



January 2012

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Beginnings and Endings and Beginnings

It is a bit of a conundrum to say something has ended or something has begun because you really don't ever have one without the other. Beginnings and endings share not only an unbreakable connection but also another attribute - change. There is always change with beginnings and with endings.

As we begin this year, 2012, at Gloria Dei, we are intensely aware of these things - beginnings, endings, changes. And for many this causes discomfort. We like things to stay the same. We like to know that our lives, our loves, our experiences, our habits will remain predictable. We like plans fulfilled and routines undisturbed.

Yet, here at Gloria Dei we are about change this year. Most years, it is true; we can count on our church not to change. We can count on our parish to be the same - offer the same services, enjoy the company of the same folks, share the same food, and work at the same events. So change is hard, particularly in a world where so much is changing so rapidly. Can't we count on our church to remain the same? Be the port in the storm of hard days and hard lives? Be a comfort in a world with little to offer in the way of solace?

Well, yes and no. We can certainly count on our church being a place of safety, a place where we are always welcome to sit and share, worship and pray, serve and be served, love and be loved; a place that offers that port in the storm, a place to share joys and sorrows, a place of comfort for the weary, and solace for those who grieve.

But can we address our problems of financial stress, lack of growth, alienation of folks who seek a spiritual community, but have needs that we cannot meet as we are, without change? It seems not. These are problems that we have grappled with for a number of years. We need to address them now. Gloria Dei has been here for over three hundred years. In that time there have been many, many changes as the church has recognized the needs of the community and the world within which it exists. It has recognized the need to move into new ways to worship, new ways to arrange building uses, new prayer

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books and hymnals, new schedules to meet the needs of those who live in our community and have need for what we offer in the way of religious and spiritual direction and support.

What the church will look like in the 21st century is a question no one can answer yet. What we do know for sure is that it will not be like it has been, any more than it is now anything like it was in 1700 or 1830 or 1910. What we also know is that the church, the Body of Christ in the world, is made up, has always been made up, of those who believe in a Creator God in whose image we are created and through who's Spirit we live and move and have our being. What we can count on, for sure, is that if we are willing to follow Jesus, being pilgrims as he was a sojourner, unafraid of welcoming the stranger, willing to move into new and uncomfortable places, we will continue to be that Body.

What is hardest for we who are comfortable with the way things are is to remember why we are here. While we affirm that we are here for each other, to strengthen our faith and nourish our souls for the work we do in the world, we must never forget we are also here for those who are not here. We are here to show a community why faith is relevant in today's world, how church can be a place where children and adults alike find ways to grow into fuller, healthier people through worship and fellowship, study and silence, work and prayer. How being a part of a gathering of folks with many questions, many concerns, uncertain what to believe or how to hope, forms us into that Body of Christ we call ourselves, gives us the strength to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ in the world, according to his example and his teaching. He it is who showed us how to be on the move, ever changing, reaching out to those who seek a meal or a hand, a place to be and a way to be, a community open to the needs of the world around us. May we heed this call and go forward, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.*

(Hymn # 665)

Peace, *Joy +*



Take the Bible Challenge!

What is the Bible Challenge? It is to read the Bible in one year. You will find a list of daily readings for the year on the back table in church, or you can go on line to www.oneyearbibleonline.com, then click on "One Year Bible Reading Plan." The format includes daily readings from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. It's not a lot of reading each day, fifteen minutes to a half hour, but at the end of the year you will have read the entire Bible.

While this may sound daunting it is helpful to know others are doing it alongside you. Though you will be reading alone in your home, those at Gloria Dei who are taking the challenge will be talking about this experience throughout the year and sharing thoughts about what we are reading.

It doesn't matter which translation you read from, or if you change translations as you go along. A Study Bible is helpful but not necessary. If you need a Bible let us know. We will supply Bibles for anyone who needs one and wishes to take this challenge. Whatever you think about the Bible, doesn't it make sense to read it before deciding? Truth be told, most of us have not read the whole book. Let's do it together!



Wanted: Tutors!

One hour per week translates into a significant difference to a child at St. James School in North Philadelphia. Volunteers are needed to work with students (matched 1:1) on homework assignments and to focus on the skills in which the students need extra reinforcement.

Times are as follows:

Mondays:	3:45-4:15pm, 5:15-6pm
Tuesdays:	1:10-1:50pm, 5:15-6pm
Wednesdays:	3:45-4:15pm, 5:15-6pm
Thursdays:	1:10-1:50pm

The St. James School is located at 3217 West Clearfield Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132.

Ready to make a difference? Contact David Kasievich, Executive Director at 215-226-1276, or dkasievich@stjamesphila.org.

Thoughts from the Rector's Warden

The yellow dots – gone for another year. The aisle-side candle holders – gone for another year. The shutters – open again for another year. The winter solstice – gone for another year, though it will be a few weeks before we easily notice the longer day length.

