



*May 2011*

# Down By The Riverside

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

## Rector's Report for Annual Meeting 2011

February 26, 2011 was my fifth anniversary as rector of Gloria Dei. As we tend to do with events that mark our lives, this anniversary caused me to reflect on the past five years. As I write this report for our annual meeting my perspective is widened and my view encompasses more than just the past year.

When I think about these last five years what comes to mind first are faces. Faces of those we love but see no longer; faces of the children I've baptized here who now participate in our worship services and church events; faces of those whose marriages I was honored to officiate; faces of those I have visited in their homes; faces of parishioners who have moved on to new worship communities and faces of members of Gloria Dei who have joined us since I arrived; faces of all of you here now who were here long before me; faces of seminarians who have served us since my arrival; the face of Bishop Michel as he first joined us in our pews, then sat as our bishop on our altar step with our children; faces from St. George's Methodist Church with whom we have shared worship twice annually for the past three years; faces hard at work improving the property and grounds of our beloved church; faces enjoying our food and joyous events throughout the year; faces of those who bring their animals each year right into church to be blessed; faces and faces and faces that are the people we serve, year in and year out, here at Gloria Dei.

What also comes to my mind as I reflect on these past five years is the amount of energy this small but mighty parish possesses as we work and pray and play together, giving so generously of your time and talent and treasure as we work for the greater glory of God as a community open and inviting within the greater community of Philadelphia. So many events, some that raise much needed funds, take so much time and effort. Yet year in and year out these events have grown in size and in funds raised. New events have been added in these past five years while those events that have been a part of Gloria Dei for many years continue to expand. It's amazing, when you think about it: Lucia Fests, Sexton's Sideshows, Jazz & Joe evenings, Flea markets, Seders, Sunday services in the graveyard, Blessing of the Animals and Pet Expo, Seamen's Church Institute Christmas parties, shared worship services with St. George's Methodist Church, Lent Soup and Study, Bible Studies, and much more.

And then there are the amazingly productive work days we've had. Your willingness to contribute hard labor and valuable experience to the improvement

(continued on next page)

and beautification of our magnificent property and buildings and saving us so much money is truly noteworthy. From removing bushes (and roots!) to rehabbing the bathroom in Riverside Hall, from polishing the pews to trimming the trees, from planting grass and flowers to raking leaves and sweeping paths and hanging new curtains, the work of your hands is so evident in this place.

And finally the generosity of hearts and minds as well as hands comes rushing to my mind as I think of the gifts of love that have been given to Gloria Dei these past five years. Gifts from generous donors wishing to remain anonymous as well as those gifts that are a part of the giver: Leigh Jenkins' awesome painting of Gloria Dei that hangs in Riverside Hall, our own Santa Lucia figure carved by a Mayan artisan in Guatemala, the table and stole and vase made by the hands of our Confirmation Classes, funds given that we might become a conscious and visible model for clean energy, new soft toys for the church, and so much more.

We've painted the steeple and taken care of the Witness trees, we've placed new Bibles in the pews and new tables in the hall. We've added Inreach and Prayer Chain to our ministries. We've planted grass and flowers. We are now a presence on the Internet with our website and Facebook page.

What a truly amazing place this is. I am honored and humbled as I reflect on these past five years, to have been called to such a place, and to such a people.

Finally I wish to thank the staff for all they do to add to the character and personality of this place. They meet and greet visitors, answer questions, insure the property is well maintained, insure the safety of our grounds and buildings, and add to the quality of our worship. They are the face of Gloria Dei, week in and week out, and we would be so much less without them. Jim, Paula, Terry, and Paul – thank you so very much.

And now on to 2011!

*Joy +*



*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.

## A History Article

For more years than I can remember, parishioners have sat on the box shaped tombstone outside of Church. It is a place where many have been greeted prior to entering Church. This is one of the many tombstones slated for restoration. Below is the inscription that is no longer legible.

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### Notes and Queries.

