

Perhaps because I wish for Spring to arrive more quickly than it will; perhaps because Lent is approaching faster than expected; perhaps because I have been reading far more of Karl Barth than may be healthy; for all these "perhaps' " and perhaps because of reasons of which I am unaware, I have been thinking about the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth from the tomb. From behind what was essentially solid rock, protected by a stone of several tons, guarded by one or more Roman soldiers, Jesus escaped the prison of death.

We have no idea how he did this. While much of Jesus' life is described in various detail and we have good descriptions of his crucifixion, nothing is said of the actual events of his resurrection. How did blood begin to flow in collapsed veins? We do not know. How did breath come into a lifeless body? We do not know although I believe it was the same as the breath of God that was breathed into Adam. (see Genesis 2:7) We know that he was crucified, dead, and buried with historical certainty. The how of resurrection is a mystery.

Even a quick reading of the gospel of Mark will show you why Jesus was crucified. From the very beginning of his ministry he was constantly in conflict with the religious authorities of his time. He constantly defied them, constantly challenged them, and constantly flaunted their most cherished rules. One knows that this will not end well. The crucifixion is inevitable. The torture, the nails, and the spear, make death a sure thing. Death we fear because death we understand. Up until this point we are with the gospel writers. We are still with them when the women come to the tomb. We understand their emotions. We empathize with them in their sorrow. We expect a closed tomb and nothing more.

Up until this point the story makes sense. It fits into our conceptions of what is possible. But then, the tomb is empty. Somehow, Jesus is no longer

captive. Remember this is a guarded tomb. Disciples did not sneak in during the night and surreptitiously roll back a multiple ton stone and steal a dead body. The stone is rolled back. The tomb is empty. That is all we know, except that angels are about. The how of the resurrection escapes us – and – even if by some great diversion the disciples did manage to pilfer the body from the tomb this does not explain the many encounters with Jesus that occurred over the next forty days. Jesus was dead. Jesus is alive. When the disciples first heard about this they said, "That's ridiculous." Well, that's not exactly what they said but that is the polite translation of what they said.

Think about this. No one, no homo erectus, no Neanderthal, no Sumerian, No Israelite or Roman or Greek or anyone else had ever died, been entombed, and blasted free from tons of rock. This is not something that a person could have predicted. Jesus' death yes, his resurrection no. The resurrection violates all we know, all reason, logic, physics, biology, chemistry, history, everything. The resurrection is without precedent.

The resurrection is a revelation. (Karl Barth, CD 4.1, p. 295)

Up until Jesus death the disciples did not perceive God in Him. He was their leader, their friend, their teacher, a miracle worker. He was many things but he was not God. That concept was impossible for them to entertain. The resurrection changed that. Only God could be raised from the dead, only God could rise from the dead. An impossible possibility has occurred. The resurrection cannot be the result of human will and activity but is "wholly and exclusively (an act) of God alone." (p. 294)

In Jesus we see God. In the faith given by grace we die and rise with Jesus to eternal life. We partake in the mystery of resurrection. We live in a sense in eternity with the risen Christ, even now.

Blessings, Pastor Pete

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Thank you to everyone who participated In our January worship services.

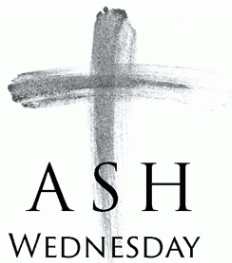
Our January Lectors: Don Lengauer, Brian Dombroske, Bob Fitzgerald, and Jodi Dupill

Our January Greeters: Ron & Carole Bowman, Mario & Bev Tagliati, Doug & Deb Ross, Jack & Eleanor Zerbini



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY February 11, 2018

Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

The Poke Run Church community will mark Ash Wednesday with a Worship Service. Wednesday, February 14, 7:30pm— Plan on attending.

***Forty days
of Lent***

prayer • penance • pilgrimage



The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent.


The first Sunday of Lent will be on February 18th.

Information above is from the website of Presbyterian Mission Agency

Based in Pittsburgh, PA, Presbyterian Media Mission (PMM) is a faith-based non-profit media organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PMM is supported by nine Presbyteries, two synods and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of Communication.



an agency of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 100 WitherspoonST Louisville, KY 40202

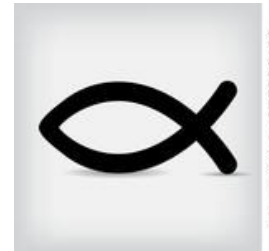


In need of prayers...

