

**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

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**William's Home Church**

**Friday Afternoons**

61 N. Evans St. Pottstown, PA 19464

11:00 pm to 12:30 pm

**Announcements:**

The mobile MAIN Street Shelter is hosted by our friends at St. John's United Church of Christ. Remember to pray for them.

**Prayer Requests:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

Please pray that God would bless the NorCo Board of Supervisors and hinder them in offending the poor.

Pray for the MAIN Street Staff, and for more workers to enter this harvest field.

Pray for Zenona as she completes her chemotherapy.

Pray for Marvin Freed, who is suffering from liver failure.

Lord, immerse us into your will and presence ...

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm



6:00 to 8:00

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening**

Each Month – Check with Church for Transportation Arrangements

**Consumer Center Church**

**Thursday Evenings**

249 High Street Pottstown, PA 19464

7:00 to 8:00

**Norman's Game Night**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Evening** Each Month

Locations to be announced

**This Year's Theme:**

*hearing God in 2008*

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

January 20, 2008 Epiphany 2 (Year A)

psalm 40.1-11, isaiah 49.1-7,

john 1.29-42, & 1 corinthians 1.1-9

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

**still waters** of Pottstown  
home churches & worship center

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

January 13, :: 2008

the Baptism of our LORD Sunday

**Drowning:**  
**Becoming drenched in GOD**



**Worship**

psalm 29

isaiah 42:1-9

matthew 3:13-17

acts 10:34-43

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, St. John's Parish House

© 2008 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



[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 29

Worship Film ::

“When He is Revealed”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Worship Film ::

“Isaiah 42”

Focus Films ::

“New Rules”

The Scripture ~

**Drowning:**  
*Becoming drenched in GOD*

I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. Acts 10.34a-36

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 29, isaiah 42:1-9,  
matthew 3:13-17, & acts 10:34-43

Reflection Film ::

“Baptism of Our LORD”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship] your discussion notes...

✚ when worlds collide

✚ corruption as a lifestyle

✚ becoming the covenant

“

**Meditation:**  
*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3.13—15)*

**Reflection:**

In John's ministry, baptism - previously a ritual cleansing for Gentile converts to Judaism - takes on the radical new message that all God's people, Jews and Gentiles, need to repent. Jesus' baptism by John tore down the walls of religious nationalism and elitism.

—Nancy Hastings Sehested

# still waters

home church studies

## isaiah 42.1-9

[Worship]

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. 5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

We seem to have little time for gentleness and humility. In our modern world, the person who does not shout and who tenderly nurtures bruised reeds, as the servant does in Isaiah 42:1-9, is likely to be trodden underfoot. The world of Isaiah was one in which vast competing empires fought with each other for rich pickings. The servant was as likely to be trampled by those stronger than as someone would be today. The values espoused by the servant in Isaiah are countercultural whenever they are practiced.



Jesus acts in the same way. We may think that the way to establish authority is to stand our ground and not to defer to people who are popular, as John the Baptist was. Yet Jesus publicly submits to John during his baptism. Gentleness and humility feature in Jesus' life alongside passion and proclamation; contrary to what we might expect, they are powerful weapons in bringing in the kingdom. Isaiah promises that God's servant will not "grow faint or be crushed" until "he has established justice in the earth" (Isaiah 42:4). The way of gentleness is not an easy one to take but, as Isaiah promises and Jesus illustrates, it is the path that leads to justice.

[The Scripture]

Matthew 3.13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."