We're in Christmas season – even though, outside the church, that's gone for another year. The season, the short days, the finishing of our fall busy-ness all make me think of Christina Rossetti's words:

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

As I write this, the 60-degree temperature ensures that the earth in our graveyard is not hard as iron nor does the graveyard feature snow on snow. But we are in the bleak midwinter – the hard iron of hurt feelings, the snow on snow of fear about what having said “Yes” to the angel (as Mary did) might mean.

As of January 1, I'll have been attending Gloria Dei for 2,471 days. Gloria Dei was dedicated on July 2, 1700 – that's 113,589 days ago (give or take a few – there was that pesky calendar change in 1752 that knocked the feast of Saint Lucia off the winter solstice). So we're all blinks – very important blinks, but blinks nonetheless – in the history of this parish.

Our parish is still here and contemplating what we need to do to move forward because other people in those 113,589-odd days faced hard problems, dealt with them, and moved forward. Can you imagine what it must have been like when Swedish was no longer the language of church? Can you imagine what it must have been like to put down the Swedish equivalent of the Lutheran Book of Worship and instead pick up the Book of Common Prayer?

At our baptism, we each answered “yes” to these questions or had “yes” answered for us:

- Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

The task we're about to take up is to look and look hard at what proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ, loving our neighbors as

ourselves, and striving for peace and justice means in 2012 at the corner of Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard, zip code 19147.

The last stanza of Christina Rossetti's hymn –

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

Please, please – let's all give our hearts to keeping this outpost of God's kingdom alive and well.

Jerry Buescher



2011 Lucias: Jeanette Woehr, Rachel Eder, Morgan Kuensel, Hannah Laren and Gabriela Montoya



*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.

Calendar

- Jan. 3, 10,
17, 24, 31** Yoga (Classes are \$8.00)
Beginners Class 6:00 – 7:00PM
Advanced Class 7:15 – 8:15PM
- Jan. 4, 11,
18, 25** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 – 11:00AM
Please dress for outdoor class – in the event of rain
moves to Riverside Hall
- Jan. 8** Swedish Service – 4:00PM
- Jan. 18** Vestry Meeting – 7:00PM – Roak Room
- Jan. 18, 25** Bible Study – 6:00 – 7:00PM – Roak Room
- Jan. 23** Book Club – 7:00PM – Riverside Hall
Sarah's Key
by Tatiana de Rosnay ●
- Jan. 26** Jazz & Joe – Riverside Hall – 7:30PM



Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (215) 271-1091,
(215) 760-5878, or fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need



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 Lectionary for January

January 1st, Holy Name of Jesus

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm: 8

2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

January 8th, 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.

1st Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm: 29

2nd Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

January 15th, 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.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)

Psalm: 139:1-5, 12-17

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

January 22nd, 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.

1st Reading: Jo nah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm: 62:6-14

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

January 29th, 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.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm: 111

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Change in Worship Services and Times

Beginning with the First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012, we will be moving to one celebration of Holy Communion at 10:00AM on Sunday mornings. Sunday School will meet from 9:30AM-10:30AM and the children will join us for Communion at the Peace.

We will also be adding a service of Evensong on Tuesday evenings, beginning on February 28, 2012, 6:30PM. This will be a quiet service of prayer and meditation with music.

We are open to beginning a Morning Prayer service on weekdays if there is interest.

Please take note of the article "Worship and Liturgy Committee" in this issue for more information about how to participate in planning for the future possibilities of worship services at Gloria Dei.

Thoughts from a Vestry Member

As we end 2011 and look forward to the new year, I can't help but wonder what lies ahead. What's in store for me, personally and professionally? How will my loved ones fair? Perhaps more importantly, what doors will be opened for us members of Gloria Dei? And, knowing that doors will be opened, which ones will soon be closed?

I've been thinking about these things lately. You see, I have a tendency to let FEAR make decisions for me instead of acting with FAITH. Fear closes me off to the mystery of the universe. Fear controls me so that I think I have to control everything else. In years past, Fear led me to disordered eating habits, instability in relationships, and isolation from loved ones. The good news, as I have learned it, is that no matter how much fear we cling to, our all powerful and loving God is capable of breaking through like a beam of sunlight. This same God bestows on us redemption, restoration, grace, and faith.

Now FAITH...that's something we could all use a little more of, especially as we contemplate the new year. Faith is knowing that God has my best interests at heart—even when I am smashed down by the Potter's hand and remolded from scratch. Faith is trusting that the tangled mess of differently colored string that I see before me is being woven into a beautiful tapestry by my Creator. Faith is believing that the sun exists even when my world is clouded with gray. Faith is being open to the possibility that God has plans that are different than my own.

In 2012, will you cling to FEAR, worried about endings, and anxious about change? Or will you live each day in FAITH that there are wondrous things in store for us?

