



February 2011

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Even Now

February is the cruelest month
Though Chaucer and Eliot disagree.
The days are short, the skies intense.
Bleakness embodied in time.
The end of something
without the beginning
of something else.
Cold and gray,
Inherently unfriendly.

The in-between time.
The waiting time, when days are short
and light is fleeting.
I try to watch, to wait, to see
what's here, so dim, within the fog
of gray and gloom,
of nothing and always.
Small troubles grow great,
great ones overwhelming.

What to do in February but hunker down,
a good book in hand, a glass half empty
beside the couch where for the duration
I curl into a ball,
avoiding thought, evading choice,
until decision time gets pushy
and demands an audience.
Ennui or lethargy or just plain withdrawal
comes in February.

Epiphany endures as well, in February,
though it often lacks much notice.
Huddled on my couch,
waiting for the darkness to pass,
I miss the light. I do not see it.
The light that shines in the darkness.
Darkness seems to win out.
And shadows abound, seemingly permanent.
It is February.

But Epiphany reigns, no matter my myopia,
in February, even in February.
Deep within the shortest month,
overshadowing all despair,
shines the light that will not depart.
In the darkness of despondency,
in the place where hope has faded,
in the time when cold and gloom preside,
here, even here, it is Epiphany.

That God would come when least expected,
while no one is looking,
rouses my soul with holy fear, holy hope.
That God would wrap a blanket of light
around a world unwilling to see,
and send a beacon as an arrow
to the deep darkness within
all creation's struggling soul,
awakens the heart beyond my mind.

(continued on next page)

Here in February, here in Epiphany,
here for all to see,
is God with us.
We cannot douse the light
nor make the Presence leave.
We can ignore, if we choose,
to acknowledge what is here.
But even then, yes, even then,
the light will shine, and we shall see

For God so loved the world
that through the blankness of
our blind unfocused eyes
the light of Christ came uninvited
to find a home with us.
Beyond all hope, beyond all reason,
we behold the light, even in our darkness.
For God so loves the world,
Even in February.

Peace,

Joy +



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.

Networking at Gloria Dei

Recently, I decided to hire a new accountant for my business, and I wondered whether we have accountants at Gloria Dei. It occurred to me that, with a few exceptions, I do not know what each of you do for a living. While it is wonderful to relate to people on a spiritual, rather than on a business level, it would also be wonderful if we could send business to each other, rather than pick a company from the phone book or Google search. I am sure that we have talented lawyers, graphic designers, computer programmers contractors, painters, musicians and doctors in our midst- let's use our parish directory as a means of connecting with each other on a professional level. If you are interested in this networking opportunity, please send an email to Lisa Reeves at reeves-bender@msn.com with information about your business and contact details. A business card collection will also be organized. We are in the process of updating the parish directory, and want to include employment/business information as well as personal contact details, none of which will be published without your consent. Let's support each other in both a spiritual and professional way!



Guatemala Sunday

Join Us March 27th for Guatemala Sunday.

Once again we will renew our commitment to provide an education and basic medical care to the children and their parents of our Sister Parishes in Guatemala.

For many years we have decided to change the lives of these people by believing the way their lives are today is unacceptable. We continue the passion in our heart to direct us to make a difference to these loving people that have become a part of our lives.

This passion and work could not be done without our family here at Gloria Dei. Stand with us as we strive to make a difference.



JAZZ & Joe
at Gloria Dei

Every Fourth Thursday

between the hours of 7:30 & 9:30

1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28 and 5/26

Enjoy live jazz with coffee and dessert!

Inreach Ministry Needs You!

Gloria Dei's Inreach Ministry has been going strong for about a year now. In that time, we have focused our efforts on providing regular transportation to and from church events (Sunday worship, Vestry meetings, Lucia Fest, etc.) for a half dozen members. We are currently in need of some additional drivers, so if you are interested, please speak to me after church or call my cell phone: 267-251-3579. This can be as big or small of a commitment as you're interested in making. Ideally, we would have a list of eight to ten people who are available to provide transportation, so that those who need rides can make calls until they find someone who's available.

Also in the past few months, thanks to an idea by Paula Minacci, we've started making and freezing meals to be given to members in need within our parish. In late fall, Tiia Reinvald and her Sunday School class generously donated their time and talents to make some chicken soup and biscuits, which was a great way to jump start this area of ministry. We can always use more meals to store in the freezer in Riverside Hall. If you happen to have leftovers after a big meal, box them up in a container you don't mind giving away and bring it with you on Sunday. If you're feeling more ambitious, you could organize a small group of folks to plan and cook a meal together at someone's house or in the kitchen in Riverside. Or you could volunteer to deliver these meals to our members in need.

