



April 2012

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Crazy Days

The celebration of Holy Week can be not only challenging, exhausting, and spiritually draining, it can also be confusing. If you share with us in each day's traditional liturgy and observance, from Palm Sunday through Easter Day you will find yourself celebrating, fearful, grieving, angry, horrified, surprised, delighted, fed, hungry, in darkness, in light, hopeful, despairing, in silence, in bustling and noisy crowds, alone, hiding, seeking, and surrendering.

That's a lot to go through in one week. Truth be told, not many of us "do" all the days. But I would encourage you to join us as much as you are able in this amazing week that encapsulates the Gospel message and reveals the Kingdom of God in our midst more clearly than any other liturgical time of our church year.

Palm Sunday we begin in celebration, waving palms and singing Halleluiahs, then move into the reading of the Passion narrative, the story of Jesus' last week on earth. But we are not just listeners - we take part in the reading in a way that makes it real life for us. Depending on the part you take, the shoes you are willing to stand in as you hear the story, it may be revealed to you not as ancient text but as oddly familiar, as current affairs - which may rock your comfortable worldview. Then Tuesday after Palm Sunday we gather in quiet meditation in the evening, seeking a safe place to pray quietly about our fears, our joys, our life together.

Wednesday evening we celebrate, we really celebrate! Seder in Riverside Hall helps us connect the familiar stories we are used to hearing in church with the greater story, the meta-story, of the always and ongoing love of God for us, our human fear that so often causes us to turn away from God, and God's forever salvation story, no matter our weakness. From the parting of the Red Sea to the rending of the Temple's curtain, God insists on being with us and in us and all about us.

Maundy Thursday evening we begin in celebration, recalling the Last Supper, and end in darkness, as we head out, altar stripped and all our creature comforts gone, to the garden of Gethsemane, knowing what's going to happen yet needing to be with Him in these last hours. Good Friday evening, desolate

(continued on next page)

and exhausted from the ups and downs of the week's events, we gather in the church, listening again to the Passion, this time with new hearts torn open and aching with longing for things to be different. Fed with the Reserved Sacrament we face our losses, our emptiness, with the only nourishment that can comfort us. Saturday we contemplate life without Him and find we cannot wrap our minds around such a thought. But we become aware that from the disciples of Jesus' day to those we know this day, there are many who live thinking they have been abandoned. And we mourn.

Easter Day, before sunrise, we gather in the graveyard and begin the trek from darkness to light, from despair to delight, from death to new life. Once again we connect with the meta-story, hearing the familiar stories of Creation, the Flood, the Exodus, the Dry Bones, and the Gathering of God's People. Finally, as the sun rises through the clear windows that face east at Gloria Dei we hear the Resurrection Gospel and ring our bells and sing with joy - Christ is Risen Indeed!

And as if that isn't enough - we celebrate the resurrection again at 10am. And following that service all the children run squealing and laughing throughout the graveyard to gather the hidden treasures planted by hearts full of love and hands that serve the Risen Christ by serving all who gather here.

Yes, it's crazy. Yes, it's exhausting. But I wouldn't miss it for anything! Living Holy Week fully and completely is an experience not to be missed. I pray you will be able to join me this year as we live out loud, in body and mind and soul, what we believe in our hearts and say with our words - Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will Come Again. Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed!

Peace,

Joy +



Guatemala

We celebrated Guatemala Sunday on March 25, 2012 - a slide show in church while four parishioners who'd made the trip to Guatemala in July of 2011 talked about what they'd seen there, about the old friendships renewed, and the new friendships begun. After church, in the best Gloria Dei Old Swedes' tradition we ate Guatemalan food, bought raffle tickets for gorgeous Guatemalan crafts, and talked "Guatemala" in Riverside Hall.

Gloria Dei has been involved with the same two parishes in Guatemala for many years now. In that length of time, we've seen a child grow into a young woman with a secretarial job - a job she has because we supported her all the way through school. We know another young woman who is alive now because we helped fund a heart operation when she was a child. The mother of other

children we know and have supported now needs a kidney transplant herself.

We've just learned that the two parishes are once again under the care of a single priest and the new priest is someone who cared for one of the parishes many years ago. We hope that having one priest work with both parishes will benefit both parishes as the years go by.

We saw some of the changes your gifts to these people have made possible. They thanked us repeatedly for those gifts – and we made it as clear to them as we could that it was YOUR help, help from our entire parish family, that made the difference.

So – we thank you once again, on their behalf, for your support.

But – and you knew there would be a “but,” didn't you – the need isn't all taken care of. There are still families with little kids who won't get to school unless we help with their expenses. Those expenses are meager by our standards – something like \$20. per month. But many people in Guatemala live on the equivalent of \$1. a day – so that \$20. for what's seen as an “optional expense” for one child is a staggering amount.

