



October 2011

Down By The Riverside

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

Be Inspired to Be a Good Steward

Every October at Gloria Dei, we gather together for worship and hear individuals speak about what “stewardship” means to them. This year will be no exception. For four weeks we’ll be inspired by members of our church family as they tell us about their God-given gifts and how they feel called to use them at Gloria Dei and beyond. Then, on October 30th, we’ll each make our own commitment to being a good steward; we’ll make a pledge on our commitment cards to serve others and to take care of and share the gifts that we feel God has given us.

Making a commitment is often easier said than done. In fact, since we hear four stewardship talks in a row, it’s tempting (at least for me) to tune out after one or two, thinking, “Yeah, yeah, yeah. I’ve heard all this before. They want me to give more money, more time, or more effort. Well, I just can’t.” You’re not alone if you’ve thought that. A small community of faith like Gloria Dei can make over-involvement easy and burn-out set in quickly. So this year, I invite you to do something simple and radical: don’t overthink how much you can afford to give, don’t worry about what ministries you’ll join, or how you’ll find time to squeeze in one more commitment. This year, I invite you to simply **be inspired to be a good steward.**

About six years ago, before I found myself at Gloria Dei, I was searching for a church to call “home”. During one service at a non-denominational Christian church, the pastor talked about how sometimes we just don’t feel blessed or inspired. We may not even want to be in church that day. He said that when that happens to him, he challenges himself to look around at others in church and take note of their facial expressions or their actions, ever looking for those who display the Spirit working within them. I’ve kept that idea in mind over the years and used it in various situations...when I’m unable to concentrate in church, when I’m at a concert and don’t like the music, or when I’m feeling uncomfortable at a party. I look around and notice that others are getting something out of the experience; others are being inspired. Just that simple act of looking outside of myself is often enough to draw me back into relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

(continued on next page)

So, next time you're in worship, take a look around you. Who is being inspired? Who inspires you? What is it about the person or their gifts that stirs you? Allow yourself to simply consider the possibility of serving in the same capacity as that person. If nothing and no one inspires you, take a moment to pray this simple prayer: "God, guide me. Jesus, uplift me. Spirit, inspire me." Allow the Spirit to blow softly on the flame within you (the same flame which burns in all of us) until it rages like a bonfire, compelling you to be a light in the midst of darkness. Be inspired to be a good steward of all of God's gifts to you.

Megan Bartlett



Welcome to Our New Seminarian

Paul Gibson is delighted to be doing field education at Gloria Dei as a part of his training at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mt. Airy.

Paul was born in Pittsburgh and grew up in Miami, Florida. His father was a Lutheran pastor; Paul has enjoyed and been nourished by church participation all his life. His musical gifts were fostered by his childhood congregations, and he participated in both the musical and dramatic programs of his high school. It was when he saw his first opera at the age of 16, and saw those interests combined at such an intense degree, that he made his first career choice. He studied music at both the Florida State University and the University of Miami before embarking on a career as a professional singer. He sang with opera companies in Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and New York, before moving to Germany in search of more opportunities. From 1995 to 2000, he sang in the chorus of that country's largest opera company, the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

During his time in Berlin, Paul worshipped with an Episcopal congregation and served as both a church warden and as a part-time parish administrator. These experiences helped him to re-assess his life goals and to make a decision which surprised his family and friends. In 2000, Paul entered Burford Priory, a Benedictine monastic community for men and women in Oxfordshire (UK). He completed his novitiate and took "simple vows" within the order, before discerning that, although a valuable and transformative event, life in a monastic community was not God's will for him.

In December of 2006, he left the monastic community with no job, no savings, and no career goals. Giving due credit to Robert Frost, he describes his life up to this point as having been the following of a clear path or a small

selection of paths within a wood. Now he had stumbled upon a vast clearing in the wood, with no further paths readily apparent. He thought he would sit back and enjoy some time in the clearing, but God had other ideas and steered him toward a Lutheran congregation in Clearwater, Florida. St. Paul's Lutheran Church had once been the largest in the city, but was now declining and struggling. Paul enjoyed making a return to his Lutheran roots, and greatly appreciated the quality of preaching and music offered in the congregation. When the church's secretary retired, Paul applied and was hired for the



position. When the church's pastor resigned and an interim was brought in, Paul was gradually given more and more responsibility for worship planning, adult education, home and hospital visiting, and community outreach. He discovered that he not only had talents to offer the church, he also found the work rewarding and fulfilling.

