

September / October 2016

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Priest Associate Grateful Giving

Based on the Bible

Without beating about the bush, grateful giving aka stewardship is biblically based for the Bible tells us so. Being a good steward is “utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the Glory of God and the betterment of His creation.” (Charles Bugg, *Holman Bible Dictionary*, 1991). Grateful giving uses wisely the resources God has given us to help us to meet God’s request of us to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification.

God the Creator gifted us with ‘this fragile earth our island home’ and resources to take care of it. He instructed our Biblical ancestors who lived in Eden to take care of the garden. Likewise, He continues to direct us to fulfill His wishes by doing the best we can with what we have. *“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”* (Genesis 2:15)

God the Redeemer gave Himself in the humanity of Jesus to live among peoples before, and now, to tell us through example, stories and parables that the benefits of this planet can only be truly realized when we are good stewards of His Gifts. *(The Parable of the Talents which refers to abilities and money. Matthew 25:14-20)*

God the Sustainer continues to provide us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, with strength and guidance to use wisely all resources available to be good stewards of his Gift. *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.”* (John 14:15-16)

Spirituality of Stewardship

To be a good steward, we need to reaffirm our Baptismal vow to take care of His gifts. In plain English, God gave and he expects grateful giving in return. Whatever you may call it - a vow, a promise or a pledge “recognizes fully that God gives to us all that we have, and that God asks us to give a part of it

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back, and it makes it clear that we understand that everything we have is a gift from God.” (*The Rev. Canon Charles LaFond, Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire*)

Grateful giving is fully alive and well in this context of stewardship spirituality. The Spirit moves mysteriously and efficaciously when we stewards consciously and faithfully commit ourselves to doing the best we can to manage wisely what we have in time, talent and treasure. Our commitment becomes integral to our being when we promise to uphold three pledges: Pledge of Worship, Pledge of Service and Pledge of Financial Support.

A Living Tradition

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church’s history is a living testament to our parish’s founders and its ensuing ancestral congregants who committed themselves to caring for God’s gift. They embraced these three pledges. They vowed to fulfil their promise to be care givers of God’s creations, especially God’s little acres on which our House of Worship stands. They were embodied by the spirituality of stewardship that produces abundant grateful giving. They dedicated themselves to give something back to God through worship, service and financial support. They were good stewards.

We are benefactors of these good stewards, recipients of these God inspired gifts. However, we have been given a charge to carry onward the Biblical tradition to give gratefully. We have been laden with the responsibility, not a heavy burden, to take care of our parish, “*to dress it and to keep it.*”

Have the Parish’s Back

In the spirit of the parish’s past, we are being asked to walk in the footprints of our past good stewards to insure the present and secure a shining future for those who will pray in the pews after we have moved on. We are now asked to consider taking a pledge to have Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church’s back. Rest assured, this is not a daunting responsibility when members of the Parish promise to embrace Three Pledges - Pledge of Worship, Pledge of Service and Pledge of Financial Support.

Pledge of Worship

Worship, communally and individually, acknowledges God’s gifts of creation. It binds our God/human relationship, and heals our spiritual, emotional and physical wounds. In our Parish, communal worship is voiced in one voice in the Holy Eucharist and administration of the other Sacraments,

other Rites and Ceremonies of the Episcopal Church which are essential to our corporate being.

Worshiping together, praying to God and praising Him from whom all blessings flow, is our Balm of Gilead. It helps us heal and bond as one. It is no accident that in the New Creed we affirm our faith in worship with the words, "We are not alone." A Pledge to Worship simply promises we will try to become a more active communal worshiper in the Parish, a faith band of lost and found souls traveling together on a Godly journey.

This pledge is a gift of gratitude in the spirit of our Biblical mothers and fathers. St. Paul was spot on when in his letter to the Hebrews. *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe."*

Pledge of Service

Your Parish offers a plethora of supportive ministries of worship to heal our broken souls and bodies, and to minister to each other to 'de-clutter' our lives of wants and to nourish our hungering needs. Our current ministries to our community are founded on our Baptismal promise to *"...respect the dignity of every human being."*

Successful ministries need to be instruments of healing. Simply a list of 'do-gooder tasks', they cannot be. They need to meet the needs of the people for whom they have been created. They need to be imbued with a 'love thy neighbor' attitude with parishioners using their God given talents. Serving through a parish sponsored ministry is more than 'signing up to do something.' Serving and being a good steward means looking inward to discover what you like to do and what interests and skills you have been given and pairing them with focused ministries.

Pledging to serve others is a gift of gratitude for what He has given us. St. Peter was right on target when he said, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

It should be noted, the Profile Committee is evaluating the current ministries to determine if they are truly meeting the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of parishioners and the community.

