SUNDAY MORNING MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR AND THE ALTAR GUILD – Pastor Patricia

I am asking for your support to make a change this September in how we prepare for Sunday morning. The change would entail developing a more formal approach. The change would help me to promote the spiritual development of those persons leading the congregation with me on Sunday morning. Having a more formal method would allow participants to get ready spiritually, emotionally and physically for their holy work.

I realize this may be asking a lot. A few people have already told me, “We’ve tried that before...” or “That will never happen.” However, as your new rector, I believe making this change is best for Gloria Dei.

To begin to make this change, I have set aside time for all persons interested in going forward to a meeting on Wednesday, August 15, either at 10 AM and 7 PM in Riverside Hall. If these meeting times are not good for you, we will schedule additional times in September.

All men, women and youth are invited to attend, especially those who would like to begin participating in serving at the altar and/or altar guild and those currently doing so.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration. I am deeply honored to serve at the altar of Gloria Dei.

If it would help you to talk further about the August 15 meeting, please don’t hesitate to call me. 267-366-8692.
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM WELCOMES NEW MEMBER
– Pastor Patricia

As the chair of the communications team, I am happy to announce that we are blessed to have Jaime Konowal join our team. Personally, I am hoping she can teach me how to tweet and how to use Instagram!

Great things are happening at Gloria Dei - From Jaime Konowal

In the coming months we will be launching a new website to give parishioners and visitors a new user-friendly experience. We hope that our new website will be a community resource to keep you updated on all of the wonderful things that are always happening at our beloved church. I would like to give a special thanks to Candy and Mark Roberts for all the work they did in getting the last website up and running; they gave us a great launching pad into the future. I look forward to working with the Communications Team, and the Vestry, as we move towards a new website. So keep an eye, and an ear, out for our launch. God Bless you all, and I pray you are having a wonderful, and relaxing summer. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at jaimelkonowal@gmail.com.

Other Communications News – Pastor Patricia

FIRST – Down By The Riverside Newsletter: To all of you who sent your response about continuing to get the newsletter in your mailbox or switch to electronic, THANKS! We got 50 responses and $100! We really appreciate your show of support for this ministry. My goal is to give you a crisp, attractive, useful, printed edition of our news every two months. Submissions covering “what, who, where, why, how” is an easy way to tell us about what you are doing and how progress is going on your ministry. I welcome calls about DBTR and encourage you to write. Thank you to Mark Roberts for all he does to continue to print and publish our newsletter!

SECOND – Facebook: For those who are on FB, this is still a great way to see photos, articles, news about Gloria Dei, messages from the larger Church and other inspiring stories and events. If you take a photo that embodies the values and life of Gloria Dei please send them to me. I’m happy to post them on our FB page. Our efforts to communicate are successful as FB stats show us getting lots of hits.

THIRD – Website – In my first months a few dedicated members helped to me to learn about our communications at GD. I am grateful to Jerry Buecher, Cathy Ufheil and Mark and Candy Roberts for helping me understand what has happened and what could be possible in the future. I want to thank Megan Bartlett, Spiritual Director, for coming on board by writing a blog to foster spiritual development. You can find her blog by clicking on Worship on the present website. Having this link is up due to the efforts Cathy Ufheil made in working with our website host. Please pray for us as we work hard to communicate the gospel in person and on the web.
GREEN COMMITTEE – Heather Myers

We are a team of people working to create a more sustainable church through our actions and choices. We aim to learn, teach and share to protect God’s Green Earth within our walls and beyond.

Great News, 2 Simple Sort Trash/Recycle cans will be coming soon to the Riverside Hall. A more attractive alternative to what we currently use. Cans offer signs that have been shown to help people make the right choice when using. Trash and recycling can be confusing at best, our aim is to take the confusion out and educate what can be recycled and the rest is trash. For example, plastic cutlery, dirty napkins and straws never go in the recycle bin.

Are you called to join our team? Contact Julie Daye, Chair, 215–520–7097 or email: jultag22@yahoo.com

Or come check out our next meeting: Sunday August 5, 8:30 am in the Rectory.