Routine medical care – medical care to deal with the parasite infections and diarrheal illness that are a routine part of life in countries with poor sanitation and non-existent clean water – is another service that we support. Your contributions send a doctor and nurse to each of those two parishes six times a year – and without your support, those visits wouldn't occur.

We thank everyone who contributed in the past and those of you who contributed on Guatemala Sunday. But we're committed, as parishioners of Gloria Dei, to \$7,000. in support this year to our brothers and sisters in those parishes. There's a brochure in this newsletter about our work in /Guatemala and it has a tear-off form you can use to direct your contributions – you can tell us that you'd like to support a child's educational expenses or that you'd like to support medical care.

And this year, there's something brand new for us – an e-giving option. You now have the option of telling Gloria Dei that you're willing to contribute a specific sum of money over a period of time. You can tell us how much you wish to contribute and on what schedule. To make this happen, you can pick up a form in the back of the church, fill it out and return it, or you can call the church office for particulars.

We've done a lot, there's a lot yet to do. Please, we ask you on behalf of our parishes in Guatemala – be as generous as you can.

*Julie Daye, Heather Myers, Tom Myers, Sally Daly, Jerry Buescher, Peggy Buescher
– for the Guatemala Committee*

**We're Going to St. George's Again!
And St. George's is Coming to Us Again!
And Bishop Turner is Coming Too!
Mark Your Calendars: April 29th and June 17th**

Once again we will share worship with our brothers and sisters from Historic St. George's Methodist Church this year. On Sunday, April 29th, there will be no service at Gloria Dei so that we can all join in worship at St. George's, 4th and New Streets, at 10AM. Rides from Gloria Dei's parking lot will be available on April 29th, leaving at 9:30AM.

On Sunday, June 17th, St. George's will close their doors and join us for worship at our 10AM service, when we will also be greeting the Rt. Rev. Franklin Turner, Ret. Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Bishop Turner will be here to celebrate and preach as well as to Confirm and Receive any who have been prepared for these Rites of Initiation.

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join in this wonderful example of the One Body of Christ, living and worshipping together in the heart of the city.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Thanks to the Altar Guild members who served in March: **Peggy Buescher, Candy Roberts, Dolores Collins, Marge Lord, and Barbara Potts**. Thanks to those who helped with our Sunday morning Hospitality in March: **Peggy Buescher, Jerry Buescher, Re Henning, and Barbara Potts**. Thanks to those who served at St. John's Food Cupboard in March: **Dolores Collins, Joe Collins, Sally Daly, Re Henning, Rita West, Floss Brook, Sarah Eisenstein**. Thanks to those who tutored at St. James School in March: **Ann Blackstone, Maria Reilly, Barbara Chilcott, Joy Segal**. Thanks to those who made soup for Soup and Study in March: **Annette Jablonski, Megan Bartlett, Candy Roberts, Chickie Lipps, Peggy Buescher, Heather Myers**. Thanks to those who helped clean the church in March: **Sally Daly, Bill Hirschman**. Thanks to those who write cards and make phone calls to those who cannot be with us on Sunday, and to those who pray daily the names requested, and to those who read and serve at the altar on Sundays, and to those who serve on our committees, and to those who guide and tend to our children.

Thanks to all who serve in so many ways at Gloria Dei.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| April 1 | Palm Sunday | <i>Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Reading, Holy Communion Rite II</i> | 10:00am |
| April 4 | Wed. in Holy Week | <i>Passover Seder for Christians</i> | 6:00pm |
| April 5 | Maundy Thursday | <i>Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Holy Communion, stripping of the altar</i> | 7:00pm |
| April 6 | Good Friday | <i>Easter Egg Preparation Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from the reserved sacrament</i> | 10:00am 7:00pm |
| April 8 | Easter Day | <i>Easter Vigil, Holy Communion, Rite II Holy Communion, Rite II, Baptism Easter Egg Hunt</i> | 6:00am 10:00am 11:15am |

All are welcome, all the time



Food Ministry

Food Ministry at Emmanuel Lutheran and St. John's Church, 3rd and Reed Streets has been very rewarding to all of us who participate in this program. The people in charge have given so much of their time to help others. The people who come and receive the food are very thankful for whatever is available on that day. The program is very rewarding to our volunteers from Old Swedes; Kathy Furber, Re Henning, Rita West, Sarah Eisenstein, Floss Brook, Sally Daly and Joe & Dolores Collins. We all get so much more out of this program than you could ever imagine.