[July,

**CUSHING.** (*Com. by Gen. Lewis Merrill, U.S.A., Philadelphia, Pa.*)—The following records concerning a well-known Massachusetts family are found here. As of possible present, at least of prospective value, I have copied them for the REGISTER. The "Old Swedes" Church (Gloria Dei) is one of the oldest churches in America.

*Inscriptions on tombstones in the church yard of "Old Swedes," Church, Philadelphia, Pa.*

"In memory of | Captain Caleb Cushing, | who departed this life | fourth day of December 1820 | aged 47 years 6 months & 9 days | also | In memory of | the following children of | Caleb and Margaret Cushing. | Eliza Cushing who departed this life | on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1795 | aged 6 months and 9 days. | Mary Cushing who departed this life | on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1802 | aged 4 months and 18 days. | Caleb Cushing who departed this life | on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1804 | aged 13 months. | Also Captain John Cushing | who died on Sunday evening | the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833, | aged 36 years 7 months and 19 days. | Also Margaret Cushing | Died July 18<sup>th</sup> 1847 | aged 69 years."

On another stone:

"In | memory of | Eliza Cushing | daughter of | Caleb and Margaret Cushing | who departed this life | July 31<sup>st</sup> 1795 | aged 6 years and 9 months. | Also Mary Cushing | departed this life March 28 1801 | aged 4 months and 18 days | also Caleb Cushing | departed this life October 22<sup>d</sup> 1804 | aged 15 months and 12 days.—Also of Geo<sup>e</sup> L Eyre Jr. | son of George L and Ann C Eyre who departed this life May 6<sup>th</sup> 1827 | aged 2 years 1 month & 19 days."

In the record of burials kept by the pastor of the "Old Swedes Church," is found the following:

"Aug 1, 1795 Elizabeth, 6 months old, died of hives. Par. Caleb and Margaret Cushing. She is daughter of John Hoover whose wife Latitia Their right is come by the Morton\* family."

Under heading "members children":

"30 March 1802. Mary daughter of Caleb and Margaret Cushing aged 4 months and 18 days."

"11 October 1804. Caleb son of Caleb and ——— Cushing, b. 8 July 1803."

Under heading "Adult members":



## 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.

**THE BEST FLEAS AT THE OLDEST CHURCH**

**Gloria Dei Church**  
(Old Swedes')

# **FLEA MARKET**

*Spaces - \$25.00 Paid at the Door*

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday,**

**8:00 am to 3:00 pm**

*BAKED GOODS, HOMEMADE CHILI,  
HOTDOGS, MEATBALLS,  
SODA, PRETZELS*

**HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS AVAILABLE.  
COME JOIN THE FUN!!**

*Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street  
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*For information (215) 389-1513 [www.old-swedes.org](http://www.old-swedes.org)*

## From the Rector's Warden

Once again, we find ourselves at Gloria Dei Old Swedes' at Annual Meeting time – it's neither the beginning nor the ending of the church year, but it's a watershed event at Gloria Dei. We've done once again a cycle of summer services (some among our oldest parishioners in the graveyard), the Welcome Back dinner, Sunday school and confirmation preparation, stewardship and commitment, flea markets, Advent, Lucia, Christmas, the season after Epiphany (as long as it could be, this year), Lent, and Easter.

This marks the beginning of my seventh year at Gloria Dei – seven years since I fumbled my way into a pitch dark church at 5:00 AM on Easter Sunday 2005. I was hurting badly from the death of my wife Georganne five weeks before that. I sat there in the dark with my candle and the words of the five readings washed over me – most especially the words of the creation story at the beginning of Genesis, with its unrelenting and repeating message that all that God had made was good, very good. As the Sun came up during the readings and the church grew lighter, my spirit also brightened and lightened. And my experience was sealed by the greeting extended to me by all the people there that day – people that I still see almost every Sunday.

In the years between, I've brought Peggy to church with me for you to meet her. And, contrary to her initial fears that she'd be treated as an "outsider," you made her as welcome as you've ever made me. We stood up together to tell you we were engaged, we stood up in this old building to marry, we shared all the heartache that went with Peggy's cancer, and we finally stood up in triumph to tell you Peggy was better and we were "back."

