# November / December 2016 Down By The Riverside

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

# Thoughts from the Rector Words Matter

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (NRSV)

or, in "other" words

There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth (The Message)

There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth (The Message) (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

'Tis the season. What season? It's time. Time for what? To do things. What things? I could go on but hopefully the point is coming clear. The author of Ecclesiastes, as many of you know, continues on in this familiar passage to answer some of those questions. And depending on which translation or paraphrase of the Bible you read, you'll hear the answers differently as you understand the meaning of the words used. For instance, the *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)* of the Bible continues: "a time to break down, and a time to build up," while *The Message* version of the same verse says: "a right time to destroy and another to construct." For some of us "break down" carries a different connotation, a different meaning, than "destroy."

Why am I being so picky about words? Well, we have all lived through some pretty confusing, provocative, and contentious "words" this political "season." Words that, for some of us, have caused rifts in relationships; for others have inspired us; for yet others have caused us to despair or to rejoice. We have heard the same words but we have heard them, or understood them often in very different ways.

Of course actions matter, and sometimes even "speak louder than words." But there is no getting around it – words matter. And keeping our minds open to the possibility that among us we hear and understand the same words in different ways is of great importance in creating and maintaining healthy relationships, in addressing the needs of those we reach out to, and in doing the work of the Gospel, as we hear it and understand it.

In the midst of this busy season as we prepare for holidays, adjust to more hours of darkness, and anticipate what a new year might bring, we can be sure that we will continue to be challenged to listen for the meaning behind the words we hear, and to consider how the words we speak and write are heard.

November brings celebrations of All Saints and Thanksgiving – celebrations filled with words of assurance and words of hope and words of blessings. December challenges us to prepare the way for our Savior's birth through the message, the "words" we hear from Scripture and liturgy in Advent and the Advent activities we take on. And December gives us, year after year, that wondrous celebration of God with us, sheep and manger and baby and angels and all those other images made manifest in the very words themselves that bring the message of salvation to all. And then there's New Year's Eve, with words of cheer that have about them some bit of sweet sadness, as we consider the year behind us and the year ahead of us, and the years long past, and all that those words bring to mind about our lives, our loves, our wishes.

This year perhaps we might consider this "season," this "time" as one in which we consciously, purposefully, and patiently use our words to plant and to build up, to embrace and to love, to heal and to make peace – words that the author of Ecclesiastes uses to answer some of the questions that arise when we hear "tis the season."

My prayer for this season is that we speak no words that would cause pain without offering hope; that we write words that provoke thought but do not encourage judgment; and that we hear words with open minds and hearts, trusting that what we say to each other is said in love.

May you love and hope and know you are loved - this day, this time, this season, and all your days.

Peace,

Joy+

All Spints Sunday

All Saints Sunday November 6, 2016

All Saints Sunday is a major feast day in the church year. Gloria Dei celebrates this feast day each year with the tolling of the bell and the reading of the names of those who have died this past year at the beginning of the service. Friends, family, neighbors, companions, pets, and those buried from Gloria Dei will all be included in the litany to be read. If you would like a name or names included in our bulletin and read aloud on that day, please call the office at 215-389-1513 no later than Noon on Wednesday, November 2, 2016.



# Daylight Savings Time: November 6

Enjoy the extra hour before Church or the extra hour of hospitality



# Angel Tree Project

There's a new external ministry in town! It's the Angel Tree Project. Our purpose is to be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, and loving community. What better way to do this than to provide children with gifts at Christmas time? Angel Tree will provide twenty-five children from the George W. Nebinger School (located at 6th Street and Carpenter Street) with gifts at holiday time. Our target audience includes first and second grade students. Nebinger was so excited about our mission that they selected and shared with us the initials of twenty-five students within one day of our proposal!

A tree will be placed in Riverside Hall about the middle of November. Hanging tags will have a child's initials, gender, and school age on them. Ideas for gifts have been presented by the school and will be shared with parishioners by means of announcements and flyers.

