



October 2009

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

What Is Church?

What's your definition of church? Have you ever tried to define it? Putting into words the things we are most familiar with, or take for granted that everyone knows about, is difficult to do. Assumptions get made, habits are formed, and pretty soon we imagine that everyone thinks and knows what we think and know. It's common knowledge, right? The things that have always been there; the things we inherited – habits, customs, beliefs – from our families and cultures; these are the hardest to define. It is akin to attempting to explain the color green to a person born blind.

So, *What is church?* becomes a question that perhaps we haven't actually considered, since we thought we knew what it was but now discover we can't quite answer the question. Is it a place? Is it a community of people, or a building, or a tradition? Does it have to do with something called *worship* or *faith* or *grace*? Is it about events or money or history? Is it a place to go on Sunday mornings?

We could probably all agree that *church* is all those things, but my guess is each of us would have other words to add. What would you add?

Whenever we renew our Baptismal Covenant (a portion of the Baptism liturgy found in our Prayer Book) we all promise to *proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ*. Proclaiming doesn't always require words. Our acts and actions speak volumes, perhaps even more than our words, about what we believe church is.

As you read through this month's *Riverside* think about how you would answer a stranger's or friend's or neighbor's question about what church means to you. Notice that, though small, we are a mighty place where the things that are embodied in the *Good News of God in Christ* are made real in the daily life and work of this place.

Have you told anyone about church yet? If not, you can start by sharing this newsletter.

Peace,
Joy

Parish Directory Update

It has been several years since the Parish Directory was last updated. This directory serves several functions—Reverend Joy uses it to contact us when necessary. It serves as the mailing list for the Riverside and other important communications. Finally, it connects us by providing contact information so that we can get in touch with each other when necessary. It is important to our fellowship with each other.

I have volunteered to update the directory, so that the church has the current contact information for all of the parishioners. This includes the names of spouses, significant others and children, addresses, home and cell phone numbers, as well as e-mail information. It can even include fax and work numbers information for those who prefer to be contacted that way.

In order to start this project, I am compiling a list of all of the contact information that the office currently has on file. Once that is complete, I will need your help, so listen for announcements in Church. I hope to have the list posted at the back of the Church or in the Parish Hall next month, and will ask each of you to check to see that your information is accurate. You will also have the option of choosing to be listed in the directory which is ultimately circulated to all church members.

Our ultimate goal is to create an e-mail and phone tree so that we can advise you when a member of our community is sick, has lost a loved one, or otherwise needs our prayers and good wishes. We also may want to update our website, and perhaps even create a Facebook page for Gloria Dei! For the time being however, the first step is to bring our directory up to date, so stay tuned!

Any questions, contact me.

Lisa Reeves



Road Trip!

On Sunday, October 4th there will be no service at Gloria Dei so that we can all join in worship at St. George's, 4th and New Streets, at 11 AM. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join in this wonderful example of the One Body of Christ, living and worshipping in the heart of the city. Rides from Gloria Dei's parking lot will be available on October 4th.



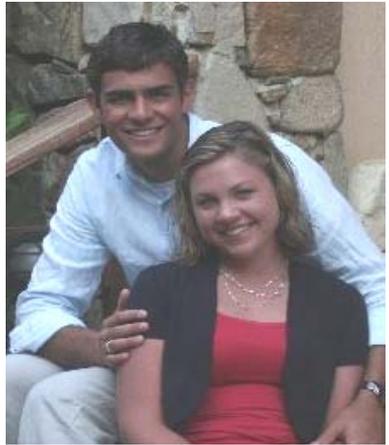
Our New Seminarian

My name is Diana Booren and I am currently a third year student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. I am very excited to be part of this congregation for the next nine months as part of my field

education as a seminary student. I am a Lutheran student and currently seeking ordination in the ELCA. Growing up throughout the midwest and Texas, I attended college at the University of Denver where

I majored in marketing before heeding my call to ministry and beginning seminary. I will be splitting my time this year between Gloria Dei and St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon, where, among other things, I help to lead worship and run the youth and family ministry programming. I currently live in Lafayette Hill with my husband Scott who works as an accountant for Grant Thornton, LLC. I am thrilled to get to know all of you at Gloria Dei and plan to be involved in worship as well as spending time learning about the many other ministries of the congregation during my time here.

Diana Booren



baby
sitting

My name is Kristen Smith and I am a recent graduate of Drexel University. I majored in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Neuro-Engineering. I have always had a passion for working with children and began babysitting on a regular basis when your own Dillon Minacci was just a child! I am looking to continue my education working towards a PhD and ultimately continue on to a career of clinical pediatric neuro-research.

