



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

## Thoughts from Our Seminarian

I am one of those people who REALLY likes dessert: ice cream, cookies, brownies, fudge, anything sweet. But, I can't count the number of times that I refrained from getting dessert. Of course, there could be many reasons for this. It's not healthy, it costs money (I am a student), I'm already full. One of the hardest reasons for me, though, is that I simply cannot get dessert at a restaurant if I'm alone in my dessert-eating. It's a communal event, isn't it? And so, I beg the person with me (often enough, my health-conscious husband) to join me in getting dessert.

On Monday night, December 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be an opportunity to take cookies (hopefully a ton of cookies) to the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI). One obvious purpose for this is to provide a luxury these seamen don't often get to experience. This would really be the only purpose if we were to just drop them off and go on our way. How much more joy it creates when community is experienced.

Christmas is certainly about Christ breaking into our world in the form of a baby. Christmas is also about community. It is a community of people who gather around the manger. We as Christians have opportunities to gather in Christian community. But not only that, we have the opportunity to break into one another's lives as Christ. "Where were you when I was hungry." I brought you cookies, of course!

And so, you are all invited to sign-up (oh yes, there will be sign-up sheets!) to bring cookies and/or to journey with us to SCI. Then, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, SCI workers will be at Gloria Dei to share a DVD of what their work is about, and to help facilitate discussion on how we can participate in their ministry on a more regular basis.

As we enter this season of waiting, let us wait together. And if we're going to wait together, we might as well eat together. In community, we anticipate the coming of the Son of God, and participate in the joy that is to come in the joy that we share.

God's Peace,

*Christine*

# LUCIADAGEN

December 13 is Luciadagen, or St. Lucia's Day. For Swedes it is the beginning of the holiday season. The Swedish traditional story is acted out in homes, churches, and other locations around the world. While most would associate the custom with the Nordic countries, as Swedes have moved around the world the tradition continues to be celebrated even in places that haven't experienced winter, such as the Republic of the Congo. The story is acted out with the oldest daughter playing Lucia. Early in the morning she brings her parents a tray of sweet saffron buns and some coffee. She wears a white gown and a crown of greens, often made of holly. Her sisters and brothers dress in white and follow her. The girls carry lit candles and the boys wear tall, pointed caps and are called "star boys." The tradition at Old Swedes has been carried out since 1938.

According to Wikipedia, some people trace the 're-birth' of the Lucia celebrations in Sweden "to the tradition in German Protestant families of having girls dressed as angelic Christ children, handing out Christmas presents." The Swedish variant of this white-dressed "Kindchen Jesus", or Christkind, was called "Kinken Jes", and started to appear in upper-class families in the 1700s on Christmas Eve with a candle-wreath in her hair, handing out candy and cakes to the children. Others say the Lucia celebration evolved from old Swedish traditions of star boys and white-dressed angels singing Christmas carols at different events during Advent and Christmas. In either case, the current tradition of having a white-dressed lady with candles in her hair appearing on Lucia day started in the late 1700s and spread slowly to other parts of the country during the 1800s.



GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES) CHURCH

Regardless of the origin of Lucia those who are familiar with the song 'Sankta Lucia' will tell a different story. The English translation of the Swedish song includes the words 'There in our dark house, appears with lighted candles Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia.' Yet the Italian version of the song says 'Come to my quick little boat! Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!' It talks about the place Saint Lucia on the Bay of Naples.

This year lets enjoy the 70<sup>th</sup> local celebration of the Swedish Yule, Luciadagen, or Saint Lucy's Day.

*Bob Josnweit*

# STEWARDSHIP, YES!!!

In October, we observed Stewardship Awareness Month by reflecting on what Gloria Dei means in our lives, our gratitude for Gloria Dei as a major place where we encounter the generosity of God's grace, and our grateful response to that gift.

