



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

Thoughts from the Rector

Busy ... as Bees?

It seems that we are all busy ... all the time. Is this a good thing? Well, I guess that depends on our busyness. The dictionary has more than one definition for “busy”:

- 1: a: engaged in action; occupied
b: being in use, as in “found the telephone *busy*”
- 2: full of activity; bustling, as in “a *busy* seaport”
- 3: foolishly or intrusively active; meddling
- 4: full of distracting detail, as in “a *busy* design”

It would seem from these definitions that there is a good way to be busy and a not so good way. I wonder how many of us actually stop and think about our busyness. When we say we are *too* busy we usually mean we don't have time for something, or someone. That's not good. But when we are “as busy as bees,” using our time and talents, the gifts given us by the Creator who had a plan, well then, that would be a good busy.

As a child I was always active, always doing something. Whether it was going to school or playing with friends, reading or going to the movies, spending time with family or shopping with Mom. My childhood is filled with memories of doing things, going places, being with people. Even my memories of church are full of things involving *doing*.

But what about *being*? Can we be busy *being*? Or *becoming*? I think so. It just looks, and feels, different. The problem is that in our 21st century culture of sensory and information overload the task of *being* and *becoming* often looks to others, and to ourselves, as simply wasting time. Sitting still, taking time to be in a quiet place, allowing our minds and hearts and souls to reconnect, to put ourselves back together, to recognize the whole person that was God's design when we were made is a task, certainly. And is clearly a good way to be busy. It just doesn't look busy as we define it today.

As we consider the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and recognize the gift of new life given to us as Spirit people, people made for a purpose, let

(continued)



From the Rector's Warden

Have you hugged your Vestry members today?

It hardly seems like a year has passed since our last Vestry election, but time flies, and so here I am with another round of thank you messages to pass along.

Thanks to Jim Dubois for serving these past three years on the Vestry and as part of the Executive Committee. I know I speak for all when I say thank you, both for your past service and your willingness to continue serving in other capacities.

Thank you also to Debi Chatman-Royce, who is also coming off Vestry this year. It has been a very busy three years for Debi and we all appreciate how hard she has worked to stay involved.

And, thanks, too, to Dave Hammond, who has served as the Accounting Warden for the last 4 years. Dave remains on the Vestry for another two years, but is stepping down from the Warden's position.

A big "Thank you" to Jim Parsons, who jumped right in as our new Property Chair this year. Jim has been gathering bids and organizing the work as we paint and maintain our buildings.

As you probably know by now, we had just four nominations for the Vestry this year. Thanks to Jeanette Woehr and Bob Jenkins, both coming back for their second term and welcome back to Barb Chilcott, returning to the Vestry after a few years off. And we have a first timer this year as well - Welcome Diane Honor!

Make sure to offer a big thank you to all who have been mentioned here, those coming off Vestry and those serving this term. Being on Vestry is a big commitment - Let's not forget to tell them how much they are appreciated.

Yours in Christ

Dave Sampieri

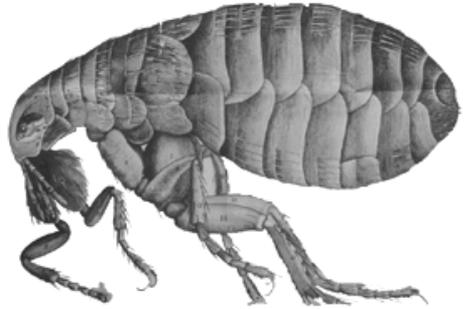
Flea Market Musings.

Join us **Saturday, May 17th** for our 6th annual Spring Flea Market. We will be going our usual pre-Memorial Day Awakening to announce to our Philadelphia Neighbors - "Here we are - come join us." (or maybe just "come eat our soup and chili").

Either way we will be wrapping ourselves around Christian Street, Water Street and Washington Avenue with over 100 vendors selling their treasures and handmade crafts. Please join us this day by purchasing a space for \$25.00, or donating some baked goods to sell, or come by for a free church tour at our 308 year old sanctuary.

If you haven't been to this event lately. . . . it has grown. We had 130 vendors at our last Fall Flea in October. We hope to see you on May 17th. . . . and if you are not able to make it this day; but would still like to support us, feel free to send us a little something via mail and we can use it to buy soda, water, coffee, etc. Thanks to all who make this an exciting fun event every year.

