Thoughts from the Rector

I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.

(Ash Wednesday)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

(Palm Sunday)

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered...

(Maundy Thursday)

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family...

(Good Friday)

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

(Easter Vigil)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

(Easter Day)

(Book of Common Prayer, Proper Liturgies for Special Days, p.263 and forward)

As I consider the church seasons upon us – Lent, Holy Week, Easter – I find it helpful and revealing to open my mind and heart to the entirety of these special days. While Ash Wednesday may not sound or feel anything like Easter Sunday, nonetheless when I remember the words that will be said during these six and a half weeks something of a complete picture comes into focus.

This portion of the biblical story, this season of self-examination, repentance, prayer, meditation, and celebration, reflects the entirety of the story of God and humankind - what we call The Bible. From Genesis to Revelation the many stories, poems, songs, and prophesies incorporate all that we hear and see and learn about ourselves and God during the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Whether we reflect on our doubts, face our fears, become aware of neighbor or enemy in a new way, face unbearable challenges or recognize unfathomable blessings, we are repeatedly called into relationship with God and humankind. We are encouraged to trust, to hope, and to love – over and over again, both through the Scriptures as a whole and through the seasons of Lent and Easter.

While it is not a shortcut to avoid reading the Bible, the seasons upon us are a path on which we might be changed in some significant way, if we are willing. Always, if we are willing.

(continued on next page)
It is for each of us to decide to accept God’s invitation to deeper relationship. We can say no thanks. But if we are just scared, or don’t know where to begin, then let us hear the invitation for Ash Wednesday “to the observance of a holy Lent.” It’s a place to start, or start over again.

Then, one step at a time, as we travel literally and figuratively with Jesus through these days, we just might discover that as travel companions, reflecting each other’s hopes and dreams, fears and woes, that we, like those in the story we tell, are part of this most amazing story. The story of God and humankind. The story of God’s Good Creation.

Join us as we step out, bravely, courageously, joyously, on our journey, seeking God and each other, bravely marching to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Peace,  
Joy*

Assist us, mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p.270)

Hospitality

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give you will get back.” (Luke 6:38)

Thank you to all who’ve extended themselves and made the effort to make hospitality so successful. There’s never a shortage at Gloria Dei thanks to your generosity. We’ve had all sorts of tastings that have welcomed many visitors and sustained us as we interact with them. I always remind myself when doing hospitality that it’s in giving that we receive. “Giving” takes effort and I need your help. I am so grateful for all those who share their time, talent, and treasure for hospitality. We continue to need people to step up and sign up on the hospitality sheet on the corkboard in Riverside Hall near the bathroom door. We strive to carry out the mission spelled out in the letter to the Hebrews: “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Help us keep the doors not only “open” but also open to say “Welcome. Come in. Eat, drink, and feel blessed.

Love and Peace,  
Peggy, Re, Rita, Barbara and Linda
Stewardship Committee

A resolution was passed in the 1989 General Convention stating that 
stewardship is the main work of the church. We’re committed to helping this parish 
understand and live by that resolution.

By now, we’re beyond the Oh-God-I-have-to-fill-out-that-Stewardship-Form 
and get ready to put something into the basket every Sunday. We’ve been there 
for this year and we did well, much better than we had been doing for the past 
three or four years. Thank you, all of you, thank you for that.

What is this “main work of the church” that we’re committed to?

Here’s a quote from Pastor Michael Caine, Pastor and Teacher of Old First 
Reformed Church, our neighbor at Fourth and Race.

He says he’s writing about “how stewardship works ‘on the inside.’ Not 
how it works collectively for us as a congregation, but how it works for us 
individually. How it makes a difference in your walk of faith.”

We’re about to enter the season of Lent, the season to take stock, to turn 
back to the God we may have distractions let us drift away from.

The Sunday liturgies will be a great help getting us to recover focus. But in 
the words of the late night TV commercials, “But wait! There’s more!”