I encourage everyone to participate – take a tag and venture into this special mission. This mission helps children experience the generosity of God's gift – Jesus, his son – to all of us at Christmas. You know this: it's so rewarding to know you've helped a child smile and feel special at Christmas.

If you have questions, please ask me. I can be reached at 267-456-4718 or by e-mail at peggy.buescher@gmail.com.

Love and peace,





# **Altar Flowers**

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

# The Gift of Prayer

Gloria Dei's Prayer Ministry consists of a dozen church members (called "intercessors") who commit to praying every day for the needs and concerns of others. As coordinator of the Prayer Ministry, I receive the names of those who are in need of prayer and then share them with the intercessors who choose their own time, place, and method to pray.

This is a ministry that invites the wise use of our time, but requires no special talent. And there is no "proper way" to pray. Thinking about God, talking out loud to God, sitting still and listening for God, noticing God in the beauty of Creation, or reciting formal prayers are *all* forms of prayer.

All we need to have is the desire to heed the call to prayer. As St. Paul said to the church in Thessalonica: "Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Prayer doesn't always result in the answers we want, nor in the time we expect, but prayer draws us closer into relationship with God and each other.

Gloria Dei's Prayer Ministry has grown in the past two years, from six intercessors to twelve, but we would love for you to join us. Here are ways you can get involved: 1) you can become an intercessor who prays for others; 2) you can submit the names of individuals in need of prayer; or 3) you can simply pray for all of us who are intercessors and those who are in need of prayer.

If you feel called to join us, please talk to me after church or email me: megan 77777@yahoo.com. If you'd like us to pray for someone, share your prayer concerns with me or Rev. Joy Segal or at the church office by Tuesday of each week. Prayer requests are shared with the intercessors once a week, on Wednesdays.

Peace and blessings to all.

Megan Bartlett
Prayer Ministry Coordinator



# Christmas Thanksgivings and Memorials

If you would like to give thanks or remember a loved one this Christmas, consider contributing to our Christmas Flowers. The enclosed envelope may be filled out and mailed, or you may place it in the offering basket on upcoming Sundays. All names and contributions need to be received in the office by Noon, December 16<sup>th</sup> for names to be included in our Christmas bulletins.

# Thanksgiving Eve at Gloria Dei

Once again we will celebrate Thanksgiving at Gloria Dei this year on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 24<sup>th</sup>, with a service of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion at 7pm. We ask that you bring a canned good or dry good to bring forward during this service to be placed on the altar and blessed. We will share this ingathering of food with those in our community who are in need.

We have much to be thankful for here at Gloria Dei. Hopefully many of you will join us, and bring family and friends, as we thank God for the blessings of this place and this community.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

(Psalm 95:2)



"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give you will get back." (Luke 6:38)

Thank you to all who've extended themselves and made the effort to make hospitality so successful. There's never a shortage at Gloria Dei thanks to your generosity. We've had all sorts of tastings that have welcomed many visitors and sustained us as we interact with them. I always remind myself when doing hospitality that it's in giving that we receive. "Giving" takes effort and I need your help. I am so grateful for all those who share their time, talent, and treasure for hospitality.

We hosted a fabulous welcome just this past Sunday for the families and friends who come every October in loving memory of the lives lost in 1980 on the S.S. Poet – the subject of the bronze plaque on the south side of the rear wall in the church.

We continue to need people to step up and sign up on the hospitality sheet on the corkboard in Riverside Hall near the bathroom door. We strive to carry out the mission spelled out in the letter to the Hebrews: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Help us keep the doors not only "open" but also open to say "Welcome. Come in. Eat, drink, and feel blessed.

