

## Worship:

### Tabernacle Worship Service

Every Sunday Evening

St. John's Lutheran 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

## Announcements:

### 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

### Recycle Your Faith

Questioning God.



We all see through a glass darkly... Our misunderstandings and questions can make us feel as though we have little, or NO, faith. God is BIG enough to answer our doubts through simplicity and honest questioning. Join us in questioning our faith.

### Your Prayer Notes:

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

Please pray for; Andrew, Kerri and their grandmother who is diagnosed with terminal cancer, for a glorious and rich time preparing for her home-going; for Toni in her break-up, for Lynn—a 20 year old who is diagnosed with a tumor on the pituitary gland, for April's broken heart, and some tough family decisions, Hank and Helen Hankens. Hank has been diagnosed with stage four cancer and has tumors in his lungs, and inoperable tumors in his brain. Let's help them all we can! Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Patrice's thyroid treatments; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Jeff, who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease, for Bruce's health, for the folks staying at the shelter, that they would find love and grace during their struggle, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation, for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and keep all of us in prayer, as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us.

Please keep our church—the future of Still Waters, in prayer while trying to remain faithful to God's calling to the least around us.

### Next Week's Scriptures:

April 3, 2011: Lent 4 (Year A)

**Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16.1-13, John 9.1-41, & Ephesians 5.8-14**

### 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 Ph: (610) 970-2444

## Ministry:

### The Table

Suspended until the end of

Shelter Season in April

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

## MAIN Street Shelter

Every evening at 10:00 pm

Christ Episcopal High & Charlotte Sts.

There are many volunteering opportunities.

still waters  
home churches & worship center

March 27 - 2011

## The Samaritan Apostle



Or, Dying of Thirst in Religious Waters

### Worship

Psalm 75

Exodus 17.1-7

John 4.5-42

Romans 5.1-11

### Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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



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Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona Lake, IN 46590

[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

*Psalm 95*

Worship Film ::

*"A Spring Within"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*Exodus 17.1-7*

Focus Films ::

*"Shaking the Tree"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 95, Exodus 17.1-7, John  
4.5-42, & Romans 5.1-11*

The Scripture ~

**The Samaritan Apostle**

*Or, Dying of Thirst in*

*Religious Waters*

Then the woman left

her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

John 4.28-30

Benediction ::

*1 Thessalonians 3.11-13*

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

✚ has God left us?

✚ We've gotta talk

✚ Success, Failure & Revitalization

**Meditation:**

*But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people?" Exodus 17.3—4a*

**Reflection:**

The slaves thought their liberation from Egypt would immediately plop them down in the Promised Land - but God's first freedom act was deliverance into the severe and harsh wilderness. — *Nancy Hastings Sehested*

True liberation delivers us from all that binds us, diminishes us, and enslaves us. This holy word springs from God's ever-flowing freedom fountain. It was the word from Jesus offered to the societally defined and disregarded Samaritan woman at the well: "Whoever drinks from the water that I shall give will never thirst; the water that I shall give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4.14).



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 95

[Worship]

1 O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. 6 O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! 8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, 9 when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. 10 For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways." 11 Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

### Consider:

[Words]

God is the good gift who keeps on giving. These texts converge in the wonder that God gives; we receive and live by what we receive from God. The subtext is that we cannot of our own power and resources generate life for ourselves. We are dependent upon God's faithful generosity without which we cannot live.

The Exodus narrative is about the gift of water from rock. In an arid context Moses is instructed by God to secure water from rock, an unlikely source. The counterpoint in the narrative is that Israel "quarreled and tested" God, unwilling to trust itself to God's inexplicable goodness.

The reason we read Psalm 95 now is that in its latter verses there is an allusion to the crisis in Exodus 17. Verses 7-11 of the psalm portray the hard-hearted who do not trust God but always test God's fidelity. Verses 1-6, by contrast, offer a people who willingly belong to and rely on God. It is as though the two parts of the psalm voice the choices always offered in faith, either trust in God's goodness or choose a pervasive doubt that trusts none.

John's gospel narrative works the same "water" theme. Here it concerns the thirsty woman at the well. She has a hard time moving from the literal to the metaphorical; when she "gets it," she sees that Jesus is now the water of life that will sustain in every arid context. Jesus is the great sustainer!

In Romans 5, the move goes further from the gift of water to the abundance of God's love. It is boundless love that nourishes and sustains. The imagery is an overflowing abundance that meets every need. Of course the water-love of God is given via God's suffering in Christ in which the disciples are called to share. Lent is a time for relinquishing self-sufficiency and drinking deeply of water that ends in glad obedience. The folk in Psalm 95:1-6 are committed to glad obedience, reliant on God, and committed to God's alternative way in the world. – Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

## Romans 5.1-11

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.