



February 2012

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Beyond our Wildest Imagination

My Grandmother died in 1989 at the age of 97. When the family gathered to mourn her death and to celebrate her life we spent time telling stories, reminiscing about the “old days,” and delighting the younger members of the family with our experiences of “Danny” (as we all called her) that we had shared before they were born. Then we began to consider what her lifespan had encompassed. She was the oldest of ten children, and many of us remembered her telling us about when she was five years old and her family, then just mother, father, and two children, travelled by covered wagon from one homestead to another in central Texas. She remembered Native American villages along the way, and the hard life that moving entailed – building your own cabin, digging your own well, no electricity or plumbing, only a few handmade toys, scarcity of food, clothing...

When she died she had experienced so many changes it boggles the mind – from travelling in a covered wagon to seeing a man land on the moon; from growing food to shopping for food; from waiting months at a time to hear news about presidential elections, wars, births and deaths to telephones and televisions in practically every home. Things changed so rapidly in her lifetime that when we considered how she had adapted over the course of her years on earth we began to understand, in hindsight, how challenging her days had been and what an example to us she had been of living fully in the times in which we find ourselves.

My Grandmother’s life remains an inspiration to me as I find myself often trying to grasp onto what has been rather than moving into what is and what can be. I’m told that the time of rapid advancement my grandmother experienced, from 1892 to 1989, represents about one tenth of the amount of changes we can expect to face in the next hundred years. How will we fare in the face of such rapid change? What will our homes, our communities, our churches look like, be like, as we face the future?

One of the most helpful advancements we have experienced in the past few years is the ability to communicate over time and space in such an immediate way that as we discover new and helpful ways to move into the future we can

(continued on next page)

share those discoveries. For us at Gloria Dei, as we work this year towards a new awareness of the many ways we can serve God in this new and rapidly changing environment, we have new tools with which to equip ourselves for the journey.

Some of these tools are books, videos, seminars, and events designed to help churches face the future in new ways. A number of current books are being offered to the vestry and the members of the congregation that cover topics such as church growth, mission in the community, eco-faith, nourishing small groups, healthy congregations, discerning the church's future, creating worship gatherings for new generations, youth and children's ministry, and many more. I encourage everyone to ask a vestry person or the rector if you'd like to browse the collection we are amassing and borrow from it.

And, of course, there are a number of websites, blogs, and social media outlets where folks are communicating daily about experiences of church in the 21st century. Two website that are highly recommended are www.alban.org and www.ecfvp.org. The first will take you to The Alban Institute, "a resource for American congregations facing the challenges of a changing society." The second will take you to The Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices, a site offering "resources and tools to respond to the changing needs of the Church." There are many, many more sites to explore, blogs to read, experiences to share on Facebook, music and worship to see on YouTube. I'm sure some of you may already have favorite places you check into everyday that help you with your own faith journey. Please share them with all of us.

My Grandmother, a faithful churchgoer all her life, would be thrilled, I think, to see the technology of the future being used to further the mission of the Church. The tools available to us are gifts of this new day. Let's use them wisely, lovingly, creatively, and hopefully. For the grace of God, which is beyond our wildest imagination, has given us the ability to create ways to reach to the ends of the earth with the message of the Good News for all people.

Peace,

Joy +



Lenten Soup and Study

Please join us for our Lenten Soup and Study each Wednesday in Lent from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Riverside Hall. We come together around a simple meal of soup and bread followed by a discussion of the book we have chosen to read together. This year we will be reading *Messy Spirituality* by Michael Yaconelli. The back panel of the book reads:

What if genuine faith begins with admitting we will never have our act completely together? Maybe messy disciples are exactly the kind of imperfect people Jesus came to earth for and whose company he actually enjoyed – and still enjoys. Michael Yaconelli dares to suggest that imperfection, unfinishedness, and messiness are, in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity; that real Christianity is messy, erratic, lopsided...and gloriously liberating.

If you would like a book and/or can bring soup or bread on any of the Wednesdays please sign up. (The sign-up board is in the back of the church) If you need a ride please call the office and we will arrange for you to be picked up. If you cannot join us Wednesday evenings please consider signing up for a copy of the book and reading along with us. (Expense for our books this year will be covered by the newly created Growth and Transformation Fund)

We close each evening with the short nighttime service of Compline. Please mark your calendars for the Wednesdays in Lent (2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28) and plan to join us as we hear stories, share stories, and gather to strengthen our faith in this time of fellowship.



