

# Gloria Dei Church (Old Swedes')

Annual Meeting  
September 27, 2020

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Agenda - TBA

September 27, 2020  
Annual Parish Liturgy and Meeting

## APPROVAL OF 2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Annual Meeting May 5, 2019 Call to order 10:50am Rev. Patricia Cashman

Polls closed by Judges of Election, close of Scholarship submission- Judges of election: Nora Melley & Bob Jenkins

Rector's Warden Address- Jim Ufheil asked the congregation to hold each other accountable to become better. He encouraged everyone to think outside of the box to the different resources around us to help raise funds. He highlighted the importance of everyone working together.

Finance presentations- Mark Roberts spoke about endowments and explained a handout with graphs showing a breakdown of the church income and endowments. He shared ideas for planned giving. Candace Roberts spoke about business planning. Jerry Buescher thanked everyone for the impact they had helping Susan and said we can use that same tactic in other fundraising options. Jerry said it was pure outreach and we as a parish need to be more aware of people and what we can do to help. He stated that Gloria Dei has a long history of not carrying out plans or ideas and that we need to get better.

Outreach Opportunity- Jaime Konowal, Jill Duink & Omega Moore proposed a congregational support group to help one family. It is a 1-year commitment with a \$3,000 minimum which goes towards housing. A majority of the congregation voted yes to having a representative come and speak.

Group discussions about conflict at Gloria Dei and it's impacts.

Election Announcement- Judges of Election

Vestry 3-year term- Peggy Buescher, Julie Daye, Jaime Konowal, Jim Ufheil

Vestry 2-year term- Re Henning

Deanery Delegates- Carol Jenkins, Jeanette Woehr, Peggy Buescher Alternate- Barbara Chilcott

Settlement music scholarship- Jill Duink

Circle of Friends update- Carol Jenkins & Julie Daye shared an update and positive feedback so far. They highlighted that this is focused on people.

Rev. Patricia Cashman shared thanks to many people.

Vestry goal for congregation from retreat- Barbara Chilcott shared that they will be getting the congregation involved with the prayers of the people. Prayer suggestions will be given prior to church and given to the prayer leader that day.

Sextons- Jim Minacci shared an article about the Sexton Sideshow

Meeting ended at 12:00PM

## **Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Deaths since last Annual Meeting**

Baptisms: River Meilani Galbavy, Lyla Nicole Cruz, Theodore Rocco Fike, Cora Grace Koenig

Marriages: Keith Conway & Brein Crumlich

Deaths: Robert James Neill, Erica Star Miceli, Eugene F. Sweeney, Reiner Bernhard Paust, Richard P. Drozdowski, Rhonda Ann Homan, Susan E. Atmore, Elizabeth C. Roak, Robert H. Roak, Mary A. Weissinger, Nicholas Dakota Herrera, Michael C. Ward, Helga Cinalli.

## **RECTOR REPORT – Rev. Koshy Mathews**

Odd as it may seem to you, what I am writing here is not a report. As you know, I haven't been here at Gloria Dei long enough to present you with a report. Moreover, I joined you at a time of locked down. Our ministry in the church has been restrained by the rules and protocols of the COVID19 pandemic. I still haven't had an opportunity to meet and greet many in the congregation. It is my hope that soon when we can be together in worship, fellowship, formation, discernment, and mission without being socially distant from each other.

In writing about what I have experienced so far, though short and restrained by COVID, I want to shout out to our vestry for their excellent work and stewardship of the church. They were meticulous in working with the diocese in securing a clergy person for the church during this interim period. Again, under the guidance of diocesan staff, the vestry put together a safe plan for worship with Eucharist for those who feel comfortable for in-person gathering. Considering the extenuating circumstances, we have been dealt with over these past few months, due to your vestry's due diligence on the fiscal matters and in property management, the state of the church is good. Also, on a personal note, I appreciate how vestry has made our move to the rectory seamless and smooth.

We have been celebrating in-person Eucharist since the beginning of July. And, from the beginning of August, we have returned, though on Zoom, to holding Evening Prayer/Evensong service, thanks to Jaime Konowal, Jim Minacci, and Paul Fejko. Paul and Jaime are also instrumental, using our limited resources, in making our Sunday Eucharistic services stream and making it available to our Facebook audience near and far.

The interim period in the life of a church can be like a sabbatical, a sabbath time. It is a time to focus on its inward life, to reassess its particular call and mission, and to set some goals for the future. In the coming days, I will be calling on the members of the church.

I hope to learn from you your understandings of the past and your hopes and desires for the future. I want to work with you as a partner in God's ministry, and together let us discerning God's dream for us as a congregation.

