



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Annual Meeting

May 4, 2014

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Call meeting to order - Rev. Joy Segal

Election Announcements - Judges of Election

Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes - Rev. Joy Segal

Annual Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2013

Call to order – Rev. Joy Segal

The Meeting was called to order at 10:56am.

Election Announcements – Judges of Election

The Judges of Election (Megan Bartlett, David Hammond, and Jeanette Woehr) instructed the congregation on voting procedures. The instructions were to vote for no more than four candidates from the list below:

Barbara Chilcott
Rosemarie (Re) Henning
Leigh Jenkins
Michael Phillips
Barbara Potts

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 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes – Rev. Joy Segal

A motion to approve the 2012 minutes as submitted was made by Jeanette Woehr and seconded by Peggy Buescher. The motion carried unanimously.

Rector’s Report – Rev. Joy Segal

Joy reviewed the Parochial Report, noting that there was a decrease in pledged income from 2011 to 2012 and mentioning that budgeting is difficult without pledged income. However, she recognizes that church members don’t pledge the same way they used to. She continued by saying that relationship-building is key for churches to thrive in the 21st century.

She mentioned four of Gloria Dei’s partners, with whom we have the chance to deepen our existing relationships: Queen Village Neighbor’s Association (QVNA), Young Children’s Center for the Arts (YCCA); the National Park Service (NPS); and the Seamen’s Church Institute (SCI). Church members were encouraged to be more connected to these four partners and to ask questions about them. It was emphasized that we cannot continue to financially support a full-time ministry at Gloria Dei if we don’t connect with those outside of our walls.

Joy posed to us the question, “How can we convey to our neighbors the value of this church?” She encouraged us to be more invitational, to step out of our comfort zones, and share any ideas we have with the vestry.

Following the report, Jerry Buescher added that we should be proud of our attempts to form a new and lasting connection with Emanuel Lutheran Church, despite the fact that they chose to worship elsewhere. We were encouraged to remain open to the Spirit as this relationship evolves.

Rector’s Warden Report – Jerome G. Buescher

Joy publicly thanked Jerry for his three years of service as Rector’s Warden.

Jerry’s report recapped the various activities and efforts at Gloria Dei this past year, including sending representatives to the Transforming Congregations workshops, developing new relationships, strengthening existing partnerships, celebrating 75 years of Lucia Fest, and struggling through financial constraints in order to present a balanced budget for 2013.

Following the report, David Hammond added that those who attended the Transforming Congregations workshops continue to work towards transforming Gloria Dei into a more thriving, viable community.

Financial Report – David Hammond

Dave recapped the financial report in which he stated that there has been a \$12,000 drop in congregational support and a \$5,000 drop in donations. In addition to that, our endowments brought in \$26,000 less this year than previous years. Some of these decreases were offset by an increased amount of revenue from fundraisers and a deduction in the amount of money given to the Diocesan Fair Share. However, we hope to increase our pledge to the diocese in future years. Dave added that our staff has not been given more than a bare minimum raise in several years, something which we also hope to change. If anyone has any questions or comments about the budget, please contact Dave.

Following Dave's report, Joy reminded us that the vestry approved spending money from the principle of one of our endowments, which we've been using as our "Growth and Transformation" fund to be used for outreach, advertising costs, and leadership development. Dave commented that he sees this as more of an investment than an expense. He added that the real estate value of the church is \$1.6 million, but these are not liquid assets.

Sunday School Report – Jill Duink and Julie Daye

Jill and Julie demonstrated to us the concept of Godly Play, which is the program our children are using in Sunday School. The children are learning about God by being moved by the Holy Spirit to explore and play using all their senses. Children are encouraged to wonder, ask, and explore. Godly Play emphasizes that renewal and growth come from the Spirit through connection with the world around us and with each other, not through rote memorization of facts.

Following the report, Joy encouraged us to witness this at work by attending a Sunday School class.

Property Committee Report – Rev. Joy Segal

Joy began her report by reminding us that we still don't have a property committee chairperson. Given the size of our property, it would be helpful to have a chairperson. If anyone is interested, please talk to Joy.

Joy's report mentioned the gravestone restorations and noted that we still have \$4729 available for graveyard restoration. She also mentioned many of the property projects completed since last year's meeting including roof and brick repair, tree maintenance, bush removal and plantings, overhead fans in Riverside Hall, pew kneelers recovered, new A/C unit for the 3rd floor of rectory, new floor in Riverside Hall, and others. The report listed property items to be addressed in the near future. Some graveyard restoration and/or property work in the coming year may be accomplished with donations or grants to the new 501(c)3, the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation. It was also noted that the Seamen's Church Institute will possibly be joining us in the coming years on our property in a newly constructed addition to Riverside Hall.

History Committee Report – Jeanette Woehr

Jeanette recapped the written report by saying that the archiving of written documents continues; the history committee is almost finished with those articles from the 1800s. In addition, the committee continues to work in the graveyard combining the various maps and names. The committee is always looking for new members; if you're interested, please contact Jeanette.

