

**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

**Announcements:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

2009/2010 Season is beginning to ramp up and we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage to beginning. We are dangerously low on overnight staff, threatening our November opening. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Ron Caulk for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

**Your Prayer Notes:**

Pray for the Cox & Twaddell families at the loss of Kim. These families are heartbroken through this terrible loss. Pray for God's grace as they look for answers in this tragedy.

Please pray for Gary Allan and his family at the loss of their grandchild this week. Kim was in her 1<sup>st</sup> trimester and lost the baby last Sunday in the hospital. Keep them in your prayers.

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

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; remember.

Please, 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.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

September 27, 2009: Proper 21 (Year B)  
psalm 124, esther 7.1-6, 9-10; 9.20-22,  
mark 9.38-50, & james 5.13-20

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

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**On Summer Hiatus Until November**

**Fund raising and shelter cleanup efforts are underway.**

**Norman's Game Night**


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

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

still waters  
home churches & worship center

September 20, 2009

# Blind Ambition



Or, racing to the Back  
Of the Line

**Worship**  
psalm 1  
proverbs 31.10-31  
mark 9.30-37  
james 3.13 – 4.3, 7-8a

**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



KNOWING GOD...  
LIVING HIS POWER...

[Service]

Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Last is First”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 1

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his

Scripture Reading ::

deeds with songs of joy

Proverbs 31. 10-31

Focus Film ::

“How to Live”

The Scripture ~

**Blind Ambition**  
**Or, racing to the Back**  
**Of the Line**

[the disciples] did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ...  
Mark 9. 32—30

This week's Lectionary:  
psalm 1, proverbs 31.10-31,  
mark 9.30-37, & james 3.13 - 4.3, 7-8a

Focus Film ::

“Collapse into Wisdom”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

[Journaling Worship  
your talking points notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]  
≠ conflict and the cross

≠ simple work

≠ simple love

“

**Meditation:**

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." Mark 8. 35b—37

**Reflection:**

"As Christians, we are so accustomed to esteeming the disciples as exemplary that we forget their skepticism of the gospel. In Mark 8 and 9, when Jesus speaks directly to the disciples bluntly - without parable - of his imminent passion, they are confused. Yet despite sometimes wavering faith, Jesus promises that the disciples - and all those who are called - will become true witnesses to God's reign.." -- William Stringfellow.

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 1

[Worship]

1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; 2 but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

### Consider: Peter B. Price

[Words]

"Anyone who is wise or understanding among you should from a good life give evidence of deeds done in the gentleness of wisdom" (James 3:13). The importance of understanding our faith and the behavior that grows from such faith is the keynote of today's scriptures.

Both James and Mark provide evidence to their readers of how "wars and battles between yourselves first start" (James 4:1; Mark 9:34). Ambition and the desire for status are strong within the Christian community. Jesus recognized this and took his disciples away from the crowds in order to re-educate them about the true nature of power and its destructiveness, prophesying his own end. "But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him," says Mark, in a commentary that could apply just as much to our times (9:32).

When I was a parish priest, people would occasionally say, "We need more teaching." Rather tartly I would reply, "It is not more teaching that we need but more learning!" The psalmist pictures a tree planted by a stream being nurtured from its roots by the life-giving water as a parable of how we need to learn God's wisdom. In this idyllic pastoral scene, there is a profound truth; we need solitude as much as we need company in learning God's ways. When we are nurtured like this we are enabled to "bear fruit" and

to watch "every project succeed" that is borne out of "the gentleness of wisdom."

The eulogy of the "wise woman" in Proverbs gives us a picture of well-ordered humanity. Wisdom literature always offers a hidden message. Here, "wisdom" is synonymous with the Spirit, which in the Old Testament is usually feminine. The picture of the "orderly woman" is of a Spirit-ordered world in which hands are held out to the poor and arms to the needy (Proverbs 31:20). This is the true nature of the "wisdom that comes down from above": It is "essentially something pure; it is also peaceable, kindly, and considerate, full of mercy—it shows itself by doing good" (James 3:17).



### Reflection and Action

How do you take time to learn God's ways? Where have you witnessed or experienced ambition and status seeking? How does your life demonstrate "evidence of deeds done in the gentleness of wisdom"?

[Scripture]

## James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a

3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. 4:1 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2 You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.



still waters home church studies  
**Daily Lectionary Readings**  
 for Ordinary Calendar Year B [Worship]

These readings are adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, Daily Readings for Year One.

