



January / February 2017

Down By The Riverside

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church Columbus Blvd & Christian St, Philadelphia, PA 19147 215-389-1513

Thoughts from the Rector

Sinners and Saints, Skeptics and Cynics, Fear and Faith Thoughts for the New Year

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear
(1 John 4:18)*

As we begin a new year I find myself swinging moodily from joy to sorrow, frustration to hopefulness, anger to patience, and back again. I think many are feeling this way. 2016 was a year filled with disturbance, fear, frustration, anger, divisiveness, and lots of derogatory words flying through the air and the airwaves. Sometimes it feels to me as if we've gone down the rabbit hole or through the looking glass. And I fear that hatred and bigotry are on the rise and maybe there's nothing I can do to stop it.

Fear is a dangerous place from which to function. Fear stems from the center of our being and rises up as a response to a suspicion that we don't matter. We might get hurt, or be ignored, or suffer abuse and nobody will care. Our reaction to fear is very often anger, which often breeds cynicism. A modern definition of a cynic is "a person who believes that only selfishness motivates human actions and who disbelieves in or minimizes selfless acts" – *dictionary.com*.

A skeptic, on the other hand, according to *dictionary.com*, is "a person who questions the validity or authenticity of something purported to be factual." There is a fine but important line of distinction between these two – cynic and skeptic. Kind of like the difference in sinner and saint. One is turned inward, the other outward.

Chances are we are all cynics and skeptics at times in our lives, as we are all (yes, ALL!) both saints and sinners. We often lose focus, lose faith and hope, during troubled times, and rely on fear and anger to get us through, retreating into ourselves. It's a kind of survival mechanism I think must be built into us. But that is neither a comfortable nor a fulfilling place to settle. Most times the specter of living in a world of fear, despair, anger, and impatience is eventually enough to awaken us, to move us towards a center where we once more recognize our need for patience, tolerance, faith, and love.

(continued on next page)

I pray as we begin a new year together, in our church, in our community, in our nation, in the world, that we move away from cynicism, from anger and fear, and towards a healthy skepticism that will keep us honest and a faith that will remind us that we are God's beloved children (yes, ALL of us!), living in God's Good Creation. May faith conquer fear, patience overcome anger, and hope dispel despair. May you know the love of God that surpasses our understanding, and may you have a peace-filled, hope-filled, love-filled New Year.

Peace,

Joy +

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you.
(Isaiah 41:10)*



Thoughts from the Rector's Warden

I hope the New Year finds you well and in good spirits. The hustle and bustle of Lucia and Christmas are behind us now. During this busy time of year the Parish Profile Committee continued to work hard gathering information and creating reports which are being blended into one report.

We are nearing the end of Phase 1, in preparation to search for our next Rector. Currently we are in the process of finalizing the Parish Profile Report which will be submitted to the Vestry for approval.

This report will then be available to the congregation and will be explained in a special after service gathering in Riverside hall on Sunday January 22 at 12:00pm.

I hope you can join us.

I would like to personally thank each Profile Team member for their many hours of devoted service to Gloria Dei church.

Team A: Peg Berich, Carol Jenkins, Christine Pickup, Lisa Reeves, Cathy Ufheil; Team B: Jerome Buescher, Barbara Potts, Mark Roberts, Richard Woehr; Team C: Megan Bartlett, Barbara Chilcott, Jill Duink, Jeanette Woehr; Team D: Peggy Buescher, Julie Daye, Re Henning, Candace Roberts, Rita West

Each team meeting was attended and directed by our consultant Rev. Paul Harris and by the Rector's Warden who also acted as co-coordinator and the vestry representative on Team A.

Thank you all for a job well done!

Then next step Phase 2 – The Search Committee

The Search Committee is appointed by the Vestry, to be broadly representative of the congregation and, even more importantly, comprised of members who are clearly committed to Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and to an effective search process for a new Rector.

