

December 2018 thru February 2019 **Down By The Riverside**

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

THE DESIRES OF OUR HEARTS

Dear Friends,

As we approach December 25, we will have our hearts stirred by desire. As children we wanted toys under the tree and our memories are colored by how our loved ones responded to our lists for Santa. Did they “break the bank” to get us what we asked for, or did they have to say “no”? Desires and spiritual development go hand in hand. God sees your heart and will fulfill all your desires as is best for you. When we see the Father’s love fulfilled in the Son, his generous gift of love outpoured, I pray our hearts be touched to give ourselves in love to others, at home, at church, at work, and in the world. May the story of Christmas comfort you and strengthen you through the winter days. May the peace of Christ be with you as we transition from one year to another. Let us look with hope to the future.

Pastor Patricia



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

DECEMBER 24, MONDAY, 3 PM, in Riverside Hall for Families with young children. Celebrate Baby Jesus’ birthday with live music, dress up fun and the timeless story of the miracle in Bethlehem. All are welcome to “come and adore” Him at this service designed for the young and the young at heart.

DECEMBER 24, MONDAY, 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Music and carol singing warm up our major celebration of the birth of Christ. Children can dress up and help tell the story of angels and shepherds. Come share the feast provided afterwards in Riverside Hall.
A great Gloria Dei tradition!

DECEMBER 25, TUESDAY, 10 AM in the Sanctuary. A service to contemplate the mystery of God’s love and to rejoice in Christ’s birth.

All our services include Holy Communion and all persons are invited to the Lord’s Supper.

Lucia Fest, 2018

St. Eric's Fair



Friday, **Dec. 7** - 6:00 & 8:00
Saturday & Sunday, **Dec. 8 & 9**
2:00, 3:30 & 5:00

Tickets: Adults - \$13
Children under 12 - \$7

Tickets available online to Dec. 3, 2018
at www.old-swedes.org and then at door

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 389-1513



Tickets available online at www.old-swedes.org through Dec. 4th

RECTOR'S WARDEN'S MESSAGE – Jim Ufheil

As presented at the Semi-Annual Parish Meeting on November 11, 2018

Our last parish meeting was May, 6-months ago

- Patricia had been with us less than 5-months at that point and expectations were high
- We seemed to be adopting an attitude of “let’s get things done and move this ship forward”

So have we made progress in the last 6-months?

- We’ve added a few new ministries and made a few adjustments
 - The Green Committee was formed and we’ve already moved to a “greener” supplier of electrical power; we’ve purchased and are using new containers for trash and recyclables in Riverside Hall and we’ve got some rain barrels to install to help us with lowering our water and sewer bills
 - We’ve restructured the Altar Guild to include more parishioners and spread the work
- What about our Property and Stewardship of it?
 - The Rectory is now regularly used for church meetings and receptions
 - The Rectory yard has been cleaned up and will be re-purposed for rental
 - We’re cleaning up the Christian St entrance
 - Thanks to a memorial donation from Sally Daly, we’ve purchased a new shed to use for storage so that we can get things out of the brick shed next to the entrance.
 - That in turn will allow us to use that shed for our trash and remove the other shed near the entrance. Bob coordinated that effort and the new shed in the Rectory back yard is great. Thanks Bob.
 - Alexis (YCCA) has contracted with a private trash removal company for a 3-time per week pick-up, and obtained new trash bins for their use. Much more efficient, and we are looking to possibly following suit.
 - The holes in church soffits have been repaired

- And, during those repairs our contractor (Jim Batista from our Lucia family) noticed a severe problem with some of our shingles – they were missing – and repaired them as well.
- We've begun some of the masonry pointing repair to keep moisture from seeping into the church narthex and back of the sanctuary.
- The church office has had a nearly complete re-do with fresh paint, new blinds, and different furniture
- And of course, the air-conditioning that was put into the church and here in Riverside with the electricity upgraded in the process thanks to a grant from the Diocese

That's a lot But that's not all:

- Hospitality has been expanded where we're hosting welcome dinners and other meetings (so far we've welcomed 10 to 12 potential new members)
- Patricia has further strengthened our relationship with the NPS and reached out to our neighboring US Coast Guard station with great success (they helped us do the initial clean-up of the Rectory yard).
- We've also improved our relationship with QVNA, we've gotten some great publicity in their community magazine.

There's more, but I think you get the idea and I'm running on too much. And, all of these things can help us grow even more by becoming an even more inviting and pleasant place to be.

