



September 2007

# Down By The Riverside

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

## Thoughts from the Rector

### Looking for God in All the Right Places

While I did get the seventh Harry Potter book read during my vacation, I didn't get any of the others on my list read. Instead I went to see the fifth Harry Potter movie. Then I watched the director's cut versions of the three movies that comprise J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*. (Again! I've lost count how many times I've seen these) I also watched the entire two years of episodes of *Joan of Arcadia* - a television show that was cancelled two years ago. And I began to watch a new television show, *Saving Grace*, which began on cable late this summer.

I can't help but compare these media selections. The Harry Potter books, made into movies, and Tolkien's masterpiece made into three movies, both tell "other-worldly" stories. That is, they do not claim to be about our own lives or experiences, nor do they pretend to be our reality. Rather, they tell about human struggles and things of mystery by placing our deepest questions and concerns in the context of fantasy. The other two, both television creations, approach the hard issues of good and evil, of destiny and divinity, from a more familiar point of view. Joan is a typical teenager who experiences God in the daily grind of high school life in Middle America. Grace, in Oklahoma City, has God thrust upon her at a critical time in her life. Joan is "a believer" of sorts. Grace is a cynic at best, trying to be an atheist, but God (or rather an angel named Earl) won't let her.

While *Saving Grace* is decidedly for mature audiences, and Harry and Joan appeal to a different age group, and not everyone finds fantasy as powerful as I do, nonetheless, I'm impressed with the many and varied story lines available that involve the human struggle to understand who we are, who we can be, what we are afraid of, and what, or who, we are seeking.

I'm reminded that the Bible comprises many forms to tell the same story. Noah and Jonah, like Harry and Frodo, tell the story of a world we don't believe in, yet we believe their stories. Joan and Grace, like Peter and Paul, live in a more familiar world of life in complicated times.

(continued)

The Bible is filled with myth and metaphor, history and poetry, saga and song, sermons and letters to loved ones. In every way imaginable we are challenged to seek God, to know the Creator, to find meaning in life, to understand that we are not alone and that we share this instinct to delve into mystery with all of humanity, as we share the need to love and to be loved.

The stories are myriad, the approaches and genres innumerable. From time immemorial humanity has sought to know who we are, and whose we are. It's encouraging to see that the 21<sup>st</sup> century continues the quest. Though we can reach beyond the stars, we cannot yet fathom the depth of our own existence. So we tell stories. And in the story, and in the telling, and in the sharing, we come to know each other, to forge relationships, to discover a piece of the mystery that is human life.

Are you ready to share your story?

*Joy +*

## Stewardship

Down By the Riverside has had several articles in it over the past few months that really point out how God's love and benevolence have touched various individuals in and around our congregation. From Peter Bauck's letter last month to the very heartfelt letter from Alan expressing how people of faith have not only helped him through his ordeal but have also helped him affirm his faith in a greater power. Then there are those wonderful history lessons on Gloria Dei and it's people by Bob Josuweit, to...well, it's just keeps on going. But the point is, God is touching us, guiding us, and providing for us always - every day of our lives.

God doesn't expect to get repaid. His love and gifts are given to us unconditionally. God gives us what we need...everything we need. Maybe we think we did it ourselves because we worked for it, earned it, etc, but didn't God provide you with the abilities to use in the first place? So how can you say "thanks" to God?

First and foremost of course is to live a good Christian life. Most of us have been told to do that since we were little kids.

But next, what can we do to help the generations that follow us have what we have here at Gloria Dei....a glorious place to celebrate the goodness and glory of God? What can we do to help preserve Gloria Dei the way the congregations of the 1700's, 1800's and 1900's? Give back to God a portion of what He has given us?

*Jim Ufheil*

## Bible Study – ACTS

We will be studying *The Acts of the Apostles* (better known as Acts) on Monday evenings in October, beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing for the following four Mondays (10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29), 7:00pm – 8:30pm. The book of Acts is a fascinating encounter with the very beginnings of the Church. It begins with the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the promised Advocate, the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost, and continues as the apostles begin to preach the word “to the ends of the earth” as Jesus told them they were to do. From chapter nine forward it becomes Paul’s story, as he sets out on his missionary journeys across the Roman Empire, and it ends with his imprisonment in Rome. It is an exciting story and an easy narrative to read. We will gather in Riverside Hall. No previous participation in Bible Study or familiarity with this book of the Bible is necessary. Just come and enjoy conversation with a small group as we find ourselves in the biblical story of God’s people and come to recognize that their story is our story.



**Wapiti**  
The Wilderness Retreat

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



To Gloria Dei  
Thank you for helping me  
to go to camp Wapiti. I  
had the best time.  
We got to go sailing, rappelling,  
ziplining, fishing, arts and crafts.  
We even got to make a movie.  
The staff and counselors were  
all great. But Dillon was  
the best! I can't wait to  
take my cousins next time!  
Love  
+  
Thank you  
Michelle  
Caffrey

Dear Gloria Dei,  
Thank you for helping Katie  
and I go to camp Wapiti. We  
had so much fun. We went ziplining,  
tubing, and rappelling. Ziplining was awesome.  
I even met a girl from France. Thank  
you so much. This summer meant  
a lot to us.

