



January 2008

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Beginning Again

And so we begin a new year. What kind of beginning will this be? We have so many beginnings in our lives it's hard to grasp the relevance, or even the meaning, of beginnings. What are beginnings anyway? What is the relationship between beginnings and endings? Can we constantly be beginning without in some way ending as well?

We begin school years; we begin vacation times and work days; we begin weeks and months and years; we begin new seasons, new relationships, new commitments; we begin a new day every morning.

As we begin a new year together at Gloria Dei we will be beginning a lot of new things: new studies, new gatherings, new ministries. As we gather around books and soups and new relationships we will grow into new people. As we move into these new days something of who we are will change to greet the new day, and something of who we were will move into fond memories, recollections, history.

Many of us are uncomfortable when we are faced with our constantly changing lives. Some want things to stay the same, other want things to change. Some greet the new (people, events, whatever) with ill-disguised disdain. Others stretch every muscle in mind and heart looking impatiently for the new. We are a diverse lot, humans in general, reflected quite clearly right here at Gloria Dei.

And so, as we begin again, with a new year, a new season, some new people in our midst, others gone but not forgotten, some old friends occasionally passing through, let's remember that some of us are excited, others fearful, and a few are anxious that change will ... well, change us.

As we begin again, and as we consider the year gone by, let us support each other in the days to come. Change and chance will rattle our cages, to be sure. Births and deaths will reform us, as will events in the community around us and in the global community. We will learn more about ourselves, find new strengths, and admit to new weaknesses. We will continue to consider the mission and ministry of Gloria Dei, and we will continue to discern God's will for this parish family as we envision possibilities for the future.

(continued)

Whatever the new year brings us, let us remain confident that by the grace of God we have been given this time and this place for strengthening, for fellowship, for comfort, and for community. As the light of Christ comes into the world once more this Epiphany let us be thankful for new endings and new beginnings, confident that the Holy Spirit guides, teaches, and accompanies us on every step of our journey.

Joy +

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2007 Lucia Fest and St. Eric's Fair a great success!



New Committees – New Chairpersons – Can You Help?

Gloria Dei is in great need of at least three people to step up to “Chairperson” positions.

First is a need for someone to take over the leadership of the **Guatemala Committee**. We have committed ourselves to supporting both some educational and some medical needs of the parishioners of two parishes in Guatemala. We are always able to raise the necessary funds during our outreach on Palm Sunday, but we have lost our communication, coordination, and administrative abilities and need to reform this committee. We need to be in touch with these parishes more regularly, report to the Gloria Dei parishioners more regularly, exchange letters, and plan trips to visit our partners in mission. These things require an active committee with a leader. If no one is willing to step up to this position we may have to give up this very important outreach project, and with it the relationships we have made over the years with these parishes.

Second is a need to form a **Hospitality Committee**. Again, a leader is needed to form a committee that will take over the Sunday morning fellowship time that follows each of our services. Coffee, tea, juice, and snacks can be provided by donations as well as by the church. Organizing a group of volunteers to take turns preparing Riverside Hall for the fellowship time after each of our services and cleaning up afterwards is the basic job description of the Chairperson. Paula and Jim Minacci have been doing this for quite some time now. It is time for the congregation to take this over.



Third is a need to form a **Greeters' Committee**. This is a group of volunteers willing to meet and greet newcomers on Sunday mornings, to insure that they are welcomed personally, that they fill out a pew card, that they are encouraged to join us at fellowship time after each service, that they are introduced to others in the congregation, and that they are contacted by a Greeter, either by phone, email, or mail, within a short period of time after being with us. The Chairperson of this committee would recruit volunteers willing to be a part of this ministry and insure that Greeters are present at each of our services.

Can you help?

A Word from the New Property Chair

First, would like very much to say Seasons Greetings to all.

I must tell you that at the last Vestry meeting Joy and the Vestry had appointed me to be the new Property Chairman for Gloria Dei and I have gladly accepted.

My aim in this position is to see to it that all the work that must be done to keep our structures in good shape and good working order will be done properly and possibly not having to pay extreme prices

I have asked Jim Minacci and Mark Roberts to join with me to make a committee to see that we can get things done properly and as efficiently as possible.

