



Gloria Dei Church (Old Swedes')

Annual Meeting

May 7, 2023

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AGENDA

May 7, 2023 Annual Parish Liturgy and Meeting

10:00am Service.

10:45am Service concludes.

Meeting officially opens, 2022 minutes approved.

Welcome Prayer.

Introduction by Jaime Konowal.

Financial Report by Candace Roberts.

Weddings at Gloria Dei by Candace Roberts

Missions Report by Jill Duink.

Vestry announcement by Jaime Konowal .

Closing prayer.

MINUTES FROM THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Gloria Dei Annual Meeting - Minutes May 1, 2022 After 10:00 Service

The meeting was both in-person and live streamed.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer - Koshy Mathews, Interim Rector

Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Rector's Warden Report - Jaime Konowal

Jaime thanked Jim Ufheil, who is going off the vestry this year, and gave him a gift of appreciation for his years of service on the vestry and as Rector's Warden through several years of transition.

She also thanked the Profile Committee for their work on the profile document which has been approved by the vestry and forwarded to the diocese for approval. The next step will be to form a search committee. She invited anyone interested in being on the Search Committee to contact her or someone on the vestry.

Jaime thanked the church staff members, Paul, Paula, Jim, Chris, and our new staff member Amy Liberi, for all their hard work throughout the year.

Accounting Warden's Report - Candace Roberts

Gloria Dei is able to balance its budget each year through endowments, rentals, pledges, and fundraisers. However, there is no additional money for property maintenance or for mission work. A strategic plan committee spent three years studying ways to raise the money needed for maintenance and missions. It was decided that our best asset is our property.

As a result, a business plan was created to rent the sanctuary, Riverside Hall, and the grounds for events, primarily weddings. Our property is perfect for small/medium weddings. The vestry approved this plan and has named it Riverside Weddings at Gloria Dei. A new staff member, Amy Liberi, has been hired for 20 hours a week to manage the marketing and rentals. Amy is an

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, CONFIRMATIONS, DEATHS

Baptisms: Maeve Bea Koenig, Graham David Kang, Charlotte Ruth Kang, Harper Lee Fernandez

Receptions: Jaime Lyn Konowal, Nora Lynn Melley-Konowal, Omega Diesto Moore

Deaths: Barbara Ann Chilcott, Gerard Michael Walker, James A. Battista, Jr., Sheila Iona Reynolds, Aurora Neromiliotis

RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT - Jaime Konowal

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Gloria Dei is such a strong congregation. We have faced many trials in the last several years and we are still here to tell the tale. I am immensely proud of how hard everyone works to keep our beautiful church standing and moving forward into the future. We have been without a permanent rector for so long and yet we keep moving. I have so many people to thank this year.

The search committee is working hard to find us a new leader. Nora Melley, Cathy Ufheil, Mark Roberts, Eric Sanchez, Jeanette Woehr, and Carol Jenkins are doing God's work and although they need to keep things confidential, we can feel rest assured that the best people are on the case.

Our support staff Paula, Jim, Christine, and Paul keep everything running daily.

Mark Roberts has formed a property committee and they are busy making sure that any issues around the property are taken care of to keep us looking beautiful.

Cathy and the altar guild have been making sure we are prepared for all Sunday services.

HGDPC has been busy fundraising for major improvements that are needed.

I would also like to thank Rev. Gordon Reid for filling in so many Sundays for us. Gordon has been such a light and it is always so joyful when he is around.

The Vestry is working together to make the best choices for the church and are tireless in making sure we are moving towards the future. We have a few members whose terms are ending this year. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Bob Jenkins, Julie Daye, Megan Bartlett, and Nils VanAmmers for your hard work and dedication that you have offered us through the years. We will miss you on the Vestry.

This year we will be adding four new voices to our midst. I am so excited to get started working with the new Vestry.