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

It was noted that Re Henning's name was misspelled in some of the annual meeting bulletins (correction from "Hemming" to "Henning").

Peggy Buescher shared her gratitude for all the help she's received with hospitality in the past year, especially from Re Henning, Barb Turner, and Jerry Buescher. She added that more helping hands are always welcome; those interested should speak with her after church. She noted that serving others through hospitality and other random acts of kindness are ways to show Jesus' love to others.

Sextons' Report – Jim and Paula Minacci

Joy reviewed the sextons' report in Jim's and Paula's absence. The sextons' primary job is cleaning the property, but they also spend much time raking leaves, setting up for events, and problem solving regarding property needs. Joy pointed out that the Sexton Sideshows have been vital to our growth as a community. She encouraged us to thank Jim and Paula for their efforts.

Guatemala Committee Report – Heather Myers

Heather Myers was not present to review this report, so Joy reviewed a few main points. The biggest event of the year was the recent trip to Guatemala that seven of our parishioners took. While there, they provided assistance with several projects. In the past year, we continued to provide medical care and scholarship assistance. Our fundraising goals are less clear at this moment, given that our sister parishes in Guatemala have a new priest, Padre Luis Cuyún. Padre Luis has some new ideas and projects with which he will need our financial support and prayers. These ideas and projects will be shared with the congregation in the fall. In the meantime, there are still handmade items from Guatemala available for sale. The proceeds go directly to our sister parishes.

Music – Paul Fejko

Music Director, Paul Fejko, mentioned that we had thirteen Gloria Dei members who rang bells or sang this year, plus eleven guest musicians who helped us out at various special occasions. Most recently, Gloria Dei acquired a new baby grand piano for Riverside Hall. There will be some piano concerts in the parish hall in the near future. Anyone who is interested in offering their talents as a ringer, singer, or music-maker, should contact Paul.

Inreach Ministry – Rev. Joy Segal

Joy lifted up in thanksgiving all those who participate in this important ministry, whether to pray, write cards, make phone calls, visit, take Communion, or just keep in touch with those who can't make it to church regularly.

Food Ministry – Rev. Joy Segal

Joy reviewed our involvement with the St. John's/Emanuel Food Pantry prior to the closing of St. John's. She mentioned that Emanuel wants to continue the food pantry somehow and she will work with them to find a way for us to be involved again.

Tutoring – Rev. Joy Segal

Joy thanked those who participated last year as tutors at the St. James School in East Falls. Our ministry there is complete for now. There is a new need for tutors at Nebingers Elementary School at 6th and Carpenter. If interested, see Joy, as background checks are required prior to volunteering with the children.

Liturgy Committee – Rev. Joy Segal

Our liturgy committee has chosen all the liturgy, prayers, and creeds for Sunday worship for the past year. Old members rotated off the committee and new ones joined. There will be a mid-summer meeting to plan the fall liturgy. Consider joining us.

Altar Guild – Candace Roberts

Candy thanked all those who participated in Altar Guild in the past year, including those who baked our communion bread (Rita West and Peggy Buescher) and those who supplied the decorations for Christmas and Easter services (Dolores Kromchad). Anyone interested in participating, please see Candy.

Capital Campaign Update – Candace Roberts

The new 501(c)3 (“Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation”) was approved in 2012 and has begun organizing. Officers and trustees were selected and will be meeting six times a year in person, four times by teleconference. Anyone interested in joining the Board should contact Candy.

Thank You to the Staff – Rev. Joy Segal

Joy thanked all the staff of Gloria Dei – Terry O'Brien, Jim and Paula Minacci, and Paul Fejko. Megan Bartlett added a thank you to Joy for her leadership.

Questions – All

There were no questions from the congregation, but Dolores Collins mentioned that we still sell memorial mass cards. If you'd like to purchase one in memory of a loved one, contact Terry O'Brien or Dolores Collins.

Election Announcement – Judges of Election

The judges of election announced that the polls would reopen from 11:55am to 12:25pm. They also mentioned that we would select the winner of the Settlement Music School Scholarship at that time.

Adjournment – Rev. Joy Segal

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barbara Potts and seconded by Jeanette Woehr. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan R. Bartlett, Vestry Secretary 2012-2013

Rector's Report - Rev. Joy Segal

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

* Money from investments used for operations

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

The days and weeks and months move ever onward, whether we wish it or not. Another year has passed, and it is time again to look at where we have been, where we are, and where we would like to be. Numbers (attendance, pledges, investments, etc.) can tell us something of where we've been, but numbers cannot tell us the "whys" behind them. And so we gather in Annual Meeting once a year to be sure that all voices are heard, all concerns are noted, all joys are celebrated, and the corporate vision has not slipped away from us, or changed into something that no longer reflects who we are as a parish.

