



July & August 2008
Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Summer Reading

As I am writing this the washer and dryer are twisting and turning, clothes and suitcases are stacked on beds and floors, and all over the house it looks like something is about to happen. Sound familiar? Yes, tomorrow Alan and I leave for vacation. Having just returned from a week-long Clergy Wellness Conference I am looking forward to a time of rest and renewal, a time to consider the suggestions presented in the conference, sharing time with friends, and, of course, catching up on my reading.

Last year at this time I listed my planned reading list and some of you have asked if I would do the same this year. I am happy to share this with you. As I said last year, I take this time to move away from books having to do with my vocation and move into a time of reading for pure pleasure, though there are a couple on my list this year that might cross that line. Here are the books that have been packed into the car already.

- *Team of Rivals* is Doris Kearns Goodwin's fascinating study of, as the subtitle says, the political genius of Abraham Lincoln. (Yes, this was on my list last year but I didn't get it read. It's now on the top of the list for this summer!)
- *The Time Traveler's Wife*, by Audrey Niffenegger. I am actually two thirds of the way through this June Selection of the Gloria Dei Book Club and can't wait to see how it's going to wrap up. A great read!
- *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*, by Maggie O-Farrell. This is a book suggested to me by a Gloria Dei Book Club participant, who swears it's one of the best books he's ever read - and he reads a lot! So, trusting in a fellow reader, though I've never heard of it and know nothing about it, I have added it to my list.
- *Eat, Pray, Love*, by Elizabeth Gilbert. This is also a selection chosen from a parish member's recommendation. I do know about this book, have read a number of reviews about it, and have had others tell me they thought I would enjoy it. It has been on my shelf since last winter and now its time has come!

(continued next page)

- *Amish Grace*, by Kraybill, Nolt, and Weaver-Zercher. We all remember the awful events in Pennsylvania a couple of years ago when the Amish school children were murdered in their schoolroom. We also, I'm sure, remember the example of forgiveness in the midst of terrible pain that the Amish community gave to the world as they lived through that experience. This is a book that examines how the Amish are able to forgive, truly forgive, in the face of such pain – forgive the very person who inflicted the pain, and his family, and even to support that family in their pain. I think the best way for me to let this book be heard and absorbed into my soul is to read it in a quiet, restful, and reflective place. So, though it seems not to be typical summer fare, it may be the blessing in the book bag.
- *The Appeal*, by John Grisham, and *I Shall Not Want*, by Julia Spencer-Fleming. Well, no Harry Potter book this summer (sigh...) so a couple of lighter books, good story tellers, mystery, characters well known from previous books, make these two wonderful additions to the list.
- The Gloria Dei Book Club has made suggestions for summer reading (see article in this issue), one of which is already on my list. The other, C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*, is an old and much read favorite of mine so I will certainly, and joyfully, be rereading it this summer. Recommended highly!

And for some part of each day I will read from the Bible. This year, rather than reading short selections like we do on Sundays or in Morning and Evening Prayer I've decided to read *Genesis*, then *Matthew*. As odd as it may sound to you, oftentimes the clergy do not take the time to step back from the selections of the day and consider the greater work. This is a piece from the Clergy Wellness Conference that I have decided is a healthy way to, in some way, see the whole forest again, rather than focusing on individual trees. This, I hope, will add to my ability to teach, to preach, to pray, and to awaken the passion that often becomes dormant in the busyness of our lives.

I wish you all a summer full of rest and renewal, of reading and reflecting, of warm nights on the porch and evenings sharing ice cream and water ice, of special times with family and friends. I pray you will have time to consider the change of seasons and recognize our shared calling to see God in these changes, to know His presence, and to be assured of His grace in our lives, and in this creation that is good, that is very, very good.

