

**Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain  
who build it...** Psalm 127:1a

## Ministry Opportunity:

### The Table

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

### Announcements:

Thank you for your prayers this week while we hosted a meeting on the growing problem of homelessness here in Pottstown. This is a first step toward a helping those who are affected by this, and as we progress into this ministry, we need continual prayer.

### New Choices/New Options

Free Career Development Program  
This is a FREE intensive Career Counseling, Personal Growth, Job Readiness, and Computer Training program for those preparing to return to work due to life circumstances or looking to improve their opportunities in the job market. The program is open to single parents, displaced homemakers, and people in transition. Childcare reimbursement available. Program Services include: Computer Training - Skill and Interest Assessments - Job Placement Assistance - Self-Esteem Development - Peer Support - Career Testing - Job Search Skills - Resume Writing - Interviewing Skills - Career Counseling  
If interested please contact Pastor Kork.

### Your Prayer Reminders:

**We are always collecting items for the Women's Center, and on Monday (tomorrow) we will be assembling these care bags to give to the women's shelter and Salvation Army. If you can, please bring small soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, washrags, towels, lotions, disposable razors, large plastic zip lock bags, etc.**

*Please continue to remember Melvin in your prayers He has received bad news this week and needs us....*

*Please continue to pray for Leona Zupko who has returned home from the hospital after colon surgery, but will need additional procedures; for Randy as he begins a new job; and for Lori's two son;*

### Your Prayer Notes:

**Next week... luke 1 .46b-55, micah 5 .2-5a,  
luke 1 .39-45, & hebrews 10 .5-10**

Get in touch with us at: i. [www.besidestillwaters.net](http://www.besidestillwaters.net) e. [Info@besidestillwaters.net](mailto:Info@besidestillwaters.net)

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"He restores my soul . . .  
surely goodness and mercy will follow me"

So, how often do I take a bath...?

baptism, salvation & joy



The Week of December 17th, 2006

"His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people." lk 3. 17-18

### Worship

isaiah 12 2-6  
zephaniah 3 14-20  
luke 3 7-18  
philippians 4 4-7

### Benediction

### Our Mission

To pursue God's heart and mission of building a worshipful faith community within the Pottstown area, through good works and home churches; recognizing Jesus as King of the universe, and worshipping Him privately and publicly because He is worthy.



## [Worship]

### zephaniah 3.14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not

let your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with

all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Please also read [luke 3.7-18](#)  
& [philippians 4.4-7](#)



## [The Scripture]

### isaiah 12.2-6



2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

your home church discussion notes...[Journaling]

## [Think & Pray...]

**Meditation:** *“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’;... So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. lk. 3.7b-8a, & 18*

**Reflection:** Repentance is not just saying you're sorry, nor is it merely a change in your head or even your heart. Gospel repentance involves a change in your behavior, in the way you live your life. Most people likely see John's call to a transformed life as an indictment, and his mandate for treating the poor justly as, at best, an unpleasant chore. But John's call to repentance should be seen for what it is: **an invitation to salvation**, the fruit of relationship with the Holy One coming into our midst. When we respond to this invitation in a joyful spirit, we may help to contribute not only to a transformed world but to our own liberation.

**Consider:** Have we missed our own liberation? Discuss your/our common gift of salvation. How do you view it; as a past event; a future event; or a communal witness, that transcends time and space. Do you see grace at its center, freeing us from works, false piety, and guiding us toward JOY and a fulfilling journey in community? And again, might this still be the calling of god's prophetic voice through His people today to a weary world? Is there still JOY in this GOOD NEWS?