

The Gloria Dei Newsletter

March 2020

A lot is happening at Gloria Dei! This newsletter is a collection of announcements and news to help you stay informed about parish life at Gloria Dei during this period of transition.

We want to share news as simply and efficiently as possible. It is important that as many people as possible receive this by email. If you do not have email, then you can request a hard copy to be sent to you.

Letter from the Senior Warden

Hello, everyone.

While I have been trying to keep everyone attending Sunday services up to date on what is going on at Gloria Dei, we also need to be relating everything to our congregation in print, especially for those that cannot regularly attend services on Sunday, so here is our first update.

The most important issue to most of us is probably the status of our search for a new rector. As of this writing, we have completed a first round of interviews with 3 candidates to serve as our Interim Rector for approximately 2 years, while we prepare and conduct the work necessary to find and call a new permanent Rector. The interviews have gone well, and the interview team of vestry members is working closely with 2 of our diocesan Canons to prepare the call. Our goal is to have a new Interim Rector with us in April.

Also of importance to everyone, is the fact that much is getting done relative to our maintenance and upkeep of our grounds and buildings, and we are making significant new efforts in our Christian outreach and benevolence.

With regard to the outreach programs, Gloria Dei's sponsorship of a 10-member Congolese family is moving along and expanding rapidly. We've been able to help the family in a number of different ways; monetary help from fundraisers, handyman work at their home, getting the children better prepared for school, and locating work for the older members of the family. We've also continued our support to the two grade schools in our area, Vare-Washington and Nebinger, and we're participating in the Diocesan 5-Sacred Days project.

We're getting very close to starting our major building repair and painting project under the Keystone Grant awarded to HGDPC. The HGDPC group has held several successful educational programs in the church that brought in many people from outside of the congregation, and those in attendance made nice donations to our building and repair fund as well.

Internally, we've moved out most of the secular books from the rectory bookcases and replaced them with the theologically themed books that had been located in the basement of Roak House. Now, these books are much more accessible to those doing Christian research, etc. Speaking of books, it became necessary to move the storage of the Swedish History (blue) books out of the Lutheran Seminary location and into the rectory due to a dramatic increase in the cost of the storage there. That task has also been completed. Many thanks to all that have donated their time to getting these things done.

We're getting things done and hopefully we're enjoying it while we're doing it. It's easier to take on a new task once you experience a few successful jobs well done. This year has already seen a few successes and we've got a lot more on the horizon. But, a lot of hard work is going to be needed to get them done.

Overall, I'd say that a great deal of our internal strife is fading away. We appear to be laughing more, communicating and chatting more, working together more, and jumping on each other much less each week. A very blessed thing to be sure.

May God Bless all of you,
Jim

Prayer Request

The Vestry asks for your prayers at they interview and choose an interim pastor for Gloria Dei.

Announcements

Potluck Brunch/Lunch

March 15th at Noon in Riverside Hall

Bring your favorite dish!

Join us and you will also have a chance to meet the refugee family we are supporting. – Fiteline, Tamasha, Ally, Abedi, Merina, Mwenbato, Ibrahim, Gabriel, and Jacob Byaese. The sign-up board is in Riverside Hall – volunteer to bring a dish, help with transportation, or help with cleanup.

By the way...we raised \$552 for the Byaese family at our Pancake Breakfast on February 9th! We had a wonderful time singing, clapping and grooving to Philly Jam's Woodstock Revival play list! Thanks so much to their music circle! Thanks to Heather and Tom Myers, Jaime Konowal, Cathy Ufheil, Bix Pancoe, Ruth and Jill Duink, to all who donated to our table, and to all who came and donated to support the Byaese family. The funds have been sent to help our refugee family with monthly bills.

Join in Gloria Dei's Lenten Discipline

Give up some expense (coffee shop on Tuesdays, manicures, caviar...) and put the money in a jar to give on Easter. Our gifts will sponsor a Ronald McDonald House meal (\$400) which we will help prepare and serve together. Any additional funds will be donated to the House.

Green Committee Meeting - Sunday, March 1st at 8:30am in the Rectory. All are welcome!

Easter Flowers

We are now collecting for Easter Flowers. Envelopes are available at the back of the church, but you don't need an envelope to contribute! You can also call Christine McBride in the office at 215-389-1513.

