Thoughts from the Rector

It’s All in the Waiting

I was a very impatient child. This probably doesn’t surprise those of you who know me well since I can’t count patience as one of my gifts even now. As an adult I have learned how to count to ten, breathe deeply, close my eyes, and other such tricks that keep me from pouncing when immediate action or response seems more important than waiting, watching, or listening.

Waiting, watching, and listening take a lot of concentration. Doing is easier than being. The affirmations we receive come mostly from the things we accomplish, and we have come to think of waiting as a waste of time, even a squandering of the precious minutes of a life full of obligations, responsibilities and desires.

And so it is hard for us to understand that with the coming of Advent we are being offered a gift. An invitation to wait doesn’t sound like much of a gift, I know. But don’t throw it aside too quickly. Sit with this gift in your lap, considering what you might do with it. Look at it from all sides. Feel it in your hands, know its presence in your breathing, in your thoughts. Think about what you might do with it if you decide to keep it. Take the next four weeks, the time of Advent, to determine whether this gift has a place in your life that might encourage and support your well being, your peace of mind, and even your dreams.

Then, having allowed waiting to become a part of your life, just for this month, prepare to greet the child in the manger, the one you have been waiting for, with new insight, a clear mind and a full heart. The waiting, it turns out, is the way in which the revelation of God’s presence with us is made known. Waiting, watching, listening are modes of being that allow us to see, to hear, to know the world around us and the God with us. Without these we run the danger of living lives something like mice in a maze, scurrying around corners, running down narrow streets, constantly rushing to the next thing and never recognizing the life we have now.

May the days of Advent be for you a time of quiet listening in the midst of the world’s clamor. May the weeks of Advent be for you a time of watching patiently in the midst of the season’s mad rush. May this Advent be the year

(continued on next page)
that you recognize the gift of waiting in the midst of a world that demands constant action.

Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am
Be still and know
Be still
Be

Peace,

Joy+

Would you like a visit from the Pastor?

In the past it was the custom for the Parish Pastor to make regular visitations to parishioners’ homes. Needless to say we are in a very different world today. Many faithful members of church would be uncomfortable if the pastor came knocking on their doors without having been invited. Pastors are often unsure of the desires of parishioners when illness or crisis occurs, or even that such has occurred. Today we rely on members to call if a visit, prayers, or counseling is desired. Please know I am always ready to be with you, to bring Holy Communion to your home or hospital room, or to sit in prayer with you when you desire such. Just let me know and I’ll be there.

Joy+
Site launches December 9th with Old Southwark one of the two initial neighborhoods profiled.

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**United Thank Offering**

I would like to thank all those who gave to the United Thank Offering. We collected $414.24!

This is an on-going mission, so please pick up a “Blue Box” on the table at the rear of the church. Whenever you receive a blessing or answered prayers express your appreciation by dropping coins (or paper money is good, too!) in the box. Thanks for your support –

UTO Coordinator  **Doris Connor**

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**Altar Flowers**

If you would like to provide flowers for one of the Sundays in December or January please call the office and let Terry know. You may provide the flowers yourself or you may provide funds for flowers and our volunteer “flower person,” Diane Honor, will purchase and place the flowers for you.
Christmas Services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2009
7:00 PM Holy Communion, Rite II with Sunday School Tableau
Christmas Fellowship in Riverside Hall will follow Christmas Eve service

Christmas Day - December 25, 2009
7:00 AM Julotta (Swedish service)
10:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 27, 2009
10:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

(© Photo by Chris Meck 2009)
Lucia Fest, 2009

Friday, December 11th 6:00 & 8:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday, December 12th & 13th
2:00, 3:30 & 5:00 pm Services