As always, I am available for any questions, concerns, or complements. My information is always on the back of the bulletin. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

BUDGET REPORT – Candace Roberts

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church 2023 Annual Meeting Report

2022 Income and Expenses, 2023 Budget

Category Description	2022 Actual	2022 Difference	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
INCOME				
TOTAL 03 - Regular Support	55,294	7,294	48,000	48,000
TOTAL 04 - Endowments	127,395	-33,380	160,775	130,600
TOTAL Donations	23,490	17,790	5,700	5,700
TOTAL Fund Raiser	44,386	10,086	34,300	36,600
TOTAL Memorials	89	-11	100	100
TOTAL Rentals	58,618	5,459	53,159	57,783
TOTAL 06 - Riverside Weddings Income	5,977	-33,555	39,532	108,700
TOTAL INCOME FOR OPERATING	315,249	-26,317	341,566	387,483
EXPENSES				
TOTAL 03 - Easter and Christmas Flowers	592	-408	1,000	1,000
TOTAL 05 - Fund Raising	15,160	1,260	13,900	10,550
TOTAL 06 - Riverside Weddings Expenses	25,891	-6,221	32,112	86,665
TOTAL 12 - Diocesan	18,053	1	18,052	19,496
TOTAL 13 - Outreach from Operating Budget	2,000	0	2,000	2,000
TOTAL Clergy Expenses	902	-1,138	2,040	1,020
TOTAL Compensation	104,405	-40,871	145,276	124,315
TOTAL General	5,972	-13,268	19,240	23,800
Sent to Church Foundation Account	75,000	75,000	0	
TOTAL Insurance	11,030	2,780	8,250	9,644
TOTAL Music Budget	25,846	-1,750	27,596	29,830
TOTAL Office	8,324	-376	8,700	9,230
TOTAL Property Expenses	44,920	16,420	28,500	36,249
TOTAL Sundries	2,257	-743	3,000	2,000
TOTAL Utilities	33,475	1,675	31,900	31,685
TOTAL EXPENSES for Operating	373,826	32,360	341,566	387,483

2020 to 2022 Endowment Funds Value

	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	change 2021 to 2022
TOTAL Endowment Funds Value	3,447,555	3,745,860	2,999,988	-745,872

ALTAR GUILD REPORT - Cathy Ufheil

The Altar Guild presently consists of three women. We had four but one dropped out to pursue other missions.

During the past year, we have pretty much kept the status quo. We had no expenditures other than the usual costs for candles, palm, hosts, wine, silver polish, etc., so were able to keep to our budget as authorized by the Vestry.

We expect to refurbish some altar items but do not expect to overrun our budget.

We hope that with a new rector, a new enthusiasm and sense of volunteerism for the good of Gloria Dei, the ranks of the Altar Guild will increase!

Thanks to Jeanette Woehr and Christine Pickup for their continued service and a large thank you to Megan Bartlett for her help. We miss her already!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Ufheil - Chair, Altar Guild

SEXTON SIDESHOW REPORT – Jim & Paula Minacci

Fundraising is something we enjoy doing for Gloria Dei! Through our own entity, Sexton Sideshow raises money for the general church fund. It is our way of giving and creating community within the church and the outside community. In 2022, we raised over \$12,000 with help from our Sexton Sidekicks, who are friends, neighbors and church folk who faithfully donate their time & talent. We couldn't do it without them!

2022 had a better energy for doing our events. We began the year in February with local talent, The Flying Vees (supported by Ang Bocca & John Faye). This was our first presentation with these artists, and proved to be a great success in the Riverside Hall.

We followed that up with our annual presentation of Jesus Christ Superstar in the church sanctuary. It was our 7th year with E.J. Simpson, and we received a \$500 private grant to pay for the show.

We also held a private show for local/international rockers Lowcut Connie in the Riverside Hall. Frontman Adam Weiner really enjoys playing our baby grand piano.

We held one pancake brunch in 2022, and raised over \$500 to send to Episcopal Relief and Development for Ukraine relief.

Lastly, in December, we presented our O' Brother show to a full house both nights in the church. These shows have hit a positive note within our community and really bring out the folks. We received a \$5000 events grant for this through the City and the Parks & Rec department to put this show on. A wonderful article was written about it in the QV Crier.

