



December 2011

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

An Advent Prayer

Faithful and loving God, as we close out Stewardship Month, we thank you for this faith community and for all within it who heed your call to be good stewards. Embolden each of us to seek out new ways to be servant leaders; steady us when we waiver in our commitments; guide us toward your vision and plan for this church; and compel us to live thankfully and share generously. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Megan Bartlett)

While we have completed our Stewardship season we ask you to remember that making a commitment to the mission and ministry of Gloria Dei is a year-round event. It is never too late to make your pledge of time, talent, and treasure.

And I ask you to consider, in this season of Advent, the words of the beautiful prayer Megan wrote for us this year. Particularly I ask you to hear the verbs she has used: **Embolden us; Steady us; Guide us; Compel us.** Would these be the actions you would ask God to impart to you? To us? They are indeed risky requests, particularly if we are faint of heart and doubtful of mind. Yet, even in the hardest of days and the darkest of nights, over and over again we humans have raised our voices to God with that great plea that seeks a way forward, even when we don't want to move from the place we call home, or change the things we do or the way we do them, or even let go of the fears we clutch closely to our selves, making them part of our identity. In our most doubtful, fearful, dark and lonely moments, humanity looks to the Creator God and seeks comfort in the belief that we are creatures made in the image, and made for a purpose.

So we pray with Megan's words: *Embolden us to seek out new ways to be servant leaders* - and if we mean what we pray we will remember to listen and watch for those *new ways*; *Steady us when we waiver in our commitments* - and we affirm our natural history of being thrown off balance when we falter or fail in our faith in the God who never waivers in his commitment to us; *Guide us toward your vision and plan for this church* - and we hesitate, knowing that in order to discern

(continued on next page)

God's vision and plan for this church we may need to give up our own; *Compel us to live thankfully and share generously* – yes *compel* is just the right word, isn't it, as we tend towards thinking it's all about us. Becoming beings who are thankful and generous requires God leading us, and sometimes pushing us, beyond what we think we can bear, into relationships we might not have chosen, and surprising us with new found meaning in the joy that is revealed when thanksgiving becomes a way of living.

And so we share these words of prayer, born out of our own community and welling up in voices hopeful, fearful, faithful, and joyful.

As we come to the season of Advent, a season of waiting, of listening, of anticipation of what will be, let us share this prayer, own this prayer, and pray this prayer. In this season when we hear that out of darkness a great light will come, let us understand that it is in the very darkness, when we can't see our own hands in front of our faces, that God shines the light of the world. Let us pray for the world to see this light. Let us pray for us to be this light. In faith, let us look into the darkness, and see the promise arrive. God with us.

May God be with us, in darkness and in light. May Christ shine in our hearts, in sadness and in joy. May the Spirit be upon us as we speak a word of peace. May we be the good stewards, the faithful disciples, the hopeful band of pilgrims that light this corner of God's good garden.

Peace,

Joy +



Christmas Services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24, 2011

7:00 PM Holy Communion, Rite II with Sunday School Tableau

Christmas Fellowship in Riverside Hall will follow Christmas Eve service

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25, 2010

7:00 AM Julotta (Swedish service)

10:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

New Year's Eve Service – Saturday, December 31, 2011

5:00PM Special Liturgy and Holy Communion

(No service on Sunday January 1, 2012)

First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord – January 8, 2012

9:00AM and 11:00 AM Holy Communion, Rite II

Dear All,

Thank you so much for your prayers. This semester at Church Divinity School of the Pacific has been richer than the last. First off, I am finally learning Greek! What a terrifying and rewarding experience to read “original” texts. I have really come to admire the work of translators and I have a new interest in comparing different versions. It also fascinates me how many ethical decisions go into publishing a translation. Do we translate ‘word for word’ or ‘thought for thought’? Do we change the word order so it makes more sense to us? There are so many answers and no one correct path? I suppose we all wonder at some point how we know anything, but I am so grateful for the opportunity to delve deeply into these issues.

This semester, especially, a lot of my classes bring theory and practice head to head. I am taking a class led by a German from the Presbyterian seminary where we examine the category of ‘Miracles’. We look at healing in relationship to sin. We look at the patient’s involvement in his/her own healing? We look at alternative readings, such that we have come to realize that ‘miracle’ is a misleading category, and the actual ‘miracle’ is not the main point of the passage. Many of the murky questions we ask in this class, I also ask in my theology class, which is also taught by another German. Here, we are forced to face the consequences of our beliefs. Every metaphor that humanity has used for Jesus, we dissect; we take each metaphor for God to the extreme and we see what it really implies. If we can find God in the midst of our sufferings, are we then in fact glorifying violence? If I say that I am blessed in such-and-such a way, am I saying that God purposefully denied someone else this blessing? So interesting! Again, I believe we all have moments where we ask these questions, but it is such a daunting task to learn about all of the different opinions.

