



July - August 2010

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

My Will, Your Will, God's Will

There was a time in my life when I thought I could do better in my relationship with God without the church's help, without being a participant in a parish community, without making a commitment or defining myself as a member of a particular church. I thought that "organized" religion mostly got in the way of my relationship with God and I didn't need anyone else in order to know God.

While I was boycotting church I found lots of people who were doing the same thing. We who had left our church roots for the wilderness of independence found that we shared in some similar experiences, similar thoughts, that had driven us away from our faith communities. So, we opened up to each other, talked about our faith in God and our reasons for not going to church on Sunday, criticized the church for its lack of ability to either move or speak or make a stand on critical issues of the day in anything like a satisfactory way. We shared a despair that the church was as "political" and inwardly-focused as any other human organization, falling prey to the fallible tendencies (sins?) of gossip, exclusion, judgmentalism, and self-righteousness. We were convinced that while God was not dead the church was on its last gasps.

But I came back, as did others I know. I came back because I recognized that the move, the yearning, to form a community in which the seeking after God could be shared was what church was about; that what we were doing was separating ourselves from one community but creating another that shared the same struggles of faith and the same desire to know God, while also sharing the same tendencies of inward-thinking and self importance.

In the midst of conflict and struggles over critical issues - whether theological, political, sociological, or cultural - we humans often look for new paths, new ways to live and love, thinking, I guess, that freeing ourselves from our pasts and creating newly conceived futures will lead us to an understanding of God not previously evident. In many ways this tendency can be creative and can encourage folks to build meaningful relationships that reveal the God that lives with us, in us, and through us. In other ways leaving a community that is

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not satisfying our needs (whether that community is church, neighborhood, city, or country) leads not to new revelation but to loneliness, lostness, alienation.

It's hard to know whether we seek something new because we are tired of the human struggles, disagreements, disparities in thought and belief we experience where we are, or whether we are being called into a new place to do the work God is about having us do. It's difficult to discern, to separate and identify, our own wills and God's will. This is a lifelong struggle for those who believe that God has a purpose and we have something to do with the accomplishment of that purpose.

What is a comfort for all who find themselves in such places is the discipline of a faith community. By that I mean what is offered – safe haven, bread and wine, healing, prayer, fellowship, hope, joy, love. These things exist in church because they are central to being a faith community. These are the materials, the building blocks, the foundation, of a faith community: welcoming, worship, inreach, outreach, mission beyond our borders, a place of warmth in our community, a recognition that each stranger, every friend, all who share in these things are the ways in which we come to know God.

As Gloria Dei moves into its fourth century of presence as a faith community we will continue to offer these building blocks, these comforts, and these challenges, to all who seek a community of fallible human beings struggling to be God's presence in the world.

May God bless us as we seek a future filled with hope while honoring a past filled with fallible human beings who struggled as we do to know God's presence, to do God's work, to be a place filled with the love of God.

*Trust God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go.*

(Proverbs 3:5; The Message)

Peace,

Joy +

Simply Eucharist “Plus”

Wednesdays, 6:30PM, in July and August we continue our summer Simply Eucharist service at Gloria Dei. Please join with members of Gloria Dei and Historic St. George’s in this informal gathering around a central table as we share Holy Communion in a quiet and simple fashion. The service lasts about twenty minutes. Then, if you have the time, plan to stay as we share our thoughts on some readings from Scripture. No need to “read ahead.” Just come, share in worship and fellowship, sip some lemonade, and enjoy the opportunity to connect with folks as we seek a place and time of reflection together. As we say over and over at Gloria Dei – *All Are Welcome*.



Church Divinity School of the Pacific

The Episcopal Seminary of the West

Rhian Roberts Sunday, July 18th

For the first time in over seventy years, Gloria Dei has one of our own parishioners heading to Seminary. Join us on Sunday, July 18th, as we celebrate the beginning of Rhian Roberts’ journey to the priesthood. Shortly, Rhian will be leaving Philadelphia for the West Coast and Seminary. As a congregation we will not only support Rhian by remembering her in our prayers but also financially by donating the cash plate collection on July 18th to Rhian to assist with Seminary costs. Please make checks payable to Gloria Dei with seminarian fund designated on the memo line. A reception will follow the service, which Rhian will be preaching.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming Sunday 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.

