



March 2008

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

In Between Time

As we begin March this year we are right in the middle of Lent. Some of us are feeling the pressure of whatever promises we made to ourselves, or to others, about how we would mark this Lenten season. Did we give something up or take something on that we have honored, or have failed to honor, by mid-season? Are we feeling proud, or humble, or lost, or found as we come to this middle place? Do we feel anxious, or confident, as we prepare for the final three weeks of Lent and Holy Week? And what are we prepared to do about those thoughts and feelings as we look towards the culmination of this season in Holy Week? Will we be ready to rejoice at Easter?

The in-between time, the middle of the story, allows us to reflect on where we are, where we have been, and where we are going. Often it is a time to take stock, to reconsider our journey in light of what has become clear, or what has turned dark and doubtful, along the way. The road to Passion and Resurrection can be full of surprises, twists and turns not foreseen, and new and unexpected views of what awaits us around the next bend in the road.

Lent can be, for those who observe this season faithfully, a small window into a wider consideration of our lives ... our lifetimes of hills and valleys, light and darkness, joy and sorrow. As we agree to travel with each other, following Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, relying on the presence not only of each other but of Him, we may find that this Lenten journey is a microcosm of what our own experiences of life, our own lives, are like.

And when this revelation occurs we are better equipped not only to observe a Holy Lent but to live holy lives beyond Lent. On this journey through Lent we learn, through Scripture, through self sacrifice, through prayer and silence, and through fellowship that life itself is the gift given by a Creator God who encourages us to seek the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God, in all whom we meet and in all that we do and in every place that we find ourselves.

As we pause to consider where we are on the journey, who is with us, whom we have included and excluded along the way, and what we have done and left undone, let us also allow ourselves a time to sit by the side of the road,

(continued)

take a deep breath, let go of both the failures and the successes that distract us from the journey ahead, and breathe the very breath of life that is the Holy Spirit with us. In our pains and our pleasures, in our work and our worship and our rest, in every minute that we journey through this life, God has promised to be with us, to guide us, encourage us, nourish and sustain us. Let us be sure, before we move on down the road, that we have not lost sight of this, the greatest of gifts.

And then let us help each other to stand and walk ... to Jerusalem ... to the cross ... and to Resurrection, where with Peter and so many before us we will declare with joy and confidence:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
(1 Peter 1:3)

Peace,
Joy +

The Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone who attended the Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 17, 2008. A very large number of people attended, from 8:30 in the morning until "Last Call" sometime around 1:00 PM. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time enjoying pancakes, sausage, fruit salad, pastries ~ and fellowship.



The proceeds came to a total of \$466. The Committee has agreed to contribute that amount toward the purchase of new folding tables for Riverside Hall ~ a venture to which other Parish groups (the Sunday School and the Youth Group) have already contributed.

Thank you all again ~ and hope to see you at the **Christian Seder Dinner** (Wednesday, March 17, 2008) and at the **Easter Breakfast** (Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008, after the Easter Vigil Service).



Pastoral Care Committee

In mid-January, the Pastoral Care Committee met to discuss prayer chain ministry, outreach and other pastoral care topics. We are doing things a little differently this year with our prayer chain. People who are added to our prayer list will be prayed for by our intercessors for thirty days, at which time they will be removed from the chain unless we hear otherwise. We are happy to have people stay on the chain for a longer period of time but we will need to be notified if that is a specific request. This allows our intercessors to have more current information and keeps our list of people from getting too long or outdated! Prayer chain request forms are available on the back table at church and can be put in the offering basket or given to Joy or to me. As always, information provided is held in the strictest confidence.

Several members of our committee are not only involved in the prayer chain, but serve the Gloria Dei family and surrounding community as well. Dolores Collins and Marge Lord have generously given of their time writing to the sick, shut-in or absent members of Gloria Dei. Lisa Reeves has made herself available for hospital or possibly home visits. Other committee members provide

transportation for people needing rides to church services and other activities at Gloria Dei.

It goes without saying that there are many ways to participate in the activities in and around Gloria Dei. The Altar Guild is always in need of support and that too, is part of pastoral care.