These past 6-months have given us a great start and hopefully a recognition of what we can accomplish together if we set our minds to it. It hasn't been without some conflict, but we've worked through them and we're continuing to work on our internal relationships by accepting responsibility and being accountable for our own actions.

There's still a lot to do around our property, and within the community. We chose to defer a lot of our general upkeep such as painting, pointing, and the like for years, and our buildings are suffering for it. Now we are ready to think about keeping our campus in better repair so that it will be here for future generations. We're getting estimates to repair the areas that are suffering from lack of paint, and doing a complete repair and paint job on everything. We're looking even more closely at what needs to be done and when on the roof. And, we're getting really serious in looking at ways to get these done and paid for.

I think we'd all like to see Gloria Dei provide more benevolence to the community and those around us that could use our help. We're starting our voyage into being a tourist draw and increasing the number of visitors we see in our midst. It's all there for us if we stay committed to it.....commit our time, talents and treasure – it's all stewardship.

Let me know your ideas and comments. Thanks.



ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is looking for members! This commitment is once a month...and while performing a very important service for the Lord and the congregation, it offers a sense of peace and joy to all who accept as well as sense of personal contribution to the good of our church family.

Anyone who sets their own table at home can learn how to set the Lord's Table and, as at home, each thing used in worship has its own significance and purpose. We'll explain why and how in an upcoming class.

If you would like to be a chalice bearer and assist Patricia in distributing the Eucharist...or if you would like to be a "crucifer" and carry the cross into and out of church during worship...please...consider joining the growing Altar Guild team!

Speak with Cathy Ufheil, Peggy Buescher or Jeanette Woehr.



LECTORS WANTED!

Do you enjoy speaking in public?

Do you want to help lead Sunday worship?

Do you want to share the Word of our Lord with others?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, become a lector!

"Lector" is a word derived from the Latin verb "legere" or "lect-", which means "read, chosen". Thus, a lector is someone who reads.

Gloria Dei is looking for more people willing to read from the Old and New Testament, the Psalms, or the prayers during worship services. We currently have a gifted team of 20 individuals who rotate through the services and commit to one or two readings per month. Please join us! If interested, contact Megan Bartlett: megan77777@yahoo.com or 267-581-9357.

SEXTON SIDESHOW PRESENTS

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

IN THE SANCTUARY

FEATURING

RIVER BONES BAND with NO GOOD SISTER — TC COLE RIOT — DAN MAY
SHAKEY LYMAN — EMMETT DRUEDING — CHRISTOPHER DAVIS-SHANNON
HEATHER SHAYNE BLAKESLEE — CAROLYN THORN — SARAH BIEMUELLER — TRACEY HILL
COWMUDDY — JAMIE OLSON

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 7PM

\$15 AT THE DOOR

GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES') CHURCH



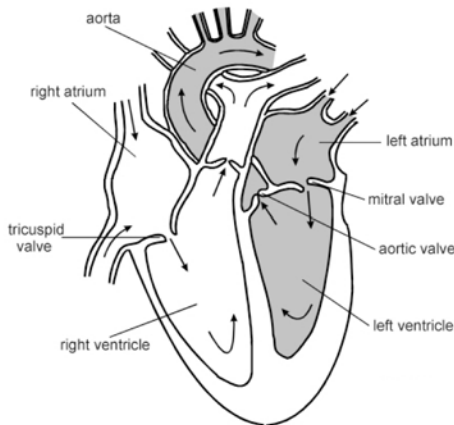
STEWARDSHIP AND PLEDGING – Jerry Buescher

At the service on November 4, the day we celebrated All Saints Day, we gathered in pledges toward the parish's work in the coming year. Thank you, thank you, to everyone who thought and prayed and made a pledge. I know some pledges came in during the weeks following the fourth and they are also welcome. If you haven't done it yet, please consider pledging and – even better – PLEDGE! I assure you, it's not too late.

Last Sunday, we held the first Semi-Annual Parish Meeting. We did a two-hour session in Riverside Hall that began with Eucharist and moved seamlessly into food and talk about what's happening in our parish and what we'd like to see happen in our parish. Some of our parish leaders presented insights into thinking about how every dollar contributed goes to build a particular parish activity. Someone else asked people to think about what we'd do if we could lay our hands on an additional thirty-thousand dollars this coming year. And you thought, and you wrote down your thoughts, and the leadership people – the Rector, the Vestry, some budget people – are looking at what you wrote and doing their best to figure out what to do in the coming year and how to do it.