1/15/2012

Dear Friends,

Even though it has taken me some time to write, your thoughtfulness could not go without a written thank you. Everything was truly appreciated. Prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, plants, goodies, fruit, cookies, cakes, books, and your concern for me when I was in the hospital and at home. Knowing I have friends so thoughtful is a gift I will treasure and have always in my heart and mind. And I praise and thank God every day for all the blessings he has given me. May God bless and keep you and all your loved ones in his loving care always.

Your friend in Christ,

Sally (Daly)

An article from the rector's warden

In *Down by the Riverside* last month, Joy wrote:

“Here at Gloria Dei we are about to change this year. Can't we count on our church to remain the same? Be the port in the storm of hard days and hard lives? Be a comfort in a world with little to offer in the way of solace? Well, yes and no. We can certainly count on our church being a place of safety, a place where we are always welcome to sit and share, worship and pray, serve and be served, love and be loved; a place that offers that port in the storm, a place to share joys and sorrows, a place of comfort for the weary, and solace for those who grieve. But can we address our problems of financial stress, lack of growth, alienation of folks who seek a spiritual community, but have needs we cannot meet as we are, without change? It seems not. What the church will look like in the 21st century is a question no one can answer yet. What we do know for sure is that it will not be like it has been, any more than it is now anything like it was in 1700 or 1830 or 1910.”

Joy went on to mention things that we'll explore this year – new ways of worship, new ways to arrange building uses, new books and hymnals, new schedules to meet the needs of our community.

There's another way we can explore things that might help us make changes – and that way is to take advantage of seminars and workshops and presentations that various groups make available.

Seven people from our parish, including our rector, will attend the 6-month, 6-half-day-session *Transforming Congregations* workshop along with equal numbers of parishioners from 16 other parishes in the diocese. This workshop is supported by our diocese and has the goal of helping participants become “seeds” to bring new skills and insights back to their congregations to “grow” new things there.

There were more parishioners interested in *Transforming Congregations* than our allotment of participants allowed. There were other parishioners interested in “doing something” whose schedules didn't permit them to commit to 6 Sunday afternoons from January through June. Here are some other chances.

Becoming God's Courageous Community – A conference sponsored by the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. Christ Church, Charlotte NC, March 7 through March 10, 2012. URL for the conference site: <http://www.endowedparishes.org/conference/conference-2012/>. There is funding available to send two people to this conference.

Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity – A conference sponsored by a foundation of the same name. Calvary Baptist Church, Washington DC, May 7 through May 10, 2012. URL for the conference

sponsor: <http://children-youth.com/>. There is funding available to send two people to this conference and this conference might be of special interest to anyone interested in Sunday school and youth activities at Gloria Dei.

The City of God for American Cities, Reinventing the Urban Church – A conference sponsored by the Center for Urban Ministry. Washington Theological Union, Washington DC, June 1 through June 6, 2012. URL for the conference brochure: <http://www.centerforurbanministry.org/storage/CityofGod%202012.OTP-web.pdf>. There is funding available to send two people to this conference.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Joy directly (215-389-1513, or info@old-swedes.org), Jerry Buescher (215-432-4292, or jerome.buescher@gmail.com) or any member of the vestry.

Jerry Buescher



Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee thanks all those who extended themselves with their time, talent, and treasure. It's truly rewarding to see people walking in the door to Riverside Hall with various treats for all to enjoy.

Seven years ago I was in a very "dark" place in my life and entered the Rooms of Recovery. I met people who welcomed me with unconditional love and support. I no longer felt alone. I found others with whom I identified – people who wanted to get out of the bondage of self, to do God's will, and to be of service to others. It changed my life.

I had the same feeling when I came to Gloria Dei for the first time with Jerry five years ago. The faith I had been born into didn't offer me the unconditional love and serenity I receive from you at Gloria Dei. I feel very grateful today that I've been blessed with the gift of my sobriety and reception into the Episcopal Church.

We can use help in setting things up before the service and in cleaning up after the service. We always appreciate your gifts of baked goods, fruit, other snacks, and beverages.

We're always looking for suggestions or help in improving hospitality and fellowship at Gloria Dei.

Love and peace always.

