



November 2011

Down By The Riverside

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

Thoughts from the Rector

Words, Words, Words

Sometimes a community, or a culture, or a nation gives new meaning to an old word. *Cool* is a good example of what I'm talking about. Used to be, before the 1950s, *cool* was an adjective used to describe the temperature of something, and those of us who speak English understood that clear, concise meaning. But sometime in the mid-twentieth century we began to use *Cool!* as an exclamation with a meaning that has nothing to do with temperature.

Words are integral to our ability to be in relationship. So I think it's good for us to occasionally check out which words we're using and what we mean when we use them. Some words, when they become popular, end up being misused or overused. They become stale or trite, or worse, their meaning evolves and without our being aware we begin miscommunicating with each other. Assumptions are made that we're all talking about the same thing, but really we're not.

Let's look at *discern*, for instance. This is a word that, at least in church context, is in danger of both overuse and misuse. Webster's new World Dictionary defines *discern* in this way: *to separate (a thing) mentally from another or others; recognize as separate or different*. Synonyms are *perceive, distinguish, observe, notice*. Is that what you think you're doing when you're discerning? Do you think that others who are sharing in discernment with you think that this is what they are doing? What if some in the group think that discernment means praying or meditating while others think of this activity as an exercise in self-examination or group therapy?

How about *ministry*? Checking in with Webster's again, it says: "the act of ministering, or serving; that which serves as a means; agency." In the church *ministry* has become widely used. Every visit, every moment, every ounce of work and hour of time that is given freely at, for and with the parish is ministry. Preaching and sweeping, planting and singing, copying and counting, praying and feeding, visiting and supporting. Why? Because in the context of Christian community we are being agents. We serve because it is in serving that Christ's Body is made visible in the world. We are the agents of the Gospel and those

(continued on next page)

things we do as members of Gloria Dei are all considered ministry. That's my definition and the way in which I use the word. Is this your definition?

Then there's *spirituality*. If ever a word has been grasped from its theological context, thrown through the hoops of secular societies, and grabbed back by its rightful owner, abused and turned on its ear, it is *spirituality*. We in the church run the risk of either accepting the secular definition as it has evolved (whatever that is) and trying to make it fit back into the worship community, or of discarding it as unsalvageable. Neither is an option for us. *Spiritus*, the Latin word from which ours comes, is that language's translation of the Hebrew word ruach, which has three important meanings throughout the Hebrew Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament). The same word, ruach, translates as wind, breathe, and Spirit (of God). This is not a word we can do without. Nor is it a word that we should risk misunderstanding with each other. It is central to our understanding of ourselves (our very breath), our connection with creation (the wind), and our relationship with God. Is that how you understand *spirituality*?

Worship, Diversity, Consensus, Revelation, Reconciliation, Pastoral, Stewardship, Faith, Salvation, Mystery. There are many words that run the risk of being misused, misunderstood, misplaced, and overused. This does not make them no longer of value as a means of communication. But the lack of clear meanings, or the assumption that others share our understanding of oft used words, are two ways in which we are vulnerable to misunderstanding each other. And worse, of misunderstanding the Gospel message. The Good News that is proclaimed, in word and deed, from this place, must be a clear word of grace* for all humankind. That is the mission* of this place, as it is of any community that calls itself Christian. Of course, right in that sentence I've used two words, grace and mission that we might need to talk about.

Our words matter. Words are one of the great gifts of humankind. Use them wisely. Use them humbly. Use them as a means of proclaiming the Risen Christ. In all things, use them for the greater glory of God.

(* *grace* – God's unfathomable, unearned, everlasting favor, mercy, love; * *mission* – the reason for being; an identity, often defined in terms of tasks, duties, or callings. Those are my definitions. Are they yours?)

*Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts,
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.*

(Psalm 19:14)

Peace,

Joy +

All Saints Sunday

November 6, 2011

All Saints Sunday is a major feast day in the church year. At Gloria Dei we celebrate this day with the reading of the names of those who have died this past year. Friends, family, neighbors, companions, and those buried from Gloria Dei will all be included in the litany to be read at both services. **If you would like a name included in our list, please call the office at 215-389-1513 by the end of the day on Wednesday, November 2nd.**



Thanksgiving Eve at Gloria Dei

We will celebrate Thanksgiving at Gloria Dei this year on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 23rd, with a service of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion at 7pm. We ask that you bring a canned good or dry good to bring forward during this service to be placed on the altar and blessed. We will share this ingathering of food with those in our community who are in need.

We have much to be thankful for here at Gloria Dei. Hopefully many of you will join us, and bring family and friends, as we thank God for the blessings of this place and this community.