Pledge of Financial Support

Believe it or not there is a theology of stewardship and giving money. God

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set forth the concept of generosity in the beginning when in six days he gave his gifts of creation for us to care for. For Christians, God gave his own self away on the cross as a testament of self-offering. Jesus and his disciples exhorted stewardship by actually talking about money. St. Paul wrote, “Each man (and today we include woman) should give that he has decided in his (her) heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

So we are in good company when we talk about pledging as a viable way to support the Parish financially. Pledging says we understand that everything we have is a gift from God and we need to give back a part of our finances to God. Pledging to give is simply saying, “I have decided in my heart that I will honestly try to do the best I can to give back consistently a fair share.” Pledging is an honest promise to give with the understanding by the parish that “things do happen” and there is no consequence of judgement when the promise may not be kept. When we pledge the gift with the knowledge that it is about financial support of our worship and our ministries whose goal is to make us whole, not about balancing the budget. The pledge of financial support helps the Parish realize its current Statement of Purpose:

We, the congregation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’), existing by and for the glory of God, knowing that God through this congregation helps us find our way and to use our gifts, gather together...

To honor and celebrate the acceptance of our differences and uniqueness

To be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining and loving community

To respond to the needs of others

To preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition and heritage of this sacred place

Pledged Grateful Giving is Regular

Our daily living is made manageable and rewarding when it is scheduled. Fear of not having enough is lessened when we try to adhere to time frames and budgets. In like manner, when there is order, there is less “where’s the money?” and more “how best do we allocate funds for our Jesus driven missions and ministries?” Pledging lessens fear of the contribution culture’s knee-jerk reactions to a poignant request, and guilt ridden producing spur-of-the-moment responses. St. Paul preached that good stewardship is good planned giving. It is a prayerful and consistent response to God’s gifts of creation.

Pledged Grateful Giving is Universal

When St. Paul was asked by the faithful in Corinth, “Who should be

giving to the church.” he answered, “Each of you.” We many people become one body when we are in community. Together, we depend upon each other. In parish life, we are bound to each other for mutual support in “the best of times and the worst of times.” As John Donne, the English poet and Anglican cleric echoed in his *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*, “No man is an island.”

While we are urged to answer God’s call individually as was Isaiah, “*Here I am, send me,*” there is strength in numbers. (*Two are better than one. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow, Ecclesiastes 4:9*). When all congregants give, the parish becomes a more effective change agent. Universal giving, rather than dependence on a few, moves parishes forward.

Pledged Grateful Giving is Proportional

St. Paul echoed the Old Testament command to tithe when he said that each person should “*set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.*” On the other hand, he preached we should give only what we have decided to give in our own hearts. What do we do with this conundrum?

In the context of Biblical grateful giving as presented here, I humbly suggest that the percentage game we do not play. Tithing needs to be a personal goal, not a rigid, uncompromising, enchainning theological dictum. Let us look at giving a proportion of income as an option based on a heartfelt promise which pledges us to try to give the best way we can with what we have.

Critics may opine that this alternative is an easy way out of following a biblical injunction. With all due respect I would say, “Not true.” This option is, in fact, more difficult to follow, for it is a personal commitment and accountability to God. Why? Because the dollar amount we give mirrors what our relationship is with God and our neighbors.

Take It To The Lord In Prayer

This stewardship path is not an easy one to trod. It requires us to be painfully honest with ourselves when answering pointed questions:

- 1) Do I believe that God created all that I have, and do I owe Him anything?
- 2) Do I “love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind, and do I love my neighbor as myself?”
- 3) How do I translate my commitment to this Summary of the Law into a grateful proportion giving?
- 4) Am I doing the best I can with what I have? (continued on next page)

Here are a few guide posts to help guide us on the stewardship path.

- 1) Read again our Baptismal Covenant, a part of the Rite of Baptism in the *Book of Common Prayer*, (pp 304-305).
- 2) Reaffirm *The New Creed* (The Sunday Liturgy Leaflet).
- 3) Refresh your memory with *The Parable of the Talents* (Matthew 25:14-20).
- 4) Read the narratives on God's Gifts: the Story of Creation (Genesis, 1 and 2), God's Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17), Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25), Crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:32-56) and Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 27:32-56).
- 5) Say quietly A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis, (*Book of Common Prayer* (p 833).
- 6) Review your personal priorities for living in the context of these suggestions (1-5).

Then take it to the Lord in your prayers beginning with the prayer:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant me, in all my doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what would you have me to do to be a good steward who gives gratefully, that the Spirit of wisdom may save me from all false and selfish choices, and that in your light I may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

With God's support, brothers and sisters in Christ, you will be a good position to conclude how you can be a good steward who gives gratefully, for you are doing the best you can with what you have.