Last year I introduced what I called "A New Vision." This new way of seeing ourselves encouraged our understanding of being a part of a greater community, and stressed the need to see ourselves as a member of this community, offering our gifts and assets, seeing those with whom we live and work in new ways, naming them as affiliates, or partners – those who share our space and with whom we might be able to share an ongoing vision for the future.

We continue to have a wonderful relationship with The National Park Service (NPS). Much like us, they too are an entity that continues to meet the challenges of a changing world. NPS has taken some financial hits as the US economy continues to be strained. But the devotion to the mission of maintaining the valuable sites entrusted to them continues to be paramount to them. We continue to work in tandem with them, and they with us. The relationships we have made with the employees of NPS continue to be of great value to the safety and seasonal maintenance of the parks surrounding our property. In this way we are able to host many events, knowing our property will be in good order.

We have become more active with the Queen Village Neighborhood Association (QVNA), recognizing that we are members of this organization and the importance of our contribution to the needs of the neighborhood as we grapple together with challenges of safety, cleanliness, education, and insuring that we are a neighborhood known for its ambience and its viability as a place where people would want to live and work.

Young Children's Creative Arts (YCCA) continues to thrive on our property. Now in its twenty-sixth year of service to the community, it is a pre-school that maintains an excellent reputation and attracts young marrieds with children to our property all year long. YCCA's presence with us continues to be of great importance both for the income it

contributes to our budget as well as for the presence of children laughing and playing on the property throughout the year.

Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) and Gloria Dei continue to consider the possibility of building a new building on our property. This vision of shared ministry on this historic property by two historic entities is one that we and they still believe worthy of consideration. Complications abound, but we now have architects' renderings and have begun feasibility and engineering studies.

And so, we have worked with our neighbors and friends to reach out, to be more a part of our community, to see ourselves and have others see us as willing partners in an ongoing, ever-changing world.

As a parish community we have begun to step outside our doors. We've always been good at inviting in. Now we are challenged to go out as well. To move outside the walls and seek the needs of the community where those needs are. And so, we have begun to volunteer as Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House. (next dates: July 13, 2014; October 19, 2014). We have heard the cries of Episcopal Community Services (ECS) for volunteers and will be offering opportunities to go to those in our city who need tutoring, feeding, clothing, housing, and companionship.

The numbers, finally, do matter as well. We must begin to consider how we will survive in the coming years. As long as income continues to decrease from giving and increase from investments we are not responding to the future in a responsible way. Living as the Body of Christ in the world means a lot of things. We are called to love each other, care for those less fortunate, invite in and include all who come to our door, move into a world in need and shine the light of the love we know in Christ Jesus, and consider how we can bloom where we're planted. The Swedish settlers planted us here, in this beautiful place. We must plan for the future of this place even as we speak the love of God each day to a world in need of such words.

And so we continue into a new year. We'll pray and sing, we'll laugh and cry, we'll see new ways to be church, we'll honor our history and our heritage, and we'll give thanks for the work we have been given to do. Let us go forth, to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Joy+

Rector's Warden Report - Carol Jenkins

Spring at last, thank the Lord it's spring at last!

I think we can all breathe a sigh of relief that winter is finally over. We had enough snow for 3 winters this year. Thanks to Jim & Paula for their hard work in keeping our paths shoveled and salted. Lucia suffered with attendance and attendees on the last day due to snow but we survived. Mother Nature certainly tried her best to cancel the last 3 shows, but we showed her!

We said goodbye to our friends from Emanuel Lutheran wishing them well in their new home. We also continue to strengthen our friendship with Old Saint George's church and look forward to our joint services and fellowship. Wonderful things are also beginning with the new Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Preservation Corporation.

Gloria Dei is alive and well with vibrant activities such as Sexton Side Show, Jazz & Joe, Flea markets, Lucia Fest, Mardi Gras Night, Bible Study, Memorial Day Picnics, Book Club, Yoga, Tai Chi, Soup & Study, Evensong, Bell Ringers, held Truth Events, Historic Swedish Church reception and tours, and let's not forget the Blessing of the Animals. We are also involved as guest chefs for Ronald McDonald House. There is something for everyone.

Things like this don't happen on their own, they happen because our parishioners are involved. We should all feel proud of our accomplishments, and our dedication to this wonderful church. Thank you all for your hard work!

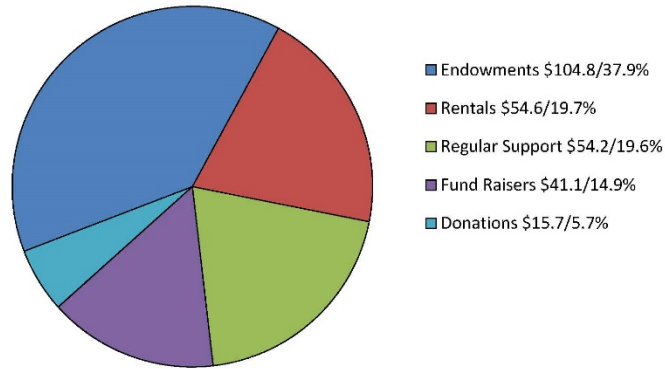
Many thanks also to the Vestry of Gloria Dei, our faithful leader Reverend Joy Segal, Terry O'Brein, Jim & Paula Minacci, Paul Fejko, and Alan Segal.