Whatever we do has to happen within the lines of a budget that's being developed right now. And that budget pays to keep the doors open and the lights on. If we don't do that, it's likely there won't be any new things we'd really like to do. But we're also sure that Jesus is calling us to do some things we aren't doing now. And our faithfulness to that call means we have to make sure that budget keeps the lights on and also helps us do the things we're being called to do.

For the Stewardship Committee: Jerry Buescher, Barbara Potts,
Mark Roberts, Richard Woehr



AA MEETING – Peggy Buescher

“Triggers” and the “Trifecta” of the holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years) are real challenges for the alcoholic. The holidays are filled with entertaining and along with that, drinking. If you find it’s become a problem, you are not alone. Recovery is possible for anyone who wants it. Too many people are dying needlessly from drugs and alcohol. Our men’s AA Meeting continues to meet in Riverside Hall on a weekly basis. The meeting is held every Tuesday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. For questions or more information, please contact:

Ray Spera	Chairperson	215-749-0886
Peggy Buescher	Gloria Dei	267-456-4718



HOSPITALITY – Peggy Buescher

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing.” Hebrews 13:2

“Know Jesus. Change the World.” Let us remember to see Jesus, the Christ, in one another as we enter the holiday season. Hospitality is not just about bringing treats for the table on Sunday mornings. It’s about being hospitable and caring for one another. Let us remember to bring love into our busy lives as we move forward through the hustle and bustle of the season. We are eagerly looking forward to our Christmas Eve reception. Please start thinking about your favorite things to bring. The reception will be immediately following the 7:00 PM service. All are welcome.

Wishing you a blessed holiday. Love and Peace.

Peggy Buescher, Re Henning, Rita West, Barbara Chilcott, and Linda Vitkow. Special thanks to Angel Guido and “the girls” who have been helping immensely the last few weeks.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming Sunday please call the office and let us know. You may provide the flowers yourself or you may provide funds for flowers and a volunteer “flower person” will purchase and place the flowers for you.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT - Peggy Buescher

The Angels Are Waiting! The Angel Tree Project

The Angel Tree Project is now in its third year of bringing smiles to some first- and second-graders at the George W. Nebinger School. The staff was so excited when I informed them that I had vestry approval that had the names of their selected students within 24 hours!

They are thrilled because they have witnessed the joy our gifts bring to the children. I arrived in church on Sunday November 18 with 30 angels and more than half have found homes. Thanks to everyone for your generous spirit.



GLORIA DEI YOUTH - Heather Myers

7 women from 2 different generations had a sleep over on Saturday November 3. We talked, ate pizza, enjoyed a lesson based on a tea pot and ended the evening watching "Penelope". Morning brought well rested girls to the table again to share breakfast, telling life stories. A re-visit to the tea pot proved enlightening and we opened our ears to different types of Christian music, some even raising voice. The purpose of the activities is to build community, offer education along with service and fun activities; to help youth reflect on baptism and decide if confirmation is right for them at this time. If anyone would like to discuss confirmation when the bishop is here on Feb 10, 2019, contact Pastor Patricia.

Beautiful, insightful young women shared their time; for this I'm grateful.

How does “Old Swedes” make a difference through Yoga....?

Thoughts by Kathy Schneider, MS, RN, YTC

What’s behind Old Swedes’ beautiful stone walls I wondered....I was to find out after my chance meeting with Paula; we met at a neighbor’s birthday party and struck-up a conversation...I was new to the neighborhood and delighted to meet folks who could share Philadelphia history, community resources, community happenings & all through their sense of neighborhood pride. Paula heard yearning in my voice...

I shared my background as a Masters prepared Community Health Nurse for 35+ years; Certified in Aquatic Exercise & recently acquired Certification in Yoga Instruction. I was thrilled that Paula invited me to consider teaching “chair yoga” at the Riverside building 1-morning a week for the community at large...and so, a Chair Yoga class began in January 2017.

Yoga, is an ancient Indian Practice passed down through generations; a simple definition of yoga refers to a “union”...of mind, body & spirit. The practice of yoga may take on many forms; through body poses, meditation, Hot yoga, Hatha yoga to name but a few....practiced on a mat, in a chair, or now-a-days, with goats!