Priest Associate and Consultant

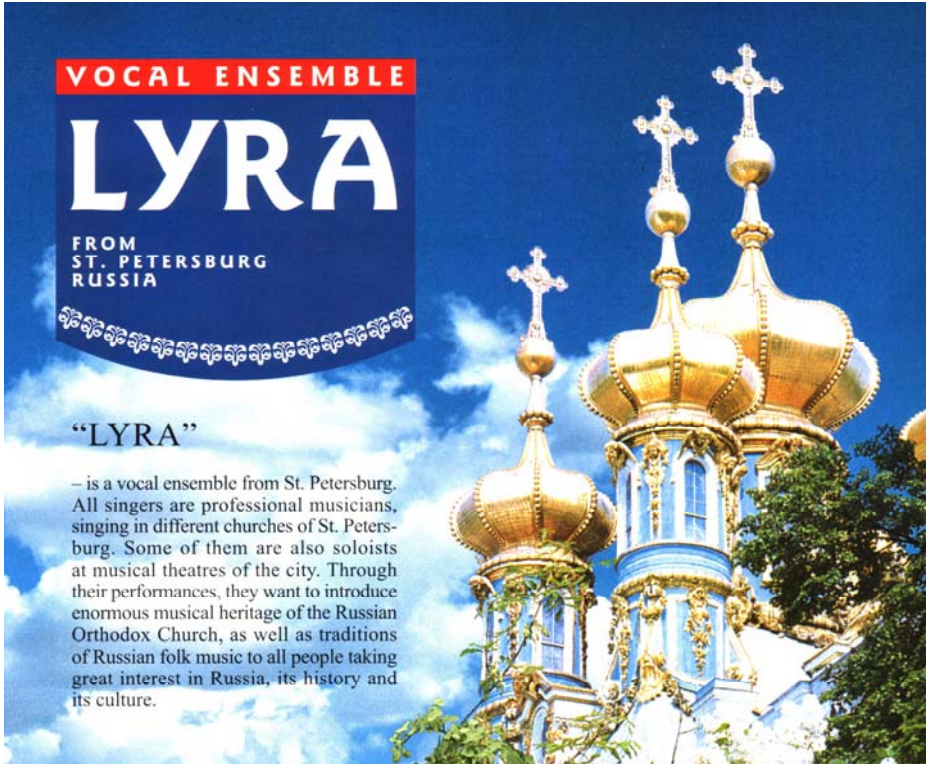
The Rev'd Paul Harris



Sept 22 and Oct 26
7:30 to 9:30 pm - Riverside Hall

Lyra

The Russian Vocal Ensemble of St. Petersburg will visit Gloria Dei on Sunday, October 16



VOCAL ENSEMBLE
LYRA
FROM
ST. PETERSBURG
RUSSIA

“LYRA”

— is a vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg. All singers are professional musicians, singing in different churches of St. Petersburg. Some of them are also soloists at musical theatres of the city. Through their performances, they want to introduce enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as traditions of Russian folk music to all people taking great interest in Russia, its history and its culture.



Notes from the Vestry Secretary

This summer the vestry has been focused on maintenance here at Gloria Dei. Over the past few years, grave yard restoration has been a project that is focused on. This summer we continued the project with four more stone repairs and are planning to use the remainder of this year's restoration budget to clean other stones. There was also approval for exterior painting and window woodwork repairs to be done on the rectory. One windowsill was replaced and the west end of the building was repainted. The vestry also had the pleasure of meeting our new Bishop, Daniel Gutierrez during his pilgrimage this past month. He shared his history and his aspirations for the diocese and we were able to share our goals and mission with him. We are looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring us and as always, we encourage anyone to attend the vestry meetings. They are held the third Thursday of every month at 7:00PM in the Roak Room.

www.preserveoldswedes.org

SAVE THE DATE

History and Mystery Bicycle Ride!

WHERE:

Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes') Church
Philadelphia, PA 19147

October 1, 2016

10am – Noon

ENTRY FEE:

\$17/single
\$25/couple
\$28/family

- Enjoy a casual bike ride starting at Historic Gloria Dei Church and hear 6 exciting stories from our Nation's past
- Picnic and games at the end
- All riders who complete the circuit will be entered to win prizes
- Wonderful Family Entertainment!

Our Bicycle Pro Sponsor
will be on site to offer free safety checks
and water bottles!

Bell's  Bike Shop


Indego

First half hour of bike rental courtesy of Indego.
Download the app for rental locations!
(Promo code will be provided with event registration.)



Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Preservation Corporation

Proceeds benefit Historic Preservation at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a 501c3 charity. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

History and Mystery Bicycle Ride!

Please join HGDPC for a family-friendly bicycle ride through Old City and the Historic District!

We will stop at 6 sites, hear a history story, and learn about the link to Gloria Dei! At each stop the rider will have their "passport" stamped. Every rider who completes the circuit will be given a raffle ticket to win prizes!

Top prize is a \$350 gift certificate to Bell's Bike Shop!!!

Proceeds will support historic preservation at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes)!

It's a win for everyone. Enjoy a lovely bicycle ride on an autumn morning with picnic and prizes. Plus, your entry fee will support this historic and beautiful open space in South Philadelphia.



Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases



Now all these things can be done online at Gloria Dei's website!
Just visit us at www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we're doing.
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.



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.