Look around at all the new faces that have been showing up on Sundays. I think word is out that something special is going on here!

Financial Report - David Hammond

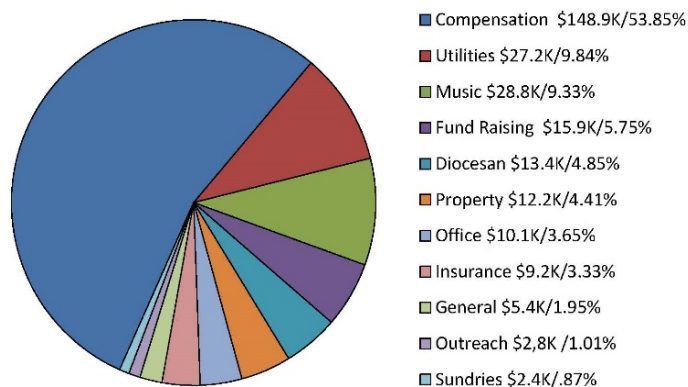
The pie chart below indicates where our 2013 church revenues came from. You may note that the vestry approved a distribution of the principal of one endowment fund in order to balance the budget. The amount withdrawn was significantly less than had been anticipated but is nonetheless a disturbing trend. Our regular support (plate and pledges) again lags significantly below other churches of similar size in the diocese. Our endowments and rentals make up 57.6% of our revenues

2013 Revenue: \$276.6



The pie chart below indicates just how the revenue was spent. There were no real surprises and followed the normal pattern of expenses with one exception and that was in the event category. Purchases for the St. Eric's Fair were up significantly due to rounding out the assortment which had gotten somewhat stale over the past 5 years. The Sexton Side Show financials were changed to reflect the cost of producing the event as a separate line item. Previously the expenses were subtracted from receipts.

2013 Expenses: \$276.5



Gloria Dei finished 2014 in a strong financial situation thanks to the improvement in the stock market and its effect on our endowments. Endowment distribution was up about \$6,000 in 2013 and will be higher again in 2014 due to the three year averaging.

INCOME

03 - Regular Support		05 - Other Income	
Plate	6,000.00	Burial Site	0.00
Pledge	48,000.00	Donations	
TOTAL 03 - Regular Support	54,000.00	Baptism	0.00
04 - Endowments		Funeral Services	300.00
Assorted Investment Income	1,050.00	May I. Young FD	3,050.00
Church F 064786	1,300.00	Miscellaneous	0.00
Church F 064791	4,000.00	Societies - Organizations	2,500.00
Church F 064934	40,150.00	Wedding Services	3,000.00
Church F 065033	16,280.00	TOTAL Donations	8,850.00
Church F 065117	2,650.00	Fund Raiser	
From Endowment Principal	9,591.00	Flea Market	10,000.00
PNC 16-35-035-0464262	0.00	Jazz n Joe	1,000.00
PNC 16-35-035-0617188	9,050.00	Lucia	19,000.00
Wachovia 1513091190	2,675.00	Misc	1,000.00
Wachovia 1519175748	8,550.00	Other Book Sales	00.00
Wachovia 1519178585	18,000.00	The Sexton SideShow	6,000.00
TOTAL 04 - Endowments	113,296.00	TOTAL Fund Raiser	36,000.00
		Memorials	
		Mass Cards	150.00
		TOTAL Memorials	150.00
		Rentals	
		Riverside Hall	6,250.00
		Roak House	250.00
		YCCA - Kreative Kids	46,837.00
		TOTAL Rentals	53,337.00
		TOTAL 05 - Other Income	98,337.00
		TOTAL INCOME	265,633.00

EXPENSES

05 - Fund Raising		14 - Operating Expenses	
Flea Market	300.00	Clergy Expenses	
Lucia	5,000.00	D. Joy Segal	1,200.00
Miscellaneous	300.00	Continuing Education	500.00
Other Book Sales	0.00	Telephone	1,250.00
The Sexton SideShow	2,000.00	TOTAL Clergy Expenses	2,950.00
TOTAL 05 - Fund Raising	7,600.00	Compensation	
12 - Diocesan		Benefits	
Assessments	9,021.00	Segal Health	16,080.00
Fair Share	4,479.00	Segal Life & Disability	400.00
TOTAL 12 - Diocesan	13,500.00	Sexton Life & Disability	575.00
13 - Outreach from Operating Budget		Sexton Medical/Dental Rider	3,000.00
Christmas Charities	1,000.00	TOTAL Benefits	20,950.00
Guatemala Outreach	1,000.00	Pension	
TOTAL 13 - Outreach from Op Budget	2,000.00	D. Joy Segal	15,436.00
		TOTAL Pension	15,436.00

