



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Annual Meeting

May 3, 2015

Agenda

Agenda.....	2
Call meeting to order - Rev. Joy Segal	3
Election Announcements - Judges of Election	3
Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes - Rev. Joy Segal	3
Rector's Report - Rev. Joy Segal.....	5
Rector's Warden Report - Carol Jenkins.....	6
Financial Report - Jill Duink	7
Vestry Report - Jim Parsons	10
Sunday School Report - Jill Duink	10
Property Committee Report - Rev. Joy Segal.....	11
History Committee Report - Jeanette Woehr.....	12
Hospitality and the Gift of Fellowship - Peggy Buescher, Re Henning and Barb Chilcott	12
Sextons' Report - Jim and Paula Minacci	13
Outreach Ministry Report - Kim Goodwin & Re Henning.....	14
Music - Paul Fejko.....	14
Stewardship Report - Candace Roberts.....	14
Inreach Ministry - Rev. Joy Segal	14
Prayer Chain Ministry - Megan Bartlett.....	15
Liturgy Committee - Rev. Joy Segal	15
Altar Guild - Candace Roberts.....	15
HGDPC - Candace Roberts	15
Thank You to the Staff - Joy Segal.....	16
Questions - All.....	16
Election Announcement - Judges of Election.....	16
Adjournment - Joy Segal.....	16



Call meeting to order - Rev. Joy Segal

Election Announcements - Judges of Election

Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes - Rev. Joy Segal

Annual Meeting Minutes- May 4th, 2014- Rev. Joy Segal

Call to order - Rev. Joy Segal

The meeting was called to order at 10:57 AM

Election Announcements - Judges of Election

The judges of election (Bob Jenkins and Dave Hammond) instructed the congregation on voting procedures. The instructions were to vote for no more than four candidates from the list below:

Jill Duink
Kimberly Goodwin
Carol Jenkins
Jim Parsons

The polls were declared closed during the meeting and were to be reopened for a half hour immediately following adjournment of the meeting.

Approval of 2013 Annual meeting Minutes - Rev. Joy Segal

A motion to approve the 2013 minutes as submitted was made by Anne Blackstone and seconded by Dave Hammond. The motion carried unanimously.

Rector's Report - Rev. Joy Segal

Joy reviewed her report and asked for any questions. She asked the congregation for thoughts on how we can continue our relationship with the National Park Service and reminded us that they are struggling to stay alive just as much as Gloria Dei is, bringing up the point that just because we are historic doesn't mean we're safe.

Rector's Warden Report - Carol Jenkins

Carol thanked the outgoing vestry members, Lisa Reeves, Mark Roberts, and Dave Hammond.

Financial Report - Dave Hammond

Dave explained the graphs to the congregation, He then showed the process of creating the yearly budget along with everything that is factored into it, previous year's income and expenses, salaries, gifts, etc. Dave also explained that we are in our fourth straight year of decrease in endowments. He reported that we try not to touch the principal of endowments though we do take funds from one fund for capital improvements and growth for the future to help us grow (piano, tv, banners, all inclusive bulletins, etc.)

Vestry Report - Barbara Potts

Barbara shared her report of the multiple events and projects the vestry has worked on this past year and invited everyone in the congregation to attend the vestry meetings and think about serving on the vestry next year.

Sunday School Report - Jill Duink

Jill shared what happened in Sunday School the past year which included Sunday School being moved to after communion, having parishioner guests teaching about the way they give their time and talents to the church and outreach projects. Jill also explained "Godly Play" to the congregation and addressed our concern about the number of Sunday School participants.

Property Committee Report - Rev. Joy Segal

Joy explained the property report, addressing certain issues such as the sanctuary floor needing repairs and our possible partnership with Seamen's Church Institute - we are awaiting more information before continuing that conversation. She also shared things the vestry has been considering improving that aren't exactly necessary but would make a big difference, such as installing a light given to us by the National Park Service and new chairs for Riverside Hall. The congregation agreed that we need a sign erected that shows we are a working church. There will be communication with the National Park Service about putting the sign on their grounds so that it may be seen from Columbus Blvd.

History Committee Report - Jeanette Woehr

Jeanette briefly explained the report and shared upcoming projects for this year which include mapping the graveyard, seminars with other historic churches and continuing tomb openings,

Hospitality and the Gift of Fellowship - Peggy Buescher and Re Henning

Peggy thanked everyone for their help and welcomed anyone to join the hospitality committee. Peggy and Re expressed the joy they receive from the hospitality.

Sextons' Report - Jim and Paula Minacci

Jim and Paula talked about upcoming events: Flea market, Memorial Day, and the WXPN event. They reminded everyone that signs don't draw people to the church as much as we can and we do. We are now part of Walmart's donation list for produce which we give to those who are in need.