Endowment Terms

We all know that Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') benefits from a number of endowments, donations of money or property given for the ongoing support of the parish. You've probably also heard that the endowments are worth a lot of money. They are – at the end of 2015, the total value exceeded 4.247 million dollars – a lot of money!

But that doesn't mean the parish could write a check for that amount to repair all the buildings or pay for extra help or whatever. How an endowment can be used depends on the conditions under which the trust in which it is held was set up. Here are some of those conditions so we all understand what we're talking about.

Revocable and irrevocable

An irrevocable trust is one whose conditions can't be changed without permission of the trust holder. The trust holder is not Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') but an agency – a bank or other agency. Generally speaking, changing the terms of an irrevocable trust in our case will require the consent of a Philadelphia Court, Orphans' Court, and the court's consent is not only difficult to obtain but unlikely to be obtained. Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') has a large number of such irrevocable trusts. Not being able to change the terms of the trust means that Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') cannot access the underlying funds – the “principal” – of the trust. Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') receives the proceeds of the trust's earnings – the “interest.”

A revocable trust, on the other hand, is one whose conditions can be changed such that the underlying funds – the “principal” – can be utilized. Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') has a number of these trusts as well.

Restricted and unrestricted

A restricted trust is one that “restricts” the use to which the funds and their proceeds may be used. Examples in our trusts are funds whose use is restricted to maintenance of a particular grave, maintenance of the grounds, or maintenance of the church and its grounds.

An unrestricted trust is one that does not restrict the use of the funds or their proceeds.

Some examples may help make these terms clear.

The A. Adele Rudolph fund is irrevocable and is restricted to maintenance of the church grounds.

The Charles Stille fund is irrevocable but unrestricted. Its proceeds can be used to support any parish function.

The 4th Century fund is revocable and unrestricted; as a matter of fact, this is the fund from which amounts of principal have been withdrawn over the past few years to fund projects chosen to help develop the parish's mission activities.

Coming full circle here – yes, our parish has a large amount of endowment funds. But the parish is restricted as to how these funds are used in several ways. In many cases, only the investment income, not the underlying principal of the trust, can be used to fund parish activities. In some cases, only specific kinds of parish activities may be funded with those proceeds. In a few cases, the principal underlying the fund may be used as well as the income generated.

If you think of something else you'd like to ask about, please contact me: jerome.buescher@gmail.com, or call me at 215-432-4292.

Jerry Buescher

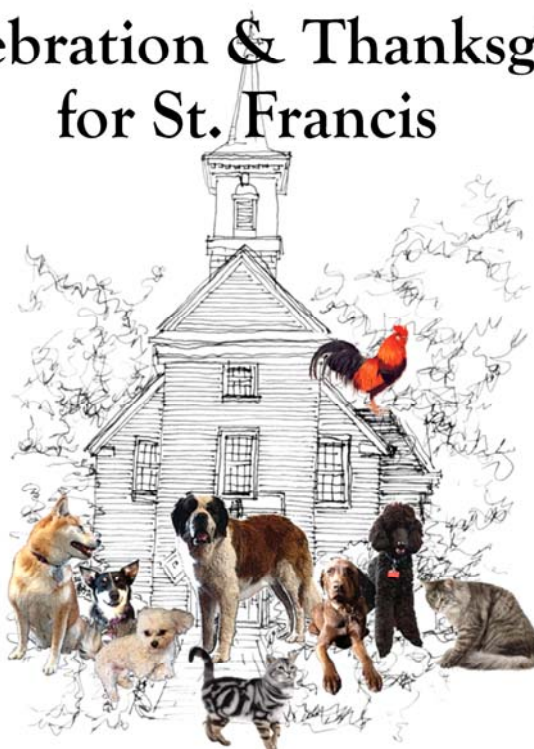


Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House

We are once again going to be Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House, on Sunday, September 25, 2016. We will leave for RMH at 3:30PM from the church parking lot and will return by 8:00PM. We will be planning the menu after church on Sunday, September 18, 2016. If you cannot go with us but would like to contribute to the meal, or if you would like to join us and need a ride, please let us know. You may call the church office or see Joy about participating.



A Celebration & Thanksgiving for St. Francis



" . . . renew our covenant with these
creatures in our care . . . "

October 4 - 6:30 pm

Gloria Dei Church

(Old Swedes')

Columbus Blvd. & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19147

●
All animals are invited and welcome in church,
but please be sure to leash or cage them for everyone's safety and comfort.

●
Light Refreshments in Parish Hall
Following the Service

Calling all 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. First meeting Sunday September 11, meet outside after church, plan to stay till 1ish. Bring your ideas with an open mind & kind spirit.