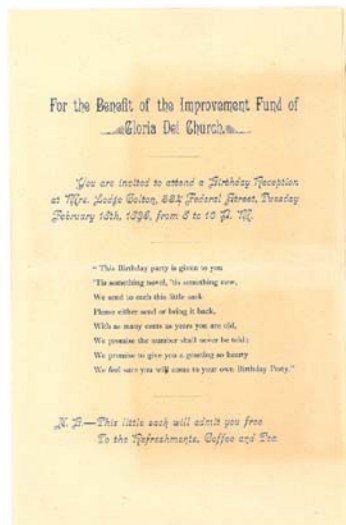
On All Saints Sunday, the day we celebrate all those with whom we are joined in the death & resurrection of Jesus, we also celebrated Stewardship Sunday by bringing our pledge cards for the great ingathering.

It appears at this time that we returned about 10% more pledges than last year, and that we pledged nearly 30% more than the amount pledged last year. These pledges help the Vestry and Finance Committee as they prepare a budget for the coming year. Do the pledges cover all the program costs, expenses, and building upkeep? Of course not. But without those pledges, the expenses would be that much harder to deal with.

The Stewardship Committee deeply appreciates the time, talent, and treasure you dedicate to Gloria Dei. We just completed the most successful flea market ever held at Gloria Dei, and we're in the throes of preparing for Lucia Fest - two activities that would not be possible, much less successful, without the enormous amounts of time and talent you provide. The pledge ingathering provided evidence of your willingness to add your treasure to your gifts of time and talent.

Thank you for your generosity, for your grateful response to the gifts we all receive here at Gloria Dei.

## *The Stewardship Committee*



A Stewardship  
Fund Raiser  
from 1896



## Guatemala Outreach

Six years ago Gloria Dei joined other churches in the diocese and elected to begin a companion relationship with two small Episcopal parishes in Guatemala. After discussion and a visit from Marben Juarez, the lay pastor of these two parishes, we decided that sending scholarship money to students whose families struggled financially to send them to school would be the best way to help our sister parishes.

In 2002, four members of the Guatemala committee went to visit the people of Anunciacion and Acension. While we were there we noticed a little boy who sat apart from the others, who kept rubbing his red eye. It turned out he had pink eye, a condition that is easily treatable if there is access to medicine. But the people of Acension lived up a bumpy dirt road on an isolated hill. To get to a doctor, a sick person had to walk for about an hour to reach the highway and then wait for a bus to take them into the nearest town. We started wondering how much it would cost for a doctor to come and give the children a checkup once a month and provide vitamins and medicine where needed. After discussion with Marben and with the vestry, we decided to send additional money to provide for periodic medical visits.

In addition to the money for scholarship and medical care, Gloria Dei has generously given money for individuals in need of help traveling to Guatemala City for medical care and to help replace the decrepit motor cycle that Marben used to travel back and forth between his two parishes.

To raise money for these projects, we have sold Guatemalan crafts and asked members of the parish to sponsor children who need scholarships. The Sunday School children have raised hundreds of dollars for the children in our sister parishes and sponsor one or two scholarships every year. They have written letters, drawn pictures and sent presents down on our visits to Guatemala.

These are only some of the many activities and projects that members of Gloria Dei have given their heart and energy to. I have been proud to be part of it and hope that our love for our sister parishes and the gifts we give will continue for a long time. I also wish that everyone at Gloria Dei could

experience the personal relationships that I have been able to have with members of these parishes as well as other people in the Diocese of Guatemala. It has been one of the great adventures of my life to know these people personally.

In order to continue this relationship we need more volunteers to join the Guatemala Committee. The Guatemala Committee is responsible for organizing the annual scholarship drive, proposing a budget to vestry, and facilitating communication between our churches in Guatemala and the members of Gloria Dei. In the past there has been wonderful support from the whole parish in these activities, but a strong committee is needed to organize and lead the effort.

Although I intend to remain on the Guatemala Committee, I think it is time that I stepped down as chair. It is time for the new energy and new ideas that a new chair would bring. I hope someone from the parish will feel called to step forward and lead us on in our continuing relationship with the people of Anunciacion and Asencion. I hope that others will feel called to serve on the committee so that we can continue this wonderful ministry.