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

Tickets:
Adults-$8.00, Children under 12-$4.00

St. Eric’s Fair
Imports for Sale; Coffee & Lucia Buns Served
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2, 9, 30</td>
<td>Joan of Arcadia – Roak Room – 6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Lucia Dress Rehearsal &amp; Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Lucia Festival – Friday 11th performances at 6 &amp; 8 PM</td>
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<td>Saturday and Sunday 11th &amp; 12th performances at 2, 3:30 &amp; 5PM</td>
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<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Book Club 7:00 PM – Roak Room – <em>My Life in France</em> by Julia Child*</td>
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<td>Seamen’s Church Institute – worship &amp; dinner – 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>Vestry Meeting</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Finnish Christmas Service</td>
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<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Norwegian Service in Church at 5:00PM</td>
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<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service – 7:00PM</td>
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<td>Dec 25</td>
<td>Julotta - Swedish Service – 7:00AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christmas Day Service – 10:00AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 26 thru Jan 2</td>
<td>Rector on vacation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 27</td>
<td>One Service 10:00AM</td>
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**January 3rd, Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14  Psalm: 84
The Lectionary for December

December 6th, Second Sunday of Advent  
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.  
1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4  
2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-11  
Psalm: Canticle 4 or 16

December 13th, Third Sunday of Advent  
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.  
1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20  
2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7  
Psalm: Canticle 9

December 20th, Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.  
1st Reading: Micah 5:2-5a  
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10  
Psalm: Canticle 3 or 15 or Psalm 80:1-7

December 25th, The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day  
O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.  
1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10  
2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)  
Gospel: John 1:1-14  
Psalm: 98

December 27th, First Sunday after Christmas Day  
Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.  
1st Reading: Exodus 33:18-23  
2nd Reading: 1 John 1:1-9  
Gospel: John 21:19b-24  
Psalm: 92 or 92:1-4;11-14 (continued on prior page)
Seamen’s Church Institute Christmas Dinner

A big thank you to everyone who has signed up already to bring cookies or a side dish to the Seamen’s Church Institute Christmas Dinner on December 14th. It is a busy weekend for all with Lucia, but when I went to visit with the Reverend Von Dreele at SCI, he spoke over and over again about how special having a nice Christmas dinner is for these Seamen who may still be months or more from home. This is something very special for them, and the Delaware River is known for being one of the most hospitable ports in the area for reasons such as this. He told many stories of how the Seamen’s faces lit up when he brought the cookies Gloria Dei made aboard the ships last December. For most Seafarers, things like homemade cookies are a real treat, something they would not otherwise be able to get. This is such a wonderful way for us all to take a little time this year and spread the joy of the season and the love of Christ to so many.

This year we will be bringing both side dishes for the dinner and cookies to be handed out in individual bags. If you haven’t signed up already to bring something and can, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. We will gather at Gloria Dei by 5:30pm on December 14th to pack cookies into individual bags and do any last minute warm up of side dishes. From there, we will carpool to SCI where we will celebrate the holiday with the Seafarers who are in port by joining with them in a short worship service and a wonderful Christmas dinner. All ages are welcome to come help spread some Christmas cheer, enjoy some delicious food and great company. Please feel free to drop off cookies or side dishes early; just be sure to label them so they aren’t confused with food for Lucia! Hope to see many of you on the 14th for this special Christmas dinner that will truly make a difference in the lives of many.

Thanks!  
Diana Booren

Sunday School

12/06  Rehearsal for X-mas Tableau  
       Lucia Dress Rehearsal

12/13  No Sunday School - Lucia

12/20  Rehearsal for X-mas Tableau

12/24  Christmas Eve  
       Tableau - Children meet in Roak Room

12/27  No Sunday School
More on the Parsonage

In the book, Swedish Annals, Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, writes that Dr. Collin said the “parsonage on Passyunk was bought by or from Andrew Bengtson, containing eighty acres of land, whereof seventy are situated near the minister’s house, and ten on Ponskon-hook. It cost in all sixty pounds in 1698.”

Earlier the Rev. Andrew Rudman said “the minister's garden and mansion-house are at a distance of four English miles from Philadelphia, a clever town built by Quakers.” The glebe-house was in turn the residence of Rev. Andrew Rudman, Rev. Andrew Sandel, Rev. Jonas Lidman, and J. Eneberg in the early 1700s.

