

Gloria Dei Church (Old Swedes')

Annual Meeting

May 5, 2019

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Agenda | 3 |
| Minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting - Rev. Patricia Cashman | 4 |
| Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Deaths since last Annual Meeting | 5 |
| Rector's Report - Rev. Patricia Cashman | 5 |
| Rector's Warden Report - Jim Ufheil | 5 |
| Financial Report - Jill Duink | 7 |
| Circle of Friends - Carol Jenkins & Julie Daye | 9 |
| Altar Guild - Cathy Ufheil | 10 |
| Property Report - Jim Ufheil | 10 |
| History Report - Jeanette Woehr | 11 |
| Lucia Report - Carol Jenkins | 12 |
| Hospitality Report - Peggy Buescher | 13 |
| Sexton Sideshow Leadership Report - Jim Minacci | 13 |
| Sexton's Report - Jim Minacci | 13 |
| Youth Group Report - Julie Daye | 14 |
| Green Committee Report - Julie Daye | 14 |
| Music Report - Paul Fejko - <i>Your friendly parish musician</i> | 15 |
| Lenten Prayer Series Report - Megan Bartlett | 15 |
| Prayer Ministry Report - Megan Bartlett | 15 |
| Liturgy Ministry Report - Megan Bartlett | 16 |
| Outreach Report - Rita West, Peggy Buescher, Rev. Patricia Cashman | 16 |
| HGDPC Report - Candace Roberts | 17 |

Agenda

May 5, 2019
Annual Parish Liturgy and Meeting
Riverside Hall, 10 AM to 12 PM

- 9:30AM Polls Open – during service polls close – reopen for ½ hour following the service
- 10:00AM Service
- 10:30AM Service concludes & breakfast buffet is open
- 10:45AM Polls Closed, meeting officially opened, 2018 minutes approved
Rector’s Warden Address - Jim Ufheil
- 10:55AM Finance presentations: Mark on endowment/legacy plan, Candace overview of business plan & developments, Jerry on what we learned from raising money for Susan L., Patricia segue to outreach proposal
- 11:10AM Presentation of outreach opportunity – Jaime, Jill & Omega. Group discussions. Patricia takes temperature using questions to all to see where we go from here...question to be called: Shall we have HIAS rep come?
- 11:25PM Group discussion and taking our temperature: What conflicts do you observe in our congregation and how does it affect you? Groups can make a list to hand in along with slips of paper from each person that indicates on a scale of 1 – 10: how well is the Vestry & Rector managing conflict?
- 11:35AM Elections announcements/music scholarship? Thank you to those who have served! Prayers for new Vestry & for Rector to lead the parish.
- 11:45AM Circle of Friends – Carol & Julie – update on activity so far. Group discussion on our experiences and expectations for these small groups. On a scale of 1-10 how likely are you to bring a friend to a Circle of Friends type gathering?
- 11:50AM Vestry goal for congregation from our retreat: expanding Prayers of the People – Barbara Chilcott
- 12:00PM Closing Hymn & Dismissal

APPROVAL OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - Rev. Patricia Cashman

Annual Meeting May 6th, 2018 - 11:13AM Call Meeting to Order- Rev Patricia Cashman

Polls closed by Judges of Election, close of Scholarship submission- Judges of election: Rita West & Richard Woehr

Responses from small groups on stewardship- Sunday talks were valuable to remind us and encourage giving. The updates allow members of the parish to see the effects of their pledging. Some parishioners shared that they did not start pledging until they received the 2nd letter. Pledging shows our commitment and allows leaders to keep improving Gloria Dei. A newer parishioner shared that they came from a church that had to close due to lack of funds emphasizing the importance of pledging for long term survival.

Motion to approve 2017 minutes: Peggy Buescher/ Christine Pickup

Rector's Warden Address- Carol Jenkins

Carol spoke about the past year and how the congregation worked together and supported one another. She talked about the different stages of finding our new rector and asked everyone to support Rev. Patricia. She encouraged everyone to be brave strong and to embrace change.

Rector's Address- Rev. Patricia Cashman

Patricia thanked everyone for allowing her to become a part of Gloria Dei and emphasized her appreciation of everyone. She spoke about the Gloria Dei Navigators team and what they will do to give Gloria Dei direction. She invited Eric Soltycki and Jill Duink who created the nomination form, to the front.

Financial Highlights and Questions- Jill Duink

Jill shared highlights from the 2017 finances and the 2018 budget. She mentioned that pledges are up by \$8,000 from last year. She spoke about endowments and their importance. 38% of last year's income was from endowments. She also shared that the Sexton Sideshow has increased by \$4,000 since last year. Jill stated that our budget takes care of us and how we spend our money shows our mission and support.

Our Ministry Stories of Moments of Fulfillment and Success

Patricia called out multiple ministries and thanked them for their success stories.

Megan Bartlett spoke about the prayer chain ministry.

Peggy Buescher spoke about the reason she stayed at Gloria Dei and the importance of hospitality and the conversations had during.

Rita West shared success stories from the Vare and Nebinger school ministries.

Candace Roberts spoke about time, talent and treasure and how it doesn't only affect us, we are helping others. HGDPC is solely helping Gloria Dei. She emphasized that we are all one team.