Love and Peace, Peggy, Re, Rita, Barbara and Linda

# Thoughts from the Rector's Warden

Greetings from my cot located in the basement of Roak House. Ok well not really! I joke about this because of all the time I have been spending there for the Parish Profile Committee meetings. Those of us on the Profile Committee along with our advisor Rev. Paul Harris have all been very busy planning, brainstorming and writing reports. Here is a refresher of our timeline

#### The Profile/Strategic Action Plan - Timeline

May – Selection of members of the four teams. First meeting of all members

June – First meeting of individual teams. Selection of Chairperson and Secretary. Statement of purpose/goals/objectives established.

June - August - Ongoing team meeting. Submission of Team reports

September - October - Compilation and development of Plan

November - Submission of Plan to Vestry for approval.

December - Parish Profile is completed and approved.

In order to create a plan that will best fit the needs and desires of the Gloria Dei congregation, we had to find out about ourselves. This was done with the Parish survey that was sent out to many of you. Thank you to all who took the time to complete this survey and mail it back to us. We had a pretty good return with 52% by the deadline date. We received additional returns after our deadline which brought us to a 58% return. Unfortunately that means 42% felt that the survey wasn't worth their time. This is a sad state that many churches face.

Some of the work being done by the Parish Profile Committee is the development of a structured process for accepting and approving internal and external ministries within our parish. This process is now being used to help evaluate our current ministries and recommend any improvements needed.

# The process:

Proposer of potential new ministry completes the "Internal/External Ministry Form"

The "Form" is then submitted to a review committee

The committee will review the "Form" and communicate with Proposer regarding questions and the committee will give their evaluation

If recommended the evaluation and the "Form" are forwarded to the Rector for discussion/evaluation

If recommended by the Rector, evaluation and 'Form" are forwarded to the vestry for approval

It has been recommended that members from Team C and Team D of the Profile continue their work with the submission and evaluation of newly suggested ministries after the Profile process is complete.

This is just one small example of the behind the scenes work being done at Gloria Dei.

Wishing you a safe and happy fall season, filled with hope and the promise of great things to come. With God all things are possible.



# The Book Club at Gloria Dei

Here is our next book and meeting date. The Book Club meets at 7 pm

All the Birds Singing by Evie Wyld

in the Birds offiging by Live w you

No meeting

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

Fixed: Dope sacks, dye packs, and the long

welcome back by Doug Piotter

How to be Both by Ali Smith

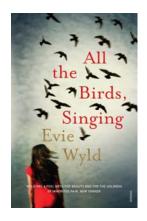
Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula LeGuin

The Girls by Emma Cline

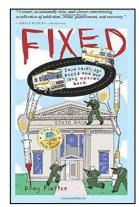
December
January 23, 2017
February 27, 2017
March 27, 2017
April 24, 2017

May 22, 2017

November 28







Marilyn Johnson

#### Calendar

**Nov 1, 8,** Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary

**15, 22, 29** Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class

Nov 2 Parish Profile Committee meeting, 7:00pm Riverside Hall

**Nov 4-5** Diocesan Convention

**Nov 6** First Lucia Rehearsal

All Saints Day Celebration

Pledge Sunday

Baptism during 10:00am service

Project Church (Gloria Dei Youth Group) following the

10:00am service, Riverside Hall ages 9 and up

**Nov 13** Lucia Rehearsal

Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship

in Riverside Hall

Nov 14 HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm

Nov 17 Swedish Colonial Society - 1:00pm to 3:00pm Riverside Hall

Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall

Nov 20 Lucia Rehearsal

**Nov 23** Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00pm

Service of Thanksgiving, Holy Communion, and sharing of gifts. Please bring canned or dry goods for the offering, to be

shared with those less fortunate in our community.

Nov 24 Thanksgiving

Nov 28 Book Club - 7:00pm Riverside Hall,

All the Birds Singing

by Evie Wyld

## Calendar

Dec 4 Lucia Dress Rehearsal

**Dec 6, 20,** Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary

Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class

Dec 9, 10, Lucia Fest & St. Eric's Fair

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**Dec 13** Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary

Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm

No Yoga this week!