*Julie Daye*



**Christmas Services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church**

**Christmas Eve – December 24, 2007**  
7:00 pm Holy Communion, Rite II  
Special Performance by the Sunday School

**Christmas Day – December 25, 2007**  
7:00 am Julotta (Swedish Service)  
10:00 am Holy Communion, Rite II

**First Sunday after Christmas Day – December 30, 2007**  
10:00 am Holy Communion, Rite II

# Calendar

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- December 1** Swedish Service 11:00 AM  
SACC Dinner, Riverside Hall 6:00 PM
- December 2,9,  
16,23,25,30** One Service – 10:00 AM
- December 2** Lucia Dress Rehearsal and Dinner
- December 4,6,  
11,13,18,20** Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak room  
6:00 – 10:00 PM
- December 7** Lucia Performances at 6:00 & 8:00 PM
- December 8** Lucia Performances at 2:00, 3:30 & 5:00 PM
- December 9** Lucia Performances at 2:00, 3:30 & 5:00 PM
- December 13** Rehearsal for Confirmation 7:00 PM
- December 15** Finnish Christmas Service 2:00 PM
- December 16** Visitation: The Rt. Rev. Franklin D. Turner  
Confirmations, Baptisms and Receptions 10:00 AM Service  
Norwegian Christmas Service 2:00 PM
- December 17** Q.V.N.A. Garden Party, Riverside Hall  
Gloria Dei to Seamen's Church Institute 6:30pm
- December 19** Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM Roak Room
- December 23** Wedding: 6:00 PM Kirschner/Vincent
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM
- December 25** Swedish Service 7:00 AM
- December 25,26** Office Closed
- December 26  
thru January 2** Rector on Vacation
- January 6** Meeting with SCI staff for brainstorming after 11 AM service
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## Bishop Franklin Turner's Visitation

On December 16, 2007, The Rt. Rev. Franklin D. Turner, Bishop Suffragan, of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, Retired, will preside at our 10:00am Eucharist. He will preside over four baptisms, will confirm four candidates and receive two candidates who have been duly prepared. He will celebrate and preach, and will join us afterwards in Riverside Hall for a festive reception. He will meet with the rector, vestry and wardens for a luncheon following the reception. Please plan to be present on this very special day to support our candidates and to greet Bishop Turner.

# The Lectionary for December

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## December 2<sup>nd</sup>, First Sunday of Advent

*Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

## December 9<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday of Advent

*Collect: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 15, 4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

## December 16<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday of Advent

*Collect: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:4-9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

## December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

## December 24<sup>th</sup>; (7pm) The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

*O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

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# The Lectionary for December (continued)

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## December 25<sup>th</sup>; (10am) The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

## December 30<sup>th</sup>; First Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-18

# LUCIA FEST, 2007

## Gloria Dei Church (Old Swedes')

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(215) 389-1513



Friday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 & 8:00  
Saturday & Sunday, **December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**  
2:00, 3:30 & 5:00

Tickets: Adults-\$7.00, Children under 12-\$3.00

### **St. Eric's Fair**

Imports for Sale; Coffee & Lucia Buns Served



# GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON...

...the gift of an education!



During this busy time of year we all get caught up in the many demands of the season; demands from family, friends, outside organizations, our church... all asking for our time, talent, and resources. Each is deserving and worthy of our undivided attention as we endeavor to make the holiday season special for those around us.

But, how many of us end the season on New Year's Day thinking about ourselves? What resolutions might we make that will improve our lives, give us a new perspective on the world around us, thereby making us better family members, friends, even parishioners!

Furthering our education is one way to expand our horizons. Have you thought about pursuing an MBA, by taking courses at Gloria Dei? Or, completing an undergraduate degree in Business Administration? Our graduate courses are just 8 weeks long (3 credits); our undergraduate courses are 5 weeks long (also 3 credits).

Our spring sessions begin the week of January 7, 2008. For more information, please contact Ryan Egli, [regli@holyfamily.edu](mailto:regli@holyfamily.edu), or Jackie Danay, [jdanan@holyfamily.edu](mailto:jdanan@holyfamily.edu). And, don't forget, Gloria Dei parishioners receive a 20% tuition discount.