Salary		Sundries	
D. Joy Segal	57,600.00	Food	100.00
J Minacci	16,900.00	Miscellaneous	850.00
P Minacci	19,350.00	Paper Products	1,200.00
Supply Clergy	1,000.00	TOTAL Sundries	2,150.00
Terry O'Brien	12,000.00	Utilities	
TOTAL Salary	106,850.00	U-Gas	
Salary-Tax		1114501039 Rectory	4,000.00
Medicare	750.00	2114501047 Church	4,250.00
Soc Sec	3,000.00	3114501055 Riverside Hall	2,400.00
TOTAL Salary-Tax	3,750.00	4114501063 Sexton House	1,100.00
TOTAL Compensation	146,091.00	5114501071 Roak House	4,000.00
General		TOTAL U-Gas	11,550.00
Adult Education	700.00		
Advertising	750.00	U-PECO Energy	
Association Memberships	700.00	34262-00609 Rectory	3,600.00
Baby Sitting	650.00	37355-01208 Church	1,150.00
Bibles - Prayer Books	200.00	40448-01504 Riverside Hall	1,850.00
Church - Liturgical	600.00	43451-01700 Sexton House	1,950.00
Deanery/Diocese	750.00	49850-01702 Roak House	3,000.00
Flowers	650.00	TOTAL U-PECO Energy	11,550.00
Forward Movement Publications	212.00	U-Water 012-75780-00904-xxx	
Hospitality	600.00	-003 Rectory	0.00
Miscellaneous	600.00	-005 Church	400.00
Pledge Envelopes	155.00	-Rk-S-Rside	2,800.00
Sunday School	700.00	TOTAL U-Water 012-75780-	3,200.00
TOTAL General	7,267.00	TOTAL Utilities	30,500.00
Insurance		TOTAL 14 - Operating Expenses	242,533.00
Comprehensive - Umbrella	7,000.00		
Work Comp	525.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	265,633.00
TOTAL Insurance	7,525.00	OVERALL TOTAL	0.00
Music Budget			
Music/Organ Maintenance	2,200.00		
Tsunami Productions	24,000.00		
TOTAL Music Budget	26,200.00		
Office			
Bank Charge	250.00		
Computer supply	900.00		
Copier-Printing	600.00		
Envelopes	225.00		
Internet	4,650.00		
Miscellaneous	250.00		
Paper	650.00		
Payroll Service	400.00		
Postage	1,500.00		
Telephone	1,500.00		
TOTAL Office	9,425.00		
Property Expenses			
Alarm	2,000.00		
Lawn/Landscape Service	2,750.00		
Terminix	675.00		
Undesignated	5,000.00		
TOTAL Property Expenses	10,425.00		
		GROWTH and DEVELOPMENT BUDGET	
		and	
		CAPITAL EXPENDITURES combined	
		From Church Foundation #...5033	35,409.00

Funds and Liabilities

Account	Balance as of 12/31/2013	Liability Accounts	Balance as of 12/31/2012
CHECKING TD Bank	24,953.86	Archaeological Study	100.00
Discretionary Fund Checking	370.98	Book 300th	10,316.44
PNC - 16-35-035-0464262*	1,697,582.43	Capital Fund/HGDPC	549.72
PNC - 16-35-035-0617188	226,431.29	Century Walk	1,180.50
PNC - 35-35-001-0617201	180.11	Churchyard Renewal Project	1,554.36
PNC - 35-35-001-0617219	470.00	Green Fund	6,102.00
The Church Foundation - 064786	36,317.66	Historical Committee	2,196.65
The Church Foundation - 064791	106,947.40	Memorial Fund	120.11
The Church Foundation - 064934	1,050,014.72	Sunday School Fund	145.20
The Church Foundation - 065033	377,186.86	Sunshine Fund	426.76
The Church Foundation - 065177	108,675.52	Youth Group Fund	493.24
Vanguard Money Market	4,452.12	TOTAL Liability Accounts	26,989.93
Vanguard Money Market Joint Acct	18,687.34		
Wachovia - 1513091190	126,646.67		
Wachovia - 1519175748	358,591.69		
Wachovia - 1519178585	387,348.28		

Vestry Report - Barbara Potts

The Vestry began their 2013-2014 year with a May dinner to thank outgoing members and welcome newly elected members. Meetings were held in June and July and along with conducting the usual business (finances, property, rector's and rector's warden's report, etc.) Vestry members discussed participating in a fall retreat. Autumn was upon us in no time and with whispers of Lucia preparations beginning to be heard, the Vestry devoted a productive Sunday afternoon to gather with a retreat leader, guiding us through the work of establishing goals, improving communication and preparing ourselves for additional leadership roles, with respect to the vision and mission of Gloria Dei. Close on the heels of our retreat came the fall flea market, sexton side shows, jazz and Joe, Lucia and the advent season. Gloria Dei parishioners, along with members of the Vestry, availed themselves of the many opportunities for service and fun in support of the many activities and fundraisers that have become a constant in our church and community. As last year quickly progressed to 2014, the Vestry met and broke bread with the bishop, and began to plan for the events of the Lenten season, upcoming elections, and preparations for the annual meeting and spring/summer events. Gloria Dei and its Vestry members are in partnership with the HGDPC, YCCA, QVNA and SCI. We seek to support our congregation, our rector and our surrounding community in our ongoing efforts to grow, with the future always in our sight. Our meetings are open to all and we especially encourage any member of Gloria Dei to join us at any meeting, or become a part of our active Vestry as an elected member!

