

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

7:00 to 9:00

MAIN Street Shelter

December @ St. John's UCC

High & Price Streets, Pottstown

Pick up at the Pear Resource Center

High Street

7:00 to 9:00

Bright Hope Community Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

Canceled for December

This Year's Theme:

hearing God in 2008



Please, this Christmas, remember our campaign to help those in Liberia who need the simplicity of clean drinking water. It's a matter of life, and death for them.

Gracious LORD, as we await your coming, give us your Holy Spirit, to proclaim justice in our land; to announce release from bondage, and to become your pleasure. Help us LORD, to be your voice in our wilderness of trouble, and thank you for the baptism of your JOY. Work in us to become your peculiar images of this JOY to those needing to know you and your kingdom, both in the Church and outside. May your will be done. Amen.

Remember:



Please join us Christmas Eve for Worship.

- > 5:30 PM In the Parish House
- > 8:30 PM Joint Congregational Christmas Celebration In the Parish House
- > 11:00 St John Christmas Eve Late Service In the Main Church Building

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we operate the mobile shelter this season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends.

Pray for Benjamin to find a permanent housing solution for himself and his mother.

Next Week's Scriptures:

December 28, 2008: Christmas 1 (Year B)

psalm 148, isaiah 61.10 - 62.3,
luke 2.22-40, & galatians 4.4-7

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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

December 21 - 2008



Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

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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...

Responsive Reading:

Advent 4, LOVE Candle Lighting

Worship Film ::

“Conversations with an Angel”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Focus Film ::

“Mary’s Song”

The Scripture ~

The Promise

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

2 Samuel 7.10, 11 & 16

This week’s Lectionary:
Forth Sunday of Advent

2 samuel 7.1-11, 16, luke 1.26-38,
luke 1.47-55, & romans 16.25-27

Reflection Film ::

“4 Advent Conspiracy”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship
your talking points notes...
for this Week’s Church Discussion]

✚ promise of old

✚ promise foretold

✚ promise revealed



Meditation:

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

Luke 1.50—53

Reflection:

In Mary's day, the angel's reference to Samuel's vision of the Davidic line was politically loaded sedition. Mary, in the epitome of Advent faith, responds with the Magnificat - the most revolutionary anthem in the Bible. — Bill Wylie-Kellermann

still waters

home church studies

Luke 1.47-55

[Worship]

47 "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]



by Peter B. Price

The impossible is possible! An infertile woman becomes pregnant (Luke 1:13, 24, 36). A virgin conceives (1:35). Gabriel, the mythical war angel, instructs Mary to name the child after a freedom fighter: "You must name him

Jesus" (or Joshua). The name means "savior"—a title, like Son of the Most High (1:32), often given to Greek and Roman military leaders.

Mary is told that "the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule forever" (1:32-33). This rule will be marked by "saving justice and fair judgments, faithful love and constancy" (Psalm 89:14). This strong

This strong political message will fulfill the hopes and dreams of generations who have longed for liberation.

Overwhelmed, Mary asks, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" (1:34). Suddenly, it's all very human. God chooses to achieve his purpose in the ordinary—someone's will, a woman's womb, a displaced birth (Luke 2:4-5), life among the outcast and poor (Matthew 8:20; Luke 7:34). And in the child of the barren one, the moment of quickening is the sign of God's spirit entering another human being (1:41).

When people like Elizabeth and Mary find the courage to cooperate with God, the impossible becomes possible.

Talking Points

Have you ever experienced the impossible becoming possible? What happened? Have you ever seen love come to birth as a result of someone's courage and vulnerability? Where are the signs of "saving justice and fair judgments, faith and constancy," that mark God's reign?

Reflection and Action

In what ways have you brought about some change during the past few weeks?

[Scripture]

Romans 16.25-27

25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.