



# Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Annual Meeting

May 2, 2021



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## **Call Meeting to Order - Rev. Koshy Mathews**

## **Election Announcements - Judges of Election**

## **Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes - Rev. Koshy Mathews**

**Gloria Dei Annual Meeting - September 27, 2020, 12:00 PM on Zoom 15 people in attendance**

**Call to Order – Jim Ufheil, Rector’s Warden Opening Prayer – Koshy Mathews, Interim Pastor**

Agenda was amended to state the time of the meeting as 12:00 PM

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Koshy’s Welcome**

Koshy spoke about the importance of the church’s mission as described in the gospel, especially in these unusual and challenging times. Not only are we having our annual meeting by Zoom but the Diocesan Convention in November will also be on Zoom this year. Koshy said he was happy to be at Gloria Dei as our interim pastor to help Gloria Dei prepare to call a new rector.

Just as we are taking care of the buildings of church, we also need to take care of the people of Gloria Dei. We can’t complete the mission of the church if we are not working together and taking care of each other. He said that we are like the son in the parable in today’s gospel reading, hesitant at first but then repenting and going to the vineyard.

### **Rector’s Warden Report – Jim Ufheil**

It has been 17 months since our last Annual Meeting, due to Covid-19. It’s been a rough time but we are still here and functioning. Last November, the rector resigned. Canon Arlette Joseph from the diocese gave us direction, providing missionaries to lead our services and helping us look for an interim. During that period, we continued with our support for Bayeese refugee family, took Christmas gifts to Nebinger Elementary School and received the Keystone Grant for the restoration of the sanctuary and Riverside Hall.

In March, we stopped having live services. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Koshy Mathews started as our interim and we started live services on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the diocesan guidelines limiting services to 25 people only. We also started streaming services and have improved the church wifi. During this time, Jim and Paula have done an excellent job of deep cleaning all of our buildings, as well as reorganizing closets.

Our plans for the coming year will focus on writing a new parish profile and finding a new rector. Additionally, we are looking forward to our next round of restoration and repair projects. The church needs a new roof, the rectory needs repairs, and the sidewalks also need repair. We hope to attract new people and keep Gloria Dei the warm and loving place that it is.

Jim then asked attendees to think about how they can help? What talents can they share. We will be organizing many new committees including a profile committee, a search committee, a worship committee, and a communications committee.

### **Financial Report – Jill Duink**

Jill reminded us that how we spend out money is who we are. When the Finance Committee prepared the budget for 2020 at the end of 2019, income was up by 16,000 and endowments provide 33% of budget. We tried to increase our giving for outreach.

2020 has been very different. Fundraisers have been canceled, leaving endowments and pledges to form a bigger percentage of the income. The plate has also been lower. However we also had lower expenses, as we were without a rector for several months.

Jill also showed pictures of the Bayeese refugee family that we have been helping, pointing out how our fundraisers can make a difference in the world.

Jim thanked Jill and said that we need more fundraisers and described the upcoming online gift shop to sell items from last year’s St. Eric’s Fair.

### **Historic Gloria Dei Report – Candy Roberts**

Materials Conservation has begun work on the repairs funded by the Keystone and is progressing well.

HGDPC has begun streaming free lectures online that have been well attended. There is an event in October and another one in November. HGDPC purchased Go- To-Webinar which allows 200 people to attend. 150 people signed on, giving email contacts.

### **Election of New Vestry Members – Jim Ufheil**

There are three openings on the vestry this year, and only three people have agreed to run. Therefore, no election is necessary. Barbara Chilcott will continue for another year. Nils Van Ammers and Jerry Walker will serve three-year terms.

### **Settlement Music School Scholarship**

The Settlement School Scholarship was won by Paula Minacci.

**Koshy thanked everyone for coming and closed with prayer.**

## **Baptisms and Burials since September 8, 2020**

### **Baptisms since last meeting on September 8, 2020:**

Zachary Dennis Ross

Emma May Thompson

Felicity Kathleen Johnson

Adeline Monroe Dickinson

### **Burials since last meeting on September 8, 2020:**

David Goltra

Ann M. Keeley

Raymond Grinnell

Deborah DiStefano

Fausto Gonzalez

John Paxson

## Rector's Report - Rev. Koshy Mathews

*"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples" John 15:8.*

As I sat down to write this report, the gospel lesson (John 15:1-8) for the Sunday of our Annual Meeting came to my mind. Robert D. Putnam, in his book, *Bowling Alone*, says, "Once we bowled in leagues, usually after work but no longer." In this book, he persuasively argues how we as a society, over the years, have increasingly become disconnected from one another and how our social structures, whether they are PTAs, church, or political parties, have disintegrated. Putnam rightly calls the crisis resulting from this social breakdown a deficit in social capital. The concept of social capital is based on the theory that social networks have value. A society of many virtuous but isolated individuals is not necessarily rich in social capital. The social isolation we are going through now has further depleted our social capital. At the heart of this phenomenon is a go-it-alone-trusting-in one-own-strength attitude of the ideology of rugged individualism.

