

**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

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**Home Churches:**

**Hanover St. Home Church**

**Tuesday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19456

7:00 to 9:00

**Buddy's Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

Sports Corner Bar, York St

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



**Community Table, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening**

Each Month - Check with Church for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

**Norman's Game Night**

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

Locations to be announced

**This Year's Theme:**

hearing God in 2008



**Your Prayer Notes:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

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

Pray for Pastor Kenn Cosgrove and Family. They must move out of their home by August 15<sup>th</sup>, and are looking for another.

Please keep Helen & Hank in your prayers. Hank has been sick for a while and is awaiting test results to diagnose fatigue, pain and confusion, while Helen is still struggling with leg problems.

Merciful LORD, please watch over us as we find our place in you. Amen.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**August 10, 2008 Proper 14 (Year A)**

genesis 37.1-4, 12-28, psalm 105. 1-6, 16-22,

matthew 14.22-33, & romans 10.5-15

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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

August 3 :: 2008

**Wrestling with God**  
Becoming Israel when wills collide



**Worship**

genesis 32.22-31

psalm 17.1-7, 15

matthew 14.13-21

romans 9.1-5

**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...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 17.1-7, 15

Worship Film ::

“ Invitation to the Thirsty ”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Genesis 32.22-31

Focus Film ::

“ The 5 & Two ”

The Scripture ~

## Wrestling with God

### Becoming Israel when wills collide

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,..."

Genesis 32.24-28a

This week's Lectionary:

genesis 32.22-31, psalm 17.1-7, 15,  
matthew 14.13-21, & romans 9.1-5

Reflection Film ::

“ Acts 2 ”

Benediction ::

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



[Journaling Worship  
your discussion notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]

wanting both worlds

✚ bad examples

✚ compassion & crowds



### Meditation:

*But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." Matthew 14.13b-17*

### Reflection:

After John is beheaded for speaking truth to Herod's power, the people follow Jesus into the wilderness, perhaps expecting a declaration of revolution - and in a way they get one, as they feed each other in an example of kingdom values.

The feeding of the 5,000 shows God through the humble, holy work of hospitality: The simple and the scarce become a feast, the reluctant disciples become servants of bounty, and the people - all the people - taste, eat, and are filled.

How do we incarnate those values in our lives?

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 17.1-7, 15

[Worship]

1 Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. 2 From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right. 3 If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. 4 As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. 5 My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. 6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. 7 Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. 15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Confronted with evening's advent, the disciples survey the crowds, observe the isolation of their surroundings, and start digging around in their pockets. Five loaves and two fish won't go very far. Briefly they panic, kick themselves for failing to anticipate a longer, more populous journey than they'd set out for, then stumble upon a solution: Send the crowds back into the villages to buy food, before they notice how hungry they've gotten.

Jesus doesn't let them off that easily. His words "you give them something to eat" force them to confront their deepest fear—soon the crowds will realize what inadequate people they truly are. The threat of being exposed—as lacking somehow—is compounded by the threat of the disgust awaiting us when the ones we've deceived—in the disciples' case, Jesus—realize that we've fooled them into loving us. The day of their calling, they must have appeared unusually smart and of good courage.

Chances are, you think you are the only one who lives in this fear of being found out. That sense of ourselves comes from the same economy of scarcity that makes us fret over how to stretch bread and fish, our selves, and our love. In the face of such want, and of our own failings and limitations, it seems utterly foolhardy to trust in God's abundant gifts, laid out before us and coursing through our veins. Yet this is the presumption God commends us to embody. While we run around readying ourselves—acquiring the right skills, the right personality, the right spirituality—God is busy calling us as we are now to become his body distributed in the world.

Jesus thanks God for the bread and fish, then breaks and distributes it to the crowd. So, too, Jesus thanks God for us, then breaks and distributes us to the world.



[The Scripture]

## Genesis 32.13-21

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.