



December 2012

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Where are we going?

Jack Kerouac (of 1950's Beatnik fame) put it this way:

"...we gotta go and never stop going till we get there."

"Where we going, man?"

"I don't know but we gotta go."

Gotta go, gotta go! I say it a lot. And I'm beginning to worry that I've forgotten where I'm going, or why I'm in a rush, or if I will some day be able to regain the ability to sit still without falling asleep. Not good.

If we're not careful these days we find the world we live in overwhelming us with to-do lists, information overload, and more than enough of the challenges of making ends meet than we can possibly expect to deal with in any sensible, reasonable way. Just can't get it all done, just can't find time to be with loved ones for more than fleeting visits and quick meals. Then we're off, racing against the clock to get one more errand run, one more meal made, one more phone call or email responded to, a few hours of sleep squeezed in.

Where are we going that makes us rush so? What is it about our lives that has gone so out of whack? Why have we lost focus and how can we get it back? What needs to give in order for us to regain our sense of balance, our sense of presence, our sense of purpose, our sense of who we are?

I suppose some might say we've lost our way due to vast and rapid changes beyond our control. But I'm not sure that's accurate. It might feel like we are experiencing a new world order but I suspect that's been the case many times in human history. The world we inhabit as human beings has changed drastically more than a few times since we moved from caves to walled communities to cities and empires and nations. My guess is the same angst was felt in the past as we are experiencing now when changes beyond our control affected the way we live. And my guess is the same questions and concerns arose that we are wrestling with today. Where are we going? Why are we rushing? What are we gaining? What are we losing?

Human beings are resilient creatures, made in the image of the Creator who is both immanent and transcendent. It is as we realize the fullness of who

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we are that we discover our natural tendency to reach for the stars. This is a good thing! But somewhere in the “reaching” we overextend ourselves, time and again, and get ourselves in trouble. It is as we lose focus of the center of our being, the Christ within us, the Christ in our midst, that we go awry and begin to lose sight of the greatest mystery of all – God with us.

Advent always comes just in the nick of time for me. As I expend the last of my “do it all yourself” self and collapse, giving up and giving in, allowing God to arrive all on his own, without my help, it is then that I remember –OhYeah! It’s the Baby! It’s the promise! Wow! He’s coming again!

And I breathe a sigh of relief. I let go and begin to sleep, to pray, to listen, to learn again that God who never left, never leaves, awaits my attention and asks for my presence in the greatest of all miracles. You, me, all of humanity, are invited to the Incarnation – again!

May you have a blessed, peaceful, Advent. And may you find time to await his coming in the quiet confidence that all any of us need do is show up.

O Come, O come, Emmanuel

Peace,

Joy +



Christmas Services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24, 2012

7:00 PM Holy Communion, with Sunday School Tableau

Christmas Fellowship in Riverside Hall will follow Christmas Eve service

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25, 2012

7:00 AM Julotta (Swedish service)

10:00 AM Holy Communion

The Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday, January 6, 2012

10:00 AM Holy Communion



Lucia
Fest
75th Anniversary
At Gloria Dei
OLD-SWEDES

Friday: Dec. 7 6:00 & 8:00PM

Saturday: Dec. 8 and Sunday: Dec 9 2:00, 3:30 & 5:00PM

Tickets \$10.00 Adults - \$6.00 Children under 12



St. Eric's Fair

On friends and friendship!

I recently was reminded of the joys of friendship and the value of appreciating the gifts a special friendship can bring. If you are planning a little get together with friends over the holidays and you are unsure about what to serve, I'm your girl. I know easy bites to tempt your palate, I can select the 'just right' runny brie and put together a flawless cheese board with complimentary cheeses, breads and crackers. However, when my son announced his upcoming nuptials and all the attendant social events I sank into panic and depression. I know nothing about being fashionably attired for a variety of events culminating with the wedding day. Then my friend Peggy stepped in and took me by the hand. She whisked me off to three dress shops where we did, indeed, find the perfect Mother of the Groom outfit. Then off to another store for the silver strappy sandals. Finally, after Peg checked out my wardrobe and accessories, she went off with a final order: 'schedule a mani-pedi before you go!!!'. Thank you, Peggy, for the gift of your friendship.