Put yourself on your holiday gift list this year...the gift of an education will last you a lifetime.

Best wishes from all of us at Holy Family University for a blessed Christmas season and peace in the New Year.

*Honour H. Moore*

Associate Vice President  
for Extended Learning

**Reminder** - Lucia and St. Eric's Fair Weekend is almost here. Once again, we are asking for your help with donations of baked goods to be sold at the **Bake Table** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 7th, 8th and 9th.



# Stewardship, SWEET Stewardship . . . Sunday School Style!

Many thanks to all who participated in the baking, the buying and the bringing of baked goods for the Sunday School Bake Sale. We are delighted to report that we made a little over \$400. In the spirit of good stewardship, we decided to give the Gloria Dei. We are getting new tables for the keep you posted. As your support!



proceeds to our own looking into possibly Riverside Hall. We'll always, we thank you for

On another note, the would like to thank you chain. It started as a lesson and it was great to congregation into our activities and see the chain grow and grow. We were so excited to see it displayed, in all its glory, in the church.

Sunday School kids and I for adding to our prayer small Sunday School "loop" the rest of the

Thanks again, everyone, for your participation. We're looking forward to our upcoming performance for the Bishop. We can't wait to show you what we've been practicing!

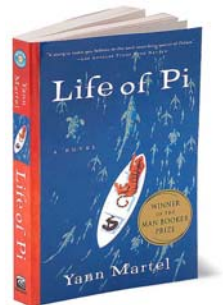
*Diane Honor*

## BOOK CLUB NEWS! BOOK CLUB NEWS!

As we announced recently, Gloria Dei will be hosting a Book Club beginning January 2008 and running through May 2008. We'll meet toward the end of each month for coffee and dessert to talk about the book we have read for that month. This is open to everyone; so get your friends and loved ones ready to read, spend some time each month on that month's Book Club selection, and then come together in fellowship to talk and learn and exchange ideas!

Here are the books that have been suggested or recommended and the month we'll be reading each one:

- January: The Kite Runner
- February: The Gospel of Luke
- March: The Life of Pi
- April: Holy Island: A Lenten Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne
- May: The Last Battle: Left Behind or Narnia?



All are available in paperback at a nominal cost or may be available at your local library. Our first get together will be January 23, 2008 at 7 PM in Riverside Hall. See you there!

*Tom Flanagan*

## December 2007 Sunday School Calendar



Sunday School 10-10:45 am, every Sunday unless indicated.

Dec 2nd

9:30 - 10am Sunday School  
10am Service

Dec 9th

No Sunday School  
Lucia!

Dec 16th

**BISHOP VISIT!**

9:30 sharp! - Rehearsal for Bishop.  
10:00 Service and performance

Dec 23rd

No Sunday School  
10:00 Service

Dec 24th

**Christmas Eve Performance**

6:30 pm Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Performance

Dec 30th

No Sunday School  
10am Service



Our Future? For the full presentation go to [www.planphilly.com](http://www.planphilly.com)



**Memorial Cards** were purchased last month in loving memory of:

**Joseph Dalin, Samantha Tiliro,  
Mary Capitanio and Janet Biguniss**

**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 Services:**  
9:00 & 11:00

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday-Friday 9:30-2:30

**CLERGY**

The Very Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

**STAFF**

Paul Fejko, Music Director  
Terry O’Brien, Parish Administrator  
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons  
Candace Roberts, Dir. of Comm.  
Mark Roberts, Treasurer  
Christine Parker, Seminarian

**VESTRY**

Jerome Buescher  
Debi Chatman-Royce  
James DuBois  
Dave Hammond, Acct. Warden  
Robert Jenkins  
Dolores Kromchad  
Rosanne Morison  
Heather Myers, Secretary  
James Parsons  
David Sampieri, Rector’s Warden  
Connie Twist  
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 (1/13/07); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/7/07); Pentecost (5/27/07); and All Saints Sunday (11/4/07). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.