

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

## United As One In Christ



The picture on the left was taken inside King's College Chapel on the campus of the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland. The University of Aberdeen carries with it a long history, having been founded in 1495. As old as that is the chapel, or at least the ground upon which it stands has a far longer history of worship. There are those who believe that Christians have worshipped there for a thousand years. This means that throughout its long history the chapel has seen multiple forms of Christianity come and go, and still it stands as a monument to both the diversity and unity of faith.

When you stand inside the chapel the experience is more than visual, more than sensual, more than emotional. The experience is greater than the sum of its parts. It is true, the stone floors that support one's feet imply solidity; the hand carvings on the old choir chairs and in the raised pulpit speak of loving care and deep seriousness; the beauty of the stained glass windows reflecting and refracting light in shadowed dancing patterns offer a sense of mystery; and still there is more. There is a sense of presence, a sense of the presence of the tens of

thousands who have worshipped, a sense of the presence of the divine in the everyday, here and now waiting for your response of worship.

We concluded our two weeks of study together with a time of thanksgiving, or Eucharist, in this chapel, using the simple service in the Book of Common Prayer, like tens of millions before us. There was nothing new, nothing spectacular, no fireworks or spiritual pyrotechnics, no thunder or lightning, just this presence, and silence. We passed the bread to each other, and drank from a common cup. We departed in near silence amidst murmurings of deep, profound, the most reverent time of communion I ever experienced.

And then, as I was leaving I caught this picture, an Irish "dissenter," and a priest of the Church of England, in communion, in the healing presence of the divine mystery. "*Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*" (John 17:11)

Rev. Pete

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THANK YOU/BELL CHOIR/FIRST FRUITS	2
COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES	3
BIRTHDAY NEWS/SOUP FOR THE SOUP	4
SESSION MINUTES	5
SESSION MNUTES	6
YOUTH NEWS	7
FEBRUARY CALENDAR	8

THANK YOU to everyone who served the Lord at Poke Run Church.

**Thank you to our January Lectors** Karen Goetschius, Bob Fitzgerald, Patrick Wilkinson and Connie Cauvel.

**Thank you to our January Greeters** Eileen Riston and Tim, Jack and Eleanor Zerbini, Karen Staymates, Jacob Slaugenhaupt, Dave and Janet Thomas.



*For our prayers* Jane Lynch, Ruth Speer, Dolly Remaley, Thelma McCutcheon, Conrad McQuaide, Karen Lightner, Clifford Lightner, Irene Clark, Irma McDivitt, James Powers, Carolyn Buckley, Jean Moorhead, Grace Hartman, Steve Marcheid, Mario Tagliati, Ashley Contino, Chuck Hartmann, Marge Peterson, Robin, Dorothy Montgomery, Tom Kimble, Mary Margaret (Kiebler) Holt, Carl Fitzsimmons and those who serve in the military.

### CIRCLE 4 NEWS

**The ladies in Circle 4 will be meeting on Thursday, February 9 at 12:00pm at the home of Mary Ellen Ross.**

### Church Directory Information Needed

If you have a new phone number or address or new email or any changes to your family please email them to our email address at [pokerun@windstream.net](mailto:pokerun@windstream.net) Anyone who does not have email may send them to the church office or call 724-327-5563 with the updated information.

Information is also needed to update our mailing email list for our church newsletter, The Ranger. Please keep the church office informed as your address changes. If you would like to be removed from The Ranger mailing list please let the office know by sending an email, letter or by calling the church office. Thank you.



### HANDBELL CHOIR

A Handbell Choir is forming up under the leadership of our new Director of Music, Sean O'Neil. If you are interested in participating please notify the church office at [724-327-5563](tel:724-327-5563) or contact Sean directly at [SeanTimothy-ONeil@gmail.com](mailto:SeanTimothy-ONeil@gmail.com) or [724-840-2379](tel:724-840-2379).