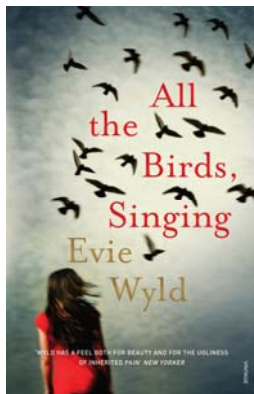
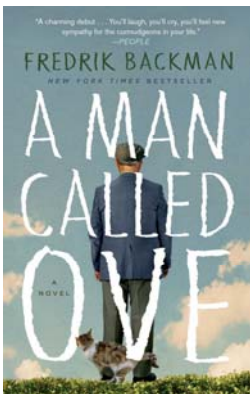
Heather Myers



The Book Club at Gloria Dei

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

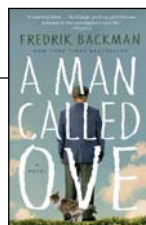
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman	September 26
All the Birds Singing by Evie Wyld	October 24
Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng	November 28
No meeting	December
Fixed: Dope sacks, dye packs, and the long welcome back by Doug Piotter	January 23, 2017
How to be Both by Ali Smith	February 27, 2017
Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula LeGuin	March 27, 2017
The Girls by Emma Cline	April 24, 2017
Brooklyn by Colm Toibin	May 22, 2016



Marilyn Johnson

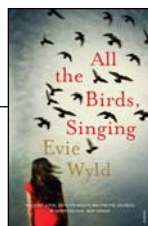
Calendar

- Sept 6, 13, 20, 27** Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary
Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall,
drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class
- Sept 7** Yoga with Anita - 9:00am Riverside Hall,
drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10 per session
- Sept 12** HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm
- Sept 13, 20, 27** Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm
- Sept 14, 21, 28** Yoga with Anita - 9:00am Riverside Hall
Qigong with Germaine - 10:30am Riverside Hall,
both are drop in classes, all levels welcome, \$10 per session
- Sept 15** Swedish Colonial Society - 1:00pm to 3:00pm Riverside Hall
Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Roak Room
Unsinkable Patriot by *Michael Schreiber*, Lecture given by
author at 7:30 Riverside Hall, sponsored by HGDPC and
QVNA Free to the public
- Sept 18** Ronald McDonald House Meal Planning Meeting - after
10:00am service
Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship in
Riverside Hall
- Sept 22** *Jazz & Joe* - 7:30 Riverside Hall
at Gloria Dei
- Sept 25** Ronald McDonald House Guest Chef Day - leave 3:30pm,
return 8:00pm
- Sept 26** Book Club - 7:00pm Riverside Hall,
A Man Called Ove •
by *Fredrik Backman*



Calendar

- Oct 1** History & Mystery Bicycle Ride - 10:00am to 12:00pm hosted by HDGPC
- Oct 4** Blessing of the Animals - 6:30pm inside the church
No Yoga or Evensong Today!
- Oct 5, 12, 19, 26** Yoga with Anita - 9:00am Riverside Hall
Qigong with Germaine - 10:30am Riverside Hall,
both are drop in classes, all levels welcome, \$10 per session
- Oct 9** Church of Sweden - 4:00pm Riverside Hall
- Oct 10** HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm
- Oct 11, 18, 25** 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
- Oct 16** All Parish Breakfast - 9:00am - Free eats with presentation and discussion on finances
Lyra - The Russian Vocal Ensemble of St. Petersburg, performing during the 10:00am service
- Oct 20** Swedish Colonial Society - 1:00pm to 3:00pm Riverside Hall
Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Roak Room
Jim Murphy slide presentation "**Fascinating Facts About William Penn, Philadelphia, and Even Quaker Oats Most People Don't Know**" - 7:30pm Riverside Hall, sponsored by HGDPC and QVNA Free to the public
- Oct 22** Fall Flea Market - 8:00am to 3:00pm
- Oct 24** Book Club - 7:00pm Riverside Hall
All the Birds Singing •
by Evie Wyld
- Oct 27** *Jazz & Joe* - 7:30 Riverside Hall
at Gloria Dei
- Oct 29** Sexton Sideshow Boo-ga-loo



The Lectionary for September

September 4th, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-5,12-17

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 11th, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28

Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 18th, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalm 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 25th, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15

Psalm 91:1-6,14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31



The Lectionary for October

October 2nd, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lamentations 1:1-6

Canticle A: A Song of Waiting

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 9th, Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 29:1,4-7

Psalms 66:1-11

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 16th, Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalms 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14-5

Luke 18:1-8

October 23rd, Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Joel 2:23-32

Psalms 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Luke 18:9-14

October 30th, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Merciful God, gracious and benevolent, through your Son you invite all the world to a meal of mercy. Grant that we may eagerly follow his call, and bring us with all your saints into your life of justice and joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Habakkuk 1:1-4,2:1-4

Psalms 119:137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12

Luke 19:1-10

Articles from Old Swedes' To=day

The first Gloria Dei newsletter

November 1916 First issue of Old Swedes' To=day printed. Percy R. Stockman Rector. It was printed four times a year. The booklet included a message from the Rector, general notes about what was happening in the Parish, Calendar of events, Parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials, general missions and historical notes. Historical notes listed in this issue. 270 years ago- Church built on Tinicum Island, by the Swedes.; 239 years ago- Block House-Church built at Wicaco.; 200 years ago- Rev. Andrew Sandel was Rector Gloria Dei; 150 years ago-Rev. Charles M. Wrangel, under whom the churches at Kingsessing and Upper Merion had been built, was called to return to Sweden; and though his departure was delayed, he finally did return and was made a Bishop; 100 years ago-At a meeting of the Vestry it was ordered that the Warden should supply the Rev. Dr. Collin with three tons of hay. The yearly income of the corporation was reported as \$1,541.48 and the Rector's share of it was \$533.33.; 50 years ago- The church was closed during the summer in order to be papered and cleansed. The Vestry decided to raise the pew rents fifty percent. Plans were approved for the schoolhouse to be built west of the Rectory; and hollow trees in the southern part of the churchyard were cut down.

