



July 2007

Down By The Riverside

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

A Grateful Heart

by Jerome Buescher

A couple months ago, Jim Ufheil shared some thoughts about what we mean when we say “stewardship” around Gloria Dei. This month, I’d like to share some things I’ve been reading about stewardship – specifically, faith-based stewardship. The Rev Linda Grenz wrote an article that has shaken me up and made me think again about “stewardship.” You can find the article yourself at www.tens.org/docs/teaching-resources/Faith-BasedStewardship.pdf.

She says stewardship is

- the intentional use of all the resources and gifts God has given us
- to restore people to unity with God and to each other in Christ, and
- to further the reign of God on earth.

Wow. Not a word about pledges, not a word about budgets, not a word about flea markets, not even a word about Lucia fests. Of course, stewardship will come to deal with all those things. But they’re not where stewardship begins. It begins in realizing that God has given us all that we have – ALL that we have.

So we’re grateful for what we have, because God is so generous to us. And we’re generous in return – because, in the words of Genesis “God created humankind in his image,” and, in Jesus’ words in John, “I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

So faith-based stewardship begins with my understanding of what I’ve been given – and my responsibility to be a good steward of what I’ve been given. I need to look at all the people God put in my life to see if I’m taking enough time to share God’s love (because that’s really all the love there is) with them. I need to look at how I spend the time I’ve been given – how much to work, how much to family and friends, how much

(continued)

to furthering the reign of God on earth – however I see my opportunity to do that.

In a few months, we'll be talking about – here it comes – pledging. I'll just tell you, I've always pledged. Why? Because my family always did, because I didn't want "them" to think I was cheap, because it was "what I was supposed to do."

The article I've been reading, re-reading, marking up, agreeing with, disagreeing with for the past month or so has changed that for me. This year I'll be very aware of how blessed I am in so many ways – not the least of which is being a member of Gloria Dei. I'll look at ways in which I could shift resources from things I want to do to things that restore me to unity with God and to others in Christ. I'll ask myself if I'm being anywhere near as generous as God has been to me.

And then I'll take a deep breath, and make a pledge. Not because it's the way I was brought up, not because I've always done it, not because I care what other people think – but because God is good to me and I want to reflect that generosity.

Jerry

Thoughts from the Rector

Summer Reading

I've begun to collect the books I will take on vacation this year. I do a lot of reading throughout the year, but I look forward to a different experience each year when, instead of reading what's helpful, thought-provoking and necessary for preaching, teaching, and keeping up with the issues of the day, both secular and religious, I spend a few weeks engrossed in mysteries, novels, biographies, histories, and, when available, a new Harry Potter tome.

I thought I would share my selections this year. I still have a month before my vacation begins so and I may get a couple of these read before then, and may add some others. But here's what I'm thinking about taking with me to the beach this year.

- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini. I read his first novel, *The Kite Runner*, last summer. It was amazing.

- *Team of Rivals* is Doris Kearns Goodwin's fascinating study of, as the subtitle says, the political genius of Abraham Lincoln.
- *Einstein*, by Walter Isaacson, is the first biography of Albert since his letters and personal journals have been made available to the public.
- *Grace (Eventually); Thoughts on Faith*, is Anne Lamott's newest collection of thoughts and experiences on the struggle to live a faithful life. If you haven't read any Ann Lamott I would encourage you to start with *Traveling Mercies*.
- *The Double Bind*, by Chris Bohjalian and *Christine Falls*, by Benjamin Black are two new mystery novels that come highly recommended by my brother, whose choices are always great.
- Timothy Joyce's *Celtic Christianity* is on loan from Gene Sweeney and will add, along with Goodwin's book, to my history reading.
- *The Known World*, a novel by Edward Jones, traveled with me last year but remained unread. It is an important work, some say the best new work of American Fiction in many years. It deals with "the multidimensional world created by the institution of slavery," as the front cover says.
- *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, by J.K. Rowlands, the seventh and last of the series will arrive on my doorstep July 21st, a full week before I leave on vacation. Will I be able to wait?

And for some part of each day I will read from the Bible. Sometimes a short bit, sometimes a longer portion. But each day, a chapter, a psalm, a story from the one book that I read in all seasons.

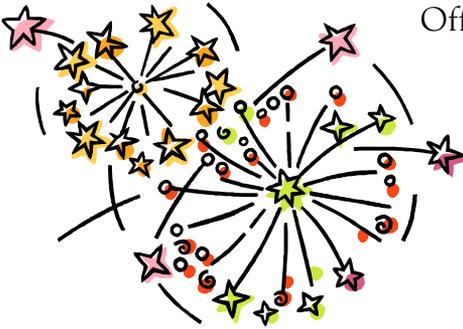
C.S. Lewis said, "We read to know we are not alone." I read for many reasons, but I think Lewis gets to the deepest level of why the written word reaches out and grabs us, if we let it. I wish you a summer filled with fun and fresh air, relaxation and renewal, and time to curl up with some good books.