Guatemala Committee Report - Heather Myers

Heather talked about where the committee is going in the future. They had a successful trip this past year and are now thinking if we should continue our outreach there or move in a new direction with local mission work. She also made the point that if we decide to no longer do our outreach in Guatemala there are other parishes who would like to replace us, so our sister parishes would still be in partnership with the diocese.

Music - Paul Fejko

Paul welcomed new bell ringers and reminded everyone of the envelopes and recalled the multiple music events the church had this year.

Stewardship Report - Megan Bartlett

Megan thanked everyone for their support and announced that she will be stepping down as Stewardship Committee chair, inviting people to think about taking up the position.

Inreach Ministry - Rev. Joy Segal

Joy gave thanks, especially to Dolores Collins for her contributions, and encourages people to continue their work.

Liturgy Committee - Rev. Joy Segal

Joy thanked everyone who has been a part of the committee and encouraged more people to help out. She explained that liturgy is the work of the people and that the way we plan and do our liturgy is directly linked to what people think of us.

Altar Guild - Candace Roberts

Candace expressed her thanks to everyone who has assisted with the altar and welcomed more people to assist.

HGDPC - Candace Roberts

Candace announced the accomplishments the committee has had so far which includes a number of people from the surrounding community on the committee. She announced the fundraising they have begun (100 Founding Members and Friends of Old Swedes')

Thank You to the Staff - Rev. Joy Segal

Joy thanked Terry O'Brien, Jim and Paula Minacci, and Paul Fejko for all of the hard work they do for this church.

Questions - All

There were no questions from the congregation. At this time Heather Myers volunteered for two positions: United Thank Offering coordinator and Planned Giving coordinator.

Election Announcement - Judges of Election

The judges of election announced that the polls will now reopen for a half hour. The results of vestry election and the Settlement Music School Scholarship winner will be announced after the polls close.

Adjournment - Rev. Joy Segal

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Jenkins and seconded by Barbara Chilcott. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Rector's Report - Rev. Joy Segal

Parochial Report Comparison	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Average Sunday Attendance	82	81	80	71	76	60
Baptism	18	8	13	9	6	9
Weddings	2	4	4	6	4	5
Funerals	5	8	6	5	6	5
Pledged	52,783	45,000	41,762	37,016	35,978	34,978
Plate and Pledged Rec'd	64,813	67,210	58,949	56,288	54,190	49,994
Money from investments*	111,570	89,940	112,300	98,364	113,804	107,118
Other operating income**	77,812	86,311	97,051	108,895	92,598	126,675

* Money from investments used for operations

** Other operating income, including unrestricted gifts & restricted gifts used for operations - includes rental income and fund-raising income.

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

As we gather for our Annual Meeting this year, I am put in mind of this familiar quotation from *Ecclesiastes*. It speaks volumes when we face change. It speaks comfort for those who mourn and challenge for those who envision a future different from the past. And it speaks to the truth of our lives. So, let us consider: what does it say to us as a faith community? How shall we hear this truth?

Change is uncomfortable most of the time. Even change we plan and look forward to tends to put us on tilt, changing our view of the world, whether out a new window or in a new relationship. And discomfort can create anxiety, fear, and even anger. Then there's change we didn't plan, didn't want, and don't like. We know about that too.

Gloria Dei continues to be challenged by a lack of growth and a slow decrease in income. Not the kind of changes we welcome or wish for. As we work to make ourselves relevant in our community we find it challenging to change as the needs of the community change. This past year we have begun to recognize that the way in which we are surviving, financially, is through making our facilities available for events and by participating in and supporting our own increasing fund raising events with our time and talent.

We must not forget that it is just as important to our identity as a worshipping community, to do the work of the Gospel, to insure that what we do in the community reflects how we understand our call to be a part of the Body of Christ - welcoming strangers, feeding the poor, visiting the sick and homebound, and reaching outside of our walls and our comfort zones to live the Gospel out loud in word and action.

We have worked conscientiously to cultivate our relationship with the Queen Village community. This has worked to our favor, as more and more residents surrounding us have discovered what we have to offer – in worship, in beautiful surroundings, and in events that bring the community together for fun and fellowship.

We continue to enjoy a good and valuable relationship with the National Park Service, our partners on this property. Though the NPS has its own challenges financially with government cutbacks they still pay close attention to our needs and we are so grateful for their efforts to maintain the property along with us.

Young Children's Creative Arts (YCCA) continues to maintain an excellent reputation in our community and so brings many young families onto our property. They continue to be of great financial importance to us as well. But they also face change this coming year as they open a new facility in South Philadelphia in order to better meet the needs of the community. We do not know yet whether they will be able to continue at Gloria Dei. It is their wish to do so, but as in everything, the economics of buildings and enrollment will determine whether this will be possible. Meanwhile we are consulting with architects and real estate folks to better prepare ourselves for a possible new tenant for the Roak House.