In my internship at All Souls Parish in Berkeley, I have gotten to raise many of these questions and learn with the congregation how we are going to let our views inform how we do ministry: how we serve each other and the larger community. I have also been able to apply much of what I am learning in my preaching course, which I am taking at the Dominican seminary... yes, I am the only female and Protestant in a class of all Roman Catholic men and I am preaching to them in their chapel! They have taught me so much and they exude God’s love. They have really challenged me to “preach” in everything that I do. They have also taught me how to let the whole world preach back to me.

This advent season, I pray that you let the whole world speak to you. I am so glad that we have a liturgical calendar that marks time so that we can more intentionally see God break through into our mundane lives. This season of waiting was once very solemn and passive, but I hope you cheerfully anticipate the Christmas season.

Love, *Rhian Roberts*

Halloween Whiteout

Our “Boo-ga-loo” turned out to be a Boo-hoo-hoo thanks to mother nature's way. A freak snowstorm caused many to cancel their Halloween plans with us on Oct. 29th, 2011.

However, those that turned out had a raucous good time with DJ CHUCKY from National Park Service and a great band from West Chester called MACADOCIOUS. (Their drummer Stefan was a starboy in our annual Lucia Fest!)

Good food was plentiful. Keg of Kensingler donated by Philadelphia Brewing Company was consumed. Everyone came in costume and we moved it like Jagger!!!!

11-11-11

What a great date for a gathering. This day was screaming to me all year long. I'm so glad Mother Nature cooperated this time. Friends came from Upstate NY, a band came from South Carolina and food showed up from many local places, including Kennett, Kisso, Stephie's Catering and Chef-extrordinaire Nancy Kroll. Thanks to our friends at For Pete's Sake, Artful Dodger and Philadelphia Brewing Company without whom we could never have done this event. Kudos to our performers Lucy Stone, W.C. Lindsay, Sweetbriar Rose featuring Heather from local watering hole, Kennett, a band called Dangermuffin from Charleston, South Carolina and the North Lawrence Midnight Singers, from right here in Northern Liberties, Philadelphia. Almost 75 people found us on Facebook, Philly Fun Guide, South Philly Review and the many flyers we posted up all over Queen's Village. Thanks finally to all our Sexton Sidekicks who not only helped us set-up, put on and clean-up our event; but also bought admission and now own a one-of-a-kind t-shirt from Triple Play Embroidery. U R most <3'd. Our tally for both the Halloween Boo-ga-loo and 11/11/11 events was . . . \$1,200.00. Not a bad way to follow-up the Fall Fleas. Stay tuned for more Sexton Sideshows next year.

Sexton Sideshow

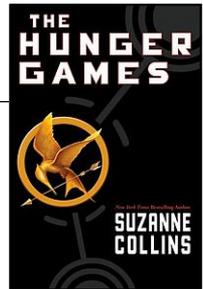
Jim and Paula Minacci





Calendar

- Dec. 4** Lucia Dress Rehearsal & Dinner - 1:00PM - 3:30PM
- Dec. 6, 13,
20, 27** Yoga (Classes are \$8.00)
Beginners Class 6:00 - 7:00PM
Advanced Class 7:15 - 8:15PM
- Dec. 7, 14,
21, 28** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 - 11:00AM
Please dress for outdoor class - in the event of rain
moves to Riverside Hall
- Dec. 9, 10,
11** Lucia Fest, 2011 - Friday 6:00 & 8:00PM
Saturday & Sunday 2:00, 3:30 & 5:00PM
- Dec. 14** Vestry Meeting - 7:00PM - Roak Room
- Dec. 17** Finnish Christmas Service - 2:00PM - Church /
Riverside Hall
- Dec. 18** Norwegian Service 4:00PM
- Dec. 19** Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall
The Hunger Games ● —————
by Suzanne Collins
- Dec. 23** Office Closed
- 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. 30** Office Closed
- Dec. 31** New Year's Eve Service - 5:00PM
(No Service January 1 New Year's Day)