Peace,

Joy +

Surprises

Nearly two years ago, when I first came to the seminary, I looked around at my classmates and celebrated the diversity of a place that brought together old and young, different denominations, races, cultures, perspectives. But, inwardly, I admitted to myself that those I would most likely become closest with were the people most similar to me, young Lutherans. It only took a few days to find out otherwise. I learned that the person I had the most in common with was a white guy my father's age, who spent most of his life as a lawyer. Each time they divided the group based on interests, history, expectations, hobbies, etc, I found myself with him. My assumption, which I was luckily not bold enough to say aloud, was proven wrong.

And, yet, had I learned my lesson? In April 2007, I found that I was assigned to a little Episcopal Church on the Delaware. Well - it *used* to be Lutheran. That counts for something, right? I had been a part of numerous ecumenical groups - but actually serve in a non-Lutheran setting? Of course, everyone knows only Lutherans truly understand grace. Any yet, I came to know a community more grace-filled than any other I have been a part of, Lutheran or otherwise. I should not have been surprised. For you are God's children, who experience grace every Sunday and every day in between, and not only through Baptism and the Lord's Supper, but through the love you share one another and anyone else who finds themselves touched by Gloria Dei. Lutheran theology tells me that when a person experiences the grace of God, they cannot help but spontaneously serve their neighbor. It has been at Gloria Dei that I have seen that in action most profoundly.

Know that I will continue to think of you, and will try my best to visit. Leaving Gloria Dei gives me a new appreciation for the Lord's Supper, where we gather with saints past and present. Each Sunday, as I commune wherever I am, I will be gathered into one body with you, the grace-filled people that you are.

Are you surprised at the grace I have seen in you? Well, take the chance to look around. People yearn for face-to-face encounters with God. You need only look to one another, because I know I have seen the face of Christ in each one of you.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth!

Christine

Music in the Graveyard

While walking through the graveyard I noticed a marker with the name Erik Leidzén, Composer. I was not familiar with the name, but a bit of curiosity sent this writer on a search to find out who this person was.

Many of us are familiar with members of the Salvation Army playing their instruments during the Christmas holidays. Their tradition of having large bands lead to the Salvation Army USA Eastern Territory publishing a book called the *American Band Journal* in the mid-1950's. Subtitled "Brass Music for Evangelism", it was intended for use by groups small enough to perform in the open air, as well as in regular meetings and concerts. The *Journal* featured music by American composers and American themes. However in the early days the *Journal* featured the music of Erik Leidzén, who emigrated from Sweden to the U.S. and became a passionate American patriot. According to



the *Journal* Leidzén's influence over the music played by Salvation Army bands in the United States was profound. Entire generations of Salvationist musicians were influenced by him, including well-known brass composers such as Stephen Bulla and Bruce Broughton.



Leidzén grave located in this area of cemetery

Leidzén also contributed eight pages of tunes to *Carolers' Favorites* in 1953. The original tunes included Christmas carols. By 1957 he had written several Easter Carols. By the 1980s *Carolers' Favorite* was updated, not just with new songs but with updates to some of the original songs. The noted brass band arranger and composer, Stephen Bulla, added an optional fifth part (for

euphonium) to the original Leidzén arrangements, and created 21 new arrangements for songs such as *The Christmas Song* (sometimes referred to as *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*). The new edition of *Carolers' Favorites* was published in 1994.



Concertino for Band and Trombone, another brass band classic by Leidzen, has been a staple since it was written in the 1950's. Erik Leidzén has contributed hundreds of pieces to the concert band and brass band repertoire since the 1920's. This work is not just an accompaniment. The band and trombonist must work well together throughout the piece.

Erik Leidzén, born in Stockholm in 1894, died in New York in 1962, buried at Old Swedes.

Bob Josuweit

United Thank Offering

A friendly reminder!

I am now getting ready to send our UTO offerings to New York -

If you have a UTO box, please bring it to church. Also, don't forget, if you wish to make a one-time donation, there are envelopes on the table at the rear of the church.

Please be a part of this important mission of the church.