Ann Blackstone



Altar Flowers

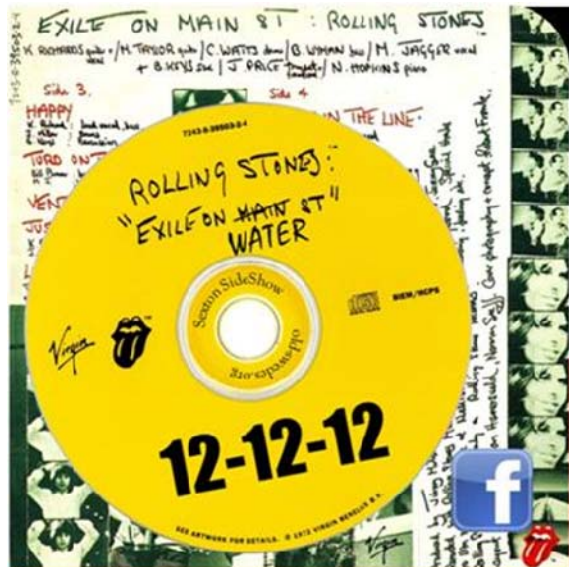
If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming Sunday please call the office and let Terry know. You may provide the flowers yourself or you may provide funds for flowers and our volunteer "flower person," Diane Honor, will purchase and place the flowers for you.



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.



Last 12-12-12 party
for 101 years

Doors open from
6 pm to midnight

All inclusive with
admission!

ADMISSION:

Under 21	\$12
21+	\$24
Couple	\$36

FOR PETE'S SAKE



900 SOUTH FRONT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147
215.462.2230



Down by The Riverside Update

To help with the costs of postage to mail the “Down by the Riverside” the Vestry has decided that we will go to print every two months: January, March, May, July, September and November in 2013. The printing is still being donated, a value of over \$1,000 per issue if we had to go to a print shop. This generous gift is expected to continue for the near future, but not forever. If you would all consider receiving the Publication by email all the expenses would disappear and we could resume a monthly newsletter. To sign up for receiving the “Riverside” electronically just go to www.old-swedes.org and fill out the form on the home page and check the delivery by email box.



Guatemala - An Update

**We are heading back...Tentatively April 3rd through April 12th, 2013
Are you interested in going... dates are not yet set in stone...
We need to hear from you!**

This trip will focus on mission work. We will begin at our sister parishes La Ascension and La Annunciation near the Santa Lucia region. Thoughts are to spend time doing a project and emerging ourselves into the lives of the people we have come to know, raise money for, pray for, and who have been connected to Gloria Dei for so many years.

We then we will travel to San Lucas Tolimán Mission in Sololá which sits on the southeastern shore of Lago de Atitlán. This beautiful lake is a source of life for the people of the region. And the mission brings so much to the people of the area and those that visit. Ask Sally or Peggy about walking to work – the sights, the sounds, it was a life changer.

Let us know if you're interested – tentatively Julie, Tom, Jerry, Peggy, Sally, Joy and I have committed. Aid is available through the Diocese. Please contact any of us if you have questions. **We would love to bring you along and change your life!**

Thank You,

Heather Myers



Thoughts from the Rector's Warden

This year's 75th Lucia Fest will be my eighth. "The dots" that are the first sign of the impending Lucia Fest are salmon this year, instead of the yellow I've come to expect. But the candle holders appeared along the center aisle as expected, and the shutters are closed as expected, so Lucia Fest will happen as expected.

One of the working groups to which I belong at my place of employment has quarterly "All Hands" events, events for which everyone is expected to assemble to celebrate the group's accomplishments and to remind us of our goals and projects. In some way, Lucia Fest is an "All Hands" event for Gloria Dei Old Swedes'. We hear this every year but I'll presume to say it one more time—Gloria Dei needs a hand from everyone to make this event happen. Remember the hymn from All Saints Sunday, the one about the saints of God—who they are and where they're found?

And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a
shepherdess on the green;
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
fierce wild beast;
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store, in church, by
the sea, in the house next door.

Well, at Lucia Fest—

And one was a ticket-seller, and one was a cook, and one was a parking
attendant;
And one was a baker, and one was a cake seller, and one served
meatballs;
And one sold Dala horses—you get the picture, right?