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!*

(Psalm 95:2)



Fallout 4 Fleas

A record setting day for fleas at Gorla Dei Church on oct.22, 2011! In an unexpected turn of fate one-hundred and fifty-three vendors showed up and sold their "fleas" on the sidewalk surrounding "old swedes" church and helped generate \$7618.69!!!!

We were up against two other fall flea markets and we are very grateful people showed at ours.

In addition we had unprecedented donation of time & talent from new and old congregants. We sold 300 meatballs at \$1 a piece, 320 hot dogs at \$1.50 a piece, and 120 hamburgers at \$3.00 a piece, and all the soup and chili that was made was sold!!!!

What a great turnout during what is "stewardship" month. Every person had a hand in the success of this event from signing up, to making things, donating \$, to buying space, to setting up, cleaning up.....just showing up! We thank you for you!

Sincerely,

Jim and Paula Minacci



Sexton Sideshow Presents

11.11.11.

ONE PARTY FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS.

Sponsored by:



7pm - 11:11PM

\$11 under 21

\$22 over 21

\$33 per couple

free commemorative shirt to first 111 people!

LIVE MUSIC

featuring...

JUCY LUCY

SWEETBRIAR ROSE

BAILEY BOY BLUES

NORTH LAWRENCE

MIDNITE SINGERS

BEER & FOOD

INCLUDED IN ADMISSION

EAT! DRINK! HAVE FUN!

YOU WILL WANT TO BE HERE!

old-swedes.org

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
Christian St. & Columbus Blvd.



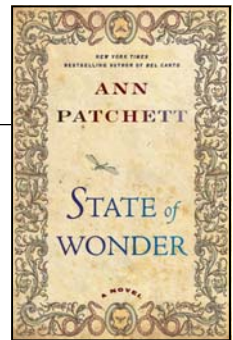
Donate to Gloria Dei
Make a pledge payment
Purchase books
Make Amazon purchases



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

- Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Yoga (Classes are \$8.00)
Beginners Class 6:00 - 7:00PM
Advanced Class 7:15 - 8:15PM
- Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** Tai Chi (Classes are \$8.00) 10:00 - 11:00AM
Please dress for outdoor class - in the event of rain moves to Riverside Hall
- Nov. 6** **Daylight Savings Time Ends today**
Lucia Rehearsal - 1:00 - 3:30PM
- Nov. 7** Church Training & Deaconess Meeting - Riverside Hall
12:00 - 2:00PM
Finance Committee Meeting - 7:00PM Roak Room
- Nov. 7, 14, 21** Bible Study - 6:00PM - Roak Room
- Nov. 11** Sexton Sideshow
- Nov. 13** Lucia Rehearsal - 1:00 - 3:30PM
Swedish Service 4:00PM
- Nov. 16** Vestry Meeting - 7:00PM - Roak Room
- Nov. 17** Swedish Colonial Society - Riverside Hall
- 1:00-3:00PM
- Nov. 20** Lucia Rehearsal - 1:00 - 3:30PM
Norwegian Service 4:00PM
- Nov. 21** Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall
State of Wonder •
by Ann Patchett
- Nov. 23** Thanksgiving Eve Service - 7:00PM
- Nov. 24, 25** Office Closed
- Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 28, 29, 30** Rector Away - Clergy Conference
- Nov. 30** Last Day for Advanced Sale of Lucia Tickets



The Lectionary for November

November 6th, The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 27

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm: 78:1-7

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

November 13th, The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 28

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Judges 4:1-7

Psalm: 123

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

November 20th, The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Christ the King

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm: 100

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

November 27th, First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the work of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Lucia Fest, 2011

Gloria Dei

(Old Swedes') Church

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

Tickets available online from Oct 17 to Nov. 30, 2011
at www.old-swedes.org

Friday, **December 9** - 6:00 & 8:00
Saturday & Sunday,
December 10 & 11
2:00, 3:30 & 5:00

Tickets: Adults - \$10,
Children under 12 - \$5

St. Eric's Fair

Imports for Sale; Coffee & Baked Goods



Lucia Tickets on sale/online thru Nov. 30



From the Rector's Warden

Fall has arrived finally at Gloria Dei. The temperatures are down, the air is crisp, and all the Fall activities are in full swing.

You'll no doubt hear from many sources that the Fall 2011 edition of the Diocesan Quarterly Journal *Where it all began ...* has been published and that our very own Gloria Dei, Old Swedes', is the featured parish. The reason I'm pointing out that publication to you is that we're right in the midst of important parish events that are highlighted in that publication - events that help define us as a parish.

