



June 2011

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Offerings to God

All our merely natural activities will be acceptable, if they are offered to God, even the humblest: and all of them, even the noblest, will be sinful if they are not.

(C.S. Lewis – *Learning in War-Time*, 1939)

C.S. Lewis, the beloved Christian apologist, theologian, author of many works, was a prolific writer. He is a favorite of children, poets, theologians, philosophers, writers, and readers around the world. His writing has a way of cutting through cultural, time, and age differences and finding that place that so many humans hold in common – that place of fear and doubt, of hope and love, of pain and loss, of faith and skepticism.

He himself stood in all of those places, as have most of us. Lewis was willing to share his own story as he struggled with issues of faith, and many have found great solace in his words. He offered his own struggles as he came to faith and his own glorious revelations of that faith observed in days of both great happiness and unbearable pain.

I find the quotation above one that I return to often. It is a reminder when I begin to feel overburdened. It is a non-judgmental nudge when I slip into that place of certainty called pride. It is a comfort when I stumble and an affirmation when I remember to put God back in the center of things.

It is so easy for us to think we are the center of our universe, that things revolve around us, and that our perspectives are clear and unblemished. This is particularly true when we are doing what we consider to be “good works.”

But even “good works” can be sinful, as Lewis points out, if we do them without first offering them to God. At Gloria Dei we do our best to remember this. But we, like most, forget this some of the time. We get caught up in the busy-ness of life in an active parish. We are doing so much here at Gloria Dei and we do intend it all to be God’s work in the world. We are, after all, part of the Body of Christ in the world, the Church. As such, we yearn to know and do the will of the One who created us. Sometimes, though, that requires us to stop, to sit still, to breathe deeply, and to wait. Sometimes we run

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the race without looking up. Sometimes we forget to consider a new way. Sometimes we become intolerant of those who are not like us. And sometimes we just plain want it our way.

As we look at all that we do in this place let us make a commitment to each other and to God. Let each one of us be willing to offer to God everything that we do. Not just those things we offer to God on Sunday morning at the offertory. Not just those things we think God would want us to do anyway. Not just those things we think God might care about. Everything.

Let us offer to God our morning walks, our evening meals, our house cleaning and movie-going. Let us offer to God our daily work, our nightly sleep, our wishes and dreams. Let us offer to God our times of fellowship and our disagreements. Let us offer to God all that we do at work, at school, at play and leisure. Let us offer to God all that we are and all that we have. Let us do this every day. It only takes a brief moment, as we begin each activity, to take a breath, say inwardly *Here God, this is for you*, then proceed.

In this way may we become attuned to the rhythms of God's Good Creation. May we discover each day the gift of life in God, and may we know the joy of God's Presence in all we do.

Peace,

Joy+



*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 as www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we're doing.
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.


Guatemala Update

We are very close to reaching our financial goal for our Brothers and Sisters at La Ascencion and La Anunciacion. If you're still on the "fence" please prayerfully consider helping, any amount would help. If you've given - thank you for taking action and once again stepping up to make a positive difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

We are headed to Guatemala! On June 30th Peggy, Sally, Heather, Tyler, Tom and Jerry will embark on a visit to Guatemala. We will be spending time with our Brothers and Sisters at our two Sister parishes. We will re-connect with these wonderful people and be taking lots of pictures to share. Then off to do some volunteer work at San Lucas Toliman. From there we're headed to Chichicastengo to experience Market Day - Guatemala style. We'll end our trip in the ancient capital city of Antigua which is rich in beauty and heritage. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we travel. Just wait to see what we bring back - yes, we will be having a Market Day of our own!

Heather Myers


Two buildings for Mision Santo Tomas, Columbia Rectory for Sudan
United Thank Offering *New in*
South Africa expansion of over 1000 primary school
Akramamam, Ghana construction of secondary school in
South Sudan building an orphanage in Honduras
Maternity Ward renovation in Kenya install bathrooms
at Holy Cross Anglican Women's Micro-credit
Loan Program in the Republic of the Congo
Station in Cange, Haiti
of teachers for a school serving
war-affected girls in Liberia
Sewing/vocational center for women



Please return your Blue Box before the end of September.
Envelopes are available for one-time donations on the table at the rear of the church. Thank you for your support.

multipurpose center for the Anglican Church
of van to support a Lost Boys educational

Doris Connor,
UTO Coordinator



UTO's Vision:
To significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.