The Search Committee's recommended candidate for rector must be approved by the Vestry and the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania before becoming the Rector of the Parish.

The Search Committee must maintain strict confidence about the candidates being considered. For them to do otherwise is to risk great damage, both to the candidates and to their parishes. Most candidates do not know they are being considered until the initial contact. Their congregations also do not and should not know until the decision is made. It is very harmful if a Search Committee member "leaks" information to anyone in the parish including a spouse or other family member. It is also important to provide for the security of Search Committee files.

Other criteria/guidelines agreed for the Search Committee include:

1. Regular attendance, and active participation
2. Baptized/Confirmed members in good standing
3. Pledging member
4. Discerning listeners, open minded, thoughtful
5. Willingness to accept the commitment

The formation of the Search Committee will begin in February, 2017.

More information will be forthcoming to members of the Parish at that time about the size of the Search Committee, the process to become a member of the Committee, detailed responsibilities of members, expected time to serve on the Committee, and communications with the Diocese's Transitional Ministry staff via the Coordinator.

Carol Jenkins

New Ministries Opportunities

Hello everyone I wanted to let you know about a new external ministry opportunity in our community. It is called **Children's Reading Project**. We have partnered with Vare Washington Elementary School. We will be collecting new or slightly used books for their library. Middle School books are needed the most at this time. We are also looking for people to read to the younger children. Readers will need to have criminal and fingerprint background checks done, but we can walk you through that process. If anyone is interested in being a reader please contact Rita West ([215 200 9770](tel:2152009770)) for full details. Collecting books will start in January 2017. Look for the collection box in the back of church. This is a great time to help children expand their reading skills and to encourage reading as a lifetime activity. Thanks for all you can do to help encourage this new ministry at Gloria Dei.

Rita West



Angel Tree Project Update

The Angel Tree Project was a new external ministry that resulted from work done by "Team D" of the Profile Committee. One of our goals in developing this external ministry was to follow our missional statement here at Gloria Dei – to follow the teachings of Jesus by loving God and our neighbors as ourselves. Our specific purpose was to respond the needs of others within the parish and our community – meeting the needs of a child at Christmas seemed to fit the bill!

We reached out to a neighborhood grade school and obtained twenty-five names of first and second graders who might be in need at Christmas time. Those names were placed on angel ornaments hanging on a Christmas tree in Riverside Hall. Ornaments were taken by parishioners to provide a gift for that particular child. All twenty-five were chosen within two weeks of beginning the project. We were thrilled to see such participation.

On December 12th, all twenty-five packages – wrapped and identified – were delivered without a hitch. Twenty-five packages, loaded into three contractor-sized gift bags, in "Santa's convertible" sleigh.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this "giving." We received twenty-five smiles from the children, gratitude from parents and teachers, and many, many thanks. I'd say it was a success. This project is truly an example of the importance of reaching out beyond our walls and of the difference we can make.

Team D - Peggy, Candy, Julie, Re, & Rita

Hospitality

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give you will get back.” (Luke 6:38)

Thank you to all who've extended themselves and made the effort to make hospitality so successful. There's never a shortage at Gloria Dei thanks to your generosity. We've had all sorts of tastings that have welcomed many visitors and sustained us as we interact with them.

I always remind myself when doing hospitality that it's in giving that we receive. “Giving” takes effort and I need your help. I am so grateful for all those who share their time, talent, and treasure for hospitality.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Eve buffet! Your generosity was a wonderful display of giving to Gloria Dei!

We hosted a fabulous welcome just this past Sunday for the families and friends who come every October in loving memory of the lives lost in 1980 on the S.S. Poet – the subject of the bronze plaque on the south side of the rear wall in the church.

We continue to need people to step up and sign up on the hospitality sheet on the corkboard in Riverside Hall near the bathroom door. We strive to carry out the mission spelled out in the letter to the Hebrews: “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Help us keep the doors not only “open” but also open to say “Welcome. Come in. Eat, drink, and feel blessed.

