

**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

**Bright Hope Community Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**February @ St. Paul's UCC**

**Grace & N Franklin Streets, Pottstown**

10:00 pm to 8:00 am

There will be no Pick Ups in January due to the close proximity of Zion's

**Norman's Game Night**

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

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

**Your Prayer Notes:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we operate the mobile shelter this season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends. Thank God for them!! And remember to pray for St. Paul's UCC as they continue their month of hosting throughout February, to God's glory.

**Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:**

Pray for Jeanette & Stanley to place their lives on God's path; the Mike's and John's who are with us nightly; Jimmy for direction, loneliness and perseverance; Brenda, as she recovers in the hospital; Jerry for recovery in rehab; Ron's health; John and Glenn, for fulltime employment, an apartment, and strength during temptation; for John's father's health; and for us all, as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us, our mission, and judge us out of ignorance.

Please pray for Jeff & Sandy Reifsnnyder, their family and Cocalico Creek Fellowship, and Pastor Kenn Cosgrove, his family and the people from Grace church since their churches closings. There are very good and God honoring people who are valuable to Christ in His ministry!

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**February 22, 2009: Transfiguration (Year B)**

psalm 50, 2 kings 2.1-12,

mark 9.2-9, & 2 corinthians 4.3-6

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

February 15 - 2009

**Dirt Removal**  
**Or, a girl, a warrior & water**

*6th Sunday after Epiphany*  
**Worship**

psalm 30

2 kings 5:1-14

mark 1:40-45

1 corinthians 9:24-27

**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 ::

Psalm 30

Worship Film ::

“Perfectly Fitted”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

2 Kings 5.1-14

Focus Film ::

“A Man With Leprosy”

The Scripture ~

## Dirt Removal

**Or, a girl, a warrior & water...**

...But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it?"

2 Kings 5.11—13a

This week's Lectionary:

Epiphany 6 (Year B)

psalm 30, 2 kings 5.1-14,

mark 1.40-45, & 1 corinthians 9.24-27

Reflection Film ::

“Touching Lepers”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✧ living in the depths

✧ touching lepers

✧ your place, or mine!

“

### Meditation:

*A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Mark 1.40—44*

### Reflection:

When Jesus heals the leper in Mark 1, or when God heals Naaman, the restoration is more than skin deep. Consider how social placement, medical disease, or psychological condition makes one "untouchable" - and how God dismantles our systems of estrangement and injustice.



still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 30

[Worship]

1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. 2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. 3 O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. 4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. 6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." 7 By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. 8 To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: 9 "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? 10 Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!" 11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, 12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

### Consider:

This week's gospel story feels familiar. It has all the ingredients of Jesus' healings: A stranger, a touch from Jesus, a miracle. The story should be outlandish, shocking, or, at least, attention-getting. But to us, even those of us who might approach such miraculous healings with cynical modern eyes, stories like Jesus and the leper are a touch domesticated. We've heard them in Sunday school for so long.

The story of Naaman is more jarring. I admit that I like Naaman for wholly narcissistic reasons—he reminds me over and over of myself. He is a powerful military leader, a

commander for the king of Aram, but he has leprosy. Through the unlikely testimony of an anonymous Hebrew slave girl, Naaman hears of a powerful prophet in Israel, Elisha. Naaman makes his way to Samaria, is eventually directed to Elisha, and then hears an unexpected message: "Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan," says Elisha, "and your flesh will be restored."

Seven dips in a river? That wasn't what Naaman was expecting. He was expecting drama, magic. He was expecting the prophet to wave a magic wand and, poof! A cure. When Naaman finds that the work of God is sometimes utterly ordinary, he is not just disappointed, he is "angry" (2 Kings 5.11).

And there's more at stake here than physical health or glowing skin. In Naaman's healing we have a summary of the tools God uses to work out our salvation. Ordinary tools like water, and ultimately a carpenter from Nazareth. To be healed of sin, we must all submit to the same, not-very-dramatic cure Naaman finally accepted: A simple baptism in water accompanied by a simple faith. As Matthew Henry wrote in his commentary on 2 Kings, "The methods for the healing of the leprosy of sin are so plain.... Believe, and be saved; repent, and be pardoned; wash, and be clean."

### Reflection and Action:

Like Naaman, I often find that I want God to behave one way, and when God refuses to go along with my expectations, I get ticked. These stories tell us more than that God can miraculously heal our bodies. God also works in ways we don't always anticipate, appreciate, or like. When have you given into Christ's simple and ordinary blessings, being surprised that healing was there all along? What disqualifies you from Christ's "prize?"

[Scripture]

## 1 Corinthians 9.24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. 25 Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. 26 So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; 27 but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.