**Dec 15** Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall

**Dec 16** Sexton Sideshow Hootenanny, Riverside Hall

Dec 17 Sexton Sideshow Honkytonk, Riverside Hall

**Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm, reception following

**Dec 25** Christmas Day

7:00am Julotta Service

10:00am Our regular service

**Dec 31** New Year's Eve

5:00pm Service

Jan 1 PLEASE NOTE:

NO SUNDAY SERVICE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY



# The Lectionary for November

## November 6th, Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty god, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daniel 7:1-3,15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

#### November 13th, Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Isaiah 12:2-6 Canticle#9

Isaiah 65:17-25 Luke 21:5-19

#### November 20th, Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

# November 23rd, Thanksgiving Eve

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35

## November 27th, First Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

# The Lectionary for December

#### December 4th, Second Sunday of Advent

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

#### December 11th, Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9
James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

#### December 18th, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,17-18 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

#### December 24th, Christmas Eve

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

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96:1-9 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

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#### December 25th, Christmas Day

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

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14

#### December 31st, New Year's Eve

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

Isaiah 63:7-9 Galatians 3:23-25 Psalm 147:13-21 John 1:1-18

#### January 1st

No Sunday Service will be held on New Year's Day.



# Christmas Services at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24, 2016 7:00 PM Holy Communion, with Sunday School Tableau

Christmas Fellowship in Riverside Hall will follow Christmas Eve service

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25, 2016 7:00 AM Julotta (Swedish Service) 10:00 AM Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Service - Saturday, December 31, 2016 5:00PM Special Liturgy and Holy Communion

(No Service Sunday, January 1, 2017)

The Baptism of Jesus - Sunday, January 8, 2017 10:00 AM Holy Communion and Baptism

# Lucia Fest, 2016





Friday, Dec. 9 - 6:00 & 8:00
Saturday & Sunday,
Dec. 10 & 11

2:00, 3:30 & 5:00

Tickets: Adults - \$13 Children under 12 - \$7

Tickets available online to Dec. 6, 2016 at www.old-swedes.org and then at door

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street Philadelphia, PA 19147 (215) 389-1513



#### November 1917: The Block House

This name must convey to all who are familiar with the history of Old Swedes' many ideas full of interest and suggestion, We recall that outpost of the Swedish Colony, erected probably in the days of Governor Rising on the site of our present Church, which was itself used as a place of worship from 1677, when the Rev. Jacob Fabritius accepted a call to Wicaco from New York. We are reminded how this ancient Block House was upon more than one occasion a place of refuge from marauding Indians, and a defense against the unfriendly Dutch. It was there that Andrew Bengston, a zealous layman, conducted public worship after the faithful Fabritius had become too infirm to continue his ministrations, and held the congregation together until the arrival of the mission from the King and Archbishop, bring the Rev. Andrew Rudman to take charge of the Wicaco church. With keenest appreciation we realize that it was this crude wooden Block House which was both the physical and spiritual predecessor of our present stately, historic Church, and that from such small temporary beginnings came this sacred House, which has already stood for over two hundred years, and which, at the time of its dedication, was said to be the finest church building the English Colonies.

It seemed only natural, therefore, in projecting a new attempt at service in the name of the Church to the people of this day and generation, which should include a building where they might have refuge from the evil influences of their surroundings, and from which might radiate many influences for good, that the suggestion should have been made to call it the "Block House." Here, too, may we hope so to plan and create that a larger work may result in time and find for itself more suitable housing. And here it will be for faithful laymen and women to find opportunity to initiate and carry out various forms of useful service.

