



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

Thoughts from the Rector

Seasonal Musings

Those of us who live into the liturgical calendar, the seasons of the Church year, know that ours is a continuous pattern of observation, contemplation, preparation, and celebration. This is particularly clear to me as I write this article. We are in the middle of the Epiphany season, the season of light and revelation. But before I will write another article for *The Riverside* we will have shared a Shrove Tuesday supper of pancakes, sausage and bacon, marking the end of the Epiphany season. And we will have shared the solemn custom of marking ourselves with ashes in a sign of penitence as we begin the season of Lent.

So, while I encourage you to contemplate the lessons we hear during Epiphany, at the same time I invite you to begin considering the fast approaching season of Lent in the light of these lessons.

The lectionary this year gives us some wonderful stories to consider during Epiphany. We began the season with the revelation to the Wise Men, metaphor for revelation to all the world, of who the babe born in Bethlehem truly is. Then we heard the story of Jesus, now adult, as he is baptized in the Jordan River, God's booming voice and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove revealing for all to see and hear, again, just who this man is. Following these stories we heard two gospel accounts of the calling of the apostles, and in what way they understood the revelation before their eyes. And we end the season of Epiphany this year, as we do each year, with the story of the Transfiguration.

All these are to give us, in different ways and from different aspects, a glimpse of the revelation that God has acted in a new way. No less revealing are those passages from Isaiah and Exodus, and the portions of Paul's letters to the Ephesians and Corinthians, that we heard alongside the gospel readings this Epiphany season. Taken together, these lessons are preparation for us. They are gift to us as we reach the end of the Epiphany season and begin our Lenten journey together. We will need to remember what we have been taught in this season of light. These teachings will be nourishment for our souls and comfort for our minds and hearts as we follow in the footsteps of the Incarnate One, as we follow in the way of the cross.

(continued)

Epiphany gives us the revelation of who Jesus is. Through those stories that reveal Jesus as Messiah we are strengthened, prepared, made ready, for a long, hard journey. Even as we bask in the glow of this Epiphany light, we know that Ash Wednesday is close at hand.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season of preparation, of meditation, of questions, of learning, of sacrifice. We begin it in a dramatic way by allowing our foreheads to be marked with ashes, marked with the sign of the cross. This is an act of intention, and it brings to mind that first marking, when we were baptized. As the priest anoints the newly baptized with oil the familiar words ring out in joy for all to hear: "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever." On Ash Wednesday, as we are anointed again, the words we hear ring out with another message: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Over and over, as each of us is anointed with ashes that day, we will commit ourselves, as we do at every Baptism, to the unfathomable, eternal, truth that echoes in the words of Paul to the Christians in Rome who struggled, as we do, to grasp the knowledge of a God who comes to us, whether in darkness or in light, seeking us always where we are. And we rejoice to know this truth.

*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans: 8:38-39)*

Shalom,
Joy +



“The Sea”

James Sugg as Capt. Owen Chase in "The Sea," a rock opera performed last month at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church.

A Brief Note from Megan Bartlett:

In December, I was delighted to be accepted as a new member of Gloria Dei and the Episcopal Church in general. As the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, I was at first unsure of what to expect from my new church family. One thing I quickly learned, however, is that both Lutherans and Episcopalians love to eat! (In fact, I think our seminarian, Christine Parker, also a Lutheran, has remarked something similar!) The fact that food is ever-present at our gatherings was both a relief to me—free breakfast every Sunday!—and a source of anxiety.

My anxiety about having food at all major events stems from the fact that I've struggled for fifteen years to overcome Binge-Eating Disorder (or "B.E.D."). In the process of my recovery, I tried to put limits on what I allowed myself to eat, or I increased the amount of exercise I got, and even went on several diets. What I ultimately found to be most effective, however, was a combination of writing and faith.

In 2004, I began writing journal entries about my attempts to not binge and my struggle to love and accept myself. In 2006, I decided to turn my journals into a self-help book called, "Getting Out of B.E.D.: Overcoming Binge-Eating Disorder One Day at a Time". I'm excited to share with you, my dear friends at Gloria Dei, that my book was published in January 2008 and is now available to read. If you, or someone you know, has had trouble with over-eating, binge-eating, or body image issues like I have, please don't hesitate to e-mail me (megansbook2006@yahoo.com) or visit my website (www.gettingoutofbed.com). I am also more than happy to loan out a copy of my book to anyone who is interested in finding out more.