May God bless us and guide us as we move forward into God's future for us!

## RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT - Jim Ufheil

It's been a really long time since our last "Annual Meeting" – about 17 months actually - and so much has happened both at Gloria Dei and around the world.

Not quite a year ago our Rector resigned. The world saw a global pandemic evolve and went into near total lockdown. We had to move some things out of storage at the Lutheran Seminary due to a dramatic increase in cost. Our Sextons and some of our parishioners made extra effort to clean up and clear out space so that we know what we have and where it's located. We searched for an Interim Rector for about 8-months before we found and welcomed Rev. Koshy Mathews to Gloria Dei. We took the opportunity provided by the down time to prepare for a safe and controlled "re-opening" of our doors both physically and virtually. We successfully kept the church open, viable and vibrant, continuing our ministries as best we could given the constraints imposed by several different layers of governing bodies.

Major work on our church building, Riverside Hall and the Sexton's house is beginning. Funding was found (Keystone Grant), the contractor has been selected (Materials Conservation), approval has been granted from the Historical Commission, and permits obtained from the city.

In order to improve the virtual experiences at Gloria Dei we've contracted to have our wifi improved throughout our campus including in the church itself so that we can live stream with better quality and fewer issues.

Now we're on the doorstep of another new beginning. We're going to have to look very closely at who we are, what we want and what we need to do in the future (both near and far) to maintain our identity and meet the needs of our congregation while at the same time encouraging growth by offering an environment that is attractive to others in our neighborhood and greater community.

Then we'll move into yet another new phase, one in which we will let the world know what we have to offer and that we are looking for a new spiritual leader to be our Rector. Then vetting the applicants thoroughly to assure the choice of a compatible individual to step in. No easy undertaking but one that we need to take seriously and work on diligently and prayerfully.

All of this is going to need support, encouragement, and most of all participation. Please share your talents with Gloria Dei and become a part of our future by helping us define ourselves, select a new Rector, represent Gloria Dei at the Diocese or by becoming a vestry member. You are our most valuable and important resource.

Some of the committees and or work groups we believe we need over the next few years are:

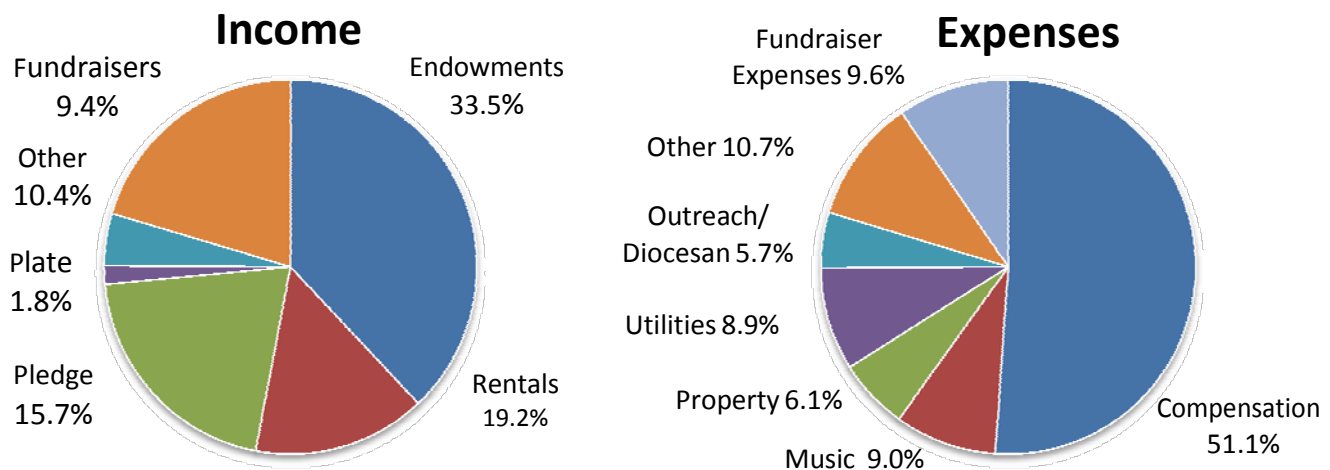
- Profile committee
- Search committee
- Capital campaign committee
- Worship committee
- Communications committee

## FINANCIAL REPORT - Jill Duink

### Financial Report – Jill Duink

The charts below illustrate our 2019 income and expenses.

- Endowment income was our largest income source at \$124,128, which was \$23,157 more than 2018 endowment income.
- Fundraising income, after expenses, totaled \$36,669.
- Pledge and plate giving totaled \$52,703, which was \$1,643 more than 2018 giving.
- Our largest expense was compensation and related benefits at \$159,261.
- Our outreach spending and diocesan contributions totaled \$16,258.