The house which has become available for this work is just outside the north gate on Water Street, and has always been used as a dwelling, heretofore. About two hundred and eighteen dollars have been raised through the Sunday School and put into interior repairs and furnishings, electric light, lumber for basement rooms, etc. Through the Property Committee of the Vestry (the house is owned by the Church) other necessary repairs to windows, spouts, and the kitchen have been made. The Boy Scouts, under the supervision of Mr. Beatty, a member of the Brotherhood, are putting down a new floor in the basement. The Thursday night Guild is filling all the rooms each week, and drawing in some of the little children from the near-by streets to join its younger groups. On Tuesday evenings a Mothers' Club is meeting, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Clayton. A Domestic Science student from Drexel Institute prepares a supper each Thursday evening for some of the Guild, and has four of the girls to help her and to receive instruction in cooking and serving. It is expected that a worker will soon be engaged to give part of her time to arranging for other activities in the house, and, with the aid of

volunteers from the church, to develop the work along the lines which may seem most effective. Altogether there is much that is being done, and more that can be done immediately, so the attention of our readers is called to the following statement concerning the

#### Block House Fund

By agreement of a special Committee, representing the Vestry, the Sunday-School, the Guild, and the Congregation in general, it was decided to try to raise a budget of five hundred dollars for the expenses of the Block House activities for a year. This sum will provide for the part time of a woman worker, the services of a janitor, and



some equipment of the clubs and classes by means of this fund, only a minimum work is made possible; without it, nothing could be done, for no other funds are available. To raise this amount it was decided to issue sets of weekly envelopes, and to solicit contributions at ten cents per week. It is hoped to secure at least one hundred subscribers and so to cover the budget. If more are obtained, then the work can be expanded.

Those taking envelopes are asked to bring them to the Church each week, or at least once a month, if possible. From those who are not able to return their envelopes in this way, the members of the Committee will be asked to collect their accumulated envelopes in January, May and October.

The Block House stood where the Roak House is today.



# Project Church - All about Young People - Join Us!

Meet monthly to plan & execute service projects to do Gods work; learn Gods word; enjoy each other's company. Open to those 9 years old & up.

Meet us November 6th to help with bulb planting and leaf raking. December 4th we will meet and do something fun, plan to stay till 1ish.

Bring your ideas with an open mind & kind spirit.

Heather Myers



In Remembrance of: Charles Wilson September 8, 2016

To be Baptised, November 6 Lilia Nimue Onyschzak Alice Bing Villanueva

Memorial Cards:
Robert Higginson
by:Sally Daly
Charlene Cassidy
by: Dolores Kromchad

Elizabeth Lord
by: Jean & Bob Weill

Florence Hutton by: Jean & Bob Weill

Dolores Dewees
by: George & Donna Collins

Robert Harrington

by: Sally Daly

Isabelle Nevety

by: Sally Daly





Sunday Service: 10:00 AM Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM

Office Hours Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-2:30

#### CLERGY

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector The Rev. Paul Harris, Assoc. Clergy

#### STAFF

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

#### VESTRY

Peggy Buescher
Jill Duink, Accounting Warden
Re Henning
Carol Jenkins, Rector's Warden
Leigh Jenkins, Secretary
Jamie Konowal
Michael Phillips
Mark Roberts
James Ufheil
Nils van Ammers
Rita West
Jeanette Woehr



#### STANDING NOTICES

#### Weddings

Weddings at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church must be scheduled with the clergy at least three months in advance. All weddings in the church will be governed by the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Book of Common Prayer. Pre-marital counseling is a prerequisite. No weddings will be conducted during Lent.

#### Funerals

When death occurs a family member is asked to contact the clergy so that timely arrangements for a funeral may be made. It is appropriate for the funeral of a Christian to take place in the church. It is also appropriate that funeral arrangements be made in advance and kept in a file in the church office. Burial plots are available for members of the parish in the church's cemetery. Consult the church office for costs and details.

#### Baptisms

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated during one of the principle Sunday liturgies and is governed by the Canons of the church and the Book of Common Prayer. Baptism is normally celebrated on one of the four appropriate feast days designated in the Book of Common Prayer. These are: The Baptism of Our Lord (1/8/17); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/16/17); Pentecost (6/4/17); and All Saints Sunday (11/5/17). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.