Before I end this note, I'd like to share with you a Bible verse that continues to help me as I journey towards recovery. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encouraged those of the early Christian church to endure whatever hardships they were suffering and to rest assured that with God, all things are possible. He wrote, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Indeed, I have come to appreciate the God-given strength within me these past several years. The irony is that I had to rely on the strength that God instilled in *others* before I could see it within *myself*. I know now, however, that I possessed this strength all along. You, too, by the grace and love of God, have the strength to do all things. Whatever your daily struggles, I urge you to be strengthened by others until you are one day able to see and use the strength that God has already planted within you.

Peace and health,

Megan Bartlett



From the Guatemala Committee

Greetings, Everyone!

As the newest member of the Guatemala Committee, it is with great joy that I write what will hopefully be the first of several “Guatemala Updates” in 2008. Julie Daye and I met last month to discuss the future of Gloria Dei’s ministry to our sister Episcopal churches (La Ascención and La Anunziación) in Guatemala.

I am pleased to tell you that she and I, with the support of Joy and the Vestry, are committed to the continuation of that ministry in 2008. For those of you who don’t know, Gloria Dei, through your individual contributions and the Vestry’s generous support, contributed \$5,990 last year towards the educational expenses of 25 children and doctors’ visits for the community. This year, we hope to contribute at least that much again.

On Sunday, February 17th after both the 9am and 11am services, Julie and I will have an information table set up in the Parish Hall. At this table, you’ll be able to find out more about the two Guatemalan churches we support and their pastor, Rolando Lopez. We’ll have photos from our previous mission trips, letters from their Sunday School children, and information on how you can contribute towards a child’s educational expenses and even buy delicious Guatemalan coffee grown in a nearby town called San Lucas Toleman.

On Palm Sunday, March 16th, we will present this information during church and at that time we will ask for your pledges to sponsor the educational expenses of a child. Please keep this important ministry and the people of La Ascención and La Anunziación in your prayers. Julie and I look forward to talking with you on February 17th!

Peace,

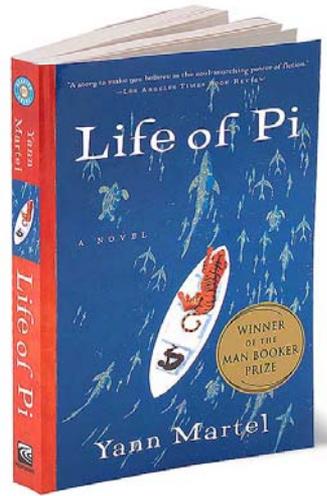
Megan Bartlett

A Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast will be held in Riverside Hall on Sunday, February 17, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Pancakes, sausage, fruit salad, coffee cakes, coffee and tea. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children under the age of 12. Tickets will be sold in advance beginning on Sunday February 3 or can be purchased at the door. Bring a friend and join the wonderful folks at Gloria Dei!



Gloria Dei Book Club

We continue this new small group gathering with February's selected book, *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel. Amazon.com says this about the book: *Yann Martel's imaginative and unforgettable Life of Pi is a magical reading experience, an endless blue expanse of storytelling about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith.* This book is available in paperback as well as in the public library. We have all month to read it before we come together to discuss this book on Monday evening February 25th, 7pm, in Riverside Hall. We will gather and enjoy some good conversation, great company, and some homemade desserts. Coffee and tea will be provided. Tiia Reinvald will continue to organize this group. Please contact her if you plan to join us and if you can bring a dessert. You can reach Tiia on her cell phone (267-304-3424) or by email (treinvald@philaymca.org).



Enjoy reading!

Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday/ Fasnacht/Pancake Day

These are all names of what we'll be celebrating February 5th. Look up "Shrove Tuesday" on wikipedia. It's absolutely fascinating! According to this article Anglicans and Lutherans traditionally eat pancakes on this day before Ash Wednesday. It is thought that pancakes are the food of choice because it is somewhat indulgent, one last party before Lent begins with its traditional forty days of fasting.

