

**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**

**Is discontinued until Spring 2010**

Washington & Chestnut Sts.

**Home Churches:**

**Hanover St. Home Church**

**Tuesday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**March's Host Church is**

**Trinity Reformed UCC**

**Fund raising and Shelter Intake**

**Center cleanup efforts provide many volunteering opportunities.**

**Announcements:**

**Norman Vanderlick** has moved to a group home in Harleysville. Please consider writing him a note love and encouragement while he settles in.

**His new address is: 140 Crescent Ln, Harleysville, PA 19438**

We will be trying to coordinate bringing him to dinner, church, and singing once a month. Pray and see where you might fit in assuring him of our love for him.

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

We are still working at fund raising, laundry, Intake staffing, and we are still in need of overnight staff. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork, Ron Caulk or Tanya Braken for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

**Your Prayer Notes:**

**Remember in prayer, those requests from last week and:**

*The dear people of Haiti and Chile, devastated by the earthquake.* **Grace Brethren International Missions, in Partnership with Convoy of Hope and The American Red Cross,** is working on a plan to assist those hurt by this disaster. They have already begun this work and **YOU can help** in prayer and as we collect monetary gifts to aid our FGBC in emergency relief and recovery efforts. Please, seek God as to your sacrificial involvement of Christ's love to our neighbours in crisis.

Remember Ron's health difficulties and to keep him strong while running the shelter; Patrice's thyroid difficulties; the Grater family, who's elderly father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer; for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and the future of Still Waters. Also, pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

Please, also keep all of us in prayers; 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:**

March 14, 2010: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year C)

psalm 32, joshua 5.9-12,

luke 15.1-3, 11b-32, & 2 corinthians 5.16-21

Get in touch with us at:

i. [www.besidestillwaters.net](http://www.besidestillwaters.net) e. [Info@besidestillwaters.net](mailto:Info@besidestillwaters.net)

256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022

Phone: (610) 970-2444

Fax: (484) 363-4017



March 7 - 2010

# Corruption & Collaboration

Or, temptation of Shaping  
Our Own god

Lent 3

Worship

psalm 63.1-8  
isaiah 55.1-9  
luke 13.1-9  
1 corinthians 10.1-13

Benediction

# Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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



[Service]

## Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“ Invitation to the Thirsty ”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 63.1-8

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Isaiah 55.1-9

This week's Lectionary Text:

psalm 63.1-8, isaiah 55.1-9,  
luke 13.1-9, & 1 corinthians 10.1-13

Focus Film ::

“ Fitting In Neatly ”

The Scripture ~

## Corruption & Collaboration

*Or, temptation of Shaping*

*He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: ... Luke 13.2—6a*

Focus Film ::

“ Dying and being Raised ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

✚ the joy of judging

✚ lessons in failure

✚ common struggles

“

**Meditation:**

*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." Isaiah 55.2—3a*

**Reflection:**

Our idols of comfort, security, and accomplishment cannot shield us from suffering and mortality; Lent invites us to let go of these false gods and delight in what is truly good. —**Michaela Bruzese**

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 63.1-8

[Worship]

1 O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. 5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips 6 when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; 7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

### Consider:



Lent is a time for making decisions about God's good news and our life in the world. The decisions pose the question: "What is better?" In Psalm 63, we get an answer, "God's steadfast love is better than life." The Psalm evokes a plethora of images: God's fidelity is like water in a weary land; a feast of rich food; a shadow amid the hot sun; a strong hand that keeps one from falling. The Psalm

invites reflection on God's reliability for which there is no adequate substitute in our busy world of consumerism.

Corinthians is more concrete. Here the alternative is to "desire evil." The phrase gives Paul a chance to review ancient history as an "example." That memory includes the "golden calf" (Exodus 32; Corinthians 10:7-8) and murmuring in the wilderness (Numbers 21:4-6; Corinthians 10:9). The "desire of evil" is an alternative of self-sufficiency, to shape our "gods" according to

our convenience. "Desiring evil" in our contemporary society is to imagine with enough power, goods, and control one does not need the gift of fidelity.

Isaiah's poem sets the choice that God's people are always making—free water, milk, and bread, or the rat-race of self-sufficiency. "Seek the Lord" is an invitation to abandon self-sufficiency for life in the gospel. Luke, with its two odd case studies, is preoccupied with "repentance" and the call to "bear fruit." The hard part is choosing to live differently. That is always the important part, now as it was then. Life in the rat-race makes us "prey for jackals" (Psalm 63:10) without time to bless and thank God (Psalm 63:6) **Walter Bruggemann**

[Scripture]

## 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. 6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.