Lately I have been in touch with a few contractors to try to set up the painting jobs that must be done in the spring of 2008 and we were able to get in touch with the plumbing company that was responsible for the heating system in the Roak Building and we are now on the right track to correct all the problems and have the system working properly and sufficiently.

With all the work that must be done to keep our church buildings in good order we will have to depend on our parishioners to think seriously about the news that was given to us in our November services about our stewardship promises. This is where we expect to get sufficient funds to help pay for these expenses.

In closing I would ask each and every one of you to join with me to pray for all the right things to do to keep everything operating for us in the years to come.

Love to all,

Jim Parsons and the property committee.

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee will meet on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Roak Room. Prayer Chain intercessors are encouraged to attend as well as anyone who may be interested in joining the prayer chain or participating in any other pastoral care activities such as visiting shut-ins, letter-writing, etc. Please consider joining us on the 14th to explore ways we can support each other and our congregation through pastoral care!

Methodist/Episcopal Study

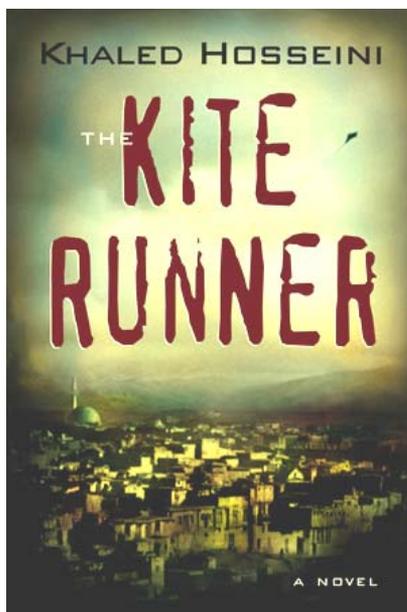
We begin our seven-week dialogue with Historic St. George's Methodist Church this month. Our first session will be at Gloria Dei on Tuesday evening, January 15th, 7-8:30pm, in Riverside Hall. We will move to Historic St. George's for the next meeting, Tuesday evening, January 29th, 7-8:30pm. The following are the remainder of the scheduled meeting dates, all Tuesday evenings, all 7-8:30pm: 2/19 at Gloria Dei; 3/11 at Historic St. George's; 4/1 at Gloria Dei; 4/15 at Historic St. George's; and 5/6 at Gloria Dei.

As the United Methodist Church USA and The Episcopal Church USA begin the dialogue towards a relationship of Full Communion, these individual parish study groups will bring to light our histories, our polities, and our theologies. Gloria Dei and Historic St. George's already share much history together as Old Philadelphia Congregations. It is so appropriate for us to continue in making history together in this new century.

If you are interested in joining this dialogue please be in touch with Joy as soon as possible to pick up a Study Guide. We will car pool from Gloria Dei on the evenings we are scheduled to be at Historic St. George's for any who are interested and need a ride.

New!!! Gloria Dei Book Club

We begin a new small group gathering this month with our Book Club. January's book is *The Kite Runner*, by Khalid Hosseini. It 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 Wednesday evening, January 30th, 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 be organizing this first meeting. 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!



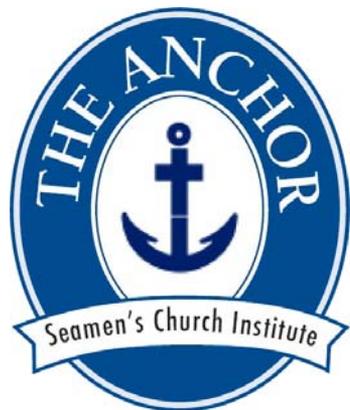
Calendar

January 1	Office Closed
January 2	Rector returns from vacation
January 6	Feast of the Epiphany Baptisms - 9am & 11am Service
January 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31	Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak Room - 6:00-10:00 PM
January 13	Seaman's Church Institute Meeting between services Swedish Service - 4:00 PM
January 14	Pastoral Care Meeting; Roak Room - 6:30-8:30 PM
January 15	Methodist/Episcopal Study - 7:00-8:30 PM Riverside Hall (See article)
January 19	Riverside Hall Rental
January 29	Methodist/Episcopal Study - 7:00-8:30 PM
January 30	Book Club Meeting - 7:00 PM Riverside Hall

Ministry with Seafarers...

