



July/August 2017

# Down By The Riverside

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

## Thoughts from the Rector

*We read to know we are not alone*  
(C.S.Lewis)

I have recently finished an amazing trilogy of historical novels (*The Century Trilogy* by Ken Follett), only to immediately become enmeshed and ensconced in a twelve book series of novels (the *Maisie Dobbs* series by Jacqueline Winspear) that span the first half of the twentieth century's global history while developing a main character who ages from a very young girl to a quite amazing woman as she travels through this history and her life.

Both of these most recent reading experiences have brought back to my mind the C.S. Lewis quotation above. *We read to know we are not alone*. It is a thought that comes to me when I have become deeply involved with words on paper. Words on paper – that's all books are, right? Just words...?

No. Truth be told, books - whether history or fiction, mystery or biography, philosophy or theology, poetry or drama – become not just words but places... and people...and experiences...and thoughts...and dreams. Our minds have such an ability to transport us, just by words on a page, to universes previously unknown or unconsidered. Just by words we are joined with others we have never met as well as with those who share our reading experiences.

And so for a couple of months now I have been traveling through the twentieth century with some people I have never met before but now know intimately. Characters have become for me travelling companions, sharing their perspectives and shedding light on corners of the world and the human mind and heart I would otherwise never have experienced. And I am changed by "seeing" the world in new ways, just by reading words on a page.

The Bible is one of the most amazing books (actually sixty-six books!) that can transport us to other times, other places, sharing days and nights with folks we never expected to meet and whose lives are so different from ours that initially we can barely grasp the reality of their histories, their cultures, their eras. And while the Bible is not purely any genre of writing but rather a conglomeration of history, story, biography, song, prayer, prophecy, poetry and myth, nonetheless we are drawn in by the sheer breadth of its span of time and place and folk. Drawn into new mind and heart opening moments revealed

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through those whose stories are told and those who share in the reading. And reading the Bible encourages us to consider how, throughout human recorded history, humanity has been reaching outward, inward, individually and as community, to grasp the nature of our Creator God and our relationship with this God who demands that we love each other.

I encourage you to take some time to read a portion of the Bible this summer. There are short books (*Ruth, Jonah, Philemon*), longer books full of stories that are familiar (*Genesis, Exodus, Luke, Acts*); books that will help with your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus (*the Gospel of John, Romans, 1 Corinthians*), books that will center your prayer life (*Psalms, James*), books that will comfort you (*1, 2, & 3 John*) books that will challenge you (*Hosea, Job*), and so much more.

We read to know we are not alone. We read to know we share in joys and sorrows, doubts and fears, challenges and celebrations. Whatever you chose to read this summer, may you find new and exciting avenues to explore, and may you know the peace that accompanies us all when we know – we are not alone. We are companions, seeking the God who is always with us.

Peace,

Joy +



## Stewardship

I came across an article where the author talks about giving – as in time, talent, and treasure – as a way to change the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Talk like that has a new resonance for me. We have a presiding bishop, Michael Curry, who in his first address as presiding bishop proclaimed that “This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus’ movement in this world.” And we have a diocesan bishop, Daniel GP Gutiérrez, who echoed that statement in a Tweet (a Tweet!) to the presiding bishop: “Thank you Bishop. I am humbled, grateful and excited. We are part of the Jesus Movement and thank you for your leadership.”

We spend a lot of time talking about the fact that we give to a church not to perpetuate an institution but to change the world, and (we hope) to change the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Yes, giving time, talent, and treasure includes giving to provide services for members and other participants – worship, education, pastoral care, youth activities, keeping the doors open for long-time members to be able to sit in their usual pews and sing their usual hymns.

But giving time, talent, and treasure also provides meals for the families of children being treated at the Ronald McDonald House. Giving time, talent, and treasure also provides occasions where people who don't belong to the parish can gather, have some food, listen to some music, and enjoy one another's company. Giving time, talent, and treasure makes possible two of the city's largest flea markets, where vendors can make a dollar or two, where shoppers can find some bargains, where all of them can share an enjoyable time together. As the Message version of Matthew 18:20 puts it "And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

In all these cases, people are together because people who are Jesus people – us – make things happen that bring people together. We don't need to begin any of these activities with a call to prayer or a reading of scripture. Jesus said and says: "when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." We're Jesus people. We – we – need to believe that, because it's true.