For our prayers: Scott Ankney, BABY, Renee Bates, Kelly Bell, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Sarah Brank, John Britz, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, William Caldwell, Dave Carroll, Irene Clark, Collin, Jim Dunmire, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Terry Fairbanks, Jean Fanelli, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Frank Hansen, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Millie Horvath, Brenda Hughes, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Kim, Joel Ladik and wife Katie, Rhett LaRue and family, Heather Lynn, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Tammy Libengood, 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, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Glenn Ross, Larry Seighman, Joanne Smith, JD Staite, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Jennifer Steiner, Mildred Striner, Ken Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, Jim Thompson, Jill Tocco, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Kate Wolford, Peter Yurtin, those involved in the recent shootings in Melcroft, Fayette County, 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.



For your Prayers

Poke Run has a "Fishing Team!" and Poke Run Session has a "2018 Theme"

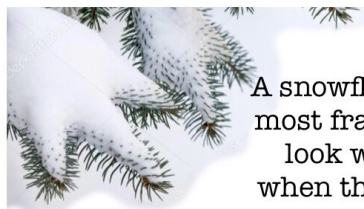
A growing team has been meeting to discuss how to get the word out about Poke Run. The team is contemplating new and old ways to reach out to the Poke Run community which includes 1 – All of us, 2 – Poke Run people who we maybe do not see very often, 3 – Poke Run people who we have not seen in a long time and 4 – people who may not even know that Poke Run is here! The Session's theme for Poke Run in 2018, is *"How to bring God's Word to all people in this place and time."* Although the Fishing Team and the Session did not arrive at these ideas together, it is easy to see that THEY ARE ON THE SAME PAGE! So what can we all do?

1-First and foremost, *pray* for the Fishing Team, and certainly *pray* for the Poke Run Session. *Pray* that God will lead us in reaching out to "all" the Poke Run Community.

2-Second, start the process yourself! As someone put on one of the survey cards, "Truly meaningful Christian communication is a one to one caring and hospitality based relationship."

Think about all of this as you go through your day and reach out to the Poke Run Community in whatever way you can.

Handle with care:



A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations, but look what they can do when they stick together!

From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes December 12, 2017

The Annual meeting of the boards as stated our Book of Order met in the Session rooms. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius-Moderator, Connie Cauvel - Clerk, Chad McCutcheon - Assistant Clerk, Tim Martin, Sandy Chappell, Meri Slaughaupt, Tom Kimble, Linda Moorhead, Bob Wilson, Brett Stevenson, Laurie Martin, Caileigh Chappell **Excused:** Nikki McQuaide, Ron Hileman, Logan Hileman, **Guests:** Chris Hulick – Eagle Scout and his Parents Ray and Cathy Hulick **Deacons:** Sandy Ballas, Deb Ross, Shelly Chappell, Shyrl Stange, and Ruthie O'Connor **Trustees:** Linda Chicka, Ron Bowman, Doug Ross, Andy Bantrock, Brian Dombroske, Bob Thompson

Year in review – updates and future plans (Session, Deacons & Trustees)

Looking toward the future @ Poke Run - Pastor Pete

Research into Eastern Orthodox Church the found that one thing that drew people to a church is hospitality.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin We are closing the deficit. Completed pledge to Presbytery Tim expressed appreciation and we will be very close to breaking even this year. Tim has agreed to continue as Chair of Budget & Finance for one more year. He summed up this year with one of Pete's favorite quotes: God's work done in God's Time will not lack God's supply.

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell Committee will review Camperships for next year.

Mission and Stewardship: Meri Slaughaupt Planning activities with Adelphoi kids, Food Bank and they will revisit Mission Trip and the expenses we incur.

Personnel: Linda Moorhead - Did not meet

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel Several members of the committee will meet in January to complete Communion and Offering Schedule.

Technology: Chad McCutcheon – Committee will meet in January to review sound system

Ad Hoc Committees

Fishing Team – Tom Kimble - The Fishing team has taken actions to query members on their opinions as to Poke Run strengths and possible new initiatives and endeavors to consider ways to attract new members. The team is also investigating other potential initiatives such as expanded Facebook, twitter messages from Pastor Pete and establishing You Tube for Sunday biblical readings and sermons.

Kitchen Committee – Sandy Chappell - Considering replacing the stove as soon as possible -

Old Business: Cemetery update: Tom reported they are planning to let people know about the rich history of Cemetery

New Business: Chris Hulick of Troup 589 gave a presentation on his Eagle Scout Project that benefits Poke Run– 5 new trash enclosures in the Cemetery. Several Session members expressed our gratitude.

