

Gloria Dei Church (Old Swedes')

Annual Meeting
May 5, 2024

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AGENDA

May 5, 2024 Annual Parish Liturgy and Meeting

Congregation will gather in Riverside Hall after Sunday service; food will be available.

Welcome Prayer and introduction by Rev. Chris Micklewright

Approval of 2023 meeting minutes

Approval of slate of new Vestry Members

Q&A / Discussion regarding Annual Report & related topics

Thanks to outgoing Vestry Members

Closing remarks and prayer by Rev. Chris Micklewright

Gloria Dei Annual Meeting – Minutes

May 7, 2023 After the 10:00 Service

The meeting was both in-person and live streamed.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Rev. Gordon Reid

Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Rector's Warden Report – Jaime Konowal

Jaime thanked Bob Jenkins, Megan Bartlett and Nils Van Ammers for serving on the vestry.

Election of Vestry

By Acclimation the following have been elected to the Vestry:

Cathy Ufheil 3 year term

Carol Jenkins 3 year term

Ann Brilliant 3 year term

Lisa Reeves 1 year term

For Deanery

Jeanette Woehr

Carol Jenkins

Jaime thanked everyone who ran this year. It is an exciting year.

A motion was made adjourn the meeting. Meeting was closed with prayer.

RECTOR'S REPORT - Rev. Chris Micklewright

On a Sunday afternoon almost a year ago, I was running across my seminary campus in search of my wife. I had just received an incredible phone call from Nora Melley, the chair of the Gloria Dei Rector Search Committee, and I couldn't wait to tell Heather that I had been chosen as the next Rector of such an incredible church. Even from early in the interviewing process, I had started to fall in love with Gloria Dei, and the past 10 months have absolutely confirmed that love. This congregation has welcomed my family with open arms, and I am so grateful that I was called to serve here.

One of the surprises, as I've gotten to know Gloria Dei, is how many different communities overlap in this place. While we've been averaging 30-40 people at Sunday services, several times that many people spend time in our buildings and grounds on a regular basis. It has been a joy for me to get to know these different communities over the past several months, and these relationships are bearing some beautiful fruit:

- *National Park Service:* As a big fan of the National Parks, I was delighted to meet some of the rangers and other NPS staff who help to care for our site. In the past several months, Gloria Dei has also

been working with NPS on the development of a new treatment plan for our site (something that hasn't been done since the 70's!).

- *Lucia Fest*: It was wonderful to meet all the people who make our annual Lucia production a reality, and it was a joy to serve as the MC for all six shows. Moving forward, Paul Fejko has announced that he is retiring from his role as Lucia musician (he will still play for Sunday services though!). I am now working with the committee to find a new musician, and we are prioritizing someone experienced in working with kids to make sure it's a great experience for all our kids.
- *Swedish Colonial Society*: Jeanette and Richard Woehr have introduced me to the Swedish Colonial Society, and I have been attending their council meetings. I've also agreed to serve as a co-chaplain to the organization.
- *YCCA*: Shortly after I arrived at Gloria Dei, we moved out of the Roak House to allow YCCA to rent the full building, and I made a priority of forming a healthy working relationship with YCCA staff & leadership. Last October, we also held a trick-or-treat event for the YCCA kids and families, and I hope to hold more such events.
- *Sexton Sideshow*: Paula and Jim have held several pancake breakfasts since I started at Gloria Dei, and it's amazing to see how many people come out for these events. Paula and Jim have a beautiful ministry to so many of these people, and it's been a privilege to get to know some of them. We also had full houses for the annual *O Brother* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* events, and we're looking forward to a revival of the Memorial Day Picnic.
- *Root Quarterly*: Paula and Jim introduced me to Heather Blakeslee, a local musician and the editor of *RQ Magazine*, which fosters deeper conversation in our polarized society. Over the past several months, we have hosted a couple of *RQ* events, and Heather and I collaborated on a very successful Lenten discussion series. We're also looking at opportunities for more such series.
- *Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation*: I have been regularly attending HGDPC Board meetings to foster a strong relationship with this incredible organization. HGDPC has brought together such a talented group of people who love Gloria Dei, and they are also holding a host of incredible events that bring in many new people.
- *Riverside Weddings*: It's been a privilege to get involved with our wedding business – even as it navigates some significant transitions. I'm profoundly grateful for all the work that Amy Liberi put into launching Riverside Weddings and developing robust systems for serving clients. We hope to see further growth in the next year, and I am also treating this work as a missional opportunity, in which we can support couples in inviting God into their weddings and marriages.
- *Dog Walkers*: My kids absolutely love the fact that our grounds welcome to many local dog owners, and it has given me the opportunity to meet many of our neighbors. Our Blessing of the Animals service was also a huge success last fall.