If you are interested in participating in any of the above-mentioned activities, or have a new idea for our committee to consider, please contact me in person or by phone, or call the church office. We also welcome you to our next meeting, which will be held Monday, April 14th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. We meet quarterly and are happy to have new people join us or just come and hear about what we do.

Thank you,

Barbara Sampieri



From the Guatemala Committee

Greetings, Everyone!

Many thanks to those of you who stopped by our information table in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 17th and tasted and/or purchased fair trade Guatemalan coffees. For those who were not able to taste or buy coffee that day, we have placed an order for more bags of both brands (Bishops Blend—which will come in both regular and decaf—and Juan Ana). Julie and I will make an announcement during church as soon as the coffee is available for purchase directly from us.

Again, please keep the people of our sister churches, La Ascención and La Anunciación, and their pastor, Rolando Lopez, in your prayers this month and consider how much money you are able to contribute towards a child's educational expenses this year. On Palm Sunday, March 16th, we will talk more about our ministry in Guatemala and ask for your scholarship pledges. (And, as an added bonus, we've even convinced our multi-talented music director, Paul Fejko, to play music on the marimba, Guatemala's national instrument!)

Thanks again for your continued support of our ministry in Guatemala!

Sincerely,

*Megan Bartlett
and Julie Daze*



Rocking the Boat



Have you ever been in a boat in a storm? Can you imagine being in a boat in a storm? I remember being on our sailboat when I was about 12, and a huge storm came up. The wind was blowing so hard it was nearly impossible to get the sails down. A boat nearby had lost their mast. The waves were enough to make anyone sick. And so I sat in the cabin of the boat, not quite sure how this would turn out.

This is oddly similar to the experience I had my first semester at seminary when we started studying the Gospel of Matthew. I had thought that the Gospels were supposed to be Gospel! That is - good news! “He will separate one people from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats... And these [goats] will go into eternal punishment, and the righteous into eternal life” (Matt 25). What if I’m a goat? And the boat starts rocking... The Greek word *geenna*, translated as “hell,” appears twice as many times in Matthew than in the other canonical gospels combined!

And yet, Matthew gives us a chance to receive God’s law as a gift, including the beatitudes and even the story of “the sheep and goats,” passages that help us understand from the mouth of Jesus what a life in Christ can look like. And so, in April, we explore the Gospel of Matthew in the “Matthew year” of the lectionary cycle. Ready yourselves for the bumps that will certainly accompany us on this journey.

Meanwhile, share in the ministry of the Seamen’s Church Institute as we try out new ways to engage with some people whose lives could often be characterized as stormy, figuratively and literally! Look for some monthly opportunities to join in.

God’s Peace,
Christine

Calendar

March 2	Riverside Hall Rental
March 3, 10, 17, 31	History Committee Meeting in church; 6:30-8:30 PM
March 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 25, 26	Accelerated Degree Program Evening Classes, in Roak Room - 6:00-10:00 PM
March 5, 12	Soup and Study; Riverside Hall 7:00 - 8:30 PM
March 8	Riverside Hall Rental
March 9	Swedish Service - 4:00 PM
March 15	Finnish Service - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Church and Riverside Hall
March 16	Norwegian Service - 4:00 PM
March 19	Seder - 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Riverside Hall
March 20	Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 PM
March 21	Good Friday Service - 7:00 PM
March 23	Easter Sunday - 5:30 AM Vigil Service - Brunch in Parish Hall - 9:00 and 11:00 AM Services - Easter Egg Hunt after 9:00 AM Service
March 24	Closed
March 29	Riverside Hall Rental
March 31	Book Club - 7:00 PM Riverside Hall

Sunday School Calendar

Good Friday is March 21st. I sure could use some help decorating and filling eggs between 10-11:30am! I hope people bring a bag of candy!



The Easter Bunny needs your help! Please bring a bag of candy and help decorate/fill eggs on Good Friday, 3/21 10-11:30am

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

March 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th

Sunday School / Awesome April Activities

March 23rd - Easter Sunday

No Sunday School. Easter Egg Hunt after the 9am Service!