Sun Aug 30	am: 148, 149, 150 pm: 114, 115	1 Kng 8:22-40	1 Tim 4:7b-16	John 8:47-59
Mon P17 Aug 31	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	2 Ch 6:32-7:7	Jam 2:1-13	Mark 14:53-65
Tue Sept 1	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	1 Kng 8:65-9:9	Jam 2:14-26	Mark 14:66-72
Wed Sept 2	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	1 Kng 9:24-10:13	Jam 3:1-12	Mark 15:1-11
Thur Sept 3	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	1 Kng 11:1-13	Jam 3:13-4:12	Mark 15:12-21
Fri Sept 4	am: 31 pm: 35	1 Kng 11:26-43	Jam 4:13-5:6	Mark 15:22-32
Sat Sept 5	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	1 Kng 12:1-20	Jam 5:7-12, 19-20	Mark 15:33-39
Sun Sept 6	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	1 Kng 12:21-33	Acts 4:18-31	John 10:31-42
Mon P18 Sept 7	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	1 Kng 13:1-10	Phil 1:1-11	Mark 15:40-47
Tue Sept 8	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	1 Kng 16:23-34	Phil 1:12-30	Mark 16:1-20
Wed Sept 9	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	1 Kng 17:1-24	Phil 2:1-11	Matt 2:1-12
Thur Sept 10	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 66, 67	1 Kng 18:1-19	Phil 2:12-30	Matt 2:13-23
Fri Sept 11	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	1 Kng 18:20-40	Phil 3:1-16	Matt 3:1-12
Sat Sept 12	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	1 Kng 18:41-19:8	Phil 3:17-4:7	Matt 3:13-17
Sun Sept 13	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	1 Kng 19:8-21	Acts 5:34-42	John 11:45-57
Mon P19 Sept 14	am: 56, 57, 58 pm: 64, 65	1 Kng 21:1-16	1 Cor 1:1-19	Matt 4:1-11
Tue Sept 15	am: 61, 62 pm: 68	1 Kng 21:17-29	1 Cor 1:20-31	Matt 4:12-17
Wed Sept 16	am: 72 pm: 119:73-96	1 Kng 22:1-28	1 Cor 2:1-13	Matt 4:18-25
Thur Sept 17	am: 70, 71 pm: 74	1 Kng 22:29-45	1 Cor 2:14-3:15	Matt 5:1-10
Fri Sept 18	am: 69 pm: 73	2 Kng 1:2-17	1 Cor 3:16-23	Matt 5:11-16
Sat Sept 19	am: 75, 76 pm: 23, 27	2 Kng 2:1-18	1 Cor 4:1-7	Matt 5:17-20

Sun	am: 93, 96	2 Kng 4:8-37	Acts 9:10-31	Luke 3:7-18
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Sept 20	pm: 34			
Mon P20 Sept 21	am: 80 pm: 77, 19	2 Kng 5:1-19	1 Cor 4:8-21	Matt 5:21-26
Tue Sept 22	am: 78:1-39 pm: 78:40-72	2 Kng 5:19-27	1 Cor 5:1-8	Matt 5:27-37
Wed Sept 23	am: 119:97-120 pm: 81, 82	2 Kng 6:1-23	1 Cor 5:9-6:8	Matt 5:38-48
Thur Sept 24	am: 83 pm: 85, 86	2 Kng 9:1-16	1 Cor 6:12-20	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Fri Sept 25	am: 88 pm: 91, 92	2 Kng 9:17-37	1 Cor 7:1-9	Matt 6:7-15
Sat Sept 26	am: 87, 90 pm: 136	2 Kng 11:1-20a	1 Cor 7:10-24	Matt 6:19-24
Sun Sept 27	am: 66, 67 pm: 19, 46	2 Kng 17:1-18	Acts 9:36-43	Luke 5:1-11
Mon P21 Sept 28	am: 89:1-18 pm: 89:19-52	2 Kng 17:24-41	1 Cor 7:25-31	Matt 6:25-34
Tue Sept 29	am: 97, 99, 100 pm: 94, 95	2 Ch 29:1-3, 30:1-27	1 Cor 7:32-40	Matt 7:1-12
Wed Sept 30	am: 101, 109 pm: 119:121-144	2 Kng 18:9-25	1 Cor 8:1-13	Matt 7:13-21
Thur Oct 1	am: 105:1-22 pm: 105:23-45	2 Kng 18:28-37	1 Cor 9:1-15	Matt 7:22-29
Fri Oct 2	am: 102 pm: 107:1-32	2 Kng 19:1-20	1 Cor 9:16-27	Matt 8:1-17
Sat Oct 3	am: 107:33-43, 108 pm: 33	2 Kng 19:21-36	1 Cor 10:1-13	Matt 8:18-27

**your talking points notes...**