In a few weeks Peggy and I will make meatballs 901 through 975 for the Spring Flea Market. We've read, sung, and eaten our way through six Seder dinners, three "Welcome Back" dinners, innumerable Sunday hospitality hours, and many Soup and Study sessions.

In the words of Genesis, it was all good, very good.

The Annual Meeting also marks the end of my first year as Rector's Warden. It's been as awesome a responsibility as I had expected but it's also been a rewarding experience. I frequently had the feeling that I didn't know what I was doing as I attempted to fill the Rector's Warden's role of being a liaison between the Rector, the Vestry, and the whole congregation. But, as always, you were all good to me and put your hands out to me and held me up – as you've always done.

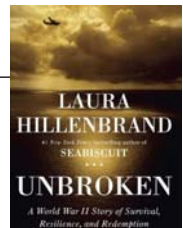
"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

*Jerry Buescher*

# Calendar

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- May 1** One service, 10AM, followed by the Annual Meeting, followed by breakfast in Riverside Hall
- May 2** Church Training and Deaconess Meeting  
- Riverside Hall - 12:00 - 2:00PM
- May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** Yoga - Riverside Hall - 6:00 - 7:00PM - \$8.00 fee
- May 4, 11, 18, 25** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00 starting May 5) 10:00 - 11:00AM  
Please dress for outdoor class - in the event of rain moves to Riverside Hall
- May 4, 11, 18, 25** Bible Study - 6:00 - 7:00PM
- May 8** Swedish Service - 4:00PM
- May 9** Commission on Ministry - Riverside Hall - 7:00 - 9:00PM
- May 10** Guatemala Meeting - Roak Room - 7:00PM
- May 14** Annual Spring Flea Market - 8:00AM - 3:00PM
- May 15** Annual Queen Village Tour - Noon - 4:00PM  
(sign up at Gloria Dei)
- May 18** Annual Queen Village Tour - Noon - 4:00PM  
(sign up at Gloria Dei)
- May 19** Swedish Colonial Society - Riverside Hall - 1:00 - 3:00PM
- May 22** Last Sunday School Classes
- May 23** Book Club Meeting - Riverside Hall - 7:00PM  
*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand ●
- May 26** *Jazz & Joe* - 7:30 - 10:30PM  
at Gloria Dei - Riverside Hall
- May 28** Finnish Society Service - 2:00PM
- May 29** Memorial Day Weekend One Service Begins Today @ 10:00AM
- May 30** Sexton Sideshow Memorial Day Picnic 12 Noon - 6:00PM



# The Lectionary for May

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## May 1st, Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm: 16

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

## May 8th, Third Sunday of Easter

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm: 116:1-3, 10-17

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

## May 15th, Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm: 23

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

## May 22nd, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Psalm: 31:1-5, 15-16

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

## May 29th, Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Psalm: 66:7-18

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel: John 14:15-21

## Property Report for Annual Meeting - 2011

The issues of property maintenance – grounds and buildings – are always numerous and challenging at Gloria Dei. As we struggle to meet the demands inherent in both historic buildings and extensive grounds we are reminded daily not only of the great gift of this beautiful place but of the call to be good stewards of what we have been given.

This past year the vestry has been very pro-active in their approach to restoration and renewal as well as maintenance. Following the “walk around” that the vestry did, attempting to see with the eyes of a newcomer, they came up with an extensive list of items to be addressed. Some of these will remain on a “wish list” for future consideration as funding becomes available. Other issues required planning for repairs to be done within a year or two. Still others, it was decided, should be completed in 2011.

The results of this vestry walk-around was a tri-fold published for the congregation and friends of Gloria Dei to read and consider in what ways we all might contribute, through time and talent and treasure, to the physical needs of this place.

Last year saw the beginnings of the reclamation and restoration of the graveyard, and the overdue care of many of the largest trees within our grounds. These are things that unfolded before our eyes and contributed to the vision of the future growth and development of the property as well as responding to needs that had been put off for some time.