The Lectionary for March

March 2nd, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

March 9th, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

2nd Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

March 16th, Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; 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 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:1-27:66
(The Reading of the Passion)

March 20th, Maundy Thursday

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11,14

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 21st, Good Friday

Almighty god, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22: 1-11

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:1-25

Gospel: John 18:1-19:37

(The Reading of the Passion)

March 23rd, Easter Sunday

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-8

March 30th, Second Sunday of Easter

almighty and everlasting do, who in the paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31



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)



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

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

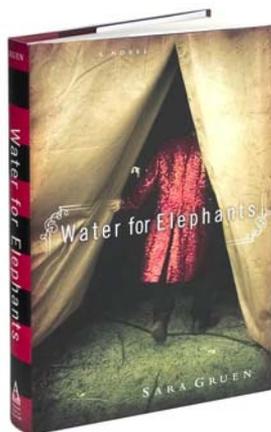
Book Club News

Next Gathering: Monday, March 31, 2008, 7pm. We enjoy coffee, tea, desserts, and great conversation.

Our selection for March's Book Club is *Water For Elephants*, by Sara Gruen. It is a wonderful novel, full of life and love, set in the world of a depression-era traveling circus. Here is one of many reviews that captures the essence and excitement that awaits the reader of this very moving novel:

The circus, the Great Depression, a complex elephant, equally complex love, the mists and twists of memory articulated in the utterly winning voice of a very old man who's seen it all: these are the irresistible elements of Water for Elephants. Sara Gruen has written an utterly transporting novel richly full of the stuff of life. (Robert Olen Butler, author of A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain)

All are welcome!



A Look at Money in the Colonies

Last month we talked about membership by subscription. Why was it easier for church members to barter rather than donate money? This month we'll take a short break from the direct history of the Church to look at money in Philadelphia and the colonies.

Philadelphia was a major seaport in colonial times. Sailors would come in from many ports, not only on the east coast but from around the world. Native Americans were in the area. They exchanged wampum for goods and services. Can you imagine all of the ships coming from in cities along the east coast? The Church records are full of stories of sailors wanting to get married before their ship went to sea.

American merchants and traders in the 1600s relied heavily on the barter system. They traded one commodity for another: furs for rifles, salted fish for shoes, grain and tobacco for cloth. The British government prohibited the colonists from accepting cash for American exports, although the same colonists were often forced to pay cash for their imports. This left them with very few coins to meet the ever-increasing demands of the expanding colonial economy. Colonists had to rely on foreign coins, which were often of Spanish origin.

As the colonies grew so did the types of paper money. In 1770, George Washington recorded his trip expenses in the currencies of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Once the Revolutionary War was declared, each colony felt free to produce its own paper money.



It wasn't till after the Civil War ended that national bank notes provided the U.S. with a more uniform currency. These notes were accepted throughout the country at face value. State banks' notes stopped being issued in 1865.

So you can see many people, business, and churches had to exchange funds by what ever method was available to then.

Until next month...

Bob Josuweit

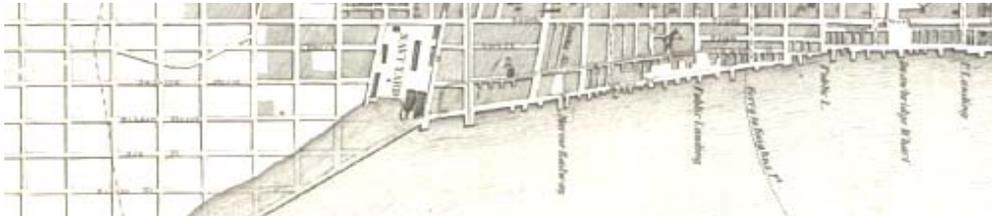


Souper
Bowl
Sunday
Fundraiser

Beautiful
Soup

On the Souper Bowl, we worked in the kitchen.
Then we served the people at the church.
There was eight different kinds of soup.
We raised \$365⁰⁰ and we are going to give the
money to Old St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen. I feel
thankful for being a part of the Souper Bowl
Fundraiser. I hope they are happy with
the money and eat lots of nice soup!

Kalena (CeeCee)



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS
... of Gloria Dei Church baptized
on February 3, 2008

Anthony William Rosa, Jr.

MEMORIAL CARDS were purchased
last month in loving memory of:

Mary Ellen McWasgy
Rae Arena
Anthony Lewandowski
Marge Stahl
Patricia Ann Ricco

**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.