All of our events and photo recaps can be found on Facebook and Instagram under Sexton Sideshow. We are working towards a future at Gloria Dei that is filled with music, dance, art, fellowship and community.

Peace for now... Jim & Paula Minacci

SEXTON REPORT – Jim & Paula Minacci

22 years as Sextons, 26 years as parishioners

Cleaning is a major part of our daily activities: bathrooms, refrigerators, floors, windows, etc, etc, etc. We also spend time organizing and prepping for the regular weekly and monthly events here on our grounds. In 2022, Covid was still present with us – our sexton duties included safety and sanitizing in the buildings, making sure the Sunday services were safe with plenty of masks, hand sanitizer and the Covid tracking sheets.

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

This year, we put in a new part for the Roak House heater, new refrigerator and water heater in the Sexton House, had some major work done in the church due to leaking of heating pipes, and had the church steeple repaired (great guys and they work super early, 6am!)

It is also fun to be helping the wedding and event coordinator set up for events and film for *The Knot* website.

Security is a very important part of our job. All day & night, we monitor the security cameras and respond to calls if the alarms are set off. The church has 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 for other sites in our community. YCCA brings a lot of foot traffic through church grounds, along with the dog walking people. 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. There was definitely an uptick in the amount of homeless on the property, as well as discarded needles, and stolen property (i.e. bikes & backpacks) in the surrounding area.

We look forward to a bright and vibrant future with more activities, rentals, and community events!

Peace & Love - Paula & Jim

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT – Megan Bartlett

In the past year, the prayer ministry has received over 80 prayer requests for health/healing or for the repose of the soul. Healing doesn't always come in the way we had hoped, but we trust that our prayers are heard and that God is ever present in our times of suffering and need.

Thank you to all who participate in this behind-the-scenes ministry: Dolores Collins, Sally Daly, Julie Daye, Re Henning, Richard Janssen, Margie Kucinski, Nora Melley, Cathy Ufheil, and Rita West. If you are interested in participating (or taking over as coordinator), let me know: megan77777@yahoo.com. If you have a prayer request, please contact me or the church office (215-389-1513).

Peace and blessings, *Megan R. Bartlett - Prayer Ministry Coordinator*

PASTORAL CARE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION REPORT – Megan Bartlett

Prayer Ministry

- Prayer requests that Megan receives are sent to the nine intercessors once a week. Please send requests by Sunday, since updates are sent out on Monday morning.
- Names continue to be printed in the bulletin so the whole congregation can lift up these individuals in prayer.
- A group of three individuals regularly pray together (Mondays at 9am) to lift up the needs of our church and to pray for our Search Committee and prospective rector. All are welcome. Zoom link is available on our website.

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Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry

- Jeanette Woehr, Christine Pickup, Lisa Reeves, and Megan Bartlett have made several visits to homebound church members.
- If you know of anyone in need of eucharistic visits, let Megan know.

Inreach

- Cards have been sent and phone calls made several times to four homebound/sick church members.
- Anyone interested in sending a card to homebound or sick church members can let Megan know and she'll give you the name/address.

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Spiritual Formation

- If you have interest in particular Bible, prayer, or book studies, let Megan know.
- If you're interested in visiting an outdoor labyrinth to spend time in contemplative reflection, let Megan know. She will be organizing a group this summer.

6Thank you to everyone participating. If anyone else is interested in any of these groups, please contact Megan: megan77777@yahoo.com

MISSIONS REPORT – Jill Duink

Mercy Hospice Gifts

Mercy Hospice, located in Center City Philadelphia, provides residential support for women and their children. Life skills, education, job readiness, recovery help, childcare and parenting support services are provided.

In 2022, Gloria Dei supported a Bible Study at Mercy Hospice by donating copies of The Life Recovery Bible and other books for people in 12-Step Recovery.

Donations of food, clothing, toiletries and other items for Mercy Hospice were collected throughout the year.

Good Friday Gifts

Our 2022 Good Friday plate collection was sent to the Cathedral in Jerusalem through the Episcopal Diocese of PA.