### FIRST FRUITS

The First Fruits will remain the same as last year. Poke Run Church averages 125 attendees per week, and the amount set will be \$25.00 per Sunday Service attendee. The 2012 budget amount was approved at \$3125.00 for the year. The First Fruits is sent to Redstone Presbytery for their work.

Poke Run committed to this amount last year and we fulfilled our obligation. We actually only received about one third of our obligation - so please help us support Redstone Presbytery on this item in 2012.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

There will be seven Wednesday evening services during Lent starting on Ash Wednesday. So, mark your calendar and plan to attend. A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow most services. An offering to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program will be taken at each service from February 22 – April 4. Our theme this year is: “The Week that Changed History”.

### **\* February 22 - 7:30 PM @ Poke Run Presbyterian Church**

1091 Poke Run Church Road (Off Rt.66 and 366) 724-327-5563

Communion and the Imposition of Ashes will be offered.

**Preacher:** Rev. Pete Goetschius

**Taize Service** -\*There will not be any refreshments after this service.

### **\* February 29 - 7:30 PM @ Plum Creek Presbyterian Church**

550 Center New Texas Road, Plum 412-793-4525

(Directions: Take 380 West; take right onto Saltsburg Road at Cooper Trailers; at stop sign turn right onto New Texas Road, turn left onto Center New Texas Road to Church)

**Preacher:** Rev. Lanny Mellinger of Pine Run Presbyterian Church (Anointing with Oil)

**Special Music:** Plum Creek

### **\* March 7 – 7:30 PM @ Pine Run Presbyterian Church**

1117 White Cloud Road 724-727-2125

(Directions: Take Rt. 380 to Rt. 780, turn right on White Cloud Road, church is on left.)

**Preacher:** Rev. Wayne Barrett of Delmont Presbyterian Church

**Special Music:** Pine Run

### **\*March 14 – 7:30 PM @ Delmont Presbyterian Church**

101 Church Street, Delmont 724-468-5804

(Directions: Take Rt. 66, to Freeport St., to Church St. –Church is at junction of Freeport St. & Church St.)

**Preacher:** Rev. Brenda Barnes of Plum Creek Presbyterian Church

**Special Music:** Delmont

### **\*March 21 - 7:30 @ Union Presbyterian Church**

656 Route 380, Murrysville 724-337-3042

(Directions: White Cloud, turn left on Rt. 780, turn right on Rt. 380, church on left)

**Preacher:** Rev. Pete Goetschius of Poke Run Presbyterian Church

**Special Music:** Mass Choir

### **\* March 28– 7:30 PM @ Plum Creek Presbyterian Church**

(see directions above)

**Musical Presentation—”The Sacrifice”**

### **\*April 4-7:30PM @ Pine Run Presbyterian Church**

(see directions above)

**Drama Presentation—**\*There will not be any refreshments after this service.

**We pray that these services will be a blessing in your life and in our community.**

**\*\* In the event of bad weather:** none of the services will be canceled, and worshippers are advised to use discretion in making a decision to attend. \*\*

## GRACE YOUNG CELEBRATES 108 YEARS



***Happy Birthday to Grace Young who will be celebrating her 108th Birthday on January 28, 2012.***

***Anyone who would like to send her card may do so by mailing it to Grace at 169 Lincoln Ave., Apt. 807, Vandergrift, PA 15690.***

## Soup For The Soul Luncheon

Do you know anyone who could use a hot bowl of soup and some good conversation? Then Poke Run Church is the place to be on Wednesday, February 8. With the support of the Mission and Stewardship committee and several church members, we plan to open our doors to the community for those who need their bodies refueled with food and their souls with fellowship. We'll begin gathering around 11:30 a.m. and sit down for the meal at 12:00. Afterwards, there will be a brief devotional time and we'll make plans for our next meal. Want to help? Invite someone to come to the luncheon; come help with preparations, serving, or cleanup; bring someone who can't drive or doesn't have transportation; or just come and get to know those come to eat. For more information, contact Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or Ron Bowman at 724-327-4052.



**Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes December 13, 2011**  
**Joint Meeting of the Boards**

The scheduled meeting of the Session met in the Fellowship Hall @ 7:00 PM. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions, and everyone shared a time of fellowship and good food before our meeting began. Pete thanked Our Deacons, Trustees and Staff Members for coming to this annual meeting of the combined boards and also for the great job they do all year.

**Session Members present:** Rev. Peter M. Goetschius-Moderator, Connie Cauvel -Clerk, Glenn Ross- Assist Clerk, Linda Chicka, Cindy McQuaide, Bob Thompson Lizzy Wilkinson (Youth)  
Tim Martin, Meri Slaughaupt

**Session Members Excused:** Grace Hartman, Bob Bierer, Bill Fazi

**Session Members Absent:** Joanne Crosby

**Deacons Members Present:** Jan Fitzgerald, Erin Bruce, Mary Ellen Ross

**Trustees Present:** Doug Ross, Dave Wilkinson, Walt Lange, Bob Fitzgerald, Vince Goodiski, Albert Moorhead, Jim Moorhead, Barry Kelley.

**Staff Members Present:** Nadene Bruce (Financial Secretary) and Amy Wilkinson (Treasurer)

**MSC:** To approve the Session Minutes of: November 8, 2011

**MSC:** To accept Deacon Minutes of 11/7/2011

**Trustee Report:**

Repairs will need to be done to flat roof over the Education wing in the spring. Loose fascia and shingles need to be repaired and they plan to remake church sign as you drive into Poke Run.

Trustees need extra hands on work days; they invited Deacons and congregation to help. A Basketball Hoop was donated to the Church.

**Correspondence:** Tim Martin shared letter from Presbytery asking for our financial commitment for 2012

**Treasurer's Report:** Amy Wilkinson.

Amy expressed concern about the budget deficit. She distributed papers requesting original receipts be turned in by Jan. 10, 2012 in preparation for the Church Audit on January 21, 2012.

**MSC:** to accept Treasurer Report

**Committees:**

**Budget & Finance:** Tim Martin

Tim reported that giving is always low in winter. He strongly cautioned that we must be very conservative as we go into the New Year. Some of his suggestions included to: delay technology upgrades, consider monthly fundraising events, and conserve paper.

We need to communicate this to the congregation.

He reminded everyone that when church facilities are used for fundraising 10% should always returned to church.

Mission and stewardship committee is considering sending a letter and/or stand up in church.

**HAT Committee:** (Handicapped Accessible Team) Ron Hileman

Phase one is complete and, phase 2 & 3 will not start until middle of January. Ron and Tim both reminded everyone all the money used for the construction came from the Building Fund, and NOT the Current Budget.

**Personnel Committee:** Doug Ross

**MSC:** To hire Sean O'Neal as our church Organist at a salary of \$13,000 including 2 weeks' vacation and no benefits.

The Sexton position has been filled 3 dedicated volunteers who will share the sexton duties. Special thanks to: Jim Moorhead, Bob Wilson, and Rick Kemerer.

**MSC:** Dominic Hartman will come and clean sidewalks (at an hourly rate) contingent upon his acceptance.

Doug shared that 2012 will be Nadene Bruce's last year as financial secretary.

SESSION MINUTES CONTINUED

**Christian Education:** Lizzy Wilkinson  
Children's program is this Sunday (December 18, 2011)

**Mission and stewardship:** Linda Chicka  
Poke Run will volunteer at the Food Bank in February, April and August. Mission trip is June 17 – 22. We will visit with the kids at Adelphoi House every other Thursday and they will help Mission and Stewardship with pretzels for the Deacons to take to our shut-ins for Valentine's Day. We will help Robin Webster with her mission trip. She leaves January 9, 2012 for Afghanistan, and will stay for 2-5 years. Joy offering on Christmas Eve will go to support Mission and Stewardship.

**Congregational life:** Glenn Ross  
Committee is planning to send letters to members who have left Poke Run. They are still going over the membership roll. Communion schedule for 2012 will be done in January.