This attitude is not anything new. Jesus suspected this in his disciples. As Jesus was about to leave his disciples, one of his great concerns was that they would not be in a relationship with each other and that they would attempt to do the ministry alone. He wanted them to be in the community and a relationship with him. Their relationship with him should serve as the common thread that binds them together. Their unity and connectivity were the essential ingredients to be productive in their life and ministry. When Jesus compares the disciples and followers as sheep or as branches, he sees them as a corporate body, as a community, or as a church abiding in him. They cannot go it alone, trusting in their strength. On their own, they would be cut off from their life sources and bear no fruit.

In this challenging situation of declining social capital of our society further exacerbated by pandemic-driven social isolation from each other, we need to look at how we, Gloria Dei, functioned as a church this year. Did we bear fruit? Did we buck the trend and remain as a cohesive community? I would say we did.

Congregational development experts identify five necessary practices to have a Fruitful Congregation: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

**Radical Hospitality:** We all know that it has been a challenging year for us to offer radical hospitality and welcome as in previous years so that people could experience a sense of belonging. And yet, many who came to our church campus as visitors and tourists met with respect and care. The Minaccis serve as our ambassadors to the community. They engage the community by allowing them to ring our church bell on Sunday mornings. We did not let the pandemic protocol prevent us from doing the yearly tradition of Blessing of the Pets on St. Francis Sunday. I thank Cathy Ufheil, who, using her superior organizational ability and with the help of Paul Fejko and the Minaccis, organized a fantastic pet blessing event. We blessed many dogs, and in doing so, we let our neighbors know that we care.

**Passionate worship:** We made sure that there were opportunities for corporate worship every Sunday morning. It is a miracle that we did not miss a single Sunday. During a brief period of Advent and Christmas, while work was going on inside the church, we worshipped from Riverside Hall. Having our campus fully wired for internet capability eased our efforts to live stream all our services. We are grateful to Paul Fejko and Jaime Konowal for expertly handling all the technical aspects making our services readily available to a wider audience each week. The church is thankful to God for the faithful and most reverential services of our three-person Altar Guild: Barbara Potts, Cathy Ufheil, and Jeanette Woehr. We thank each of our fifteen-person group of lectors and intercessors for taking a turn in reading the lessons and praying the intercessions. Jim Ufheil, our Senior Warden, and in his rare absence Robert Jenkins, serving as ushers, welcome people in following the COVID protocols. We thank them for their dedicated service each week. Our Sunday morning service is not over until we have a beautiful and often ebullient postlude, a mini-concert by Paul.

Tuesday Evensong with Bible Study provided another opportunity for worship. Zoom link provided and managed by Jaime made this service more interactive and community-oriented. Thank you, Jamie. Evensong participants are grateful to Jim Minacci for his leadership in seeing that this service is inclusive and contextually present. And Paul Fejko for his live music contributions. Evensong draws an average of 8 to 10 people each week.

On March 24<sup>th</sup> remembering the martyrdoms of Archbishop Romero and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., we organized a Peace Vigil under the title Our Martyrs Walk With Us. This zoom event that drew 70 or people from around United States and Canada, was a success, and may be something we want to repeat. Special thanks go to Jaime for her patient effort in bringing together both live and recorded parts into a one smooth flowing event.

**Intentional Faith Development:** For a church to be a church, it needs to be an inviting, forming, sending and serving entity. Our hospitality would bring people into the church, and once people are in church, they are informed and formed through worship and education. When we gather for worship weekly in church on Sunday mornings or for Evensong on Tuesday, we not only worship our God but also learn about faith. It is through worship we come to

believe and grow in faith. Our learning begins with baptism. Because of the pandemic, we postpone the baptisms until now. So far this year, we did four baptisms, one of which during our worship service. Each time we do baptisms, we renew our baptismal covenant, which our parents and godparents did on our behalf when we were small. Each of our Sunday morning rituals has a purpose, and each one provides our people an opportunity for faith development.

In addition, for further formation in faith and to learn how to live Christian life faithfully in the world, we gathered for group study through our Anti-Racism Book Club on Wednesdays. We studied the books *How To Be Anti-Racist* by Ibram X Kendi and *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. We also watched the movies *13* and *Just Mercy* and discussed them in the group. We are now studying the book *Climate Justice* by Mary Robinson. Though meeting on zoom made it easier for us to come together to study and to have fellowship, participation was somewhat lukewarm. Thank you, Jaime Konowal and Nora Melley Konowal, for providing the technical support and leading them.

**Risk-Taking Mission and Service:** We come to church to be informed about faith and formed in faith, and we go out of the church to serve God's people in the world, in the places of our living and work. For many of us, self-care and taking care of our own families itself is a twenty-four-hour and seven-day mission. Our mission begins at home. Some of us find time to do volunteer service in the community. In the past, as a church, we were involved in social service and social justice work.