Total income exceeded total expenses by \$15,665 in 2019. Income increased primarily due to increased endowment and sexton sideshow income. Our utility expenses totaled \$27,744 in 2019. 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 6 ½ years. Gloria Dei's endowments finished 2019 higher in value by \$279,950 than in 2018. In the first quarter of 2020 our endowment values dropped to \$2,533,134, but have partially recovered to \$2,851,345 in the second quarter. As 38% of our income in 2019 was from endowments, Gloria Dei remains vulnerable to stock and bond prices and income.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	July 2020
2,800,585	2,621,008	2,625,850	2,952,615	2,798,397	3,078,348	2,851,345

Now for the exciting part! YOU can make 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 12/31/2019	Income in 2019
Simes		\$243,036	\$8,775
Alfred C. Young	\$500	\$43,727	\$1,914
A. Adele Rudolph	\$6,601	\$128,746	\$5,637
Dorothy Maynard Smith	\$380,000	\$1,264,231	\$55,341
Simes		\$136,273	\$5,965
Charles I Stille	\$118,918	\$116,714	\$4,000
Lunsbeck, Robling, Hogeland	\$50,000	\$359,907	\$16,000
Your Name Here	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$

The following page contains the 2019 budget:



**Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church**

BUDGET FOR 2019

1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 YEAR END

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Yearly Budget</b>
Flowers Easter/Christmas	1,460.00	1,000.00
Plate	5,425.00	6,000.00
Pledge	48,921.00	52,400.00
<b>TOTAL Regular Support</b>	<b>55,806.00</b>	<b>59,400.00</b>
Aethon/Exelon/Phila Contrib	808.94	1,050.00
Church F 064786 - Alfred C Young	1,914.11	1,514.00
Church F 064791 - A Adele Rudolph	5,636.64	4,460.00
Church F 064934 - Dorothy Maynard Smith	55,340.83	38,000.00
Church F 065033 - 4th Century Fund	13,687.21	10,000.00
Church F 065117 - Simes	5,965.27	4,572.00
PNC 16-35-035-0617188 - Simes	8,774.97	9,327.00
Wells Fargo 1513091190 - Charles I Stille	4,000.00	4,000.00
Wells Fargo 1519175748 - Gloria Dei Church	12,000.00	14,000.00
WF 1519178585 - Lunsbeck, Roebling, Hogeland	16,000.00	15,767.00
<b>TOTAL Endowments</b>	<b>124,127.97</b>	<b>102,690.00</b>
Baptism	0.00	0.00
Funeral Services	4,116.00	1,000.00
May I. Young FD	3,358.27	3,050.00
Miscellaneous	843.88	0.00
Societies - Organizations	1,914.00	1,500.00
Wedding Services	3,050.00	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL Donations</b>	<b>13,282.15</b>	<b>10,550.00</b>
Flea Market	8,859.80	5,000.00
Jazz & Joe	1,293.00	1,000.00
Lucia	29,287.30	28,000.00
Misc	85.26	0.00
Other Book Sales	350.00	0.00
Sexton Sideshow		
Brunches	1,963.00	2,000.00
Honky-Tonk/Hootenanny	5,465.00	4,000.00
JC Superstar	2,625.00	2,000.00
Memorial Dei	10,917.50	9,000.00
Other	5,787.00	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL Fund Raisers</b>	<b>66,632.86</b>	<b>52,000.00</b>
Mass Cards / Memorials	180.00	200.00
Rentals Rectory	0.00	0.00
Rentals Riverside Hall	13,775.00	11,000.00
Rentals Roak House	100.00	400.00
YCCA - Kreative Kids	50,536.60	49,108.00
Yoga, Tai Chi, AA, NA	2,500.00	1,200.00
<b>TOTAL Rentals</b>	<b>66,911.60</b>	<b>61,708.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR OPERATING</b>	<b>326,940.58</b>	<b>293,991.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Yearly Budget</b>
Flowers Easter/Christmas	697.34	0.00
Expenses for Flea Market	1,046.44	600.00
Expenses for Funeral Services	2,047.80	0.00
Expenses for Lucia	15,720.09	8,000.00
Expenses for Riverside Hall Rentals	1,375.00	0.00
Expenses for Sexton Sideshow		
Brunches	397.00	250.00
Honky-Tonk/Hootenany	2,876.69	2,000.00
JC Superstar	546.63	500.00
Memorial Dei	4,689.45	4,000.00
Other	1,273.44	200.00
<b>TOTAL Fund Raising Expenses</b>	<b>29,972.54</b>	<b>15,550.00</b>
Diocesan Contributions	14,947.00	14,947.00
Outreach	1,311.47	2,000.00
Clergy Continuing Education and Telephone	1,113.98	2,100.00
Life, Disability and Sexton Medical Benefits	13,098.90	15,887.00
Rector Pension	14,615.25	16,000.00
Salary		
Christine McBride + 500 Business Plan	12,751.30	12,501.00
J Minacci	17,124.12	17,124.00
P Minacci + special events stipends	21,049.12	12,174.00
Rector	68,900.00	58,800.00
Supply Clergy	3,560.76	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL Salary</b>	<b>123,385.30</b>	<b>109,599.00</b>
Medicare	1,547.10	1,575.00
Soc Sec	6,615.30	6,733.00
<b>TOTAL Compensation</b>	<b>159,261.85</b>	<b>149,794.00</b>
Adult/Family/Growth	752.96	1,000.00
Advertising & Banners	1,215.36	2,000.00
Bibles - Prayer Books	0.00	200.00
Church - Liturgical	730.31	1,300.00
Deanery/Convention	375.00	750.00
Flowers	0.00	1,000.00
Forward Movement Publications	0.00	250.00
Hospitality	3,403.93	1,640.00
Miscellaneous	220.58	600.00
Pledge Envelopes	10.98	200.00
Riverside	0.00	550.00
Sunday School	66.00	300.00
<b>TOTAL General</b>	<b>6,775.12</b>	<b>9,790.00</b>

