

**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**

*Thursday Evenings*

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**We are down for the Summer, But...**

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.**

The 2009/2010 Shelter Season is finished, but we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and cleanup while we endeavor to begin again in November. 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 Thursday evening at The Moyer's



A video curriculum to stir discussion.

**Your Prayer Notes:**

**We lost Jeff Reifsnnyder this week.** Please remember Sandy and the kids during this terrible loss. Jeff was one of the truly beautiful souls that God gave to us, and we are glad we will see him one day hopefully soon.

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

Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; the Grater family, who's elderly father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer; for Bruce's health issues; for John's mother's health; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Gary's back and sciatica; for the Brackens; for Matt Thomas' marriage to be restored; for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and 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.

Please keep our church—the future of Still Waters, in prayer during yet another time of upheaval and difficulty while trying to remain faithful to God's calling; the least around us.

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

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**June 27, 2010: Proper 8 (Year C)**

**Psalm 77.1-2, 11-20, 2 Kings 2.1-2, 6-14,**

**Luke 9.51-62, & Galatians 5.1, 13-25**

Get in touch with us at:

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**still waters**  
home churches & worship center

June 20 - 2010

**Faith & Law**

Or, stories that lead us  
**Out of Insanity**

**Worship**  
psalm 42  
1 kings 19. 1-15a  
luke 8. 26-39  
galatians 3. 23-29

**Benediction**

*Tabernacle Worship*

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

[Service]

**Tonight...**

Scripture Reading ::

*Psalm 42*

Focus Film ::

*"Neither Jew nor Greek"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*1 Kings 19.1-15a*

Focus Film ::

*"The Politics of Jesus"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*psalm 42, 1 kings 19.1-15a,  
luke 8.26-39, & galatians 3.23-29*

The Scripture ~

**Or, Faith & Law**  
*stories that lead us*

*Then people came out to see* **Out of Insanity**  
what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." **Luke 8. 35—39**

Sending Film ::

*"One Body... Many Stories"*

Benediction ::

*Revelation 22.12.14, 16-17, 20-21*

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

✘ **knowing** (and being comfortable with)  
**your demons**

✘ **powerlessness** before  
**the Powers**

✘ **right minds** that  
**rescue**

“

**Meditation:**

*Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." Galatians 3.23—26*

**Reflection:**

Just as the Gerasene townspeople fear Jesus' ability to destroy social and religious hierarchies, the Galatian community wrestles with the temptation to use the law as a method of exclusion instead of saying yes to the new life that God brings.

— Michaela Bruzzese



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 42

[Worship]

1 As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?" 4 These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help 6 and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. 7 Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me. 8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. 9 I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?" 10 As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?" 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

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### Consider:

Paul's witness is that, in Christ, we may be freed from all the "disciplinarians" that restrict our lives. Entry into that new life of gospel freedom, through baptism, is like changing clothes; that is, changing self. In the new life, all of the old classifications and stratifications are

[Words]

eliminated (Galatians 3: 28). In the gospel narrative we see "a man from the city who had demons" (Luke 8:27). We may imagine, in contemporary context, the demons are any form of addiction—drugs, sex, money, power, control, self-promotion. Such demons preclude much of the life that we want to live. But Jesus has the power to give the man a new life of freedom, beyond the grip of all the demons. The man in his new life is "in his right mind" (8:35).

That new life requires bold, risk-taking human agents to be enacted. The Elijah narrative in 1 Kings portrays the risks the prophet ran in obedience to the God of life. And then he is spent (19:4,10)! But then, like the needy man addressed by Jesus, Elijah is cared for and sent on his way. We may imagine that Elijah (or the man with Jesus) is the one who speaks the psalms. The speaker is exhausted, bereft of resources, thirsty for God and for new life. But this voice refuses to give in. While "cast down" (42:5; 43:5), the psalmist calls for "hope in God" (42:5,11; 43:5).

In the extremities of our life, we are powerless for ourselves. Just so the man with Jesus is powerless in the face of his demons. And Paul reflects on being "imprisoned" (Galatians 3:23). But then freedom, restoration, and new life flow through. New energy for mission (1 Kings 19:15)! New life for testimony (Luke 8:30)! New life by promise (Galatians 3:29)! These readings trace the hard journey from bondage to freedom, from death to joy in life. No wonder the guy with Jesus went away "proclaiming how much Jesus had done for him" (8:39).

- Walter Brueggemann

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[Scripture]

## Galatians 3.23-29

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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### Question:

We are freed from law when we are "in" Christ. However, the allure of power (and rules-keeping) initially help us feel secure, only to turn into our slave-master(s)

Why do you feel we often reject God's freedom for dead orthodoxies?