

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

Announcements:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

2009/2010 Season is beginning to ramp up and we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage to beginning. We are dangerously low on overnight staff, threatening our November opening. 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!!

Your Prayer Notes:

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; remember.

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:

October 4, 2009: Proper 22 (Year B)

psalm 26, job 1.1; 2.1-10,

mark 10.2-16, & hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

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September 27 - 2009

Gloriously Broken
Or, learning to righteously
Fall Apart

Worship
psalm 124
esther 7.1-6, 9-10, 9.20-22
mark 9.38-50
james 5.13-20

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship
75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465
Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, 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...

Focus Film ::

“If You Had Not Been With Us”

Scripture Reading ::

James 5.13-20

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his

Scripture Reading ::

deeds with songs of joy

“Esther 7.1-6, 9-10; 9.20-22”

Focus Film ::

“Culturally Developed”

The Scripture ~

Gloriously Broken Or, learning to righteously

Fall Apart
For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,...

Mark 9. 41—43

This week's Lectionary:
psalm 124, esther 7.1-6, 9-10; 9.20-22,
mark 9.38-50, & james 5.13-20

Focus Film ::

“Grieve For Renewal”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

[Journaling Worship
your talking points notes...

for this Week's Church Discussion]
¥ who's in who's out...

¥ risk for justice

¥ the language of inclusion

“

Meditation:
John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us." Mark 8. 38—40

Reflection:

"God's prophets, in reflecting on Mark 9.40, will not always speak our language, pray our prayers, or look like us. We should therefore look to God's kingdom rather than our power or territory." --
Michaela Bruzzese

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Psalm 124

[Worship]

1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, 3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; 4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; 5 then over us would have gone the raging waters. 6 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Consider: Peter B. Price

[Words]

"Anyone who is not against us is for us," says Jesus to the disciple John (Mark 9:40). The disciples had been arguing over status, and Jesus had given them a visual parable by embracing a little child, saying, "Anyone who welcomes a little child such as this...welcomes me." He continues to surprise by advising his disciples that the most basic hospitality, the "gift of a cup of water," is evidence of being "for us." An important task for God's people is discerning allies who are allies in "escaping from the fowler's net" (Psalm 124:7).

Esther is the most secular book in the scriptures. It tells of a Jewish woman who has found favor with a pagan monarch, acting to prevent the genocide of her people. Boldly risking her privileged position and status with a paranoid ruler, she achieves freedom for her people and brings about the punishment of the chief conspirator to the potential holocaust.

There is little mention of God in this story. It is unlike so much of what we read in the Old Testament. We are left to draw conclusions rather than have them thrown at us. Michael Fox has commented that it is "the willingness to face history with an openness to the possibility of providence—even when history seems to weigh against its likelihood...this is a stance of profound faith."

Elie Wiesel, commenting on a meeting of "righteous Gentiles" in New York, spoke of those who had defended Jews in the European holocaust: "Most who cared were simple people who didn't even know what they were doing was courageous.... They did it because it was the thing to do. And I felt then, woe to our society if to be human becomes an heroic act."



Jesus understood how much it takes to be a full human being. He saw the need to affirm what was "good" outside his discipleship community and to cut out what was "bad" inside it. To be like salt is to be at peace. The challenge of making shalom calls for "confession of sins to one another" within the community (James 5:16); and outside of it believing that "anyone who is not against us is for us."

Reflection and Action

Who do you sense is "for us" but does not belong to your faith community? Where have you witnessed being human as "an heroic act"? What do you want to affirm as "good" outside, and deal with as "bad" in your church life? Re-read the Michael Fox quote. Do you agree with him?

[Scripture]

James 5.13-20

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. 19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.



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Daily Lectionary Readings
for Ordinary Calendar Year B [Worship]

These readings are adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, Daily Readings for Year One.