Gather, Word, Prayer, Communion, Send

My greatest discovery thus far in seminary is a greater love and appreciation for the Book of Common Prayer than I ever thought possible. One way I was shocked into a new relationship with liturgy was through music. When I was forced to encounter words in an *unfamiliar* rhythm, I experienced them in a different way. They were less stagnant than I remembered. They were less foreign than I remembered. I learned that there were practical reasons for the order of our worship. There is a reason why our Eucharist is the pinnacle of the service rather than any other part. There is a reason it is positioned right before we are sent into the world to do God's work.

Eucharist is a sign and cause of God's grace. It is a link to the past and it grafts us into God's history of salvation. The Eucharist is also central to Jesus Christ's message. The Eucharist reminds us that God cares for our physical bodies. It provides us with a glimpse of the kingdom of God. It also is a profound time of reconciliation. There is a reason that the 'Peace' comes right before the breaking of the bread. In order to receive God's mercy, it is crucial that we forgive others and ourselves. At many times and places, the chalice and paten seemed to be the primary vessels of Christ, but we need to look at our bodies again as faithful vessels of the Holy Spirit. And it is this realization and transformation that compels us to go out and be Christ for others.

But before we can do any of these things, we must come together. We gather for many reasons, but we nevertheless partake in one body. We are all on different parts of our spiritual journey but we gather because we are looking to be filled and uplifted. We look to be oriented or attached to something greater. This is one reason why the proclamation of the Word and the sermon quickly follow 'gathering' - to feed the seeker. Once these parts of the service are absorbed, the people are better positioned to pray for the world and more motivated to praise God. Once we are reminded of God's love, we are also better positioned to reconcile with ourselves and neighbor for the Communion feast.

In other words, the liturgy moves in such a way that it teaches us something about God. The 'order of worship', and even our hymnal, show us what holiness can look like. In some sense, they are mirrors for our lives.

Not every part of worship will satisfy us in the same ways, however, we learn patience because we believe that our fellow worshippers may be experiencing God through these other parts. We worship together as opposed to just privately because there is something significant in community. It is special to match our words with our motions in unity. There are also so many unspoken gestures throughout the service that are left to the people to interpret. We are not instructed how to read everything.

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On a quick side note, it is our tradition for the priest to raise the host during the Eucharist celebration. Originally, it served the practical purpose for allowing people to simply see what was going on in the massive cathedrals. But what does that mean to you today? How do you interrupt the flow of our worship?

Do you feel a climax during Sunday worship? What does our worship style say about what “this community” believes about God? What do you wish there was more or less of? How does your past experience affect how you worship in church? What does the bread and wine mean for you? Do you feel called out into the world?

Love,

Rhian Roberts



From the Rector's Warden

As I'm writing this, Memorial Day weekend is just around the corner – we'll have our first “one service” Sunday this weekend, Sunday school won't meet, and we'll celebrate our second “Sexton Sideshow Family Picnic.”

We have five new vestry members – Florence Brook, Robert Dieters, Carol Jenkins, Mark Roberts, and Bill Towey. We met for a picnic on May 18 and the briefest of vestry meetings to handle essential business. Jerry Buescher was appointed Rector's Warden for another year, Jim Ufheil was re-elected Accounting Warden for another year, and Lisa Reeves was re-elected Secretary for another year. The vestry will meet on June 22 for a full meeting.

Things will slow down over the summer for the vestry as well as for everyone else at Gloria Dei. But we'll still be busy. We have on-going things to do on the grounds and in the buildings. Maybe we can do a bit more cleaning up in the graveyard. We need to keep up with trimming the hedges. Maybe we can do some painting, outside and inside. There also some upgrades to lighting systems that can be done. We'd like to install LED lighting into the exit signs and see about getting more efficient window air conditioners in the Roak House.

Again, a “thank you” for all your help with keeping this place afloat this past year. And best wishes for a summer filled with peace and sense of belonging to this great community. Hope to see you from time to time over the summer.

