u> <u>"Soup for the Soul"</u>  6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <u>Congregation Meeting</u> 10am Worship 7pm Bible Study 	<b>16</b> RUMMAGE SALE PREP	<b>17</b> 10am Women's Bible Study RUMMAGE SALE PREP	<b>18</b> RUMMAGE SALE PREP  6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	<b>19</b> RUMMAGE SALE PREP  Circle 2 	<b>20</b> RUMMAGE SALE PREP	<b>21</b> <u>RUMMAGE SALE</u> 
<b>22</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10am Women's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	<b>26</b> 7pm Trustees	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10am Women's Bible Study				

The Redstone Office will be closed on Monday Oct. 9th, The Poke Run Office will be closed on October 16th and 17th. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.



## **Poke Run Presbyterian**

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.  
Apollo, PA 15613



Poke Run Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 15th.

ONE 10am service.

Luncheon following the meeting!  
- All are welcome to lunch:)