



November 2009

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Either/Or or Both/And – Which Do You Choose?

There are days when I wish I had just stayed in bed. Maybe if I didn't get up, didn't answer the phone or check emails, didn't open the door or turn on the television, maybe the bad things wouldn't have happened. You know, the ostrich approach. Just stick your head in the sand. If you can't see it or hear it maybe it's not real.

But of course that's not the case. Avoidance buys us a day or two, sometimes, but there is no hiding from life, no avoiding heartache or pain or fear, no way to bypass the suffering that pervades the world around us and seeps into our very hearts and souls. And that, as odd as it seems, turns out to be a good thing.

As we face bravely into the November winds there is much to fear, but also much to celebrate. It's the dichotomies of life – good and bad, pain and pleasure, fear and safety, loneliness and companionship – that makes the fabric of our lives rich in depth and full of unexpected wonder. In the midst of life, death. Yet also, in the midst of death, life. What a clever God that designed such a creation for our good pleasure. And what challenged creatures we are that we are tempted time and again to throw away hope for despair, joy for sorrow, and miracle for mindlessness. We regularly rush to “either/or” thinking, throwing away as impossible and unreasonable the “both/and” approach to life's daily givings.

The Gospel story, the foundational premise that we are together a whole and apart less than whole, is evident in our daily lives. When we share what we have, whether it be a loaf of bread, an hour of time, a joy or a sorrow, with another, both are made greater by the sharing. When we stay in bed, avoid or ignore each other, refuse to help or be helped, we do ourselves, each other, and our God an injustice.

November begins with a remembrance of the saints who have gone before us. We remember Patrick and Luke, Joseph and James, Francis and Jude, Thomas and all the saints whose stories are familiar to us. But we also remember my grandfather and your uncle, Joe's mother and Dominic's sister, Mary Beth's son and Jonathan's father, and so on. We remember all those we love and see no more. Why do we do this? Because we recognize in some way

hard to put words to that, though out of sight, those who have died are still with us. It is in remembering that we stay connected. It is speaking out the names that we come to realize the “both/and” of our existence as human beings, here and hereafter.

November ends with Thanksgiving weekend. Together with family, we sometimes are known to moan about having to go to so-and-so’s house or needing to include that relative who challenges our patience. But we’ll do it anyway. We’ll spend time with family and friends around a table, breaking bread in intimate relationship. Some of us will make a concerted effort to remember those who are less fortunate than we are, to offer food or time or money for their comfort on this holiday. The holiday brings out the best in many of us. Why, do you suppose? Maybe it’s because we can discern in the gathering and the giving a glimpse of the whole that was in the mind of God at creation.

As November ends we will begin our Advent vigil, waiting in the darkness of shorter, colder days, waiting in faith and hope, waiting together, for the light to come into the world. In the midst of darkness, light.

May we have the strength to shine in the darkness, the will to cry out for justice, and the hearts and minds to know God’s presence with us. May we choose to be the “both/and” people who affirm the Creator’s love in all we do and say.

Peace,

Joy



Thanksgiving Eve at Gloria Dei

We will celebrate Thanksgiving at Gloria Dei this year on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 25st, with a service of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion at 7pm. We ask that you bring a canned good or dry good to bring forward during this service to be placed on the altar and blessed. We will share this ingathering of food with those in our community who are in need.

We have much to be thankful for here at Gloria Dei. Hopefully many of you will join us as we thank God for the blessings of this place and this community.

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

(Psalm 95:2)



“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

As the holiday season approaches, it's easy to get caught up in all the things that need to be done; decorating, shopping, parties, Lucia, not to mention time with family and friends. However, nearly 95% of all goods in the United States, including those we use for these Christmas activities, come by ship. And yet, for so many seafarers who work on the ships carrying these goods, the holidays can be a lonely time away from family. Many of these workers spend most of the year away from those they love with people they do not know. Faced with rough weather, often dangerous working conditions, and a lack of any national law on the ships, the life of a sea farer can be difficult. As many of you know, the Seaman's Church Institute right here in Philadelphia provides a safe haven, a caring community, physical needs like warm clothes and personal items, and advocacy for workers as they navigate treacherous working conditions and ambiguous regulations. The Seaman's Church Institute, which started as a 600 foot ship to provide a place of worship and other needs for seafarers in the Delaware Valley is now located on 5th Street and serves as one of 150 port ministries throughout North America. Seafarers do so much to provide for our basic needs and to support the economy of this area. Gloria Dei has in the past provided cookies at the Christmas Dinner as a sign of our appreciation and of God's love.

This year the Seaman's Church Institute Christmas Dinner is on Monday December 14th. They have asked for us to bring side dishes to accompany the turkey dinner they plan to serve for approximately 45 seafarers. For many who are away from home this holiday season, a warm turkey dinner will help to bring the joy of the season into their lives and hearts. Though it will have been a busy weekend with Lucia just before, bringing food or cookies for this night is such a wonderful way to share the light of Christ this Christmas to many who may be facing darkness in their lives right now. Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary if you are able to bring cookies and/or a side dish. These can be dropped off at the church ahead of time if necessary. A group will then meet at Gloria Dei on December 14th and travel to the SCI to bring the food, pass out cookies, and join the seafarers for dinner, showing love and hospitality to those of God's children who are seafarers away from home this Christmas.