Our involvement with the resettlement of a refugee family in Philadelphia through the HIAS organization as a mission engagement is something we can be proud of. More recently, we made donations of money and supplies to Broad Street Ministries and Mercy Hospice. I am happy to note that we are forming a Mission and Outreach Committee under Jill Duink to look into becoming a more serving community. Our focal verse says, 'you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

**Extravagant Generosity Stewardship** of resources comes in many ways: time, talent, and treasure. The sign of a fruit-bearing church is the attitude of abundance. We see ourselves as abundantly blessed by God, and we live that sense of abundance in the way we give to the church in different. I think of our members coming from far and near to tend the church. The church is grateful to the Property Committee headed by Bob Jenkins in seeing to it that our property is well maintained. I know that they offer their time and talent to fix things, mount TVs and electronic gadgets, clean up spaces like our vault and make room for holy vessels, etc. We also thank Bob and Mark for the weekly printing bulletins, etc. We thank HGDPC, headed by Candace Roberts, for its work getting a grant to do some much-needed work on Riverside Hall and the Church.

We also thank our vestry, led by Jim Ufheil as the Senior Warden, for their time and the offering of their expertise for the church's well-being. Here I offer my gratitude to Heather Myers, Lisa Reeves, Mark Roberts, and Jeanette Woehr, who are after faithfully serving the vestry for two consecutive terms are stepping down this year. You all helped the church and its interests well. You all made me feel welcomed to Gloria Dei. I look forward to spending time with them outside the vestry during the remaining time with you. Another person who gives so much of her time is Megan Bartlett. She runs the Prayer Chain Ministry and keeps the church abreast of all who need our thoughts and prayer. Thank you, Megan. Special thanks to you for finding homes for Barbara's cats. Green Committee, headed by Julie Daye, serves as the church as the conscience of the environment and God's creation. Their cleanup efforts as part of Earth Day both in and around our campus drew the community's attention and the Philadelphia Inquirer. I also want to thank Amy Grant and Jaime Konowal for their technical knowledge and help in having a vibrant presence in social media through our most up-to-date website and lively Facebook page. Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Christine McBride, our Church Administrator, for her faithful behind the scenes of making sure that the office runs smoothly and the business of the church happens efficiently. Thank you, Christine.

You will see in the following pages an account of the faithful ministries of the people of Gloria Dei. It is an account of fruit-bearing branches connected to the vine. Life in Christ and belonging to the church are more than just a connection; it is a relationship, it is abiding, it is allowing the life-giving sap of God's love to pass through every one of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Koshy

## Rector's Warden Report - Jim Ufheil

### Accomplishments over the past year

- While it hasn't really been a year since our last "annual meeting" (that was actually held when we had an opportunity in September thanks to the Covid closures), we've gotten a lot accomplished.
  - The Keystone Grant work continues and will still be in progress for the next few months.
  - We've selected a consultant to work with us on initiating our transition and setting up our updated parish profile and getting together a search committee to find a new permanent rector.
  - Even the simple fact that we've been able to keep our doors open as often as we have during the past 14-months should really be noted as an accomplishment – many churches that are much bigger than we haven't done what we have in terms of providing worship opportunities in person and through live-streaming on both Sundays and Tuesdays for Evensong.
  - Our clean up and organization of our spaces might seem a simple thing on the surface, but those efforts will pay dividends in terms of having our possessions last longer and be more easily accessed when they are needed.

While some of these may sound like a broken record, they are things that continue to take place and keep us moving forward. And they are things we can be proud of.

Koshy's time with us is now nearly half over. And, again thanks to the Covid constraints, there are still some of our parishioners that he has not had the opportunity to meet in person. Now that more and more of us are getting vaccinated and the imposed constraints appear to be loosening a bit, we'll hopefully see more people in the pews, and he'll have a chance to interact with everyone.

We are just beginning to work with Rev. Barbara Abbott as our Transition Consultant. Barbara has great experience in helping churches through their transitions and we're fortunate that she was available. The vestry sub-committee for selection of a consultant for this purpose was unanimous in recommending her to the full vestry and subsequently the vestry was unanimous in approving her. We'll be working closely with Barbara over the next several months and as a result we will be reaching out to several in the congregation to help out with the profile and search committee.

- Our need to form search committee with an update of our profile will take a priority position on the vestry agenda all summer.
- Please let someone on the vestry or Koshy, or the office know if you are interested in helping with the rector search process – we need and want people involved.

Thanks,

Jim

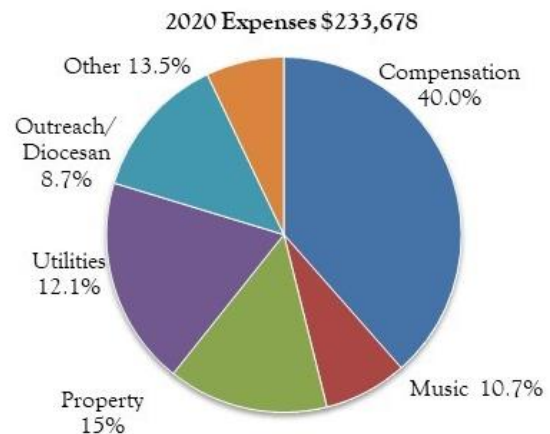
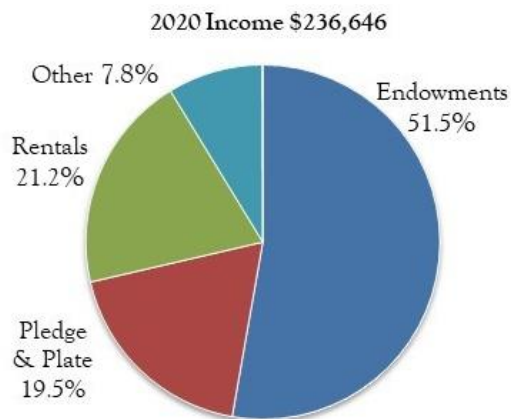