I'm writing this on the Day of the Solstice. Summer is here! I assume what happens every summer will happen again this summer – we go our separate ways at one time or another. But I'm reminding you: We're Jesus People. Whatever we do, separately or together, we're always doing it as Jesus People, because we're baptized and to the question "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?" we've answered, "I will, with God's help."

And whatever we do, it's an undeniable part of our stewardship, our giving of time, talent, and treasure. Happy summer, happy stewardship!

*Jerry Buescher*

for the Stewardship Committee: Barbara Potts,  
Mark Roberts, and Richard Woehr



*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](http://www.old-swedes.org) and find out what else we're doing.  
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.

## Calendar

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- July 2** Last day of Sunday School & Project Church – Pool Party!!!  
Details to follow.
- July 4** No Evensong, No Classes, Office & Church will be closed.  
**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July**
- July 6** Search Committee Meeting – 6:00pm in the Conference Room
- July 10** HGDP Meeting – 5:30pm, Roak Hall
- July 11,  
18, 25** Evensong – 6:30pm – Sanctuary  
Yoga with Sarah – 7:15pm in Riverside Hall,  
drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class  
Meditation with Sheila – On hiatus for the summer, classes will  
resume September 12
- July 12,  
26** Chair Yoga with Kathy \*\*Summer Schedule\*\* – 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
- July 19** Community Design Collaborative / HGDP Meeting:  
6:30–8:30pm, Riverside Hall
- July 20** Vestry Meeting – 7:00pm Riverside Hall
- July 23** Confirmation Class – 11:30am – 1:00pm, Roak Room



### 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.

## Calendar

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- Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary  
Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class  
Meditation with Sheila - On hiatus for the summer, classes will resume September 12
- Aug 9, 23** Chair Yoga with Kathy \*\*Summer Schedule\*\* - 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
- Aug 17** Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall



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

We, the congregation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes'), an Episcopal Church, honor God by following the teachings of Jesus to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

With God's help...

We express our faith through worship.

We honor and celebrate our differences and uniqueness.

We respond to the needs of others in the parish and in the community.

We preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition, and heritage of this sacred place.

We are an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, and loving community.

## The Lectionary for July

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### July 2, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4,15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

### July 7, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145: 8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

### July 16, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

### July 23, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 30, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

## The Lectionary for August

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### August 6, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 145:8-9,14-22

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

### August 13, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-23

### August 20, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a,29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

### August 27, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

## Thoughts from the Rector's Warden

Summer is upon us and the heat that comes with it can force us to stay closed-up inside with the air conditioner humming. If you're like most children you opt to stay in the pool or some other outdoor water venue. Summer usually means less people in the pews at Gloria Dei. The heat can be unbearable to some and others are on vacation. This can mean less contact with our church families. We can stay connected to each other with a simple phone call or an email just to say hello or to check in with each other. Social media has helped many of us stay in contact and up to date with each other. This summer I ask you to reach out to anyone you have not seen in while and tell them they are missed and that you are thinking about them. Stay connected and remember we are all responsible for each other.

Now on to other business, the Search Committee of Gloria Dei has been working very hard these past two months. We have fulfilled the duty of submitting the Parish Portfolio to the PA Episcopal Diocese, after getting approval from the vestry. We have met several times with Jill Mathis from the Office of Transitional Ministries at the Diocese, who instructed us on the protocol of beginning the search for our next Rector. We have posts on the Diocese website, and other sites like the DIOPA CONNECTIONS newsletter and The Episcopal Digital Network listing the job opening for full time Rector of Gloria Dei. We are officially receiving names!

The Search Committee will occasionally be giving brief updates during Sunday announcement time. It is important to remember that The Search Committee is held to strict confidentiality and can not divulge specific information on any candidate who applies. So please understand we are only giving updates on our progress.

Any qualified clergy candidate may apply to the position by simply going to our website at [www.old-swedes.org](http://www.old-swedes.org) and clicking on Rector Search Information.

In closing I ask you to keep the Search Committee in your prayers.

May the holy spirit guide our way.

*Carol Jenkins*



## Hospitality

It's summertime! The season for warm temperatures, trips to the shore, picnics, biking, hiking – and visitors to Gloria Dei. Remember our catch phrase – “All are welcome, all the time.” That means we're committed to being friendly, outgoing, and welcoming to those who turn up on our grounds or at our services.