Thank you,

Doris Connor

UTO Coordinator



Calendar

- July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak Room - 6:00-10:00 PM
- July 6** 10:00 AM Service - The Rev. Charles F. Penniman, Jr.
- July 12** Rector returns from vacation
- July 23, 30** Simply Eucharist - 6:30 PM in Church
- August 5, 12, 19** Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak Room - 6:00-10:00 PM
- August 6, 13, 27** Simply Eucharist - 6:30 PM in Church
- August 15 - 22** Rector on vacation
- August 17** 10:00 AM Service - The Rev. James Von Dreele
- August 31** 10:00 AM Outside Service

September 7 Breakfast for Sunday School Sign-ups



As you may have noticed this is a combination July/August Issue containing the Calendar of Events and Lectionary for both months. As summer tends to be a time when we are all off to the shore or just kicking back to recharge our batteries, the publishing "staff" is also taking a breather and will be back with a September Riverside to catch everyone up on all the Summer's Doings at Old Swedes'

The Lectionary for July

July 6, 2008 – Proper 9

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 24:34-38; 42-49, 58-67 Psalm: 45:11-18

2nd Reading: Romans 7:15-25a Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 13, 2008 – Proper 10

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm: 119:105-112

2nd Reading: Romans 8:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20, 2008 – Proper 11

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm: 139:1-11, 22-23

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-39 Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27, 2008 – Proper 12

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm: 105:1-11, 45b

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-39 Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Lectionary for August

August 3rd, Proper 13

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm: 17:1-7, 16

2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

August 10th, Proper 14

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm: 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

2nd Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

August 17th, Proper 15

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life; Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; 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 45:1-15

Psalm: 133

2nd Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 24th, Proper 16

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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 1:8-2:10

Psalm: 124

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

August 31st, Proper 17 (Outside service)

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: Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm: 105:1-6, 23-26, 45a-c

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-8

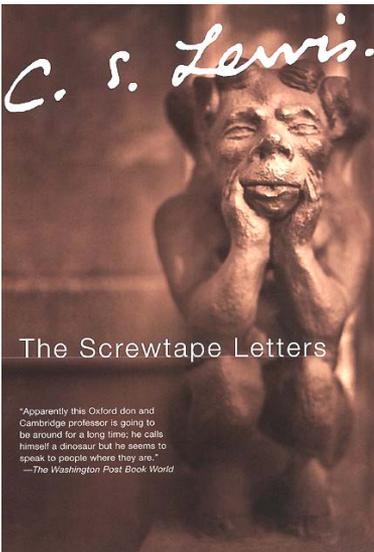
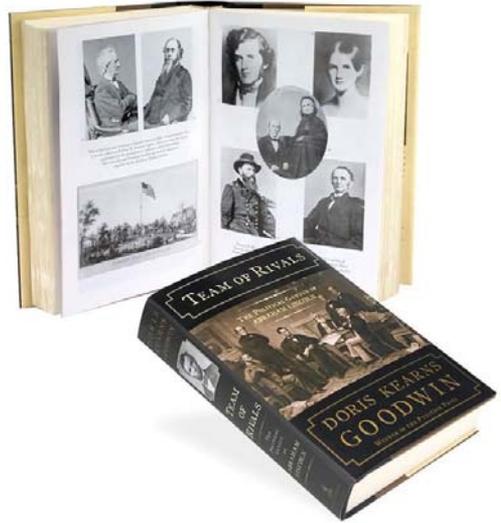
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

The Book Club at Old Swedes

Summer is the perfect time to leisurely open a good book and savor it until the end. The book club at Old Swedes will be enjoying 2 selections over the summer, one non-fiction and one fiction. We will meet to discuss and nosh on dessert, coffee and wine on September 29th at 7PM. Read both selections or just one. Join us!

Our non-fiction selection is [A Team of Rivals](#), by Doris Kearns Goodwin, about Abraham Lincoln's choosing of his opponents as his cabinet after his election in 1861. Suggested by Reverend Joy, this promises to be a very interesting and well written historical work.