February 1917 *Alms Basin Consecrated* - On the day before Christmas, at a service which partly filled the galleries, Bishop Rhinelander preached for us and consecrated the memorial alms basin and plates which were given in memory of the first Rector, Rev. Andrew Rudman; and the chancel bracket, a memorial to the late Rector, Rev. Snyder B. Simes. These memorials are additions of great value and usefulness. The alms basin is very unusual. During the week before Christmas it was on exhibit in Caldwell's window, at their new store. Its great simplicity, with the plaque of the church set in the bowl, and the gold cross, studded with jewels, as its only adornment, makes it a most effective piece of work.

November 1917 *Service of Consecration* - At the ten-thirty service on Sunday morning, November 18th, two important memorials will be consecrated. The marble and bronze pedestal to the font has been placed in the sanctuary as a memorial to the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, D.D., a former Rector of the Church, and presented by his grandson, Mr. R. Edey Clay, a member of the Vestry. A communion set, for use at the Chapel services, also given by Mr. Clay, is a memorial to the late Rector, the Rev. Snyder B. Simes. These two memorials will be consecrated at this time, the Rt. Rev. James Bowen Funsten, D. D., Bishop of Idaho, Consecrator.

Memorials and Improvements - The Church is under a deep sense of obligation to that member of the Vestry who, during the past year, has given more for its permanent improvement than any living benefactor has ever given

in the same manner before. It is of particular interest to note the varied character and extreme usefulness of some of these gifts. In the first place there is the memorial pedestal, which provides a fitting and enduring support for the greatly treasured marble bowl of the font, one the oldest possessions of the Church, which tradition tells us came from Gothenburg before the present Church was erected. If so, it was probably in use in Tinicum Island in the Swedish Church there. The last pedestal to the font was of wood, very appropriate in design, but not sufficiently strong and permanent for such a valued relic. It was apparently, a part of the new Chancel furniture placed in the Church about 1846, when several alterations were made, in the Rectorship of the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay. Therefore, in placing the new pedestal, it seemed particularly appropriate to make it as far as possible a replica of the wooden one, and to inscribe it as a memorial to Dr. Clay. The capping to receive a bowl is of bronze, cast in sections and accurately fitted together; and the base and column are of white Vermont marble, the whole carefully reproducing the design of the previous wooden pedestal. Around the base is the inscription, "The Pedestal in Memory of Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, D.D."

There is also the memorial communion set, including the silver chalice and patten, with glass cruets, and a specially constructed case for carrying. This is for use in those services of the communion held outside the Church itself, especially those conducted in the Chapel by the gate, otherwise used as the Men's Bible Class room. On the third Sunday of each month, and on certain saints' days, the communion service is held here, as being more convenient for a small number that the Church building. Inscribed on the base of the cup are the words, "Chapel Chalice-In Memory of Rev. Snyder B. Simes," and on the under part, "Communion Set for Use at Chapel Services of Gloria Dei Church -Presented by R. Edey Clay-1917." On the plate, to mark it as a part of the same, is inscribed, "Chapel Patten."

There is also the new paving laid in the Chancel, composed of six-inch English tiles with facing and step tread of Tennessee marble. This gives a permanent character to the Sanctuary in keeping with the aisles of the nave. It was not intended to make a restoration, for the old Chancel was probably paved with bricks and flagging, but to conform, so far as seemed feasible, with contemporaneous work of like character. Kneeling cushions cover the first chancel step.

In front of the Rectory a very handsome wall has been built, which, with the city improvements to the sidewalk and street, makes the approach from that side in its substantial and highly dignified appearance, adequate to the rest of the Church property. This piece of wall conforms to that on the south side of the Church, facing Swanson Street, erected some time ago by the Sunday-School. The iron-work is a duplicate of the design of the gateway on the south side, and is carried between the pillars, above the base, so as to let light into the

(continued on next page)

front yard. The gate is the same distance from the Chancel exterior as the one on the south, and opens upon steps leading up to the walk between the Church and the Rectory, disclosing a vista through the Church yard, which includes in the background both Sunday-School buildings and clear to Water Street.

The parking space for autos is another improvement, made possible by this gift, and was effected by cutting off a small portion of the lawn on the south side at the west end of the Church yard. The gate letting out on Water Street was found to be wide enough for motorcars to enter, and the curbing was lowered to make an easy approach, and additional bricks laid at that point in the yard, making a convenient space for five or six cars.