Questions/ Concerns: N/A

Election Announcement: Judges of Election

Elected to the vestry for a 3-year term: Bob Jenkins, Heather Meyers, Mark Roberts, Jeanette Woehr. Elected to the vestry for a 2-year term: Barbara Chilcott.

Settlement Music School Scholarship winner: Dakota Guido.....Adjournment- 12:10PM

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Deaths since last Annual Meeting

Baptisms: Kensi Denise Finnemore, Maya Kathleen Chaleby, Cameron Hunter Griffith,
Annah Mona Lisa Calandrino

Confirmations: Cherokee Rose Carol Guido, Charles Jay Moore

Married: Lisa Stephens & Anthony Giordano

Deaths: Joan Parsons, Marge Lord, Robert Daly, Nicholas Tridemas, Doris Connor, Chris Carter

RECTOR'S REPORT - Rev. Patricia Cashman

A Pastoral Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I must start in the way I always do, by giving thanks to God for bringing us through another full year. God always takes care of us and always will. God believes in us. We are God's partners, strange as it seems. We work and tend this small, fragile church, and know we are blessed!

God is the One who blesses without end, giving grace upon grace. But what is easy for God is not easy for us. Our part is to see that Gloria Dei blesses others, not keep it for ourselves. But we are not so sure. Isn't the church a business? What does God know about running a business? Deep down we know that God's ways are not our ways. So, we go back and forth about where to put our trust. Yet, God continues to bless us. God believes in us and hopes in us. God is patient with us.

Blessed are you! King of the Universe! Glory to you for ever and ever! We are your servants, the sheep of your pasture. You are our Shepherd, Lead us!

I ask myself, have I been following Jesus as best as I can this past year? Have I been faithful in teaching, preaching and pastoral care, bringing Jesus's presence through Scripture and Sacrament to Gloria Dei and everyone who comes here or seeks help here? Have I sought help and guidance when perplexed or upset? Have I got out of my comfort zone? With God's help, yes, I have. I've tried to do my work faithfully and I feel joyful and blessed. I *know* God has given me so much.

God has given you to me! You are the greatest blessing. Your gifts, your presence, your generosity, your willingness to build up the church by working in teams, to work out the rules for fighting fairly, to have fun in small groups and big fundraisers; to relieve the needy and to administer the needs of Gloria Dei's buildings, grounds, staff and people - all of this, this is what makes me feel our lives are very rich, very blessed.

Lastly, I want to give thanks for how we are growing in servant leadership, a critical element for our future. If ministries have been deleted, if ministries have been started, it is due in large part because leaders are leading. As the pastor leader I am so thankful to all our leaders who are willing to share this ministry with me. So, to the leaders I say, let us not be afraid of anything, especially of making mistakes. A loving and forgiving church, a church working to bless the world, is bound to make a few mistakes. As is human. As God knows we are.

RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT - Jim Ufheil

If Charles Dickens were writing this he might title it "A Tale of Two Churches" and begin it with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."

I think that would be a pretty good description of last year - we started off with all kinds of hope and excitement and forward movement; we ended with discord, tension and stagnation. Early in the last 12 months we worked together: (con't)

- To get the electricity in the Church, Rectory and Riverside Hall updated so that we could install the Air Conditioning we needed to provide a more inviting place for worship and community gatherings during the summer months.
- We had discussions with the NPS regarding property upkeep and long-term maintenance and identified several things they could do to help beautify the setting, and we identified things that we could do to help. And we did them, getting a new shed thanks to the generosity of Sally Daly, moving things into the new shed and cleaning up the unsightly mess next to the entrance gate.
- We identified all of the work that we need to do to bring our lovely historical grounds and buildings back into a condition that will facilitate a longer life.
- We identified a funding source and applied for a grant to help us pay for this work. And have identified yet another grant that will be applied for in order to help us with other work that we will need in the near future.

There were a lot of positives happening and then it began to fall apart. Perhaps things were moving too fast. Perhaps not everyone felt they were a part of the new found successes. Perhaps some simply just liked it like it was and didn't want anything to change.

The "me" thinking began to take hold again instead of the "we." "That's not what I want even if it is better for Gloria Dei." "I don't like that so I'll complain so loudly that they'll have to listen to what I want."

That attitude isn't going to work to make this the beautiful, welcoming, sacred, safe place it should be for all of us, new comers and old timers. We need a little bit of both, no, a lot of both ... new ideas and old standards that will keep us going for another 300 plus years. Our predecessors didn't always do the same things - the 1930 congregation didn't do the same things or think the same way we do, or the same way the congregation of 1730 did. Times change. People change. Thinking changes.

On the other hand, change simply for the sake of change isn't always good either. That does little more than disrupt and cause dissent. It doesn't lead to providing a safe place to focus on the Word.

The vestry, which apparently isn't going to be changing much with only 2 of the 5 open positions being filled by new members, had a retreat a couple of months ago showing that they are committed to working to get our house together so that we can move forward again. But as I mentioned before, we need leadership that will work for what is best for Gloria Dei, not what the individual wants. In order to do that faithfully as representatives of the congregation we need to have full input and knowledge of what the congregation is looking for and what the congregation as a whole favors. Then we, all us, vestry, rector and congregation at large, need to accept the result and act accordingly.

