



January 2011

# Down By The Riverside

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

## Thoughts from the Rector

### *Grace Upon Grace*

We heard once again, the first Sunday after Christmas, the familiar words of John's Gospel prologue: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us. And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." What Good News! We have all received that grace that is God's gift beyond our knowing yet within each and every one of us. God's grace, God's love, God's intrinsic embedding of God's self into the self of humanity, God's devotion to each one made in the image of the Creator, beyond anything we can or might or will or won't do.

It is for us, this grace beyond our understanding. It is the way we know who we are, where we are, why we are. It is, indeed, beyond our grasp, yet within our reach.

I have closed each Lucia service with a prayer written by Ted Loder, a prayer I find particularly fitting for that event. Now, in the light of John's words, I share this prayer with all of you, and wish you a grace-filled, peace-filled, hope-filled New Year.

### **Grace beyond Our Grasp**

Holy God, the mystery of your infinite loftiness  
Is not greater than that of your imminent presence,  
And we gather in awe of both and of you.

In this moment we thank you for lacing  
Eternity into our time,  
And the longing for what lasts into our hearts.  
traces of your kingdom into the round of our days.  
the assurance that you have made us for yourself  
into the core of our souls.

We praise you for the joy that renews us  
through the miracle of each other,  
the wonder of children,  
the sharing of bread,  
the occasions of justice,

(continued on next page)

the healing of music,  
the sprawl of sunsets,  
the scatter of stars,  
the anchoring of prayer,  
the gift of Christ,  
the summons of your Spirit  
making us small but blest partners  
in your ongoing creation.

For your grace beyond our grasp,  
we praise you and ask  
that you deepen our faith  
and strengthen our faithfulness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

(from *My Heart in my Mouth; Prayers for Our Lives* by Ted Loder)

Peace, Joy +



## Bible Study – January and February

*The Acts of the Apostles*

We will continue our new approach to Bible Study with a reading of *The Acts of the Apostles*, known more familiarly to us as simply Acts. As we did with the Gospel of Matthew, we're going to read Acts out loud. Yes, once again, the whole book. We're going to do this in six weeks, and we're offering two opportunities for you to join this once weekly reading. We will gather for 45 minutes on Wednesday evenings at 6:00PM and then again on Thursday mornings at 7:30AM. These will be identical sessions so you can choose which works better for your schedule each week. We'll begin on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>/Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in the church, offer an opening prayer, read out loud for twenty minutes, discuss or meditate as the Spirit moves us for twenty minutes, pray the Lord's Prayer together, and be on our way. Forty-five minutes once a week. At the end of six weeks you will have heard the entire book of Acts and had an opportunity to deepen your understanding of the very beginnings of the Church and of Paul's ministry. Consider joining us for this weekly gathering. You won't be called on to read or speak if it's not your wish. Just come and listen. And hear.

# 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*

- Friendly **conversation**, a cup of **coffee**, and **great jazz** - who could ask for more ?
- **BYOW** (Bring Your Own Wine if you choose)
- Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and the **Alan Segal Quartet** have partnered to bring this event to the public
- Cost: a **donation** to help Gloria Dei defray the cost would be appreciated
- **Free Parking** is available

*Enjoy live jazz with coffee and dessert!*

### Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
215-389-1513 • [www.old-swedes.org](http://www.old-swedes.org)



## From the Rector's Warden

The Lucia fest has come and gone, Christmas has come and will be with us till the Feast of the Epiphany, and the graveyard sleeps under a blanket of snow this last weekend of December 2010.

I know I'm appreciating the chance to take a breath and enjoy the season. We all worked very hard for Lucia – the people who performed, the people who prepared costumes, the people who read, the people who made the music, the people who baked things, the people who cooked things, the people who acquired and displayed the many crafts for the St. Eric's fair, the people who sold all those things, the people who took tickets and greeted visitors to our parish and made them feel welcome, and the people who parked the cars and avoided turning our lawns into mush as happened last year. Thank you, all of you. All your work helped us pay our bills for sure. But we also got a chance to show the world the unique little part of God's kingdom that dwells in this peaceful place, Wicaco.

But there's work to do. The vestry will soon share with the whole parish a list of things that need to be done around the property. There are some big projects that will need professional help, but there are also things we can do ourselves and the vestry will be asking for your help with those projects. Some of them will be outside things that will need to wait for warmer weather. But some are inside things that we can tackle now.