I have found that Old Swedes has been able to provide the perfect foundation for communities to come together – for music, dance, socials, & health promotional activities. Old Swedes promotes for individuals in the surrounding communities and its church members, a sense of mental, spiritual & physical well-being. I think of health as wholeness & balance... a framework which incorporates the 5-points of wellness: Exercise, nutrition, relaxation, positive mental processing and the ability to follow your life’s path. ⁽¹⁾

A healthy community is a journey – one of many steps...I am honored to be a part of the Old Swedes community – its rich history and its commitment to those it serves.

Namaste

Kathy Schneider, MS, RN, YTC

⁽¹⁾ Canda, Nancy 3rd Ed. 2016. Practical Yoga Therapy: Using the Five Points of Wellness

THOUGHTS FROM HISTORIC GLORIA DEI PRESERVATION CORPORATION – Candace Roberts, Chair of the Board

Every season at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church offers a time and place of tranquility, yet this space is also an energizing, historic, living, growing congregation offering a respite from hectic urban life.

This is especially true in the winter which brings us a celebration of light and lively music performances indoors. Outside, you can sit or stroll the grounds in quiet meditation. In a world of electronic connection, and the bombardment of the 24-hour news cycle, Gloria Dei is a place to put yourself in time out to breathe – if even for just a few minutes.

Historic Gloria Dei depends on contributed support to keep its greenspace, monuments, and buildings, well-cared for and thriving. Our projects on the horizon include: painting and pointing the 5 buildings; restoring and repairing markers; replacing the roof on the Church; and improving the walkways and lighting.

We invite you to become a Friend of Old Swedes—to ensure that what’s meaningful to you today, continues tomorrow! (<https://preserveoldswedes.org/donate/>)

While you are exploring the churchyard, take a stroll over to the marker for William Irvine (1741-1804), Brigadier General, U.S. Congressman. William Irvine (1741-1804) graduated

from Dublin University, became a physician, and served as a surgeon in the British Navy before immigrating to Pennsylvania in 1763. He resumed practicing medicine and was a Delegate to Pennsylvania’s anti-Stamp Act conventions in 1764 and 1766. Irvine also took part in Pennsylvania’s conventions held to consider independence in 1774 and 1775.

Irvine died in Philadelphia and was buried in a graveyard near Independence Hall. In 1833, his remains were moved to Ronaldson’s Cemetery at 9th and Fitzwater. When Ronaldson’s Cemetery closed in the 1950s, the graves of a few



Revolutionary War officers including Irvine were moved to Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church.

Our history committee for Historic Gloria Dei has been uploading information of every marker to our website. (preserveoldswedes.org) We are about half-way through the project. Please check out our website to see the progress and read the stories of our permanent residents. Some of the inscriptions are very thoughtful and moving.

We are also creating a mini-museum in the Church sacristy that will be open to the public in mid-December. We will feature Lucia Fest photos from the 1950s and the story of St. Lucia in a pictorial timeline!

All the activities from Historic Gloria Dei are created by the efforts of volunteers. Every gift you make to Historic Gloria Dei is used directly for the benefit of our mission to preserve the buildings and grounds.

Respectfully submitted by Candace Roberts, Chair of the Board for Historic Gloria Dei and the William Irvine story contributed by Amy Grant, Secretary of the Board.



Our new shed, a gift from Sally Daly

—save the date—

- December 4, 18 **Evensong** – Tuesdays at 6:30pm.
Men’s AA Meeting – Tuesdays at 4:30pm, Riverside Hall
Meditation with Sheila – Tuesdays at 5:45pm, Riverside Hall. Re-center and find your inner guidance. Free. *No classes on Dec 11 & 25*
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.
- December 5, 19 **Chair Yoga with Kathy** – Wednesdays 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. *No classes on Dec 12 & 26.*
Tai Chi with Gretchen – Wednesdays 10:30am, Riverside Hall. \$12 per class. Intermediate/Advanced, but all levels welcome. Students learn lower & upper body movements, then link them together to practice “The Form”. Improves balance, calms the mind, strengthens & tones muscles, refines concentration.
- December 2 **Project Church (Gloria Dei Youth Group)** - Ages 10+, meets in the Rectory following 10:00am service
- December 7, 8, 9 **Lucia Fest & St. Eric’s Fair** – Candlelit Swedish holiday performance with music. Gifts and crafts for sale between shows. Tickets \$13 adult/\$7 under 12. Showtimes: Friday 6 & 8. Saturday & Sunday 2, 3:30 & 5. Purchase on our website www.old-swedes.org (or at the door if still available).
- December 14 **Sexton Sideshow Presents “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”** Musical Tribute with 18 live local musicians. 7:00pm \$15 at the door, includes food. Beverages available for purchase.