Love and Peace,

Peggy, Re, Rita, Barbara and Linda



Jan 26, Feb 23 and Mar 23
7:30 to 9:30 pm - Riverside Hall

Stewardship Committee

As part of its work on the Profile Committee, “Team B” accepted the challenge to become the Stewardship Committee for Gloria Dei for this year.

The Committee was aware that attention to stewardship at Gloria Dei has been concentrated into the month of October and has then been put aside until next October rolled around.

The Stewardship Committee made a two-phase plan for the stewardship effort at Gloria Dei. Phase One took place during October of 2016 and Phase Two will continue through the rest of 2016 and into 2017.

In Phase One, the Stewardship Committee developed a pledge package including a letter from the Committee and a tri-fold brochure. The Committee set an ambitious goal of \$50,000 in pledges for 2017. Presentations were made to parish members on three occasions, one of which was a breakfast presentation on the parish financial situation by Mark Roberts.

Pledge commitments were received at the offering on Sunday November 6, 2016, the celebration of All Saints Day. A follow-up letter, thanking those who had pledged and asking again those who had not, was mailed in the week after Thanksgiving.

As of December 13, thirty-one pledges had been received, totaling \$44,279. Those pledges represented five new pledgers and ten returning pledgers who increased their pledge from the previous year’s pledge. The goal of \$50,000 has not been reached as of that date but an additional plea was made in church for people who hadn’t pledged to pledge \$5 per week and for those who had pledged to consider increasing their pledged amount by \$5 per week. There may be hope for the \$50,000 goal!

The task the Stewardship Committee set for itself with Phase Two is this: to bring stewardship from the sideline into the center of our souls and minds, to make it the main work of our faith-driven lives.

How will we do that? Certainly some writing by various members of the congregation – not just members of the Stewardship Committee – will be a part of it. Breakfast before church to make presentations about this could be a part of it. Prayer sessions to read, pray, and discuss how-to-do-this are likely some part of this effort. Sermon remarks on some Sundays – not necessarily from the clergy – are probably a part of it.

We, the Stewardship Committee, are working on doing this. Now that Team B’s profile work is completed, we’ll put the time we’d used to do that work into doing this work.

A resolution was passed in the 1989 General Convention stating that *stewardship is the main work of the church*. We're committed to helping this parish understand and live by that resolution.

The Stewardship Committee -

*Jerry Buescher, Barbara Potts,
Mark Roberts, Richard Woehr*



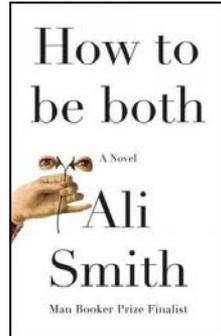
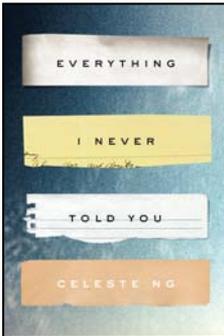
The Book Club at Gloria Dei

Here is our next book and meeting date. The Book Club meets at 7 pm

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng January 23, 2017

**Fixed: Dope sacks, dye packs, and the long
welcome back** by Doug Piotter February 27, 2017

How to be Both by Ali Smith March 27, 2017



Marilyn Johnson



*Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases*



Now all these things can be done online at Gloria Dei's website!
Just visit us at www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we're doing.
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.