Insurance Comprehensive - Umbrella	6,496.00	8,400.00
Insurance Work Comp	1,217.00	600.00
Music and Organ Maintenance	2,200.00	2,200.00
Tsunami Productions - Organist Supply	25,110.00	25,110.00
Bank Charge	2,335.09	1,000.00
Computer supply	1,245.98	900.00
Copier-Printing	571.56	1,000.00
Internet/Phone/WiFi	5,838.07	4,800.00
Miscellaneous	1,247.05	400.00
Payroll Service	759.77	700.00
Postage	332.30	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL Office</b>	<b>12,329.82</b>	<b>9,800.00</b>
Alarm	2,410.00	2,500.00
Lawn/Landscape Service	4,660.00	2,800.00
Terminix	887.00	850.00
Undesignated	11,458.82	8,000.00
Church	617.66	
Church Yard	5,727.23	
Rectory	375.00	
Riverside Hall	660.14	
Roak House	4,044.93	
Sexton House	33.86	
<b>TOTAL Property Expenses</b>	<b>18,957.66</b>	<b>14,150.00</b>
Sundries - Food/Cleaning Supplies/Paper Products/Misc	3,084.49	2,500.00
Utility-Gas		
1114501039 Rectory	2,666.68	3,500.00
2114501047 Church	3,603.03	4,750.00
3114501055 Riverside Hall	2,386.85	3,000.00
4114501063 Sexton House	969.56	1,300.00
5114501071 Roak House	3,102.61	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL U-Gas</b>	<b>12,728.73</b>	<b>16,550.00</b>
Utility-PECO Energy		
34262-00609 Rectory	3,084.03	3,100.00
37355-01208 Church	1,156.77	1,500.00
40448-01504 Riverside Hall	3,136.22	3,500.00
43451-01700 Sexton House	1,921.31	2,300.00
49850-01702 Roak House	2,615.56	4,700.00
<b>TOTAL U-PECO Energy</b>	<b>11,913.89</b>	<b>15,100.00</b>
Utulity-Water 012-75780-00904-xxx		
003 Rectory	57.21	0.00
005 Church	322.08	400.00
005 Rk-S-RSide	2,722.52	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL U-Water 012-75780-00904-xxx</b>	<b>3,101.81</b>	<b>5,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>27,744.43</b>	<b>37,050.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES for Operating</b>	<b>311,675.86</b>	<b>293,991.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>15,664.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT - Cathy Ufheil**

Since no in-person worship has taken place until recently, the Altar Guild has not used much of its allotted budget for the year except for the purchase of palm for Palm Sunday and the nominal expenses for candles and Communion wafers.

Part of the plan for the 2020 Altar Guild budget was to restore/replate and polish those Altar items needing attention that are kept in the vault. In order to do that in the most efficient way and so that the refurbished items did not suffer further deterioration, it was decided to wait until the humidity in the vault was successfully dealt with before embarking on this project. It is hoped that this project will be completed soon.

Jeanette Woehr made flannel covers for any altar items housed in the vault that did not previously have such protection.

