

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

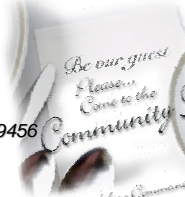
7:00 to 9:00

Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

TBD

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



1st Tuesday Evening

Each Month – Check with Church for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

Norman's Game Night

3rd 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 plans for the mobile shelter season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends.

Pray for Buddy O'Donnell's brother Jack, who is in Manor Care, suffering with foot surgery and complications from diabetes.

Please also remember those of us who are struggling to find work in this broken economy.

Merciful LORD, please help us to reflect your graciousness in the world. Help us to see individuals only from your holy perspective and not ours. That your will be done. Amen.

Next Week's Scriptures:

October 19, 2008 Proper 24 (Year A)

exodus 33.12-23, psalm 99,

matthew 22.15-22, & 1 thessalonians 1.1-10

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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

October 12 :: 2008

Odd Etiquette
Or, look who's coming to dinner...



Worship

exodus 32.1-14

psalm 106.1-6, 19-23

matthew 22.1-14

philippians 4.1-9

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 ::

Philippians 4.1-9

Worship Film ::

“First & Last”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Exodus 32.1-14

Focus Film ::

“Psalm 106”

The Scripture ~

Odd Etiquette

Or, look who's coming to dinner

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, . .

Matthew 22: 2-5a

This week's Lectionary:

exodus 32.1-14, psalm 106.1-6, 19-23,
matthew 22.1-14, & philippians 4.1-9

Reflection Film ::

“False Idols”

Benediction ::

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



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

¥ idols & kings

¥ the dangerous & the decent

¥ changing lords



Meditation:

Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless." **Matthew 22.9—12**

Reflection:

This parable leaves us off balance. Since it is addressed to the priests and Pharisees, we could dismiss it as a message just for them, the religious establishment that rejected God's new word in Jesus. But if we see scripture as "living," we also have to hear this parable addressed to us.

Have we ignored or acted complicitly, in the killing of God's messengers? Or are we recipients of the second invitation, the ones who always had our noses pressed to the windows, but now are inside, overwhelmed by the candlelight and clink of glasses?

What *do* you wear to the kingdom of heaven party?



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 106.1-6, 19-23 [Worship]

1 Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. 2 Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all his praise? 3 Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. 4 Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them; 5 that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage. 6 Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

19 They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image. 20 They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. 21 They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, 22 wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. 23 Therefore he said he would destroy them—had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

What are we to make of the jarring details in Matthew's version of Jesus' parable of the banquet? Is God represented by a king who burns a city for killing his slaves, holds his banquet in the same city, and then has his servants "cast into the outer darkness" a late-invited street guest for not wearing a wedding garment that no street person would possess?

Matthew has made the first part of the parable into a morality tale, taking the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. as God's punishment upon those Judeans who "refused their invitation" to the messianic banquet. In the second part, he has added a symbolic dress code for the finally invited Gentiles, that they

put on the garment of Christian life if they want to remain at the messianic celebration.

Luke's version of the same parable offers a picture more consistent with Jesus' teaching on forgiveness and love of enemies. In his banquet (Luke 14:16-24), invitations are simply extended to "the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame," after others better off have made their excuses for not coming.



What is my response to Jesus' ongoing invitation to God's banquet table?

Am I too proud or busy to be with the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame who eat with Jesus? —Jim Douglas

[Scripture]

Philippians 4.1-9

1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.