On the Agenda: Sustainable Energy use for the church. What does this look like? How much more does it cost? How we buy power says something about our choice to being more sustainable.

Also Rain Barrel update, catching rain to water our garden! Join the conversation.

Simple Tip: Refill reusable water bottles and leave in fridge, always ready when you are.

Consider this: The other day I was at dinner with a friend and she pulled a container from her bag to take leftovers home! So easy and thoughtful for the earth! We all are responsible for our Earth. What can I do?
VESTRY AND RECTOR WORK TOGETHER ON STAFF POSITION DESCRIPTIONS – Lisa Reeves

Jim Ufheil, Rector’s Warden, asked the vestry to update our staff job descriptions. The Vestry is reviewing and revising job descriptions for our Sextons, Church Administrator, and Music Director. A team consisting of three vestry members will review each current job description with the staff member(s) to bring the descriptions up to date. Each team will provide a report and/or a revised job description to the August Vestry Meeting. Patricia indicated that the Rector’s job description would also need to be prepared as well. She reminded us that as Rector, she is the supervisor of all church employees, and that everyone works together as a team in order to better serve God, the congregation and community. If anyone has a question or concern about a staff issue, the question or concern should be brought directly to Patricia, who will handle it with assistance of the Rector’s Warden, Jim Ufheil, and the Vestry as needed. We are a Christian community and embody the love of Christ. We are thankful for the commitment and talent of the staff we have and will work to care for them and ensure their morale stays high!

WHAT I DID ON THE SEXTON’S SUMMER VACATION
– Pastor Patricia

Jim and Paula Minacci do not go home. Home and work are inseparable 24/7. Therefore, it is especially important that we encourage them to take care of themselves and see that they get away for a complete rest and rejuvenation. Thank God, they were able to go for two weeks in July. What I had to do was ask for help while they were away. I am SO grateful that their work did not fall to the wayside or fall on me! When I asked for help, so many people stepped in, from taking the trash in and out (yew!) to cleaning the bathroom and wiping down the floor in Riverside Hall. I am very grateful. Please keep up the good work in caring for this place and for one another.

September 27th
7:30 to 9:30 pm - Riverside Hall
PROPERTY REPORT – Bob Jenkins, Chair of Property Team

I am the new Property Chair of Gloria Dei. I would like to bring everyone up to speed with all that is going on at Gloria Dei. First and foremost, air conditioning is being installed in the Riverside Hall and the Church. All the electricity has been installed. The air handling units will be installed in the coming weeks. This will provide a much more comfortable setting for worship and hopefully more rental of the Riverside Hall. A great big THANK YOU to Jim Ufheil for all his hard work and organization on getting this accomplished. There will be a cement slab installed in the back of the Northeast end of the hall to house the unit.

Additional cement work will be done along the parking lot side of the Hall, where there used to be small vents. Just like the ones on the graveyard side. The Property Committee has decided to have these vents completely sealed up. Especially since they are already below ground level.

The Green Committee will be installing rain barrels in various locations around the property. One will be placed on the parking lot side of the Riverside Hall. Water collected in these barrels will be used for watering the plants that the Green Committee will be planting.

The National Park Service (N.P.S.) is considering taking back the use of the brick shed at the front of the driveway. That being said, The Property Committee is considering purchasing a large shed-like structure and placing it directly behind the Sextons house. This shed will house tables & chairs, the cleaning supplies, tools, ladders, and all the other bulky things taking up much needed space in the Riverside Hall.

Since the remodeling of the Church office, paint and slightly used donated furniture. There is a need for new blinds. The current blinds have been up since 1969 (almost antiques). They are very tired and so ready for retirement.

As many of you have noticed, there are 2 large squirrel holes along the barge boards of the Church. Jim (aka Bo) Battista from our Lucia family has graciously accepted the task of fixing the holes and doing some pointing to the church building. Along with some other repairs to the inside of the sanctuary. Quotes are still pending.

