

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

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Tuesday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

Bright Hope Community Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

MAIN Street Shelter

On Summer Hiatus Until November

Fund raising and shelter cleanup efforts are beginning this month

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

Announcements:

Shenkel UCC in North Coventry, in their attempt to host our shelter for 2 years now, might be coming to the end of a long road, legally with North Coventry. The ACLU has filed a law suit on their behalf. Our friends at Shenkel have done this reluctantly, not wanting conflict with the Township, but when the world's kingdoms come into conflict with Christ's kingdom and following Him, we must be obedient to our King. Keep them in prayer!

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

2008/2009 Season has come to an end and the work of fund raising, laundry, and storage are beginning. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Ron Caulk for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation, remember Bruce Heller who is in Manor Care Nursing Home, they are exercising him, and he will probably be there for a long time. Drop in and see him or send him a card. See Francis for his address and visiting hours.

Remember Michael's friend who's family is enduring a very difficult time, and are in danger of losing their farm, and for Donna who is lost in the confusion of religion and the thoughts of her mind.

Thank God for Marcy Draper's healing. Her surgery was successful and the biopsy proved her to be cancer free!!! Thank you LORD!!

Please, also keep all of us in prayer; as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us, our mission, and judge us out of ignorance.

Next Week's Scriptures:

June 14, 2009: Proper 6 (Year B)

psalm 20, 1 samuel 15:34 - 16:13,
mark 4:26-34, & 2 corinthians 5:6-17

Get in touch with us at:

i. www.besidestillwaters.net e. Info@besidestillwaters.net

256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022

Phone: (610) 970-2444

Fax: (484) 363-4017

still waters
home churches & worship center

June 7 = 2009

Born Again?
Or, citizenship vs. religious
rightness

Trinity Sunday
Worship
psalm 29

Isaiah 6:1-8

john 3: 1-17

romans 8:12-17

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



INCORPORATED 2002
MEMBER OF THE CHURCH

[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 29

Focus Film ::

“A New Law”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Isaiah 6.1-8

Focus Film ::

“Domesticated Jesus”

The Scripture ~

Born Again?

Or, citizenship vs. religious rightness

Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

John 3.3—9

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 29, isaiah 6.1-8,
john 3.1-17, & romans 8.12-17

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

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Meditation:

... The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." **Isaiah 6.4—7**

Reflection:

"...in the face of it all, while Isaiah ran through the city naked for three years to save a Judah that, in the long run, fell prey to its own arrogance anyway, Israel 'ate, drank, and made merry' - sure of its divine election and sunk up to its heart in divine reprobation; complacent in its wealth; disdainful of its poor; violent with one another. "The leadership called it 'progress.' The priests called it 'blessing.' The wealthy called it 'good times.' But Isaiah called it 'sin'.... God knows we need Isaiah now." —Joan Chittister



still waters

home church studies

Psalms 29

[Worship]

1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. 3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. 9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" 10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. 11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Consider:

[Words]

"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Well, I suppose it depends who is asking! When Isaiah had his vision in the temple, he was in no doubt that the "Lord seated on a high and lofty throne" was asking the questions. The psalmist speaks of God as lord of the storm, and describes the storm as revealing the creative and saving power of God. This God, the one who continues to act in creation and to seek justice, is the one who calls.

Isaiah and the people of Judah faced political uncertainty. War clouds were gathering. Uzziah, one of the better monarchs, has died. Isaiah knows he is implicated in the sins of his people who have become indifferent to their faith and who have ceased to practice justice. Isaiah experiences what it means to be "born from above" (John 3:7).

Nicodemus was under the influence of a religious tradition that taught a faith that was to be managed, protected, and guarded. Yet his late-night visit with Jesus revealed some heart longings. Perhaps he expected a dialogue in dogmatics, but what he got from Jesus was poetry.

Jesus beckoned Nicodemus into God's citizenship. To enter meant nothing short of a total transformation and being born of God's Spirit. When this Spirit takes hold, it can confuse the controlling and baffle the bigoted.

Nicodemus represented one of the many "secret Christians" of the synagogue. As a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, he was a high-profile person. Yet he made a risky visit to Jesus. A secret discussion in the night. They did not speak the same language. Jesus encouraged Nicodemus to be born of water, be baptized, pledging allegiance publicly to the community of the committed Christ-followers.

The rebirth experience Jesus proclaimed was not a decision full of gushy feelings, but a new action, moving into the community of the persecuted. Jesus saw Nicodemus as one of the thoroughly informed, and utterly lifeless. Nicodemus' faith stayed within the tiny box of human religiosity. Jesus' faith expressed a leap into God's realm of risky redemption for others.

Reflection and Action

Have you ever sensed the presence of God? What was it like? Did you feel God wanted a particular response from you? How is God calling you and your faith community to "come out into the light"?

[Scripture]

Romans 8.12-17

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.