Peggy Buescher, Re Hennigns & Laura Towey

Help us turn TRASH into CASH!

Did you know that children in Nigeria still get polio? Although polio has been eradicated in the United States and most other countries in the world, children under five are still being infected with the disease. About one out of 200-400 children infected will suffer paralysis or even death.

The Gloria Dei Confirmation Class of 2012 is raising money to buy polio vaccines for children in Africa through UNICEF. They are participating in the FundingFactory® Recycling Program. This fundraiser is FREE and simple because there's nothing to sell and no paperwork to fill out. But we won't get very far without your support. Please donate your empty ink cartridges, laser cartridges, cell phones, mp3 players, gps devices, digital cameras, and laptops. We'll take it from there! We will recycle the cartridges, cell phones, small electronics, and laptops through FundingFactory to earn money for polio vaccines.

FundingFactory also sponsors a businesses support program, where your employer can help out our Confirmation Class without spending a cent. FREE prepaid shipping labels can be sent, free of charge, directly to any business, organization or other facility within the continental United States. Business supporters simply need to load boxes, apply a FREE prepaid shipping label and leave them for the next UPS pickup. If you work for a company that may be interested in supporting us, please call FundingFactory toll-free at 1.888.883.8237. Give the customer service representative our church identification number, 303730 and they'll set you up to support our account.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Julie Daye at 215-520-7097 (e-mail - julitag22@yahoo.com.)

Thank you for your support! Confirmation Class of 2012



United Thank Offering

“UTO”

I am happy to report a total of \$405.02 was collected for the United Thank Offering.

A big “thank you” to all who contributed to this important on-going mission of the Episcopal Church.

If you care to donate, please pick up a “Blue Box” on the table in the rear of the church.

Thank you so much!

Doris Connor

UTO Coordinator



Altar Flowers

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



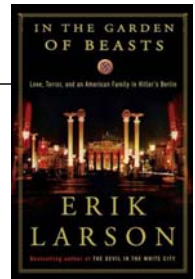
Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases



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.

Calendar

- Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 – 11:00AM
- Feb 5, 12, 19** Two Services – 9:00 & 11:00AM
- Feb 7, 14, 21, 28** Gloria Dei Ringers – 7:00PM church
(all are welcome to join)
- Feb 12** Sweetheart Breakfast Riverside Hall
Swedish Service – 4:00PM
- Feb 15** Vestry Meeting – 7:00PM – Roak Room
- Feb 19** Norwegian Service – 4:00PM
- Feb 21, 28** Yoga (Classes are \$8.00)
Beginners Class 6:00 – 7:00PM
Advanced Class 7:15 – 8:15PM
- Feb 22** Ash Wednesday – Simple Meal @ 6:00PM in Riverside Hall
followed by Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion in
Church @ 7:00PM
- Feb 23** *Jazz & Joe* – Riverside Hall – 7:30PM
at Gloria Dei
- Feb 26** One Service – 10:00AM
- Feb 27** Book Club – 7:00PM – Riverside Hall
In the Garden of Beasts ●
by Erik Larsen
- Feb 28** Evensong – 6:30PM
- Feb 29** Soup & Study – 7:00 – 8:30PM – Riverside Hall



The Lectionary for February

February 5th, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm: 147:1-12, 21c

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

February 12th, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and ever-living God, with mercy you look upon our weaknesses. Stretch out your wondrous hand to protect us from danger and restore us to health, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm: 30

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

February 19th, Transfiguration of Our Lord

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm: 50:1-6

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 22nd, Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm: 103:8-14

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26th, First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan; come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: 25:1-9

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Sweet Heart Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 12th

Renewal of Marriage Vows
at each Service – 9 am & 11 am

Breakfast starts at 10 am
and will serve till 1 pm

\$7 - Adults

\$4 - Children under 12

Includes pancakes, sausage,
fruit and coffee/tea/juice

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

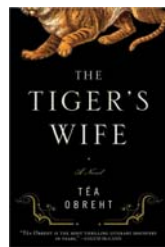
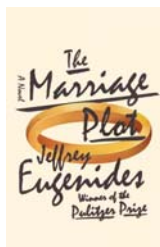
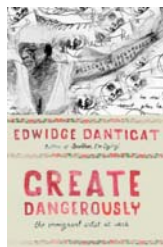
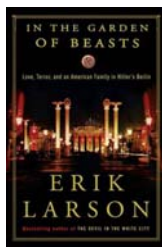