There’s a special service on Ash Wednesday evening following a quick 
simple meal with each other. There’s Dinner Church the other Wednesdays of 
Lent, a chance to share God’s word and think about it in a meal that contains 
the Eucharist. The Diocese of Pennsylvania will sponsor two Lenten days – one 
on Saturday March 4 at St George church in Ardmore, and one on Saturday 
March 25 at Good Samaritan in Paoli.

There’s an ongoing Bible Challenge – an invitation to read the bible day by 
day throughout the year. At the present, there are something like 1,300 people 
in the diocese doing this and sharing their thoughts with each other online.

And then there’s Holy Week …

Again, following the lead of Pastor Caine: Let’s concentrate this Lent on 
how stewardship – joyful, grateful giving – works for us individually, how it 
makes a difference in our walk of faith.

The Stewardship Committee:

Jerry Buescher, Barbara Potts, 
Mark Roberts, Richard Woehr
Sexton Sideshow 2017

Valentine’s Dei Brunch and no snow...that was a first for us here at Gloria Dei Church! A lovely, windy, rainswept day attracted about 75 hungry pancake enthusiasts, and we raised $756 for the church general fund. Thanks go out to all the “sidekicks” who helped make & serve throughout the day till 3pm. We were also especially glad to have Project Church Youth Group helping us out! All who attended were entertained by a host of performers, including our own Paul Fejko, and a lovely flautist named Frances. Other performers were C.C. Crabtree, Carolyn Thorn, Jamie Olson, Andrew Butler, Ognian Pavlov, Jessica Graae, Morgan Pinkstone, Will Williams and Kalob Griffin.

Join us March 12th for our follow-up St. Patty’s Day all-you-can-eat pancake brunch celebrating all things green. We will have a different batch of singers, and Riverside Hall will be decked out in shamrocks!

Coming up on April 22nd is our third year of hosting Jesus Christ Superstar – One Man, 12 Guitars featuring E.J. Simpson in the church sanctuary. Tickets for this spectacular event are only $12, and once again, benefit the Gloria Dei general fund. This is E.J.’s 11th year performing this piece.

I do hope you will consider spending some time at one of these wonderful community-minded musical events. It’s so enjoyable to see the congregation joining together with the local community.

Peace & Love, Your Sextons,

Jim & Paula Minacci
Join us for Lent Madness 2017!

We’ll be passing out Lent Madness brackets and Saintly Scorecards in church on the Last Sunday after Epiphany, February 26th. Visit www.lentmadness.com or “like” Lent Madness on Facebook for more information. Poles open for the first vote on Thursday, March 2nd.

(from www.lentmadness.com): Lent Madness is a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church’s Calendar of Saints. The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. Lent Madness allows people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminds us that there’s no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.
From the Rector's Warden

With the coming of spring is Gloria Dei's Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday April 30th, after our morning service. Yes, it's a week earlier this year. During this Annual Meeting, we will discuss the work and workings of the church, with reports on our finances, our mission and up and coming events and activities. Mark your calendar and be sure to join us. This is also the time of year we elect new vestry members.

This is an open invitation to all qualified parishioners to run for vestry.

The Bylaws of Gloria Dei church state that vestry members must "be baptized and confirmed lay persons of the age of eighteen years and upwards, who shall have been worshipers in this church as their usual place of worship for at least one year prior to the date of the election and who shall appear by the books of the Corporation to have contributed towards the expenses of the Corporation, by payment in time, talent or treasure a sum of not less than Fifty Dollars ($50.00)

To be considered for election to the vestry at the Annual Meeting a person must meet the qualifications stated above and be nominated to the Secretary of the vestry in writing by at least three (3) members, at least four (4) weeks prior to the election. This nomination must be signed by the person being nominated to be valid. It is acceptable for a person to nominate themselves. So, don't be shy!