Jerry Buescher

Calendar

- June 1, 22, 29** Bible Study - 6:00 - 7:00PM - Roak Room
- June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 - 11:00AM
Please dress for outdoor class - in the event of rain moves to Riverside Hall
- June 4** Rector leaves for vacation
- June 5** One Service 10:00AM
The Rev. James VonDreele - Supply Clergy
- June 7, 14, 21, 28** Yoga - Riverside Hall - 6:00 - 7:00PM
- June 12** One Service 10:00AM
The Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams - Supply Clergy
- June 14** Guatemala Meeting - Roak Room - 7:00PM
- June 19** Outside Service - 10:00AM
- June 22** Vestry Meeting 7:00PM - Roak Room
YCCA Graduation - Riverside Hall
- June 26** Swedish Mid-Summer Celebration - 1:00PM
- June 27** Book Club (See page 10)
- June 30** Guatemala Trip Begins - returning July 9



The Lectionary for June

June 5th, Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: 68:1-10

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

June 12th, The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm: 33:12-22

2nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17, 22-27

Gospel: John 7:37-39a

June 19th, First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm: 8

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

June 26th, Second Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8)

Almighty God, you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm: 13

2nd Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

From the Archives

The Rev. Percy R. Stockman was the rector of Gloria Dei from 1916 - 1922. He later became the director of the Seamen's Church Institute. In the June 1919 issue of the *Old Swedes' Today* (the monthly newsletter) he published the following:

A Study of our Work

A Statement by the Rector

Inasmuch as a Church is the torchbearer of God's truth in the place of its situation and influence, and the living organism of God's progressive Spirit; and the witness to the faith of those who worship within its walls; and, since our Church has unique opportunity to function in all these ways - therefore, I stand for the following principles and hopes in our fellowship and work together:

1. A Church preserving the traditions of the past with regard to its simple services and dignified devotion.
2. A Church that continues to impress the visiting public with its well-kept grave-yard, its clean and refined appearance, and its splendid up-keep, giving evidence of tender care and faithful administration.
3. A Church respecting and recording its history and the ministry of its notable Rectors and all those conspicuously associated with its work, by publishing its records, compiling an up-to-date history, issuing biographies, and preparing a permanent and public record of all gifts, memorials and endowments to the Church.
4. A Church which shall administer the trust funds and endowments entrusted to it, with the most rigid care, and shall use the income of funds created for its benefit with generous wisdom and constructive purpose.
5. A Church which shall take its members fully into its confidence, making published reports, at least annually, of its account and its work; and giving free expression to its plans and policy; training its people in the principles of self-government and democracy; developing a mutual spirit of confidence by creating an atmosphere of co-operation and mutual trust.
6. A Church, which, blessed by an inheritance of foresight and wise provision for its needs, shall live up to the obligations laid upon it by the Dioceses and by the Church at large; retaining its good name for generosity to Missions, and scrupulously meeting its apportionments and assessments.

7. A Church which conceives of itself as one big family, and makes every effort to provide for the children and young people of the Sunday School on weekdays as well as on Sunday, as a thoughtful and loving home would seek to provide for the younger members of its household.
8. A Church which proves to the visitor, as well as to its own members, that under the shadow of its walls, and the influence of its spirit, people living close by can be given a better opportunity in life and be saved from many of the menacing conditions of the neighborhood, by methods of service to the social needs of the immediate vicinity, which in course of time shall change the character of the neighborhood.
9. A Church, which, placed on the city's busy water-front, itself the spiritual harbor of many sea-faring men from the beginning of its history, shall have a special message and a welcome for the sea-going men of today and every generation.
10. A Church, which, situated in one of the oldest sections of the city, and founded by a Protestant Colony, shall always be a bulwark of Protestantism in the part of the city where its influence can be asserted and preserved.
11. A Church which seeks to love God and its neighbor and to incarnate the spirit of Christ.



Spring Flea

Saturday, May 14th we all assembled yet again for our annual Spring Flea Market. Foul weather and many other events like the 3 other fleas in South Philly, Italian Market Festival, and the Dad Vail Regatta kept people away.