It says in the article "We regularly sponsor and present activities that make us known to the surrounding community. We make ourselves visible, seek to serve Christ in all persons who come to us, do our best to love our neighbors as ourselves, strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being - as each of us promised at our baptism."

Saturday October 22 was our Fall Flea Market - and we couldn't have had a better day. The weather was glorious, the vendor turnout unbelievable, the number of visitors astounding, and the food sales were just over the top. The parish made more money than it ever made on a Flea Market. That's the good news - and the even better news is the number of parishioners who worked hard on Friday and Saturday to make the Flea Market not only a financial success but also a highly visible example of our living presence as a parish in this community.

Next Sunday October 30 is the first rehearsal for Lucia Fest - another of our parish activities highlighted in that Quarterly Journal. Parishioners are already gearing up for those three days of presentations - costumes have been cleaned, pressed and mended; merchandise has been purchased; tickets have been sold; and soon we'll be asked for food contributions.

But - even more important - you'll be asked to help with Lucia Fest, to be one of those friendly, caring faces of our parish that visitors from all around this area will see. That's our real gift to people who come to the Lucia Fest.

There's a party planned for October 29 and another one on "11-11-11." Those parties are open to everyone in the community and are one more way we show people that there's a living, worshipping parish behind that big brick wall.

It's a busy time of year and it's a rewarding time of year. Hope to see you at Gloria Dei - in church and outside church. Remember those words on the scroll the angels hold under the organ loft in church - "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." As the world darkens with the shortening days, we're that light in our little part of the world.

Jerry Buescher

Justus Falckner

On November 24, 1703 the first minister ordained in our country was held at Gloria Dei.

From the Book of Memory 1919

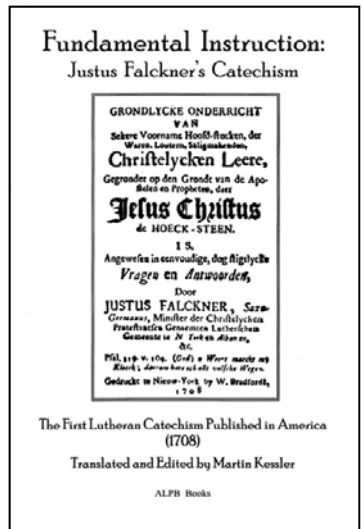
On the occasion of the 220th anniversary of Gloria Dei Church, a policy was inaugurated by resolution of the Vestry, of setting apart at each anniversary, a sitting in one of the pews, to be named in memory of some pioneer of the Swedish period.

The name of Justus Falckner was chosen for the first commemoration, according to this new policy. His relation to the Church was incidental, but of great historic import. He was a member of the group of Theosophists and Pietists who settled on the Wissahickon and helped to give the name of "Germantown" to that section. He came to this country in 1700 and soon was on very friendly terms with the Swedish Pastor of Gloria Dei, Andre Rudman. In 1701 Falckner addressed a letter to the Lutherans of Germany in which he urged the sending of an organ to the Swedish Church at Wicaco, in which the Lutheran Liturgy was used, suggesting that it would be a means of holding the young people.

In 1703, on the urgent presentation by Pastor Rudman of the needs of Reformed congregations in New York, Justus Falckner offered to become their minister and presented himself for ordination. The ceremony took place on November 24th of that year in Old Swedes' Church, at the hands of three pastors, Rev. Andreas Sandel, then Pastor of Gloria Dei, and Revs. Erick Biorck, of Christiana (Wilmington), and Andreas Rudman acting as Suffragan, or Vice-Bishop. No Bishop could be obtained as there was none in the Colonies at the time.

In view of this unique relation with the early period of Gloria Dei Church, the first sitting in the "Pioneers' Pew" was named for Justus Falckner.

The pew honoring Justus Falckner is located on the second row from the front on the right side.



Jeanette Woche

Vestry Meeting Bullet Points

- The parish budget for 2012 is under preparation.
- The question of whether to move from two services (one at 9:00 AM, the other at 11:00 AM) to a unified parish service at 10:00 AM is once again under discussion.
- The Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 PM Saturday December 24 and there will be a single service at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day, December 25.
- On New Year's Eve (Saturday December 31) we will hold a special service with Eucharist at 5:00 PM; there will be no service on Sunday January 1.
- There are Sexton Sideshow Events on Saturday October 29 and on Friday November 11.
- Lucia tickets are available online for credit-card purchase.

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



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.



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



Memorial Cards in loving memory of

Billy Springfield

By: Sally Daly

James & Anna Raynock

By: Jack & Scott McGill & Families



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.

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.