Thompson Westcott in his book on historic buildings in Philadelphia says “This ground was eighty acres in extent, situate at Point Breeze, exactly where the lower road running from the road to Penrose Ferry strikes the Schuylkill, proceeding up the bank past Port Gibson to the Gas-Works. The glebe was afterward enlarged by a purchase of sixteen acres more, and the whole tract of ninety-six acres cost seventy pounds. The parsonage house was accidently burnt down in 1717, and was immediately rebuilt. Clay says there are records of who furnished the timber, who cut it, who hauled it, who built the walls, who cut the rafters, who carried them to the ground, who put them up, who bought the shingles, who shaved them, etc. At the time Clay said anyone that is “curious in such matters, may see all the particulars on application to the rector of the church.” About 1727 the glebe was abandoned as a place of residence for the clergyman, a nearer and more eligible site having been procured at Wicaco, adjoining the church. In 1731 the parsonage was leased to Peter Cock and Mouns Cock for four pounds yearly. By 1737 the rent to Andrew Rambo increased to five pounds.

Have a question or a comment drop a note to history @ old-swedes.org. Until next time.....

Bob Josuweit
Stewardship

On Sunday, November 1, 2009, we celebrated All Saints Day by remembering those dear to us who no longer sit in our pews but who still fill our church as the Communion of the Saints. We also remembered our connection to that communion by bringing our pledges for the coming year. We did that after spending various Sundays in October reflecting on our gratefulness and gladness for God’s grace given to us.

The preliminary figures are that 35 families pledged a total of about $40,400 for the coming year.

The cost of operating Gloria Dei is about $275,000, so the amount pledged doesn’t come anywhere near covering the Church’s expenses. The amount pledged probably hasn’t covered expenses since the time of Nils Collin so there was no surprise there. But what had helped supply the difference – endowment income and rental income – were both affected badly in 2008 and 2009. So the Finance Committee has been hard at work trying to make five loaves and two fishes feed five thousand. But our unshakable belief is that God gives us the gifts, skills, time, relationships, resources and money we need to do the ministry he has given us, and we’ll do that.

The Stewardship Committee sends our heartfelt “thanks” for the money you have pledged but – just as importantly – for every good thing you have given: support for Guatemala, support for the Flea Markets, support for Lucia, support for fellowship meals, and support for one another as we live our lives in Christ at this place and in this time.

Thank you, for your generosity and for all the gifts we share here at Gloria Dei.

~ The Stewardship Committee

Jerry Buescher
Sexton Sideshow

A good time was had on October 31st at our Halloween Boo-ga-loo. The Phillies were still battling for a Second Consecutive World Series, the rain was coming down, and the blues was emanating from Riverside Hall.

Thanks go out to Philadelphia Brewing Co. for once again providing us with liquid sustenance. Uke Ellington played a beautiful set of music in the wonderful setting of our historic church and graveyard. Cobalt Blues Band led by the iconic Joe Becton returned after a year’s absence. They are the real deal.

Blues, Baseball and Halloween made for a fun-filled event. Thanks to all our volunteers and attendees who all came in costume. We raised just over $500.00 for the evening which goes toward the church fund.

Thank you!

Sexton Sideshow – Jim and Paula Minacci

Halloween the Sunday School Way

Bears, sharks, ladybugs, princesses and pirates celebrated Halloween at Gloria Dei. Our graveyard was a pumpkin patch for our Sunday School to paint and decorate! The trick or treaters’ bags were overflowing and the church filled with the happy faces of the Little Gloria’s and Young Swedes! A good time was had by all.
WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS
of Gloria Dei baptized on:
November 1, 2009 Elliot Delano Fitter

Memorial Cards in loving memory of:
Dorothy Lance by: Louise Collins
Florence Brook, Marge Lord,
Cathy, Michael & Mikaela Cottrill
Ed, Jackie Lord & Fam.
Jean & Bob Neill
Bert Kubiak
Doris Connor
Susan Lewandowski
Jim & Cathy Ufheil
William Henning by: Rosemarie Henning

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 AM

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; O.S.C.A.R.
Diana Booren, Seminarian

VESTRY
Jerome Buescher
Barbara Chilcott
Carl Delia
Dave Hammond
Diane Honor
Robert Jenkins
Dolores Kromchad
Heather Myers, Rector’s Warden
James Parsons
Lisa Reeves
James Ufheil, Acct. Warden
Jeanette Woehr, Secretary

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. Premarital 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 (1/10/10); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/4/10); Pentecost (5/23/10); and All Saints Sunday (11/7/10). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advice of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.