

**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 radiation therapy.

Pray for Francis Wambold's health and suicidal thoughts.

Pray for the Thomas' of North Coventry, and the Fire victims on High Street.

Lord, give us the means to help them in Your Name ...

**This Year's Theme:**

hearing God in 2008

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

February 3, 2008 Transfiguration Sunday (Year A)

psalm 99, exodus 24.12-18,  
matthew 17.1-9, & 2 peter 1.16-21

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**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

**still waters** of Pottstown  
home churches & worship center  
"He restores my soul . . . surely goodness and mercy will follow me" Psalm 23

January 27, = 2008

A divided body?  
A Holy Autopsy



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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



[Service]

Tonight...

Worship Film ::

“ Land of the Living ”

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Isaiah 9.1-4

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Focus Films ::

“ Perfectly Fitted ”

The Scripture ~

**A Divided Body?**  
*A Holy Autopsy*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

1 Corinthians 1.10-11

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 27.1, 4-9, isaiah 9.1-4,  
matthew 4.12-23, & 1 corinthians 1.10-18

Reflection Film ::

“ Smile Addiction ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship] your discussion notes...

¥ follow me ?

¥ rearview mirror

¥ dinner lessons

“

**Meditation:**  
*From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4.17—20)*

**Reflection:**

"Repent," Jesus said. "Drop everything and follow me. The kingdom of heaven—the reign of God—is at hand." Sometimes we do just that. After we do it, we begin to argue about who has the right road map, and where this realm is, and what it looks like, and what we need to take with us. Who baptized you, and whose teaching did you receive? Not as good as mine! I'm closer to God than you are!

What happens to the first impulse to follow where we are led, not to let anything get in the way? Repentance is always needed, daily. (Hourly, even.) I find that I'm frequently distracted from God's work, from God's image in my neighbor, by my own selfishness and my own prejudices. Jesus is always calling me back to repent, to follow, to open my eyes as Brother John did, and see the image of God in my enemy, in my friend—in the one baptized by a different teacher.

## Psalm 27.1, 4-9

[Worship]

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

4 One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent: he will set me high on a rock. 6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. 7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! 8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek. 9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

**Consider:**

[Think &amp; Pray...]

Jesus begins to announce the kingdom of heaven at hand, echoing John the Baptist's cry in Matthew 3.2. The Greek word translated "come near" in the NRSV is *eggizo*. Here it is in its perfect tense, suggesting something that has happened in the past and come to completion, and yet has lasting impact for all time. This carries the linguistic implication of being perpetually in the state of happening: the kingdom of heaven is always in the midst of drawing near—imminently imminent, as it were.

Two chapters later, Matthew places the Sermon on the Mount, one of Jesus' explications of what this kingdom both looks like and requires. Deceptively simple, even the beatitudes leave ample room for interpretation.



Paul, writing to the community in Corinth, pastorally intervenes in an all-too familiar scenario. Left to their own devices, ideological camps have formed with competing schemes for sanctity and true believing. Paul implores them to remember whose they are, "so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power" (1 Corinthians 1.17).

Just what is the power of the cross? Left to our own devices, it has been a most effective weapon of oppression, used to justify suffering and thereby pervert everything Jesus stood for.

To choose to follow, like those fishermen who "immediately left their nets" (Matthew 4.20), is to enter completely into God's divine power, without fear of consequences, and without the promise of greatness. In doing so, the power of that ultimate threat—death—has been unseated. Have we come anywhere close to grasping this?

Let me put it another way. Do we love with abandon, no matter how reckless, uncool, or tasteless we appear? Does fear paralyze us from living as if we needn't fear death? Does shame blind us to how forgiven we truly are?

[The Scripture] **1 Corinthians 1.17-18**

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and *not* with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be *emptied* of its power. 18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.