At our last congregational meeting in November it appeared that a majority of the congregation was looking for a broader community outreach. Do something to help those in the community that need our help. We've done a little of that through our help at Vare Washington Grade School, our recent support of Susan Lewandowski, and just before that we made a donation to our Coast Guard neighbors to help them through the government shutdown when they weren't receiving pay. Those were rather quick shows, but we're looking at other projects that will be more involved and longer in duration. We'll be discussing them in a few minutes and want, no, need your feedback as to whether you want to take these on as a congregation. If you do, you also need to provide your support in time, talent and in some cases treasure. So don't just say yes because it looks good, let us know that it is what you want to support.

We know that not everyone is in a position to put in a lot of time, but still love this place and want what is best to help the church survive and grow. For those that can give of their time and talent, it will always be welcomed and appreciated. There's a lot to do here. We need fresh ideas and ministries. We need old fashioned sweat and toil. We need computer talent, personal connections to influential people or businesses, and a lot of good old common sense. I'm sure that if you sit in these pews that (con't)

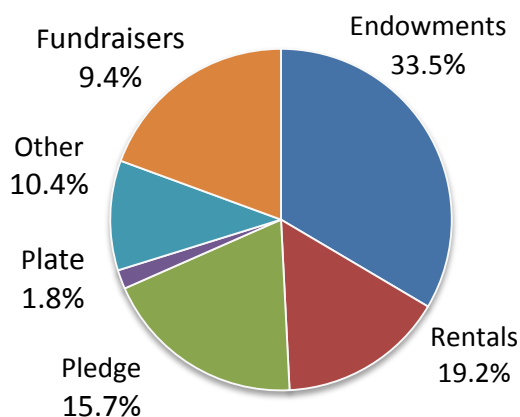
there's something that you can do to help get things done – things that will help Gloria Dei stay vibrant for another 300 plus years.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Jill Duink

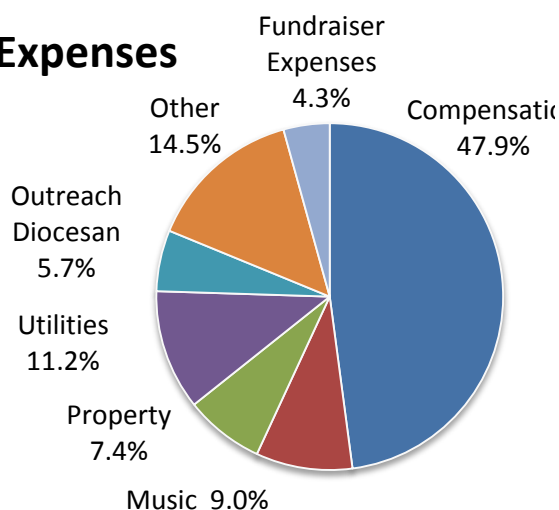
The charts below illustrate our 2018 income and expenses.

- Endowment income was our largest income source at \$100,971 (33.5%, \$16,885 less than 2017 endowment income).
- Fundraising income, after expenses, totaled \$45,804 (15%).
- Pledge and plate giving totaled \$52,703 (17.5%).
- Our withdrawal from endowment principal to balance the budget was \$17,041 (5.6%).
- Our largest expense was compensation and related benefits \$144,498 (48%).
- Our outreach spending and diocesan contributions totaled \$17,319 (5.7%).

Income



Expenses



Total expenses exceeded total income by \$17,041 in 2018. Income decreased primarily due to reduced endowment income. Our gifts to the Diocese increased by \$2,298. Our utility expenses decreased by \$4,482 in 2018, but our new air-conditioning will undoubtedly increase our eclectic service costs in 2019. Utility costs are also a reminder to conserve energy and water as a part of our mission to protect God's creation.

The table below tracks our endowment year-end value over 7 years. Gloria Dei's endowments finished 2018 lower in value by \$154,218 than in 2017. As 33.5% of our income is from endowments, Gloria Dei remains vulnerable to stock and bond prices and income.

| 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2,583,067 | 2,848,532 | 2,800,585 | 2,621,008 | 2,625,850 | 2,952,615 | 2,798,397 |

Now for the exciting part! YOU can make a legacy gift to Gloria Dei's endowment; a gift to preserve our mission for future generations. The gifts of prior generations have saved Gloria Dei and continue to provide much toward our financial security. Add your name to this esteemed list.

| | Original Gift | Value 12/31/2018 | Income in 2018 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Simes | | \$211,224 | \$9,051 |
| Alfred C. Young | \$500 | \$40,458 | \$1,301 |
| A. Adele Rudolph | \$6,601 | \$119,138 | \$3,831 |
| Dorothy Maynard Smith | \$380,000 | \$1,169,708 | \$37,615 |
| Simes | | \$126,084 | \$4,055 |
| Charles I Stille | \$118,918 | \$103,858 | \$4,000 |
| Lunsbeck, Robling, Hogeland | \$50,000 | \$320,404 | \$16,000 |
| Your Name Here | \$\$\$\$ | \$\$\$\$ | \$\$\$\$ |