## Financial Report - Jill Duink

The year 2020 was a time out of time for so many and in so many ways. Our Gloria Dei finances were not exempt. While our endowment, pledge, and YCCA rent income remained thankfully similar to 2019, our fundraisers, rentals and plate donations suffered. We missed the joy of being together for Lucia, Flea Markets, Sexton Sideshow events, and Jazz & Joe. We also missed the income those events provided for Gloria Dei in past years. The charts below illustrate our 2020 income and expenses.

- Endowment income was our largest income source at \$121,822, which was \$2,226 less than 2019 endowment income.
- Fundraising (including some Lucia expenses carried over from 2019), showed a loss of \$1,247 in 2020. In 2019, our fundraising profits totaled \$36,669.
- Pledge and plate giving totaled \$46,172, which was \$6,531 less than 2019 giving.
- Our largest expense was compensation and related benefits at \$93,470.
- Our property expenses totaled \$27,990.
- Our outreach spending and diocesan contributions totaled \$20,316.



Total income exceeded total expenses by \$2,968 in 2020.

Our utility expenses totaled \$28,279 in 2020. Utility costs are also a reminder to conserve energy and water as a part of our mission to protect God's creation.

The table below tracks our endowment year-end value over 7 years. Gloria Dei's endowments finished 2020 lower in value by \$45,270 than in 2019. As 51.5% of our income in 2020 was from endowments, Gloria Dei remains vulnerable to stock and bond prices and income.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2,800,585	2,621,008	2,625,850	2,952,615	2,798,397	3,078,348	3,033,078

Please consider making a legacy gift to Gloria Dei's endowment; a gift to preserve our mission for future generations. The gifts of prior generations have saved Gloria Dei and continue to provide much toward our financial security. Add your name to this esteemed list:

	Original Gift	Value 12/31/2020	Income in 2020
Simes		\$232,316	\$9,061
Alfred C. Young	\$500	\$43,061	\$1,636
A. Adele Rudolph	\$6,601	\$126,807	\$4,818
Dorothy Maynard Smith	\$380,000	\$1,265,004	\$47,308
Simes		\$135,000	\$6,000
Charles I Stille	\$118,918	\$126,242	\$4,000
Lunsbeck, Robling, Hogeland	\$50,000	\$389,830	\$16,000
Your Name Here	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$

### 2021 First Quarter Annual Financial Report

The 2021 budget projects a shortfall of \$19,325 which will be taken from one of our endowment accounts if needed.

Twenty-six pledges were made for 2021 that total \$42,896.

The charts below illustrate our 2021 income and expenses from Jan 1 to March 31, 2021.

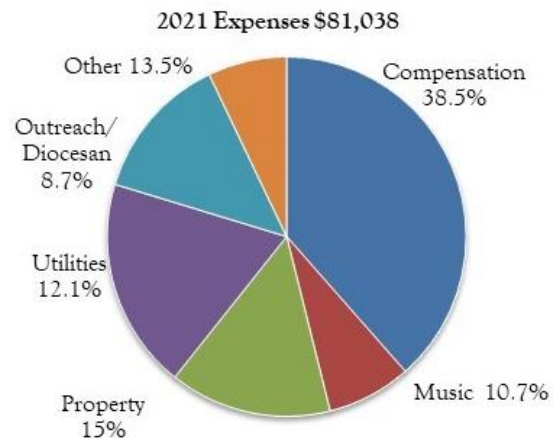
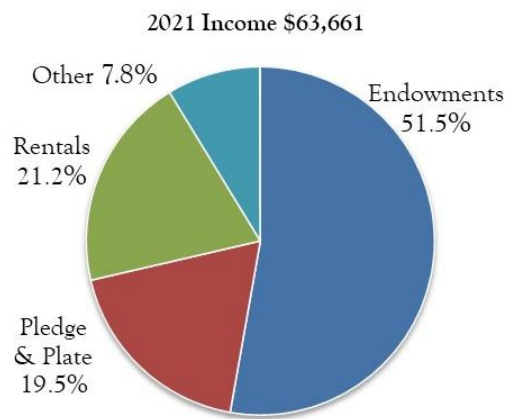
Endowment income total is \$33,601, which is \$3,801 above anticipated.

Pledge and plate giving total is \$11,823, which is \$1,223 above anticipated.

Our income total is \$63,661, which is \$10,332 greater than anticipated.

Our property expenses total is \$11,845, which is 1,589 above anticipated.

Our expenses total is \$81,938, which is \$8,156 greater than anticipated.