Kristen Smith





Camp Arrowhead

My experience at Camp Arrowhead was amazing. There was never a dull moment: swimming in the bay, riding the banana boat, running around in mud up to your waist in the marsh, the high ropes course & swings, listening to God's word during daily chapel services or just hanging out with the councilors: it was all fun! Meeting new people is a bonus. This was my second year at Arrowhead and I plan to go back next year to work as a councilor in training or kitchen staff. Thank you for the opportunity to go and I would recommended it to any kid - you won't regret it! It's always a blast at Arrowhead!

Tyler Myers



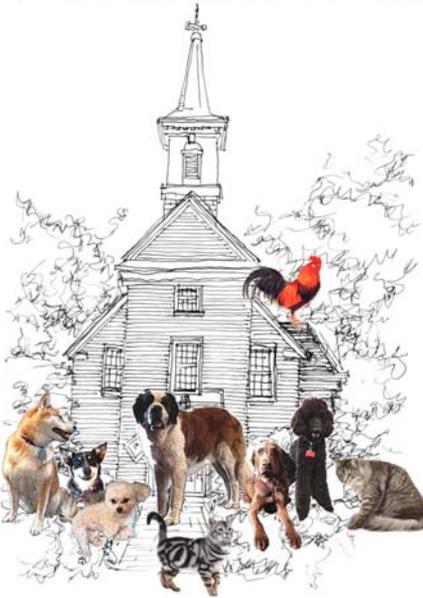
Prayer
Chain

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

A Celebration & Thanksgiving for St. Francis



“ . . . renew our covenant
with these creatures
in our care . . . ”

October 3, 2009, 11am

Gloria Dei Church
(Old Swedes')

Columbus Blvd. & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19147

All animals are invited and welcome in church,
but please be sure to lease or cage them for
everyone's safety and comfort.

Light Refreshments in Parish Hall
Following the Service



THE BEST FLEAS AT THE OLDEST CHURCH
Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

FALL Flea Market

Saturday, October 24th
8:00am to 3:00pm

Spaces - \$25.00 Paid at the Door

**BAKED GOODS, HOMEMADE
CHILI, HOTDOGS, MEATBALLS,
SODA, PRETZELS**

**HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS AVAILABLE.
BEST FLEAS IN SOUTH PHILLY!
COME JOIN THE FUN!!**

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
For information: (215) 389-1513 www.old-swedes.org

SEXTON SIDESHOW PRESENTS

Graveyard Boo-ga-loo

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

OCT. 31ST

Admission is \$12 Over 21 - \$7 Under
\$2 Discount if in Costume

7pm - 8pm	8pm - 10pm	10pm - 12pm
Uke Ellington and Friends	Cobalt Blues Band	DJ Deadly

Sponsored by:

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Columbus Blvd. & Christian St.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Calendar

- Oct 3** Blessing of the Animals - 11:00AM
- Oct 4** No services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Services will be at Historic St. George's Methodist Church
- 11:00AM
- Oct 7** Pre-Convention Meeting - Riverside Hall - 7:00 PM
- Oct 10** Wedding 4:30 PM
- Oct 11** Baptisms at 11:00 AM Service
Swedish Service 4:00PM
- Oct 12** Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall
The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid
- Oct 13** Guatemala Meeting - 6:30 PM - Roak Room
- Oct 15** Swedish Colonial Society - 1:30 - 3:30PM - Roak Room
- Oct 17** Yard Day - 9:00AM - 3:00PM
- Oct 18** Children's Sabbath - Steeple Blessing
Norwegian Service in Church at 4:00 PM
- Oct 21** Vestry Meeting 7:00PM - Roak Room
- Oct 24** Annual Fall Flea Market - 8:00AM - 3:00PM
- Oct 25** Centennial Celebration, Swedish Colonial Society 9:00AM
- 10:00AM - Reception - Riverside Hall
"Jubelmassa" at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church 10:00AM
For more information: www.colonialswedes.org
- Oct 31** Sexton's SideShow presents Graveyard Boo-ga-loo

The Lectionary for October

October 4th, Proper 22

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalm: 26

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4:2-5-12

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

October 11th, Proper 23

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm: 22:1-15

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

October 18th, Proper 24

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession 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: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm: 104:1-9, 25, 37c

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

October 25th, Proper 25

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm: 34:1-8 (19-22)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

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.



Shared or sold?

Can you imagine just buying a plot of land described as extending from the south end of the marsh (running between the thicket and the forest) along the right past the Voogele Sandt, approximately NNE to a small stream? From there it forms a round and rather high point nearly opposite the south point of Schutter's Island, and inland five or six miles. Are you somewhere in the Rocky Mountains or Alaska? If you thought you were a little closer to home you would be right. In fact you would be in Wicaco. In September 1646 the Lenape Indians sold Wicaco to the Dutch. Megkirehondom, sachem of Pemipachka conveyed the land to the Dutch West Indies Company.

Nine years later Peter Lindestrom described the land "from Wickquakonick all the way to Nittabakonck, which is situated at the falls of the River Menejackse (Schuykill), the land is very fine, but not so high as that which can be seen at Nittabakonck. This is occupied in greatest force by the most intelligent savages of several nations of savages (Lenape), who own this River and dwell here."

