

Over the past few days I spent some time with notes collected over the summer. While most of them are collected in one or more spiral notebooks, which over my lifetime have numbered hundreds. Many of them now thankfully reside in various landfills. I would hesitate to call these notes anything like a journal, or much less a diary. They are comprised of jottings, scribblings, and blurs which sometimes extend to mini essays. What I have discovered in reading them and which my friends and enemies certainly know is that I am theologically bipolar.

I often feel like the Sufi judge of whom I am so fond. When two people come to him with an intractable problem he listens first to one. The first person tells their tale of woe, and how the other most horribly wretched infidel has wronged them. The Sufi listens politely, bows his head in thought and finally says, "I believe you are right." The second person then goes into a long and bitter tirade wherein they blame the first person for all the ills of the world not to mention many other faults and wrongs including how the other most horribly wretched infidel has wronged them. The Sufi listens politely, bows his head in thought and finally says, "I believe you are right."

You see, I have been reading within two streams of thought over the summer. The first is the Puritans. For all their faults, and there were many, the Puritans were on the right track. They wished to live godly lives in accordance with Scripture. At their best the entire focus of their lives centered around holy living. While their preaching went far beyond anything I am willing to duplicate they truly believed that they were saving people from eternal damnation and used extreme measures to prevent this. They cared for people's souls, and they cared deeply, deeply enough to give up their homes and careers in some instances. And so I listen to them and with some nuances, I say, like the Sufi judge, "I believe you are right."

At the same time I am reading the musings and meanderings of what is being called the "Emerging Church." The Emerging Church is a loose confederation of communities and associations who have broken away from the so-called Christian fundamentalists of our day. Almost all of them, or at least the ones I am reading, grew up in churches that smothered curiosity, denied any questions, demanded a rigid belief system that condemned all outsiders to an eternal flame engulfed "Hell". In other words they grew up bound by fear and a kind of hate. All this, and this is important for this essay, inherited from the Puritans. They see the possibilities of a new and freer and purer Christianity. A quote from one of them, Brian McLaren I believe is, "Pray not for the church as it is but for the church to come." I read them and guess what - with some nuances, I say, like the Sufi judge, "I believe you are right."

OK, I am not really theologically bipolar. I believe the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and pray the Lord's Prayer in faith, the ultimate tests of Orthodoxy for two thousand years. I say, with a grin, I am a 4.8 point Calvinist, and the .8 is a bit mobile. Here, I am using myself as a metaphor for the church today. There really are people who would take us back into the time of the Puritans, including the worst of their practices and some of their best. There truly is an Emerging Church movement that would scrap much of what is essential to the Christian faith and also bring us deeper insights into our faith. And there is a sense, perhaps a vague sense that they both seek a truer Christianity – in their own ways. Both of these are human movements. And we all know that the Sufi judge is not right, even if some highly abstract analytic philosopher claims that something can be both true and false at the same time – and one has. We live in weird times when language itself is distrusted and logic and reason give not certain but contradictory results. Where is truth then? Easy, Truth is Jesus Christ.

So once again it is time to take our Bibles and look at the life of Jesus of Nazareth with open and honest eyes. After all he is the center and focal point of all the Bible. He is the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures. He is our Life. We will find things both old and new as the saying goes. We will find our personal beliefs challenged, changed, stretched, and most of all strengthened. Jesus is a challenging personality, after all He is God and not quite able to be captured in human thought.



Inside this issue:

Thank You/ For Our Prayers	2
Office/ Deacons	3
Redstone	3-4
CE/ Poke Run PW	5
Happenings	6
New from the Pews	7
Coming in October	8
Calendar	9





Thank you to our August Lectors:
Barbi Findley, Connie Cauvel, Tom Kimble and Doug Ross

Thank you to our August Greeters:
Dave & Janet Thomas, Andy & Eva Bantroch, Bob & Iris Kiebler, and
Larry & Debbie Seighman

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, Barbara Emmerling, Diana Emmerling, 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, 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, Steve Roman, Larry Seighman, Joanne Smith, Dave Speer, JD Stait, Mary Jane Stait, Dinah Staymates, Steiner, Mildred Striner, Kenny Swank, 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.



Please keep the family of Aubrey McCutcheon in your prayers, Aubrey's father, Richard Stafford passed away unexpectedly in August.

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.