On the bright side, 65 vendors found us and sold their stuff, we sold 400 hot dogs, 100 hamburgers, and 300 meatballs and most of our soups and chili's. The church table raised money for Guatemala, the lemonade stand for Sunday School. All in all we raised \$3,751.81 for Gloria Dei Church Fund. Congrats to all!!

Your Sextons,

Jim and Paula Minacci

Vestry Meeting Bullet Points

- A wonderful picnic with past and present vestry and their families.

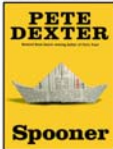
(approved minutes for the April 2011 vestry meeting may be found on the bulletin board in Riverside Hall)



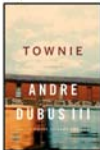
THE BOOK CLUB

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

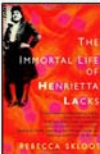
Monday, June 27, 2011 at 7 pm
Spoooner by Pete Dexter



Monday, July 25, 2011 at 7 pm
Townie by Andre Dubus III



Monday, August 22, 2011 at 7 pm
Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot



Monday, September 26, 2011 at 7 pm
Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann



Monday, June 27, 2011 at 7 pm

Spoooner by Pete Dexter
What can you do when your twin brother, dead at birth, is your mother's favorite? This is only one of the burdens placed on young Warren Spoooner, the hero of National Book Award-winner Spoooner. He tries baseball, then newspaper reporting, and finally retires to an island off Washington State where he has a series of hilarious experiences.

Monday, July 25, 2011 at 7 pm

Townie by Andre Dubus III
Townie is Andre Dubus III memoir about how he became a writer. His father left when he was 10. His mother worked to support 4 kids. He learned about street fighting as a way to survive. He went to college and was involved in more fights. This is the story about how he pulled it together and became a writer.

Monday, August 22, 2011 at 7 pm

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Henrietta Lacks was a 31-year-old black mother of five in Baltimore when she died of cervical cancer in 1951. Without her knowledge, doctors treating her at Johns Hopkins took tissue samples from her cervix for research. They spawned the first viable, indeed miraculously productive, cell line—known as HeLa. These cells have aided in medical discoveries from the polio vaccine to AIDS treatments. This book explores the devastating impact of Henrietta's death and the eventual importance that her cells had on her husband and children

Monday, September 26, 2011 at 7 pm

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann
A man on a cable walks (repeatedly) between the World Trade Center towers. This book tells stories about ten varied and intense lives: how each of us is in a singular world, sometimes passing close enough to touch or collide, and when we come together—something extraordinary can happen



Sally Daly writes ...

... prayers nearly every day. Here are two she asked to share with her Gloria Dei family.

*I have a friend named Jesus;
He lives in a place called heaven.
I know I can depend on him
Because he's there for me,
twenty-four seven.*

*My Lord Jesus gave me a wonderful gift -
the Holy Spirit!
But it was not free.
He paid the price
when he died on the cross
for me.
I praise and thank Jesus every day.*



Altar Flowers

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



Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (215) 271-1091,
(865) 585-4768, or fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need



CELEBRATE with the Newly MARRIED

**Nathan Nicholas Cost
and Angelia Ashley Eick**

**Ronald Stephen Beatty
and The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Vold Forde**

**Owen Kenneth Beams
and Marjorie Eden Childs**

In REMEMBRANCE of:

**Clorinda “Coco” Goltra Margolis
6/2/1930 – 3/31/2011**

**Doris Emma (Millwater) Corazo
1925 - 2011**

**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:
9:00 & 11:00 AM**

**Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9:30-2:30**

C L E R G Y

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

S T A F F

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Terry O’Brien, Parish Administrator
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Deirdre Flint, Dir. of Comm.
Mark Roberts, Treasurer; O.S.C.A.R.

V E S T R Y

Megan Bartlett
Jerome Buescher, Rector’s Warden
Barbara Chilcott
Diane Honor, Acct. Assistant
Robert Jenkins
Dolores Kromchad
Heather Myers
Barbara Potts
Lisa Reeves, Secretary
James Ufheil, Acct. Warden
Jeanette Woehr

S T A N D I N G N O T I C E S

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 (1/9/11); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/24/11); Pentecost (6/12/11); and All Saints Sunday (11/6/11). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.