The Lectionary for December

December 4th, 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

December 11th, 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 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: 126 or Canticle 3 or 15

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18th, 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: 89:1-4, 19-26 or Canticle 3 or 15

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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 52:7-10

Psalm: 98

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

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Lucia Fest, 2011

Gloria Dei

(Old Swedes') Church

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

Tickets available online from Oct 17 to Nov. 30, 2011
at www.old-swedes.org

Friday, **December 9** - 6:00 & 8:00
Saturday & Sunday,
December 10 & 11
2:00, 3:30 & 5:00

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

St. Eric's Fair

Imports for Sale; Coffee & Baked Goods



From the Rector's Warden



The yellow dots have appeared at the front of the church – on the floor, on the backs of the pews. When Noah saw the dove return with olive leaves in its mouth, he knew the flood was over. When we see the yellow dots, we know Lucia is at hand. Please – the Lucia Fest extends over three days and includes eight presentations and we could certainly use your presence. There's work to be done, for sure, but there's also an opportunity to show those who visit us what we're about as a parish, as a place where God's Kingdom is present today just as it was when the Swedes came up the Delaware and landed in our neighborhood.

We'll find ourselves in Christmas festivities just two Sundays after Lucia Fest. Compared to the rest of the world, we're coming very "late" to Christmas – I e-mailed Joy a phone picture of Christmas trees in Home Depot on October

16, the 18th Sunday after Pentecost. But we're coming to Christmas at the end of four weeks of Advent, one of my favorite seasons of the church year. We hear about that scary guy John the Baptizer with his ratty clothes and his locusts-and-honey diet – and his cries of “Repent!” and “Prepare the way!” and “Make everything straight and smooth!” The Christmas Eve service is a great chance to celebrate the eve of Christ's birth with our youngest members and the Christmas Day service will also be great. I'm looking forward to being there for both of those and to see everyone else there.

I can't close this without saying something about the elephant in the room – the discussion at the November vestry meeting about having us all worship together, at one service, every Sunday.

There are good people at Gloria Dei; that's been absolutely clear to me ever since that Easter morning in 2005 when I stumbled my way into a pitch-dark church at 5:00 AM because I came for the vigil service. The church was not the only thing in darkness. That Sunday was four weeks after the burial of my first wife and I was in my own darkness.

I came in the dark but left in the light, literally and figuratively. I heard the readings describing God's dealing with his world and us, all the way from that incredible poem that begins Genesis; the sun came up during the readings; and by the time I'd walked from the front of the church, from the pew where I still sit every Sunday, I'd been introduced to and welcomed by at least fifteen groups of parishioners.

I've been back every Sunday since then, unless I've not been in town. I brought Peggy and we both sat in that same pew, and you welcomed her just as you had welcomed me. We stood up together and told you that we'd agreed to marry each other. We stood up and told you that Peggy had been diagnosed with cancer. We married each other in that church. I stood up – alone – every Sunday for nearly three months and told you the wonderful “ups” and the terrifying “downs” of Peggy's ordeals after her surgery. And in that darkness, you were my light and the hand on my shoulder as I said repeatedly. And we sit in that pew together again – more than four years later and Peggy continues to be well.

These are hard times for all churches. There's no reason to think we're going to get a “pass go and collect \$200” card. But the card we do have, and have had for many, many years, is the card of our love and care for one another and for this place that brings us together. The closing line of Paul's second letter to his congregation at Corinth rings out at me – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” Grace, love, communion – those are the things that hold us together and that we have to show the world.

Jerry Buescher

The Revs. Slator and Jehu Clay

At Gloria Dei, when we think of the name Rev. Clay, Jehu Curtis comes to mind. However, Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay was not the first Rev. Clay to be connected to the Old Swedes' Churches. The Rev. Slator Clay, Jehu's father, was appointed assistant to the Rev. Dr. Nicolas Collin, rector of the United Swedish Churches of Wicaco, Kingsessing and Upper Merion. In 1792 Rev. Slator Clay was given charge of Christ Church, Upper Merion where he continued to preach until his death in 1821. The Rev. Slator Clay and Hannah Hughes (nee Holstein) were married in 1787 by the Rev. Collin. Hannah's Hulings forebears were early settlers in the Swedish colony on the Delaware.