Joy +

Calendar

July 2, 16, 23, 30 History Committee meets in Church
6:30–9:00 PM

July 4 Office closed
in observance
of Independence Day



July 8 OUTSIDE SERVICE!!! 10:00 AM

July 9–15 Mary Jo's on vacation

July 11, 18, 25 Simply Eucharist 6:30–7:00 PM

July 18 Vestry Meeting in Roak Room 7:15 PM

July 28 Wedding: Jose Rivera & Emilie Pabellon
3:00 PM

July 29–Aug. 19 Joy's on vacation

July 29 Rev. James D. Von Dreele, Guest Clergy

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Holy Family University Information Sessions
held in Roak Room 6:00–10:00 PM

July 5, 12, 19, 26 Holy Family University Accelerated Degree
Program evening classes, in Roak Room
6:00–10:00 PM

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Yoga Classes are held Monday evenings
7:00–8:00 PM in Riverside Hall

The Lectionary for July

July 1: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Grant us to be joined together in unity of spirit, that we be made a holy temple acceptable to you...

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

July 22: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Have compassion on our weakness and mercifully give us those things for our unworthiness we dare not...

Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14)

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:21-29

Luke 10:38-42

July 8: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Grant that we may be devoted to you with our whole hearts and united to one another with pure affection...

Isaiah 66:10-16

Psalm 66

Galatians 6:(1-10) 14-18

Luke 10:1-12,16-20

July 29: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Increase and multiply upon us mercy that we lose not things eternal...

Genesis 18:20-33

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

July 15: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

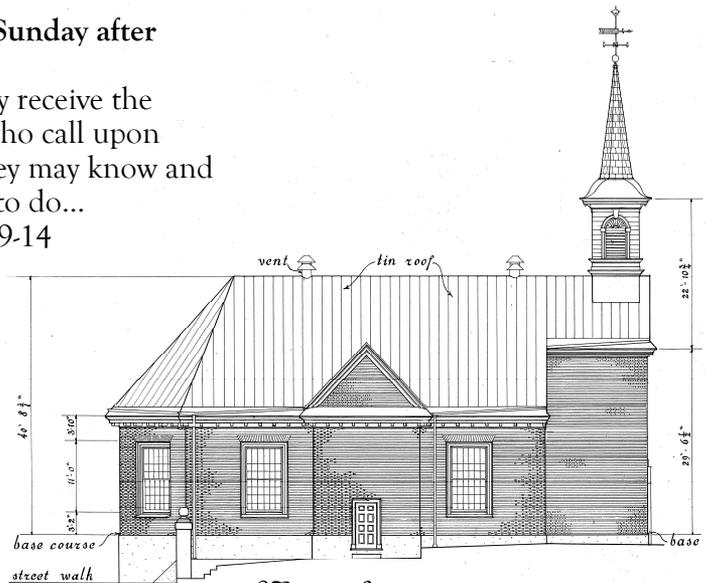
Collect: Mercifully receive the prayers of those who call upon you; grant that they may know and understand what to do...

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37



North Elevation

It started with a plan

When Rev. Andreas Rudman arrived from Sweden in 1697 he found the church at Wicaco "decayed and scarcely habitable." He immediately began to prepare a plan to build a new church. On October 20, 1697, he wrote home to Sweden "In order to build our church, we are about to raise the sum of four hundred pounds sterling, but that will not be difficult. They are so very glad to have us among them. They look upon us as if we were angels from heaven. Of this they assured me with many tears, and we may truly say that there is no place in the world where a clergyman may be so happy and so well beloved, as in this country."

There was disagreement on the location of the church, "Wicaco" or "Passyunk". On May 17, 1698, the congregation settled the dispute by placing each name on a piece of paper. They were folded, shaken in a hat, and thrown on the ground. "Wicaco" was selected.

A stone foundation was laid cellar deep. When completed the interior of the church would be sixty feet long, thirty feet wide, and twenty feet high at the eaves. Work began in late May 1698 and was completed on July 2, 1700.