We're also looking at ways to reduce energy consumption around Gloria Dei Old Swedes'. A subcommittee of the vestry is looking at a long list of things pointed out by a consultant. There are also things that consultant didn't point out that we know we can do – things such as caulking and weather-stripping. As the subcommittee puts together a plan for dealing with the consultant's recommendations, we'll be sure to share that with all of you as well.

Thanks again for all your help. Enjoy this time of quiet where we celebrate the presence of Emmanuel – God with us, now and always.

*Jerry Buescher*



**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](mailto:fbrook529@hotmail.com)

*Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need*



An inviting light to an evening Lucia service



The Lucia Tent



# Calendar

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- Jan 4** Yoga Classes - Riverside Hall 6:00 - 7:00PM
- Jan 9** Swedish Service in Church at 4:00PM
- Jan 12, 19, 26** Bible Study in Church - 6:00PM
- Jan 13, 20, 27** Bible Study in Church - 7:30AM
- Jan 16** Norwegian Service in Church at 4:00PM
- Jan 19** Vestry Meeting - Roak Room - 7:00PM
- Jan 20** Swedish Colonial Society - Riverside Hall - 1:00 - 3:00PM  
Deanery Plenary Meeting - Riverside Hall - 6:30PM
- Jan 24** Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall  
*Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen  
will be discussed •



- Jan 27** *Jazz & Joe* - Riverside Hall - 7:30PM  
at Gloria Dei



*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](http://www.old-swedes.org) and find out what else we're doing.  
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.

# The Lectionary for January

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## January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-11

## January 9<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: 29

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

## January 16<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm: 40:1-12

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:29-42

## January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm: 27:1,5-13

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

## January 30<sup>th</sup>, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Psalm: 15

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12





## Churchyard Renewal Project

We got off to a wonderful start, thanks to the generosity of so many who attended Lucia Fest. With more than \$4,000.00 collected from our Lucia services for our new fund – The Churchyard Renewal Project – we are on our way to being able to restore our graveyard, gravestones, and tombs that have lacked attention for many years. The conservationists who worked on two gravestones this past summer have submitted a quote of \$15,000.00 for the renewal and restoration of twenty-five gravestones and tombs in need of repair in our historic churchyard. We will continue to encourage contributions to this fund in the next months and we will decide by late Spring how many stones, and which ones, we will be able to restore this summer. Please consider a donation to this important project. You may send a check to the office with a notation “Churchyard Renewal Project,” or you may donate on line at [www.old-swedes.org](http://www.old-swedes.org), clicking on the “donate” button.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Many of the tombstones to be restored are no longer legible. Fortunately for us many years ago the inscriptions of many tombstones were recorded. Below are some of the inscriptions:

Beneath This Stone are deposited the remains of **Captain George Ord**  
He was born in The Kingdom of Great Brittan May 26, 1741  
and died in Philadelphia  
October 13, 1806 Aged 65

In Memory of **Captain Joseph Blewer**  
who departed this life August 7, 1789 aged 55 years.  
Farewell vain world I've had enough of thee  
And now am careless what thou sayest of me  
Thy smiles I court not nor thy frowns I fear  
My days are past my head lies quiet here  
What faults in my you've seen take care to shun  
And look at home enough there's to be done

Also in Memory of **Sarah Blewer**  
his wife who departed this life May 4, 1801 in the 64th year of her age.  
She left this world in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Also  
**Maria Nordenlind**  
sister of Sarah Blewer  
relic of the Rev. Erick Nordenlind  
she died January 20, 1826 aged 88 years  
A possessor of that Faith which is the substance of things hoped for  
the evidence of things not seen.

# Sweet Heart Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

*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**

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## Vestry Highlights

- The vestry approved a balanced budget for 2011
- A new snow blower was acquired – just in the nick of time as it turned out!
- Diane Honor and Megan Bartlett agreed to co-chair the Stewardship Committee
- Yoga classes will begin on Tuesday, January 4, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM
- Deirdre Flint, who already organized the bulletin boards in the church and in Riverside, agreed to take on updating the church's website and the church's Facebook page

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





## Memorial Cards in loving memory of Edward Farmer

By: Jean & Bob Neill  
Dolores & Joe Collins



## 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  
Candace Roberts, 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.