All told, it is incredible that Gloria Dei is able to host so many different communities – not many churches our size have these kinds of opportunities. I believe that our congregation is called to continue welcoming people into our space. Whether or not these people ever join us on Sunday mornings, this is a chance for us to witness to Jesus' radical love and welcome.

It has also been encouraging to see some growth in our congregation; there have been several Sundays when we've run out of bulletins, and that always seems like a good problem to have. However, I don't think that growing our congregation should never be our primary goal; I've seen too many churches make that their focus, and it generally just leads to fear and anxiety. Rather, I believe that we are called to grow in love for God, for each other, and for our neighbors – and that growth in love will often lead to

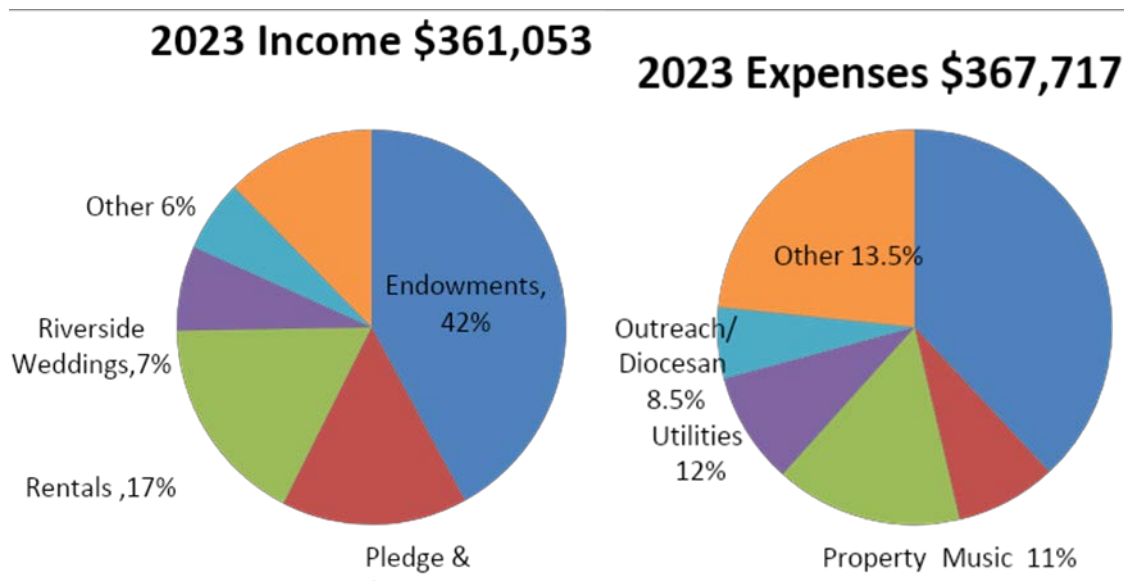
growth in numbers. So, please join me in praying for that deeper, more beautiful growth as we look to see what the coming year brings.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jill Duink

In 2023 we welcomed our new Rector. Our Church Offices now inhabit our Rectory and YCCA day-care fills all of the Roak Building. Sexton Sideshows, Jazz & Joe, and Lucia roared back to life. Riverside Weddings began life.

The list and charts below describe our 2023 income and expenses.