A preliminary re-organization of the vault was undertaken by the Woehrs and Ufheils with the goal that papers presently housed in the vault that were not of historical value were moved to the closet in Roak basement where they could be more easily accessed if necessary. The goal is to house in the vault ONLY what is of historical or monetary value.

As soon as Covid restrictions loosen up and more people worship in-person, the Altar Guild will recruit at least 1 or more new members. It is hoped that we can continue the plan to involve youngsters as Junior Altar Guild members as soon as we have more consistent attendance on Sundays.

I wish to sincerely thank Jeanette Woehr and Barbara Potts for their continued devotion and many contributions to this essential ministry and Paula Minacci for her willingness to always lend a hand to the Altar Guild.

## **PROPERTY 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
- 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 has been spot painting the walls and the place looks fresh and clean
- 

Wi-Fi is completed and up and running.

NPS have painted all the wrought iron fencing and gates

Scrubbing and waxing in Church.

Lawn care on going...

Roak House is in good shape. Alexis has been painting and cleaning floors. everything looks great.

Mark has fixed the minor plumbing and electrical issues in the rectory

- Faucet in Riverside.

- Faucet in Rectory kitchen bathroom.

- Electrical outlet in upstairs bathroom.

Rectory was cleaned top to bottom for Koshy & Susan's arrival.

The Roak House has had some minor plumbing & electrical issues, all have been taken care of.

All the electrical issues in the rectory have been repaired. New Electrical panel has been installed.

Squirrels had gotten into the church roof and chewed on the wiring for the AC. New wires were installed and access point of squirrels closed.

The Riverside kitchen has been professionally cleaned.

#### **CHURCH:**

- Deep clean Altar

- Roped off pews for services

- put paper trash bags in pews being used

- hand sanitizer placed at altar, front foyer, and Altar front kneelers

- A/C problem, had company who installed come and drain area clogged, fixed filter and will drop off more filters.

- power washed outside windows and door and foyer

- scheduled PGW line supply check for August

#### **RECTORY:**

- Caspa LLC, cleaning service for rectory

- Electric up to code, sealed junction box, separated two circuit breakers,

#### **RIVERSIDE:**

- The Altar guild has moved Altar supplies to Riverside, emptied and cleaned two cabinets for supplies. Put new locks on cabinets

#### **ROAK HOUSE:**

- YCCA kitchen sink replaced,

- SCS John Tepe came to empty Library closet.

- replaced lighting in Library

#### **GROUNDS:**

- contacted NPS about light in Amphitheatre, NPS electricians came out to evaluate it and will be fixing soon...

- Liberty Tree came and did another treatment for Lantern Flies

- Graffiti on outside brick wall, contacted NPS, will be removing it.

Library that church shares with YCCA.

Jim and I cleaned shelves, painted shelves, cleaned floor, waxed floor and put everything back on shelves. Also created a larger barrier in room so YCCA does not touch area behind book shelves...pictures will help you see

A dehumidifier will be installed in our vault to help with the dampness.

## 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 from the Miscellaneous Records 1638-1760

- The blockhouse was built in 1677 for defense against the savages by order of the government. Divine Services were held there.
- The Parsonage was located four miles below Wicaco on the Schuylkill River.
- At the May 17, 1698 meeting of the Vestry, the decision to locate the church between Passayunk and Wicaco was determined by two exactly the same size pieces of paper. One marked Passayunk and the other Wicaco. An ignorant man of writing and reading was selected (Michael Likon). The papers were tossed in a hat and thrown on the floor. One was selected and placed on the Bible. The paper selected read Wicaco. However, the decision was not completely accepted by the congregation. There was much discussion on the matter. They laid a fine of 10 pounds on any who might discord the location of the Church. Rev. Rudman was so discouraged by the behavior of the congregation he went to Wilmington.
- At the May 17, 1698 meeting it was also desired to have more land in front of Swanson's land down to the river so no ship building would be close to the Church causing a possible fire. It was also decided to build a small house on the property as a sexton's house.
- Rev. Andrew Rudman's salary was 95 pounds 5 shillings.
- Rev. Andrew Rudman's last sermon at Gloria Dei was on July 19, 1702. Rev. Rudman had planned to return to Sweden but a Dutch congregation in New York had been without a clergy person for some time. However, his health prevented him going. He stayed in Philadelphia and officiated at the English Church Trinity, Oxford and finally at Christ Church following Rev. Evans return to England until his death in 1704.
- Rev. Sandel reported on October 10, 1704 "fell a heap of snow". Never happened like that before.
- October 18, 1704 in the evening a hurricane arose caused great damage.
- November, December and January 1705 many great and lasting storms. Few could remember such a severe winter.
- 1708 April 5 so cold water thrown on ground at noon froze immediately.
- 1714 uncommonly warm. February 8 wild flowers were spotted in the woods.
- 1710 Duties of the Vestry: 1. Take care of the Church, its repairs and additional buildings. 2. Maintain such parochial ordinances and regulations enacted at the general meetings, preserve order in time of Divine worship and particularly keep young still and orderly. 3. Inspect behavior of people in their districts, admonish those that misbehave and proceed with them further if necessary. 4. Attend Divine Services often, partake of the Lord's Supper and in all Christian virtues hold up edifying patterns. The Church Wardens managed the revenue and collect the minister's salary. 1710 An English Church held services at Gloria Dei for three Sundays while they enlarged their church. A Swedish hymn was sung at each service. The name of the English Church was not given.
- 1732 Clergyman Enenberg noted in November ice made the river impassable.

