

**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; 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

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March 14 - 2010

Happy Transgressors  
Or, the other Prodigal Son



Lent 4  
Worship  
psalm 32  
joshua 5. 9-12  
luke 15. 1-3, 11b-32  
2 corinthians 5.16-21

Benediction



75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465  
Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's Parish House



[Service]

## Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Prodigal Daughter”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 32

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Joshua 5.9-12

This week's Lectionary Text:

psalm 32, joshua 5.9-12,  
luke 15.1-3, 11b-32, & 2 corinthians 5.16-21

Focus Film ::

“How Does God See Us”

The Scripture ~

## Happy Transgressors Or, the other Prodigal

*'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'*

Luke 15.29-32

Focus Film ::

“It Takes Time”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

✚ prodigal to prophet

✚ a little confession

“

**Meditation:**  
Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable." Luke 15.1-3a

**Reflection:**

Oh the process of coming home, and embracing the new life offered by God through repentance, is neither short nor easy - yet renewal awaits us. —Michaela Bruzzese

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 32

[Worship]

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. 10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

### Consider:

[Words]

Lent is a time to ponder and receive the new life that God wants to give. All of these readings are about new creation that is both personal and public. The familiar story of the Prodigal Son concerns the gracious welcome home of a wayward, exploitative son, so that the family can sing and dance and eat in joy (Luke 15:22-24). The son must be willing,

but it all depends on the father's readiness to reach beyond propriety to limitless self-giving.

That story, whereby Jesus justifies keeping company with the "unacceptable," is paralleled in the narrative of Israel's entry into the land of promise. The new land of bounty is a gift from God, not unlike the big party given by the father. Such a gift of new land (new creation!) removes the "disgrace" of being slaves in Egypt (Joshua 5:9). The "disgrace" of enslaved Israel is similar to the disgrace of the enslaved son. In both cases, a generous God transforms life. Psalm 32 is a meditation on the wonder of forgiveness. Without forgiveness there is loss of strength and psychosomatic symptom (32:3-4); after forgiveness, there is gladness and joy (verse 11).



Imagine in Lent that personal disgrace may be transformed! In our national community, the disgrace of slavery, racial, ethnic, and gender brutality, and the violence of war may be transformed into viable life in community. It all turns from God's readiness, the very readiness exhibited in Jesus' life among the socially unwelcome, now welcomed, like the prodigal child, home at last. **Walter Bruggemann**

[Scripture]

## 2 Corinthians 5.16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Also, read **Luke 15. 1-3, 11b-32**

Question:

*Who are you in this story? Why?*