Where's our ship headed?

On January 13th, workers from the Seamen's Church Institute will be with us between the services. Together, we will brainstorm how it is that we might strengthen our relationship with SCI with a regular ministry, whether it be pizza and games every 3rd Monday of the month, or a meal every other month. You are invited to be a part of this voyage.



The Lectionary for January

January 6th: Epiphany of the Lord

Collect: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth; Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your presence, where we may see your glory fact to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 13th: First Sunday after Epiphany

Collect: Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

2nd Reading: Acts: 10:34-43

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

January 20th: Second Sunday after Epiphany

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world; Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:29-42

January 27th: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Collect: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

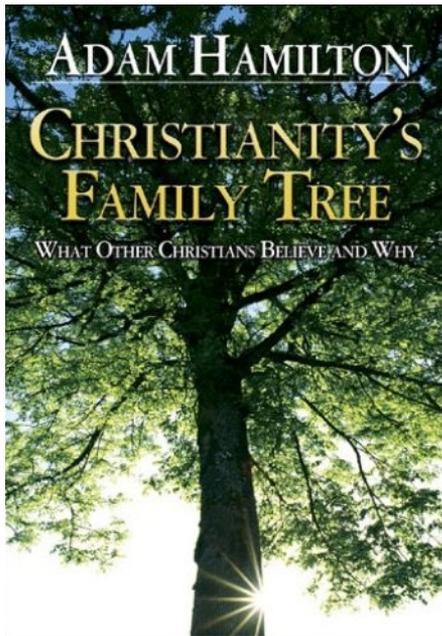
Sneak Preview

Lent (and Easter) comes very early this year. So, in order to be sure you've got your calendars up to date, including marking off your Wednesdays in Lent for our Lenten Soup 'n' Study this year, here are some important dates:

Ash Wednesday February 6, 2008

Lenten Soup 'n' Study Wednesdays in Lent: 2/13, 2/20, 2/27,
3/5, and 3/12.

(This year we will be reading Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why - a study of the history and beliefs of Christian denominations, such as Presbyterians, Baptists, Anglicans (that's us!), Roman Catholics, etc.)



Palm Sunday March 16, 2008

Christian Seder March 19, 2008

Maundy Thursday March 20, 2008

Good Friday March 21, 2008

Easter Sunday March 23, 2008

January 2008 Sunday School Calendar

**SOUPER
Bowl
Sunday is
February
3rd!**

**Stay tuned
for more
information!**



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

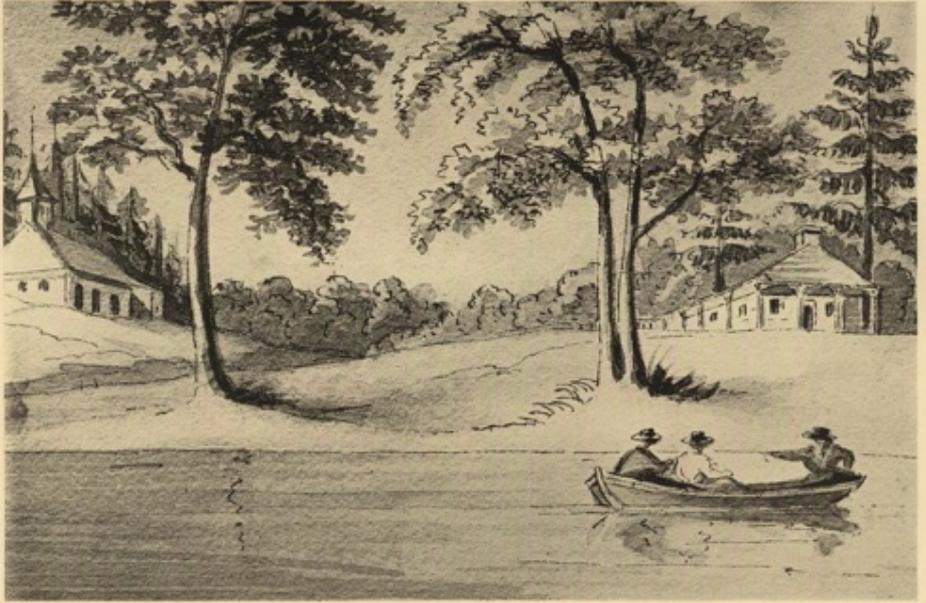
Jan. 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