- Endowment income was our largest income source at \$151,742, which was \$24,347 more than 2022 endowment income.
- Fundraising profit in 2023 was \$29,057, \$45,024 in income less \$15,957 in expenses.
- Pledge and plate giving totaled \$54,933 which was \$4,792 more than 2022 giving.
- Riverside Weddings posted a start-up loss in 2023 of \$10,440, \$24,986 in income and \$35,426 in expenses.
- Our largest expense was compensation and related benefits at \$139,960.
- Our property expenses totaled \$56,347.
- Our budgeted outreach spending and diocesan contributions totaled \$20,316.
- Our donations supporting our missions of Mercy Hospice, DIOPA First Aid Kits, and gifts to a family in need totaled \$1,744.



Total expenses exceeded total income by \$6,664 in 2023.

The table below tracks our endowment year-end value over seven years. Gloria Dei’s endowments finished 2023 higher in value by \$334,705 than in 2022 (including \$117,512 earmarked for the church roof project and \$6,201 from our Book 300 publishing project belonging to the Swedish Colonial Society). As 42% of our income in 2023 was from endowments, Gloria Dei remains vulnerable to stock and bond prices and income.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2,952,615	2,798,397	3,078,348	3,447,555	3,745,860	2,999,988	3,334,692

Please consider making a legacy gift to Gloria Dei’s endowment; a gift to preserve our mission for future generations. The gifts of prior generations have saved Gloria Dei and continue to provide much toward our financial security. Add your name to this esteemed list:

	Original Gift	Value 12/31/2023	Income in 2023
Simes		\$226,068	\$13,651
Alfred C. Young	\$500	\$45,848	\$1,908
A. Adele Rudolph	\$6,601	\$135,013	\$5,946
Dorothy Maynard Smith	\$380,000	\$1,325,563	\$55,162
Simes		\$142,884	\$5,618
Charles I Stille	\$118,918	\$09,600	\$5,200
Lunsbeck, Robling, Hogeland	\$50,000	\$352,490	\$16,100
Your Name Here	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$

2023 Financial Report and 2024 Budget

In 2023 Gloria Dei borrowed \$25,000 from our endowments to maintain a positive cash flow.

In 2024 we anticipate that we will need to borrow \$43,526 from our endowments to balance the budget.

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church			
2023 YEAR-END AND 2024 BUDGET			
1/1/2023-12/31/2023			
Category Summary	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget

INCOME			
03 - Regular Support			
Easter and Christmas Flowers	861.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Plate	3,207.20	3,000.00	3,000.00
Pledge	51,725.72	44,000.00	55,000.00
TOTAL 03 - Regular Support	55,793.92	48,000.00	59,000.00
04 - Money from Investments			
Aethon/Exelon/Phila Contrib	1,850.31	600.00	600.00
Church F 064786 - Alfred C Young	1,907.96	1,600.00	1,900.00
Church F 064791 - A Adele Rudolph	5,946.04	5,300.00	6,000.00
Church F 064934 - Dorothy Maynard Smith	55,162.40	52,000.00	55,000.00
Church F 065033 - 4th Century Fund	21,025.20	15,250.00	21,000.00
Church F 065117 - Simes	5,618.48	5,600.00	5,600.00
FROM Church F 065033 - 4th Century Fund			43,525.70
PNC 16-35-035-0617188 - Simes	13,681.50	10,750.00	11,000.00
Wells Fargo 1513091190 - Charles I Stille	5,200.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Wells Fargo 1519175748 - Gloria Dei Church	25,250.00	17,500.00	19,000.00
WF 1519178585 - Lunsbeck, Roebling, Hogeland	16,100.00	17,500.00	19,000.00
TOTAL 04 - Endowments	151,741.89	130,600.00	187,125.70
05 - Other Income			
Donations			
Baptism	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funeral Services	1,725.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
May I. Young FD	3,656.14	3,200.00	3,600.00
Miscellaneous Other Donations	12,264.60	0.00	11,000.00
Societies - Organizations	3,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
TOTAL Donations	21,145.74	5,700.00	18,600.00
Fund Raiser			
Flea Market	1,387.51	3,000.00	2,000.00
Fundraiser Income	439.58	10,000.00	12,000.00
Jazz & Joe	1035.00	600.00	1,000.00
Lucia	20,966.83	23,000.00	25,000.00
Misc Fundraiser	0.00	10,000.00	
Other Book Sales	890.25	0.00	500.00
Sales Book 300	2,071.00	0.00	1000
Sexton SideShow Fundraising	18,234.30	0.00	
Total Fund Raiser	45,024.47	36,600.00	41,500.00
Memorials			
Mass Cards	75.00	100.00	50.00
TOTAL Memorials	75.00	100.00	50.00
Rentals			
Other Rentals	1,410.00	0.00	1,000.00
YCCA - Kreative Kids	60,875.66	57,783.24	73,200.00