Included in the provisions of this donor's generosity was also the electric lighting system in the Sunday-School room, and the stereopticon and screen, which have been previously noted, and were installed in the spring.



Some thoughts on Alexander Wilson

Alexander Wilson was called the “Father of American Ornithology” by George Ord. George Ord was Wilson’s friend and companion, becoming an ornithologist in his own right, and a respected natural scientist member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the American Philosophical Society. Upon Wilson’s death, George Ord took up the task of completing Wilson’s *American Ornithology* by publishing the last two volumes of that series, volumes eight and nine.

Both men are buried in Gloria Dei’s graveyard. There’s a large and prominent monument to Alexander Wilson and ornithologists (often just called “bird watchers”) are frequent visitors to it. The monument and grave are located in a small grotto dominated by an enormous silver maple. This summer, the Wilson grave was one of those undergoing conservation work by



the firm Conservation Materials. An amazing discovery was that the grave itself had an elaborate marble base that had subsided below ground level and had been lost to sight. That base has been returned to sight and seeing it is well worth a visit the next time you’re in the graveyard. If it were completely finished now, I’d have added a picture here.

I'm a bird watcher myself and that's why I know something about Alexander Wilson. I often sit on a bench in his little grotto and watch the various birds in our graveyard. We seem to be catbird central, for just one species. And – to my absolute shock – I once saw a woodcock land no more than ten feet away from me. Surely a migrant making his or her way through the city and greatly appreciative of this little patch of woods we have.

I also keep an eye on developments in the city of Philadelphia – <http://hiddencityphila.org/> is one of my favorite haunts. A couple weeks ago I saw a notice that a closed Philadelphia school system elementary school, Alexander Wilson School, at 46th and Woodland, was approved for purchase by the University of the Sciences for mixed-use development as some retail space and some student housing. The name “Alexander Wilson” of course caught my eye. But I was smart enough to look it up – because there are other noteworthy men named “Alexander Wilson” as a quick search will show.

But, no – this school is named after our Alexander Wilson. A giveaway on site is the mosaic artwork at the school – birds in a tree, as shown below. I'm glad I found this other “monument” to the father of American ornithology who lies in our graveyard, facing East as do all the graves, “awaiting in sure and certain hope the resurrection to eternal life” (Book of Common Prayer, Burial Office).

Jerry Buescher



Hospitality at Gloria Dei

Thank you to all who have extended themselves and put out the effort to make hospitality so successful! There's never a shortage at Gloria Dei! We've had all sorts of treats ranging from Christine's tomato salad to Richard's muffins and cookies – and many things in between.

I always remind myself when doing hospitality that “it is in giving that we receive.” But it takes effort. I am so grateful for all who their time, talent, and treasure towards hospitality.

We hosted a fabulous welcoming spread for the Matsiko Orphan Choir. What a beautiful display of entertainment they enriched us with!

We continue to need people to step up and sign up on the hospitality sheet on the corkboard near the bathroom. We strive for your mission to continue and the doors always say: Welcome, come in, eat drink and feel blessed.

Love and peace.

Peggy, Re, Rita, Barbara & Linda

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 AT 7:30 PM
GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES') CHURCH, RIVERSIDE HALL
COLUMBUS BLVD. AND CHRISTIAN STREETS

Unsinkable Patriot

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THOMAS CAVE IN REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA



Historic Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes')
Preservation Corporation



In his recent book, "Unsinkable Patriot," Queen Village resident and history sleuth Michael Schreiber digs into old letters, newspapers, and documents to tell the story of Thomas Cave, an "ordinary man" who had many extraordinary adventures in early America. At the advent of the American Revolution, Cave enlisted in the Continental Navy and was soon captured in battle. Following the Revolution, Cave married and settled in Philadelphia, where he participated in the rancorous political feuds of the day. While telling the story, Schreiber provides insight into the revolutionary society of the late 18th and early 19th centuries—its politics, theatre, architecture, technical inventions, and daily life.

On Sept. 15, Michael Schreiber will provide information on the fascinating history of our neighborhood. Don't miss this special event co-sponsored by the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation and Queen Village Neighbors Association.

BE SURE TO VISIT THE SPECIAL STOREFRONT EXHIBITION (4TH STREET, BELOW BAINBRIDGE) ON THOMAS CAVE AND THE HISTORY OF EARLY PHILADELPHIA AND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016 AT 7:30 PM

GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES') CHURCH, RIVERSIDE HALL
COLUMBUS BLVD. AND CHRISTIAN STREETS

- FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT -

William Penn

- PHILADELPHIA AND EVEN QUAKER OATS MOST PEOPLE DON'T YET KNOW -



Historic Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes')
Preservation Corporation



"Fascinating Facts about William Penn, Philadelphia and Even Quaker Oats Most People Don't Yet Know" is a fast-paced look at Penn's "Greene Countrie Towne." Philadelphia tour guide, copywriter and history lover Jim Murphy will cover over 300 years of Philadelphia history in about 30 minutes. You'll view unique historic photos and paintings, learn about some of the city's past struggles and successes, and hopefully come away with a new respect for the under-appreciated man who founded our city ... and changed our nation. It should be an educational and entertaining night.