From Poke Run far away:

"It's good to see some of the Rangers from the 70's online. It was a trip back in time. I know that early Poke Run records are being worked on, too, which will be of great value to genealogists. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers for their hard work in these various areas." Sharen McDivitt

The Poke Run Nominating Committee has begun their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2018 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 .

Called 2 Serve

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

Call ahead to be sure Amy is there!

AMY WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE SEPTEMBER 18th-22nd, 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— IN COLOR.

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



shutterstock - 61426510



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.

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.

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst



Presbytery
of Redstone

The World Mission Initiative of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is “dedicated to developing mission vision, nurturing missionary vocations, and cultivating missional congregations by helping Christians understand how God is at work in the world and how they can share in that work. WMI offers resources to serve congregations and students. World Mission Initiative’s main vision and purpose is mission mobilization! We hope to lead the church to rediscover its purpose, calling, and missional center.”

Several Redstone pastors felt their sense of call shaped by mission experiences through WMI. **Rev. Alan Olson** (Belle Vernon, Rehoboth) got to see what God was doing in Israel/Palestine, along the US-Mexico border, Bolivia, and South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho. Alan says “WMI mission trips were a great opportunity to see practical applications of what I learned in class. More than that, they taught me the importance of partnerships in ministry and the trips confirmed my sense of call. **Rev. Laura Blank** (Smock, Pleasant View) also traveled while a student. More recently, she traveled to the Netherlands, along with other pastors, PTS staff and students, including Redstone Candidate **David Deutsch**. There, they explored what church revitalization looks like in a culture with only a small percentage of the population participating in any faith. Laura says “taking time away from my own ministry context helped me to see Christ’s work with a panoramic view. The trip gave me a fresh perspective for mission and ministry both abroad, and here at home.” This spring, mission leaders, pastors and seminarians will travel to **Israel/Palestine, Colombia and Egypt**. If you would like to support WMI’s ministry, or feel called to apply for a trip, go to www.pts.edu/wmi!



Pictured: Laura and David with other members of their group, atop the Dom Tower in Utrecht, Netherlands (465 steps up!)



My God, my rock in whom I take refuge." Psalm 18:2
As the floodwaters in Texas only begin to recede, new devastation has arrived in the Caribbean, with Hurricane Irma closing in on Florida and additional storms developing in the Atlantic.



Members of PDA's National Response Team are currently in Texas and the Gulf region, assessing damage, providing aid, and offering spiritual and emotional care for those impacted by the devastating winds and floods of Harvey. Even in the midst of that aftermath, PDA is working with its partners to provide relief to those in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and reaching out to networks in its path. This category 5 hurricane carries sustained winds of 180 mph, and is expected to remain a category 4 or 5 storm as it proceeds through the Caribbean, toward the United States. As people in Barbuda, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Florida and other areas nearby begin digging out from the storm or bracing for this storm's impact, PDA is already engaged.

In this season of devastating storms — the likes of which are rarely seen — will you help us expand our witness to the compassionate Christ by standing in the GAP?

GIVE: Support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected. Gifts can be designated in two ways: Hurricane Harvey ([DR000169-Harvey](#)) and Atlantic Regional Hurricanes ([DR000194](#)). You can also give with a credit card by visiting presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-Harvey or by phone at 800-872-3283

ACT: Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](#). Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities. Call 866-732-6121 or email pda.calcenter@pcusa.org.

Learn how your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and [like](#) us on Facebook or visit [pda.pcusa.org](#). Be sure to share updates with your congregation.

PRAY: God, our Shelter, in the challenging days to come, work through us to bring relief and respite, comfort and hope to those who grieve the loss of family, home, and safety. Give us and those we serve faith to walk on through weary days of rebuilding. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

Redstone Presbytery has a new website address:

www.redstonepresbytery.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: There will be one worship service at 10am on Sunday, October 15th – The annual Poke Run Congregational meeting will follow the service and plan to stay for a luncheon provided by the "Congregational Life Committee."