Sunday School Report - Jill Duink

This year Gloria Dei's children and teachers continued to learn and grow together through Godly Play. We were honored to have Megan Bartlett talk to us about God's service and to have Esther Duink describe her experiences in Guatemala.

In September and October the children learned more about God's people, including the journeys of Abraham and Sarah, Ruth, King David and the prophets. In November and December, we prepared for the birth of Jesus by learning about Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth as well as Saint Lucia and Saint Nicholas. This winter and spring we learned about the life, teachings and healings of Jesus. Our children wonder and talk about the stories. Using the Godly Play stories and materials, our children touch, share and expand the stories. From week to week, the children remember the stories and they make the stories their own.

As one of the teachers, I am often amazed at how much I learn from the simple preparation for and the simple telling of these powerful stories. Two weeks ago I told of Jesus' healing of the ten lepers. That story, first learned back in my Sunday School days, came alive for me. Today I'm preparing to tell of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. It is difficult to understand how deep the stories from the Bible are and how they shape us. Somehow the stories are renewed in the Sunday School circle. Somehow the children make them wondrous again.

Like our congregation, our Sunday School class is small but powerful. 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. We look forward to knowing more of you through special visits to our classes. Those interested in joining the teachers or volunteering are welcome. I would love for someone with musical talent to help us prepare something to share in church. For the children, we look forward to deeper friendships, deeper wondering, and to deeper, growing relationships with God.

Property Committee Report - Rev. Joy Segal

As I say every year - "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 2013 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 \$6000.00. We also 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. We hear many compliments about how well we are keeping the property, now that the graveyard is showing its beauty and we are showing our love of this property.

The vestry approved, once again, the use of funds this 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
- Baby Grand Piano in Riverside Hall
- New central A/C unit in the rectory
- Partial rewiring in the church
- Floors refinished in Riverside Hall
- Conversion to Comcast phone and internet
- New 70" screen in Riverside Hall
- WiFi in Riverside Hall
- Many banners and sandwich boards
- Continued all-inclusive Sunday bulletins

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

- Closed circuit capability from church to Riverside Hall and the Roak Room.
- Sanctuary Floor repair
- Rebuild brick piers adjacent to amphitheater
- Install light given to us by NPS
- Painting/Pointing - Rectory
- Pointing - Sexton's House
- New chairs - Riverside Hall
- Paving - driveway, all or portions of parking lot
- 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
- Continue all-inclusive Sunday bulletins

Liberty Tree and Landscape once again spent five days working on our trees this year, and this fourth year of professional care has added to the trim, clean, well-tended look of our property as well as assured us that safety issues caused by dead tree branches untended are no longer a worry for us.

We are still not financially ready to tackle the more expensive projects, but we now have our new Historic Gloria Dei Old Swedes Preservation Corporation (HGDPC) up and running. That Board will soon be applying for grants to help with these – 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.

Additionally, the possibility of Seamen’s Church Institute joining us on our property and together building a new space for all of us to do ministry will necessarily change some of these plans.

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.

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

In November, the History Committee hosted our first seminar of the three Swedish Lutheran Churches, Gloria Dei, Christ Church Upper Merion, and St. James Kingsessing. The group that gathered is hopeful the seminars will continue in the other two churches.

Requests for genealogical information still are being answered.

Restoration of the graveyard and research into the lives of those buried under the restored stones continues.

Due to the bad weather this winter, the committee has not met that often. Now that the weather is warmer we will begin our weekly sessions of recording the many documents in our archives. Currently we are finishing up with the 1800 papers. If you are interested in joining our group, please let me or one of the committee know of your interest. It is a fun group who often stops our recording work to check out locations referred to in the document being recorded.

History Committee Members: Peg Berich, Bob Jenkins, Carol Jenkins, Jeanette Woehr, Richard Woehr

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

“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)

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 tells 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 I but at least two more people are blessed by an act of kindness. The first is the person bringing the cake, the second is the person who enjoys eating it, and the third is the observer who reaps the benefit of seeing someone extend himself or herself for another.

Our reaching out to visitors in our midst has, of course, not only been a benefit to them. It brought a blessing to us as well. We’ve become closer, we’ve become more aware of our care for each other as we reached out. The smiles of appreciation for that hot cup of coffee and piece of cake on those snowy cold winter mornings cannot be duplicated.