Special appreciation and thank you to: Tim Martin, Meri Slaughaupt, Linda Moorhead and Logan for their service on Session Tim mentioned in his parting comments that essentially we are the Steering Committee of our Church. We as a Church look outside our walls for the good of the Community.

Close with prayer: Linda Moorhead

Respectfully Submitted:

Adjourn: 8:30

Approved: January 9, 2018



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

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 February 12, 2018.

Communion is shared during the Early 8:30am Worship service every Sunday.
Communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2018.

February 14th –Ash Wednesday(7:30pm)	July 1st (11am)
March 25th—Palm Sunday(11am)	August 5th(11am)
March 29th—Maundy Thursday(7:30pm)	September 9th(11am)
April 1st—Easter(11am)	October 7th(11am)
May 20th—Pentecost (11am)	December 2nd—1st Sunday of Advent(11am)
June 3rd(11am)	December 24th—Christmas Eve (5pm & 7:30pm)



New Members Class—

Pastor Pete is putting together a class for anyone interested in joining the Poke Run congregation. If you would like to join or want more information, see Pastor Pete or contact the Church Office. 724-327-5563

New Member Class



DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

12/4/17

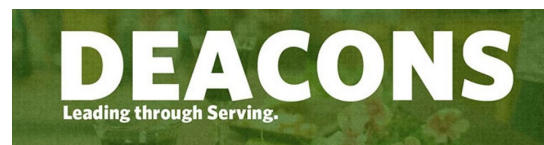
Present: Nancy Dombroske, Diane Scott, Deb Ross, Ruth O'Connor, Tammy Kelley, Cindy Brooks, and Debbie Seighman

Absent: Barbi Findley, Carol Thompson, Nancy Kimble, Bev Tagliati, and Mario Tagliati

Diane Scott opened with prayer.

The minutes for November were MSC.
The treasure's report for November was MSC.

11/6/17	Balance	\$4,916.25
	Debit-bank fee	2.00
	Debit-Thanksgiving baskets	1,106.69
12/4/17	Balance	\$3,807.56



Old Business

Student study/care packages were mailed out. We provided 12 Thanksgiving food baskets. The deadline for the Giving Tree gifts is Dec. 10. Poinsettia/Food Bank donation orders are due on Sunday, Dec. 17th. Diane Scott and Deb Ross are in charge of these. There will be a joint meeting of all of the Poke Run Boards on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

New Business

Shopping for the Christmas Food Baskets was organized, and Tammy Kelley is the head of this committee. Orders are due by Dec. 17, and shoppers will meet at the Delmont Walmart at 6:00 PM on Dec. 19. The person requesting the food basket will be responsible for picking up and delivering to the recipient. Pick up will take place at 7:30 PM at Poke Run Church the same evening.

Deb Seighman is in charge of putting the ornaments on the Deacon's tree. The ornaments represent the Food Bank donations, and may be taken home by each person that made a donation.

Several current needs of members were addressed. Phone calls will be made regarding these needs.

Deacons are responsible for ushers during the month of December. Carol Thompson is the Deacon in charge of communion setup on Dec. 3. Plans were also made regarding the Deacon involvement in both of the Christmas Eve services.

The next Board of Deacons meeting will be held on January 8, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Seighman, Secretary



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The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, February 14th.

(Broccoli Cheese Soup) Bring a friend!

- *If you are able to donate a dessert this month, please contact the office.*
- doors open at 11:30am, soup is served at noon. Come and bring a friend,
- Help extend a Christian welcome and presence to those God brings to Poke Run!

Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS Children's Class! – for all ages

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall)

- using the David C. Cook series titled **"Faith in Action"**

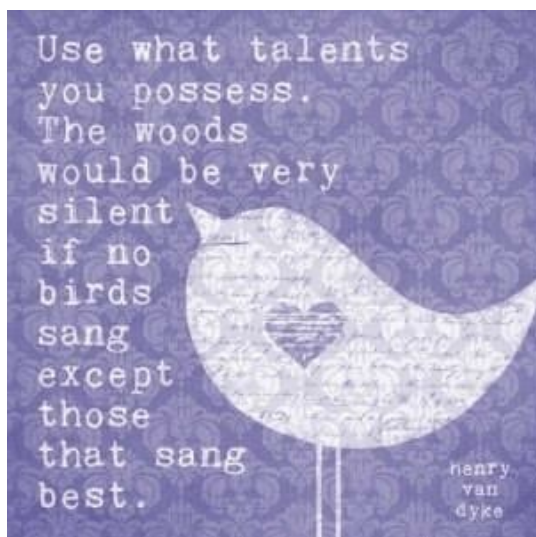
Join in the fellowship area for refreshment and conversation between the early service and Sunday School.



THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

FREE—in the Narthex: copies of the two publications,

The Upper Room - daily devotional, and ***Today's Christian Living*** - magazine



The Poke Run Handbell and Chancel choirs will be working on their Easter music. Consider joining them for this celebration! Both choirs meet on Wednesday evenings. Handbells at 6:30pm and Chancel choir at 7pm. See Sean for details.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

You're
Invited!



Remember all the good food and fun last year?
Don't miss it THIS YEAR!

A "Fellowship Friendship Brunch" for the Poke Run congregation community— Men, Women and children – a "smorgasbord of brunch delight!" Make plans NOW to attend.
Saturday, February 17th , 11am, doors open at 10:30am



Women of the Church will be meeting on Thursday, February 15th, at 7pm at the church. The hostess will be Ruth O'Connor and the leader will be Valerie Hansen. If this is a group you might be interested in getting involved with, come out and join in. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!.



The Annual Virginia Mission Trip in conjunction with *ProjectCrossroads* is scheduled for June 24th through 29th. 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.

REDSTONE ADDICTION MINISTRY &

HOPE IN A bag



Hope in a Bag started when Renah's Uncle Mike died from a drug overdose. The 12-year old from Smithton started collecting toiletries and other small items for people who want to go into recovery. Unfortunately, too many people tried to "get clean" without even the simple things like a soap or a toothbrush. The Redstone Addiction Ministry group is sponsoring a presbytery-wide collection in January and February for Hope in a Bag. Here are the items you can donate:

Small bible	Deodorant
Pens and pencils	Razors
Journals	Feminine hygiene products
Cards	Dental floss
Soap/Body wash	Nail clippers
Shampoo/Conditioner	Q-tips
Toothbrushes	Small blankets
Toothpaste	Hardtack candies

Annual Pretzel Decorating



Come out to the church on Friday, February 9th and help decorate pretzels for our Poke Run Friends. 6pm



Watch for information about "Hope in a Bag" collections at Poke Run Church.



Thank You—to everyone who contributed to the Kiski Area "Cavalier Closet" - the generosity of the Poke Run congregation continues to help and to serve our community.



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 **February 19th**.
Never hesitate to 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.
Next Ranger Deadline: February 26th

Thank you to everyone who picked up and is using their "GIVING ENVELOPES" for 2018. There are still a few in the Narthex. 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.**

2017 Giving Statements were mailed in January, if you have questions or did not receive yours, please contact the office. 724-327-5563.



Thank You to everyone who participated in the Annual Financial Review. The Poke Run Annual Report for 2017 will be published before the end of February.

Directory

A 2018 Directory update is Happening! - I PROMISE!!!
Please check the maroon notebook in the Narthex to verify and update your information. Look over all the information there, make corrections and additions and initial your page

so that Amy is certain you checked it. You may also call the office at 724-327-5563 or email your information to pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net

HOLY CURIOSITY! Science, Wonder, and the Desire to Know

**Edward (Ted) B. Davis and
Jennifer J. Wiseman**

Sat., Feb. 3, 2018



Einstein once said, "Never lose a holy curiosity." Join us on Feb. 3 to learn about the origins of the science/faith schism and explore the universe through the eye of the Hubble Space Telescope!

Edward (Ted) B. Davis is professor of the history of science at Messiah College. He has edited 16 books and written dozens of articles about historical and contemporary aspects of Christianity and science.

Jennifer J. Wiseman is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as the senior project scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope.

Schedule

1:00-2:00 p.m.	Presentation by Ted Davis
2:30-3:45 p.m.	Workshops
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Presentation by Jennifer Wiseman

Youth leaders are encouraged to bring groups.

This event is free thanks to the generous underwriting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Online registration:
www.pts.edu/Holy-Curiosity-2018



Questions: ConEd@pts.edu or 412-924-1345

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.

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



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



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Feb 5th—"Souper Bowl of Caring" Delmont Presbyterian 4-6pm

Feb. 13th—Pancake Supper, Congruity Presby 4-7pm

Feb 16-18 Pine Springs Jr/Sr High Winter Retreat

2ND WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH—"FRIENDSHIP DINNER" FREE—
UNITED PRESB, NEW KENSINGTON

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Feb 10th—Delmont Lion's Club "Pancake Breakfast" Delmont Methodist Church



COMING in MARCH

Mar 17th—Kiski Area Track & Field Shamrock Run

THE REDSTONE AND POKE RUN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON FEB 19TH.
THE REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.



