

**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**

*Thursday Evenings*

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**We are down for the Summer, But...**

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.**

The 2009/2010 Shelter Season is finished, but we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and cleanup while we endeavor to begin again in November. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork or Ron Caulk for details, and remember to thank God for our host churches!!

**New Home Church Series** every Thursday evening at The Moyer's



A video curriculum to stir discussion.

**Free Movies Under the Stars, with our Friends at Zion's.**

Free Refreshments so bring the family and your friends! Every Friday at 8:30 pm



**Your Prayer Notes:**

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

Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Bruce's health issues; for John Kearney's mother Pat, who has some health difficulties; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Gary's back and sciatica; for Franny's friend Tony, who was hospitalized last week; for the Brackens; for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and 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.

Please keep our church—the future of Still Waters, in prayer during yet another time of upheaval and difficulty while trying to remain faithful to God's calling; the least around us.

Please, also, pray for our shelter friends, who are not connected to us during the summer, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**August 15, 2010: Proper 15 (Year C)**

**Psalm 80.1-2, 8-19, Isaiah 5.1-7,**

**Luke 12.49-56, & Hebrews 11.29 - 12.2**

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

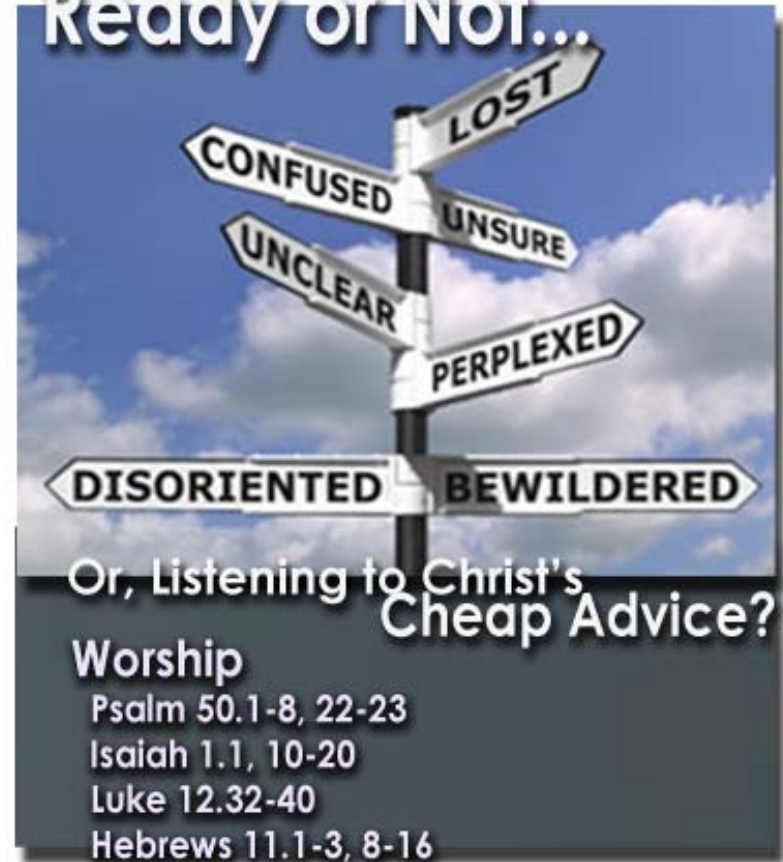
Fax: (484) 363-4017

**still waters**  
home churches & worship center



August 8 - 2010

**Ready or Not...**



**Worship**

Psalm 50.1-8, 22-23

Isaiah 1.1, 10-20

Luke 12.32-40

Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16

**Benediction**

*Tabernacle Worship*

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, St. John's Parish House



[Service]

**Tonight...**

Scripture Reading ::

*Psalm 50.1-8, 22-23*

Focus Film ::

*"Hebrews 11"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*Isaiah 1.1, 10-20*

Focus Film ::

*"Follow Me"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 50.1-8, 22-23, Isaiah 1.1, 10-20,  
Luke 12.32-40, & Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16*

The Scripture ~

**Ready or Not...**  
*Or, Listening to Christ's*  
**Cheap Advice?**

Sell your possessions,  
and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not  
wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief  
comes near and no moth destroys. For where your  
treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed for  
action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are  
waiting for their master to return from the wedding  
banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon  
as he comes and knocks. Luke 12.33—36

Reflection Film ::

*"The Calling"*

Benediction ::

*Revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21*

[Journaling Worship  
your talking points notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]  
✂ **sleepy saints?**

✂ **running nowhere**

✂ **uncertain certainty**

“

**Meditation:**

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the  
conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors  
received approval.  
By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a  
place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set  
out, not knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11.1—2, 8*

**Reflection:**

*Our homeland, God's kingdom, is ours for the taking - if only we have  
the right supplies for the journey. Despite Jesus' clear warning, we  
can't seem to escape the unbiblical insistence of predicting how and  
when He returns. The essence of faith, as defined in today's Hebrews  
passage, is "the conviction of things not seen" or expected.*

*Hebrews' definition of faith is disturbing because these ancestors in  
the faith never reached the promise—but comforting, because we  
know we have company in our efforts, which aren't always "seen" as  
"successful" by the world's terms.*



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 50.1-8, 22-23 [Worship]

1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. 3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all

around him. 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: 5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" 6

The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah

7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. 8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

22 "Mark this, then, you who forget God, or I will tear you apart, and there will be no one to deliver. 23 Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God."

---

**Consider:** [Words]

Summer time may be when "the livin' is easy" for a lot of folk. Even in the church year, summer is a pause between high holy days. So what are these ... low holy days? The lectionary readings suggest it's a time for the church to rethink and reconsider its identity and vocation for the daily practice of emancipated obedience.

Christians are now placed in a society where the substance of every doctrinal commitment is both valuable and placed deeply in question. Thus, concerning the environment, is the world God's creation? Is the greed around healthcare a form of idolatry? Is the vulnerable transformative power of Jesus still salvific? Is there an end that will exhibit God's intransigent love for the world? Is there a call to turn the world upside down? Is there a wind blowing that could manifest "the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body"?

The texts will fuel our thought about these big questions that touch down so specifically in our society. I am struck by how these old texts are alarmingly contemporary. The livin' may be easy, but the deciding

and the acting are not easy, never were. They are, however, joyous in a way the old world can never permit or acknowledge. The undercurrent of the texts is the gifted liberty that comes from following.

It is easy enough, given modern affluence, to imagine that "it doesn't get any better than this." It's tempting, in our complacency, to judge that things will continue as they are. It is persuasive, in our despair, to conclude that the world is a closed system with no gifts yet to be given.

Against those ready seductions of affluence, complacency, or despair, the gospel news is that God can and *does* enact newness in the world. Indeed it is peculiarly God's work to make new when it is thought not possible. Gospel folk are alert to the newness from God that is always about to break in.

The gospel reading summons to readiness like a slave who alertly awaits the return of the master. The index of "hoppers" in Hebrews 11 takes as its champion father Abraham. Three times in these verses it is "by faith" (verses 8, 9, 11). In trust Abraham traveled, lived in a foreign land, and bore a son.

"Sojourners" in the gospel refuse both complacency and despair. We may be glad that the old communities of Israel and church left us these texts. Now they are ours to study and pray over. —Walter Bruggemann

---

### [Scripture]

### Hebrews 11.9-21

9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old--and Sarah herself was barren--because he considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." 13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

---