Designated Donations in 2021 include:

- Mercy Hospice \$850
- Good Friday collection for the Cathedral in Jerusalem \$ 55
- "Our Martyrs Walk With Us" for Healing Communities PA \$300
- "Our Martyrs Walk With Us" for Cristosal \$300
- Easter Offering (recipient not yet designated) \$400

## Property Committee Report - Bob Jenkins

Here are some of the things we've done around the property:

- 46 trees have been treated to protect them against damage from the Lantern Flies (with the follow up treatment scheduled for June at no additional cost)
- The stove and oven and exhaust hood over the stove in Riverside Hall have been professionally cleaned (and by the way, the pros commented about everything looked really good considering not having been professionally cleaned in 20 years – thanks Jim Minacci!). The oven/stove cleaners were there and working for almost 13 hours! Moving the stove, cleaning the ceiling fans and kitchen beams, etc.
- Jim and Paula have done a great job in cleaning and organizing Riverside – the kitchen, the cabinets, the closets – the place looks terrific!
- Jim and Paula have not only cleaned up, but Jim has been spot painting the walls and the place looks fresh and clean
- Put netting on fan outside on Riverside Hall, so birds cannot make nests.
- A new water heater has been installed in the Riverside
- Faucet in Riverside fixed
- Faucet in Rectory kitchen bathroom fixed
- Electrical outlet in upstairs bathroom fixed
- NPS painters finished painting all wrought iron gates on Sat June 13<sup>th</sup>

### Rectory

- Has been cleaned top to bottom for Rev. Koshy Mathews' arrival.
- There is a hole that needs fixing on the rectory. Mark is looking into it.
- The shutters on the rectory are in dire need of repair
- All electrical issues in the rectory have been fixed and brought up to code.
- Cracked pipe in the rectory basement has been replaced.
- Two new screens for screen door of Rectory
- Two screens to be repair/replaced in Rectory first floor
- 3 window locks to be installed on Rectory first floor
- New hardware for screen door in Rectory

### Church

- The air conditioner in the church had some issues with dripping. All has been fixed.
- Keystone Grant is being completed by Material Conservation
  - Work has begun on the Riverside.
  - The inside of the church has been painted
  - Work has resumed on the outside of the church.
- Electric line was run to the vault so a dehumidifier could be installed.
- The vault was emptied and repainted. It looks great.

### Grounds

- In January, the trash service hired by YCCA knocked down one of the pillars in the driveway
- A new screen door needed for sexton house... door on sexton house is 20 years old.

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2020-2021

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Candace Roberts, Board Chair · Christine Pickup, Treasurer · Amy Grant, Corporate Secretary  
Jeanette Woehr, Vice Chair · Terry Brasko, Trustee · Joshua Thomas Castaño, Trustee  
Thomas Daley AIA, *emeritus* · Mike Duffy, Advisor · Marco Federico, Trustee  
Mark Roberts, Trustee · Mary Ryan, Trustee · Alan Segal, Trustee · Michael Schreiber, Trustee · Ray Spera, *Advisor*  
Robert A. Stewart, Trustee · Jerry Walker, Trustee · Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, *emeritus*

## OUR WORK



Our Keystone Grant project is nearly complete. Multi award-winning company, Materials Conservation, has completed the interior of the Church and most of the exterior work on the Church and Riverside Hall. We had an unexpected hit to our budget when Materials Conservation discovered that the stained glass windows in Riverside Hall were in danger of imminent collapse. This was an added cost of \$16,000. When the exterior work on the church and Riverside Hall is completed, we will evaluate what can be completed with the remaining funds available. **You can still support this project by making a donation which will be 100% matched** by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



We continue hosting our "Great Talks at Gloria Dei" **lecture series** using online video software. We are moving in accordance with instructions from the Bishop for modified live events and will continue to stream recorded lectures.

With these reports and plans in place, we continue the work of **outreach and communication**. Here are some highlights:



We continue to add content to our free **podcast** to complement our "Great Talks" lecture series.



We curated one **museum** exhibit on the SS Poet. Due to COVID limitations, we are keeping the exhibit up at least through the summer.



We publish a monthly **e-newsletter** containing a history story and update on our events and projects



We published two issues of **FOUNDERS Magazine** to great acclaim. Current and back issues are now available for sale.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- We continue to **update our churchyard map** to include the known final resting places for all confirmed internments. This will help visitors locate the exact locations where their ancestors were buried, even if their headstones are missing.
- We are **growing our contact list** regionally and across the country.
- Trustee, Mary Ryan, continues to create a firm foothold for us in **social media** — please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- We will continue to move forward with the production of **videos and walking tours** to enhance our visitor experience.
- We will work to meet our **fundraising goals** through donations and grants. With our Keystone Grant Project nearly complete, we are focusing on fundraising for the replacement of the Church roof.
- We are actively **recruiting additional volunteers** for our various programs.

*The Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Preservation Corporation was established to fund, support, and supervise the restoration, renovation, and ongoing maintenance of the Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church buildings, grounds, and graveyard so that future generations may share in this historic and architectural treasure. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

*Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (Federal ID# 45-3210057)*

## Altar Guild - Cathy Ufheil

I can't think of any ministry within our church that has not been affected by the Covid pandemic.

However, when you are given lemons, make lemonade....and that's what the Altar Guild has done.