May 15 Service Gifts

Our May 15 plate collection was sent to Ukraine aid through the Episcopal Relief and Development. <https://support.episcopalrelief.org>

Thanksgiving Gifts

At Thanksgiving, Gloria Dei donated food for the food pantry that serves South Philadelphia at Snyder Avenue Congregational Church. Each week they serve about 180 people, many of whom are immigrants and refugees. Our gifts helped to decrease the food insecurity of our neighbors.

Christmas Gifts for Children

At Christmas, Gloria Dei brought Christmas joy to 42 children in need through the Snyder Avenue Congregational Church. The angels at Gloria Dei selected names of boys and girls from our Angel Tree and gave a special gift to each child.

RIVERSIDE WEDDINGS REPORT – Amy Liberi

Riverside Weddings at Gloria Dei is off to a strong start—we hosted our first wedding ceremony on April 29th. I have spent the past year working on marketing our unique church-based wedding ceremony options to the larger wedding planning community—couples and vendors through online advertising as well as in-person networking. I worked with Candace Roberts to create the content for riversideweddings.org. Candy also produced banners for our church walls, business cards, and other print items. I set up listings on numerous wedding planning websites online to help enhance our visibility to couples. These sites include The Knot, WeddingWire, The Venue Report, Eventective, Zola, and Philly in Love. Part of our online presence is soliciting reviews and photos from past couples. I also created social media accounts for Riverside Weddings and posted content and ads on those pages.

The most important part of my role is interacting with prospective couples and those who book their wedding at Gloria Dei. I responded to interested couples for weddings and clients for Riverside Hall rentals and provided tours of our spaces. Dubsado is our customer relationship management system which houses our information forms, contracts, and invoices. I set up the system and all documents for our church ceremonies, Riverside Hall rentals, and other rentals. Once couples visit our beautiful church and grounds they are excited to host their weddings here which is wonderful feedback! To date, we have 12 weddings scheduled, 2 church rentals, and 5 hall rentals and look forward to many more.

HISTORY REPORT – Jeanette Woehr

The History Committee with the help of several of our congregation have helped move archival items to the Rectory. We have begun to take an inventory of the items.

We continue to be 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 (spelling is as recorded in the original records.)

- 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 plus 3 tons of hay.
- 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."

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023

OUR MISSION

The Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is an independent charitable organization, administered by community volunteers and funded by foundations, corporate and individual gifts. Our mission is to preserve, restore, renew, and maintain Philadelphia's historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church buildings, graveyard and grounds.

OUR WORK



We painted and lightly repaired the church steeple and belfry to protect from further damage. This project was supported by a matching Keystone Historic Preservation Grant.



We received a community grant from QVNA to develop a smartphone app. We were also awarded two grants from the Philadelphia Cultural Fund to support our general operations.



Preservation Pennsylvania presented us with a Ruby Anniversary Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Award for restoring and painting exterior wood surfaces on the church and Riverside Hall.



Our 'Great Talks at Gloria Dei' lecture series returned in-person to much acclaim. Attendees were treated to talks by several esteemed local archivists, historians and preservationists. Over 300 people attended these programs.

We also continued working long-term projects and started some new initiatives. Here are some highlights:



Our first-ever Halloween 'Boos and Brews' event attracted a new audience.



We established partnerships with local preservation and historical organizations.



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



We sent e-news every month and published four issues of **Founders Magazine**.

LOOKING AHEAD

- We will be applying for matching grants to fund the **replacement of the church roof**. This work is expected to begin in 2025.
- We are launching a **smartphone app** that will feature themed graveyard maps, self-guided audio tours, and a 360 interactive experience of the church interior.
- We are **updating our paper 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 and will send our first-ever annual appeal letter this fall.
- 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.

Summer 2023 07

S T A F F

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Amy Liberi, Wedding and Event Coordinator

V E S T R Y

Jaime Konowal (Rector's Warden)
Megan Bartlett - Julie Daye - Jill Duink - Amy Grant - Bob Jenkins
Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden) - Jeanette Woehr (Secretary) - Nils vanAmmers