What it all comes down to is that on Tuesday, February 5th from 5:30-8pm (come anytime!) we will be eating a ton of pancakes (and bacon and sausage). You can also expect lively conversation and maybe even some games.

But, that's not all! This is a co-sponsored event between the Gloria Day Youth and St. Peter's Youth. They will be the chefs, money collectors, servers, etc. The proceeds from the celebration will be split between both groups for activities of their choosing.

This is definitely an event you don't want to miss. So mark your calendars in whichever label suits you and join in the festivities!

Calendar

- February 3** Baptism 11:00 AM Service
Super Bowl Sunday “SUP” Souper – between services
Pancake Supper Planning Mtg; Riverside Hall 12:30PM
- February 4, 11, 18, 25** History Committee Meeting in church; 6:30–8:30 PM
- February 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27** Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak Room – 6:00–10:00 PM
- February 5** Pancake Supper in Riverside Hall; 5:30–8:00 PM
Sponsored by Youth Groups from Gloria Dei and St. Peter’s
- February 6** Ash Wednesday – 6:00 PM Meal in Riverside Hall
7:00 PM Service – Imposition of Ashes
and Holy Communion
- February 9** Rental – Riverside Hall
- February 10** Roak Room Rental; 2:30 PM – Court @ Old Swedes
Home Owners Association
Swedish Service – 4:00 PM
- February 13, 20, 27** Soup and Study; Riverside Hall 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- February 17** Norwegian Service 4:00 PM
Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- February 19** Methodist/Episcopal Study; 7:00–8:30 PM in
Riverside Hall
- February 21** SCS Meeting in Roak Room; 1:00–3:30 PM
- February 25** Book Club Meeting – 7:00 PM Riverside Hall

February 24th, Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thought which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: John 4:5-42

The Lectionary for February

February 3rd, Last Sunday after Epiphany

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21 Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

February 6th, Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 103 or 103:8-14

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 10th, First Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19 Gospel: Romans 5:12-19

February 17th, Second Sunday in Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121

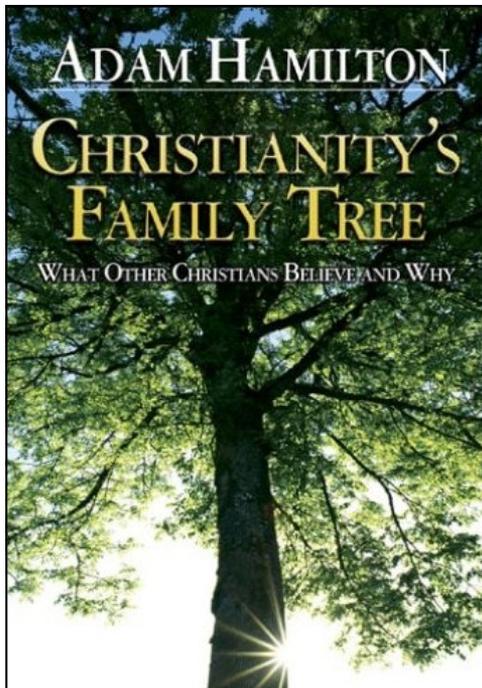
2nd Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Gospel: John 3:1-17

Wednesdays in Lent

Please join us for our Lenten Soup 'n' Study each Wednesday in Lent from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Riverside Hall. We will come together around a simple meal of soup and bread followed by a discussion of the book we have chosen to read together. This year we will be reading *Christianity's Family Tree; What Other Christians Believe and Why*, by Adam Hamilton. This book is an easy-to-read study of the history and beliefs of Christian denominations such as Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Anglicans (that=s us!), Roman Catholics, etc. We will close each evening with the short nighttime service of Compline. Please mark your calendars for the Wednesdays in Lent (2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, and 3/12) and plan to join us.