And as we ended a long relationship with our Guatemala sister parishes this past year we began a new relationship with Episcopal Community Services, working with the children and mothers at St. Barnabas Mission and planning to work with the Youth Center in the months to come. This Outreach ministry allows more of our congregation to be involved, and we look forward to many new opportunities to serve in the community in partnership with ECS.

All that is well and good, but we still need to face the facts – and the numbers. And in looking at our financial situation, and recognizing that the bulk of new income is coming from events, we have begun to consider a building project that would modernize and expand Riverside Hall to better serve these events and to encourage others to consider our site for renting of events not our own. If we decide to go ahead with these plans we will need to spend some of our endowment funds. This is scary, for sure. It means we will earn less in interest income in the future. Do we make this commitment to the future now? Is it "that season" in the life of this parish?

Gloria Dei has been here, on this property, for three hundred and fifteen years. Some of those years saw crowded pews and Sunday School classes filled to the brim. Some of those years saw poverty, hunger, and a risk of closure. Some years were comfortable, some years not so much. Much has changed over that expanse of time. Here we are, in 2015, contemplating change again, recognizing risk again, and being faithful to our call again – just like all those who came before us.

As I thank all those who have gone before and insured our continued presence, so I thank you all, in this season of Gloria Dei's life, for the love and support you give to this very special corner of God's garden.

Peace,

Joy+

Rector's Warden Report - Carol Jenkins

Have you heard people are talking about us? Recently at Gloria Dei I have been listening to comments made by visitors and guests that attend church services or an event. They are saying that we are "friendly and welcoming", "different and not what I expected", and one of my favorite we are "fun!"

We have lots to offer our community with a long list of events to go along with our Sunday worship. Summer Bible Study, Evensong, Dinner Church, Seder meal, Video & discussion events, Blessing of the animals, Lucia, Sexton sideshows, Jazz & Joe, Colonial Fair, Flea markets, Bell ringers, Book Club, Yoga, Thai Chi, Line dancing, Picnics, and Book signings.

All of these events bring our community onto our grounds. We also have many activities that send us out into the community. These outreach programs include: Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House, ECS/St. Barnabas Mission, local food pantry, and feeding the homeless.

This is just an example of some of the events we help support, but certainly not all. These events don't just happen, they happen because we have parishioners that care. When you devote your "time, talent or treasure" you make Gloria Dei stronger.

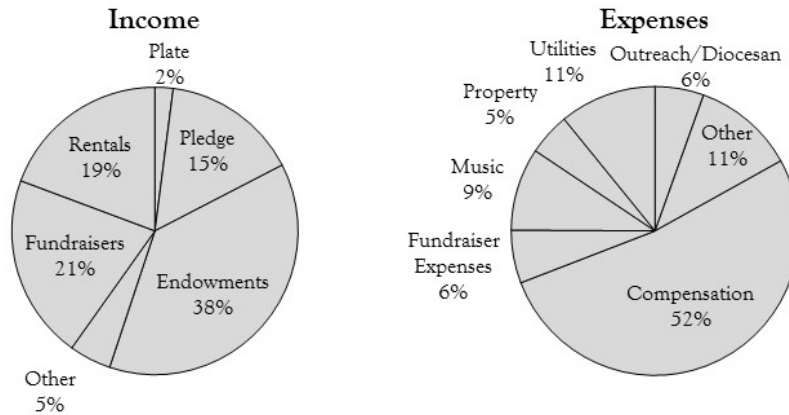
You are our greatest treasure! Thank You!!!

Speaking of giving thanks, I'd like to give a big thank you to the staff of Gloria Dei church; Joy, our faithful rector - who leads in worship and encourages us to do God's work; Jim & Paula, our sextons - who are always on duty and planning our next fundraising event; Paul, our musical director - for the wonderful music; Vicki, our parish administrator - who keeps us organized and puts a smile on our face; and lastly I'd like thank the entire vestry of Gloria Dei, for their devotion and hard work.

Financial Report - Jill Duink

The charts below illustrate our 2014 income and expense ratios.

- Endowments provide our largest income source. (38%)
- Fundraising income (21%) was almost \$14,000 over our anticipated budget.
- Pledge income (15%) was \$4,300 below our anticipated budget.
- Our largest expense was compensation and related benefits. (52%)
- Our outreach/Diocesan contribution totaled about 6% of our spending.



The vestry approved a distribution of the principal of one endowment fund for capital expenditures, growth, and to balance the budget if needed. This year \$25,879 of these funds were spent on capital expenditures and \$16,812 was spent on growth.

Gloria Dei finished 2014 in a strong financial situation thanks to the improvement in the stock market and its effect on our endowments. However, because much of our income is from endowments, we are vulnerable to stock prices and may face a significant reduction in income if the market declines.

