

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

Consumer Center Church

Thursday Evenings on hold for the summer

249 High Street Pottstown, PA 19464
7:00 to 8:00

Prayer Requests:

Continue to pray for Buzz as he completes his chemotherapy and radiation over the next few months, and that he finds his way toward Christ's community and worship.

Please continue your prayers for Melody Garges and family, as she struggles with a new cancer treatment. 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.

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

The Code Enforcement Officer is trying to make the road to opening difficult. Please pray that God would bless her, or remove her from offending the poor.

Your Prayer Notes:

September 30, 2007: **Proper 21** (Year C)

**psalm 91.1-6, 14-16, jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15,
luke 16.19-31, & 1 timothy 6.6-19**

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

© 2007 still waters home churches & worship center
Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona Lake, IN 46590



Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

King St Commons Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

King St. Pottstown, PA 19464
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

still waters of Pottstown
home churches & worship center

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

September 23 :: 2007

FOOLING PEOPLE
Stumbling into Blessings.

Worship

psalm 79.1-9

jeremiah 8.18 - 9:1

luke 16.1-13

1 timothy 2.1-7

Benediction

proper 20 (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 ::

Psalm 79.1-9

Worship Film ::

“Jeremiah 8.18 - 9:1”

Scripture Reading ::

1 Timothy 2.1-7

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds
with songs of joy

Focus Films ::

“Bigger than Us?”

The Scripture ~

Fooling People
Stumbling into Blessings.

Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'
Luke 16. 3 & 4

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 79.1-9, jeremiah 8.18 - 9:1,
luke 16.1-13, & 1 timothy 2.1-7

Reflection Film ::

“Hands & Feet of Jesus”

Benediction ::

revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21

[Journaling Worship]

your discussion notes...



Meditation:

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2.1b—2)

Reflection:

“The epistle to Timothy urges us to pray for political authorities. Reading Romans 13 and Revelations 13, shows one reason why this is so important: Even a legitimate state able to discern between good and evil is always in danger of becoming an instrument of Satan.”

still waters

home church studies

psalm 79.1-9

[Worship]

1 O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. 2 They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth. 3 They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. 4 We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us. 5 How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire? 6 Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name. 7 For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation. 8 Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Engaging the World – This week's passages are confounding. Jesus advises his disciples to use "worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings" (Luke 16:9). Paul seems to endorse the use of worldly power structures by advising Timothy's congregation to pray for those in power that "we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." What's going on here?

Just when the disciples think they understand the kingdom of God, Jesus throws them with a new idea. "It's not what you think," Jesus is saying. "Keep on your toes, keep engaging with the Word." Within these strange verses we learn something of the new order Jesus issues. We are to engage with every sphere of life with holy, transforming reverence. The children of light should never assume that they've figured it all out and have nothing to learn from outsiders.

We are not free from engaging with the world and its structures. This includes filthy lucre. According to verse 14, the Pharisees were listening. Jesus is once again trying to draw these teachers of the people into God's view of things, inviting them to use wealth as a means to serve God's people.

We are not permitted to abandon anyone within our society, including those within the ranks of the powers and principalities. This is not an endorsement of structures of oppression, but an invitation to stay engaged and compassionate, praying for their transformation and liberation to serve God. To live as God's children is to refuse to regard people through the labels and categories the system of oppression creates. This means those at the top of society need as much (if not more) love and prayer as those at the bottom of society.

The manager responds with urgency to an imminent event—his dismissal. Jesus prods us to be alert, for the kingdom of God is nigh. Do we live with a sense of the imminent kingdom of God? Do we recognize God in the small things as well as the large? Do we consider the "very little" with which we are entrusted as being of utmost import? *Kari Jo Verhulst*



[The Scripture]

1 timothy 2 .1-7

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6 who gave himself a ransom for all--this was attested at the right time. 7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.