- 1733 Much snow in January.
- December 17, 1737 at 11 PM an earthquake struck Philadelphia lasting a minute or two on both sides of the river. Houses were shaken and items fell and broke.
- 1737 Parsonage at Wicaco is finished. However, robbers stole window sashes.

Notes from Vestry Minutes 1765-1840

At the October 17, 1765 meeting of the Vestry, the following Resolve was made:

“Resolve Nineteen That whenever a Vestry is called, whoever of the said vestry is absent shall pay the sum of twenty shillings unless he or they show sufficient cause of his or their non-attendance. Which also must be deemed sufficient by the majority of the vestry met at that time or at the time of such non-attendance the said fines to be deposited in the Chest at Wicaco for the use of the said church.”

### **LUCIA REPORT – Carol Jenkins**

As we head into autumn, we usually are preparing to begin our Lucia practices. Unfortunately, that can't happen this year given our current Covid-19 pandemic.

The Lucia Committee – Jim Battista, Pete Flamini, Carol Jenkins, Elizabeth Keane, and Jeanette Woehr have been carefully monitoring the state and city guidelines on social gatherings during this pandemic. The Episcopal Diocese also has strict guidelines pertaining to church gatherings and the number of people who can be present inside the church. It has also recently allowed singing during services but with restrictions on distancing and mask wearing. Given the fact that Lucia is all about singing, with everyone in close proximity to each other, along with an audience that fills the church, it is not possible to host this large event.

### **Our 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lucia Fest has been officially cancelled for 2020!**

It is so heartbreaking to not be together during these troubling times. So many of us look forward to our yearly reunion and combined love of the Lucia tradition as the beginning of our Christmas holiday. Let us also not forget that the Lucia Fest is Gloria Dei's biggest fundraising event!

The Lucia Committee really didn't have a decision to make because the current restrictions during this pandemic made the decision for us.

All is not lost, while there will be no large in person gathering for Lucia, the Lucia Committee is planning to host a Lucia event via the web. The plans for this event have not been fully finalized but I can tell you to save the date:

### **Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (the official Lucia Day)**

Look for the time and official agenda in the near future. We hope you will be excited to know that while the 2020 Lucia Fest is cancelled the celebration of Lucia at Gloria Dei will continue!

This means that our time-honored tradition that Astrid Perry and Marion Roak began back in 1938 will continue into this our 83<sup>rd</sup> year!

Look for traditional Lucia music, a few familiar faces and join us on the web on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **SEXTON REPORT - Jim and Paula Minacci**

19 years Sextons, 23 years as Parishioners

Cleaning is a major part of our daily activities, bathrooms, refrigerators, floors, windows, etc.etc.etc...We also spend time re-organizing and prepping for the regular weekly and monthly events here on our grounds, including Yoga, Meditation, Evening song, SCS, Jazz and Joe, NA meetings, AA Meetings Tai chi, Vestry Meetings and the Swedish Seaman's Church of New York.

In addition to the buildings upkeep, there is outdoor groundwork, like mulching the Memorial Garden, front parking lots, leaf blowing in fall, snow removal, planting grass seed for grave sites, daily weeding of walkways, and tending to graveyard all seasons. We also work with the NPS Rangers and NPS maintenance crew, to ensure that they are addressing the jobs they are responsible for.

We also meet with all rentals for parties and events, We make sure they have clear instructions on the do's and don'ts of the property in order to make events run smoothly.

We receive and distribute packages and mail deliveries, including weekends and after business hours.

We are present at all weddings to direct the bridal party, photographer, florist, and help with parking for the handicapped.

(continued...)

The same assistance is required at funerals and burials , as well as coordinating with the funeral homes. We also prepare urn burials.