The following pages contain the 2015 Budget

INCOME

03 - Regular Support	
Plate	6,000.00
Pledge	45,000.00
TOTAL 03 - Regular Support	51,000.00
04 - Endowments	
Assorted Investment Income	1,050.00
Church F 064786	1,460.00
Church F 064791	4,400.00
Church F 064934	42,500.00
Church F 065033	17,200.00
Church F 065117	1,200.00
From Endowment Principal	6,937.00
PNC 16-35-035-0464262	0.00
PNC 16-35-035-0617188	9,600.00
Wachovia 1513091190	1,700.00
Wachovia 1519175748	12,595.00
Wachovia 1519178585	18,000.00
TOTAL 04 - Endowments	116,642.00
05 - Other Income	
Burial Site	0.00
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	3,000.00
TOTAL Donations	8,550.00

Fund Raiser	
Colonial Fair	6,000.00
Flea Market	5,000.00
Jazz n Joe	1,000.00
Lucia	20,000.00
Misc	2,000.00
Other Book Sales	00.00
The Sexton SideShow	7,500.00
TOTAL Fund Raiser	41,500.00
Memorials	
Mass Cards	150.00
TOTAL Memorials	150.00
Rentals	
Riverside Hall	8,000.00
Roak House	400.00
YCCA - Kreative Kids	47,520.00
TOTAL Rentals	56,920.00
TOTAL 05 - Other Income	107,120.00
TOTAL INCOME	274,762.00

EXPENSES

05 - Fund Raising	
Flea Market	300.00
Lucia	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	300.00
Other Book Sales	0.00
The Sexton SideShow	2,500.00
TOTAL 05 - Fund Raising	9,100.00
12 - Diocesan	
Assessments	9,817.00
Fair Share	3,000.00
TOTAL 12 - Diocesan	12,817.00
13 - Outreach from Operating Budget	
Christmas Charities	1,000.00
ECS Outreach	2,000.00
TOTAL 13 - Outreach from Op Budget	3,000.00

14 - Operating Expenses	
Clergy Expenses	
D. Joy Segal	1,200.00
Continuing Education	500.00
Telephone	1,250.00
TOTAL Clergy Expenses	2,950.00
Compensation	
Benefits	
Segal Health	14,880.00
Segal Life & Disability	400.00
Sexton Life & Disability	575.00
Sexton Medical/Dental Rider	3,000.00
TOTAL Benefits	18,855.00
Pension	
D. Joy Segal	15,634.00
TOTAL Pension	15,634.00

Salary		Property Expenses	
D. Joy Segal	58,637.00	Alarm	2,200.00
J Minacci	17,198.00	Lawn/Landscape Service	2,750.00
P Minacci	19,648.00	Terminix	744.00
Supply Clergy	1,000.00	Undesignated	5,000.00
Vicki Cusack	14,040.00	TOTAL Property Expenses	10,694.00
TOTAL Salary	110,523.00	Sundries	
Salary-Tax		Food/Paper Products/Misc.	2,500.00
Medicare	750.00	TOTAL Sundries	2,500.00
Soc Sec	3,000.00	Utilities	
TOTAL Salary-Tax	3,750.00	U-Gas	
TOTAL Compensation	148,762.00	1114501039 Rectory	4,000.00
General		2114501047 Church	4,250.00
Adult Education	700.00	3114501055 Riverside Hall	2,400.00
Advertising	1,625.00	4114501063 Sexton House	1,100.00
Association Memberships	700.00	5114501071 Roak House	4,000.00
Baby Sitting	100.00	TOTAL U-Gas	15,750.00
Bibles - Prayer Books	200.00	U-PECO Energy	
Church - Liturgical	600.00	34262-00609 Rectory	3,600.00
Deanery/Diocese	750.00	37355-01208 Church	1,150.00
Flowers	950.00	40448-01504 Riverside Hall	1,850.00
Forward Movement Publications	212.00	43451-01700 Sexton House	1,950.00
Hospitality	750.00	49850-01702 Roak House	3,000.00
Miscellaneous	600.00	TOTAL U-PECO Energy	11,550.00
Pledge Envelopes	200.00	U-Water 012-75780-00904-xxx	
Sunday School	400.00	-003 Rectory	0.00
TOTAL General	7,787.00	-005 Church	400.00
Insurance		-Rk-S-Rside	2,800.00
Comprehensive - Umbrella	8,200.00	TOTAL U-Water 012-75780-	3,200.00
Work Comp	675.00	TOTAL Utilities	30,500.00
TOTAL Insurance	8,875.00	TOTAL 14 - Operating Expenses	249,845.00
Music Budget			
Music/Organ Maintenance	2,200.00		
Tsunami Productions	24,432.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	274,762.00
TOTAL Music Budget	26,632.00		
Office		OVERALL TOTAL	0.00
Bank Charge	250.00		
Computer supply	1,900.00		
Copier-Printing	600.00		
Envelopes	225.00		
Internet/Phone/WiFi	5,370.00	GROWTH and DEVELOPMENT BUDGET	
Miscellaneous	250.00	and	
Paper	650.00	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES combined	
Payroll Service	400.00		
Postage	1,500.00	From Church Foundation #...5033	23,063.00
TOTAL Office	11,145.00		