The following page contains the 2019 budget:



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
 B U D G E T F O R 2 0 1 9

Category Description

INCOME

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 03 - Regular Support | | |
| Flowers | 1,000.00 | |
| Plate | 6,000.00 | |
| Pledge | 52,400.00 | |
| TOTAL 03 - Regular Support | | 59,400.00 |
| 04 - Money from Investments | | |
| Aethon/Exelon/Phila Contrib | 1,050.00 | |
| Church F 064786 | 1,514.00 | |
| Church F 064791 | 4,460.00 | |
| Church F 064934 | 38,000.00 | |
| Church F 065033 | 10,000.00 | |
| Church F 065117 | 4,572.00 | |
| PNC 16-35-035-0464262 | 0.00 | |
| PNC 16-35-035-0617188 | 9,327.00 | |
| Wells Fargo 1513091190 | 4,000.00 | |
| Wells Fargo 1519175748 | 14,000.00 | |
| Wells Fargo 1519178585 | 15,767.00 | |
| TOTAL 04 - Endowments | | 102,690.00 |
| 05 - Other Income | | |
| Donations | | |
| Baptism | 0.00 | |
| Funeral Services | 1,000.00 | |
| May I. Young FD | 3,050.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | |
| Societies - Organizations | 1,500.00 | |
| Wedding Services | 5,000.00 | |
| TOTAL Donations | | 10,550.00 |
| Fund Raiser | | |
| Flea Market | 5,000.00 | |
| Jazz & Joe | 1,000.00 | |
| Lucia | 28,000.00 | |
| Misc | 0.00 | |
| Other Book Sales | 0.00 | |
| Sexton Sideshow | | |
| Brunches | 2,000.00 | |
| Honky-Tonk/Hootenanny | 4,000.00 | |
| JC Superstar | 2,000.00 | |
| Memorial Dei | 9,000.00 | |
| Other | 1,000.00 | |
| TOTAL Fund Raiser | | 52,000.00 |
| Memorials | | |
| Mass Cards | 200.00 | |
| TOTAL Memorials | | 200.00 |
| Rentals | | |
| Rectory | 0.00 | |

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - Carol Jenkins & Julie Daye

Circle of Friends is people getting together for a meal and friendly conversation. At the beginning of Lent, we began organizing small groups to meet. 38 people signed up, creating 7 groups. Several groups have already met and more are still in the planning stages. Reviews from the groups that have already met are positive. Friends were made and common interests were discovered. Many people have said the gathering made them feel a stronger sense of belonging. If you attended a gathering and enjoyed yourself, plan another gathering. Maybe add someone new to your group, or create another group. You've made some new friends now enjoy them. The important thing is to have some fun!

ALTAR GUILD REPORT - Cathy Ufheil and Peggy Buescher, Co-Chairs, Altar Guild

It's the task of the Altar Guild to make sure all is in readiness for the Eucharistic feast as well as to ensure that the Lord's table is prepared for all liturgical celebrations, whether weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmations, our Lucia Fest, etc.

This past year has been one in which we have seen a greater interest taken in maintaining and preserving those things which we have inherited but also a chance to add to that heritage for future generations of worshippers at Gloria Dei.

The Altar Guild replaced the two flags in back of the church. The new Swedish flag, which had faded quite a bit, was donated to us by the Swedish Colonial Society. The Property Committee paid for the new "Betsy Ross" flag. It replaced one that had irreparable damage.

An inventory was taken of the vault items used during worship. We now have photos and descriptions of each item. Should something be misplaced, we have a record for insurance purposes.

An inventory was taken of altar linens. None were new, most required some sort of refurbishing, either cleaning or dry cleaning and this was done. All linens are clean, organized and protected from rodents and dirt in plastic containers which are clearly marked for ease in setting the Lord's table. It also makes it easier to keep track of what is needed.

Silk ferns were bought by the Bueschers and Ufheils for the altar. They are used on an everyday basis when there are no "special" flowers adorning the altar.

A white table skirt was put on the back table in church simply because it makes a nicer appearance.

Several months ago, Cathy Ufheil, Jeanette Woehr and Rita West met to clean and polish the silver and brass items in the vault. This is a necessity at least twice a year to remove tarnish and extend the life of each item. Tarnish leads to pitting and several of our items have this kind of damage. This can be rectified.

One of the goals of the Altar Guild this year was to create a set of altar linens whose color was appropriate for the liturgical season. We had only one green frontal and several white frontals and one blue tablecloth (not a real altar frontal). The Altar Guild has purchased a red frontal, a purple frontal and two formal white frontals. One white frontal for baptisms and confirmation and one for weddings and funerals as well as other days of the liturgical calendar which call for white. This completes a "set" of altar frontals, one for each church season.

We have also purchased linen towels for baptisms which replace the terrycloth ones previously used as well as corporals and purificators as needed. Other purchases made are glass "bobeches" to catch the candle drips and prevent candle wax stains on linens, ashes for Ash Wednesday, two matching vases for the altar, a tablecloth for the small table used to hold cremated remains at funerals as well as the usual wine, grape juice and gluten free wafers for Communion. The small table that we are using for cremated remains was in need of repair. The cost of those repairs was borne by the Ufheils and Bueschers.

