

**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**

*Thursday Evenings*

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

*Every Wednesday Evening*

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**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 2010/2011 Shelter Season is being planned, and we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and cleanup while readying to begin again in November. We are working Friday mornings at 9:00 am to prepare the Intake Center. 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 **Economy of Love**

Creating a Community of Enough



**Your Prayer Notes:**

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

Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Franny's friend Tony; for the Brackens; for Fay in her heartbreak at the loss of her son, and strength for their family; 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 to the least around us. Please, also, pray for our shelter friends, who are not connected to us during the summer, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**October 3, 2010: Proper 22 (Year C)**

**Psalm 137, Lamentations 1.1-6**

**Luke 17.5-10, & 2 Timothy 1.1-14**

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

September 26 - 2010

# Pious Prisoners



**Worship**

Psalm 91.1-6, 14-16

Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15

Luke 16.19-31

1 Timothy 6.6-19

**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 91.1-6, 14-16*

Focus Film ::

*"Psalm 146"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*1 Timothy 6.6-19*

Focus Film ::

*"Vulnerable"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 91.1-6, 14-16, Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15,  
Luke 16.19-31, & 1 Timothy 6.6-19*

The Scripture ~

## **Pious Prisoners...** *Or, When God comes knocking at*

*But Abraham said,*

### **Your Gate**

*'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house--for I have five brothers--that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'* Luke 16.25—29

Reflection Film ::

*"Hospitality and Salvation"*

Benediction ::

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

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

✘ Is there a point to suffering?

✘ Welcome home.

### **Meditation:**

*Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel:  
Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this  
open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that  
they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of  
hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards  
shall again be bought in this land.* Jeremiah 32.14—15

### **Reflection:**

"...there remains for us only the very narrow way, often extremely difficult to find, of living every day as if it were our last, and yet living in faith and responsibility as though there were to be a great future: 'Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land,' proclaims Jeremiah (32:15), in paradoxical contrast to his prophecies of woe, just before the destruction of the Holy City. It is a sign from God and a pledge of a fresh start and a great future, just when all seems black.

"Thinking and acting for the sake of the coming generation, but being ready to go any day without fear or anxiety—that, in practice, is the spirit in which we are forced to live. It is not easy to be brave and keep that spirit alive, but it is imperative."  
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer in late 1942  
(a few months before he was arrested by the Nazis)



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 91.1-6, 14-16 [Worship]

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, 2 will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; 4 he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. 5 You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, 6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. 14 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. 15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. 16 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

### Consider:

### [Words]

There are two ways in the world: the way of trustful obedience or the way of self-reliant ambition. The epistle reading makes the case with urgency "to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share" as a way to well-being (1 Timothy 6:18), while those who "want to be rich" (verse 9; see verse 17) are on their way to self-destruction. The focus is on money as a tool for self-securing, whereas the gospel is about being secure with the God who "richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (verse 17).

The parable maps out the crisis of self-serving wealth. The epistle speaks of those who "plunge people into ruin and destruction" (1 Timothy 6:9), and the rich man in the parable lives out the destiny of ruin. The either/or nature of the choice is clear: The deep threat concerns a society that is "hell-bent" on self-security through wealth and power.

The text from Jeremiah concerns the purchase of his family farm while the land is occupied by a foreign invader. Jeremiah relies on the deep promises of God that God's intent for the future will outlast present devastation (Jeremiah 32:15). Thus the "other way" is to believe that the

future is governed by God. It is a way that evokes concrete, risky action. Jeremiah quite literally "buys in" on a future yet to be given.

Psalm 91 is the serene attestation of one who has walked the walk, trusted God, and found God to be utterly reliable. Verses 1-6 testify to God's reliable goodness; verses 14-16 are a first-person declaration by God of God's resolve to rescue, honor, and satisfy.

The claim of this other way is indeed counter-intuitive. It is the truth that the faithful have long found to be a life-producing reality. The parable, like the world, is filled with those of us who learn too late.

– Walter Brueggemann

### [Scripture]

## 1 Timothy 6.6-19

6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. 11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will bring about at the right time--he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 16 It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.