

**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**

*Is discontinued until Spring 2010*

Washington & Chestnut Sts.

**Home Churches:**

**Hanover St. Home Church**

*Tuesday Evenings*

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**February's Host Church is**

**St Paul's UCC**

**Fund raising and Shelter Intake**

**Center cleanup efforts provide many volunteering opportunities.**

**Announcements:**

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

We are still working at fund raising, laundry, Intake staffing, and we are still in need of overnight staff. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork, Ron Caulk or Tanya Braken for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

**Your Prayer Notes:**

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

*The dear people of Haiti, devastated by the earthquake. Grace Brethren International Missions, in Partnership with Convoy of Hope and The American Red Cross, is working on a plan to assist those hurt by this disaster. They have already begun this work and **YOU can help** in prayer and as we collect monetary gifts to aid our FGBC in emergency relief and recovery efforts. Please, seek God as to your sacrificial involvement of Christ's love to our neighbours in crisis.*

Pray for our friends in Lower-Bucks County, who have begun to shelter their suburban homeless friends.

Remember Ron's health difficulties and his daughter's pregnancy; our Grater family, who's elderly father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer; for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and the future of Still Waters.

Also, pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

Please, also keep all of us in prayers; 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:**

February 7, 2010: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany (Year C)

psalm 138, isaiah 6.1-13, luke 5.1-11, & 1 corinthians 15.1-11

Get in touch with us at:

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February 7 - 2010

**God's Poor Choices**  
Or, our race to the Back  
Of the Line

**Worship**  
psalm 138  
isaiah 6.1-13  
luke 5.1-11  
1 corinthians 15.1-11

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**  
75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465  
Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's Parish House



[Service]

## Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Woe To Me”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 138

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Focus Film ::

“The Calling”

The Scripture ~

## God's Poor Choices Or, our race to the Back Of the Line

...he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.  
1 Corinthians 15.5-9

This week's Lectionary:  
psalm 138, isaiah 6.1-13,

luke 5.1-11, & 1 corinthians 15.1-11

Focus Film ::

“God Loves Us”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

✚ baiting the  
Hook?

✚ who is willing to go?

✚ fulfilling a lovely message

“

**Meditation:**

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."  
Isaiah 6.5-7

**Reflection:**

Isaiah, Peter, and Paul all embody the paradox of chosenness that we also face: Their limitations are real and stated up front, yet God chooses them anyway. And who are we to question those God chooses, especially when it is us? We are not assured that it will be easy, fun, or successful. Peter, Isaiah, and Paul lived the heart- and soul-wrenching consequences of saying yes to God. But they, and we are not alone: "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever." God has promised to accompany us, if only we have the courage to cry, "Here I am, Lord—send me!"



## Psalm 138

[Worship]

1 I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; 2 I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. 3 On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. 5 They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. 6 For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away. 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. 8 The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

**Consider:**

[Words]

This cluster of texts evidences the grand drama of the gospel from human need to transformative divine response to a new life. The drama begins in the reality of human need and the inability of humans to resolve that need themselves. Isaiah 6:5 and Luke 5:8 offer an admission of powerlessness in the face of sin. In the psalm the trouble is an enemy from which deliverance is required (Psalm 138:7). In the lyric of Paul (1 Corinthians 15), the human condition concerns the

power of death. Thus the predicament of sin, enemies, and death attests to the helplessness of the actors in the text.

The response of God to such need overwhelms and cancels out the trouble. The God of the gospel is an answering God. Isaiah is answered by "blotting out sin" (Isaiah 6:7). In the gospel story it is, "Do not be afraid" (Luke 5:10). The psalmist can say, "On the day I called, you answered me" (Psalm 138:3). In 1 Corinthians 15, it is a "victory" (v. 57). The claim of faith is that our vexed life has been answered and resolved by the attentive mercy of God.

Such divine answering has consequences. Isaiah is "sent" (Isaiah 6:8-9). The disciples "follow" (Luke 5:11). The psalmist erupts in thanks. The Easter church stands "steadfast and immovable" (1 Corinthians 15:58). The word is out that life in faith is answered and summoned to new obedience.

Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

Luke 5.1-11

1 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who are partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." 11 When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.