



December 2010

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Advent Tasks

It's hard to wait, isn't it? I think it's hard for most living creatures. Not that I know a lot about other living things but as I observe life around me (humans, birds, dogs, bees, ants, squirrels, just to name a few) it seems that unless they're asleep they're usually busy doing things. They're working or playing or eating or building families and communities and caring for them.

When I make my dogs wait it is almost too much for them. They sit at my insistence, but the anticipation of things to come – a treat, a toy, a leash – is too much for them. Their bodies wiggle and shake as they sit, tails wagging behind them, dusting the floor. They sit expectantly, trying their best to hold still, not very successfully.

When we come to this time of year – Advent - pastors everywhere tell about this season of expectation, this season of waiting and watching, and how we need to really try to be still, be calm. We are exhorted to not “get all wiggly” but rather to breathe deeply, find time to be silent with God, and avoid the secular madness that manifests itself most obviously between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

So, how has that worked for you in the past? Have you found a way to not get too excited about what's coming? Have you managed to remain in watch mode, waiting patiently, as the Advent lessons are played out each Sunday against a world that seems light years away from the message? Have you conquered the need to “do” and found a way to “be” without finding a task in need of immediate attention?

If you have, you're a step ahead of me. I know, I'm one of those pastors that should be telling you to slow down, leave time for quiet contemplation of the great mystery of the Incarnation that is about to happen. That's great advice. But what good is advice if it's just something that we regularly fail at? Feeling like failures doesn't do any of us any good. So I'm not going to tell you what to do. I'm just going to make a suggestion that might be helpful. It's what I'm doing this Advent.

I am observing the world around me with one morning and one evening “Advent Task”. Each morning I spend a few moments looking out a window.

(continued on next page)

As I recognize those things I see whenever I look out this window I challenge myself to look for something I had not previously noticed. Just one thing will do. Move to different windows as the season progresses. Just look. Just see. Then thank God for the new day. Now, here's good news – the evening "Advent Task" is identical. Of course the difference in day and night is, well, the difference in day and night! So, don't be surprised if the view out the same window is very different.

It's simple. Just take a few minutes each morning and evening to look out a window. Notice the old, notice the new, and thank God for the day.

Then go ahead, get excited! Clean the house, pick out gifts, gather with loved ones, and praise God! The Babe is on the way. The Savior of the world is coming! Again! For the First Time! Just for us! Alleluia! (wiggle, wiggle!)

Peace,

Joy+



Christmas Services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2010

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, 2010

7:00 AM Julotta (Swedish service)

10:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 26, 2009

10:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

The Feast of the Epiphany – January 2, 2010

10:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

Lucia Fest, 2010



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 389-1513

Friday, **December 10** - 6:00 & 8:00
Saturday & Sunday, **December 11 & 12**
2:00, 3:30 & 5:00

Tickets: Adults - **\$10**, Children under 12 - **\$5**

Available online from Oct 15 to Dec 1, 2010 at www.old-swedes.org

St. Eric's Fair

Imports for Sale; Coffee & Baked Goods



Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (215) 271-1091,
(865) 585-4768, or fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need

From the Rector's Warden

By the time you read this, the tall candle holders will have sprouted all along the center aisle of the church. You might have missed the yellow dots that appeared on the floor in front of the communion rail and on the backs of the pews. But just as the budding of the trees tells us spring is arriving and the falling of the leaves tells us winter is near, the candle holders tell us unmistakably that Lucia is arriving. Lucia – that winter Swedish celebration of a saint from summery Sicily.

The feast of Saint Lucia is celebrated on December 13 because – before the old calendar was corrected – that was the date of the Winter Solstice, the day of the year with the least daylight, the day after which the world knew that darkness had not conquered light, that light once again began to return as the days grew longer.

Lucia comes at the beginning of the church year, during the beginning of Advent. A few Sundays ago, Joy spoke in her sermon about the scriptural notion of time, God's time, which isn't linear as we calculate time but circular or spherical – everything always present but, in our perception, coming into focus and going out of focus in turn. So on the last Sunday of the church year, we hear about Jesus dying on the cross with the two thieves and two Sundays afterward, the second Sunday of Advent, we hear John the Baptist appearing in the wilderness, calling us – once again – to repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near. But in fact, it's already here and has been here for a long time. But we deal with that by “re-mem-bering” it, over and over, coming round and round back to the same place.

The simplicity of the Shakers got it right –

To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

I think Lucia does that for our Swedish heritage. That heritage is always with us – the cherubim overlooking us from the organ loft, the two ships hovering over all our services, the angels at the corners of the first two gravestones in the center aisle. But Lucia, coming at the beginning of the church year, brings us back to “re-mem-ber” our special beginning as a parish.