Presbytery
of Redstone

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



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

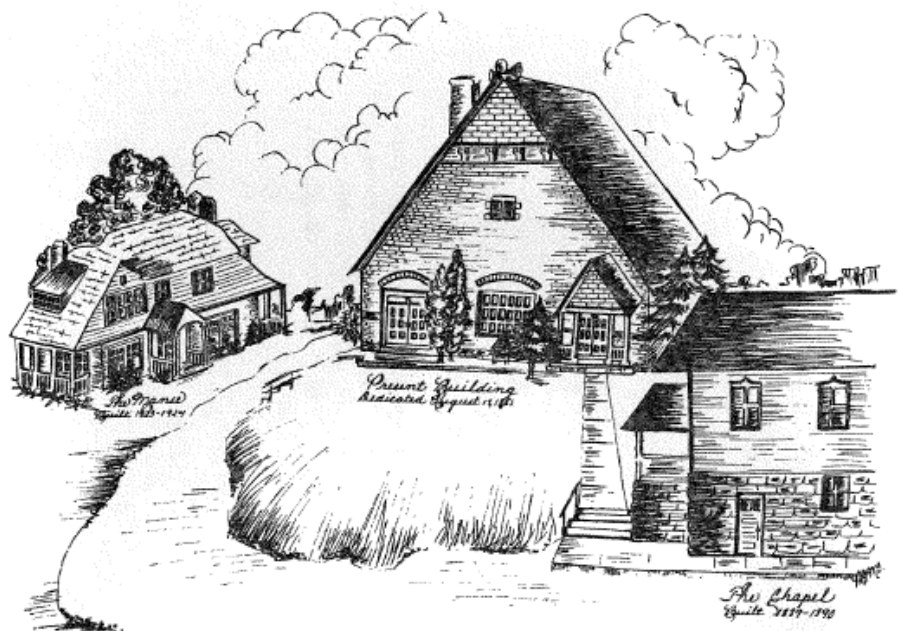
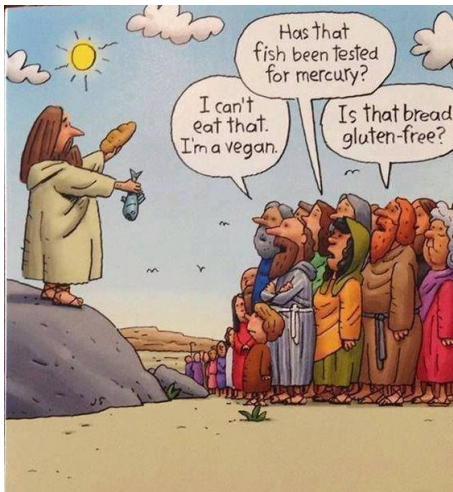


NEWS FROM THE PEWS

World Affairs Council
of Pittsburgh



In 2017, Jeff Wilkinson was awarded by the *World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh*, the opportunity to experience "Vietnam: Ecology and Conservation" through the World Learning program of *The Experiment in International Living*. He was able to immerse himself in the culture of Vietnam through travel and "homestays" with two Vietnamese families. He learned about the history, geography and culture of the country. As a **Global Travel Scholar**, Jeff led an informational session, describing his trip and sharing his gained experiences.



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



Included in an old Poke Run Directory— if you can identify the artist and the year—call the office!



February

Sun

Mon







Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
 4 <u>SCOUT</u> <u>SUNDAY</u> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	5 7pm Deacons	6 7pm Budget & Finance	7 7pm Mission & Stewardship 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	8	9 6pm Pretzel Making w/ Adelphoi 	10
11 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	12	13 7pm Session	14  <u>noon "Soup for the Soul"</u> <u>Ash</u> <u>Wednesday</u> 7:30pm worship 	15 <u>Circle 2</u> 	16	17 11:30am Fellowship Brunch 
18 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20	21 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	22 7pm Trustees	23	24
25 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	26	27	28			

**THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL
 BE CLOSED ON FEB 19TH**
**Call Pastor Pete in case of an
 emergency**
724-454-2278



Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
Apollo, PA 15613



Sunday Worship: 8:30am and 11am

Sunday School: 10am adults & kids

PHONE: 724-327-5563 EMAIL: pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net

Like us on Facebook featuring the Daily Verse

Check out our website at www.pokerunchurch.com

Sundays 7pm Bible Study

Tuesdays 10am Women's Bible Study



**You're
Invited!**

**FRIENDSHIP
BRUNCH**

A "Fellowship Friendship Brunch" for the Poke Run congregation community– Men, Women and children – a "smorgasbord of brunch delight!" Make plans NOW to attend.

Saturday, February 17th

Doors open at 10:30am, brunch at 11am.