(continued on next page)

- December 20 **Swedish Colonial Society Meeting** –1:00pm – 3:00pm, Riverside Hall
- Vestry Meeting** –7:00pm, Rectory
- December 23 **Last Sunday of Advent**
- December 24 **Christmas Eve 3:00pm Service** – Families with young children are especially welcome to our brief afternoon service with Christmas Tableau.
- 7:00pm Service** – Special music program with choir featuring our 116 year-old organ. Refreshments served immediately following mass.
- December 25 **Merry Christmas! 10:00am** simple service with carols & Eucharist.



- January 1 **Happy New Year!** Office closed for the holiday.
- January 8, 15, 22, 29 **Evensong** – Tuesdays at 6:30pm.
- Men’s AA Meeting** – Tuesdays at 4:30pm, Riverside Hall
- No Meditation Classes in January – Yoga with Sarah**
- January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 **Chair Yoga with Kathy** –Wednesdays 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.
- Tai Chi with Gretchen** – Wednesdays 10:30am, Riverside Hall. \$12 per class. Intermediate/Advanced, but all levels welcome. Students learn lower & upper body movements, then link them together to practice “The Form”. Improves balance, calms the mind, strengthens & tones muscles, refines concentration.
- January 13 **Church of Sweden** –4:00pm, Service in church at 4pm, fellowship following in Riverside Hall.
- January 14 **HGDPC Meeting (Historic Preservation Board)** –5:30pm in Riverside Hall.

(continued on next page)

January 17 **Swedish Colonial Society Meeting** -1:00pm -
3:00pm, Riverside Hall
Vestry Meeting -7:00pm, Roak Room
January 24 **Jazz & Joe** - 7:30pm Riverside Hall



February 3 **Lucia Sunday** 10:00am- Give thanks and
celebrate with our Lucia family
February 7 & 8 **Vestry Retreat**
February 10 **Visit from Bishop Gutierrez**
February 28 **Jazz & Joe** - 7:30pm Riverside Hall



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 at www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we're doing.
Check out our Facebook page while you're there.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL AT VARE WASHINGTON - Rita West

To everyone at Gloria Dei Old Swedes Church, Thank you so much for the generous donations!

It was wonderful to be able to invite the teachers to stop by the office and replenish their supplies or pick up some things they had been missing all year.

Thanks again for thinking of us!

Gretchen Stewart, Principal

I also want to say thanks so much for everyone's support for making this ministry a success and a great experience. Looking forward to our partnership with Vare Washington. Peace and Love to all, Rita West



Celebrate the Newly Married

Lisa Stephens and Anthony Giordano

October 13, 2018

Welcome the Newest Members

Baptized on September 30, 2018

Maya Kathleen Chaleby

Baptized on November 18, 2018

Cameron Hunter Griffith

Baptized on November 25, 2018

Annah Mona Lisa Calandrino

Memorial Cards in loving memory of:

Hedy Wawalany

By: Bert Kubiak, Donna Collins,
Dolores Collins, Jack & Karen
Woreski, Anna Cunningham,
Terri Snock, Arlene Peterson

Dolores Kirlin

By: Jean & Bob Neill, Donna Collins,
Dolores Collins, Ryan, Ashley &
Patrick

Marge Lord

By: Pat Coleman

CLERGY

The Rev. Patricia Cashman, Rector

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Christine McBride, Parish Admin.
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Mark Roberts, Treasurer

VESTRY

Peggy Buescher
Barbara Chilcott
Jill Duink, Accounting Warden
Bob Jenkins, Junior Warden
Leigh Jenkins, Secretary
Jamie Konowal
Heather Myers
Lisa Reeves
Mark Roberts
Eric Soltzcki
James Ufheil, Rector's Warden
Jeanette Woehr



STANDING NOTICES

Weddings

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

Funerals

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

Baptisms

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated during one of the principle Sunday liturgies and is governed by the Canons of the church and the Book of Common Prayer. Baptism is normally celebrated on one of the four appropriate feast days designated in the Book of Common Prayer. These are: The Baptism of Our Lord (1/13/19); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/20/19); Pentecost (6/9/19); and All Saints Sunday (11/3/19). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.



Sunday Service:

10:00 AM

Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-2:30