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES

Account	Balance as of 12/31/2014	Liability Accounts	Balance as of 12/31/2014
CHECKING TD Bank	57,449.52	Archaeological Study	100.00
Discretionary Fund Checking	1,012.36	Book 300th	11,588.84
PNC - 16-35-035-0464262*	1,699,551.50	Century Walk	1,180.50
PNC - 16-35-035-0617188	226,334.30	Churchyard Renewal Project	5,591.81
PNC - 35-35-001-0617201	0.00	Green Fund	6,102.00
PNC - 35-35-001-0617219	0.00	Historical Committee	2,035.58
The Church Foundation - 064786	36,989.29	HGDPC	1,066.08
The Church Foundation - 064791	108,925.30	Memorial Fund	219.44
The Church Foundation - 064934	1,069,434.25	Outreach Fund	1,152.00
The Church Foundation - 065033	314,652.78	Sunday School Fund	145.20
The Church Foundation - 065177	112,074.91	Sunshine Fund	426.76
Vanguard Money Market	4,452.59	Youth Group Fund	493.24
Vanguard Money Market Joint Acct	18,689.20	TOTAL Liability Accounts	26,989.93
Wachovia - 1513091190	123,361.52		
Wachovia - 1519175748	355,755.26		
Wachovia - 1519178585	380,364.28		

Vestry Report - Jim Parsons

Your Vestry at Gloria Dei has been caught up in making some very exciting decisions about the property and programs at Gloria Dei. The Vestry is called to discuss action items and approve or disapprove for the betterment of this congregation. We are all excited about some of the changes that have already been made and some to come.

When you enter the Churchyard you will see the Graveyard is cleared of the bushes and it appears cleaner and greener. Our trees have been cleared of the fungus that had been destroying our trees. Some branches have been removed to keep them from dropping off and damaging our buildings. Our Graveyard has become a pleasant sight to see and appreciate for its beauty.

We are constantly working on our budget to maintain the expenses for repairs and improvements to our property and all the new exciting adventures coming to you all in the near future. We only wish some of you were here to share this excitement with us. Come and join us, we have room for you!!! The congregation is invited to every Vestry meeting.

Sunday School Report - Jill Duink

This year, Gloria Dei's children and teachers continued to learn and grow together. The youngest children meet from 9:45 to 10:30 for a lesson and play, and then join their families for communion in church. Our older children come to Sunday School after communion.

Our time together begins with greeting and singing. The children then sit in a circle for a story, told and illustrated through Godly Play materials. After wondering about God's lesson, the children interact with the story materials or create their own work. Finally, prayer and the feast bring us together.

This year, the children learned about the Bible, God's people, and the parables told by Jesus. The children illustrated their own Parable Book. We learned about the birth of Jesus and the gifts of the Magi throughout the Christmas season. During Lent, we learned about the life of Jesus. During our prayer time, the children learned about different types of prayer.

Using the Godly Play stories and materials, our children touch, share and expand the stories. From week to week, the children remember these powerful stories and they make them their own. It is wonderful to see the children sing, share, trust and grow together.

Next year, we invite you to share your experience, talents and wisdom with the children. Those interested in teaching or volunteering are welcome. As the children grow, the teachers also grow. The children teach us. Godly Play teaches us. This year, Julie Daye expanded her understanding through Saturday Godly Play training sessions.

In the coming year, we look forward to deeper friendships, deeper wondering, and to deeper, growing relationships with God.

Property Committee Report - Rev. Joy Segal

As I say year in and year out - "Property" is a big word at Gloria Dei. We have a lot of it, and it requires a lot of attention. Over the past few years we have managed to address quite a number of issues, and those that we cannot afford to remedy at the present we have identified and insured that matters will not get worse while we await funding.

During the summer of 2014 we continued the restoration of the graveyard, cleaning and restoring a number of stones and opening a vault. We spent all we had raised for this project, about \$9000.00. Additionally we added a contribution the vestry agreed to make from our Property Fund of \$5000.00, and a contribution from the History Committee's fund of \$500.00. This allowed us to not only restore two additional stones but also to re-lay a portion of the brick pathway.

We continued a long loved project of planting our Easter flowers in the graveyard, insuring that each year we can enjoy the wonders of flowers that bloom, even in the heart of a busy city.