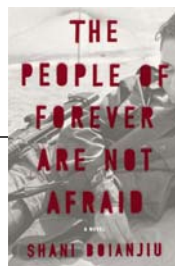
Please—share your time and talents for this distinctive event. And let our
visitors in on the secret of what great people call Gloria Dei home.

Jerry Buescher



Calendar

- Dec 1** Lucia 75th Gala - 5:00PM - 9:00PM - Performance in church followed by reception in Riverside Hall
- Dec 2** Lucia Dress Rehearsal and Dinner - 1:00PM
- Dec 4, 11, 18** Evensong - 6:30PM - 7:00PM Church Bells 7:00PM
- Dec 4, 18** Yoga - 7:15PM, drop in class, all levels welcome \$8.00 a session
- Dec 5, 19** Tai Chi (Classes are \$10.00) 10 - 11:00AM All levels welcome
- Dec 7, 8, 9** Lucia "75th" Performances - Friday 6:00 & 8:00PM Saturday and Sunday 2:00, 3:30 & 5:00PM Tickets \$10.00 Adults - \$6.00 Children under 12 St. Eric's Fair & Christmas Bazaar will be open
- Dec 12** Sexton Sideshow 12/12/12 Rolling Stones: "Exile on (Main) Water St."
- Dec 15** Finnish Christmas Service - 2:00PM - Church/Riverside Hall
- Dec 16** Norwegian Service 4:00PM
- Dec 17** Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall
The People of Forever are Not Afraid •
By Shani Boianjiu
- Dec 19** Vestry Meeting - 7:00PM - Roak Room
- 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 31, Jan 1** Church and Office Closed



The Lectionary for December

December 2nd, First Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:1-10(1)

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

December 9th, Second Sunday of Advent

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Canticle: 16

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

December 16th, Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Canticle: 9

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

December 23rd, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Canticle: 15

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45



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December 24th, Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96 (11)

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

December 25th, Christmas Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm: 97(11)

2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:(1-78-20)



Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (267) 273-5175,
fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need



Notes from the November Vestry Meeting

Events

- Bible Study – please consider joining us for a brief review of the Sunday gospel text at 9:30am in Riverside Hall on Sundays. We are using the Mutual Invitation Bible Study format which we learned during our Transforming Congregations workshops in 2012. Come share your thoughts with us or just listen. All are welcome!

Help needed

- The new non-profit organization (501c3) called the “Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation” (HGDPC) has been approved and is in need of board members. Talk to Rev. Joy Segal or Candy Roberts if you’d like to learn more about the HGDPC or if you’d like to be considered for a 2-year term on the board.

Around the Property

- The floor of Riverside Hall will be redone between Christmas and New Year. What a great time to go “out with the old and in with the new”!
- The floors in the Sexton’s House (where Paula and Jim Minacci live) will also be redone between Christmas and New Year.

Finances at Gloria Dei

- We were over budget last month by about \$2300 - pledge and plate income were again down, as were rentals of Riverside Hall and weddings.
- Please consider this as you prayerfully consider your 2013 financial commitment to Gloria Dei.

Contribution versus Commitment

- In her sermon at St. John’s-Emanuel on 11/11/12, Joy shared her thoughts on the differences between making a contribution and making a commitment. Gloria Dei needs you to commit to turning in your Commitment Card for 2013! There have been only 15 Commitment Cards received as of the writing of these notes. Are you willing to commit to sharing a portion of your time, talent, and treasure with Gloria Dei for the glory of God? If so, please put your Commitment Card in the offering basket or mail it to the church. If you need a card, talk to Joy or a vestry member.