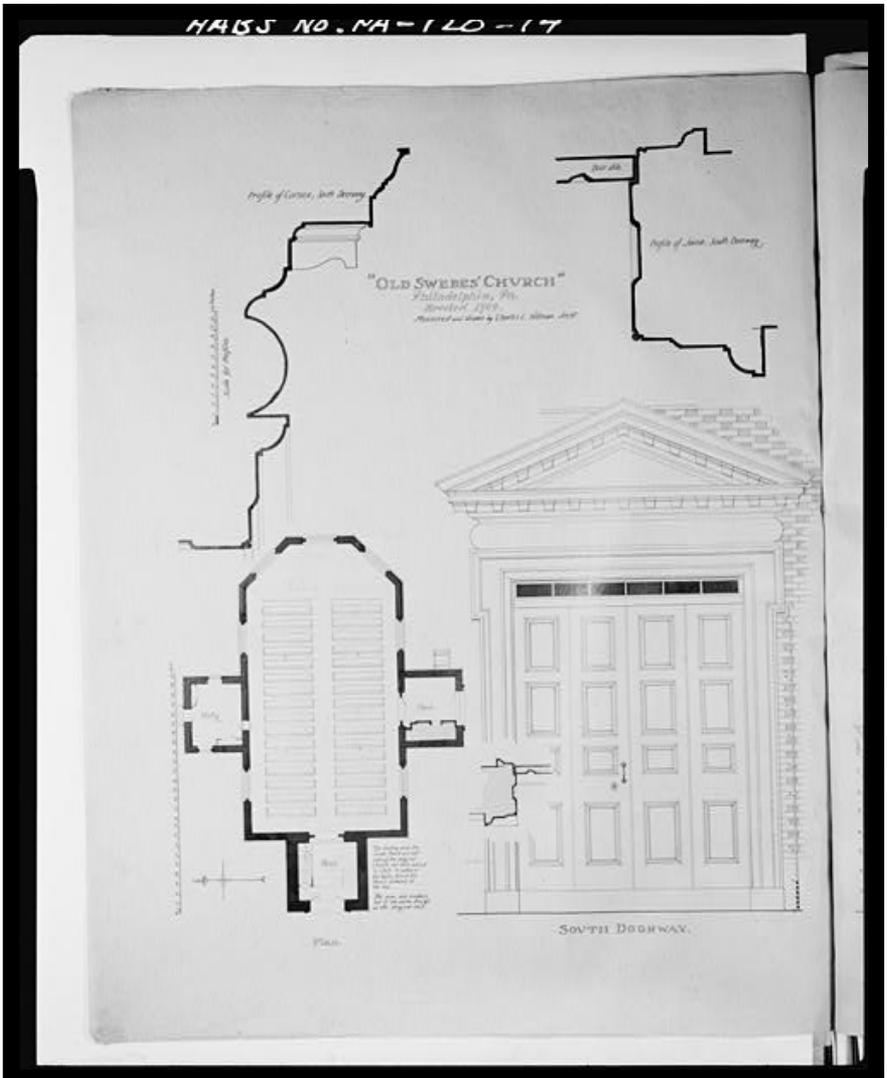
The building was dedicated by the Rev. Eric Björk. He said "Thus through God's blessing we have completed the great work.....superior to any built in this country." It was at this service that the church was named "Gloria Dei" meaning Glory of God.

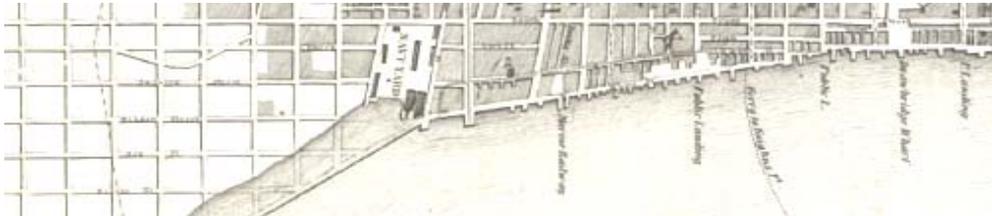
The Swedes lived far apart and traveled a great distance to church. Each Sunday they would make their way up and down the river in boats to attend church. The service began with the morning hymn "We praise thee, O God". The first sermon was preached between the first and second ringing of the bell and during the summer the sermon was repeated at the second service. Those in attendance were examined on what had been said at the first sermon. Teachers would go through the aisles catechizing the congregation. After the service the young people returned to their homes while the adults lingered about talking about religion or discussing the last letters from home.

Submitted by Bob Josuweit

Outside Service July 8, 2007

Grab your picnic chairs and blankets and join us as we move our Sunday worship service outside. Come join us as we give thanks for God's good creation right here in our lovely park! Bring friends and neighbors to this informal and joyous celebration.





WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS...

... of Gloria Dei Church, baptized on June 10, 2007, Jessica Wilsey, daughter of Jason and Charlene Wilsey.

SHARE IN THEIR LOVE...

... On June 20th Jim and Joan Rost returned to Gloria Dei to give thanks to God for twenty years of marriage, and to reaffirm their marriage covenant here, where they were married on June 20th, 1987.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF...

... Christina Craig (Roak) Chalfen,
June 19, 2007

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:

10:00 thru Labor Day

Office Hours

Weekdays 12:00-4:00

CLERGY

The Very Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Mary Jo Jay, Parish Administrator
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Candace Roberts, Dir. of Comm.
Mark Roberts, Treasurer

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.