The hospitality committee thanks all the parishioners for their continued support in making Gloria Dei a “place of welcome” for all our visitors on Sunday mornings.

Special thanks to Barb Turner for her tireless and ever-present “helping hands,” to Jerry Buescher for his countless shopping trips and “infamous” fruit salad, and to Re Henning who’s been by my side throughout the year.

I have always believed that it is 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 once again from both of us and from the visitors you made welcome.

Love and peace.

Sextons’ Report - Jim and Paula Minacci

Peace and Love, Peace and Love, Gloria Dei

14 years as Sextons. . . 2014 is shaping up to be a great year at Old Swedes.

Soon we will be participating in our 12th year of Flea Markets on May 17th. Last year our Spring and Fall Flea Markets netted \$9,789.00. We will once again incorporate food trucks into our food scheme to draw some more folks to our space. Look for our Fall Flea on Saturday, October 25.

Sexton Sideshow kicks off big on May 26th with our 5th Memorial Dei Family Picnic. This event is shaping up to be our biggest Family Picnic yet with 16 artists, food trucks, dog pageant, and vendors; SMAK Parlor Fashion and Liquid Vinyl Records. Hope you can be there with us.

Last years' Sexton Sideshows celebrated Memorial Dei with wonderful outdoor/indoor presentation of local music, food, and beverages. Labor Dei was next which stretched out over 3 days of Labor Dei weekend. Graveyard Boo-ga-loo celebrated Halloween with live music from Brown Sugar, a live DJ, fire dancers in the graveyard, and homemade food (Cincinnati Chili) and local beverages. Our big presentation was the 13/13/13/ Exile on Water St. Rolling Stones Tribute Show with North Lawrence Midnight Singers and Friends and the Jesse Lundy Band.

Last years' Sexton Sideshows brought in \$9,088 before expenses and netted a profit of \$5,7906.00. Sexton Sideshow shines a light on local music and community harmony.

We have Sideshows scheduled for Labor Dei Weekend, Aug. 1, 2014, in New Hope at Havana, Graveyard Boo-ga-loo on Friday Oct. 31st, and our final numerical sequencing show on Sat. Dec. 13, 2014 or 12/13/14.

New this year is an event we are getting involved with called "Make Music Philly", sponsored by WXPB and Metro. Riverside Hall will be a venue this year on June 21st. It is a day of free music all throughout the City of Philadelphia. The event will go from 12 noon to 8 PM. We are hoping this will open Gloria Dei doors to an even bigger community.

Lucia time is a great time to celebrate our heritage and longevity here at Old Swedes. The Lucia Hospitality Tent is a great place to meet and greet with families before, during, and after each Lucia performance. Please join us

We have been very busy this year clearing snow, we are now planting grass seed, there is constant cleaning to do, we have weekly rentals, to prepare for like yoga, tai chi, evensong and the like. We hope you enjoy the solar lighting that is present throughout the property. . . . it looks great at night!

We will see you around the grounds.

Guatemala Committee Report - Heather Myers

April 2013 brought us back to Guatemala for an amazing visit. 9 folks from Gloria Dei – Sally, Julie, Joy, Jerry, Peggy, Tom and myself were repeat visitors while Dave and Esther were first timers. We brought along Mary and Katherine, a mother and daughter from St. Thomas' Whitemarsh, who were interested in learning about our companion relationship. I speak for the group when I say we had many “God Moments”. The first few days were spent with our two sister parishes. We met with Padre Louis Cuyún and his wonderful family. They opened their hearts, home and church to us and allowed us to do some good work. We tried our hand at painting at La Annunciation. We didn't finish...this bothered most of us and we wanted to continue. Padre Louis would not hear it and wanted the congregation to finish. Providing paint, brushes and supplies was more than enough to show them that we cared. That evening members cooked a meal and put on a cultural show for us...a wonderful memory! La Ascension is in a very rural area, and the church was in need of a new roof. We bought the supplies and began roofing. It was a hot day and with help we were able to get the supplies to the church and begin the project. Again, we didn't finish but the main objective was accomplished. The rainy season will not be a problem because of our work!

Our last few days were spent at San Lucas Tolimán Mission. The mission is to “carry on the legacy of Fr. Greg Schaffer, listening, responding to, and walking in solidarity with the people of San Lucas Tolimán in an effort to alleviate the suffering and dependency created by the ‘process of poverty’”. We had the opportunity to sort coffee beans, work at the gardens and dig a big hole! And the boat ride across the lake was an adventure we will not soon forget!

The church tables at the flea markets are always a hit. Folks look forward to perusing our tables looking for the deals! We are very grateful for the donations. While out there we spend time talking about the Guatemala mission work we are passionate about and our church to all who will listen. I am certain that we make an impact on all who see or hear us!

We have been in relations with La Ascension and La Annunciation for a long while.