He is now a candidate for ordination in the Lutheran church (ELCA). A year ago, he started his studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He has greatly enjoyed learning biblical Hebrew, delving into the Old Testament,

and learning more about Lutheran doctrine than he ever thought he needed. In this coming year, he looks forward to learning Greek and getting an equally solid grounding in the New Testament. He is also looking forward to all that he can and will learn by working with the staff and congregation of Gloria Dei. He jokingly refers to himself as a "Luther-piscopalian," so it's perhaps fitting that he does his field education at an Episcopal church with Lutheran roots.



From the Rector's Warden

I'm writing this on the first day of fall – and the temperature outside is a steamy, muggy 76 degrees. But it's definitely busy, busy “fall” at Gloria Dei Old Swedes.

We celebrated our fourth “Welcome Everyone” spaghetti dinner on Friday September 16. About fifty people attended and shared an incredible variety of pasta (two kinds), sauce (4 kinds), salad (3 kinds), bread (4 kinds), and desserts (too many kinds to count) as well as the company of each other. It was a grand get together.

I have to say something “historical” about that dinner. Four years ago, when I was chairperson of the Stewardship Committee, we revived that “welcome back dinner.” It was simple – one kind of pasta, a couple kinds of sauce (with or without meat, really), salad, bread, and dessert. We repeated the event



the next year. But last year, with no one heading the Stewardship Committee, the dinner wasn't on the radar. I finally went to Joy and told her I didn't want our new tradition to die at age two – and said I'd just organize a dinner if that were all right with her. She said “yes,” and I asked people to help, and they did (as Gloria Dei people always do) and the dinner came off.

This year, our two Stewardship Committee co-chairs, Megan Bartlett and Diane Honor, grabbed that tradition and just flew with it – hence the great attendance and the expanded menu. Thanks, guys, for keeping that tradition alive and growing.

You must have noticed that our graveyard has much better vistas and sightlines, particularly on the southern border. There are stones visible now that probably haven't been seen in twenty-five or more years, buried as they were in the boxwoods and yews. Parishioners have worked since spring to make that happen. On Saturday September 17 we removed the last of – I wish we'd kept count – umpty-ump stumps and planted grass seed. Keep an eye out as the Sundays roll along – you'll see the grass coming up and making headway before winter.

It will have happened by the time you read this but the first organizational meeting for Lucia Fest will have taken place on Sunday September 25. As I'm sure you'll hear from Joy and various other parishioners: Lucia Fest is first and foremost a Gloria Dei event. Participating in the work that makes that event happen has been a highlight of my six Decembers at Gloria Dei – and your participation, in any way, would be a great help to the parish and good for you.

My first experience was to sell cookies and brownies at the baked-goods table with Connie and Ollie Twist – and it was an incredible introduction to the “regulars” of Lucia Fest plus an hours-long lesson on Gloria Dei history. And – this I’ll never forget – I learned how you can tell that some young woman has been a Lucia at that day’s presentations: she’ll be the one with wax in her hair.

Welcome back to the full swing of parish life, everyone!

Jerry Buescher



Confirmation Class Update

Our confirmation class has begun its second and final year. Confirmation will be on April 22, 2012 and we are very excited as we near our goal.

We made tremendous progress in the past year. Not only did we review doctrine and theological topics, but we experienced terrific insights in our bible study sessions.

Each student has a mentor with whom they can discuss class topics or whatever they wish. Our four mentors are: Megan Bartlett, Peggy Buescher, Diane Honor and Heather Myers. They have attended a class, joined us for pizza and a movie night and attended a one day retreat. Their contributions are invaluable.

Speaking of retreats, on July 30th we held a one day retreat at St. David’s Episcopal church in Radnor. It was a great success due in no small part to the leadership of our pastor Joy who did a fantastic job in organizing the retreat. Special kudos have to go to three mentors who attended the retreat. Their compassion, their insights, and their Christian devotion were indispensable. With their assistance our students were allowed to view a better understanding of our Episcopalian beliefs, in particular, and our Christianity, in general.

In the upcoming year we plan to explore the religious beliefs of other faiths, such as Judaism and Buddhism. We feel that it is important for the girls to see how other religions worship. Our students will attend a Vestry meeting and possibly have their own page on Gloria Dei’s website. They will also continue to read during services and serve as acolytes.

We ask for the congregation’s prayers as our students near their goal of becoming confirmed Episcopalians.

May the peace of our Lord Christ always be with us,

Bill Towey and Julie Daye



Alexander Wilson, Father of Ornithology

Alexander Wilson was born on July 6, 1766, in Paisley, Scotland. At the age of 13 he apprenticed in the weaving trade spending ten years as a weaver. He then began traveling about Scotland as a peddler and writing dialect poems, which he published. Discouraged by poverty and by political persecution because of some satires he wrote, he immigrated to America in 1794.