We used the time we had while we were not physically in church to make some much-needed changes...both to the way we now manage setting the Lord's Table and how we store and maintain the implements used for this ministry.

The church vault, where most of the needed altar items are stored was completely overhauled. Thanks to the Vestry, we have a more than adequate dehumidifier which keeps the vault dry and the things stored within its confines, free of mold and mildew.

We also took advantage of this time to clean, paint and organize the interior of the vault making it easy to find what is needed for church services. A shout out here to Bob and Carol Jenkins, Richard and Jeanette Woehr and Jim Ufheil for the time and energy they put into this project.

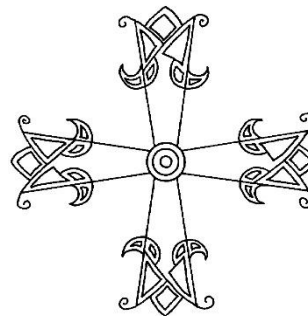
Now that the vault is in great shape, we will focus on several things ... replating or repolishing those vault items that have become scratched and in repairing the older altar linens.

In doing an inventory a few years ago, many unused altar linens were discovered. Those that could be cleaned and reused were and we continue to use them on a regular basis. Some have tears, repairs that need redoing and some are so thin as to make regular use of them a risk. Our intention is to bring them back to life instead of buying new.

And last but not least, we hope that when more of us return to in-person worship, we can recruit others to this ministry ... men, women ... and perhaps even a Junior Altar Guild!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Ufheil, Chair, Altar Guild



## History Committee Report - Jeanette Woehr

The History Committee has been part of "Digitizing Philadelphia's Historic Congregations." Gloria Dei is one of the several historic churches that have joined together to apply and be awarded a \$385,205 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). We are now in the process of transcribing the scanned records.

Some of the interesting information transcribed as written (spellings) from the Miscellaneous Records 1638-1760

Mr. Sandel related the following:

1706 May 27th. The Governor John Evans invented a humorous Stratagem by causing a false report to circulate, to wit that the French were coming up to Philadelphia with a view to take the Town by storm, and that they had already taken Schuylkill. This report caused a great fear and confusion in all the Towns on the river. Having gathered all his soldiers, he caused Ramparts to be erected on Society hill and their placed field pieces. He ordered the soldiers to keep themselves in readiness as the enemy was to come up with the next flood. The people were very much alarmed. The Quakers conveyed their wives and children into the woods, the moveables they either carried off or hid in wells. Those that lived near the

Town carried their goods into the swamp, and also hid themselves there. Many women who were in delicate situations miscarried in consequence of their fright. This false report of the enemy's approach was chiefly raised to see how the Quakers would act in the like circumstances.

Anno 1725

On the 1st of May, a Parish Meeting was held in Wicaco, where the Church Council and the Congregation's members were together and discussed the following:

- 1) Pastor Lidman talked about how the church roof on the south side was quite worn out, and that the church could suffer great damage. The Church Council miraculously took this into consideration and resolved that the church on the south side should be roofed as soon as it could be accomplished. Every family should contribute to this 5 shillings which will be collect by the Church Council.
- 2) Pastor Lidman remarked that the cemetery now was very much in disrepair, and he asked what advice the congregation could give about it. They answered that, in the future, they wanted to buy a juniper ring fence and make a new fenced in area. Valentin Cock promised with his district, to support doing this now and for one year.
- 3) Pastor Lidman complained that his salary came in so irregularly, and besides he had to spend his own money for furnishings and food, etc. The members of the congregation promised that they would show more respect.
- 4) The Congregation decided that the pastures which are nearest the church should be marked out in a good way so that Pastor Lidman could get some help from them.
- 5) Chosen for the church Council by the Congregation, in Valentin Cock's place, Zacharias Cock and George Koln (Culin)

On the 2nd of May 1726, a Parish Meeting was held at Wicaco when the Church Council and many of the congregation's members were present and discussed that which follows.

- 1) There was talk about the church roof and how necessarily it needed help. Rows of shingles were already purchased and it should be roofed soon on the south side, otherwise it was to be feared that the wood would be damaged. It was answered that the Church Council will hand in, on the 16h of June, that which every district gave for it, which should suffice. Church Council members Bengt Bengtson, Garret Garret and Sven Rambo were authorized by the congregation to bargain with the carpenters about this.
- 2) It was asked how it was going with the cemetery and its fence, and its repair. The congregation asserted again that in the future they would like to make a brick wall around the churchyard. But in the meantime, the congregation divided the cemetery (upkeep) among themselves, in this way: for Passagium (Passyunk) district, the east side and all the front; Nishaminie (Neshaminy) district, the north side; Cobb's Kil and Amasland (Ammansland) the west side; Matzon's (Matsunk) district, the south side with the help of Sven Jones and Peter Jones, together with Shire (?), since they were so few.

When this was decided, Philip Johns came to us. He is the nearest neighbor to the church and promised to take care of the south side of the churchyard. This was agreed to in such a way that Sven Jones and Peter Jones would belong to the Cobb's kil district with regard to the cemetery. Church Council member Garret Garret and Mans Justice, Morton Garret, and Jacob Scuten with the Nishamine district would have further help from those living in Matzon.