It has come to my attention that members of the congregation have shown interest in working with the Property Committee. This is good news to my ears. All are welcome. I encourage anyone with ideas and expertise to contact me (contact information below). We all need to work together to keep this beautiful place beautiful & inviting to all people.

Bob Jenkins: 215-779-5751 or Email: tazjenkins13@gamil.com
GOD JUL! – Elizabeth Keane, Director of Lucia at Gloria Dei

I am so excited for our upcoming Lucia Fest this year. Preparations have already begun in earnest. I’ve met with key church members and leadership, organized and synthesized information passed down to me, updated our social media presence, and thought about new ways to reach out to the community and bring in new families.

I was very happy with our Lucia picnic on July 22! It was a great turnout and a great chance to connect with everyone! I look forward to joining the congregation at the church service on September 16. Both events will prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming Lucia Fest.

While it’s important to bring the Lucia Fest into the 21st century, maintaining all of its historical allure and tradition is equally so; the celebration of tradition is key to its success. The actual service will remain the same, but we’ll work to tighten and make more efficient the rehearsal schedule in order to better benefit all of our amazing families that dedicate their time and energy to make Lucia happen. This is what Lucia is really all about: blending the old with the new while keeping this beautiful tradition alive for our future generations.

My family has been involved with the Lucia Fest for 33 years. I was Lucia in 1996. Most of my cousins and friends have been in Lucia. My dad and uncle has been volunteering, candle watching and wearing yellow knickers since I can remember. The amazing thing about traditions is that now my children and husband are also involved. And I love it all, because what I want to give my children is a life rich in tradition and culture. Especially as life gets more hectic, the traditions become even more important. I am looking forward to the future of Lucia and spreading our message to others.
LUCIA LIGHTS UP FAMILY LIFE

Do you know a family with young children or teens? Do they know about Gloria Dei’s own Lucia? Now in its 8th decade, Lucia performances provide an opportunity for people of all ages to work together. Young children and youth are given the attention of caring adults, experience the warmth of human bonds in a timeless ritual, gain confidence from self-sacrifice, learn the “true meaning of Christmas” and have a chance to form friendships that will last their whole life.

Elizabeth Kean is the Director. Call her at 610-202-6754 or email ekeane1996@gmail.com

LUCIA CALENDAR

Rehearsals: Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18. (12:45-3:00 ish)

Dress Rehearsal: Dec. 2 (1-3/4? it just depends how long it takes us to get through everything!)

Service weekend: Dec. 7 (6:00 pm and 8pm), Dec 8 and 9 (2:00pm, 3:30pm, and 5:00pm)
BE COOL! CONTRIBUTE NOW TO FUNDING OUR NEW AIR CONDITIONERS! – Pastor Patricia

We are expecting, with God’s help, to have our Church and our Riverside Hall air-conditioned before the summer ends.

The timing was right to make progress on this long-time dream. We were awarded a grant of $30,000 from the Diocese. We were blessed to find excellent workmen who added to our electrical capacity, completing the work in record time. We were blessed to have the assistance of our new AA fellowship, whose leader, Ray Spera, donated the materials and the labor to build the platform in Riverside over the bathroom for the unit to go there. As completion of the project nears, we are now turning to you and all folks who love Gloria Dei to make a financial contribution to air-conditioning Gloria Dei. Our goal is $5000.

Air-conditioning our buildings will bring us more income in the future. We have not had the capacity to fully engage our buildings, but now we will develop more revenue streams, marketing Gloria Dei for weddings and parties, no matter the weather. We think this is really good stewardship. Not to mention how well our congregation and clergy will feel during summer worship and how some people, who could not join in worship due to worries about their health in the heat, will no longer have to stay home.

Our vestry made the decision to get this project done with faith that you, and all lovers of Gloria Dei, will respond generously and with thanksgiving to have refreshing, cooling air, surround us as we worship and have fellowship at Gloria Dei.