Our fiction selection is C.S. Lewis's [Screwtape Letters](#). Highly recommended by friends of the church, it is a clever look at 'reverse theology' in which Lewis satirizes the beaucroctic mindset that can seperate us from inner peace. An audiobook performed by John Cleese is available, and used copies are available on amazon.com starting at 49 cents.



Now you have your assignment. Ge out your lawn chair, grab some iced tea and sink into a good book!

Tria Reinvald

Summer has just begun . . .

- but after Summer comes Fall, and in the Fall at Gloria Dei, we ask everyone to think about “stewardship.”

You might remember I wrote last year about my discovery of “faith-based stewardship.” The belief that God has given each of us work to do and has given us exactly what we need to do that work, that God calls us to be who God created us to be and not anyone else, that God calls us to do the ministry God has given us and not to do anyone else’s ministry - that’s faith-based stewardship.

That God has so loved us to give us a purpose, a ministry, and the means to do that ministry not only invites an attitude of thankfulness, it pretty much demands it.

I doubt there’s anyone reading these words who doesn’t know about the journey Peggy and I traveled since last February. February - sharing with you our joy at committing ourselves to each other in marriage. June - hearing Peggy’s cancer diagnosis, and sharing that with you. July and August - pursuing Peggy’s radiation and chemotherapy treatments, and sharing that with you. October - marrying at Gloria Dei, then embarking almost immediately on Peggy’s surgery. October, November, December - sharing with you while we watched and waited through Peggy’s frightening ordeal after surgery, never losing faith that God was watching and providing but being very afraid of what exactly God ask of us. Peggy and I are both very grateful, very thankful - not really because God cured her and gave us back our life together, but because God gave us the gift of taking on the task God set before us, of becoming who we were created to be, and of sharing our acceptance of and belief in that ministry.

It’s pretty commonplace to speak of stewardship in terms of being generous with our “time, talent, and treasure.” We’ve all heard those words enough times that there’s a danger of letting them just recede into the background noise. But God’s gifts are real, and God has really given those gifts. So the Stewardship Committee is going to ask everyone at Gloria Dei to listen carefully this Fall to hear what work God has given us to do, what God is calling us to be, what ministry God wants us to undertake.



We’ll start thinking about stewardship a bit earlier this Fall - on Sunday, September 21, to be exact. We’ll have someone speak about stewardship at both services and end the day with a “Welcome Back” (or should I say “Weclome Back?!”) spaghetti dinner to celebrate beginning the new parish year.

Then we'll intermix our stewardship activities with the shared Eucharist activities involving both our congregation and the congregation of Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, and end our reflections by observing "Stewardship Sunday" on All Saints' Sunday (November 2).

Please don't forget this Summer to remember God's gifts of work to do, persons to become, ministry to perform, and the time, talent, and treasure to do all that. And let's all reassemble this Fall to talk about what God is calling us, the people of Gloria Dei, to be and do.

Jerry Buescher

SIMPLY EUCHARIST

Wednesday evenings during the summer:

July 16th, 23rd, 30th August 6th, 13th, 27th

Church attendance drops during the summer as many travel, particularly on the weekends. We celebrate Eucharist every Sunday during the summer at 10am. But for those who travel on the weekends as well as for those who remain in the city and would like a simple, quiet midweek worship experience we have added a service on certain Wednesday evenings (see dates above). We will gather in the church at 6:30pm on some Wednesdays in June, July, and August for a simple, informal, short, contemporary language celebration of the Eucharist. Mark the Simply Eucharist celebration dates on your calendars, come and pray with us, nourish yourself at the table of the Lord, and feast on the fellowship of the gathered community.

Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Barbara Sampieri (856) 296-9752

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS
... of Gloria Dei Church baptized on
June 8, 2008
Makayla Alexa Bilbrough
Tanley La-Vell Ulrich

CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED
... **Nicholas Meitzler**
and **Danielle Denise Guardiani**
May 31, 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:

10:00 AM

Through Aug 31

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

V E S T R Y

Jerome Buescher
Barbara Chilcott
Dave Hammond
Diane Honor, 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.