From,  
Taylor and  
Katie Amato!

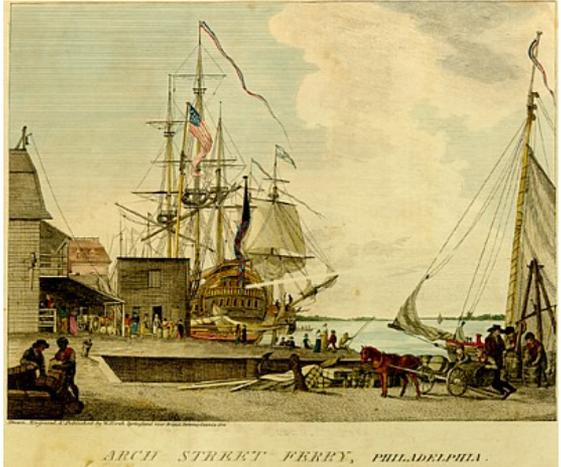


## Yellow Fever Strikes

In the early years of Philadelphia the city had known the Declaration of Independence, the devastation of war and occupation, and serving as the nation's capital. Yet an especially cruel epidemic paid a visit in 1793.

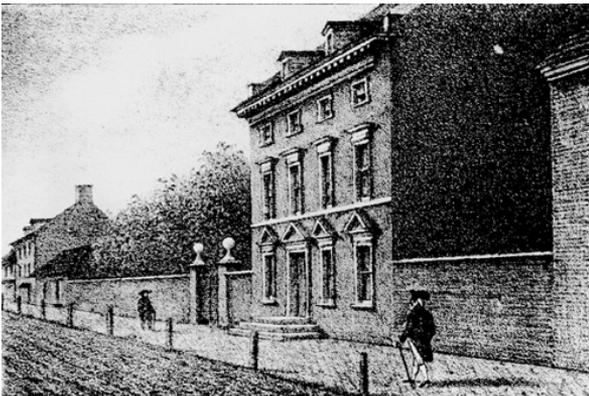
The end of August had a lot of rain. The streets were muddy. It was damp along the docks and nearby streets. Coffee and other foods were rotting on the docks.

It was a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes and disease. The disease which began near Market Street quickly worked its way along Water Street. By September 1st it was spreading at an alarming rate. Thomas Jefferson thought there would be 200 deaths by the end of the week. His estimate was low. On Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> (17 died), Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> (18), Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> (11), Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> (23), more than 20 burials each day for the rest of the week. On Sunday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> (42). The following week had about 30 deaths a day and by Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, forty-eight had died. By November when the disease slowed down, over 6000 people one-tenth of the city's population had perished. Over 17,000 had fled the city. An additional 4000 people (total) died of the disease during outbreaks in 1797, 1798 and 1799.



Rush traced the source of the epidemic of 1793 to rotting coffee on the Arch Street wharf

Government leaders quickly fled the town. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Alexander Hamilton all left town to get away from the disease. They left lesser-known people in Philadelphia to deal with the disease the best they could. Benjamin Rush, the famous doctor, would treat up to 120 patients a day.



As the city expanded in size and population other outbreaks of the disease occurred along Water Street. By 1805 the docks on Water Street reached Southwark. In fact yellow fever broke out between New Market and the Swedes Church. The Church death records tell many stories of the deceased's last days and how yellow fever was the cause of death. Nicholas Collin's wife succumbed to yellow fever in September 1797. Rev. Collin said Hannah "*in her 49 year, on the 9th day of her illness in the epidemic fever. The God of consolation give me support under this dispensation.*"

There were other cities besides Philadelphia that had yellow fever epidemics. As doctors learned more about the disease they were able to treat it and prevent it with better sanitary conditions. While yellow fever has been eradicated in the United States, the mosquito can still be a carrier of serious diseases.

*Submitted by Bob Josuweit, History Committee*



## Why Go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.

This started a real controversy in the "letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

*submitted by Dolores Collins*

# Calendar

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- September 2** Outside Service at 10:00 AM
- September 3** Office closed in observance of Labor Day
- September 5** Sunday School Meeting at 6:30 PM  
in the Sunday School Room
- September 9** Sunday School Sign-ups and Lite Breakfast  
between services
- September 9** Swedish Service in Church at 4:00 PM
- September 10,  
17, 24** History Committee meets in Church 6:30–9:00 PM
- September 19** Vestry Meeting in Roak Room 7:00 PM
- September 20** Swedish Colonial Society Meeting 1:30–3:30 PM
- September 4,  
6, 11, 13, 18, 20,  
25, 27** Holy Family University Accelerated Degree Program  
evening classes, in Roak Room 6:00–10:00 PM
- September 10,  
17, 24** Yoga Classes are held Monday evenings 7:00–8:00 PM  
in Riverside Hall
- UPCOMING  
EVENTS!** October 4th: Blessing of the Animals  
October 20th: Fall Flea Market

## Flowers for the Altar

Have you wanted to dedicate flowers and were unable to supply them...well we have just the opportunity for you! Now you can dedicate flowers for a specific Sunday by calling the office and letting Mary Jo know the date you are interested in, make a cash donation and our flower designer, Tom Flanagan, will take care of the arrangement. It's just that simple! If you want to supply your own flowers that option is still available. So - call Mary Jo and sign up now for October, November and December Sundays. With this new option - Sundays will be going quickly!