The vestry approved, once again, the use of funds this past year from one of our unrestricted funds to address property issues as well as what we are calling "Growth and Transformation" opportunities. The use of these funds allowed us to complete many things we would otherwise not have been able to do. The list of items completed reflects this reality.

Property and Growth items completed since last Annual Meeting

- Tree maintenance - through the property
- Cable connection, WiFi, and a new 70" screen in Riverside Hall
- Many banners and sandwich boards and local advertising opportunities
- Continued all-inclusive Sunday bulletins
- Driveway repaving
- Leveling of graveyard on southwest corner
- An extensive examination and report of our property and all buildings, including electrical and plumbing needs as well as consideration of roofing, structural integrity, and masonry needs to be addressed. This report was done by architects Daley & Jalboot along with engineers.
- An extensive examination and report of the church building sinkage evident in the sanctuary - done by J&M Preservation Studio and Materials Conservation.
- Backboard replaced, painted behind light over west side church doors.
- Some pew repairs and inner door repairs in church.

The Vestry has approved use of additional funds from the same unrestricted fund for use this year, allowing us to consider other items and issues, many left undone last year but still under consideration.

Property items under consideration

- Refinishing floors - Riverside Hall and Sexton house.
- Closed circuit capability from church to Riverside Hall and the Roak Room, and including security cameras at gate entrances and parking lot.
- Sanctuary Floor repair
- Rebuild brick piers adjacent to amphitheater
- Install light given to us by NPS

- Painting/Pointing – Rectory
- Pointing – Sexton’s House
- Install new baseboard heat in center rooms, 3rd floor and basement, of Roak House
- Leveling of brick pathways – incl. drainage system work as needed.
- Leveling of the Sexton House patio
- A/C Riverside Hall
- Banners, sandwich boards, local advertising
- Continue all-inclusive Sunday bulletins
- Items from Professional Property Report

Liberty Tree and Landscape spent three days working on our trees this year, and this fifth year of professional care continues to add to the clean, well-tended look of our property as well as assuring us that safety issues caused by dead tree branches untended are not a worry for us.

We are still not financially ready to tackle the more expensive projects, but we have our new Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation (HGDPC) up and running. That Board has, of course, just completed their “coming out party” yesterday as Colonial Day returned to Old Swedes. They have committed to underwriting the survey of the graveyard we have so long put off. And they will soon be applying for grants to help with the expensive and extensive projects – Sanctuary floor repair, painting and pointing of the Rectory, pointing of the Sexton House, leveling of brick pathways and repair of drainage systems, complete repaving of the parking lot, leveling of the Sexton House patio, air conditioning of Riverside Hall – that we just cannot manage within the church’s budget.

Meanwhile we will continue to rely on the great talent within our congregation and the wonderful offering of time, talent and treasure from so many volunteers that help with the needed repairs that occur throughout the year.

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

History Committee Report - Jeanette Woehr

The History Committee continues to work with the documents in our archives. Many requests for family genealogy research have been completed this year. Some of these requests require many hours of work.

We continue to research people buried in our graveyard, especially those whose tombstones are being restored.

During this past year published in the Riverside were articles regarding the history of the Gloria Dei. I hope everyone has learned at least one new fact about our Church.

Are you interested in Gloria Dei’s history? Are you interested in preserving the many artifacts entrusted to us from previous generations? If the answer is yes to these questions, please contact me at 856-261-3551 for meeting times to join us in preserving Gloria Dei’s history.

Hospitality and the Gift of Fellowship - Peggy Buescher, Re Henning and Barb Chilcott

“Give and it will be given to you – a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.” (Luke 6:38)

The Hospitality Committee thanks all parishioners for their continued support in making Gloria Dei a “place of welcome” for all our family and visitors on Sunday mornings.

Hospitality is providing service to others; service as defined as “an act of helpful activity.” Helpful acts may be smiling and saying “Hello” to visitors, opening the door for fellow parishioners, or providing coffee and something to eat for fellowship. There are many opportunities to give and share and to take part in life’s flow of giving and receiving. Jesus teaches us the most important thing for us to do is to love one another. All these random acts of kindness and service display this love. For me, I find much joy in the “ripple effect” of giving because not just one (1) but at least 2 more people are blessed by an act of kindness. The first is the person who brings the cake, the second is the person who

enjoys eating the cake, and the third is the observer who reaps the benefit of seeing and witnessing someone extend himself or herself for another.

Our reaching out to others in our midst has, of course, not only been a benefit to them but to “us” as well. We’ve become closer, we’ve become more aware of our care for each other as we reach out. The smiles of appreciation for that hot cup of coffee and piece of cake ... especially those homemade treats from Sue, Dolores and Marge on cold winter mornings cannot be duplicated.

