

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

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

Worship:

Tabernacle Worship Service

Every Sunday Evening

St. John's Parish House

75 East Main St. South Pottstown 7:00 pm

Announcements:

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.

Thank you for your prayers while we address the growing problem of homelessness here in Pottstown. We are hosting the shelter in the Parish House this month and **still looking for volunteers** for this ministry. This collaborative is called **The Ministries at MAIN Street**. To volunteer please see Pastor Kork.

A local mother of 4 children needs our help. Her husband has been sent to Afghanistan, and will hopefully return in September. Their children are ages 8, 3, 18 months, and 4 months. Our friend Becky Sikora invites us to her mission of making life a little easier for her while her husband is away. She is collecting things to help including: for WalMart & Weis Gift Cards. Please contact the church office for more information.

Prayers Collections from the Worship Table

- ✓ Lord I need funds for rent & a job. Also, health issues with diabetes. ~RJF
- ✓ Pray for my brother Sam who is incarcerated and struggling with addiction. ~Unknown
- ✓ Church, continue to pray for me to be more like God! ~SH
- ✓ Lord, help us in our weakness to continue your work in our community. ~SW
- ✓ There is a couple who are looking for help renovating their home into rooms for rent to help those in need. Pray as to how you might help their efforts.

Your Prayer Reminders:

Next week... March 25, 2007: Lent 5 (Year C)

psalm 126, isaiah 43 .16-21, john 12 .1-8, & philippians 3 .4b-14

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"He restores my soul . . . surely goodness and mercy will follow me" Psalm 23

The Week of March 18th, 2007

Prodigal Peoples
return from our self-imposed exiles

Worship
psalm 32
joshua 5 9-12
luke 15 .1-3, 11b-32
2 corinthians 5 .16-21

Our Mission **THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN** **Benediction**

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]

psalm 32

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah 6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. 10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Meditation:

“ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ”
(Lk 15 .20)

[The Scripture]

2 corinthians 5 .16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[Think & Pray...]

Consider: Having confronted our personal demons in the desert, by week four of Lent we should have a good idea of our shortcomings, our lack of faith, our tendency to worship false gods. Should we become disheartened by all this self-reflection, this week's readings give us all the reason we need to turn toward home. Luke is uniquely concerned with assuring us of God's forgiveness; he is the only gospel author to portray a God who runs to meet us as we return from our self-imposed exiles in the parable of the Prodigal Son. Who else but God can welcome us back from our most devastating screw-ups, who is so happy that, as David proclaims, "with glad cries of freedom you will ring me round"?