- 3) The "pastures (lots) beside the church were discussed and how they might be cared for.

Thereafter the Church Council and the members of the congregation were unanimous that the church's trustees, Lars Boore and Jacob Bengtson, should set up (i.e., lease) the "pastures" to the best advantage so that Pastor Lidman could get some help from them.

- 4) It was emphasized that each and every family should give a shilling for the salary of the clerk (Klokaren). The present (one), Peter Bengtson, was asked if he didn't want to serve the church any longer as clerk. He answered no. In this cause, the congregation felt that it was proper to find another in his place. At last, they accepted Jacob Bengtson to serve the church in this capacity. The Congregation stated that they would give him 3 pounds a year for his trouble.

## Lucia Report - Carol Jenkins

The members of the Lucia Committee, Jim Battista, Pete Flamini, Elizabeth Keene, Carol Jenkins and Jeanette Woehr are in constant contact with each other over the course of the year.

2020 posed a real problem with the Covid-19 global pandemic. We watched during the early part of the year hopeful that in a few months things would get back to normal. By the end of summer we knew things were not looking promising. As fall began the quarantine restrictions were still in place and there could be no large in person gatherings. We knew that Lucia as we know it was not going to happen for 2020.

We grieved the loss of our traditional Lucia and began to devise a way to keep our time-honored tradition going. We couldn't imagine Gloria Dei without a Lucia.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> annual Lucia Fest at Gloria Dei church was presented in a very different way. It was, like everything else 2020 a virtual experience for our viewers. It was also the 1<sup>st</sup> time our Lucia participants got to be the audience.

With the help and expertise of Paul Fejko we were able to film an introduction and back ground story of our Lucia. Paul was then able to add footage from past Lucia fest performances to give viewers the true feeling of Lucia fest.

The highlight of the show was a live performance of Lucia by Olivia Roak, who performed a spectacular solo complete with a crown of candles. The sight of empty church pews as she processed down the aisle added to haunting beauty that is Lucia.

We ended the 2020 Lucia with a brief talk of fundraising and inviting everyone to shop our online gift shop. Both did pretty well for an online event.

*A special note on our Lucia presentation.*

*To honor the founders of the Gloria Dei church Lucia Fest – Astrid Perry and Marion Roak who began this tradition back in 1938, we placed the antique Dala horse and the copper coffee pot that Astrid Perry brought with her from Sweden on the altar. We asked Olivia Roak who is Marion Roak's great granddaughter if she would be our Lucia and she gladly accepted.*

We are currently monitoring the pandemic along with any restrictions and are hopeful that we can have our 84<sup>th</sup> Lucia Fest. Stay tuned for more updates.

Lucia 2021 is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Sextons' Report - Jim and Paula Minacci

### 20 YEARS SEXTONS....24 YEARS PARISHIONERS

As January and February went by in 2020, with all of our normal Sexton duties....building upkeep, outdoor grounds work, cleaning, working with NPS, Rentals, community classes, celebration for Gloria Dei, Swedish Church of NY, fundraisers, working with HGDPC, weddings, funerals, burials, security, package deliveries, working with YCCA, and connectors to the heart and soul of the grounds where community wonders in and out.

AND THEN FRIDAY MARCH 13 HAPPENED.... where Covid 19 changed the flow of every living thing..and here at Gloria Dei, it became a new way of looking at things very carefully.

We as Sextons, kept working and had the church open even when the world was shutting down. Hopefully giving a little hope for what was coming.

So, we decided to write a poem about our year here...

#### STILL LIFE WITH COVID 19

Epidemic makes us disinfect everything....  
But made us start to bring community and Artists have the bell ring!

Even with quarantine, church open all the time...  
With ropes marking pews shows us a sign.

Heavy cleaning in every building...  
Made our parishioners really sings....  
not really... everyone is wearing masks...  
buffing and waxing church floors was a task!

Did someone say disinfecting was an every moment fate?  
But with unsettled riots in the streets, it was the first time in 20 years we had to lock the gates!

NPS was also working on outside gates and sidewalk...  
We started to realize Old Swedes park was all the talk.  
Everyday more and more families came to play...  
This was a fantastic thing for Gloria Dei!

One Wedding, 12 Burial cremations we had...  
But with Covid mental health, we lost a soul in the amphitheater and that was sad.

As Sextons we do property reports that are on file, for all the projects done on all building...  
The Church and Riverside had Material Conservation start working.

Though our world at Gloria Dei Old Swedes was changing and not calm...  
It is wonderful to have Koshy and Susan as our neighbors bring salaam!

So, when one says Covid 19 changed our job...  
We believe it is all up to God...

Peace for now ... Paula and Jim

p.s. Sexton Sideshow took a year off in 2020; Hopefully 2021 live performance and fundraising will come back plenty aplenty!

ok thats a wrap!



## Green Committee Report - Julie Daye

*God calls us to love the people we know and the people we will never know by loving and protecting the living things that provide air, water, food, and beauty for all.*

After a Covid-19 hiatus, the Green Committee began meeting on Zoom in October of 2020. with new members, new energy, and new projects.