Before and after services on Sunday, we at Gloria Dei pride ourselves on providing something to drink, something to eat, and good conversation for those visiting. The word may be quaint and old-fashioned – hospitality – but the thought behind it is not. It's a sign of our welcome to all who come here. It's a sign of our community as “followers of the way,” as the earliest Christians called themselves.

So – please join us as we welcome all who come. If you can make something to bring, if you can buy something extra to bring, we appreciate that. Just a reminder if you need one: there's a sign-up sheet on the cork board in Riverside so you can let us know, let everyone know, what might arrive.

Just a reminder: please help us keep Riverside looking good while we're enjoying our time with each other and with visitors. Please discard your plates, napkins, utensils, cups when you're finished with them. Leaving them abandoned on the tables isn't “welcoming.”

See you at church!

*Peggy Buescher*

for the Hospitality Committee: Re Hemming,  
Rita West, Barbara Chilcott,  
and Susan Weinman



## Returning on Sunday, September 3rd

The World Orphan Choir will participate in the 10 o'clock service with a reception in Riverside Hall following. Tables for post performance sponsorship information and the sale of handmade items from around the world will be set up. The sale of these table items from partnering nations help earn the needed project funds and tour expenses.

Currently made up of some of the poorest orphaned and at-risk children from Peru, India, & Liberia, the Matsiko World Orphan Choir (the flagship vehicle of International Children's Network - ICN) captures the hearts of all who hear their hope-filled message. The kids sing with such passion and meaning that their hope of overcoming tragedy and the life-changing effects of an education is truly inspiring. The Choir's contagious energy and zeal shines through a powerful presentation of original songs, cultural dances, and multimedia testimony. Never before in the history of these three nations have orphaned or vulnerable children been allowed to travel outside of their nation. However, due to the great work of ICN for the children, a great trust has allowed this historic cultural opportunity to happen.

Orphaned & vulnerable children are auditioned annually and selected from a pool of hundreds of children before leaving their home nations to travel out of their countries for the first time in their lives. These chosen few become part of a one year United States world orphan choir tour in order to be the greatest ambassadors for our world's orphaned and vulnerable children we have ever experienced. Ages range from 5 to 16, and some of these kids have never experienced electricity or worn shoes. They sing and dance and share their stories for a very worthy goal: to raise hope, awareness and educational sponsorship for the world's 600 million and at-risk children. Because of this sponsorship, orphaned and at-risk children have a chance to break the cycle of poverty, taking better control of their futures.

Through the sharing of their culture, music, pain and joy, Matsiko World Orphan Choir performances provide a complete picture of the challenges these children face each day. In addition to churches, civic groups, universities and other public/private schools around the country, the Matsiko World Orphan Choir has performed at noteworthy places such as Google, Disneyland and SeaWorld, entertaining crowds of thousands at the Los Angeles Clippers,

Seattle Seahawks, and even the Rose Bowl games. The Choir has shared their talents via personal presentations with U.S. local and national

politicians and graced the platforms of corporate giants such as Microsoft and Kraft Foods. They've even been considered for The David Letterman Show and were invited to the Gospel Music Awards.

In the next year, the choir hopes to add children from Ghana, Nepal and the Philippines. As ICN partnerships continue to grow internationally, we hope to eventually include children from Cambodia, Uganda and Belize.

For more information about a tax-deductible sponsorship of a child, ICN, or Matsiko World Orphan Choir, call Don Windham directly at 253-217-7531



or visit [www.matsikochoir.com](http://www.matsikochoir.com).



**Hope to see you in September**

**7:30 to 9:30 pm - Riverside Hall**



## Welcome the Newest Members

Baptized on June 4, 2017

**Bilqis Gartland**

**Bryce Anthony Eisberg**

**Veronica Grace Eisberg**

## Memorial Cards:

**Ed McBride**

By: Bert Kubiak & Robert Kerlow

**Marilyn Werner**

By: Bert Kubiak

**Patrick Dalin**

By: Mike & Geri Ftolinski, Bert Kubiak,  
Artrina Lindsay, Joe & Dolores Collins,  
Marge Lord, Donna Collins, Ryan,  
Ashley & Patrick

**Earl Hartman**

By: Bert Kubiak



**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

Carol Jenkins, Rector's Warden

Leigh Jenkins, Secretary

Jamie Konowal

Lisa Reeves

Mark Roberts

Eric Soltzcki

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.