As you can see, there are several ways to get involved in Inreach at Gloria Dei. Other needs (such as a food basket at the holidays and toys for some of our children at Christmas) continue to come to our attention and require some new energy in order to come to fruition. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time, talents, or treasure in some capacity and contact me if you're interested. We need you!

Sincerely,

Megan Bartlett

and the Inreach Ministry



Old Swedes Churches

Our church at Tincum was built of timber and clapboards, “called a fine church and was dedicated on Sunday, September 4, 1646, in the presence of Governor Johan Printz, and the population of New Sweden. Later in 1655 when Dutch invaders disbanded the colony, the Swedes transferred their house of worship to the blockhouse located at Wicaco. Here in 1677 the first Christian worship was held within the boundaries of what is now the City of Philadelphia. By 1693 the population of the Swedish community had grown to 939 individuals. As the community grew so did the need for additional churches.

In 1708 services were held at St. Gabriel’s (Old Swedes’) Church, Douglassville, PA by Rev. Andrew Sandel, who was rector of Gloria Dei from 1702 -1719. St. Gabriel’s was one of eight congregations that formed the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Christ Church (Old Swedes’), Upper Merion dates back to 1735. However, their Church building was not constructed until 1763.

By 1760 a congregation was organized in the western part of the community. St. James (Old Swedes’) Church, Kingsessing was built in 1762.

The rector of Gloria Dei also covered the pulpits of St. James, Kingsessing and Christ Church, Upper Merion. When Rev. Nicholas Collins died in 1831 the three Swedish Lutheran Churches requested release from Swedish Lutheran control. The three pulpits were then filled by Episcopal clergy.

St. James, Kingsessing joined the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1844. Gloria Dei joined the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1845. Christ Church joined the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1957 retaining the Lutheran identity even though their pulpit was served by Episcopal clergy for over a hundred years.



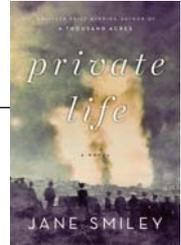
Mark your calendars

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011, marks the beginning of Lent. Please be sure to put this date on your calendar, and plan to join us that evening for a simple meal at 6:00PM in Riverside Hall followed by a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion in the church at 7:00PM.

Calendar

- Feb 1** Finance Committee Meeting – Roak Room
- Feb 1, 8, 15, 22** Yoga Classes – Riverside Hall 6:00 – 7:00PM
- Feb 2, 9, 16** Bible Study in Church – 6:00PM – Acts
- Feb 13** Sweetheart Breakfast Riverside Hall
Swedish Service in Church – 4:00PM
- Feb 16** Vestry Meeting – Roak Room – 7:00PM
- Feb 17** Swedish Colonial Society – Riverside Hall – 1:00 – 3:00PM
- Feb 20** Norwegian Service in Church – 4:00PM
“Bring a Friend to Church”
- Feb 24**  - Riverside Hall – 7:30PM
- Feb 27** RecycleBank Presentation at both services
- Feb 28** Book Club – 7:00PM – Riverside Hall
Private Life by Jane Smiley
will be discussed •



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 February

February 6th, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12)

Psalm: 112:1-9(10)

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, 13-16

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

February 13th, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 30:15-20

Psalm: 119:1-8

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

February 20th, Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalm: 119:33-40

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

February 27th, Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son 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 49:8-16a

Psalm: 131

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

NYE 2010 @ GDOSC

First came the cold, then came the snow, and then the most perfect day of the year. Happy New Year!!

On Thursday, December 30th our clan from upstate New York arrived with a carport. Wait. . .wait. . . previously in the afternoon my son Keith arrived from Georgia with his wife Jenny and my granddaughter, Gwen.

We unpacked and promptly set-up the carport behind the sexton house. This 10' x 20' enclosure provided a nice place to put our food which by now was quite plentiful.

Our beverage of choice is beer; once again provided by our sponsor: Philadelphia Brewing Company. Thanks to Bill and Nancy for always supporting our Sexton Sideshow ventures. The beverages all stayed nice and cold outside next to the carport.

The Importance of having the food and beverages outside was to create more space inside the Riverside Hall for people. Thank God for this act of foresight because people did come.

The evening started at 6PM with fireworks at Penn's Landing. Our first band started at 9PM and featured our very own Dillon Minacci. Next up at 10:30PM came our featured act "Lowcut Connie" who played a spirited set of music until 11:45.