Take
Note





Sunday School at Poke Run Church

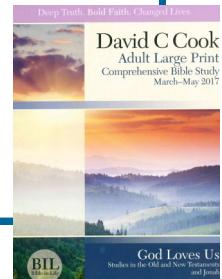
Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

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

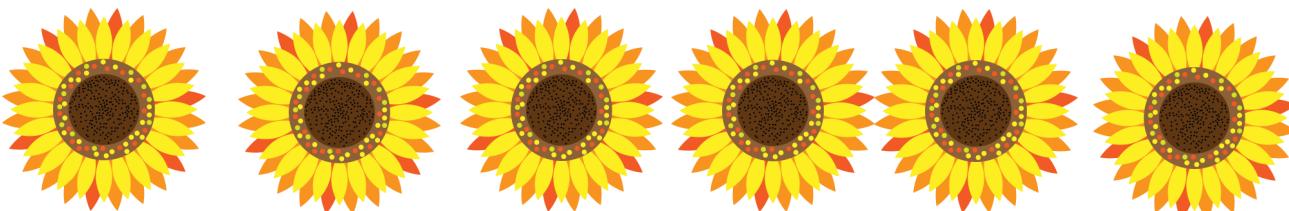
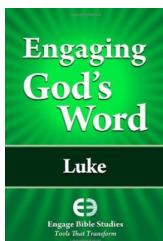
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL There are currently two active Adult Sunday School classes each Sunday morning.

► 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 "**Covenants with God**"

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



NEW! The Women's Bible Study that formerly met at the "His Hem Thrift Shop" has relocated to Poke Run. All are welcome, the group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 10am in the upstairs "Fellowship Area." They are currently using the "Engaging God's Word" series focused on the book of Luke:



OCTOBER 21st—Annual Rummage Sale!

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

Watch for a lost & found item collection in the Sunday School room marked "Grades 1 and 2" (first room past the Lounge.) after September 11th.

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



Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW

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

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

ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AND BRING A FRIEND!

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 11th, November 8th,
December 13th, January 10th,
February 14th, March 14th,
April 11th and May 9th!



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Sept 4—Poke Run and Redstone Offices will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday.

Sept 23—Redstone Presbytery Meeting—Pine Springs Camp 10am

September 30-October 1 —Pine Springs Camp— "Fall Fusion " grades 4-6

Redstone PW New Windsor Trip Is Cancelled

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

Coming in October:

Oct 6-7 —Pine Springs Camp—"Women in the Woods "

October 21—Redstone PW Fall Gathering



HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sept 3-4—Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park, 11am-7pm FREE

Sept 23—Ligonier Highland Games—Idlewild Park

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

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.

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. Tsonos, 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



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

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Poke Run welcomes "Eastan Cooper Weyel", new son of Jen Fulton & Bill Weyel, new grandson of Tim & Barbi Findley, born on August 25th.



Congratulations to Jan & Bob Fitzgerald on the occasion of the birth of their new granddaughter Fiona May, Proud parents are Justin and Amanda



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

The next Ranger deadline is September 25th. The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pictures from church functions.

The Lord is my Shepherd ---
THAT'S RELATIONSHIP !

I SHALL NOT WANT ---THAT'S SUPPLY !

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ---
THAT'S REST !

He leadeth me beside still waters ---
THAT'S REFRESHMENT !

He restoreth my soul ---THAT'S HEALING !

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness ---
THAT'S GUIDANCE !

For His name sake ---THAT'S PURPOSE !

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death ---THAT'S TESTING !

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL ---That's protection !

For thou art with me --THAT'S FAITHFULNESS !

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me ---
THAT'S DISCIPLINE !

Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies ---THAT'S HOPE !

Thou anointest my head with oil ---
THAT'S CONSECRATION !

My cup runneth over ---THAT'S ABUNDANCE !

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life ---
THAT'S BLESSING !

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ---
THAT'S SECURITY !

Forever ---THAT'S ETERNITY !

AMEN

Submitted by Cindy McQuaide

September

Greeters in September: Deacons

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>The Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278. Amy will be out of the office Sept. 18-22, but will be checking phone messages and emails.</p>						
3 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 7pm Budget & Finance	6 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	7	8	9
10 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	11 7pm Deacons	12 7pm Session	13 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	14	15	16
17 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	21 OFFICE CLOSED Circle 2	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 REDSTONE Meeting  MEETING
24 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	25	26	27 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	28 7pm Trustees	29	30 

World Communion Sunday

connects thousands of churches together.



October 1, 2017



**WORLD
FOOD
DAY-OCT16**

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"

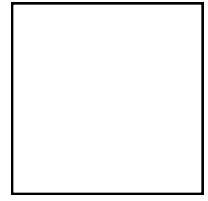
**Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ**
500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

500
Reformation
Five Hundred Years 1517-2017

MARKING REFORMATION
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29TH

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Road
Apollo, PA 15613



Phone: 724-327-5563
E-mail: pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net



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