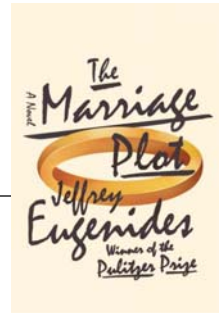
"I was hungry and they gave me food,
I was thirsty and they gave me drink;
I was a stranger and they welcomed me with open arms."

We all feel the presence of God as we help others.

Dolores Collins for the Food Ministry Group

Calendar

- Apr. 1** Palm Sunday – 10:00AM – Liturgy of the Palms,
Passion Reading – Holy Communion Rite II
- Apr. 3, 10,
17, 24** Yoga (Classes are \$8.00)
Beginners Class 6:00 – 7:00PM
Advanced Class 7:15 – 8:15PM
Evensong 6:30PM – 7:00PM church
Gloria Dei Ringers practice immediately following – 7:00PM
- Apr. 4, 11,
18, 25** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 – 11:00AM
Please dress for outdoor class – in the event of rain
moves to Riverside Hall
Passover Seder for Christians – Riverside Hall – 6:00PM
- Apr. 5** Maundy Thursday Liturgy – Holy Communion,
stripping of the altar – 7:00PM
- Apr. 6** Good Friday – Easter Egg Preparation – 10:00AM
Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from the reserved
sacrament – 7:00PM
Church office closed
- Apr. 8** Easter Day – Easter Vigil, Holy Communion, Rite II
– 6:00AM
Holy Communion, Rite II, Baptism – 10:00AM
Easter Egg Hunt – 11:15AM
Breakfast following each service
Swedish Service – 4:00PM
- Apr. 15** Norwegian Service – 4:00PM
- Apr. 19** Deanery Plenary Session – 6:30 – 8:30PM
– Riverside Hall
- Apr. 23** Book Club – 7:00PM – Riverside Hall
The Marriage Plot • —————
by Jeffrey Eugenides
- Apr. 26** *Jazz & Joe* – Riverside Hall – 7:30PM
at Gloria Dei
- Apr. 29** Gloria Dei at St. George's – 10:00AM



The Lectionary for April

April 1st, Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: 118:1, 2, 19-29

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

April 5th, Maundy Thursday

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 12:1-4

Psalm: 116:1, 10-17

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 6th, Good Friday

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm: 22

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

April 8th, Easter Sunday

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 15th, Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Psalm: 133

2nd Reading: 1 John 1:2-2

Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 22nd, Third Sunday of Easter

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Psalm: 4

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

April 29th, Fourth Sunday of Easter

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Psalm: 23

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel: John 10:11-18



Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee thanks all those who extended themselves with their time, talent, and treasure. We welcome and thank Barb Potts for joining us in our efforts.

It's truly rewarding to see people walking in the door to Riverside Hall with various treats for all to enjoy. It's been amazing how abundant the treasures have been and even more incredible that not much is ever left over! We do eat well and truly *enjoy* fellowship.

We can use help in setting up before the service and cleaning up after the service. We always appreciate your gifts of baked goods, fruit, other snacks, and beverages. We're always looking for suggestions or help in improving hospitality and fellowship at Gloria Dei.

Love and peace always,

Peggy Buescher, Re Henning & Barb Potts



The Jazz Sanctuary, Inc. presents a Jazz & Joe event:

Sponsored by:

 **LPL Financial**

member FINRA/SIPC. : Kevin.supka@lpl.com; 215-572-4300

PFCU
PHILADELPHIA
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
pfcu.com | **better. honest.**
K. Biederman: 215-934-3582

Alan Segal Quartet

alan@alansagal.net 215-208-7314

Eddie Etkins – George Sinkler – Alan Segal – Leon Jordan

Thursday 4/26
7:30 to 9:30 - Riverside Hall



We'll Be Removing Bushes Again Soon
- April 21, 8AM-Noon-

We have one more row of overgrown bushes to remove in the graveyard, on the south side. This is the last row of bushes that divides the graveyard. It is hard work getting those bushes out, but it's also exciting work because we often uncover gravestones buried and forgotten for many years. The more of us that can help, the easier the work. Plan to join us if you can. Whether you wield a shovel or saw, a spade or rake, or just are present to cheer us on, your presence will be greatly appreciated. And, of course, we'll feed you when it's all done!



Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (267) 273-5175,
fbrook529@hotmail.com

Prayer
Chain

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need

From the Rector's Warden

Palm Sunday is April 1 this year, the full moon that determines the date of Easter is on Friday April 6, and Easter Sunday is April 8. It was Easter Sunday 2005 that I walked into the church at Gloria Dei for the first time – although I'd picked mulberries from the trees that used to overhang Washington Avenue.