Just a few short weeks ago another major improvement was made as we had more of the overgrown bushes removed, a fence placed around the sexton’s house, and a large, formerly muddy area, tilled and planted with grass.

We are in the process of receiving quotes for repairs we hope to see accomplished before the end of this year – repair of the windows in the sexton’s house; sanding and sealing of the floors in Riverside Hall and the sexton’s house; signage for the graveyard, parking lot, and Water Street gate entrance as well as sidewalk signs announcing to the community outside our walls the many events and happenings at Gloria Dei; parking lot repairs; cabinet and shelves in Riverside Hall; roof repairs on the church; gravestone and tomb restorations; review and possible replacement of window air conditioning units in Roak House and sexton’s house; church repairs needed inside due to moisture migration.

More extensive and costly needs will need to wait for funds to be raised or acquired through grants for brick repairs and pointing throughout the property, interior and exterior painting of church, exterior painting of the rectory, the sexton’s house and the Roak House, repair of shutters on the rectory, leveling of brick pathways, leveling of the sexton’s house patio, internal repairs to the steeple, drainage issues throughout the property, brick floor in the sanctuary area of the church, repair or replacement of stockade fencing in parking lot area, repaving of the parking lot and driveway, and air conditioning of Riverside Hall.



We have identified our needs and begun a plan for meeting them through the creation of a new 501(c)3 entity, The Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Preservation Corporation, which, as a subsidiary of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church, will be able to apply for grants to maintain, preserve, and improve this treasure we have been given. Meanwhile we will continue to rely on the great talent within our congregation and the wonderful offering of time and treasure from so many volunteers that have made it possible this past year to address so many issues.

Gloria Dei Church has been on this property, making a difference within the community, since 1677. Our conscious efforts to maintain it for future generations mirror the efforts of who came before us and, hopefully, set an example for future generations who will discover in years to come the sacred space we call Gloria Dei.



Seder Meal and Easter at Gloria Dei



## Vestry Meeting Bullet Points

- John Carr has developed a prioritized list of repairs needed to graveyard stones. Repairs commensurate with available funds will be done this summer.
- The Vestry thanked Diane Honor, Robert Jenkins, and Jeanette Woehr for their service on the vestry.
- A new fence was installed around the Sextons' House property.
- On the parish work day (Saturday, April 16) the church was cleaned, stumps were removed, and grass planted in the area behind the Sextons' House.
- The new Tai Chi program on Wednesday mornings is growing.

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



**\$10** Admission

**\$5** Under 21

**\$20** Family Package

Proceeds to Gloria Dei Church Fund

### **Family Sexton Sideshow Picnic!**

# **May 30<sup>th</sup>**

## **Monday,**

### **12 noon to 6:00 pm**

#### *Provided:*

*Hamburgers  
and Hot Dogs  
Condiments!  
Chips  
Soda and Water  
LIVE Music*

#### *Need to bring:*

*A Chair  
Blanket  
Sunscreen  
Sidedish,  
A Smile  
Frisbee or Games to Play*

**FUN ACTIVITIES:** Horseshoes, Sprinkler Fun, Croquet, Bocci Ball, Wiffle Ball, and more!!

**Beer provided by the Philadelphia Brewing Co.**

# 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 ?
- Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and the **Alan Segal Quartet** have partnered to bring this event to the public
- **BYOW** (Bring Your Own Wine if you choose)
- Cost: a **donation** to help Gloria Dei defray the cost would be appreciated
- **Free Parking** is available

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*Enjoy live jazz with coffee and dessert!*



**WELCOME the Newest MEMBER**  
 . . . Of Gloria Dei Church baptized on  
 April 24: **Vanessa Noelle Johnson**

**Memorial Cards** in loving memory of  
**Joe Annocki**  
 By: Bert Barbiers Kubiak  
 Corkey Barbiers

**Anita Battista**  
 By: Bob & Jean Neill

**Janice Krute**  
 By: Bob & Jean Neill

**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.