

**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:**

**William's Home Church**

**Monday Afternoons**

61 N. Evans St. Pottstown, PA 19464

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

**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

**This Year's Theme:**

hearing God in 2008

**Prayer Requests:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we ready the shelter for the fall.

Pray for those who do not have homes yet.

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm



**1st Tuesday Evening**

Each Month - Check with Church

for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

**Norman's Game Night**

**3rd Friday Evening** Each Month

Locations to be announced

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**June 8, 2008**

**Proper 5 (Year A)**

**genesis 12.1-9, psalm 33.1-12,**

**matthew 9.9-13, 18-26, & romans 4.13-25**

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



**Rainbows**  
Making Deals with God

**Worship**  
genesis 6.11-22, 7.24, 8.14-19  
psalm 46  
matthew 7.21-29  
romans 1.16-17, 3.22b-31

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's Parish House

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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 ::

“Alright Down Here”

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 46

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Genesis 6:11-15a, 17-19a, 22,  
7:24, 8:14-19

Focus Films ::

“And Then... Genesis 9”

The Scripture ~

## Rainbows Making Deals with God

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Matthew 7.24-27

This week's Lectionary:

genesis 6.11-22, 7.24, 8.14-19, psalm 46,  
matthew 7.21-29, & romans 1.16-17, 3.22b-31

Reflection Film ::

“a New Promise”

Benediction ::

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



[Journaling Worship] your discussion notes...

¥ a murdering God?

¥ dying for rest

¥ a very different flood

“

1.16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

3.22b For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,... " *Romans 1.16-17, 3.22b-24a*

**Meditation:**

**Reflection:**

In Paul's letter to the Romans, the context of the original audience was house churches struggling to live out the revolutionary reality that Christ had effaced the boundaries and hierarchies between male and female, slave and master, Jew and Gentile.

It is vital to bear in mind the original context of his letter to them, which originally was not an abstract theological discourse, but was rather a letter intended to counter ethnic tensions between Jewish Christians, who had been exiled from Rome from 49 to 54 CE, and the Gentile Christians who had continued to develop the church in their absence.

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 46

[Worship]

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

8 Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. 10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*



**Consider:** Kari Jo Verhulst

[Think & Pray...]

Paul's letter to the Romans is a pastoral intervention written to a church in crisis. The Roman house churches were struggling to live as one body amidst tremendous diversity. In theory, male and female, slaves and masters, Jew and Gentile had become a new family—a household of equals reborn in the spirit of the resurrected Jesus. But in reality, the marks of social identity were so deeply internalized that in the face of political, religious, and economic conflict they were dying a much slower death.

Paul sets out to remind and exhort them about how Jesus has changed the means and parameters of entering into God's covenant. The covenant now extends to Jew and Gentile through faith. The "righteousness" or "justice" of God (*dikaio syne* in Greek) "revealed through faith for faith" (Romans 1:17) is the state in which God has put all things right. This justifying activity of God, testified to in "the law and the prophets," has become available through Jesus.

As Krister Stendahl notes, the question for which Paul answers "we are justified by faith" was not "How can I be sure of God's grace?" but "How can the Gentiles be children of God?" The Roman Christians are not struggling with depictions of hell, or their inability to make things right with each other or with God. Rather, they are trying to negotiate life together in the face of still-present conflicting identities.

Paul's emphasis on the authority and the capacity of God to extend his covenant is underscored in 3:26. What the NRSV translates "[God] justifies the one who has faith in Jesus" can also be translated "faith of Jesus." The "faith of Jesus" is that into which we enter and participate, not something we possess.

[The Scripture]

## Matthew 7.21-29

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' 23 Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.' 24 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!" 28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, 29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.