**Pastor's Notes Dec. 13, 2011**

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Spaghetti Dinner  
Nov 20, Communion, Christ the King  
Nov. 27, Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Service  
Dec. 3 Santa's Breakfast  
Dec. 5, Lenten Service Planning  
Dec. 11, Installation of Officers  
Move Communion to Jan 29, 2012

**MSC:** Poke Run will participate in the community Lenten Services

**MSC:** To move January's Communion to January 29

**Old Business:**

Everyone is reminded to send Lil, our Church Secretary all event dates for 2012. Dates will be approved at the February Session meeting.

**New Business:**

We need to thank people who give generously to the Church, and let people know where we have cut. Tim will write something for the bulletins and it will be mentioned at all the services left in 2011.

A paper will be put in bulletin to update personal information. Name address, phone & email.

Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during the Christ Eve Services. This special offering helps active and retired church workers with special financial needs and also supports student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be in the pews on Christmas Eve.

scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be in the pews on Christmas Eve.

**MSC:** To accept project suggested by Ron Bowman to start soup kitchen. He plans to call it: "Soup for the Soul."

**MSC:** To accept Basketball hoop donated to Poke Run.

**MSC:** Next meeting will be on Tuesday Jan. 3, 2011 before Pete leaves for Scotland.

Closed with prayer: Bob Thompson  
Respectfully Submitted:

Adjourn: 9:30 P.M.  
Approved: January 3, 2012



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)



## YOUTH NEWS

It might be a dreary February outside, but we are keeping things exciting at youth group! On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Justin (the Adventure Guy) from Pine Springs is coming to youth group with your favorite PSC games and to talk about the upcoming summer! The following week (February 19<sup>th</sup>) the youth group will be having a Movie and Game Night! Bring your friends for a fun evening! Youth group will not be held on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. The youth group is for teens in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and meets weekly from 6-7:30 p.m. at Union Presbyterian Church.

COG continues to be a roaring good time! Kids in grades 4-6 are invited to attend on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. With this fun and rowdy group, we are learning about the Armor of God! From the Belt of Truth to the Sword of the Spirit, each week we are learning about these protective gifts that God has given us!

Thank you for entrusting me with your children/teens each week! It is a joy to spend time with them and watching them grow and learn has truly been a blessing! Thank you! Callie

Lent begins in February and the end of Lent means Poke Run's "Thank God It's Friday" workshop for kids! We are kicking off preparations on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 [p.m.](#) at the church. Anyone interested in helping please join us!

*Poke Run Presbyterian Church*

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.  
Apollo, PA 15613

Phone: 724-327-5563


E-mail: pokerun@windstream.net

Web Site: www.pokerunchurch.com



Address Service Requested

*February 2012*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Communion:</i> Feb. 19: Meri Slaughaupt & Cindy Brooks.	Feb. 22-Session Feb. 26-Tim Martin & Karen Staymates	Offering: PW	1	2 	3	4
<b>5</b> 8:30 & 11am Service NO Youth Meeting	<b>6</b> 7pm Deacons	7	<b>8</b> 11-2 <b>Soup for                      the Soul</b>	<b>9</b> 12pm Circle 4 7pm THIF Mtg.	10	11
<b>12</b> 8:30 & 11am Service 6pm Youth @ Union	<b>13</b> 7pm Mission & Stewardship	<b>14</b> 7pm Session	15	<b>16</b> 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Trustees	17	<b>18</b> Baby Shower 9-3 -L. Martin
<b>19</b> <i>Communion</i> 8:30 & 11am Service 6:00 Youth @ Union	<b>20</b> 7pm Budget & Finance	21	<b>22</b> <i>Communion</i> <b>7:30pm Taize                      Service</b>	<b>23</b> 4:00pm COG 7:00pm Choir	24	25
<b>26</b> <i>Communion</i> 8:30 & 11am Service 6pm Youth @ Union	27	28	29			