Nomination forms will be available in the church and in the parish office beginning on Sunday March 5, 2017. These nomination forms must be submitted to the Secretary of the vestry (Leigh Jenkins) no later than Friday, March 31, 2017.

Public notice of the nominated members will be posted by the Secretary of the vestry on the bulletin boards inside the church and Riverside hall four (4) weeks, prior to election, beginning April 2, 2017.

The vestry of Gloria Dei is composed of twelve (12) individuals. Four (4) members are normally elected each year for a three-year term. This year we have three (3) three-year term openings. Since we are a parish in transition, the vestry has voted that I your rector's warden, will remain on the vestry for one (1) additional year. I am currently at the end of my second three-year term.

Completing terms this year are - Jill Duink, Re Henning, and Michael Phillips. All three are eligible for re-election.

What exactly are the functions of the vestry? - The vestry is a group of elected parishioners who administer the temporal affairs of the parish and serve as a council of advice to the rector. The vestry is the leadership body of the church and its voice. The vestry makes decisions with the best interest of the church in mind.
Most months the vestry meets for about two hours on the third Thursday of the month.

During our Annual Meeting, we will also be electing three (3) Deanery and Convention delegates and one (1) alternate. All are two (2) year-terms. Current delegates are eligible to be elected.

Now is the time to ask yourself how you can be of service to Gloria Dei.

It is important to remember that many people have given an enormous amount of time serving on the Parish Profile Committee and more getting ready to serve on the Search Committee.

We are a small congregation and need as much involvement from parishioners as we can get.

The future of Gloria Dei church is the responsibility of all parishioners!

Rector’s Warden,

Carol Jenkins

Easter Flowers – In Memory, In Thanksgiving

If you wish to make an offering to Gloria Dei this Easter, as a memorial or thanksgiving, please return the enclosed envelope with the information (names, printed clearly) you would like to be printed in our Easter bulletins. In order to insure your information appears in our Easter bulletins we need to receive your envelope no later than Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Easter flowers are always planted in the churchyard the week after Easter so know that your contribution will also add to the ongoing beauty of this special place through the Spring and Summer months.

March 23 and April 27
7:30 to 9:30 pm - Riverside Hall
## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 2017</td>
<td>Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Reading, Holy Communion Rite II</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, 2017</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. in Holy Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12, 2017</td>
<td>Passover Seder</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. in Holy Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13, 2017</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Holy Communion, stripping of the altar</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14, 2017</td>
<td>Easter Egg Preparation, Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament</td>
<td>10:00am / 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16, 2017</td>
<td>Easter Vigil, Holy Communion, Baptism, Holy Communion, Baptism, Easter Egg Hunt</td>
<td>5:30am / 10:00am / 11:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Day</td>
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**All Are Welcome, All The Time**

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*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.
Join Us for Dinner Church this Lenten Season
Food, Fellowship, Worship, Thanksgiving

Dinner Church is a time when we worship at the dinner table. We incorporate our worship, prayers, bible reading, discussion (not sermon!), and communion, as a part of our dinner. We break (gluten free) bread together, pass a (non alcoholic) cup to each other, and read and talk about a Scripture passage while we share dinner, blending our table fellowship with our worship fellowship. So, put aside the Wednesdays in Lent (3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5) as we gather for these special Lenten meals and celebrate our journey together. Plan to join us at 6:30PM on these evenings – and bring friends!

All are welcome at our table!

Reminder

Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017
Plan to join us for a Simple Meal at 6PM and a Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 7PM, as we begin our Lenten journey together.

