

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

Worship:

Tabernacle Worship Service

Every Sunday Evening

St. John's Parish House

75 East Main St. South Pottstown 5:30 pm

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Tuesday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19465

7:00 to 9:00

King St Commons Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

King St. Pottstown, PA 19464

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

Consumer Center Church

Thursday Evenings on hold for the summer

249 High Street Pottstown, PA 19464

7:00 to 8:00

Announcements:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Thank you to all who came out in support of the shelter this past Thursday, when we met with our neighbors to discuss shelter plans. There were those who, we feel, have a better understanding of what we are doing, and, of course, those who do not want reconciliation. We are now at a place where we can reach out to our neighbors and try to bless them. Please pray about how we might include them in our community.

Prayer Requests:

Buzz has begun his radiation and chemotherapy, looking toward another 7 weeks of treatment. The doctors feel 90 percent sure that afterward, he will be cancer free. Continue to pray for him, and that he finds his way toward Christ's community and worship.

Please pray for Melody Garges, who is also struggling with cancer. Her husband, Wayne, is a dear brother whom we are just recently back in contact with after very many years. Mel has beaten all the odds up to this point, and we are hopeful that she can beat all of them.

Please pray for Robert's sisters, Beth and Amy who are struggling with addictions. Robert ran into Beth a short time ago, and was shocked at her appearance. Her lifestyle has really begun to take a toll on her physically. Please remember them both, and prepare your heart for how you might be used as a light in their lives.

Your Prayer Notes:

September 16, 2007: **Proper 19 (Year C)**

**psalm 14, jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28,
luke 15.1-10, & 1 timothy 1.12-17**

Get in touch with us at: i. www.besidestillwaters.net e. Info@besidestillwaters.net
256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022 Phone: (610) 970-2444 Fax: (484) 363-4017

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Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona Lake, IN 46590

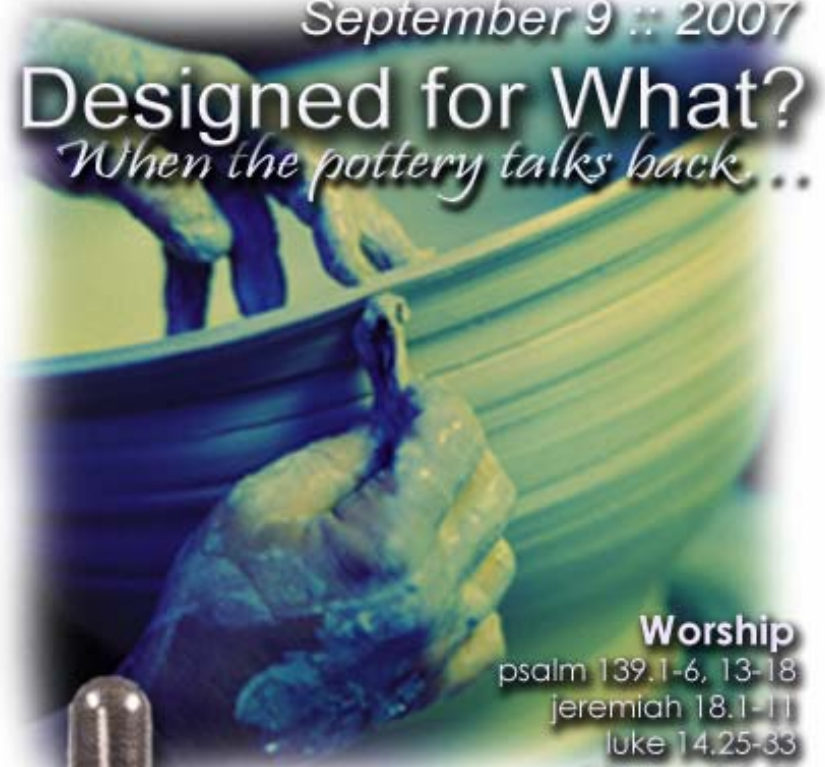


still waters of Pottstown
home churches & worship center

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

September 9 :: 2007

Designed for What?
When the pottery talks back ..



Worship

psalm 139.1-6, 13-18

jeremiah 18.1-11

luke 14.25-33

philemon 11-21

Benediction

proper 19 (Year C)

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465
Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's parish

[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalms 139 .1-6, 13-18

Worship Film ::

“Lose Your Life?”

Scripture Reading ::

Jeremiah 18 .1-11

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds

Focus Films ::

with songs of joy

“Wonderfully Made”

The Scripture

Designed for What?
When Pottery Talks Back...

And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Jeremiah 18 .9—10

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 139.1-6, 13-18, jeremiah 18.1-11,
luke 14.25-33, & philemon 1.1-21

Reflection Film ::

“the Potter's Wheel”

Benediction ::

revelation 22 .12-14, 16-17, 20-21

[Journaling Worship]

your discussion notes...

“

Meditation:

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, 26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple."
(Luke 14 .25—36)

Reflection:

"To take up our own crosses means breaking free of the socialization that keeps us complicit with a profligate and ecologically unsustainable system. Consumerism, possessions, hoarding, the fascination of ever-new technologies—all these seduce us from living simply so that others may simply live. "None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up *all* your possessions" (Luke 14.33). Does Jesus really mean this? Is it even possible?

This is more than we can hear. Yet it is gospel: good news. It offers hope of survival. The cost is painful. But we will pay it voluntarily, now, or involuntarily, later. We still, barely, have a choice." **Walter Wink**



still waters

home church studies

psalm 139 .1-6, 13-18

[Worship]

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. 3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. 17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. "

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

"The psalmist stands in wonder, utterly overwhelmed by the gift of life given to each of us as God's first act of unconditional love: (Psalm 139:13-14). Truly we each begin purely as gift and as gifted; we are granted the spirit of life at no cost, with nothing owed.

We are invited, however, to deeper, lasting life through a relationship with God. It is not a guarantee of special favors, or a life free from pain. Psalm 1.3 promises only that God will walk with us; we will be "like a tree planted near running water, that yields fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade." God does not fade, but cares for us through all; God's faithfulness will be our strength.

The fruits of such discipleship are evident in Paul's letter to Philemon regarding his slave, Onesimus. Writing from prison, Paul implores Philemon to re-examine his relationship with Onesimus, now estranged from him after having run away and possibly stolen from Philemon. Though human laws demand that Onesimus be punished and forced to pay for his actions, Paul responds according to the laws of discipleship when he asks Philemon to "welcome him as you would me." He vows that "if he has done you any injustice or owes you anything, charge it to me." Paul's actions are utterly senseless according to human laws; as such, they bear the marks of his true allegiance to the law of the gospel.

In Luke, Jesus states the only way by which to live God's law: through a commitment so absolute that all others are secondary, including those to our families and our own lives. When we choose discipleship, we do so with our whole hearts and our whole lives, renouncing forever all that we possess, and all that possesses us.

[The Scripture]

luke 14 .25-33

25 Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, 26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.