For information (215) 389-1513 www.old-swedes.org

THE BOOK CLUB

Gloria Dei (Old Swedish) Church

February 27, 2012	In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larsen
March 26, 2012	Create Dangerously by Edwidge Danticat
April 23, 2012	The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides
May 21, 2012	The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht



It's hard to believe that the time granted to me by God and by the Lutheran Seminary to learn and to grow in skills for ministry by worshipping and working at Gloria Dei is already half over. In just four more months, I'll be moving on from you (and probably from Philadelphia, as well) to begin a twelve-month internship with a Lutheran congregation.

My first four months with you, I learned a lot from participating in outreach efforts like the flea market and Lucia Fest and I gained a lot of confidence about preaching and teaching. In my last four months, I'm looking forward to the work that I will do with the confirmation class and all that I will learn through my attendance at vestry meetings.

My home congregation in Florida has a lot in common with Gloria Dei. Their membership is a lot smaller than it used to be and they struggle to discern what God's will is for them in the twenty-first century. Almost every mainline Protestant church in the country faces the same challenges. But we know from reading the Bible that God loves to make amazing things happen through a small group of faithful people. If our goal is to serve God's kingdom and proclaim good news to people who need to hear it, I know God won't allow us to fail.

In just four months I've grown to love this congregation, and in four more months I'll be very sorry to leave you. But for the time being, I'm very fortunate to work and worship with you, and I'm enjoying every minute of it.

Paul Gibson

Snyder Binns Simes

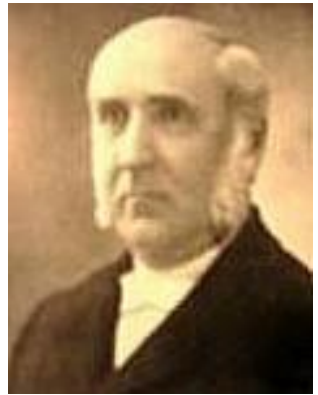
Snyder Simes was born on November 17, 1842 in an atmosphere of old-fashioned Philadelphia. He received his education in the Philadelphia public schools graduating from Central High School on February 16, 1860.

He was a member of the Moravian Church from childhood and attended Moravian College at Bethlehem, PA with thoughts of entering the ministry. However, he objected to the form of government of that body. He withdrew from the Moravian Church and joined the Episcopal Church. He attended Princeton Seminary from 1862 to 1864. His last year of seminary was spent at the newly formed Philadelphia Divinity School. He was confirmed by Bishop Stevens in 1863. Mr. Simes was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Stevens in Epiphany Church at Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets on June 23, 1865. Rev. Simes began his ministry as assistant to Rev. Richard Newton at Epiphany Church. He was ordained to the priesthood on January 14, 1867 at Epiphany Church by Bishop Vail of Kansas.

The Vestry of Gloria Dei met on October 20, 1868 with eight names placed in nomination for rector. At a special meeting on November 16th the Vestry made their decision and called Rev. Snyder Binns Simes to be rector of Gloria Dei. Three years earlier in 1865 the Vestry had offered Rev. Simes the Rectorship made vacant by the resignation of the Rev. J. W. Leadenham. At that time Rev. Simes was twenty-three years old and had just graduated Divinity School not yet ordained as a priest. When Rev. Simes declined, the offer was made to Rev. J. Sanders Reed. Rev. Reed resigned in the fall of 1868. Rev. Simes accepted the second election by the Gloria Dei Vestry. On December 13, Rev. Simes became the fifteenth rector of Gloria Dei.

Snyder Binns Simes, son of John W. and Matilda Binns Simes married Eleanor Richards Simes, daughter of Samuel Simes (brother of John) on December 8, 1868 in the Church of the Epiphany. Five days later he preached his first sermon as Rector of Gloria Dei.

Jeanette Woehr





The Jazz Sanctuary, Inc. presents a Jazz & Joe event:

Sponsored by:

 **LPL Financial**

member FINRA/SIPC. : Kevin.supka@lpl.com; 215-572-4300


**PHILADELPHIA
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**
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K. Biederman: 215-934-3582

Alan Segal Quartet

alan@alansagal.net 215-208-7314

Eddie Etkins – George Sinkler – Alan Segal – Leon Jordan

Thursday 2/23
7:30 to 9:30 - Riverside Hall



Change in Worship Services and Times

Beginning with the First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012, we will be moving to one celebration of Holy Communion at 10:00AM on Sunday mornings. Sunday School will meet from 9:30AM-10:30AM and the children will join us for Communion at the Peace.