Gloria Dei Timeline: 1900-1949

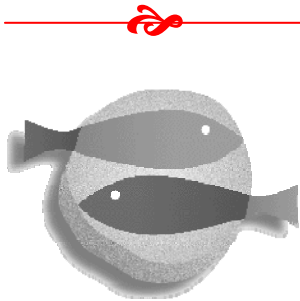
- 1903** The Hook and Hastings tracker organ installed.
- 1916-1922** Percy Stockman - Rector
- 1922-1927** Addison Ewing - Rector
- 1927 -1933** John Lowry Hady - Rector Mr. Hady was a brilliant preacher and loved by many in this congregation.
- 1935-1972** John Craig Roak - Rector
- 1938** First Lucia celebration held. In June Crown Prince Bertil of Sweden visited.
- 1939** Choir lockers installed in South vestibule. Display cases installed in Vestry Room.
- 1941** February, Gloria Dei named National Historic Landmark
- 1942** Shutters installed on Church by the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution.
- 1943** January 9:00 am service begun for defense plant workers
- June 1944** A terrible fire occurred among drums of glycerin, oils and soap chips stored in the four-story factory just one hundred feet south Church.
- October 22, 1944** The Wm Penn Bible was used at Gloria Dei Church service in honor Penn's 300th Anniversary of his birth
- March 1947** Carl Milles, the noted Swedish sculptor, gave us our magnificent Chandelier and two models of the ships, which brought over the first settler.

Philadelphia Timeline

- 1900** Philadelphia population 1,293,697. American League of Professional Baseball Clubs is organized with 8 founding teams. The Philadelphia Orchestra is established. The area of Philadelphia is the largest of any other city in U.S.
- 1901** First Mummer's parade - a tradition with its roots in the Swedes' celebration of the Christmas and New Years holiday in Tinicum and Kingsessing.

- 1906 Race demonstration, riots in Philadelphia.
- 1910 Philadelphia population 1,549,008
- 1911 Philadelphia Athletics won World Series.
- 1912 Leopold Stokowski assumes the baton for the Philadelphia Orchestra.
- 1920 Philadelphia population 1,823,779.
- 1925 Benjamin Franklin Parkway emulating the Champs d'Elysses in Paris is completed.
- 1930 Philadelphia population 1,950,961.
- 1933 The Philadelphia Eagles founded. Blue Laws overturned allowing Sunday sports.
- 1940 Philadelphia population 1,931,334.
- 1946 First large-scale fully operational electronic computer is completed at the University of Pennsylvania.

Jeanette Woehr



Hospitality - Giving of One's Self

As we enter the holiday season I am reminded of my need to be thankful and my desire to give. Gratitude and generosity are key elements in hospitality. I have found it so rewarding to witness each other's share in fellowship and be part of making that happen. It is definitely true that in giving we receive. Thanks to everyone who has participated by lending their time, talent and treasures. We definitely score every week with our array of goodies. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. If interested, please contact Peggy Buescher or Ree Henning.

Peggy Buescher

Sexton Sideshow - Graveyard Boo-ga-loo

Our 2012 Boogaloo was a success this year!! With over 100 people {all in costume!}, great food, Kensinger beer and Commonwealth Cider, DJ CHUCKIE spinning tunes, everyone dancing, Farmer John's pumpkins decorating the graveyard, and the kids making pumpkin faces!

Sexton Sideshow had a great group of people helping make this event a success! A BIG THANK YOU to all of them, because of them we raised \$800.00 !!!

The best part of the night was the band "Flashback" {who played songs from the 60's and 70's}...as Sue Lewandowski said "the band played music that you knew all the words to!!"

.....stayed tuned for our next Sexton Sideshow on 12-12-12!

your sextons

Jim and Paula Minacci







In **REMEMBRANCE** of:
Michael Kubiak
 By Bob Higginson

CELEBRATE the Newly **MARRIED**
Daniel Joseph Pineiro, Jr. and
Melissa Nicole D'Amra

WELCOME the **NEWEST MEMBERS**
 Ailsa Catelyn Keser Onyshczak
 Robert Michael Manton, Jr.
 Jaxon Aiden Perri Richman



**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.

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, Secretary
 Ann Blackstone
 Jerome Buescher, Rector's Warden
 Robert Dieters, Acct. Assistant
 David Hammond, Acct. Warden
 Carol Jenkins
 Dolores Kromchad
 Barbara Potts
 Lisa Reeves
 Mark Roberts
 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 Epiphany (1/6/13); The Great Vigil of Easter (3/31/13); Pentecost (5/19/13); and All Saints Sunday (11/3/13). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.



Sunday Service:
 10:00 AM
 Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM
Office Hours
 Tuesday-Friday 9:30-2:30