Next year's project for the Altar Guild is to identify which vault items need restoration and/or re-silvering. In addition, we would like to purchase flannel bags for each altar item to preserve that restoration. We would also like to work with either or both the History Committee and Property Committee to paint the inside of the vault or whatever else is needed to refurbish it.

The list of this year's accomplishments is long. We thank the Vestry for the budget to do these things. We hope the stewardship of the Altar Guild meets with your approval.

PROPERTY REPORT – Jim Ufheil

During the past year we have done a lot of required maintenance on Roak House – updated the lighting system in several rooms, made repairs in both the boys and girls bathrooms, exchanged a couple of the air conditioners to newer more efficient models, and painted and upgraded the office with new blinds and donated office furniture.

We also put in a new shed (thanks to a generous donation from Sally Daly) in an effort to help us create a more welcoming entrance; updated our electricity and put air conditioning in both the sanctuary and Riverside Hall (thanks to a grant from the Diocese). (con't)

Some pointing of the brick work on the west side of the church was done to prevent further water damage and seepage into the narthex.

We identified a lot of deferred maintenance on all of our buildings such as repair and/or replacement of damaged or rotted wood, painting of all of the wood surfaces, repair of cracked windows and the need to begin thinking about a new roof on the church which will be in need of replacement in the next few years. We also worked closely with HGDPC to begin efforts to raise the money required for these repairs – application for a Keystone Grant from the state, application for a different historical site restoration grant, and the development of a potential GoFundMe site.

Work is always needed around Gloria Dei and the Property Committee is always in need of new members. This year we will also be looking for a new Chairperson to head up the Property Committee. If you would like to help, please let the Rector or the vestry know.

HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT - Jeanette Woehr

Restoration is the theme for the History Committee this year.

The Rev. Kim-Eric and Ruth Williams, Richard and I worked on the vault removing all of the large pictures, sketches and photographs. Many of these items were in bad condition with mold or broken frames and glass. Kim-Eric took eleven of the most valuable items that were in bad condition for restoration.

These are the items in the process of restoration:

1. 1988 Original drawing for Swedish Commemorative stamp, New Sweden.
2. Charcoal drawing exterior of church, primitive.
3. Philadelphia State House
4. Holy Trinity, Wilmington in special frame
5. Interior, Gloria Dei. C. 1890
6. Exterior of church, showing tomb of Alexander Wilson
7. King Carl XVI Gustaf, 1976
8. Archbishop of Canterbury, small size
9. The Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, first American Rector of the church
10. Jenny Lind print with her signature
11. Smaller exterior pictures of the church

However, one of the finest items restored was a hand drawn water colored map of what our country looked like in the early 1800's. The map was in pieces and very fragile when taken to for restoration. It is amazing how beautiful the map now looks.

Margaret Annan, first wife of Rev. Jehu Clay, created the map while attending Mrs. Rivardi's Seminary. The Seminary had several locations 204 South Front Street (1805), 7 South Second Street (1806-1810), 153 Chestnut Street (1810-1811) and 12 and Chestnut Streets. The school, well known for quality female education moved several times to accommodate an ever-increasing student population. Its trustees were Bishop William White and Dr. Benjamin Rush to name a few.

Margaret Annan, daughter of William and Jeannette (Schuyler) Annan was born on April 8, 1798 at Philadelphia. Rev. Robert Annan, her grandfather, baptized her. She married Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay and had four children. She died April 16, 1826.

Over the years, I have given many tours of our church. There have been times when tours were scheduled and the people never showed. The vestry has voted a \$50 fee for tours with a refund 48 hours prior to tour date for cancellation be charged.

LUCIA REPORT – Carol Jenkins

Planning for the 2018 Lucia season began early in the year with the newly formed Lucia Committee. This committee was formed as a result of the retirement of past Director Christine Martenson. We felt strongly that Gloria Dei church would benefit if we had a strong leadership group instead of just a Director. Our plan was to have members of the parish in Lucia leadership roles working side by side with non-parish members of Lucia leadership.

When Lucia began in 1938 by Astrid Perry a parishioner and Marion Roak the Rector's wife, it was a church run festival. The Lucia Fest grew rapidly adding new members who were not from our parish, but were fully devoted to the Lucia tradition. Through the years the Director role was transferred to Anne Martenson and Ruth Graden (both non-parishioners) and were followed by Christine Martenson (also non-parishioner). All three women were of Swedish descent. They devoted many years of hard work to keep our Lucia running smoothly. We are extremely grateful to them.

Members of this Lucia Committee are Elizabeth Batistia Keane (Director), Carol Jenkins, Jeanette Woehr, Jim Batistia, and Pete Flamini along with our Rector Patricia. We felt this group plan would help strengthen relationships on both sides as we work to reinforce the foundation of the Lucia Fest.