Jim Minacci



Yard Day 2008

What a beautiful day it was!! Thanks to everyone who helped plant flowers, throw mulch, and rake leaves on Saturday April 5th. We worked hard; then enjoyed grilled hot dogs, Heatherburgers, chips, and drinks. We lowly sextons enjoy not only the opportunity to work side by side with all of you but also the satisfaction of a job well done and great eats. Cheers 2 U !!!

Jim & Paula Minacci

Our Newest Sunday Schooler Discusses Awesome April

Hi! My name is Brittany Patterson and I am 13 years old. I came to Gloria Dei Church because my friend Jimmy convinced me to come. I never believed in going to church before I came here. I feel accepted here. This church is amazing, it's like a family I never thought I'd have. I feel right at home.

The first activity I participated in was the "Awesome April" fundraiser. It was interesting because there was a lot of art work that the Sunday School kids made. We sold lots of stuff like jewelry, key chains, flower pots and framed pictures that Jill Duink sketched and we painted. Also, there were challenges like the hula hoop, bean bag toss and hopping across the room with an egg on a spoon. The congregation was very generous and we raised \$300.00 for Project H.O.M.E., an organization that helps homeless people.

I enjoyed being a part of the fundraiser and a part of this community.

Love,
Brittany Patterson

MAY 2008

Sunday School Calendar

Sunday School 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

May 4th

10 am service,
11:00-11:30
Rehearsal for
"When the
Saints Come
Marching In"

May 11th

8:30am sharp:
Rehearsal.
Performance at
9:00 and 11:00.
**MUST WEAR
RED!**
Celebration
following for
Christine's last
day.

May 18th

10-10:45 Last
day of Sunday
School. Bring
your favorite
topping for
sundaes!!

May 25th

10 am service
begins

Calendar

May 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22	Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak Room - 6:00-10:00 PM
May 4	One Service 10:00 AM followed by Annual Meeting and Elections
May 5	Book Club - 7:00 PM in the Riverside Hall
May 6	Methodist/Episcopal Study 7:00-8:30 PM in Riverside Hall
May 10	Riverside Rental Queen Village House Tour
May 11	Pentecost Sunday (Baptisms today) Sunday School Performances at both Services "When the Saints Come Marching In" Swedish Service - 4:00 PM
May 15	SCS Meeting in Roak Room - 1:00-3:30 PM
May 17	Flea Market 8:00AM-3:00PM
May 18	Last Sunday School
May 25	Begin one service for summer 10:00 AM
May 31	Wedding 2:00PM Riverside Hall Rental 3:00PM



The Children Can Still Use Your Support



Niños Que Necesitan de Tu Ayuda!

The Lectionary for May

May 4th, Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: 68:1-10, 33-36

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

May 11th, The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: 104:25-35, 37

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

May 18th, First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: 1:1-2:4a

Psalm: 8

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

May 25th, Proper 3

Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be peaceably governed by your providence; and that your Church may joyfully serve you in confidence and serenity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:8-18

Psalm: 62 or 62:6-14

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
(6-7)8-13

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church at Wicaco, Southwark, Philadelphia

“At a special Court held by the Governor at New Castle in Delaware River the 13th and 14th days of May 1675, it was ordered, that the Church, or place of worship in this Town and the affairs thereunto belonging be regulated by the Court here, in as orderly and decent a manner as may be,

“That the place of meeting at Craine Hoeck do continue as heretofore that the Church at Tinnecum Island do serve for Uppland and parts adjacent.

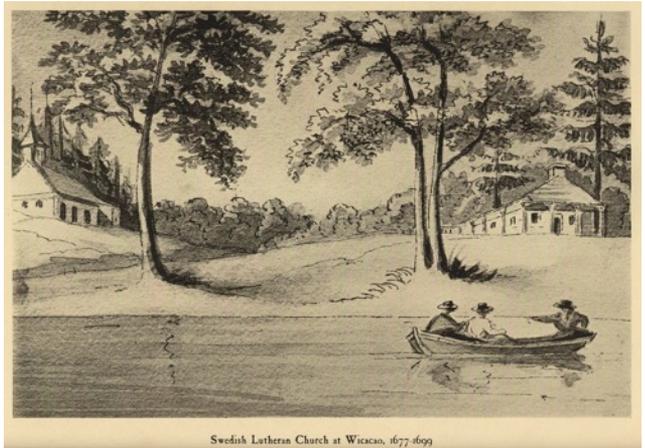
“And whereas there is no Church or place of worship higher up the River than the said Island, for the greater ease and convenience of the inhabitants there. It's ordered, that the Magistrates of Uppland do cause a Church or place of meeting for that purpose to be built at the Wiccekoo, which to be for the inhabitants of Passayunk and so upwards. The said Court being empowered to raise a Tax for its building, and to agree upon a competent maintenance for their minister: of all which they are to give an account to the next General Court, and they to the Governor for his approbation.” Signed E. Andross.”