The Book Club at Gloria Dei

Here is our next book and meeting date. The Book Club meets at 7 pm

**Fixed: Dope sacks, dye packs, and the long welcome back** by Doug Piotter  March 27, 2017
**How to be Both** by Ali Smith  April 24, 2017
**Left Hand of Darkness** by Ursula LeGuin  May 22, 2017

Marilyn Johnson
Calendar

Mar. 1  Ash Wednesday  We will share a simple meal at 6pm in Riverside Hall followed by a 7:00pm service, in church, of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  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
Sip n’ Chat – light conversation and herbal tea immediately following Chair Yoga, 10-10:30am

Mar. 5  Project Church Youth Group- immediately following mass,

Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29  Dinner Church from 6:30-8:00, Riverside Hall
A special Lenten meal incorporating prayers, bible reading, discussion, and communion at the dinner table. Bring a friend!

Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28  Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary
Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm
Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, $10.00 a class

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

Mar. 12  Sexton Sideshow St. Patty’s Pancake Brunch –11:30am – 2:30pm, Riverside Hall
Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship in Riverside Hall

Mar. 13  HGDPC Meeting - Riverside Hall - 5:30pm

Mar. 16  Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall

Mar. 19  Swedish Colonial Society Meeting –11:00am – 3:00pm

Mar. 19, 26  Confirmation Class - 11:30am – 1:00pm

Mar. 23  Jazz n Joe - 7:30pm Riverside Hall

Mar. 27  Book Club - 7:00pm Riverside Hall
<table>
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<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Bells Rehearsal - 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Apr. 18</td>
<td>Yoga with Sarah - 7:15pm in Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, $10.00 a class</td>
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<td>Apr. 9</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Church of Sweden - 4:00 service, followed by fellowship in Riverside Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 10</td>
<td>HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>Seder - 6:00 - 10:00pm, Riverside Hall</td>
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<td>Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm Liturgy with Holy Communion &amp; stripping of the altar</td>
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<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Good Friday - 7:00pm Liturgy with Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>Easter Sunday - 5:30am Easter Vigil with Holy Communion &amp; Baptism</td>
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<td>10:00am Liturgy with Holy Communion &amp; Baptism. Easter egg hunt immediately following service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 20</td>
<td>Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm Riverside Hall</td>
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<td>Jesus Christ Superstar - One Man, 12 Guitars, with E.J. Simpson in the Church Sanctuary. Tickets $12,</td>
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<td>Jazz n Joe - 7:30pm Riverside Hall</td>
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The Lectionary for March

March 1st, Ash Wednesday
Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen
Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Psalm 10:8-14
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

March 5th, First Sunday in Lent
Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen
Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7 Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

March 12th, Second Sunday in Lent
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen
Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5,13-17 John 3:1-17

March 19th, Third Sunday in Lent
Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.
Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
March 26th, Fourth Sunday in Lent
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
1 Samuel 16:1-13  Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14  John 9:1-41

The Lectionary for April

April 2nd, Fifth Sunday in Lent
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Ezekiel 37:1-14  Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11  John 11:1-45

April 9th, Palm Sunday
O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Isaiah 50:4-9a  Psalm 31:9-17

April 13th, Maundy Thursday
Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Exodus 12:1-14  Psalm 116:1,10-17
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  John 13:1-17,31b-35
(continued on next page)
April 14th, Good Friday
Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

April 16th, The Great Vigil of Easter
O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son, free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-10

April 16th, Easter Day
God of Mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18

April 23rd, Second Sunday of Easter
Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Acts 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

April 30th, Third Sunday of Easter
O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Acts 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 10-17
The Revs. Slator and Jehu Clay

At Gloria Dei, when we think of the name Rev. Clay, Jehu Curtis comes to mind. However, Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay was not the first Rev. Clay to be connected to the Old Swedes’ Churches. The Rev. Slator Clay, Jehu’s father, was appointed assistant to the Rev. Dr. Nicolas Collin, rector of the United Swedish Churches of Wicaco, Kingsessing and Upper Merion. In 1792 Rev. Slator Clay was given charge of Christ Church, Upper Merion where he continued to preach until his death in 1821. The Rev. Slator Clay and Hannah Hughes (nee Holstein) were married in 1787 by the Rev. Collin. Hannah’s Hulings forebears were early settlers in the Swedish colony on the Delaware.