Save the Date! May 16 - Spring Flea Market
Saturday, 8:00am to 3:00pm

Lectors Wanted!

Do you enjoy speaking in public?

Do you feel called to help lead Sunday worship?

Do you want to offer words of encouragement, hope, and challenge to others?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, join us as a lector! “Lector” is a word derived from the Latin verb “legere” which means “read”. Thus, a lector is someone who reads. Gloria Dei is looking for more people willing to read from the Old and New Testament, the Psalms, or the prayers during worship services. We currently have a gifted team of 22 individuals who rotate through the services and commit to one or two readings per month. Please join us! If interested, contact Megan Bartlett: megan77777@yahoo.com.

Prayer Ministry

For decades, Gloria Dei has had a strong core of members dedicated to daily prayer. Those involved in this ministry faithfully speak your concerns, needs, and praise to God in the quiet of their hearts and homes (or maybe while commuting to work!). They do so without fanfare or acknowledgement, yet I know them to be a vital part of the mission and health of our congregation. So, I want to take a moment to thank the ten people who are involved with me in this ministry: Dolores Collins, Barbara Chilcott, Sally Daly, Re Henning, Richard Janssen, Margie Kucinski, Nora Melley, Lisa Reeves, Cathy Ufheil, and Rita West. Since early January, we were asked to pray for 33 people (and one dog!). In future issues of this newsletter, we will share names with you (*if permission is given!*), so you, too, can lift up these names to God. Keep in mind that there isn't one “correct” way to pray; when I review the list of names entrusted to me, I simply ask that God's presence be made known to those people.

If you feel called to participate in this ministry, please contact me: megan77777@yahoo.com. If you have a prayer request, you can contact the church office (215-389-1513) or fill out a prayer request slip at the back of the church and put it in the offering basket during worship.

Peace and blessings,

Megan Bartlett

Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Church Calendar for March and April

March 1

Green Committee - 8:30am, Rectory

March 9

HGDPC Meeting - 5:30pm, Riverside Hall

March 15

Potluck Brunch with the Byaese Family - 12:00pm, Riverside Hall

March 19

Swedish Colonial Society Meeting - 11:00am, Riverside Hall

Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm, Roak Room

March 26

Jazz & Joe - 7:30pm, Riverside Hall

April 5

Green Committee Meeting – 8:30am, Location TBA

Palm Sunday Service -10:00am, Sanctuary

Easter Egg Making Party at Coffee Hour – Riverside Hall

April 8

Seder Meal - 6:00pm, Riverside Hall

April 9

Maundy Thursday Service - TBA

April 10

Good Friday Service - TBA

April 12

Easter Sunrise Service - 5:45am, Sanctuary

Easter Service - 10:00am, Sanctuary

Easter egg hunt following the 10am service.

April 13

HGDPC Meeting - 5:30pm, Riverside Hall

April 16

Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm, Roak Room

April 23

Jazz & Joe - 7:30pm, Riverside Hall

Get Healthy at Gloria Dei!

Tuesdays

Meditation with Sheila – 5:45 to 6:45pm, free class

Beginner Yoga with Achola – 7:15 to 8:15pm, \$10 per class

Wednesdays

Beginner Chair Yoga with Kathy – 9:00 to 10:00am, \$10 per class

Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi with Gretchen – 10:30 to 11:30am, \$12 per class

Beginner Tai Chi with Gretchen – 12:00 to 1:00pm, \$10 per class

All classes meet in Riverside Hall

MEMORIAL CARDS

Joseph Lindsay – from Dolores Collins, Roberta Kubiak

Stephen Pakech – from Roberta Kubiak, Robert Kridlow

Carmen Arante – from Bob & Jean Neill

Frank DiSalvo – from Bert Kubiak, Dolores Collins

Mary Walsh – from Bob & Jean Neill

Charles Kitchner – from Jean Beltran

Alice McGoldrick – from Bert Kubiak

Dot Hudson – from Bert Kubiak

BAPTISMS

Lyla Nicole Cruz

Cora Grace Koenig

Theodore Rocco Fike

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

Erica Star Miceli

Eugene Sweeney

Reiner Bernhard Paust

Richard Drozdowski

Rhonda Ann Homan

Susan Atmore

Robert Roak

Elizabeth Roak

John Cassidy

Mary Weissinger

If you would like to purchase a memorial card for \$5, please call the office at 215-389-1513.