It is now time to re-evaluate what this relationship means to Gloria Dei. We have struggled to make the financial commitment of scholarships. Last year we raised enough for the doctor visits to continue. We are at a stage where we need to make a decision either to continue or take a hiatus from our support. We need to hear what Gloria Dei members have to say. Good work has come out of this relationship and we need to look at where this relationship is going in the future. Whatever decision Gloria Dei makes, our Guatemalan brothers & sisters pray for us, we pray for them, and the prayers must not end. We are connected.

Music - Paul Fejko

From Your Friendly Parish Musician....

Sexton SideShow events, Jazz & Joe, a New Piano serving Jazz & Joe as well as occasional chamber music concerts in the RiverSide Hall, American Guild of Organists Tuesday-Noon Concerts, singers and instrumentalists engaged for Christmas, Easter and other special moments, the Bell Ensemble offering music monthly after communion, the new and bright spirit of Eric 13, Paul Gibson joining us again for Palm Sunday and Easter - 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 - Megan Bartlett

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!”

2013-2014 was an exciting year for stewardship at Gloria Dei. We began our stewardship efforts in 2013 with an attempt to look at what Rev. Eric Law calls, “The Holy Currencies” of stewardship: Time/Place, Gracious Leadership, Relationship, Truth, Wellness, and Money. We recognized our blessings, celebrated them, and noticed how those blessings flow, both within our church and to the community outside our walls. In the fall, we gathered to look at “Visions of Our Neighborhood” and to determine how to best engage with our neighbors. We spent time cultivating existing relationships and building new ones. We tended to our need for wellness. Some of our leaders attended workshops and conferences. We gathered Commitment Cards and celebrated the ways in which your time, talent, and treasure strengthens the work of the Church and brings a blessing to the lives of others.

Yes, we have accomplished a great deal in the past year! Thank you for your support, questions, and prayers. Although I am stepping down from my leadership role on the Stewardship Committee, I am still committed to supporting stewardship at Gloria Dei. If any among you are interested in joining or leading our stewardship efforts in 2014-2015, please speak with me or Rev. Joy Segal.

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.

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

The Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Preservation Corporation commenced operations in September 2013. The Board of Trustees is comprised of members from the community and Gloria Dei Church. The Trustees are:

Candace Roberts, Chair
Quantum Think/Marketing

Marilyn Johnson, Secretary
Gloria Dei/Lawyer

Barbara Murray, Treasurer
Manager, Financial Training
Department, University of
Pennsylvania

Jeanette Woehr, Vice Chair
Gloria Dei/Ronald McDonald
House

Rev. D. Joy Segal, *ex officio*
Rector, Gloria Dei (Old
Swedes') Church

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Ann Blackstone, Trustee
Gloria Dei/Retired

Peggy Buescher, Trustee
Gloria Dei/Health Care/Nurse

Joshua Thomas Castaño, Trustee
Program Manager, Partners for
Sacred Places

Dennis Colgan, Jr., Trustee
Trustee, Seaman's Church
Institute
Cove Investments/finance

Marco Federico, Trustee
Architectural Conservator,
Materials Conservation Co.,
LLC.

Jim Minacci, Trustee
Gloria Dei/Walmart

John Moritz, Trustee
Writer, Public Relations, Social
Media/Gloria Dei

Maria Frizelle Roberts,
President, MFR Consultants,
Inc./
Business + Strategic
Consulting,
Member QVNA Board

Mark Roberts, Trustee
Treasurer-Gloria Dei
Quantum Think/Design

Eric Michael Sanchez, Trustee
Professional musician/song
writer/ Gloria Dei

Alan Segal, Trustee
Trustee, Seaman's Church
Institute
Investment Consultant and
Founder The Jazz Sanctuary

Jessica H. Senker, Trustee
Principal
Assoc. AIA, LEED GA
J&M PRESERVATION
STUDIO

**The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B.
Stube**, *ex officio*
Executive Director, The
Seamen's Church Institute of
Philadelphia and South Jersey

Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams,
Trustee
The Swedish Colonial Society
Clergy/Professor - U. of Penn.,
Archivist - Lutheran Seminary

Full contact information is available on our website: preserveoldswedes.org

Accomplishments include:

- Formation of the *100 Founding Members*. We have 10 members who have paid or pledged \$1000.
- We are starting the *Friends of Old Swedes* where donors will be able to support historic preservation at Old Swedes for \$99/year.
- A very successful inaugural fundraiser and Mardi Gras party.
- Brochures, flyers and web site have been completed to promote the organization

Funds raised and pledged to date are approximately \$13,800 as of April 15, 2014.

We are currently recruiting Trustees with skillsets in architecture, estates and trusts, and fundraising.

If you have an interest in joining this board or have a candidate to recommend, please contact Candace Roberts at croberts@quantum-think.com.



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. But we need to say THANK YOU loudly and often to Jim and Paula Minacci, Terry O'Brien, 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