The 2018 Lucia Fest was a great success! Many families who participated in the production stated that there was a very positive feel this year. They said that coming to practice was more enjoyable and that they felt like our church was truly grateful for their participation. They stated that in years past they didn't feel acknowledged as being part of the success of Lucia. We believe this was accomplished because of the group effort approach. Lucia was well attended and went off mostly without a hitch. I say mostly because we did have a medical emergency during one of our performances. Every child participating and every volunteer handled the situation with great professionalism. We practice for emergencies, but this was the first time we needed to implement that plan. The audience was patient and considerate until we could continue the performance.

Upon reflecting on our 2018 Lucia, the Lucia Committee felt strongly that we needed to create a Lucia Fund to help defer some of the costs associated with Lucia. Many of these costs have been contributed by a small group of families. We felt that we needed to make Lucia self-supporting. This is especially important if we were to lose our current donations. The Lucia Fund would be used to purchase any new costumes or props and also to maintain our current ones. Swedish costumes are very expensive and can cost in the area of \$1000. each. The fund would also cover the cost of purchasing the two Lucia necklaces which cost \$420. While this is not a full list of where that money will be used, it gives you a general idea.

At the April 2019 Vestry meeting, the Vestry has agreed to the idea of a Lucia Fund and it was decided that 50% of the Lucia collection plate would go to this fund, with a \$1000 minimum. This is wonderful news!

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the Lucia Fest and St Eric's Fair, and hope you will continue to support this wonderful tradition for many years to come. We couldn't have done it without you!

HOSPITALITY REPORT - Peggy Buescher, Barb Chilcott, Julie Day, Re Henning, Omega Moore, Barbara Potts, Linda Vitkow, and Rita West

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing.” Hebrews 13:2

Hospitality commences by being hospitable to one another. Let us remember to see Jesus, the Christ, in one another as we move forward.

Gloria Dei hosted several events throughout the past year. They were all a success because of participation and contribution from the congregation. In June we had Stewardship Sunday, and in October we hosted the families of the SS Poet and had a wonderful baptism. The parents were so thrilled and impressed with our warm hospitality that they volunteered the following weekend at our fall Flea Market. In December we had a wonderful Christmas Eve feast. In February we welcomed the Bishop and celebrated two confirmations. In March we hosted our second Lucia Sunday in gratitude to all who made this year's Lucia a huge success. A special thanks to Elizabeth Keane for her direction as the new Chair of Lucia. She stepped up, reached out, and extended herself to make all feel included. Elizabeth has been more than hospitable making everyone feel a part of the Lucia family. In April we enjoyed a spectacular Easter brunch.

The Hospitality Committee has partnered with the Green Committee and together are striving to be greener, using real china and silverware. A separate clean up team was organized for larger events and for them I am very grateful.

Hospitality at Gloria Dei needs to mean more than fellowship on Sunday mornings. We need to reach out beyond our walls to be hospitable as members of and examples from Gloria Dei. Being hospitable and forming right relations is what it's all about at the end of the day.

Thanks to all who have been hospitable here at Gloria Dei and beyond.

Help us keep the doors not only open, but open to say “Welcome! Come in! Eat, drink, feel blessed.”

Love and peace.

SEXTON SIDESHOW LEADERSHIP REPORT – Jim & Paula Minacci

Sexton Sideshow is the Giving Tree branch of your faithful sextons, Jim & Paula Minacci. Through our artistic talents and many connections throughout Philadelphia, we are able to host large scale fundraising events for Gloria Dei, bringing live music & the outside community onto our beautiful church grounds. Some of our recurring events you may be familiar with: Sunday Brunch Series, Jesus Christ Superstar, Memorial Dei Family Picnic, and Honky Tonk/Hootenanny. This past December, our HonkyTonk (A tribute to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*) was the most successful one to date. All of the funds we raise are donated to the church general fund. In 2018, Sexton Sideshow events contributed over \$17,000 to our bottom line.

We are off to a great start in 2019, and have already raised \$2000 more than we did at this point last year – even after donating \$462 to the Sue Lewandowski fund! We hope you will continue to support us in our constant giving. Please feel free to contribute a little bit of what you have to the cheerful giving of Sexton Sideshow.

Peace & Love

SEXTON'S REPORT - Jim Minacci

19 years as Sextons, 23 years as parishioners

Cleaning is a major part of our daily activities: bathrooms, refrigerator, floors, windows, etc. in all of the buildings We also spend time re-organizing and prepping for the regular weekly and monthly events here on our grounds, (con't)

including Yoga, Meditation, Evensong, Swedish Colonial Society, Jazz & Joe, Vestry Meetings and the Swedish Seaman's Institute from New York, and the AA Meeting.

In addition to the building upkeep, is the outdoor groundwork like mulching the Memorial Garden, and the front parking lots, using the leaf blower in the fall, the snow blower in the winter, planting grass seed in the spring, daily weeding and tending the graveyard in the summer. We also work with the NPS Rangers and the NPS maintenance personnel, to ensure that they are addressing the jobs they are responsible for.

We also meet with all the people who rent the hall for parties and events. We want to be sure they have clear instructions on the do's and don'ts of our property in order to make things run smoothly.

We receive and distribute packages & mail deliveries, including on weekends and after business hours.