Please mark your checks “Air-Conditioning” and bring to church or mail to the office at 916 S. Swanson St. Philadelphia, PA. 19147. Include love and prayers. Again, all contributions of any amount are very important and gratefully accepted.
MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR'S WARDEN – Jim Ufheil

We’ve had a busy year so far and it doesn’t look like things are going to slow down very much.

We’ve installed a new Rector, we’ve upgraded our electricity in Riverside, the Rectory and the Church. We’ve implemented a greater sense of transparency. We’re getting more and more of the congregation involved in activities and committees. We’re working with the Green Committee to reduce our carbon footprint while at the same time making our facilities more inviting and appealing to guests and members alike. We’re working closely with the NPS to get more support from them on grounds keeping and improving the ambiance of the property. We’re continuing to enhance the appearance of our graveyard with a new horticultural effort using some appropriately sized perennials around several of our “cradle graves.” And, the list could go on.

The bottom line is that we’ve taken on a positive “can-do” attitude and people are stepping up to be a part of it – to be active members of their/our church. Thanks, and keep it up.

As we move further into the second half of the year we’ll see more projects complete and more projects come on board. We should have the air conditioning project completed before the end of summer. We’ll be kicking off a new way to develop our budget. We should see more work get done on some major maintenance issues around the property. And we hope to see a wider participation by our congregation – everyone gaining more of a sense of ownership and having a stake in Gloria Dei’s future.

Have a great rest of the summer and I hope to see you all around Gloria Dei.
WOULD GLORIA DEI BE GLORIA DEI WITHOUT VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD? – Pastor Patricia

At all hours of the day and evening, I look out the rectory windows, to see people touring our grounds and taking photos of our famous Church. It gives me a wonderful feeling. I almost always greet people and am delighted to find that people from all over the world are literally at MY doorstep. What an amazing blessing!

This summer we had visitors from Idaho, Hawaii and Sweden, to name a few places. Photos of some of our visitors help me to remember how they came here - full of appreciation and wonder for finding their ancestors, or reliving the tale of the Swedes who braved a wild land. Sometimes I can have them come into the rectory and show them the books we have for sale. They sit down at the dining table to look through the books. I sold about $100 worth of books in recent weeks.

I never imagined my life at Gloria Dei would be so full of meeting strangers and welcoming them to the special hospitality we offer. Thank you to all our members who come at a moment’s notice to share this ministry and to our staff, who are so genuine in showing interest in our guests.
WELCOMING A DISTINGUISHED GUEST – Pastor Patricia

When Christine took a call in the office about some visitors wanting to meet with me, I put it in my pile of many such requests and took off for a few days to visit with my daughter in Pittsburgh. As soon as I got back, I checked on the request and saw that this visitor was a Bishop from Sweden! Also, that the visit was planned for the next day. Immediately, I asked Christine to call them back and say we would be here to welcome them. Late that night, I called our chief historians and lovers of our Swedish friends, Jeanette Woehr and Pastor Kim-Eric Williams to see if they too would like to welcome the Bishop. I was overjoyed to hear they would come and help me greet our distinguished guest. I include the letter Kim-Eric wrote to me afterwards and a photo.

I think it is simply wonderful, how God brings so many amazing people to Gloria Dei.

Dear Pr. Pat,

Thanks for letting me visit with my old friends from Sweden. They were Bishop Johan Tyrberg and his wife Katarina. Bishop Tyrberg serves in the Diocese of Lund in the southern University city of Lund. He was the host last October for the visit of the Pope to Sweden. He was formerly the Senior Pastor of the large parish in Karlshamn. Because he had been elected bishop I was able to serve in Karlshamn in the summer of 2015.

His tour guide was Susan Dunmire of Ashland, VA who had been an exchange student in his home when she was in Sweden as a student. Her mother is a Lutheran pastor in western PA.
WHO ARE THE NAVIGATORS AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
– Pastor Patricia

A new rector has more to learn than anyone can imagine. A new rector needs to rely on spiritual guidance. A new rector looks all around her to see who will pray with her for the wisdom to guide the vestry and congregation. As your new rector, I asked the vestry to approve a small team of people that would devote themselves to prayer and study specifically for Gloria Dei’s future.