Their son Jehu Curtis Clay was born on February 3, 1792 on Walnut Grove Farm in Upper Merion Township. At the age of seven Jehu and his family moved to Evans Burg (seven miles above Norristown. When he was eleven, Jehu was sent to a classical school in Norristown taught by the Presbyterian minister Rev. John Jones. Later Jehu Clay entered the University of Pennsylvania. At the age of nineteen Jehu began the study of Theology in Philadelphia. Bishop Kemper assistant minister to Bishop White offered the use of his library to Jehu. On Trinity Sunday 1813 Bishop White ordained Deacon Jehu Curtis Clay. Rev. Clay was sent out as a missionary to western Pennsylvania. In the six weeks that Rev. J. Clay was in the Pittsburgh area he raised \$1,200 toward the erection of a church there. When Rev. Clay returned to Philadelphia, he became assistant to Rev. Dr. Collin for one year. At the end of the year, he was called to St. John's Church, Norristown and the congregation in Germantown. In 1814 Jehu Curtis married Margaret Annan.

In 1816 Rev. Clay was ordained a priest by Bishop White. After two years at Norristown, Jehu received a call to the Church and Academy at Newbern, North Carolina. A call was received in 1818 to the Church at Hagerstown, Maryland where the Clays spent four years. During the fall of 1821 a call was received from the Church in Norristown. For ten years Rev. Clay officiated at the Churches in Norristown, Evans Burg and Upper Merion. April 1826 Margaret died leaving three girls Emily, Annie and Julia. On November 11, 1828 Jehu married Simmons Edey. Jehu and Simmons had four children Slator, George, Richard and Jehu Curtis. Dr. Jehu Curtis Clay was elected rector of the United Swedish Churches on December 5, 1831.



REV. JEHU CURTIS CLAY.

Jeanette Woehr

Vestry Meeting Bullet Points

- Commitment cards are still coming in and the good news is that ten families or individuals increased their pledge over last year's pledged amount
- Staffing help is needed for the Lucia Fest – especially help with parking, and with the kitchen and food sales operations
- We have an advertising presence in the *Queen Village Crier*, our neighborhood association newsletter, for five months beginning with the November issue.
- Graveyard work is finished for the year and the baby's grave along the south walkway will be ready for planting in the spring
- A decision to worship in a single service on Sunday was deferred for more discussion

(approved minutes for the October 2011 vestry meeting may be found on the bulletin board in Riverside Hall)



'tis the season

Yes, indeed, it is—and this means time to start the annual running around to make sure all the right gifts are found, wrapped and stacked for travel (or whatever)! We somehow all decide to be politically correct, so we celebrate Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and the Winter Solstice (for the pagans among us), giving, giving, giving all the while!! So, gentle readers, I would like to make a suggestion: Let us give twice!!! If we concentrate on finding vendors that benefit a particular group or organization, our gifts can and will give twice!! For example: gifts from The Leakey Collection benefit the Masai. (think King Solomons Mines) who have been dealing with drought for several years, Bead for Life aids the women of Uganda, the Heifer International benefits families all over the world, Europe, Africa, Central America and even here at home (Georgia and Arkansas among others), buy gift tags from Share our Strength and feed a child. Of course, not everything can give twice—don't try, but we can be mindful of how we shop and where we spend and what we buy! If you have a favorite place to shop for a cause, let us know and we will do the same for you!

Anne Blackstone



Welcome the Newest MEMBERS of Gloria Dei
baptized on November 20, 2011

Hayden William Shaw
Leila Rae Bilbrough
Colin Patrick Fitter

Memorial Cards in loving memory of
Eleanor Varnis

By: Bob & Sally Daly

Buddy Dougherty

By: Joe & Dolores Collins
Joe & Maureen Collins
George & Donna Collins

Kass Welch

By: Joe & Dolores Collins
Marge Lord
Bob Neill, Jr.
Bob & Jean Neill
George & Donna Collins

Anthony J. D'Lauro

By: Doris Connor



Sunday Service:

9:00 & 11:00 AM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday 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
Deirdre Flint, Dir. of Comm.
Mark Roberts, Treasurer; O.S.C.A.R.
Seminarian, Paul Gibson

VESTRY

Megan Bartlett
Florence Brook
Jerome Buescher, Rector's Warden
Robert Dieters, Acct. Assistant
Carol Jenkins
Dolores Kromchad
Heather Myers
Barbara Potts
Lisa Reeves, Secretary
Mark Roberts
James Ufheil, Acct. Warden
William Towey

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 (1/8/12); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/8/12); Pentecost (5/27/12); and All Saints Sunday (11/4/12). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.