We enjoy celebrating the holidays here with everyone, Easter Morning brunch, Swedish Congregation Sundays, Lucia Fest, etc.

We are present at all weddings to direct the bridal party, photographer, florist, and help with parking for elderly relatives. The same kind of assistance is needed at funerals and burials, as well as coordinating with the funeral homes and preparing/finalizing the site for any urn burials.

Security is a very important part of our job. All day, all night, we monitor the security cameras and respond to the phone calls when the alarm is set off. We have expansive and beautiful grounds here, and we are only able to keep them secure by being vigilant about knowing who is on the property and why they are here. Thankfully, we know many faces from our surrounding community, and the amazing NPS Rangers arrive within minutes of our call whenever there is a problem.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT - Julie Daye

The youth group has had busy year! Activities include meeting twice a month for learning and a meal, sleepover in the rectory, bowling with the Bishop, a skating party, making cat toys to donate to an animal shelter and taking them to the shelter, stuffing Easter eggs, learning about and assisting with the Good Friday service, and starting a garden.

Special thanks to Heather Myers, Julie Daye, Tarah Van De Wiele, Angel Guido, Jill Duink, Sarah Eisenstein, and Pastor Patricia for making all these things happen!

GREEN COMMITTEE REPORT – Julie Daye

God calls us to love the people we know and the people we will never know by loving and protecting the living things that provide air, water, food, and beauty for all.

The Green Committee has had a busy year. Gloria Dei now gets its electricity from sustainable sources. There are new recycling bins in Riverside Hall as we continue to work with the Hospitality Committee to reduce the amount of trash and recycling that Gloria Dei produces. A rain barrel will soon be installed.

Last week we celebrated Earth Day for the second time here at Gloria Dei and planted milkweed where the endangered monarch butterfly can lay their eggs.

MUSIC REPORT– Paul Fejko

From Your Friendly Parish Musician....

Sexton SideShow events, **Jazz & Joe**, the **Finest Small Organ** in this fair city, singers engaged for Christmas – Celebrating the life of composer **Robert DeCourmier** with his “**Shout for Joy**”. We met the **Liberty Brass** who offered music for February and came back with a bang for Easter. Our returning champion, soprano **Erina Pearlstein**, joined us for our Earth Day celebration.

There have been some very welcome donations to music from the congregation which helped to make much of this possible. You may have noticed envelopes designated specifically for **Music Program** contributions distributed around the church. I hope these will make it easy for anyone at any time to add to our resources. These can be simply placed in the offering baskets, or given to me, Mark, Patricia, or any vestry member. Imagine, 30 people giving just \$1 per week for the year would cover the cost of the beloved Christmas chorus! More people giving just a little bit more would allow special music for many additional occasions – perhaps even weekly!

LENTEN PRAYER SERIES REPORT – Megan Bartlett

In Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, members of the early Church were encouraged to “pray without ceasing”. We, too, would benefit from living our daily lives in a state of prayerfulness. With this in mind, during the five Sundays of Lent eight parishioners and Rev. Patricia gathered with me in the Rectory to learn and practice five different forms of prayer: The Jesus Prayer, a finger labyrinth, Lectio Divina, Prayer Journaling, and Centering Prayer. We were each blessed by some aspect of our time together and I was moved by how the Spirit meets us where we are in our personal spiritual journeys.

If you are interested in participating in a similar group in the future, please contact me: megan77777@yahoo.com (or see me after church). Some possible topics of future groups include: discernment and decision-making; growing in awareness; and journaling for spiritual growth. I hope you will consider it.

PRAYER MINISTRY – Megan Bartlett

Since this time last year, the intercessors involved in our Prayer Ministry have prayed for almost 130 people (and a few dogs!), which is nearly double the number of prayer requests we received last year. I am encouraged that more people are trusting in the power of prayer to draw us nearer to God and to each other. This behind-the-scenes ministry is thriving because eleven church members and friends of the church, along with Rev. Patricia, have committed to praying daily for the needs and concerns of parishioners, community members, and loved ones.

I continue to be blessed as the coordinator of this ministry, but I would welcome anyone else who is interested in taking over as coordinator in the future. In addition, we are always open to new members. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact me: megan77777@yahoo.com. If you have a prayer request, please contact me or Rev. Patricia (215-389-1513).

Thank you to all of our intercessors: Dolores Collins, Barbara Chilcott, Sally Daly, Re Henning, Richard Janssen, Margie Kucinski, Nora Melley, Lisa Reeves, Cathy Ufheil, and Rita West.

LITURGY MINISTRY – Megan Bartlett

Since October 2018, I have had the pleasure and challenge of coordinating lectors and intercessors for worship. I have been impressed by the number of Gloria Dei members who feel called to participate in this vital ministry, this form of leadership. In just six months, we have had 35 different members or visitors participate! Thank you to everyone!

In the future, we may move toward having one lector and one intercessor per service so that reading will be a less frequent commitment for those who are called to this vocation. If you are not already on my list and feel called to read during worship, please contact me: megan77777@yahoo.com (or see me after church).

Let me know if you would be willing to read all three readings in a single service (Old Testament, Psalm, and New Testament) or if you would prefer to read just one. We also need people willing to lead the Prayers of the People. Thank you, again, to all who have served in this capacity. Peace and blessings.