Diana Booren

From the Stewardship Committee

I'm writing this on the rainy morning of October 28, 2009, so we haven't yet held Stewardship Sunday. But I know all of us heard three different people speak about their understanding of stewardship and I know that all of us have thought and prayed and searched our hearts over what we might be able to pledge to the mission of Gloria Dei this coming year. Stewardship is inextricably wrapped up with "gratitude" and "thankfulness" - and I am grateful and thankful for the perspectives that Candy Roberts and Megan Bartlett shared with us.

I'm also aware of how much time and talent we've seen expended on our church in recent weeks. Saturday October 17 saw hardy souls braving (another!) rainy weekend to give the church a thorough cleaning and to do some shrubbery pruning and removal. We were rewarded not only with gold stars on our heavenly report cards but also with "Heather Burgers."

Saturday October 24 saw even more hardy souls braving yet another rainy weekend to setup and staff the Fall Flea Market. As you know by now, we didn't make as much money as we would have on a better day - but we made about \$2,500, that we didn't have before. And, what I find even more remarkable, reduced crowds or not, we sold ALL the meatballs we had, ALL the chili we had, and ALL the soup we had - every one of those items a gift, given in gratitude, from our members.

And - does it never end? - more of our members appeared bright and early on Sunday October 25, 2009, to host a reception for members of the Swedish Colonial Society as they celebrated their 100th Anniversary. We did, gratefully, provide a "spread" that was beyond belief. And at the service, we enjoyed an incredibly designed and printed program booklet - gratefully provided by (who else?) our members. More than one of us, members, were asked by visitors about how we do things like that. The response, as far as I know, was always: "Because we're grateful."

So, with all our hearts, the Stewardship Committee thanks you - each one of you and every one of you - for your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure to Gloria Dei and our mission to this place and this time.

Rest a while now, people - Lucia approaches!

Jerry Buescher

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

Calendar

- Nov 1** Stewardship Pledge In-gathering
Baptisms 11:00 AM Service
Halloween Party (come in costume) 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Lucia Rehearsal
- Nov 5, 12, 19** Joan of Arcadia - 6:30 - 8:00 PM - Roak Room
- Nov 8** Lucia Rehearsal
- Nov 14** Diocesan Convention - PA Convention Center
- Nov 15** Lucia Rehearsal
Norwegian Service in Church at 4:00PM
- Nov 16** Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall
Netherland by Joseph O'Neill
- Nov 18** Vestry Meeting - 7:00PM - Roak Room
- Nov 19** Swedish Colonial Society - 1:30 - 3:30PM - Roak Room
- Nov 22** Lucia Rehearsal
- Nov 25** Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00PM
- Nov 26, 27** Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 28** Swedish Advent Service - 4:00PM



November 29th, The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty god, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:1-9

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke: 21:25-36

The Lectionary for November

November 1st, All Saints' Day, Proper 26

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Psalm: 24

2nd Reading: Revelation 21:1-6a

Gospel: John 11:32-44

November 8th, Proper 27

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17

Psalm: 127

2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

November 15th, Proper 28

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

Psalm: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14,(15-18)19-25

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

November 22nd, Proper 29

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords; Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm: 132:1-13, (14-10)

2nd Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel: John 18:33-37

November 26th, Thanksgiving Day

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Joel 2:21-27

Psalm: 126

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33

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From Your Friendly Neighborhood Parish Musician....

Our musical life would enjoy an injection of new blood, new ideas, new people! Are there among us musicians - singers, instrumentalists - who would like to contribute to the occasional Sunday service? Are there children who might like singing in a choir? Are there people (non musicians included!) who might like to form a committee to discuss musical ideas, challenges and solutions?

All 'yesses' to the above are heartily encouraged and invited to contact me anytime by leaving a message at 609/462-9000 or sending an email to 'fej@fejko.com'.

I am always available to talk after the 11am service. I have a little time after the 9am service, but then I rehearse with our three intrepid singers - Barbara, Gene and Marilyn for their appearance at the 11am service.

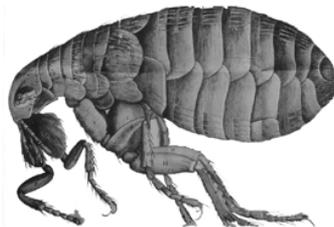
Fej

Flea Market

Thanks to all who came out on a rainy Saturday, October 24th for our Fall Flea. Fleas were available under I-95 this fall and were found a-plenty from the hours of 7am - 4pm. All in all 54 fleas were paid under I-95 and \$1350 were collected. Our most active flea, Heather Myers, had an able assistant in Sally Daly and sold over \$300 at the church table with her family; that money going to our Guatemala Fund. Our kitchen kept busy all day hustling hot dogs, meatballs, soup and chili. We set-up in the kitchen of Riverside Hall. At the end of the day we were sold out of meatballs, 4 different soups and 4 different chili's. Our kitchen raised up \$1200 on a rainy day. Hats off to all our able-bodied volunteers and to everyone who made these wonderful food-stuffs. Lastly, this year we enjoyed the sounds of jazz performed by Alan Segal and friends in our Riverside Hall from 12 noon till 2pm. What a treat!! Our flea market raised \$2590.00 this fall and we thank you all. This is truly an egalitarian event.