Their son Jehu Curtis Clay was born on February 3, 1792 on Walnut Grove Farm in Upper Merion Township. At the age of seven Jehu and his family moved to Evans Burg (seven miles above Norristown. When he was eleven, Jehu was sent to a classical school in Norristown taught by the Presbyterian minister Rev. John Jones. Later Jehu Clay entered the University of Pennsylvania. At the age of nineteen Jehu began the study of Theology in Philadelphia. Bishop Kemper assistant minister to Bishop White offered the use of his library to Jehu. On Trinity Sunday 1813 Bishop White ordained Deacon Jehu Curtis Clay. Rev. Clay was sent out as a missionary to western Pennsylvania. In the six weeks that Rev. J. Clay was in the Pittsburgh area he raised $1,200 toward the erection of a church there. When Rev. Clay returned to Philadelphia, he became assistant to Rev. Dr. Collin for one year. At the end of the year, he was called to St. John’s Church, Norristown and the congregation in Germantown. In 1814 Jehu Curtis married Margaret Annan.

In 1816 Rev. Clay was ordained a priest by Bishop White. After two years at Norristown, Jehu received a call to the Church and Academy at Newbern, North Carolina. A call was received in 1818 to the Church at Hagerstown, Maryland where the Clays spent four years. During the fall of 1821 a call was received from the Church in Norristown. For ten years Rev. Clay officiated at the Churches in Norristown, Evans Burg and Upper Merion. April 1826 Margaret died leaving three girls Emily, Annie and Julia. On November 11, 1828 Jehu married Simmons Edey. Jehu and Simmons had four children Slator, George, Richard and Jehu Curtis. Dr. Jehu Curtis Clay was elected rector of the United Swedish Churches on December 5, 1831.

Rev. Clay was installed as rector of Gloria Dei in January 1832. Clay was Gloria Dei’s pastor during some of the most difficult times in the history of the United States: the sectional controversy of the 1850’s, and the first years of the Civil War. He also guided the congregation through an era of impressive growth and fundamental change.

During the thirty-two years that Jehu Curtis Clay was rector of Gloria Dei, many changes took place. When Dr. Clay arrived, Gloria Dei was part of the United Swedish Churches, which also included St. James Kingsessing and
Christ Church Upper Merion. Dr. Clay had two assistants. The Rev. Samuel C. Brinckle was assigned to Kingsessing and Rev. William N. Diehl was assigned to Upper Merion. Dr. Clay officiated at Gloria Dei twice a month and once a month at the other two churches until 1843, when a separation of the churches took place. For a number of years Dr. Clay attended the Episcopal Diocese convention having no seat or voice. However, the Bishop of the Diocese regularly visited the three Swedish Churches holding confirmations. Gloria Dei joined the Episcopal Diocese in 1845.

When Rev. Clay arrived at Gloria Dei, the Church was as Rev. Clay referred to it “in a very feeble and depressed condition. There seemed little prospect of building up the parish.” One of the first changes made was removing the high and uncomfortable pews. The arrangement of the pews was changed removing the center aisle. The aisle running across from the south door remained. The high old fashioned Pulpit with a sounding board was removed. With the Church more comfortable the congregation increased. So much so that four additional pews were added removing the aisle from the south door. With the increase in the congregation, plans were discussed for enlarging the Church. To add to the west end of the Church would have been too costly. It was decided to add Galleries at the cost of $500. Windows were also added to the west wall. The stained glass window was also added. Also a new organ was ordered and built by Mr. Hunter. In 1858 another organ was purchased and built by Mr. Knauff at a cost of $1,500.

Two services were held on Sundays – one in the morning and one in the afternoon and one on Wednesday evening. The Wednesday service was discontinued during May, June, July, August and September. On the third Sunday of the month the children were instructed in their catechism. Rev. Clay considered Sunday School important to the prosperity of the parish.

