

**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, and as we begin to plans for the mobile shelter season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends

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.

Remember those who have lost everything in the High Street fire on Friday. Pray as to what our role is in Christ's grace toward them.

Merciful LORD, please help us to walk humbly before you, seeking to be instruments of righteousness in the furtherance of your kingdom; to those who love you, and those who will, according to your mercy. Amen.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**September 28, 2008**

**Proper 21 (Year A)**

**exodus 17.1-7, psalm 78.1-4, 12-16,**

**matthew 21.23-32, & philippians 2.1-13**

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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 21 :: 2008

**Complaining & Singing**  
Or, demanding fairness, freedom  
& security



**Worship**

exodus 16.2-15

psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

matthew 20.1-16

philippians 1.21-30

**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 ::

Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

Worship Film ::

“Enough”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Exodus 16.2-15

Focus Film ::

“ME church”

The Scripture ~

## Complaining & Singing

Or, demanding fairness, freedom & security

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

Exodus 16.2-4

This week's Lectionary:

exodus 16.2-15, psalm 105.1-6, 37-45,  
matthew 20.1-16, & philippians 1.21-30

Reflection Film ::

“A New Repentance”

Benediction ::

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



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

✚ remembering & perspectives

✚ show me the Manna

✚ greed & enough



### Meditation:

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20.10-12, 16

### Reflection:

In this brief meditation, there is a resentment with which we sometimes respond to God's economy of "enough." Whether in the manna story or in Matthew 20's parable of the workers, the grace with which God forgives our greed and blindness should be gratefully acknowledged, and fully celebrated when grace find a home in others deemed "not deserving" by the world.

## still waters

home church studies

### Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45 [Worship]

1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled. 38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it. 39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night. 40 They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance. 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river. 42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant. 43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. 44 He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples, 45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

#### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

There's nothing like coming face to face with existential dilemmas right in the middle of scripture. In Exodus we witness the portrayal of one of the most archetypal struggles of the human condition—human freedom. Like the Israelites, we experience it on our own desert journeys toward liberation. The exodus is not a one-time event but an ever-present invitation to march with God through the desert, aiming for freedom.

Like the Israelites, our faith often gives way and we find ourselves longing for the comfort and security of spiritual slavery, someone telling us what is right and wrong, what to do, where to go. We long for a "Santa Claus God" who will allow us to remain spiritually passive and dependent, not a God who demands our input and active effort to maintain the covenant. The Israelites never finally solved the dilemma of human freedom, and neither have we. Our religious inheritance is the struggle itself, trying to balance the gift and responsibility of freedom with our inclination toward fear and the need for security and control.

As Christians, our journey toward freedom begins and ends with Christ, whose body becomes the anchor that grounds our lives and prevents us from being swept away by so many winds. When we accept our freedom and joyfully build Christ's body, every hour and every day, we too become sources of strength and stability for others—and bread for the life of the world. —Michaela Bruzzese



[Scripture]

### Philippians 1.21-30

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.