Peace, joy, and faith,

Megan Bartlett



The Jazz Sanctuary, Inc. presents a Jazz & Joe event:

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K. Biederman: 215-934-3582

Alan Segal Quartet

alan@alansagal.net 215-208-7314

Eddie Etkins – George Sinkler – Alan Segal – Leon Jordan

Thursday 1/26
7:30 to 9:30 - Riverside Hall



BIBLE STUDY – Begins Again January 18, 2012

The Gospel According to Mark

We will continue our approach to Bible Study with a reading of Mark's Gospel. As we have done with other books of the Bible, we'll read *Mark* out loud. But *Mark* is a short book so our first session, on January 18th, 6PM, in the Roak Room, will be an overview and teaching of the historical and theological underpinnings of this gospel narrative, presented by our seminarian, Paul Gibson. We will then meet for three consecutive Wednesday evenings (1/25, 2/1, 2/8) at 6PM to read this Gospel out loud. 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.



Thank you to all who brought muffins, cupcakes, cookies, breads, and cakes for sale at the 2011 Lucia Fest. Our sale was a great success! Stayed tuned in 2012 for info on the upcoming 75th Anniversary of Lucia Fest.

Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay years

During the thirty-two years that Jehu Curtis Clay was rector of Gloria Dei, many changes took place. When Dr. Clay arrived Gloria Dei was part of the United Swedish Churches, which also included St. James Kingsessing and Christ Church Upper Merion. Dr. Clay had two assistants. The Rev. Samuel C. Brinckle was assigned to Kingsessing and Rev. William N. Diehl was assigned to Upper Merion. Dr. Clay officiated at Gloria Dei twice a month and once a month at the other two churches until 1843, when a separation of the churches took place. For a number of years Dr. Clay attended the Episcopal Diocese convention having no seat or voice. However, the Bishop of the Diocese regularly visited the three Swedish Churches holding confirmations. Gloria Dei joined the Episcopal Diocese in 1845.

When Rev. Clay arrived at Gloria Dei, the Church was as Rev. Clay referred to it “in a very feeble and depressed condition. There seemed little prospect of building up the parish.” One of the first changes made was removing the high and uncomfortable pews. The arrangement of the pews was changed removing the center aisle. The aisle running across from the south door remained. The high old fashioned Pulpit with a sounding board was removed. With the Church more comfortable the congregation increased. So much so that four additional pews were added removing the aisle from the south door. With the increase in the congregation, plans were discussed for enlarging the Church. To add to the west end of the Church would have been too costly. It was decided to add Galleries at the cost of \$500. Windows were also added to the west wall. The stained glass window was also added. Also a new organ was ordered and built by Mr. Hunter. In 1858 another organ was purchased and built by Mr. Knauff at a cost of \$1,500.

Two services were held on Sundays – one in the morning and one in the afternoon and one on Wednesday evening. The Wednesday service was discontinued during May, June, July, August and September. On the third Sunday of the month the children were instructed in their catechism. Rev. Clay considered Sunday School important to the prosperity of the parish.

In December 1856, Dr. Clay preached his 25th anniversary sermon. In the following year a house was



purchased for the sexton and a two story brick building was erected for the Sunday School (Roak House location). The cost of improvements during his rectorate was about twelve thousand dollars. Dr. Clay averaged confirming twelve people each year. When he first arrived he administered the holy eucharist to about eight people but by the 1860's the number was up to one hundred and fifty. During the 1860's a new building was erected for the Sunday School (Riverside Hall).

On Trinity Sunday, May 31, 1863, Dr. Clay celebrated his 50th Anniversary of his ordination. He preached 6,750 sermons during those years. He baptized 3,440, married 2,370 couples, and buried 1,322 people. His last sermon was preached on September 27, 1863. That night Dr. Clay suffered a stroke and he died on October 20th.

Jeanette Woehr



Worship and Liturgy Committee

Liturgy – The Church's public worship of God. The term is derived from the Greek words for "people" and "work." The church's public worship is the work of the Christian people. The life of Christ active in the church by the Spirit is expressed through liturgy.

There are many options open to Episcopalians concerning our worship services. We are in a time and place where that fact should serve us well as we learn how to be a community that encourages people to join us, as we seek to understand how to bring into fellowship those who wish to be a part of a community that is open to the mystery of God, and as we form our practices around fellowship, openness, and a willingness to hold dear our history while being willing to move to a future we cannot yet see fully.

As we begin a new worship schedule this year it will be important that all who wish to be a part of understanding our historic, even ancient liturgy – the "why we worship the way we do" – as well as new ways in which the church is responding to the yearning for spiritual practices, be involved in planning our Sunday and weekday services. So, we are forming a new Worship and Liturgy Committee. If you are interested in this aspect of Gloria Dei's mission and ministry please put your name and contact information on the signup sheet in the back of church, or contact Joy.

*Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
our strength and our redeemer.*



**Memorial Cards in loving memory of
George Coleman**

By: Joe & Dolores Collins

Bill Vaughan

By: Marge Lord

Joe & Dolores 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
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.