The Lenape (len-NAH-pay) people lived in dwellings which were side by side. The land was being cultivated. There were six different places that were settled. Each had a sachem or chief as the commander of their tribe. Each tribe had its own peculiar language. The Lenape, or Delaware tribe, were called the "Grandfather" tribe because they were respected by other tribes as peacemakers. They were also known for their fierceness and tenacity as warriors.

According to the Delaware tribe many of the early treaties and land sales that were signed with the Europeans were thought of more like leases. The early Delaware had no idea that land was something that could be sold. To them the land belonged to the Creator, and the Lenape people were only using it to shelter and feed their people. One Delaware tribe website says "when the poor, bedraggled people got off their ships after the long voyage and needed a place to live we shared the land with them. They gave us a few token gifts for our people's kindness, but in the mind of the Europeans these gifts were actually the purchase price for the land."



"Delaware" Indian Family

Detail from a 1653 Swedish map to show Europeans what Indians looked like

Bob Josnweit

It Looks Glorious!

Our Steeple has been repainted and refurbished and it looks glorious!

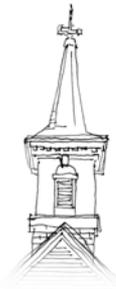
Thanks to the generous donations of so many friends of Gloria Dei we were able to complete this important work this summer.

We will be celebrating the completion of this work on Sunday, October 18, 2009, at our 11:00AM service. This coincides with Children's Sabbath Sunday so our Sunday School children will be a part of this festive celebration.

Please plan to join us as we give thanks for the generosity of so many friends and for the love and devotion of the parishioners who for generations have maintained this beautiful church.

We thank everyone for making this work possible.

Gloria Dei





THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY *Centennial* JUBILEE

In the presence of

His Excellency Jonas Hafström, Ambassador of Sweden to the United States
Patron of the Swedish Colonial Society

With Special Guests

Dr. Peter S. Craig, Historian of the Swedish Colonial Society
Recipient of the Swedish Colonial Society Lifetime Achievement Award

His Excellency Asher Naim, former Ambassador of Israel to Ethiopia
Recipient of the American Swedish Historical Museum Spirit of Wallenberg Humanitarian Award

Bruce R. Larson, Esq., Board Chairman, Swedish Council of America
Erik Gustavson, Director, The Swedish American Center, Karlstad, Sweden

October 23-25, 2009
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Visit www.colonialswedes.org for further information



Sunday School.

OCTOBER

10/4

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL! Service at St. George's

10/11

10:30-10:45 Craft 10:45-11:30 Lesson

10/18

Childrens Sabbath

10:30-10:45 Craft (installation of stained glass)

10:45-11:30 Lesson (older kids to read psalm)

10/25 *TIME CHANGE*

1 service at 10am due to big Swedish Service

9:30-9:45 Craft 9:45-10:30 Lesson



News from The Guatemala Committee

First - Coffee is For Sale. Thanks to Paula Minacci for organizing us, and Dolores Kromchad for contributing the table, there is a self service coffee cart ready to handle all your coffee needs! We have whole beans and ground - your choice for just \$10 per bag. This is fair trade coffee supporting the San Lucas Toliman mission. Those of us that went to Guatemala in February got the opportunity to visit this area. Amazing work goes on there!

Second - Do you have an interest in helping with Gloria Dei's important mission to our sister parishes in Guatemala? We could use your help! We are in the beginning stages of planning a trip in 2010. If you're interested, please contact a member of our committee.

Third - Fund Raising is an important part of this mission. Our sister congregations need our support. They use these funds to help with both scholarships and medical visits. Guatemala Sunday, our major Guatemala fund raising day, will be Sunday, February 21st. Details will follow. The Church table at the Flea Market on October 24th will again help this worthwhile mission. If you have things to donate please contact Heather Myers. Items will be accepted the week of October 19th.

Fourth - There is an update with La Ascencion in San Carlos. The Rev. Hugo Padilla has been appointed new priest in charge. We had been concerned about Sr. Lopez's health. He can now concentrate on getting better and servicing just one parish, La Annunciation. We do receive email communications from members of the churches and they are always very thankful and give blessings for the assistance Gloria Dei gives them.

Our next Guatemala Committee meeting will be Wednesday, October 13th at 6:30. All are welcome.

The Guatemala Committee

Jerry Buescher, Julie Daye, Sally Daley,
Heather & Tom Myers & Joy Segal.



WELCOME the Newest MEMBERS

... of Gloria Dei baptized on September 13, 2009

William Phillip Lerro, III

Kyle Aiden Lerro

Irelyn Grace Van Sciver

... and baptized on September 27, 2009

Logan Robert Haury



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 (1/11/09); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/12/09); Pentecost (5/31/09); and All Saints Sunday (11/1/09). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.