We painted the water barrel in the parking lot and plan to get an additional water barrel for outside Roak House. Rain barrels help prevent stormwater runoff from carrying pollutants and sewage into our rivers, as well as providing a handy water supply for water our flower beds!

We currently have the invasive weed, Star of Bethlehem, growing all over our property. The GC recently pulled up the weeds in a small section of the graveyard as a test to learn the best way to get rid of it. We will check back with it next year and hopefully make a plan to get control of it so we can plant more native plants.

Climate justice is a key part of limiting the dire effects of climate change. Members of the GC are participating in the Anti-Racist Book Club study of *Climate Justice* by Mary Robinson.

We celebrated Earth Day on April 25th with a special Earth Day liturgy and a clean-up after church, when we collected litter outside the walls of the property and cleaned up the parking lot flower bed.

We will soon be pricing sustainable electricity providers as our current contract with Green Mountain Energy expires this September.

The Green Committee meets on Zoom at 6:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please feel free to join us! The Zoom link is on the Gloria Dei website.

## Music - Paul Fejko

Once again we make it through a year of many joyful noises! A little virus and a lot of ZOOM got in the way of larger offerings like the Christmas and Easter choruses. I hope we shall be back in gear for the coming Christmas 2021. Many of you have now had the unpleasant experience of hearing me sing - your ears have my deepest condolences! It is a FAR, far better thing for me to hear you all sing. With any luck, this will be soon....

While for obvious reasons the 'Support Music' envelopes have not been seen in a while, I urge all those who enjoy contributing to music offerings continue to do so. This way we can hit the ground running when we are again allowed to have full-throated singing and no-holds-barred instrumental interludes for occasional special gatherings.

We shall continue making that JoyFul Noyse!!

## Prayer Ministry Report - Megan Bartlett

Since my last annual report in September 2020, the prayer ministry has received over 60 prayer requests for health/healing or for the repose of the soul. This is a quiet and unseen, yet vital ministry and I'm grateful to all of our intercessors: Dolores Collins, Barbara Chilcott, Sally Daly, Re Henning, Richard Janssen, Margie Kucinski, Nora Melley, Lisa Reeves, Cathy Ufheil, and Rita West. We had one intercessor step down from this ministry this year, so if you are interested in participating, let me know: [megan7777@yahoo.com](mailto:megan7777@yahoo.com). If you have a prayer request, please contact me or the church office (215-389-1513).

Peace and blessings

## **Outreach Ministry Report - Jill Duink**

### **Mercy Hospice**

Gloria Dei is collecting and donating food, needed items, and financial support to Mercy Hospice in Philadelphia. We hope to find other ways to support their work.

Mercy Hospice provides residential support for women and their children from inpatient treatment, upon release from prison, and in other circumstances. Mercy Hospice provides life skills, education, job readiness, addiction help, childcare and parenting support services.

### **Healing Communities PA (HCPA)**

During the Gloria Dei Antiracist Book Club study of “How to Be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi, we learned that policy often creates inequality and injustice. Helping to change bad policy and to make good policy are important ways to advocate for social justice.

Gloria Dei has joined with HCPA in “Days of Virtual Action” by having volunteers call, email, text, and /or use preferred social media to contact PA legislators to take action on criminal justice issues and bills before the PA legislature.

Healing Communities is a faith-based organization with the mission of “Building relationships of healing, redemption and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration.”

### **Our Martyrs Walk with Us**

In March, Gloria Dei joined with many and hosted a Peace and Healing Service in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. of the United States and Archbishop Romero of El Salvador, two giants of faith and non-violence of our lifetime. They are, though different from our tradition, in the Episcopal Book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. The service drew inspiration from the words of Dr. King and Archbishop Romero to confront unjust policies based on white supremacy and racism and to pave a way forward for the beloved community.

The zoom service was attended by about 70 people. Donations made will be sent to two organizations, Cristosal and Healing Communities PA. Cristosal works to advance human rights in Central America through rights-based programs and provides protection for victims of violence. Healing Communities PA is a faith-based group that supports men and women who are affected by crime and the criminal justice system.

### **Sacred Day of Clothing**

In early 2020, Gloria Dei participated with the PA Diocese in the “Sacred Day of Clothing,” donating backpacks full of clothing to those in need.

### **Sacred Day of Food**

In April of 2020, Gloria Dei worked with DIOPA to create a virtual “Sacred Day(s) of Food” to distribute the first stimulus payment and/or other donations to food banks and kitchens.

### **Support of a Refugee Family through HIAS**

In 2019 and into 2020, Gloria Dei supported a UN refugee family as a HIAS Congregational Support Group. With a goal of helping our family toward greater independence, we got to know Fiteline, Tamasha, Abedi, Merina, Gabriel, Ibrahim, Jacob, Mwato, and adorable toddler Aly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We had scheduled a pot-luck at Gloria Dei in March of 2020 when, suddenly, we could not gather.

Gloria Dei volunteers continued to gather donations and to wave from the street during distanced drop-offs. We were able to contribute toward utility bills and to make a large donation towards their move to a larger house. Several of us continue to reach out with donations and look forward joyfully to seeing them again when we can.

## **Questions - All**

## **Adjournment - Rev. Koshy Mathews**