The Churches at Craine Hoeck, Tinnecum, and Wicaco were Swedes' Churches, and sufficiently point out the location of the Swedes.

The place name Wicaco was an Indian village, called on Lindstrom's Map Wichgua Coingh, and consisted of a tract of land of about 800 acres,

fronting on the Delaware River, and commencing at Moyamensingkill, afterwards known as Hollander's Creek, extending up the Delaware in breadth 400 rods, in length into the woods 600 rods. It extended up; it is believed, beyond the present line of South Street, and westward as far as Seventeenth or Eighteenth Street, about Long Lane near South Street, and thence in a diagonal line to Hollander's Creek (now Oregon Street). Wicaco is an abbreviation of Wichocomoca, “a dwelling place”, from Wichgua, “a house”.

Wicaco continued until, on May 14, 1762, an Act was passed by the General Assembly to create a Municipality in the Southern Suburbs to be



called the district of Southwark. The bounds commenced on Cedar Street (now South Street) at the Delaware River, and proceeded thence west to Passyunk Road; along the latter to Moyamensing Road; thence by Keeler's Lane to Greenwich Road, thence to the Delaware River, and along the several courses of the same to the place of beginning. Southwark, sometimes but improperly called the Southern Liberties, was the oldest district in the County of Philadelphia.

The events of the Revolution were held to supersede this Charter in the same manner as the City Charter was supposed to be nullified on September 29, 1787. The General Assembly passed an Act to appoint Commissioners to lay out the district of Southwark, marking out the courses of the principal streets, not only in that district, but also in Moyamensing and Passyunk. This was preparatory to the passage of an Act of April 18, 1794, which erected a full Corporation under the title of "The Commissioners and Inhabitants of the District of Southwark." They laid out a large number of streets, and most of their plans were confirmed by the Supreme Executive Council in 1790, and so remained as Southwark until 1854 when it became a part of the City of Philadelphia.

The order of the Court, promulgated by Governor Andross, does not appear to have been complied with as to the erection of a new building, as to a Church, or place of Meeting, not is there anything to show that a Tax was levied for the purpose. The Congregation was therefore compelled to make other arrangements, so in 1677, they took an old log blockhouse, built in 1669, as a place of refuge from marauding Indians and a defense against the unfriendly Dutch, and fitted it up. It had "loop holes for defense", and was a very plain structure, so neglected and weather-worn that in 1679 it was necessary "for Upland Court to order that the members of the Congregation at Wicaco Church be required to contribute their share to the expenses of repairs." The Congregation brought fire-arms with them to Church, ostensibly to shoot wild game that they might meet on the road. Even after the Congregation took possession the old house was sometimes used as a refuge. Tradition preserves the story that "some evil-disposed Indians from Jersey meditated an attack upon the Settlement while the men were away. It so happened that the women were engaged in making soap, which they forthwith took, scalding hot, to the block-house and not knowing what their fate might be if captured, they also took fuel to keep it hot. With their Conches an alarm was sounded, and when the Indians began to undermine the building, the scalding soap was poured down and thus they were kept at bay till the men came and drove off the savage assailants."

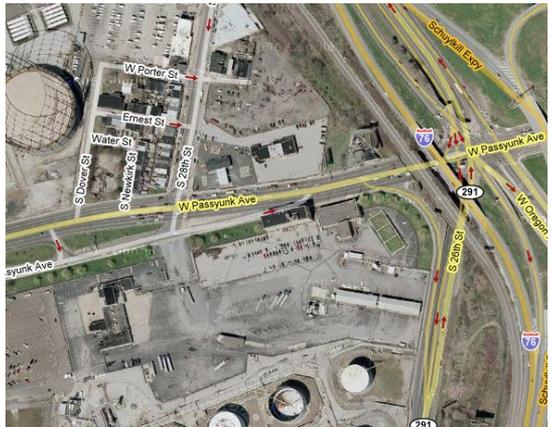
On Trinity Sunday, 1677, the Rev. Jacobus Fabricius, a clergyman of the Low Dutch Church, who had accepted a call to the Church, preached his first sermon in the Block House and preached in the Dutch language. He continued to conduct divine services for fourteen years, nine of which he was entirely blind. He resided above Wicaco, in the place now known as

Kensington, and by the aid of a canoe came down the river to Wicaco and Tinnicum, as services were held at these places alternately. He died in the year 1692.