This small team has already begun praying every day for our congregation. We are just beginning. Later, we will study bible passages, the materials developed for the recent Rector Search and teachings on church trends. We will find ways to share at a deep level of trust, believing that God will inform our minds and hearts.

So, who are the Navigators? They are the ones searching the unknown territory up ahead, to see what looks promising, to see where we might journey. They are our scouts looking for new vistas of where God is calling us. Much like the Swedes who scouted the Delaware and came ashore here, the Navigators go ahead and will help us move forward.

The Navigators are Eric Soltycki, Ann Bright, Nils vanAmmers, Carol Jenkins, and Julie Daye. Let us pray for them as they pray for us. In January 2019 the Navigators will conclude their work.

Read Eric’s article to find out more about the experience of being a Navigator.

A NAVIGATOR TEAM MEMBER – Eric Soltycki

I was approached to join navigators to join the navigators and I was surprised because I had been having a hard time managing my time. I knew about the navigators and it seem like a very important job possibly with specific assignments. As I was listening I was hesitant until I heard that it would be very flexible and a lot of the material work would be done from home, more importantly, it’s freeing to just follow a plan from very a knowledgeable leader. Patricia had recommended one of the options would be to go through the contact list and pray for people on that list. The first day I Prayed for three people on the list, each one praying for them to be happy, healthy, calm, and free of what binds them. After that five or 10 minutes I had such a great feeling of family in which I have been looking for ever since I joined the church,
220th Anniversary

On the first Sunday after Trinity, June 6th, the services marked the 220th Anniversary of the dedication of the present Church edifice, and the 243rd year of the Parish since worship was first conducted in the old Block House.

By resolution of the Vestry the policy was inaugurated on this occasion, of setting apart a sitting in one of the pews each Anniversary, to be named in memory of some one of the pioneers of the Swedish period in the early days of the Church. It is hoped that the plan will receive wide attention and encourage throughout the city and nation those who have family associations with Old Swedes’ to avail themselves of the opportunity to become permanently identified with its traditions.

The name of Justus Falckner was chosen for this year’s commemoration. His relation to the Church was incidental, but of great historic import. He was a member of the group of Theosophists and Pietists who settled on the Wissahickon and helped to give the name of “Germantown” to that section. He came to this country in 1700, and soon was on very friendly terms with the Swedish Pastor of Gloria Dei, Andrew Rudman. In 1701 Falckner addressed a letter to the Lutherans of Germany in which he urged the sending of an organ to the Swedish Church at Wicaco, in which the Lutheran Liturgy was used, suggesting that it would be a means of holding the young people. In 1703, on the urgent presentation by Pastor Rudman of the needs of Lutheran congregations in New York, Justus Falckner offered to become their minister and presented himself for ordination. The ceremony took place on November 24th of that year in Old Swedes’ Church, at the hands of three pastors, Rev. Andreas Sandel, then Pastor of Gloria Dei, and Revs. Erick Biorck, of Christiana (Wilmington), and Andreas Rudman acting as Suffragan, or Vice-Bishop. No Bishop could be obtained as there was none in the Colonies at the time.

In view of this unique relation with the early period of Gloria Dei Church, and his interest in securing it an organ, Justus Falckner was remembered this
Anniversary. A sitting in his memory will be the first one to be designated in a pew in the Church which will be set aside so that all the sittings will be marked in course of time with the names of both the clergy and laity of the early days in the Church’s history.

The special music at the Anniversary services and the organ recital in the afternoon were particularly pleasing this year. At the four o’clock service Dr. George C. Foley of the Philadelphia Divinity School preached with great power and blessing to all who heard him.

STEWARDSHIP – Jerry Buescher

True to our promise, we’ve given you an update on the pledge situation once a month. It’s been a pleasure to do that – because we’ve all held up our part of the covenant and honored our pledges. What a great thing, a thing to celebrate. Thank you for that!