OUTREACH REPORT

Vare-Washington Elementary – Rita West

Last year we collected school supplies for Vare-Washington Elementary School.

I wanted to inform everyone that it was a success and thank you to everyone who helped. The teachers and students were so grateful for the generosity of Gloria Dei.

This is a beautiful ministry that helps children in need who are very appreciative of anything that they receive. God Bless, Peace & Love

George W. Nebinger Elementary – Peggy Buescher

The Angel Tree Project was another successful example of outreach at Gloria Dei. It was our third year helping children at the George W. Nebinger school who are less fortunate. We targeted thirty first and second graders, providing them with gifts representing the presence of Jesus's love at Gloria Dei and the spirit of Christmas. The congregants who participated shared how rewarding and satisfying they found the experience. The Principal of the George W. Nebinger school sent a thank you and stated that "Gloria Dei's thoughtfulness and caring gestures allow the holidays to be celebrated by their neediest families." She continued to say that the work done by the Angel Tree Project is commendable and enriches the lives of so many of their first and second graders. She thanked us for spreading joy one smile at a time.

AA and NA Meetings – Peggy Buescher

The Bishop wrote "Our vision as the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania is to know Jesus and change the world." He continues to say, "Together we make this vision a reality by proclaiming, empowering, and addressing mission outreach." Outreach has been identified as a need at Gloria Dei. Last May we started an AA Men's Meeting that meets on Tuesdays at 4:30 PM. I am proud to announce that yesterday, May 4, we hosted our first NA meeting that took place at 9:00 AM.

Susan Lewandowski – Pastor Patricia Cashman

Our parish responded to a member, Susan Lewandowski, who needed support while recovering from a fall she suffered during the winter. Susan received prayers, cards, visits and Communion and laying on of hands. For Lent, we garnered financial support through Sexton Sideshows and a sacrificial offering as part of our Lenten practice for Susan's relief.

Susan received all of this with love and her healing is progressing very well. We thank God for her continued recovery. At last visit, April 28, Susan beamed with joy, to report her hospital bed is no longer in her home! Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings we have given and received in this ministry.

HISTORIC GLORIA DEI — THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2018

OUR MISSION

Gloria Dei is the oldest surviving church building in Pennsylvania. Beginning in 1667 when a blockhouse on the site was converted into a house of worship, our founders envisioned a place of beauty, tranquility and inspiration. Today, the Gloria Dei Episcopal Church congregation stewards this historic space surrounded by a National Park, preserving New Sweden's history and the stories of the over 5000 people buried here. **Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation was formed to fund, support, and supervise the restoration and renovation of the buildings, grounds, and churchyard.** As we endeavor to achieve these goals, we will do so with great sensitivity to our historic beginnings and landscape.

OUR WORK IN 2018



We secured detailed conditions reports for Gloria Dei's churchyard and buildings. Of great concern is **the church building, which appears to be sinking.** Thanks to Materials Conservation, we have developed a plan for monitoring this issue and for restoring the foundation.



We also completed our work with the **Community Design Collaborative** to create a **30-year Master Plan** for the entire property. It features enhancements to the church grounds as well as the adjacent National Parks and City-owned green spaces. We continue to be immensely grateful for their work and dedication.



The **Amandus Johnson section** of our historic churchyard has been **re-opened for the interment of ashes within casket-sized plots.** Proceeds from these burials will be placed in a dedicated investment account for the perpetual care of these markers and monuments.

With these reports and plans in place, we began the work of **outreach and communication.** Here are some highlights:



We launched a **monthly email newsletter** to showcase our projects and initiatives.



Jeanette Woehr, Gloria Dei Church historian, provided countless **tours** to our visitors.



Our historians wrote **biographical sketches** on many of our "permanent residents."



Our prototype magazine was well-received prompting us to launch **FOUNDERS.**

LOOKING AHEAD

- This January, we launched a new **website** with an **interactive map** to help visitors find their ancestors' graves. This project is in its early stages but we expect the map to be fully operational by the end of 2019.
- We are **growing our contact list** regionally and across the country.
- New trustee, Mary Ryan, is creating a firm foothold for us in **social media** — please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- The planning stages are underway for **videos and walking tours** to enhance our visitor experience.
- A **museum** has been created in the Church sanctuary and will showcase **two exhibits per year.**
- A **lecture series** is planned for presentation in the Church.
- We will work to meet our **fundraising goals** through donations and grants.
- We are actively **recruiting additional volunteers** for our various programs.
- We hope that our **grant applications** that are currently under consideration, will be accepted to complete a **repair and painting project** for the Church, Riverside Hall, and the Sexton House.



NOTES

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CLERGY

The Rev. Patricia Cashman, Rector

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Christine McBride, Parish Admin.
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Jill Duink, Treasurer

VESTRY

Peggy Buescher
Barbara Chilcott
Jill Duink
Bob Jenkins
Leigh Jenkins - Secretary
Jaime Konowal
Heather Myers
Lisa Reeves
Mark Roberts
Jim Ufheil - Rector's Warden
Jeanette Woehr



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