Thoughts from a New Vestry Member

Five years ago, I read a book called *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. While the book contains many words of wisdom, the thing that sticks with me most is the author's use of the acronym, "S.H.A.P.E.", to help individuals take a look at their unique worldview and understand who they are. "S" stands for "Spiritual gifts". By the grace of God's Holy Spirit, we're all uniquely gifted (1 Corinthians 12:4-31) and able to share those gifts with others. "H" stands for "Heart". Each of us has our own set of values that we want our lives to stand for; some of these values may be shared by others and some not. "A" stands for "Abilities". Most of us have some knowledge of what we are able (or not able) to do, both mentally and physically. The "P" in "S.H.A.P.E." stands for "Personality". Think of the stable, enduring traits that make you who you are. Lastly, the "E" stands for "Experiences". Clearly, one's S.H.A.P.E. includes all of the ordinary and extraordinary occurrences of life. What's great about that last letter, "E", is that as long as we are living, we are still experiencing. Thus, each of us has a mostly stable, yet ever-changing S.H.A.P.E.!

But, why should we take time to understand who we are or look at our S.H.A.P.E.? Well, it seems to me that awareness of who we are as individuals could open our eyes to all that we bring to the table as individual members of Gloria Dei. And because we are one body through Christ, the unique S.H.A.P.E.s of all the individual members contribute to the S.H.A.P.E. of the whole church. As such, through Christ, we are each personally responsible for the future of Gloria Dei, for maintaining and changing its S.H.A.P.E. in the months and years to come.

In the near future, we will need to start thinking more about the S.H.A.P.E. of Gloria Dei. What is our S.H.A.P.E.? Do we want it to stay the same? If so, we run the risk of extinguishing the "life" from within, as parishioners move elsewhere in search of new experiences or potentially grow tired of contributing the same time, talent, and treasures year after year. If we do want the S.H.A.P.E. of Gloria Dei to change in some way, how can we accomplish that? Who do we need to attract to our community so that their own unique S.H.A.P.E.s can fortify the S.H.A.P.E. of Gloria Dei?

I encourage you to take a few moments to consider your God-given S.H.A.P.E. and the S.H.A.P.E. of Gloria Dei. And let's start talking about our S.H.A.P.E. with one another!

Sincerely,

Megan Bartlett

Inreach Ministry Update

As most of the congregation knows, the Inreach Ministry Committee was formed just a few short months ago. In this time period we have made substantial progress. As of this writing, the ministry is now transporting to services, on a regular or semi-regular basis, six congregants. We also offer grocery shopping assistance to those congregants who cannot do it on their own. So far, we have taken two people grocery shopping and went shopping for one person. In addition, although not technically Inreach, we have shopped for one person who attended a service and who requested assistance until her broken leg heals. The members of Inreach Ministry (Megan Bartlett, Peggy Buescher, Joanna Carlsen, Lisa Reeves, and Bill Towey) are committed to doing everything possible to assist members of the congregation in whatever way possible. Two further projects that are being discussed are: frozen, homemade meals—Paula Minacci's idea—to be ready and waiting in Riverside Hall's freezers for delivery to ill congregants. If this takes off, there's potential to turn this into outreach to the homeless who come to the church in need of food, particularly in the winter. We are also working on compiling a list of community services (e.g. counseling, legal assistance, etc.) for those in need of such assistance.

If any congregant is in need of support, please do not be embarrassed to ask. Inreach Ministry is here to assist you. All such matters, needless to say, are confidential. Fill out an Inreach Needs Assessment, located on the table in the rear of the church, or call the office and leave your name and telephone number. A member of the committee will be in contact with you as quickly as possible.

Sincerely, the Inreach Ministry Committee

Bill Towey



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

Calendar

- July 4** 10:00AM Service – The Rev. Charles Pennimen, Supply Rector returns today from vacation
- July 6, 13, 20, 27** Chime Rehearsal – 7:00PM Church
- July 7, 14, 21, 28** Simply Eucharist Plus – 6:30PM – Holy Communion and fellowship (Short worship service followed by Scripture reflection)
- July 12** Book Club 7:00 PM – Riverside Hall
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo
by Stieg Larsson
- July 18** Rhian Roberts' Sunday
- July 25** 10:00AM Outside Service
- July 28** Vestry Meeting – 7:00PM – Roak Room
- August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** Chime Rehearsal – 7:00PM Church
- August 4, 11, 18, 25** Simply Eucharist Plus – 6:30PM – Holy communion and fellowship (Short worship service followed by Scripture reflection)
- August 16** Book Club – 7:00PM – Roak Room
Things I've Been Silent About
by Azaar Nafisi
- August 29** 10:00AM Outside Service