This past Sunday something really neat happened. Two people who’ve been attending services for the past few months noticed that the flower plantings as you enter the graveyard from the walkway between Riverside and the Sextons’ House were “tired.” Very tired, to put it mildly.

What did they do? They bought some nice summery flowering plants, planted them, watered them – and left them there for everyone to enjoy. We’ve talked about how giving makes each of us a part of this parish, a part of this piece of God’s kingdom. A place where people care for each other, work with each other, help each other along.

Let’s celebrate their noticing and see if we can notice anything ourselves. I have my eye on an unplanted urn on a grave marker . . .

See you in church.

Jerry Buescher – jerome.buescher@gmail.com – 215-432-4292

The Stewardship Committee: Jerry Buescher, Barbara Potts, Mark Roberts, Richard Woehr
DIOCESAN EVENT FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY

Do you want to be an advocate for those living with addiction? Learn and be inspired with keynote speaker Susan Ford Bales on Saturday, September 22, 2018, 8:45am – 12:15pm.

Attendees will learn how to connect needs with resources, and bring healing and hope to their congregations and communities. This is an empathetic and compassionate approach to substance addiction, and how all parishes can make a difference in the lives of their members.

This is a free event sponsored by the Diocese, but you must register online at www.diopa.org. Contact Peggy Buescher (267-456-4718) or Pastor Patricia (267-366-8692) regarding plans to attend. We will meet at the church and carpool to the event.

AA CONTINUES AT GLORIA DEI – Peggy Buescher

I am thrilled to report we have successfully hosted our tenth AA Men’s Meeting since it began this past May. A new men’s AA meeting commenced at Gloria Dei on Tuesday evening May 22nd between 4:30 and 5:30 PM. I am grateful to our new pastor, Reverend Patricia Cashman, and the Vestry for approving its start. Their open-mindedness and willingness will help save lives.

Recovery is possible for anyone who wants it. Too many good people are dying needlessly from alcohol and drugs. I personally am thankful to God and the Twelve Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous for a blessed life today.

For questions or more information, please contact

Ray Spera, Chairperson
215-749-0886, or
Peggy Buescher, member of Gloria Dei 267-45604718

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New AA Men’s Meeting
“Tradwinds”

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church Parish Hall
916 Swanson Street
(Entrance on Christian Street between Columbus Blvd and Water Street)

Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:30 PM
Beginning May 22, 2018

Questions – Contact Ray Spira (215-749-0886)
Chair Person, or
Peggy Buescher (267-456-4718) Gloria Dei Church
School Supply Outreach

by Rita West

Please help Vare-Washington, our local community school
Their children are in need!
We are accepting donated items now through September 9th.

The following items are top priority:

- pencils
- pens
- copier paper
- plastic folders
- dry erase markers
- lined paper (loose-leaf)
- construction paper
- glue sticks
- bottles of glue
- 3 x 5 index cards
- rulers (with inches & cm)
- 24 pack crayons
- pencil sharpeners
- toilet paper
- paper towels

THANK YOU!

Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases

Now all these things can be done online at Gloria Dei’s website!
Just visit us as www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we’re doing.
Check out our Facebook page while you’re there.
Christian Burials

Now being accepted at
GloriaDei
OLD-SWEDES CHURCHYARD

We have opened the Amandas Johnson section of our historic churchyard for the purchase of burial rights. Cremated remains may be interred in the traditional manner with interment in a family plot, single grave, or within the memorial garden.

Please contact the Church Office at 215-389-1513 for more details and pricing.

www.old-swedes.org
August 7, 14, 21, 28  **Evensong** – A service of quiet song, meditation and prayer. Tuesdays at 6:30pm

August 7, 14, 21, 28  **Men’s AA Meeting** – Tuesdays at 4:30pm, Riverside Hall

August 8  **Chair Yoga with Kathy** – 9:00am, Riverside Hall. $10 per class. A great opportunity to stretch and strengthen muscles, reduce stress, and develop better breathing habits. All levels welcome.