If you would like a book and/or can bring soup or bread on any of the Wednesdays please sign up. (sign-up board is in the back of the church) If you need a ride please call the office and we will arrange for you to be picked up. If you cannot join us Wednesday evenings please consider ordering a copy of the book and reading along with us. (Expense for our books this year will be covered by the Rector's Discretionary Fund)

Please make every effort to join us if you can, read along if you can't, and pray for us as we open our minds and hearts to the many expressions of Christian faith that are found in our neighborhoods, our nation, and the world.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

<i>March 16, 2008</i> Palm Sunday	Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Reading, Holy Communion Rite II	9am & 11am
<i>March 19, 2008</i> Wed. in Holy Week	Passover Seder for Christians	6:30pm
<i>March 20, 2008</i> Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Holy Communion, stripping of the altar	7:00pm
<i>March 21, 2008</i> Good Friday	Good Friday Liturgy, Communion from the reserved sacrament	7:00pm
<i>March 23, 2007</i> Easter Day	Easter Vigil, Holy Communion, Rite II Holy Communion, Rite II Easter Egg Hunt Holy Communion, Rite II	5:30am 9:00am 10:00am 11:00am

All are welcome in the Lord's House

Daylight Savings Time

In the United States, the start and end of daylight savings times were changed in 2007. Daylight savings time now begins on the second Sunday in March.

**Don't be late for church
on Sunday, March 9th**

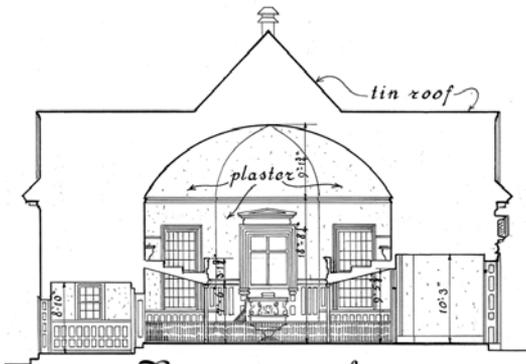
(Set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed
on Saturday night)



Member by Subscription

In writings about the early days of Old Swedes, it is said that the Church was built mostly by subscription. Some paid in money and others in work and materials. In less than 4 years after the church was built the walls "had perceptibly given away." A committee determined that rooms should be built on each side of the church, to strengthen the walls. Although this plan was the most expensive, it would allow one end to be a vestry-room, and the other could be used for a vestibule or entrance to the church. To pay for the work a subscription or pledge was started. Rev. Sandel complained that the new construction "gave him a great deal of trouble." Many of the subscribers were behind in making their payment even though the wardens were attentive to their duties. The workmen were anxious to be paid, and he was obliged, with one of the wardens, to go from house to house to collect what was due.

Soon after the church was built, arrangements were made for renting the pews. By renting or subscribing to a pew you were able to reserve your seat in



Transverse Section

the church. By the mid-1800s Rev Jehu Curtis Clay noted the "attention shown by this congregation to strangers, in the visits they often pay to our church." However he noted that "it frequently happens that persons visiting for a while in our city, feel desirous while here of attending some place or places of worship, that they may spend the Lord's day in the manner that God requires, and to which they have been

accustomed at home." He continued "what opinion must such persons form of the Christian courtesy or politeness of a congregation in which they find themselves ordered out of the pew or pews into which they may enter. Or suppose a person caring but little about going to a place of worship, is induced in some way or other to enter one of our churches. He takes a seat, supposing, perhaps, as well he might, that the followers of Christ would be glad to see him coming to unite with them in the holy services of the sanctuary. But he finds himself mistaken. The renter of the pew comes to the door and gives him to understand that he is an intruder. He goes into another pew and is treated in the same manner. Indignant that persons having the name of Christians should act thus, he leaves the church, and can never again be persuaded to enter it, or, perhaps, to enter any other place of worship."

Historical Committee

Bob Josuweit

Historical Committee

Are you interested in Gloria Dei's history? Are you interested in preserving the many artifacts entrusted to us from previous generations? If the answer is yes to these questions, join us in Church on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Jeanette Woehr with any questions, suggestions, or concerns - 856/795-3781 (evenings) or jeanette@philarmh.org.



February 2008 Sunday School Calendar



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

Feb. 3rd

No Sunday School. Souper Bowl Sunday Fundraiser for Old Saint Joseph's Outreach Lunch Program.

Kids should be in the Riverside Hall at 9am to prepare.

We'll be selling soup in between services.

Feb. 10th, 17th, & 24th

10am Sunday School



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS
 ... of Gloria Dei Church baptized
 on January 6, 2008

Ruth Dao Xin Duink
Drew Joseph Sharon



**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 (1/13/08); 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.