A special thanks to Barb Chilcott who joined our committee this past year and has been a helpful “early” presence and blessing. We’d also like to thank our silent partner, Jerry Buescher for his countless shopping trips and “infamous” fruit salad.

I have always believe that is it in giving that we receive. Our ministry is always open for new ideas and volunteers. Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time.

Thank you again from us and the visitors you made welcome.

Love and Peace

Sextons’ Report - Jim and Paula Minacci

15 years as Sextons . . . 20 years as parishioners . . . another year, another adventure on these beautiful, blessed grounds at Gloria Dei!

Our daily routine is tight with constant cleaning and prepping for weekly events...church events, meditation classes, Evensong, community meetings, rentals, visitors and our homeless community that visit regularly. Snow removal, spring grass planting, painting Riverside Hall and Church, mulching, Memorial Garden, and parking lot area also add to our tasks.

In addition to our Sexton duties, we have our Sexton Sideshows. These 2014 shows, with your support, netted \$8,367.66 in 2014. The Spring and Fall Flea Markets netted \$11,267.77.

We were able to take the shows on the road in 2014! We were in New Hope, Ardmore Music Hall, and our sold out show at the Boot and Saddle, located on Broad Street, the day after Christmas!

2015 is off and running with our *NEW* Monthly Brunch Series!

April includes Jesus Christ Superstar show and dinner and the hosting of a lighting design show.

In May, we will celebrate our 6th annual Memorial Dei Family Picnic on Monday May 25th. 13 bands booked by Dillon Minacci will play throughout the day. Also included are food trucks, Smak Parlour Family Fashion and Elysian Dance Company. Of course our sponsors from the community help us with all events and especially this one! (Philadelphia Brewing and Commonwealth Cider) Last year brought in over 700 people and an overwhelming success!

In June we will host another Make Music Philly...a free event throughout the world on Sunday June 21st.

October brings another fun filled Halloween Graveyard Boo-ga-loo! 2014 we held a two day event. Friday was a free community event for families and Saturday was a live music with Day of the Dead vendors! Saturday October 31st 2015 will be a one day event. Shy Boyz and the Droogettes along with other trick & treats for the whole community. Fall Flea market 2014 was a beautiful day and filled our sidewalks with over 160 vendors.

December looks to be a busy month with 3 days of Lucia Fest then our 2nd annual Honky Tonk Holly Dei on the December 19th, 2015. The 2014 show, joined the Philadelphia Folk Song Society to bring a spectacular night of music. Looking forward to this event this year. Finishing up December with a New Year's Eve celebration for the books on Thursday December 31st.

At the end of the day into the night the solar lighting is beautiful around the grounds and makes us realize that Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') is a timeless place with great energy.

Peace and love

Outreach Ministry Report - Kim Goodwin & Re Henning

We have said goodbye to our brothers and sisters in Guatemala and welcome with open arms the mothers and children of the ECS St. Barnabas Mission! In December our volunteers sat side by side with moms and children at a fun filled Christmas party complete with Richard Weir dressed as Santa. Our party menu consisted of pizza, hoagies, snacks and lots of home baked cookies by our Gloria Dei members. There was barely a crumb left of the sumptuous lunch we shared! We left behind many smiles and new friendships with the families and staff at the St. Barnabas mission.

Our June gardening project is still in the planning process!!

We are in the planning stages of our fall programs at St. Barnabas, and we hope to also become involved with the ECS Youth Center.

The more volunteers we have, the more families we can reach. All ages are welcome to be a part of this very important mission. Come and join us!!

Music - Paul Fejko

Sexton SideShow events, **Jazz & Joe**, the **Finest Small Organ** in this fair city, singers and instrumentalists engaged for Christmas, Easter (Imagine, actually being able to sing at 5:30am!) and other special moments, the **Bell Ensemble** offering music monthly after communion, The **Finnish Society** using the *New Piano* in **Riverside Hall** for their special anniversary gathering and concert this year, the *Joyful Noise* plays a major part in the life of Gloria Dei.

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, Joy, 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!

Stewardship Report - Candace Roberts

During Stewardship Month we engaged in 4 weeks of conversations centered on what Gloria Dei means to us as individuals and the community, what Gloria Dei might be like if we were not members, and what we see as our responsibility to Gloria Dei. The conversations were lively and many positive comments were made about how Gloria Dei is a home for many of us, how the scripture comes to life here, and how we recognize our importance to the surrounding community and beyond.

Alas, that said, these conversations did not translate into increased support for Gloria Dei, for the 6th year in a row the overall pledge amount continues to drop. This is despite an improvement in the economy. We are still in search of the inspiration to drive increased gifts to the operation and upkeep for Gloria Dei Church.