Security is very important part of our job. All day and night, we monitor the security cameras and respond to calls when alarm goes off in buildings. The church has an expansive and beautiful grounds and we are only able to keep them secure by being vigilant about knowing who is on the property and why they are here. Thankfully, we know many faces from the surrounding community, and the amazing NPS Rangers arrive within minutes of our call whenever there is a problem.

Just talking to people ends up being a big part of what we do and who we are! We open and close the buildings every day, answer questions about history, and make recommendations of other sites in our community. YCCA brings a lot of foot traffic thru church grounds, along with the dog walking community. We try to engage them by saying hello and inviting them to our community events.

Our homeless community is always a constant. We try to feed them and give them small jobs to do in order to occupy their time. Sometimes we just have them sit peacefully in church if that is what they need.

We Love to greet all who set foot on the Church grounds!



## **SEXTON SIDESHOW REPORT – Jim & Paula Minacci**

Fundraising is something we enjoy doing for Gloria Dei Old Swedes! Through our own entity, Sexton Sideshow raises money for the general church fund. It is our way of giving to the church and creating community within the church and outside community. In 2019 we raised 19,887.03.

With help from our Sexton Sidekicks, who are friends, neighbors and church folk who faithfully donate their time & talent to help with the events.

The bulk of our money we raise comes from our special events we hold throughout the year. this year, 2019 we had the following events:

Sweetheart Brunch {doing this for 5 years}, Low Cut Connie's Adam Weiner private concert, St. Paddy's Day Brunch {doing this for 5years} , Welcome Spring Brunch {doing this for 4 years}, Jesus Christ Superstar {4th year}, Sexton Sideshow Memorial Dei Family Music Festival {doing for 10 years}. Howe Gelb Concert, Woodstock {did with group from Settlement music school}, Fringe with Humnbards Theatre Group, Sofar Sounds Performance {doing for 4yrs}, and O' Brother Where Art Though {2nd year}!!!

All the events you can find photo essays on Facebook and Instagram - Sexton Sideshow!

We are working towards a future at Gloria Dei, that is filled with Music, Dance, Art, fellowship and community. We look forward doing events again when we have a permanent Rector. Sexton Sideshow will then raise money, bringing in local music and the arts, and building community right here on this beautiful, historic property.

## **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.*

Things have been quiet for the Green Committee in 2020, as they have for many activities at Gloria Dei. Before we had to stop Coffee Hour due to Covid-19, the Hospitality Committee and the Green Committee worked to reduce the amount of trash produced by Coffee Hour and other eating events in Riverside Hall. We started using real dishes, silverware, and napkins to limit the use of paper plates, napkins and plasticware,

We also installed a rain barrel in front of Riverside Hall to help reduce stormwater runoff during heavy rain. Special thanks to Cherokee Guido for making a sign telling passersby how they can also get a rain barrel for their home. The Water Department provides free barrels! Contact the Phila. Water. Dept at 215-988-8767 or [pwdraincheck.org](http://pwdraincheck.org) for more info if you want one.

Finally, and probably most importantly, Gloria Dei continues to get 100% of it's electricity from Green Mountain Energy.

Thank to everyone for your support.

## **PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT – Megan Bartlett**

Where do I begin? 2020 has been a year of both growth and challenge for Gloria Dei's prayer ministry. The growth was sparked, no doubt, by the prayers needed for those impacted by the pandemic, racial injustice, and natural disasters. The challenges were linked to those same situations; "staying awake" to the pain and suffering of others is no easy task, yet it's one to which Jesus invited his closest friends (Matthew 26:38 – "I am deeply grieved; even to death. Remain here and stay awake with me."). And so, our intercessors have remained awake to the sorrow and grief of others, praying for over 160 people (and a few of their furry companions) in the past year. I continue to feel encouraged by the trust people put in the power of prayer to unite us with each other and with God.

The intercessors involved in this ministry pray for your needs and concerns daily and do so without much acknowledgment. I want to take a moment to thank them here: Dolores Collins, Barbara Chilcott, Sally Daly, Re Henning, Richard Janssen, Margie Kucinski, Nora Melley, Lisa Reeves, Cathy Ufheil, and Rita West.

I continue to be blessed as the coordinator of this ministry, but I would welcome anyone else who is interested in taking over as coordinator in the future. In addition, we are always open to new intercessors. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact me: [megan77777@yahoo.com](mailto:megan77777@yahoo.com). If you have a prayer request, please contact me or the church office (215-389-1513).