Entirely self-educated, Alexander Wilson, supported himself as a teacher in the Philadelphia area. In 1802, he took charge of a school at Gray's Ferry, near the home and gardens of William Bartram. William Bartram helped Alexander Wilson learn to draw birds. Bartram offered the use of his library so Wilson could study illustrations of American birds. Wilson was convinced that no single work on American birds was free from defect, and he decided to publish a book illustrating all the North American birds. He traveled widely, watching and painting birds and collecting subscribers for his book. The result was a nine volume American Ornithology which illustrated 268 birds, 26 had not previously been described. Wilson's health broke down while he was preparing the eighth volume of American Ornithology for publication, and he died in Philadelphia on Aug. 23, 1813. His friend George Ord completed the eighth and ninth volumes from Wilson's manuscript notes and saw them through publication in 1814. Charles Lucien Bonaparte published the four final volumes in 1825-1833.

American Ornithology is noted for the elegance of the essays on individual birds and for the excellent illustrations, which Wilson did himself. Although skilled as an artist, he needed the help of Alexander Lawson to translate his drawings into the plates from which the illustrations were printed. American Ornithology was acclaimed by both American and European scientists as the best work on American birds, and it went through two subsequent editions. This outstanding work cemented Wilson's reputation as a pioneer in American nature literature and illustration. As the late scientist and historian Dr. Elliott Coues remarked, "Perhaps no other work on ornithology of equal extent is equally free from error, and its truthfulness is illuminated by a spark of the 'fire divine'."

Alexander Wilson's tombstone is one of the tombstones just restored in our graveyard. His friend George Ord is also buried here.

Jeanette Woehr

A visitor to Gloria Dei with connections to our past



From the Rector: I went into the church on Friday, September 9th, to put the hymns for Sunday up on the hymn boards. As I stood at the lectern selecting the numbers I heard a rustling from the loft near the organ. I looked up and saw nothing. I said "Hello?" a couple of times in a timid voice...nothing. I began to feel a little uncomfortable so I spoke loudly: "Is anyone there?" All of a sudden he swooped out from the top of the organ, soared across the dome of the church ceiling, and landed on Gabriel's wing. (see pictures above) I just stared at this amazing animal. It turns out it was a Cooper's Hawk, and in a way related to us at Gloria Dei (see history article). He stayed with us for two days. The Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Center finally caught him and lovingly took him to care for him before releasing him a few days later. We get lots of visitors here at Gloria Dei but this was a very special one!

Note: The Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is named after Charles Lucian Bonaparte's friend, the ornithologist William Cooper.



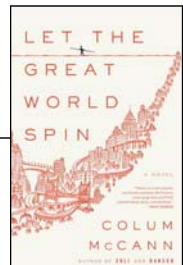
Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases



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

- Oct. 2** Guatemala Market Day
- Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** Bible Study – 6:00PM – Roak Room
- Oct. 4** Blessing of the Animals – 6:30PM – In church followed by reception
- Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25** Yoga (Classes are \$8.00)
Beginners Class 6:00 – 7:00PM
Advanced Class 7:15 – 8:15PM
- Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 – 11:00AM
Please dress for outdoor class – in the event of rain moves to Riverside Hall
- Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27** History Committee – 6:30PM – in church – all are welcome
- Oct. 9** Swedish Service 4:00PM
- Oct. 16** Norwegian Service 4:00PM
- Oct. 17** Lucia Tickets go on sale today – may be purchased online or call the office
- Oct. 19** Vestry Meeting – 7:00PM – Roak Room
- Oct. 20** Swedish Colonial Society – Riverside Hall
– 1:00–3:00PM
- Oct. 22** Annual Flea Market – 8AM–3PM
- Oct. 24** Book Club – 7:00PM – Riverside Hall
Let the Great World Spin •
by Colum McCann
- Oct. 27** Jazz & Joe – Riverside Hall – 7:30PM
- Oct. 29** Sexton Sideshow - Halloween Party
- Oct. 30** First Lucia Rehearsal – 1:00 – 3:30PM



The Lectionary for October

October 2nd, The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 22

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve; Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm: 19

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

October 9th, The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm: 106:1-6, 19-223

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

October 16th, The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 24

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations; Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm: 99

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

October 23rd, The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 25

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm: 90:1-6, 13-17

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

October 30th, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 26

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm: 107:1-7, 33-37

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

A Celebration & Thanksgiving for St. Francis



“ . . . renew our covenant
with these creatures
in our care . . . ”

October 4, 2011

6:30 pm

Gloria Dei Church

(Old Swedes')

Columbus Blvd. & Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19147

•
All animals are invited and welcome in church,
but please be sure to leash or cage them for
everyone's safety and comfort.