Calendar

- Jan. 1** Become friends with "Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church" on Facebook
- Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary
Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm
Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class
- Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25** Chair Yoga with Kathy - 9:00am Riverside Hall, chairs provided Great opportunity to gently stretch and strengthen muscles, reduce stress, and develop better breathing habits. Drop in class, all levels welcome. \$ 10 per session
New
- Jan. 5** Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall
- Jan. 8** Project Church (Gloria Dei Youth Group) following the 10:00am service, Riverside Hall ages 10+
Meal planning for Ronald McDonald House visit following 10am service
- Jan. 9** HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm
- Jan. 15** Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship in Riverside Hall
Visit to Ronald McDonald house, leaving from parking lot at 3:30
- Jan. 19** Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall
- Jan. 22** Parish Profile Report after Church in Riverside Hall
- Jan. 23** Book Club - 7:00pm Riverside Hall,
Everything I Never Told You
by Celeste Ng
- Jan. 26** *Jazz & Joe* - 7:30pm Riverside Hall
at Gloria Dei
- Jan. 29** Sunday School Ice Skating Party
at Rizzo Rink 3:30-5:00pm



Calendar

Feb. 1, 8, Chair Yoga with Kathy - 9:00am Riverside Hall, chairs provided, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$ 10 per session

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary
Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm
Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class

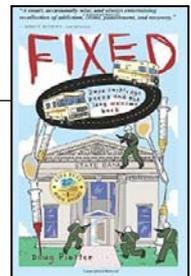
Feb. 12 Sexton Sideshow Valentine's Pancake Brunch 11:30am - 3:00pm. \$10 all you can eat, kids under 12 free Live Music, Local talent, Mimosas, Craft Beer & Cider available for purchase
Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship in Riverside Hall

Feb. 13 HGDP Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm

Feb. 16 Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall

Feb. 23 *Jazz & Joe* - 7:30pm Riverside Hall
at Gloria Dei

Feb. 27 Book Club - 7:00pm Riverside Hall,
Fixed: Dope Sacks, Dye Packs and the Long Welcome Back
by *Doug Piotter*



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming Sunday please call the office and let us know. You may provide the flowers yourself or you may provide funds for flowers and a volunteer “flower person” will purchase and place the flowers for you.

The Lectionary for January

January 8th, First Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord

O God our Father at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 15th, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 22nd, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1,5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

January 29th, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

The Lectionary for February

February 2nd, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalms 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

February 12th, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

February 19th, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Holy God of Compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

February 26th, Last Sunday after Epiphany, Transfiguration of Our Lord

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

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March 1st, Ash Wednesday

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Psalm 103:8-18

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21



Sexton Sideshow Honky-Tonk/Hootenanny 2016

This year's Hootenanny on Friday, December 16 was a tribute to Kenny Rogers. Nine different artists each performed one of Kenny's songs, a holiday song, plus their own original music.

The following evening was "ladies' night", where 7 different female artist paid tribute to Dolly Parton.

Both nights proved to be worthy of their performances, but the threat of inclement weather seemed to keep some people home. Our hope is that someday you will be able to come out and support this fine musical event. It really puts you in the holiday spirit.

This year we were fortunate enough to secure a community grant from the City of Philadelphia in the amount of \$2000. These monies went to pay the artists, sound tech, and other expenses.

This year's event took in \$2007 for its 2-day run, with Saturday night's Honky-Tonk doing twice the business as Friday's Hootenanny.

All in all, this was a successful year for us at the Sexton Sideshow, in spite of both Paula and myself having major surgeries this summer! We are both still mending, but doing fine on the day-to-day.

Once again, we encourage you who actually read this to consider sending in a donation for the Sexton Sideshow, and making us part of your generous giving in the coming year. We can't do this without your support.

Our next event will be a Valentine's Pancake Brunch with an open mic for musicians on Sunday, February 12. \$10 all you can eat pancakes, sausage, fruit, cakes, etc. We hope to see you there!

Peace & Love

Jim & Paula Minacci

Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House

We are once again going to be Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House, on Sunday, January 15, 2017. We will leave for RMH at 3:30PM from the church parking lot and will return by 8:00PM. We will be planning the menu after church on Sunday, January 8, 2017. If you cannot go with us but would like to contribute to the meal, or if you would like to join us and need a ride, please let us know. You may call the church office or see Joy about participating.



****Reminder****

Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017

Mark your calendars and plan to join us
for a Simple Meal at 6PM
and a Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
at 7PM.



Project Church - All about Young People - Join Us!