## **LITURGY MINISTRY REPORT – Megan Bartlett**

As of the writing of this report, I have stepped down from my position as coordinator of the lectors and intercessors for worship. During the past two years, it has been both a joy and a challenge. I rejoice in the number of you willing to share your gift for reading the Word. At the same time, our pandemic-induced restrictions on worship have made it a challenge to find people willing to read (masked!) in person. Thank you to all of you who continue this vital ministry.

If you feel called to lead this ministry or read the lessons or prayers, please contact the church office: [info@old-swedes.org](mailto:info@old-swedes.org).

## OUTREACH REPORT – Jill Duink

### *Our Mission as a HIAS Congregational Support Group*

Gloria Dei supported a UN refugee family as a HIAS Congregational Support Group last year. With a goal of helping our family toward greater independence, we got to know Fiteline, Tamasha, Abedi, Merina, Gabriel, Ibrahim, Jacob, Mwbato, and adorable toddler Ally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Relying on Google Translate and our family's burgeoning English skills, we talked, laughed, read and played English learning games. We accompanied Fiteline to parent/teacher conferences, helped start GED registration for Abedi, went out to lunch, made a few home repairs, organized paperwork, helped with applications and phone calls, helped with transportation and generally tried to be useful when a need came up. We attended musical and enthusiastic services at their church, Snyder Avenue Congregational, where many refugee families make their church home.

We helped with school shoes and supplies, a cell phone, utility bills, rent, daycare, warm clothing for Ally, winter hats and gloves, blankets, toys, books and other items. During the pandemic our visits came to an end, but we delivered groceries, grocery store gift cards, paper and cleaning goods, masks, and other items to the porch and waved from afar.

Thank you to all who helped make this wonderful mission a reality. Gloria Dei had two fundraisers, a hoagie sale on Lucia rehearsal Sundays and a pancake breakfast. Many donated. We were about to host a Sunday pot-luck dinner so that our congregation could finally meet the Byaeses, when suddenly we all had to stop and stay at home. Members of the congregations of St. Peter's Church and the St. Mary Magdalene Community joined us in support of our family.

Our group of volunteers met several times to pray and to consider how we saw the work of God in our mission. We were showered with blessings and we definitely shared and received God's love.

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2019-2020

## OUR MISSION

Gloria Dei is the oldest surviving church building in Pennsylvania. Beginning in 1667 when a blockhouse on the site was converted into a house of worship, our founders envisioned a place of beauty, tranquility and inspiration. Today, the Gloria Dei Episcopal Church congregation stewards this historic space surrounded by a National Park, preserving New Sweden's history and the stories of the over 5000 people buried here. **Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation was formed to fund, support, and supervise the restoration and renovation of the buildings, grounds, and churchyard.** As we endeavor to achieve these goals, we will do so with great sensitivity to our historic beginnings and landscape.

## OUR WORK



Our Keystone Grant project is underway! Multi award-winning company, Materials Conservation, is repairing and painting Gloria Dei Church, the Church Hall, and the Sexton House. **You can still support this project by making a donation which will be 100% matched** by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



We published a comprehensive **map** of all of the visible gravestones in our churchyard. Paper versions of this map are available for free outside the front door to the church. An interactive version designed for smart phones and tablets can be accessed at [www.preserveoldswedes.org/map](http://www.preserveoldswedes.org/map).



We began hosting our "Great Talks at Gloria Dei" **lecture series** in May of 2019. Attendees were treated to talks by many esteemed local archivists, historians and preservationists. These programs brought over 400 new visitors to the Gloria Dei campus.

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



We launched a free **podcast** to complement our "Great Talks" lecture series.



We curated two free **museum** exhibits for those touring the church building.



Our historians wrote **biographical sketches** on many of our "permanent residents."



We published four issues of **FOUNDERS Magazine** to great acclaim.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- We are **updating our churchyard map** to include the known final resting places for all confirmed interments. 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.
- New trustee, Mary Ryan, is creating a firm foothold for us in **social media** — please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- The planning stages are underway for **videos and walking tours** to enhance our visitor experience.
- We will work to meet our **fundraising goals** through donations and grants.
- We are actively **recruiting** additional **volunteers** for our various programs.
- We are designing interpretive signage to help tell the stories about individuals buried in our churchyard.

### **C L E R G Y**

The Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, Rector

### **S T A F F**

Paul Fejko, Music Director  
Christine McBride, Parish Administrator  
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons

### **V E S T R Y**

Jill Duink (Treasurer) - Barbara Chilcott - Bob Jenkins - Julie Daye (Secretary)  
Jaime Konowal (Accounting Warden) - Heather Myers - Lisa Reeves - Mark Roberts  
Jim Ufheil (Rector's Warden) - Jeanette Woehr