The members of the Parish in Wicaco lived partly in the City of Philadelphia, and partly in various surrounding districts: Wicaco, Moyamensing, Passyunk, Kensess, Bond's Island, Pennypack, Kalkanbrook, Amasland, Matzong in Chester County, Nitshamene in Philadelphia County, and Manathanim in Berks County (and now in 1922 the members of the Parish come from the northern portion to the southern portion and from the Eastern to the Western portions of Philadelphia County, from Bucks County, Montgomery County, Delaware County, in Pennsylvania and from Camden County, Gloucester County and Burlington County in New Jersey.)

When the Rev. Andrew Rudman arrived at Wicaco in 1697, all the Swedish people dwelling in places named above, as well as those who dwelt on the other side of the Delaware River, in New Jersey, who lived and had their houses from Raccoon's Hill (where Swedesboro now stands), and thence up along the river, and the congregation at Tinnicum, united themselves into one Parish, and as the Churches at both Wicaco and Tinnicum were in a very ruinous condition, they insisted that a new Mother Church should be built.

The congregation had bought a tract of land at Passyunk, at what is now "Point Breeze", exactly where the lower road to Penrose Ferry strikes the Schuylkill, and later bought an adjoining tract, which was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Rudman and some of his successors. The dwelling (or Glebe House) was burned down in 1717 and immediately rebuilt. If the city streets were cut through it would be at 30th and Geary Streets. It was abandoned as a parsonage about 1727



Point Breeze tract today (PGW still pays land rent to our trust)

After the glebe-land was bought the Swedes near the Schuylkill and at Kingsessing desired that the Church should be at Passyunk, while the Swansons and others, living at Shackamaxon and above, wanted it built on the site of the old block-house church at Wicaco.

That the Church and Congregation would increase the value of their property by its proximity to the City of Philadelphia, and the difficulty experienced by the lower settlers in coming over the Schuylkill should be

relieved by a flatboat, which the congregation should maintain at its own expense, and to which the Church Wardens should keep the key.

A meeting was called the 16th of May, 1698, at which a tedious discussion took place. At length it was proposed to have it settled by lot. "Having by prayer and singing invoked the blessing of God on the undertaking two pieces of paper were prepared, on one of which was written Wicaco, and on the other Passyunk. These were shaken in a hat and thrown upon the ground, when, upon taking one up and opening it, the name of Wicaco appeared. Dissension at once ceased, and all joined in a cheerful hymn of praise.

Jeanette Woehr

LIQUID VINYL'S SATURDAY NIGHT REVIVAL



Saturday Night Revival

And so it begins. . . .

The month of April began in earnest with live music at the church on Saturday, April 5th. Three diverse and inspiring bands; Ladyfingers, Three Dollar Bill and The Designated Drivers, and the Peepin' Piney Boys presented a night of Bluegrass, Country, and Rockabilly Music that surely rocked the house. There was plenty of sing-alongs, clapping, and dancing in the aisles.

Also on the bill was a newcomer to the singer-songwriter ranks; a young man known around these parts as the Son of the Sextons, Dillon Minacci. He played three original songs and one Johnny Cash cover and was very well received.

Thanks go out to Liquid Vinyl productions for presenting the show and everyone who helped ensure that it went off without a hitch. Look for more live music coming to the Gloria Dei Church.

Jim Minacci



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS

... of Gloria Dei Church baptized on
April 6, 2008 **Evan Scott**

Dylan Reilly Fuscia
Brady Patrick Shaw

CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED

... Robert Alan Josuweit and Beth Ann
Johnson on April 19, 2008

Memorial Cards were purchased last month in
loving memory of:

Elinor Grear by Doris Connor
Anthony Jamack, Sr. by Peg & Chickie

In REMEMBRANCE of

Margaret M. (nee O'Farrell) Armstrong
1918-2008

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

C L E R G Y

The Very Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

S T A F F

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

V E S T R Y

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

S T A N D I N G N O T I C E S

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 (1/13/08); The Great Vigil of Easter (3/23/08); Pentecost (5/11/08); and All Saints Sunday (11/2/08). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.