

**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**

**Tuesday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19456

7:00 to 9:00

**Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

TBD

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



**Community Table, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening**

Each Month – Check with Church for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

**Norman's Game Night**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Evening** Each Month

Locations to be announced

**This Year's Theme:**

hearing God in 2008

**Your Prayer Notes:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we ready the shelter for the fall, and as we begin plans for the mobile shelter season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends.

Pray for Buddy O'Donnell's brother Jack, who is in Manor Care, suffering with foot surgery and complications from diabetes.

Pray for Grace Church and Pastor Kenn Cosgrove & family as they seek God's direction in life and ministry.

Please also remember those of us who are struggling to find work in this broken economy.

Merciful LORD, please help us to reflect your graciousness in the world. Help us to see individuals only from your holy perspective and not ours. Work in us to become Your unique image to our lost world, both in the Church and outside. That your will be done. Amen.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**October 26, 2008 Proper 25 (Year A)**

**deuteronomy 34.1-12, psalm 90.1-6, 13-17,**

**matthew 22.34-46, & 1 thessalonians 2.1-8**

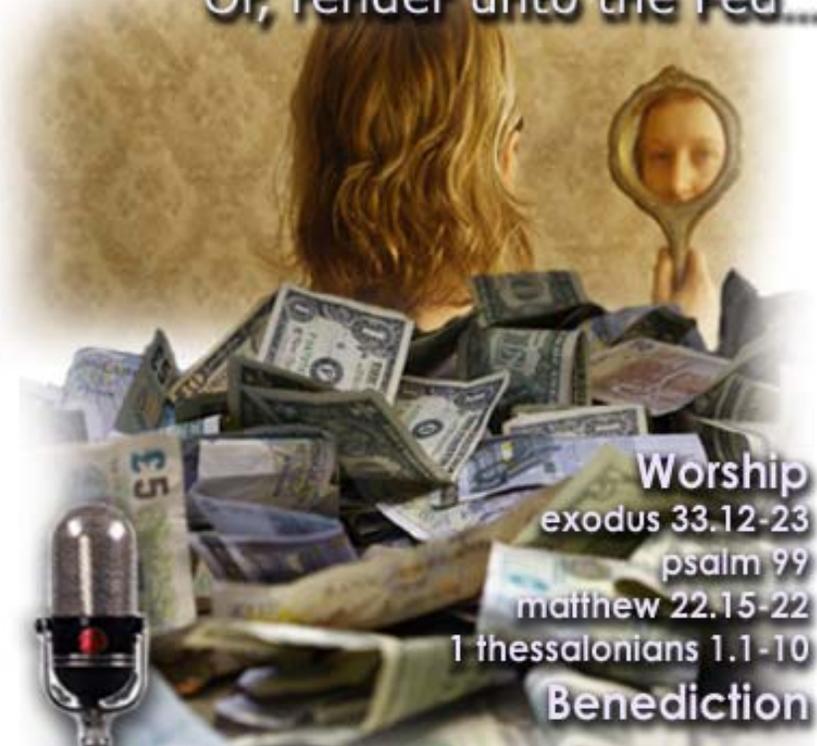
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**still waters** of Pottstown  
home churches & worship center  
"He restores my soul . . . surely goodness and mercy will follow me" Psalm 23

October 19 :: 2008

**Money & Mirrors**  
Or, render unto the Fed...



**Worship**

exodus 33.12-23

psalm 99

matthew 22.15-22

1 thessalonians 1.1-10

**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 99

Worship Film ::

“Exodus 33”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

Focus Film ::

“This is NOT This”

The Scripture ~

## Money & Mirrors

Or, render unto the Fed...

Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's."

Matthew 22. 17-21a

This week's Lectionary:

exodus 33.12-23, psalm 99,

matthew 22.15-22, & 1 thessalonians 1.1-10

Reflection Film ::

“Living Liturgy”

Benediction ::

Revelation 22 .12-14, 16-17, 20-21



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

¥ a pocket full of money

¥ catching a little God

¥ a heavenly bailout



### Meditation:

*Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away." Matthew 22.21b—22*

### Reflection:

This week's passages consider faith, community and national identity. Where do we draw the line between "the things that are the emperor's" and "the things that are God's?"

Jesus, too, considers the fine line between respecting authority and offering a national allegiance that makes one a functional atheist. Jesus creates a teachable moment out of the Pharisees' trap. He draws a sacred line between "the things that are the emperor's" and "the things that are God's" (Matthew 22.21).

Where is that line for you?

still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 99

[Worship]

1 The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! 2 The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! 4 Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. 5 Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them. 7 He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. 8 O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. 9 Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

### Consider:

In most of the civic discussion since Sept. 11, 2001, religious language and symbols have been seamlessly woven into political language and symbols. This enlistment of religious language to advance our nation's policies is tremendously dangerous, despite most American Christians' love for the full text of the Pledge of Allegiance. This fusion collapses our national security and way of life with the will of God, which makes questioning the pledge or squirming under the blare of "God Bless America!" billboards tantamount to blasphemy. But in willingly handing over Christianity in the interest of security, we forget that the reign of God always exists in tension with competing claims of authority.

The Pharisees and Herodians who ask Jesus about paying taxes are also concerned with security. They have chosen to compromise with Rome in exchange for some degree of religious

and political freedom. They are not necessarily comfortable with their situation, but consider Jesus' refusal to "show deference" to anyone an arrogant failure to appreciate the complexity of their situation.

Their strategy backfires when Jesus refuses to accept the terms of their argument. His statement "give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's" is not a mandate to pay (or not to pay) taxes, but an assertion of God's absolute authority. Despite the emperor's omnipresent image, his claims to ownership have no meaning in light of God's singular ownership of the world.

Can you blame Jesus' opponents for finding him exasperating? His answer provides no clear manual for what, if any, aspects of national duty to accept. But Jesus' stance ought to encourage and embolden us to refuse the terms of our nation's debate—the presumption that military and financial security are unquestionable values—even though we risk being called a friend of terrorists and a national traitor. — Kari Jo Verhulst

[Scripture]

## 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