In December 1856, Dr. Clay preached his 25th anniversary sermon. In the following year a house was purchased for the sexton and a two story brick building was erected for the Sunday School (Roak House location). The cost of improvements during his rectorate was about twelve thousand dollars. Dr. Clay averaged confirming twelve people each year. When he first arrived he administered the holy Eucharist to about eight people but by the 1860’s the number was up to one hundred and fifty. During the 1860’s a new building was erected for the Sunday School (Riverside Hall). On Trinity Sunday, May 31, 1863, Dr. Clay celebrated his 50th Anniversary of his ordination. He preached 6,750 sermons during those years. He baptized 3,440, married 2,370 couples, and buried 1,322 people. His last sermon was preached on September 27, 1863. That night Dr. Clay suffered a stroke and he died on October 20th.
Spirits and History!

JOIN US

When:
May 5, 2017
7-10pm

Where:
Gloria Dei
(Old Swedes')
Church
916 Swanson St.
Philadelphia
PA 19147

SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL SPIRITS & HISTORY
Honoring Our Military Veterans

Featuring:

- Spirited tastings to match the times of eight of our illustrious permanent residents from the military!
- Jazz Trio courtesy of The Jazz Sanctuary
- Cocktail Party
- Fun in the Graveyard!

HELP US REWIRE THE CHURCH AND RECTORY!

Proceeds benefit Historic Preservation at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church. Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a 501c3 charity. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Learn the stories of our military honorees

Revolutionary War
War of 1812
Civil War
Medal of Honor

For more information:
www.preserveoldsvedes.org

HGDPC
Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Preservation Corporation
A Subsidiary of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Philadelphia
JOIN US!

History Mystery Bicycle Ride!

May 13, 2017
10am – Noon

WHERE:
Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Philadelphia, PA 19147

ENTRY FEE:
$17/single
$25/couple
$28/family

Enjoy a casual bike ride starting at Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and follow the map through Old City and Independence Mall.

Most of the route follows marked bike lanes for families and novice riders.

The route is 4 miles long – so you can walk it! Or take a bus!

Hear 7 exciting stories from our Nation’s past that connect to Old Swedes.

All riders/walkers who complete the circuit will be entered to win prizes with a $350 gift certificate to Bell’s Bike Shop as top prize! Please Thank Our Event Sponsor!

Proceeds benefit Historic Preservation at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church.

Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a 501c3 charity. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
1. John Penn House
   242 South 3rd Street

2. NPS
   143 South 3rd Street

3. Betsy Ross House
   239 Arch Street

4. Ben Franklin Grave
   SE Corner Arch and 5th Streets

5. Liberty Bell
   NE Corner 6th and Chestnut Streets

6. Carpenter's Hall [Water Refill]
   320 Chestnut Street

7. Dr Physick House
   321 South 4th Street

8. Weccaco Playground
   NE Corner Lawrence and Queen Streets

O. GDC – Start and Finish
   916 South Swanson Street

Approximately 4 mile loop
In Remembrance of:
Teresa C. Legerton
October 25, 2016

Memorial Cards:
Debbie Duffy
By: Marge Lord
Bert Kubiak
Jean & Bob Neill
Joe & Dolores Collins
Marie Buck
By: Nick Silverstein

Celebrate the Newly Married
Samantha Marian Beatty
and Jason Michael Korhan
February 18, 2017

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

Clergy
The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector
The Rev. Paul Harris, Assoc. Clergy

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

Vestry
Peggy Buescher
Jill Duink, Accounting Warden
Re Henning
Carol Jenkins, Rector’s Warden
Leigh Jenkins, Secretary
Jamie Konowal
Michael Phillips
Mark Roberts
James Ufheil
Nils van Ammers
Rita West
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. 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. 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 (1/8/17); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/16/17); Pentecost (6/4/17); and All Saints Sunday (11/5/17). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advice of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.