

**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**

**Thursday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**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 2010/2011 Shelter Season is being planned, and we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and cleanup while readying to begin again in November. We are working Friday mornings at 9:00 am to prepare the Intake Center. 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 **Economy of Love**

Creating a Community of Enough



**Your Prayer Notes:**

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

Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Franny's friend Tony; for the Brackens; for Fay in her heartbreak at the loss of her son, and strength for their family; 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 to 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:**

**September 26, 2010: Proper 21 (Year C)**

**Psalm 91.1-6, 14-16, Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15, Luke 16.19-31, & 1 Timothy 6.6-19**

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



September 19 :: 2010

**Dissident Disciples...**

*Or,* Learning to cheat the world of its  
**Self-Imposed Exile**

**Worship**

psalm 79. 1-9

jeremiah 8.18 - 9.1

luke 16. 1-13

1 timothy 2. 1-17

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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



[Service]

## Tonight...

Scripture Reading ::

*Psalm 79.1-9*

Focus Film ::

*"My Joy is Gone"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*1 Timothy 2.1-7*

Focus Film ::

*"Kingdom Pirates"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 79.1-9, Jeremiah 8.18 - 9.1, Luke 16.1-13, & 1 Timothy 2.1-7*

The Scripture ~

**Dissident Disciples...**  
*Or, Learning to cheat the world of its*  
**Self-Imposed Exile**  
*...the children*

*of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.*

*No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." Luke 16.8b—9, 13*

Reflection Film ::

*"Lost Coins"*

Benediction ::

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

[Journaling Worship  
your talking points notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]  
✘ Weeping over Poor Health

✘ Segregating the Truth

✘ A Holy Conspiracy

**Meditation:**

*My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?"*

1 Jeremiah 8.18—22

**Reflection:**

Judah's problem is not just imminent attack; the people are sick in heart and neither the best physician nor the most potent balm will help their condition.

Through Jeremiah, God calls Israel to account for the idolatry of wealth and neglect of community, especially of the needy. Jesus makes the same point when he proclaims, "You cannot serve God and Mammon."





# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 79.1-9

[Worship]

1 O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. 2 They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth. 3 They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. 4 We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us. 5 How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire? 6 Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name. 7 For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation. 8 Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

### Consider:

[Words]

Once again we witness our religious ancestors' ongoing struggle to fulfill the covenant despite the temptations that surround them. The prosperity and power enjoyed by the Israelites are accompanied by other temptations, including the idolatry of wealth and neglect of community, especially of the needy. God calls Israel to account, first through Amos and then Jeremiah, to remind them of the covenant and their obligations.

Over and over, God is portrayed on the side of the downtrodden and outcast. The psalmist proclaims, "He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with...the princes of his own people" (Psalm 113:7-8). Amos illustrates God's anger in the face of injustice and mercilessness, and assures those who "trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land.... Never will I forget a

thing they have done!" (Amos 8:4, 7). Jeremiah's grief is "incurable" as he witnesses Israel's idolatry and wonders, "Why do they provoke me with their...foreign nonentities?" They who worshipped nothing ultimately became nothing; after a series of corrupt kings in Judah, Jerusalem is ultimately destroyed.

In Luke, Jesus once again tells a parable on the dangers of wealth. Here, though the parable—which stems from Palestinian lending customs during Jesus' time—may appear somewhat cryptic to contemporary readers, Jesus' central message is perfectly clear when he states that "You cannot serve God and Mammon" (Luke 16:13). In a world where capital is king, placing our trust, faith, and hope in a God who loves the poor and needy is profoundly countercultural and an act of rebellion. As Christians, it is still our challenge to not only live kingdom values in secular society, but to do so joyfully, celebrating the fundamental goodness and beauty of the world. Our task is not to live the kingdom apart from the world, but to infuse the world with the joy and sacredness of the kingdom. — Michaela Bruzzese

[Scripture]

## 1 Timothy 2.1-7

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6 who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. 7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

### Question:

*I've been questioning why today's Church struggles so, with living God's kingdom, specifically in the area of money. Where God judges His people, by the barometer of "How are the Poor among you," we have adopted every foul "human" principle of "Mammon idolatry" and self righteous "Neo-Gnosticism," replacing it with "atonement theory" mission, for a few. It makes God cry!*

Is there any hope that the Church can turn without first going into terrible exile? How seriously do you view the eternal homes of a misguided Church.

*Also, read for yourself this week, Luke 16.1-13*