The Lectionary for July

July 4th, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 9

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 10:17-21

Psalm: 145:1-9

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

July 11th, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 10

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm: 25:1-9 or 82

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

July 18th, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 11

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm: 15 or 52

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

July 25th, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 12

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm: 138 or 85

2nd Reading: Colossians 2:6-15

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

The Lectionary for August

August 1st, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 13

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because in cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern in always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14

Psalm: 49:1-11

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

August 8th, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 14

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: 33:12-22

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

August 15th, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 15

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm: 82

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

August 22nd, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 16

Grant, O Merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory 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: Isaiah 61:10-11

Psalm: 103:1-8

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

August 29th, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 17

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Sirach 10:12-18

Psalm: 112

2nd Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

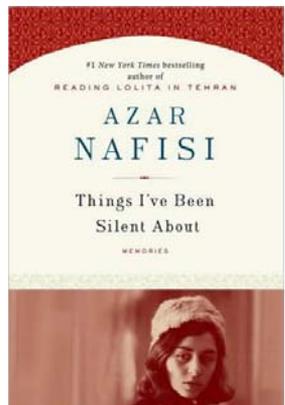
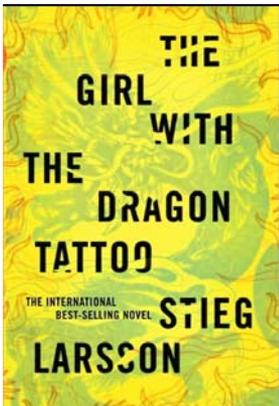
THE BOOK CLUB

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Monday, July 12, 2010 at 7 pm

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

After a journalist was convicted of libel, he was hired by a prominent family to investigate a murder in the family's past, and to write about the family history.



Monday, August 16, 2010 at 7 pm

Things I've Been Silent About

by Azar Nafisi

Nafisi's father was mayor of Tehran and her mother was a member of Parliament. This book tells how her home life was as unstable as the politics in Iran.



Guatemalan Coffee

\$10/Bag

The Guatemalan Coffee comes in approx. 1 pound bags; either whole or ground.

This is fair trade coffee and helps the San Lucas Toliman Project.

www.sanlucasmision.org is where you can find more info about the coffee and project.

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church thanks you for your generous support.



July 25th | Aug 29th
10 a.m. Come join us for our next two outside services

In REMEMBRANCE of . . .

Andrew Raines

By: Susan Lewandowski; Marge Lord; Joe and Dolores Collins

Mary Jane McDonnell

By: Doris Connor

Anthony Masina

By: George & Donna Collins; Joe & Dolores Collins

William Lindsay

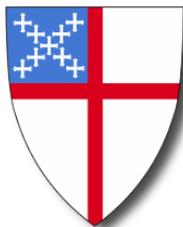
By: Gary & Alexis Neill; Bob & Jean Neill; Floss Brook; Jennifer & B.J.; Marge Lord; Mike, Cathy, & Mikaela Cottrill; Ed, Jackie Lord & Family; George & Donna Collins; Joe & Maureen Collins; Joe & Dolores Collins

Dorothy Kresty

By: Joe & Dolores Collins

Rose White

By: Ed & Kristin Lord



Witness  Trees

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

**BY YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING THE WORK & WORSHIP OF THIS,
THE OLDEST CHURCH IN PENNSYLVANIA, IS PERPETUATED**

This year the collections from our Lucia Fest services began a fund for the care and maintenance of the many trees on our property. Gloria Dei is over three hundred years old and many of the trees have witnessed much of its history. But many of them are in need of professional care if they are to continue to be a source of beauty and an integral part of our beautiful grounds.

These trees need your help so that they may continue to be our witnesses of history as it unfolds in this beloved place of sanctuary, worship, and community activity.

**Glorious Trimmers: \$25 - \$99; Swedish Pruners: \$100 - \$199; Philadelphia Defenders: \$200 - \$499;
Extraordinary Arborists: \$500 and above; Friends of Gloria Dei: Any amount**

Send donations to:

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Columb Building @ Christian Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19137



For information (915) 989-1515 www.oldsuedes.org



CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED
 Wendy Frances Willis and
 John Jay Fergensen, II



**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:
 10:00 AM

Office Hours
 Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-2:30

CLERGY

The 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.

VESTRY

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

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.