Meet monthly to plan & execute service projects to do Gods work;
learn Gods word; enjoy each others company.

Open to those 9 years old & up.

Meet us January 8th to plan mid-winter projects and do some cooking.

February 5th we will be going Ice Skating. All are welcome.

Bring your ideas with an open mind and a kind spirit.

Heather Myers

Spirits and History!

JOIN US

When:

May 5, 2017

7-10pm

Where:

Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes')
Church
916 Swanson St.
Philadelphia
PA 19147

HELP US REWIRE THE
CHURCH AND
RECTORY!

Proceeds benefit Historic Preservation at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church. Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a 501c3 charity. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL SPIRITS & HISTORY Honoring Our Military Veterans

Featuring:

- Spirited tastings to match the times of eight of our illustrious permanent residents from the military!
- Jazz Trio courtesy of The Jazz Sanctuary
- Cocktail Party
- Fun in the Graveyard!



Learn the stories of our military honorees

Revolutionary War

War of 1812

Civil War

Medal of Honor

For more information:
www.preserveoldswedes.org



HGDPC
Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Preservation Corporation

*A Subsidiary of Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes') Church
Philadelphia*

SAVE THE DATE

History Bicycle Ride!

May 13, 2017

10am – Noon

WHERE:

Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes') Church
Philadelphia, PA 19147

- Enjoy a casual bike ride starting at Historic Gloria Dei Church and follow the map through Old City and Independence Mall.
- Most of the route follows marked bike lanes
- The ride is designed for families and novice riders
- The route is 4 miles long - so you can walk it! Or take a bus!
- Hear 6 exciting stories from our Nation's past
- All riders/walkers who complete the circuit will be entered to win prizes
- Top prize is a \$350 gift certificate to Bell's Bike Shop



Please thank and support our event sponsor:

Bell's  Bike Shop

For more information:
www.preserveoldswedes.org

Proceeds benefit Historic Preservation at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church .
Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a 501c3 charity.
All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



In Remembrance of:

Mette Parker

October 25, 2016

John DeCarlo

December 15, 2016



A Statement of Purpose of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

We the Congregation of GLORIA DEI (Old Swedes') CHURCH, existing by and for the Glory of God, knowing that God, through this Congregation, helps us to find our way and to use our gifts, gather together

- To honor and celebrate the acceptance of our differences and uniqueness;
- To be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, loving community;
- To respond to the needs of others;
- To preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition, and heritage of this sacred place.



Sunday Service:

10:00 AM

Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-2:30

CLERGY

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

The Rev. Paul Harris, Assoc. Clergy

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director

Christine McBride, Parish Admin.

Paula & James Minacci, Sextons

Mark Roberts, Treasurer

VESTRY

Peggy Buescher

Jill Duink, Accounting Warden

Re Henning

Carol Jenkins, Rector's Warden

Leigh Jenkins, Secretary

Jamie Konowal

Michael Phillips

Mark Roberts

James Ufheil

Nils van Ammers

Rita West

Jeanette Woehr



STANDING NOTICES

Weddings

Weddings at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church must be scheduled with the clergy at least three months in advance. All weddings in the church will be governed by the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Book of Common Prayer. Pre-marital counseling is a prerequisite. No weddings will be conducted during Lent.

Funerals

When death occurs a family member is asked to contact the clergy so that timely arrangements for a funeral may be made. It is appropriate for the funeral of a Christian to take place in the church. It is also appropriate that funeral arrangements be made in advance and kept in a file in the church office. Burial plots are available for members of the parish in the church's cemetery. Consult the church office for costs and details.

Baptisms

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated during one of the principle Sunday liturgies and is governed by the Canons of the church and the Book of Common Prayer. Baptism is normally celebrated on one of the four appropriate feast days designated in the Book of Common Prayer. These are: The Baptism of Our Lord (1/8/17); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/16/17); Pentecost (6/4/17); and All Saints Sunday (11/5/17). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.