Don't miss this special event co-sponsored by the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation and Queen Village Neighbors Association.

Thoughts from the Rector's Warden

Throughout this long hot summer, members of the Parish Profile Committee have been meeting and brainstorming ideas to help understand who we are as a congregation and where we would like to be.

Team A Is in the process of creating a parish questionnaire and will then examine the demographic makeup of our community. The targeted area will be from Market St to Oregon Ave, Broad St to the river.

Team B Is in the process of examining the church finances and will serve as the Stewardship committee

Team C Has been working to identify our current Internal Ministries and how they are supported

Team D Has been working to identify our current External Ministries. External Ministries can have 2 main objectives - 1) with the goal of growth of the parish in mind and 2) with the needs of the community in mind. Knowing sometimes it can be both.

Both Team C and Team D have created a form that will be used to identify the leader of each ministry and who is involved, what costs are involved and the goal of each ministry. Making it easier to gauge success or need for improvement.

Teams meet individually and also jointly to coordinate efforts. The coordination of the process of the Parish Profile Committee is directed and guided by the Project Consultant, Rev Paul Harris and the Rector's Warden. The Project Consultant has been working closely and consistently with the Rector's Warden, and team members, by providing expertise resources and relevant materials.

Ongoing progress reports are made to the Vestry by the Rector's Warden, Project Consultant, along with Team members who also serve on the Vestry.

Now it's your turn to be involved! In the beginning of September members and close friends of Gloria Dei will receive a Parish Questionnaire in the mail. We need your honest input. (this is how we know who we are and where we want to go as a parish) You will not be asked to identify yourself. It is important that they be filled out and mailed back quickly. Questionnaire's need to be returned by the 1st week of October.

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.

Members of the Parish Profile

Team A – Peg Berich, Carol Jenkins, Christine Pickup, Lisa Reeves, Cathy Ufheil; Team B – Jerome Buescher, Barbara Potts, Mark Roberts, Richard Woehr; Team C – Megan Bartlett, Barbara Chilcott, Jill Duink, Jeanette Woehr; Team D – Peggy Buescher, Julie Daye, Re Henning, Candace Roberts, Rita West; Project Consultant – Rev Paul Harris

A huge thank you to all members of the Parish Profile Committee for all your hard work!

Carol Jenkins



Lucia Fest 2016

Lucia Fest at Gloria Dei begins rehearsals this year on October 30, 2016. All interested folks please put this date on your calendars. Ticket sales will be available October 1st on line at our website or by calling the office. Lucia Fest will be celebrated on the weekend of December 9th, 10th, and 11th. Watch for our November/December newsletter for more information. We hope to see you at Lucia Fest this year!



THE BEST FLEAS AT THE OLDEST CHURCH
Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

FALL *Flea Market*

Saturday, October 22nd
8:00am to 3:00pm

Spaces - \$25.00 Paid at the Door

*BAKED GOODS, HOMEMADE
CHILI, HOTDOGS, MEATBALLS,
SODA, PRETZELS*

HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS AVAILABLE.
BEST FLEAS IN SOUTH PHILLY!
COME JOIN THE FUN!!

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street

Philadelphia, PA 19147

For information (215) 389-1513 www.old-swedes.org

SEXTON SIDESHOW
Graveyard Boo-ga-loo
AT OLD SWEDES
SATURDAY, OCT. 20TH

... 5 - 7 pm FREE ...
Family Fun ... Pumpkin Painting
... Trick or Treating in the Graveyard ...

AND THEN AT
7 PM TO 11 PM

Music by: **Shyboyz**

\$10 Donation
includes food

Creem Circus

DJ Scary Spinning Vinyl

Trick or Treat or Trick or Treat or Trick or Treat or Trick or Treat

Come dressed for Zombiegraveyard Fun!

Sponsored by:





In Remembrance of:

Robert Higginson

June 25, 2016

Florence Devlin

August 14, 2016

Memorial Cards:

Debbie Duffy

By: Joe & Dolores Collins

Joe & Maureen Collins

Donna, Ryan & Patrick Collins

Marge Lord

A Statement of Purpose of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

We the Congregation of GLORIA DEI (Old Swedes') CHURCH, existing by and for the Glory of God, knowing that God, through this Congregation, helps us to find our way and to use our gifts, gather together

- To honor and celebrate the acceptance of our differences and uniqueness;
- To be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, loving community;
- To respond to the needs of others;
- To preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition, and heritage of this sacred place.



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 (1/10/16); The Great Vigil of Easter (3/27/16); Pentecost (5/15/16); and All Saints Sunday (11/6/16). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advice of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.