# The Lectionary for September

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## September 2nd: The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 10:(7-11) 12-18

2nd Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8

Psalm: 112

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

## September 9th: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

2nd Reading: Philemon 1-20

Psalm: 1

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

## September 16th: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 32:1, 7-14

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Psalm: 51: 1-18

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

## September 23rd: The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Amos 8: 4-7 (8-12)

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Psalm: 138

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

## September 30th: The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Amos 6:1-7

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-19

Psalm: 146

Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31





From Your Friendly Neighborhood Parish Musician

**Do you play an instrument?**

**Do you sing?**

**Would you be interested in contributing  
to the musical life of Gloria Dei?**

I want to hear from you! We'll come together Thursday evening, September 13th, 6:30pm, in Riverside Hall to begin to visualize a music program for the coming year - and maybe practice the hymns for the coming Sunday.

People who would like to contribute solos. People who would prefer being in a group. People interested in leading our worship experience through music. Youth and adults (we'll be discussing the possibility of a children's choir later in the year) and all musical instruments. Even non performers who have thoughts regarding music and its place in worship.

All are welcome!

**It is Time for ReNewal!!**

*fej*

(Paul Fejko, Music Director)

# Blessing of the Animals

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

## St. Francis Day

**Thursday, October 4, 2006**  
**6:30PM**

**All animals welcome in church!**

**Everyone is invited to Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church  
for our special service in honor of St. Francis Day.**

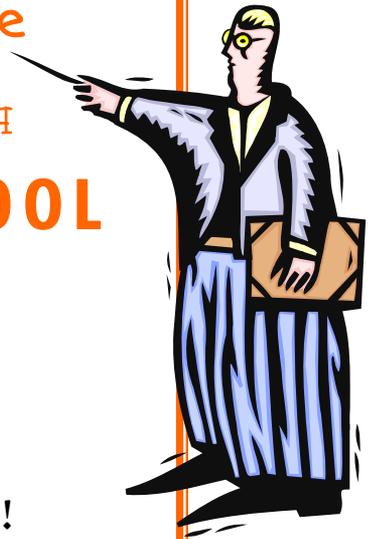
**Please join us in honoring St. Francis  
by honoring the animals he loved so dearly.  
Bring your pets (leashed or caged, please).  
We will bless all animals, say a few prayers,  
and share some goodies in the  
Parish Hall afterwards.**

Remember this Date

SEPTEMBER 9TH

# SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN-UP

IN ROAK HOUSE



## Sunday School Returns!

Yes, it's that time again! Come join us as we have sign-up Sunday, 10am September 9th. Breakfast for the parents and children will be offered in the Roak Room. Bring the kids, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and register your children for a season of fun and learning as Gloria Dei kicks off the new Sunday School year. Classes begin the following Sunday, September 16th, 10am.



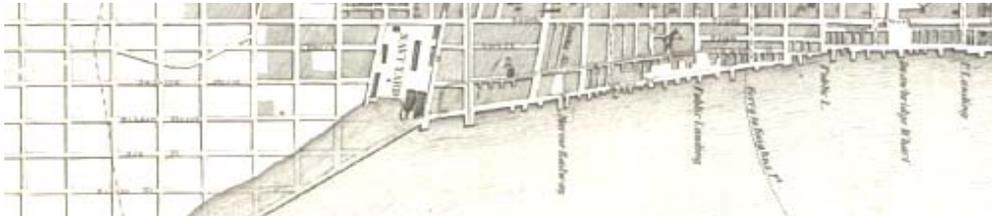
# BLUEBOND ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church on Saturday, August 25th was the HOTTEST ticket in town. 14 bands played to 300 brave souls throughout the day. There were 30 vendors selling their arts and crafts. There was Modern Dance wandering thru the Artist Colony set up on the front lawn. And, as always, there was great food being served up by the congregation of Gloria Dei. Our sincere thanks to all the youth and our adults that came out to help throughout the day! Special thanks to *Carl's Poultry* on Ninth Street for their very generous donations and also to *Alicia's Water Ice* on 3rd & Shunk and *The Pretzel Factory* at 3rd & Oregon. Together we raised \$1,140.00 for the General Fund. Congratulations to all! Remember: only 8 more weeks until the Fall Flea Market (Saturday, October 27th.) See you then.

Peace,

*Jim & Paula, Sextons*





## IN REMEMBRANCE OF...

...David Dwight Goltra, Sr. on July 28, 2007  
and  
Christopher M. Greene on July 30, 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  
Then 9:00 & 11:00

## 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.