It was during this time frame 9PM - 11PM that things really took off. Our little New Year's Eve Bash went from 50 people to 150 people in under 2 hours. Happiness ensued. Music was playing. People were dancing. I didn't see Paula until midnite. Just in time to say farewell to 2010 and hello to 2011.

The band came back and played from 12:45 until 2:00AM. Great music - rockabilly style - Jerry Lee Lewis - Purple Rain - the place was jumpin like a Texas juke joint. Thanks to our friends Dave & Bre from Liquid Vinyl Productions for joining us together with "Lowcut Connie" and their very large support group.

Thanks go out to our "Sexton Sideshow" Troupe; Sue Lewandowski; Rita West; Re Henning; Mark Roberts; Joe; Jo-Jo; and Steph.

This event brought over 170 people thru our doors and raised \$1,540.00 for the Church Fund. Stay tuned for music and fun in 2011.

Sincerely,

Jim and Paula Minacci

Philadelphia Recycling Rewards

The Philadelphia Recycling Rewards program is excited to grow Philadelphia's recycling movement in partnership with Gloria Dei Episcopal Church and its congregation. Since January 2010, the City of Philadelphia has seen over 120,000 households – close to ¼ of all City households – sign up for the program that rewards households for their recycling efforts. Additionally, over the past 10 years, many churches throughout the country have begun creating ministries around stewardship of our earth. The Recycling Rewards program is an integral part of this ministry because of its ability to make concrete to the everyday person the actions that they can take on a daily basis to protect and cherish their planet – not just for themselves, but for their children, grandchildren, and all the generations to come. The Recycling Rewards program does so by enticing people to recycle because of the rewards that they will receive for their recycling efforts. These can include free entrances to the Please Touch Museum or the Franklin Institute, as well as discounts at over 500 local and national businesses like pharmacies, grocery stores, restaurants, clothing stores, etc. The program is free and is available to all Philadelphia residents living in homes or small apartment buildings (6 units or less). But more importantly, as people become excited to recycle, they learn about how much they can actually recycle and how their efforts benefit their City as well as the earth. Gloria Dei parishioners can learn about the program during Sunday service on February 27th. Parishioners also will have the opportunity to sign up for the program and receive their Recycling Rewards sticker for their recycling container. Those who are unable to sign up on February 27th can do so by calling the Recycling Rewards sign-up hotline at 888-769-7960 or going on-line to www.PhillyRecyclingPays.com. "Recycling opportunities in outlying areas and New Jersey will also be presented for non-Philadelphia residents."



New Year's Eve at Old Swedes



Sweet Heart Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 13th

Renewal of Marriage Vows
at each Service – 9 am & 11 am

**Breakfast starts at 10 am
and will serve till 1 pm**

\$7 - Adults

\$4 - Children under 12

**Includes pancakes, sausage,
fruit and coffee/tea/juice**

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147



For information (215) 389-1513 www.old-swedes.org

Vestry Highlights

- Yoga Classes are held on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 in Riverside Hall. Beginners welcome, \$8:00 per class
- Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00. Thursday morning study cancelled due to lack of interest.
- A Parish Directory is in the works. We will be collecting contact information, as well as employment/business information so that we can patronize each other's businesses.
- Bring a Friend or Neighbor to Church Sunday: February 20, 2011. All parishioners are encouraged to bring someone new to church that day, followed by refreshments in Riverside Hall.
- Deirdre Flint has agreed to be our Communications Director
- Megan Bartlett and Diane Honor are the new co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee.

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



Bring a Friend to Church on Sunday, February 20:

In an effort to open our doors to more members of our community, we are asking every parishioner to bring a friend, relative or neighbor to church on Sunday, February 20. After each service, invite your guest to join us for fellowship and refreshments in Riverside Hall. This is the perfect opportunity to share your love for Gloria Dei and Jesus Christ with others!



Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

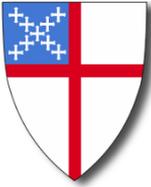
Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (215) 271-1091,
(865) 585-4768, or fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need



WELCOME the Newest MEMBER
 . . . Of Gloria Dei Church baptized on
 January 9, 2011: **Logan Jeffrey Reed**

Memorial Cards in loving memory of
Robert Blackburn
 By: Doris Connor
Mike Sullivan
 By: Jean & Bob Neil
 Bob Neil, Jr.
 Gary & Alexis Neil



**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

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.

VESTRY

Megan Bartlett
 Jerome Buescher, Rector's Warden
 Barbara Chilcott
 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 (1/9/11); 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.