10am Sunday School

The 70th Lucia at Gloria Dei



All Lucia Photos by Phillip Geliebter



Swedish Lutheran Church at Wiccaco, 1677-1699

Wiccaco - in the Beginning

The land around Old Swedes is not what the Swedes saw in the late 1600's. Let's step back in time and take a look.

The southern part of Philadelphia that included the Swedes' Church was owned by the Swedish family Sven. In May, 1664 the land began at the area known as Moyamensing and stretched "upwards in breadth 400 rods, [about 1 1/4 mile wide] and in length into the woods 600 rods, [nearly 2 miles]" In all it was about 800 acres.

The first Swedes' Church at Wiccaco was built on the present site in 1677, five years before William Penn came to the area. The church was made of logs, and had loop-holes instead of window lights, which might serve for fire-arms in case of need. The congregation was accustomed to bringing fire-arms to church with them in case of attack. However they primarily used the weapons to take care of any wild game that got in their way as they traveled to Church. In 1700, the present brick church was erected, and it was then deemed a great edifice. Out of the 800 acres, 27 acres of land belonged to the Church.

The original Sven log-house was standing till the time the British occupied Philadelphia (1777-78) when it was taken down and converted into fuel. It stood on a hill on the Northwest corner of Swanson Street and Beck's Alley. (The hill no longer exists.) In 1748, Professor Kalm said "The wretched old wooden building is still preserved as a memorial of the once poor state of that

place. Its antiquity gives it a kind of superiority over all the other buildings in the town, although in itself it is the worst of all. It showed how they dwelt, when stags, elk, deer and beavers ranged in broad daylight in the future streets and public places of Philadelphia. In that house was heard the sound of the spinning wheel before the city was ever thought of!" He described a great number of very large sized water-beech or buttonwood trees on the riverside.

William Penn's son, Thomas, made the area his favorite area to walk when he was in Philadelphia. Secretary Peters, in writing to him in 1743, complained of its changes ~ saying, "Southwark is getting greatly disfigured by erecting irregular and mean houses; thereby so marring its beauty that, when he shall return, he will lose his usual pretty walk to Wiccaco".

Historical Committee

Bob Josuweit



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS

... of Gloria Dei Church baptized on December 16, 2007

Noah Robert Gramlich

Chloe Christine Martin

Emmett William Morison

CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED

... **Richard Kirschner** and **LoriAnn Vincent** on December 23, 2007

The Newly **CONFIRMED** by The Rt. Rev. Franklin D. Turner
on December 16, 2007...

Joshua Thomas Myers

Tyler Gaebel Myers

Grace Glennon Chatman-Royce

Austin Reid Jenkins

and **RECEIVED...** **Megan Rachel Bartlett**

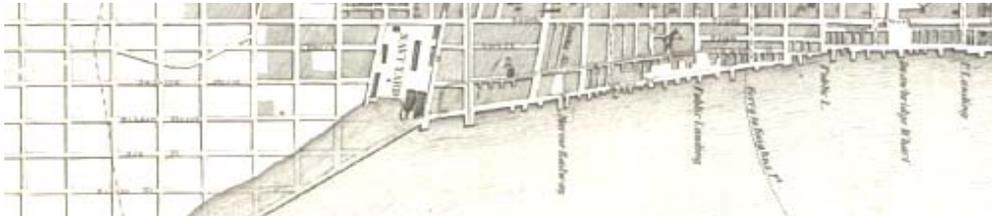
Memorial Cards were purchased last month in loving memory of:

Marie Ford by Joe & Dolores Collins; Marge Lord

Joseph Dalin by Sally & Bob Daly

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ...

Christopher Larkin - 1952 to 2007



We've had a busy month at Gloria Dei
...see inside back cover



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.