Lucia is not simply something we perform to showcase our Swedish heritage, and it's not simply a way to raise money – though that's important too. It's a way we re-commit ourselves to this place and why it stands where it stands: as a place where the kingdom of God not only exists but stands out as a sign to all who come here.

As we celebrate Lucia this year, let's “re-mem-ber” why we do this –so we don't forget that “the Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out,” and so that we “re-mind” every single person who walks

through the doors of the church that the Life-Light still blazes out and always will blaze out and blazes out every single day in this place.

Happy Lucia, everyone. *Jerry Buescher*



Captain Joseph Blewer

Rev. Carl Magnus Wrangel married Joseph Blewer and Sarah Lindenmeyer at Gloria Dei Church on September 26, 1759.

Joseph Blewer being a ship captain assumed an active role in the War of Independence. In November 1775 Captain Blewer was in Cambridge, Massachusetts and was directed by General George Washington to deliver a letter to John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.

In June 1776 Benjamin Franklin and others including Captain Blewer met at Carpenter's Hall creating the Committee of the City, Council of Safety.

A meeting of the Council of Safety was held on August 14, 1776. During this meeting by order of the Board, John M. Nesbitt, Esq., Treasurer, was directed to pay to Captain Joseph Blewer £81 1s. 6d., for eighteen Muskets, bought of him by the directions of this Board. At another meeting Joseph Blewer was appointed to employ people to build ten flat-bottom boats, for transporting Troops.

The Council of Safety met in September 1776 appointing Captain Blewer, Captain Gurney, and Mr. Samuel Cad. Morris to form a regular Muster Roll for the Navy of this State. October 1776 found Captain Blewer appointed to sound the eastern channel of the Delaware River, near Fort-Island (known today as Fort Mifflin) and to give directions for stopping passage.

Captain Blewer attended the Pennsylvania Navy Board meeting on May 29, 1777. During this meeting, the first bill for colors for the fleet was approved. "An order on William Webb to Elizabeth Ross for fourteen pounds, twelve shillings and two pence for making ships' colors, etc., put into William Richards' store, £14.12.2."

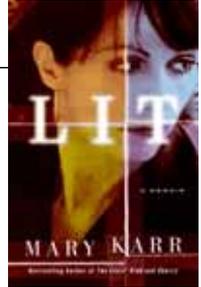
June 21, 1777 Joseph Blewer signed the Oath of Allegiance renouncing and refusing allegiance to George the third, King of Great Britain.

Captain Blewer remained an active member of Gloria Dei and was laid to rest on July 1, 1789 in the graveyard. As you enter the Church, his grave is located immediately to the left of the doors. This flat tombstone is one on the list to be restored.

Jeanette Woehr

Calendar

- Dec. 5 Lucia Dress Rehearsal & Dinner – 12:45PM – 3:30PM
- Dec. 10, 11, and 12 Lucia Fest, 2010 – Friday 6:00 & 8:00PM,
Saturday & Sunday 2:00, 3:30 & 5:00PM
- Dec. 13 Book Club – 7:00PM – Riverside Hall
LIT by Mary Karr •
- Dec. 15 Vestry Meeting – 7PM – Roak Room
- Dec. 18 Finnish Christmas Service – 1:00PM
- Dec. 19 Norwegian Service in Church at 4:00PM
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service – 7:00PM
Christmas Fellowship follows in Riverside Hall
- Dec. 25 Julotta – Swedish Service – 7:00AM
Christmas Day Service – 10:00AM
- Dec. 26 Rector on vacation till January 3rd
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve – Sexton Sideshow – Riverside Hall



Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases



Now all these things can be done online at Gloria Dei's website!
Just visit us as www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we're doing.
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.

The Lectionary for December

December 5th, 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 forever. Amen

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

December 12th, 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: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm: 146:4-9

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

December 19th, 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: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th, Christmas Eve

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25th, The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

Almighty God you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin; Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

(Lectionary on following page)

December 26th, 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: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm: 147 or 147:13-21

2nd Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-18

January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth; Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-1



Cookies, Cookies, Cookies for the Seafarers

Monday, December 6th is Seaman's Church Institutes Annual Christmas Party and once again we're going. We contribute cookies a-plenty. Those that have had the opportunity to attend in the past are aware of the great feeling you receive celebrating a Christmas service, a nice meal and singing Christmas Carols with Santa and the seafarers. Then sending them back to sea with goodie bags filled with cookies and treats. Fills your heart with good tidings! Please join us as the group will leave the church parking lot at 6pm to carpool over to SCI and bring some cookies to share. Not able to make it but want to send cookies and treats, please drop them off on Sunday, December 5th – label them SCI.