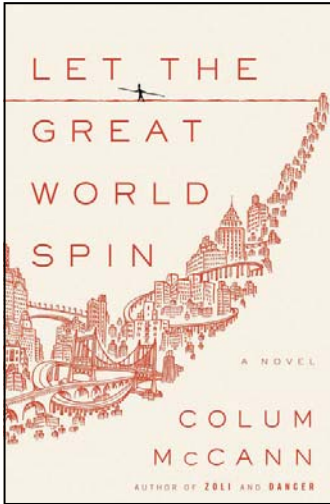
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Reception following the Service



Lucia Tickets on sale/online Oct. 17th



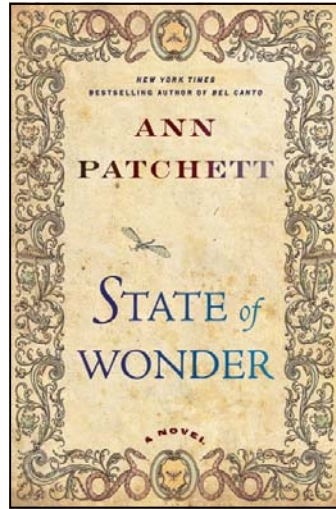
Book Club @ Gloria Dei



October 24

Let the Great World Spin

by Colum McCann.



November 21

State of Wonder

by Ann Patchett



Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus

Lisa Reeves is organizing a group to see this exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday October 23 in the early afternoon. Tickets are around \$25 per person and less for seniors, students and children.

If you are interested in going, please contact Lisa at 267-257-8225 or reeves@lawofsea.com as soon as possible.



THE BEST FLEAS AT THE OLDEST CHURCH
Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

FALL *Flea Market*

Saturday, October 22nd
8:00am to 3:00pm

Spaces - \$25.00 Paid at the Door

*BAKED GOODS, HOMEMADE
CHILI, HOTDOGS, MEATBALLS,
SODA, PRETZELS*

HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS AVAILABLE.
BEST FLEAS IN SOUTH PHILLY!
COME JOIN THE FUN!!

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Boulevard & Christian Street

Philadelphia, PA 19147

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

Graveyard Boo-ga-loo

HALLOWEEN PARTY

OCT. 29TH

\$12 Donation
\$2 Discount if in Costume

Trick or Treat or Trick or Treat or Trick or Treat or Trick or Treat

7 PM TO 11 PM

Food . . . Beer . . . Soda . . . Water
DJ . . . Live Music



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Columbus Blvd. & Christian St.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



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

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Alan Segal Quartet

alan@alansegal.net 215-208-7314

Eddie Etkins – George Sinkler – Alan Segal – Leon Jordan

Thursday 10/27
7:30 to 9:30 - Riverside Hall



Vestry Meeting Bullet Points

- Churchyard Restorations continues
- Repairs to floors in Sexton's house and Riverside Hall ongoing
- Lucia Fest needs volunteers in all areas
- October is Stewardship Month, and 10/30 is Commitment Sunday
- Bible Study (Exodus) will be held Mondays at 6:00 beginning 9/26
- Guatemala Market Day, Sunday 10/2
- Blessing of the Animals, Tuesday 10/4 at 6:30

(approved minutes for the August 2011 vestry meeting may
be found on the bulletin board in Riverside Hall)

BIBLE STUDY – Continues

EXODUS

We will continue our approach to Bible Study with a reading of the second book of the Bible, *Exodus*. As we have done with *Matthew*, *Acts* and *Genesis*, we're going to read *Exodus* out loud. Yes, once again, the whole book. We will gather for 45 minutes on Monday evenings at 6:00PM. We'll begin on Monday, September 26th. We will gather in the Roak Room, offer an opening prayer, read out loud for twenty minutes, discuss or meditate as the Spirit moves us for twenty minutes, pray the Lord's Prayer together, and be on our way. Forty-five minutes once a week. At the end of this study you will have heard the entire book of *Exodus* and had an opportunity to deepen your understanding of this second book of the Bible. Consider joining us for this weekly gathering. You won't be called on to read or speak if it's not your wish. Just come and listen. And hear.



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.



Prayer
Chain

Requests For Prayers Are Always Welcome

Please contact the church office (215) 389-1513
or Florence Brook (215) 271-1091,
(215) 760-5878, or fbrook529@hotmail.com

Intercessors will pray on behalf of those in need

