

**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

**Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

TBD

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



**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.

Please pray for Norman to be able to find meaningful, and Godly volunteer work to keep himself busy and fulfilled since leaving his job at Staples.

Neil still needs to find a place to live. Please pray for him, and let him know if you know of a place. You could be part of God's directing them to their own homes.

Pray for The Ricky Williams family during a difficult time.

Merciful LORD, please help us to walk humbly before you, seeking to be instruments of in furtherance of your kingdom. Amen.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**September 21, 2008**

**Proper 20 (Year A)**

**exodus 16.2-15, psalm 105.1-6, 37-45,**

**matthew 20.1-16, & philippians 1.21-30**

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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

September 14 :: 2008

**Killing Egyptians**  
Or, When the light of forgiveness  
fades



**Worship**

exodus 14.19-31

exodus 15.1b-11, 20-21

matthew 18.21-35

romans 14.1-12

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 8:30, 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 ::

Exodus 14.18-31

Worship Film ::

“Forgiveness”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Exodus 15.1b-11, 20-21

Focus Film ::

“Hebrew Atonement”

The Scripture ~

## Killing Egyptians

Or, when the light of forgiveness fades

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Exodus 14.19-20

This week's Lectionary:

exodus 14.19-31, exodus 15.1b-11, 20-21,  
matthew 18.21-35, & romans 14.1-12

Reflection Film ::

“A True Forgiveness”

Benediction ::

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



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

✧ Israelite Army?

✧ taking the low road

✧ finding forgiveness



**Meditation:**

*For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Romans 14.9-12*

**Reflection:**

*The Exodus experience, in which God's miracles take the place of military combat, sets a standard for biblical liberation. Yoder, a renowned Mennonite theologian, challenges God's people to avoid the danger of producing a new Pharaoh instead of a new life.*

## Matthew 18.21-35 [Worship]

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on

you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

"Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends." The quote from Shakespeare was on the sign in front of an Italian restaurant in Washington, Pennsylvania. Words of wisdom, right below the weekly pasta special.

Jesus' call to forgive seventy times seven (Matthew 18:22) is not, of course, to be taken literally—490 times, not a single more. We are to forgive as often as it takes, and then some. There is not a statute of limitations or a top limit. Put together with Paul's exhortation against judgment (Romans 14:5-12), we have two of the most basic and two of the most difficult teachings in Christian life. Who can say they have completely, consistently followed both?

Jesus specifically did not promise that following him would lead away from conflict. ("Do not think that I have come to bring peace on Earth..."—Matthew 10:34. And see Matthew 18:15-20, which lays out a method for dealing with conflict between members of the community of faith.) But before we burn all our bridges and ready ourselves for casting out those with whom we disagree, we must know that it doesn't mean we're finished with them. Even if conflict requires separation—in a family, church, or community—we are still called to forgive the one we strive with, and not to judge them.

Righteous anger may be the most dangerous kind—justified, often necessary, but it is like a cornered animal if not acknowledged, like a slow poison if not dispersed when its rightful work is done. How do we keep needed arguments on principles from destroying the bonds of life? Do we regularly seek the embrace of a God who forgives each one with infinite mercy and loves each one without bounds? At the end of the day, do we eat and drink as friends? --Julie Polter



[Addl. Scripture]

Read **Romans 14.1-12**