Your sextons,

Jim and Paula Minacci



Church Yard Work

Each year the Church sponsors one or more Church clean up days. The help is appreciated by all involved. Did you know there was a period of time when yard work was required?

During the early years of the Church a pastor would spend all of his money to travel from Sweden to the New World and find nothing there. Pastor Andreas Sandal found that to be the case in 1702. Many members of the congregation pledged ewes, wheat, rye, hens, roosters, corn, calves, colts, plates, pots, bowls, and spoons to name a few. Yet the Congregation, Church Council, and Sandal agreed that each and every family should contribute work on certain days for three years on a few acres of cleared land. The first year every family promised 3 days of work, the second year 2 days, and the third year 1 day. This cultivable land which was owned by church was known as the glebe. The glebe wasn't next to the Church, but about four miles below the Church at Passayungh, now Point Breeze, on the Schuylkill. In fact it was one of the sites that the congregation considered building the Church.

Much of that year was spent cultivating the land, however there was still more to be done. The next year a horse stable and barn were built. Sandal hired four people from the congregation to build them. The congregation paid for the workers. Promises continued to come in for wheat and oats. Sandal indicated that some of them came in and some didn't.

In 1717 the parsonage burned down. According to various accounts "a moderate house was erected afterward." Gloria Dei Church was still renting some ground at Point Breeze. If the Church still owned the land that was once in their hands they would be very rich, as the city now covers the property.

Bob Jonnweit



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

When the Bishop Visits

Our Assisting Bishop, Rodney R. Michel, will be visiting us on Sunday, February 14, 2010. In the Episcopal tradition the bishop visits each parish in the diocese at least once every eighteen to twenty-four months. Bishop Michel will baptize, confirm, reaffirm, and receive any candidates that desire such and have been duly prepared. He will also celebrate Eucharist and preach at both of our services that day. He will join us for our Pancake Breakfast between the services, and he will meet with the rector, vestry, and wardens following the Hospitality time after the second service.

Most of us know what it means to be baptized and confirmed, but there seems to be some vagueness about Reception and Reaffirmation. So, in the good Episcopalian tradition of defining things, here are the definitions of those things.

Reception: Baptized persons who have been members of another Christian fellowship or denomination and who wish to be affiliated with The Episcopal Church may make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism in the presence of the bishop. The bishop lays hands on each candidate for reception and says, "We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion."

Reaffirmation: Those returning to the church after a period of unbelief or those who have entered a new level of spiritual life may find it helpful to reaffirm their baptismal vows in this public way. The bishop lays hands on each candidate for reaffirmation and says, "May the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom."

If any are interested in Reception or Reaffirmation when Bishop Michel comes in February, please be in touch with Joy as soon as possible.

(definitions from: An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, c.1999)

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for one of the Sundays in November or December 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.



Sunday Morning Hospitality Committee

A New Committee! A New Opportunity!

A hallmark of life at Gloria Dei has always been the loving generosity of the members! We love and support each other throughout the year. As we move through our church year we enjoy much love and laughter always sharing our strengths and abilities. Our hospitality is already a part of our life, and now Peggy Buescher and Ann Blackstone are going to help us grow our hospitality by supporting our future hosts & hostesses with sign-up sheets and tours of our kitchen! Paula will teach us how to run the taut ship she has always run and our "pillars" will continue to stand. We hope our new members will step up and our visitors will become newer members! By the way we encourage you to build your own team of host and hostesses. Thank you for your loving support! Feel free to contact Peggy (267-456-4718) or Ann (215-990-8776) with questions or ideas. And please sign-up soon!



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY

11/1

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Halloween Celebration: All Saints Day

11/8

10:30-10:45 Wrapping Paper Sale

10:45-11:30 Lesson

11/15

10:30-10:45 Wrapping Paper Sale

10:45-11:30 Lesson

11/22

10:00-11:00 Wrapping Paper Sale

11:00-11:30 Lesson

11/29

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thanksgiving Weekend

2009



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS

... of Gloria Dei baptized on:

September 27, 2009 – Logan Robert Haury

October 11, 2009 – Henry Owens McBride –

Katrianna Gracie Macauley –

Casey Kathleen Esposito

Memorial Cards in loving memory of:

James P. McManus by: Sally Daly

Anthony Massit by: Bob & Jean Neill

Pat Black by: Roberta Kubiak; Marge Lord;

George & Donna Collins; Joe & Dolores Collins;

Jean & Bob Neill; Bob & Sally Daly

Ann Fiocca by: Gary & Alexis Neill

Dorothy Lance by: Jim & Cathy Ufheil

CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED

... Andrew Scott DelQuadro

Crystal Lee Licsauer

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. 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 (1/10/10); 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 advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.