Sun Aug 30	am: 148, 149, 150 pm: 114, 115	1 Kng 8:22-40	1 Tim 4:7b-16	John 8:47-59
Mon P17 Aug 31	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	2 Ch 6:32-7:7	Jam 2:1-13	Mark 14:53-65
Tue Sept 1	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	1 Kng 8:65-9:9	Jam 2:14-26	Mark 14:66-72
Wed Sept 2	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	1 Kng 9:24-10:13	Jam 3:1-12	Mark 15:1-11
Thur Sept 3	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	1 Kng 11:1-13	Jam 3:13-4:12	Mark 15:12-21
Fri Sept 4	am: 31 pm: 35	1 Kng 11:26-43	Jam 4:13-5:6	Mark 15:22-32
Sat Sept 5	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	1 Kng 12:1-20	Jam 5:7-12, 19-20	Mark 15:33-39
Sun Sept 6	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	1 Kng 12:21-33	Acts 4:18-31	John 10:31-42
Mon P18 Sept 7	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	1 Kng 13:1-10	Phil 1:1-11	Mark 15:40-47
Tue Sept 8	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	1 Kng 16:23-34	Phil 1:12-30	Mark 16:1-20
Wed Sept 9	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	1 Kng 17:1-24	Phil 2:1-11	Matt 2:1-12
Thur Sept 10	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 66, 67	1 Kng 18:1-19	Phil 2:12-30	Matt 2:13-23
Fri Sept 11	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	1 Kng 18:20-40	Phil 3:1-16	Matt 3:1-12
Sat Sept 12	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	1 Kng 18:41-19:8	Phil 3:17-4:7	Matt 3:13-17
Sun Sept 13	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	1 Kng 19:8-21	Acts 5:34-42	John 11:45-57
Mon P19 Sept 14	am: 56, 57, 58 pm: 64, 65	1 Kng 21:1-16	1 Cor 1:1-19	Matt 4:1-11
Tue Sept 15	am: 61, 62 pm: 68	1 Kng 21:17-29	1 Cor 1:20-31	Matt 4:12-17
Wed Sept 16	am: 72 pm: 119:73-96	1 Kng 22:1-28	1 Cor 2:1-13	Matt 4:18-25
Thur Sept 17	am: 70, 71 pm: 74	1 Kng 22:29-45	1 Cor 2:14-3:15	Matt 5:1-10
Fri Sept 18	am: 69 pm: 73	2 Kng 1:2-17	1 Cor 3:16-23	Matt 5:11-16
Sat Sept 19	am: 75, 76 pm: 23, 27	2 Kng 2:1-18	1 Cor 4:1-7	Matt 5:17-20

Sun Sept 20	am: 93, 96 pm: 34	2 Kng 4:8-37	Acts 9:10-31	Luke 3:7-18
Mon P20 Sept 21	am: 80 pm: 77, 19	2 Kng 5:1-19	1 Cor 4:8-21	Matt 5:21-26
Tue Sept 22	am: 78:1-39 pm: 78:40-72	2 Kng 5:19-27	1 Cor 5:1-8	Matt 5:27-37
Wed Sept 23	am: 119:97-120 pm: 81, 82	2 Kng 6:1-23	1 Cor 5:9-6:8	Matt 5:38-48
Thur Sept 24	am: 83 pm: 85, 86	2 Kng 9:1-16	1 Cor 6:12-20	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Fri Sept 25	am: 88 pm: 91, 92	2 Kng 9:17-37	1 Cor 7:1-9	Matt 6:7-15
Sat Sept 26	am: 87, 90 pm: 136	2 Kng 11:1-20a	1 Cor 7:10-24	Matt 6:19-24
Sun Sept 27	am: 66, 67 pm: 19, 46	2 Kng 17:1-18	Acts 9:36-43	Luke 5:1-11
Mon P21 Sept 28	am: 89:1-18 pm: 89:19-52	2 Kng 17:24-41	1 Cor 7:25-31	Matt 6:25-34
Tue Sept 29	am: 97, 99, 100 pm: 94, 95	2 Ch 29:1-3, 30:1-27	1 Cor 7:32-40	Matt 7:1-12
Wed Sept 30	am: 101, 109 pm: 119:121-144	2 Kng 18:9-25	1 Cor 8:1-13	Matt 7:13-21
Thur Oct 1	am: 105:1-22 pm: 105:23-45	2 Kng 18:28-37	1 Cor 9:1-15	Matt 7:22-29
Fri Oct 2	am: 102 pm: 107:1-32	2 Kng 19:1-20	1 Cor 9:16-27	Matt 8:1-17
Sat Oct 3	am: 107:33-43, 108 pm: 33	2 Kng 19:21-36	1 Cor 10:1-13	Matt 8:18-27

your talking points notes...