Tis the Season – to Be Hospitable

Thanks again to all who have given their “Time, Talent, and Treasure” in the form of a personal piece of themselves towards fellowship on Sundays in Riverside Hall. This time of year we are reminded of the wondrous gift from God of his only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are filled also with images of the twinkle in someone’s eyes or the glow on children’s faces as they open a present. These are all signs of joy, the joy of giving.

I’ve learned through a famous prayer attributed to St. Francis and through personal experience that it is “in giving that we receive.” By giving in some small way of ourselves we are sure to receive gifts in return.

Happy Holidays from the Hospitality Committee

Peggy Buescher, Maureen Long & Laura Towey



LUCIA HOSPITALITY TENT



Visit Old/New Friends!

Help Support
Gloria Dei Church Fund

\$10.00

Donation per day

NO ONE UNDER 21 PERMITTED

Liquid refreshment provided
Bring a snack to share



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Columbus Blvd. & Christian St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147

SEXTON SIDESHOW PRESENTS

NEW YEAR'S EVE @ OLD SWEDES'

Admission **\$20.00**

Live Music

Low Cut Connie featuring Ladyfingers
CD Release Party

Food, Beer & Wine; BYOL (liquor)

Fireworks at Penn's Landing

Playlist by DJ OZ

Sponsored by:

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



Commitment...Stewardship...Pledge

As we prepare to “close the books” for this year we are considering the dreams, visions, and wishes we share and the hopes for Gloria Dei’s work and ministry in the year to come. A great part of what we are able to “make come true” of our dreams and visions has to do with the support we receive from you. As we gather together to meet the days to come please consider in what ways you can help to make the hopes and dreams of Gloria Dei’s future bright. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure are needed. If you have not returned your Commitment Card 2011 please send it to us as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who have committed time, talent, and treasure to Gloria Dei for 2011! You rock!



WANTED: Angels, Sheppard's, Little Lambs, Mary and Joseph

All children are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Eve nativity procession. We welcome children from our church family, friends, neighbors and YOUR special holiday guests. This special, beautiful procession adds meaning to our celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Children who are available should meet after the 11 am service on Sunday, December 19th, in church, for a short rehearsal.

All children, please come to the Roak Room at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 24 (an hour before our 7:00 pm service) for costuming and practice.



Vestry Highlights

- The Gloria Dei is now on line! Sales of books and Lucia tickets are going well.
- The process of forming a separate 501(c)(3) corporation is well underway. The name will be "Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Preservation Corporation." The purpose of the organization is to raise money to preserve our historic property.
- The Rector has received 33 Commitment Cards as of Nov. 17. Please return your cards as soon as possible, indicating your willingness to offer your talent, time and/or treasure to continue the mission of Gloria Dei in 2011. Also provide your contact information for the directory.
- A first draft of a Property Report, indicating the items that are in need of maintenance or repair, has been prepared. Once it is finalized, it will be shared with the Congregation.
- An Energy Audit has been completed, and the Vestry appointed a sub-committee to digest the lengthy written report and recommend ways to implement the recommended changes.
- The Vestry approved the purchase of two "Sandwich Board" type signs, which will be used to showcase special events (such as Lucia Fest or Jazz & Joe) and a sign for the graveyard asking visitors to respect the property. A parishioner has agreed to build us a "community board" which will be used for posting community events and notices.
- Community Yoga Classes will begin in January! The classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in Riverside Hall for the reduced rate of \$8 per class, needed to fund the instructor.

(approved minutes for the October 2010 vestry meeting may be found on the bulletin board in Riverside Hall)



The Fall Flea Market and Halloween Party at Old Swedes





Welcome the Newest MEMBERS

... of Gloria Dei baptized on November 7, 2010
Belen May Sheer

CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED

Francis E. Jablonski and Annette Liszewski

Memorial Cards in loving memory of

Robert DeMarco

By: Jean & Bob Neill

Bobby Neill

George & Donna Donahue

Margaret M. Rimato

By: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Daly, Jr.

C L E R G Y

The 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; O.S.C.A.R.

V E S T R Y

Megan Bartlett

Jerome Buescher, Rector's Warden

Barbara Chilcott

Carl Delia

Diane Honor, Acct. Assistant

Robert Jenkins

Dolores Kromchad

Heather Myers

Barbara Potts

Lisa Reeves, Secretary

James Ufheil, Acct. Warden

Jeanette Woehr

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 Service:

9:00 & 11:00 AM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday 9:30-2:30

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 (1/9/11); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/24/11); Pentecost (6/12/11); and All Saints Sunday (11/6/11). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.