Seven years have gone by ... I'm not bragging but since that Easter Sunday, the only times I've missed worshipping with Gloria Dei people have been Sundays that I was out of town.

The first two people to speak to me at Gloria Dei no longer worship here – but there are at least half a dozen people I see and worship with just about every Sunday who were not here when I came in 2005. There are dozens of people whom I see and worship with just about every Sunday who were here in 2005 and continue to be here.

We're three months into our three-year commitment to look at every facet of parish life at Gloria Dei with a view toward making sure that we're here – and here as a worshipping community – for the second 300 years. We're talking to each other, looking at our neighborhood, looking at help from the Transforming Congregations initiative, dragging some of you into our “homework” from Transforming Congregations, and – if you haven't yet been asked to be part of our homework – rest assured that your turn will come.

We've worshipped as a single congregation for five Sundays now, and that's starting to feel “right.” I'm sitting on the opposite side of the church from the side on which I sat since that Easter Sunday seven years ago – and that feels “right.” I've been to one Evensong service since they began – only one because my work schedule finally cycled so I'm free once again on Tuesday evenings – and that felt “right.”

On that first Easter I worshipped here, those long, long readings of the vigil service just washed over me as the sun came up over the Pier 40 rental storage facility. They lifted the gloom from my spirit just as the sun lifted the dark from the churchyard.

I'll hear those readings again in a couple of weeks, in the dark, and I know they'll flood my troubles and turmoil away once again – as we celebrate the triumph of good over evil, life over death, light over darkness, the rising of Christ from the tomb.

Happy Easter, everyone.

Jerry Buescher

Rev. Simes – Part 4

During the summer of 1869, a loan for \$1,500 was negotiated for the purpose of substantial repairs and improvements. The Church was closed from July 18th to September 12th. The pews were re-upholstered and a new Communion table replaced the one from 1846. Also a drain was laid in the low part of the yard. A bazaar was held lasting a week for the benefit of the repairs to the Church. \$1,200 was raised with the balance raised by private subscription. The total cost of the work was over \$2,200. In 1871 another bazaar was held lasting ten days which raised over \$1,100 for the benefit of the Church funds. In 1872 the old organ had been cleaned and repaired. In 1881-82 it cost \$2,500 to provide better drainage for the Church-yard, repairs to the Sexton's house, painting of the interior of the Church, repairing the Church heater, and making over the interior of the main Sunday School building (Riverside Hall). In 1895 the Sunday School building was again renovated, and the flat ceiling was replaced by a peaked roof. The Easter offering of the Sunday School provided about half the cost of over \$1,400. In 1882 the vault was built into the south vestibule of the Church. In 1883 a new tin roof was placed on the Church. In 1884 the old Sunday School building for Infant School and Bible Class was repainted. The interior of the Church was repainted, new carpets laid, and new gas fixtures installed in 1886 for \$800. The largest undertaking occurred in 1896. The old pews were removed and all upholstery removed. The original plan of a middle aisle was revived and two side aisles were formed against the walls. The interior of the Church was repainted, antique gas fixtures installed, the chancel rail was made straight across the Church, and small tiles laid in the aisles, with three flag stones, which had been under the Chancel marking the tombs of the three early Swedish Rectors, placed in the middle aisle. The outside of the Church was also repaired and repainted. The old Sunday School building was also renovated. The expense for the 1896 repairs totaled \$3,200. The Church was re-opened on September 6th at the 10:30 am service. The brick wall on Swanson Street was erected in 1898 costing \$1,400. All buildings were repainted in 1900. In 1903 the new organ was installed at a cost of \$4,300. A hot water heating system was installed in the rectory in 1906 and in the Church in 1908.

The old burying ground, connected with Shot Tower was disposed of in 1872, with the proceeds divided between the three Swedish Churches. In 1911 Gloria Dei purchased from Christ Church, Upper Merion and St. James, Kingsessing the property adjoining the Churchyard on the north.

Jeanette Woehr



**Memorial Cards in loving memory of
Domenic Disco**

By: Jean & Bob Neill
Gary & Alexis Neill
Bob Neill, Jr.

Leo Schneider

By: Barbara Turner



**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-Friday 9:30-2:30

CLERGY

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

STAFF

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.
Seminarian, Paul Gibson

VESTRY

Megan Bartlett
Florence Brook
Jerome Buescher, Rector's Warden
Robert Dieters, Acct. Assistant
Carol Jenkins
Dolores Kromchad
Heather Myers
Barbara Potts
Lisa Reeves, Secretary
Mark Roberts
James Ufheil, Acct. Warden

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 (1/8/12); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/8/12); Pentecost (5/27/12); and All Saints Sunday (11/4/12). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.