We will also be adding a service of Evensong on Tuesday evenings, beginning on February 28, 2012, 6:30PM. This will be a quiet service of prayer and meditation with music.

We are open to beginning a Morning Prayer service on weekdays if there is interest.

Please take note of the article “Worship and Liturgy Committee” in this issue for more information about how to participate in planning for the future possibilities of worship services at Gloria Dei.

New Ways to Get Involved

We have formed two new Small Groups and two new Committees at Gloria Dei since the beginning of the new year. If you have not yet decided how you might be involved in the mission and ministry of Gloria Dei this year, maybe one of these new opportunities is right up your alley!

Tutoring – some of us will travel once a week to the East Falls section of Philadelphia in order to help tutor Fifth graders who have begun their Middle School years at a new private school on the campus of St. James the Less Church. St. James School, a mission of St. Mark's Church, 17th and Locust, is dedicated to providing a high quality education experience for



children in the area who have little opportunity to prepare themselves for application to Charter Schools for their High School experience. The children who attend St. James School are on campus for ten to twelve hours a day, and are fed three meals while they are there. Volunteer Tutors will help them with their homework assignments. For more information on St. James School you can go to the website: www.stjamesphila.org. Sign up sheet on the back table in church, or call the office for information.

Food Ministry – While we do not have space to create a Food Pantry at Gloria Dei, we recognize the need for this ministry in our area. So, we are offering our time in helping Food ministries already in existence that are in need of volunteers. Both St. Peter's Church, 3rd & Pine, and St. John's Church,



2nd and Reed have long running food ministries and are in need of volunteers. So we are gathering volunteers at Gloria Dei whose passion it is to help insure that folks who need food can get food. Sign up sheet on the back table in church, or call the office for information.

Worship and Liturgy Committee – As we prepare to worship together in one service, beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012, we are considering the many ways open to us as Episcopalians that our liturgy may be

formed and informed. We are also adding a Tuesday evening *Evensong* service at Gloria Dei, beginning February 28, 2012, 6:30PM, and continuing through May of this year. These, as well as other possibilities for new worship experiences, are exciting ways in which we will form our worship time together this year. Those whose passion involves the love of



corporate worship, as well as those who would like to learn more about the historic and contemporary possibilities of Anglican worship are welcome to join this newly forming committee. Sign up sheet on the back table in church, or call the office for information.

Stewards of Creation - We welcome those who are passionate about our environment, issues of energy conservation, ecology, becoming green, recycling, planting and harvesting, and other ways in which we understand ourselves to be responsible for the grounds, buildings, and communities within which we live and work. We encourage any and all to help us be better stewards of our creation, and to be better examples and support to our community in this foundational biblical call to care for the earth and all that is in it. Please consider helping us start this new ministry here at Gloria Dei. Sign up sheet on the back table in church, or call the office for information.



Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (267) 273-5175,
fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need



A Statement of Purpose of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

We the Congregation of GLORIA DEI (Old Swedes') CHURCH, existing by and for the Glory of God, knowing that God, through this Congregation, helps us to find our way and to use our gifts, gather together

- To honor and celebrate the acceptance of our differences and uniqueness;
- To be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, loving community;
- To respond to the needs of others;
- To preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition, and heritage of this sacred place.



Sunday Service:
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9:30-2:30

CLERGY

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Terry O'Brien, Parish Administrator
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Deirdre Flint, Dir. of Comm.
Mark Roberts, Treasurer; O.S.C.A.R.
Seminarian, Paul Gibson

VESTRY

Megan Bartlett
Florence Brook
Jerome Buescher, Rector's Warden
Robert Dieters, Acct. Assistant
Carol Jenkins
Dolores Kromchad
Heather Myers
Barbara Potts
Lisa Reeves, Secretary
Mark Roberts
James Ufheil, Acct. Warden
William Towey

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 (1/8/12); The Great Vigil of Easter (4/8/12); Pentecost (5/27/12); and All Saints Sunday (11/4/12). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.