August 9  **Outdoor Summer Beatles Jam** – 6:30 – 8:30pm, Amphitheater. Hosted by South Philly Jam with Settlement Music School. Musicians & singers of all levels welcome!

August 11  **Urban Sketchers** – 10:00am - 1:00pm, on the grounds. Global artist group with a local Philadelphia chapter. More info on Facebook/Urban Sketchers Philadelphia.

August 12  **Sexton Sideshow Presents** – 6:00pm, Live in the Church Sanctuary, MaryAnn Price & The Edge Hill Rounders

August 13  **Finance Committee Meeting**, 11:00am, Rectory.

August 15  **Altar Guild & Altar Server Meetings** – 10:00am and 7:00pm, Riverside Hall.

August 16  **Vestry Meeting** – 7:00pm, Riverside Hall.

August 18  **Dream Study Workshop** 9:00am – 12:00pm. What are your dreams trying to tell you? Learn from the wisdom within you! All are welcome to this FREE seminar. Space is limited, please RSVP to patcashman2010@gmail.com.

August 22  **Chair Yoga with Kathy** – 9:00am, Riverside Hall. $10 per class. A great opportunity to stretch and strengthen muscles, reduce stress, and develop better breathing habits. All levels welcome.
September 3  Labor Day
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25  Men’s AA Meeting – Tuesdays at 4:30pm, Riverside Hall

Evensong -- Tuesdays at 6:30pm. A quiet service of meditation, song & prayer.

Meditation with Sheila – Tuesdays at 5:45pm, Riverside Hall. Re-center and find your inner guidance. Free.

Yoga with Sarah – Tuesdays 7:15PM, Riverside Hall. $10 per class/10 class card $90. A slow-flow mindful practice that uses the physical shapes of Yoga Asana to deepen your awareness of breath. Mats available to borrow. All levels welcome.

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26  Chair Yoga with Kathy - 9:00am Riverside Hall, chairs provided. Great opportunity to gently stretch and strengthen muscles, reduce stress, and develop better breathing habits. Drop in class, all levels welcome. $ 10 per session

September 9  Sunday School Restarts – For ages 5 - 8

September 10  Historic Gloria Dei Board Meeting – 5:30pm in Riverside Hall.

September 16  Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship in Riverside Hall

September 20  Vestry Meeting – 7:00pm, Riverside Hall

Swedish Colonial Society Meeting – 11:00am – 3:00pm, Riverside Hall

September 27  Jazz & Joe – 7:30pm, Riverside Hall. The Alan Segal Quartet plays a “coffee-house” style venue. Active listening, quiet conversation and mingling are all equally welcome throughout the evening. Refreshments are served, or BYO food & beverage. Free event, donations accepted.
A Statement of Purpose of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church

We, the congregation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’), an Episcopal Church, honor God by following the teachings of Jesus to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

With God’s help...

We express our faith through worship.
We honor and celebrate our differences and uniqueness.
We respond to the needs of others in the parish and in the community.
We preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition, and heritage of this sacred place.
We are an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, and loving community.

Sunday Service:
10:00 AM
Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM
Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-2:30

Weddings
Weddings at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church must be scheduled with the clergy at least three months in advance. All weddings in the church will be governed by the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Book of Common Prayer. Premarital counseling is a prerequisite. No weddings will be conducted during Lent.

Funerals
When death occurs a family member is asked to contact the clergy so that timely arrangements for a funeral may be made. It is appropriate for the funeral of a Christian to take place in the church. It is also appropriate that funeral arrangements be made in advance and kept in a file in the church office. Burial plots are available for members of the parish in the church’s cemetery. Consult the church office for costs and details.

Baptisms
The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated during one of the principle Sunday liturgies and is governed by the Canons of the church and the Book of Common Prayer. These are: The Baptism of Our Lord (1/7/18); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/1/18); Pentecost (5/20/18); and All Saints Sunday (11/4/18). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.