Inreach Ministry - Rev. Joy Segal

Many mostly “invisible” folks at Gloria Dei serve our sick, elderly, and homebound parishioners with little or no fanfare. They prefer this, but it would not be helpful to the congregation if it were not made known. And so we salute those who write cards, make phone calls, visit, take Communion, and keep in touch with those in our parish family who cannot be with us but are always a part of who we are. Blessings to all of you – you know who you are – for this important ministry of pastoral care.

Prayer Chain Ministry - Megan Bartlett

The prayer chain is a group of individuals (known as “intercessors”) who devote a few minutes each day to pray for the concerns of others. Since October 2014, when I began coordinating the prayer chain, eight faithful individuals have served as intercessors, praying for over 40 people for concerns related to physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Here’s how you can get involved in the prayer chain ministry this year:

Become an intercessor. There is no commitment other than sharing with me your phone number or email address and devoting time each day to pray. Every time a new prayer concern is brought to my attention, I'll pass that concern on to you so you can pray for the person for 30 days.

Share your prayer concerns. Prayer requests can be made to me or Rev. Joy Segal or by filling out a Prayer Request Form, available on the table in the back of the church. Prayer requests are kept confidential among the intercessors.

Thank you, in advance, to all of our intercessors past, present, and future and to those who faithfully bring to light the concerns of our members.

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Liturgy Committee - Rev. Joy Segal

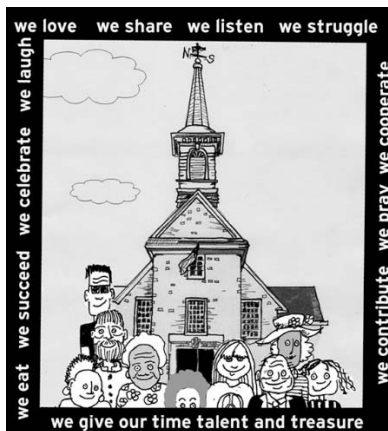
The work of the Liturgy Committee is out there for everyone to see, every Sunday. We gather seasonally to design our worship services. It is a great gift to any clergy person to have those in the congregation who love to do this work. And it is a great gift to the worshipping community to know that the worship service comes from within its own body. It is fun, delightful, moving, meaningful work. Thank you to all who participate in this ministry. There is always an opening for one more, and one more, and one more to join in this work, even if just for a season. It is a worthy experience and all are encouraged to consider joining.

Altar Guild - Candace Roberts

I would like to thank the members of the Altar Guild for their service to the Gloria Dei congregation this year and for many years past: Peggy Buescher, Dolores Collins, Dolores Kromchad, Marge Lord, Barbara Potts, Rita West, and Jeanette Woehr

Many thanks to Rita West and Peggy Buescher for baking the communion bread! Please thank both of these marvelous bakers for saving us from flat, dry wafers every week!

We welcome anyone who wishes to serve in this ministry.



HGDPC - Candace Roberts

Board of Directors: Candace Roberts, Board Chair, Barbara Murray, Treasurer, Jeanette Woehr, Vice Chair, Rev. D. Joy Segal, *ex officio*.

Trustees: Peggy Buescher, Joshua Thomas Castaño, Dennis Colgan, Jr., Thomas Daley AIA, Marco Federico, John Moritz, Jim Parsons, Mark Roberts, Eric Michael Sanchez, Alan Segal, Jessica H. Senker, Assoc. AIA, LEED GA, Robert A. Stewart, Esquire, Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams

100 Founding Members: Ann Blackstone, Margaret Sooy Bridwell, Jerome Buescher, Margaret Buescher, Jill M. D'Andrea, Sandra Pfaff, Quantum-Think, Reeves McEwing, LLP, Eric Michael Sanchez, Rev. Joy Segal, Margaretha Talerma, Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, Jeanette Woehr, J&M Preservation Studio, Candace Roberts, + 10 Swedish Colonial Society Champions.

Accomplishments: A successful (anticipated!) Colonial Day, inspected the Altar for cause of sinking and repaired the trip hazard, undertook a review of the property and grounds, scheduled a review of the church yard.

With the churchyard, property and grounds estimates expected, we will plan fundraising events and grant requests to fund the specific needs.



Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Preservation Corporation

Thank You to the Staff - Joy Segal

We cannot say enough about our incredible, amazing, hard-working, dedicated staff. We said goodbye to Terry O'Brien this past year as she moved into retirement. We miss her so much and thank her for all the years of loving service she gave us. And of course we need to say THANK YOU loudly and often to Jim and Paula Minacci, Vicki Cusack, and Paul Fejko for the wonderful way in which they help us, guide us, protect us, and serve us throughout the year. Without them we would be so much less. They are the face and voice and very often the first impression of Gloria Dei to visitors, strangers, seekers, and those in need. They are priceless and precious to us, and we thank them and love them and give thanks for their presence with us. Blessings to all of you.

Questions - All

Election Announcement - Judges of Election

Adjournment - Joy Segal

