

**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

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

*Suspended until the end of Shelter Season in April*  
Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**We have begun the 2010/2011 Shelter Season!**

Host Church is Trinity on King & High Sts.  
*There are many volunteering opportunities.*

**Announcements:**

**Norman Vanderlick** has moved to a group home in Harleysville. Please consider writing him a note of 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.**

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 Tuesday evening at The Moyer's

**The Story of God**

The Story of Us.



**Your Prayer Notes:**

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

Please pray for Cheryl, who has been in and out of the hospital several times this week with chest pain and intestinal difficulties, for Bruce who fell and broke his hip on Thanksgiving day—for a fast recovery from his surgery, Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Patrice's thyroid treatments; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Roxy who was diagnosed with cancer, for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and 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.

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 those in the shelter, that they would find love and grace during their struggle, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**December 19, 2010 Advent 4 (Year A)**

**psalm 80.1-7, 17-19, isaiah 7.10-16,  
matthew 1.18-25, & romans 1.1-7**

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

December 12, 2010

A Healthy Smallness  
Joy, not by might, nor power...



**Worship**

isaiah 35.1-10  
matthew 11.2-11  
luke 1.47-55  
james 5.7-10

**Benediction**

Advent 3 (Year A)

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

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Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona La



[Service]

## Tonight...

Scripture Reading and Call to Worship ::

*Isaiah 35.1-10*

Focus Film ::

*"It's a New Day"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Advent 3 :: JOY Candle Lighting

Focus Film ::

*"Child of Hope"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Isaiah 35.1-10, Matthew 11.2-11,  
Luke 1.46-55, & James 5.7-10*

The Scripture ~

## A Healthy Smallness

*Or, Joy—Not By Might, Nor*

*'What did you go out into* **Power**  
the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the  
wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone  
dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft  
robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go  
out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you,...

*Matthew 11.7b-9a*

Reflection Film ::

*"Born in a Dump"*

Benediction ::

*1 Thessalonians 3.11-13*

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

✚ where is God?

✚ how inconvenient!!

✚ Imperfect JOY

### Meditation:

*When John heard in prison what the Messiah was  
doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you  
the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus  
answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see..."*

*Matthew 11.2—4*

### Reflection:

"No wonder John was doubtful. He was in jail, and Jesus was acting in a most peculiar manner. Instead of sweeping the chaff aside for burning, Jesus was trying to make wheat out of it! He invited tax collectors—collaborators with the hated Romans—and other sinners into the new community. Instead of a powerful army of the righteous, Jesus was gathering a community of the weak, the outcast, the foreign." --Walter Brueggemann

# still waters

home church studies

## isaiah 65.17-25 [Worship]

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. 20 No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. 21



They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD – and their descendants as well. 24 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent – its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

### Consider:

[Words]

The news is that big change is coming. Mary sings (in Luke) her revolutionary song about the reversal of social arrangements and Isaiah offers a poem about homecoming for the alienated. Advent is about pondering the big changes that are set in motion by Christmas.

In the narrative about Jesus in Matthew 11, John the Baptizer wonders whether Jesus is the long expected Messiah. Jesus urges John to consider the “facts on the ground,” which are the consequences of Jesus’ effective ministry. The list of beneficiaries of that ministry is not unlike that in Psalm 146. The list includes the blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf, the dead, and the poor (Matthew 11:5), that is, all the devalued and marginalized.. In the psalm “the Lord” does the work. In the narrative, Jesus does the work. Ergo ... yes, Jesus is the Messiah. Yes, Jesus is the one expected and welcomed. It is no wonder that Mary sang her revolutionary song: the birth and ministry of Jesus constitute a social revolution that keeps reverberating through every time and place.

Advent is about readiness to acknowledge, receive, and participate in the revolution that clusters around Jesus. The word from the Epistle of James is to have patience. That is not passivity, but it is resolve to stay with it, to watch for the possibility, and not to settle for fatigue, resignation, or cynicism. The “patience” in James means to continue in “joy and gladness,” with no “sorrow or sighing” (Isaiah 35:10). – Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

## Matthew 3.1-12

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."