TOTAL Rentals	62,285.66	57,783.24	74,200.00
TOTAL 05 - Other Income	128,530.87	100,183.24	134,350.00
06 - Riverside Weddings and Events at Gloria Dei			
TOTAL 06 - Riverside Weddings and Events Income	24,986.40	108,700.00	44,800.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR OPERATING	361,053.08	387,483.24	425,275.70
	2023	2023	2024
	Actual	Budget	Budget
EXPENSES			
03 - Regular Expense			
Easter and Christmas Flowers	475.34	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 03 - Regular Expense	475.34	1,000.00	1,000.00
05 - Fund Raising Expenses			
Baptism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Book 300 Shipping Expenses	622.54	0.00	600.00
Flea Market Expenses	295.25	250.00	220.00
Fundraising Expenses			2,000.00
Funeral and Burial Expenses	375.00	300.00	0.00
Lucia Expenses	7,582.46	10,000.00	10,000.00
Other Book Sales - 80% to Swedish Colonial Society	837.23	0.00	200.00
Other Fundraising Expenses	525.00	0.00	
Other Rental Expenses		0.00	
Sexton Sideshow Expenses	5,719.08	0.00	
TOTAL 05 - Fund Raising	15,956.56	10,550.00	13,020.00
06 - Riverside Weddings at Gloria Dei Expenses			
TOTAL 06 - Riverside Weddings at Gloria Dei Expenses	35,425.92	86,665.00	36,884.00
12 - Diocesan			
Assessments	14,414.04	14,414.00	15,424.00
Sacred Ask	5,082.00	5,082.00	5,437.00
TOTAL 12 - Diocesan	19,496.04	19,496.00	20,861.00
13 - Outreach from Operating Budget			
Other Outreach	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL 13 - Outreach from Operating Budget	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
14 - Operating Expenses			
Clergy Expenses			
Clergy Continuing Ed	41.28	250.00	800.00
Clergy Telephone	385.00	270.00	840.00
Clergy Travel, Other	40.61	500.00	500.00
TOTAL Clergy Expenses	466.89	1,020.00	2,140.00
Compensation			
Benefits			
Rector Health	13,076.94	7,500.00	26,520.00
Sexton and Rector Life & Disability	483.41	380.00	633.00

Sexton Medical Supplemental	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
TOTAL Benefits	18,560.35	12,880.00	32,153.00
Pension			
Rector	5,317.60	7,164.00	16,000.00
TOTAL Pension	5,317.60	7,164.00	16,000.00
Salary			
Rev. Chris Micklewright	34,637.01	20,800.00	90,281.00
Christine McBride	20,964.42	27,807.00	21,444.80
Jim Minacci	20,841.82	20,009.41	23,207.15
Paula Minacci	20,842.72	20,009.41	23,207.15
Supply Clergy	11,187.90	7,500.00	2,000.00
TOTAL Salary	108,473.87	96,125.82	160,140.10
Salary-Tax			
Medicare	1,442.03	1,562.40	1,329.50
Soc Sec	6,165.79	6,582.30	5,684.57
TOTAL Salary-Tax	7,607.82	8,144.70	7,014.07
TOTAL Compensation	139,959.64	124,314.52	215,307.17
General			
Adult/Family/Growth	431.95	1,000.00	1,000.00
Advertising & Banners	425.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Alter Guild - Liturgical	279.19	1,300.00	1,300.00
Audit	0.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Deanery/Convention	72.06	500.00	500.00
Flowers	300.00	300.00	300.00
Hospitality and New Member	0.00	1,300.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous General Expenses	3,302.75	1,200.00	1,200.00
Rector Moving	274.42	4,000.00	
Rector Search Expenses	3,000.00	6,000.00	
Church Kids Adventure Club	3,715.64	200.00	500.00
TOTAL General	11,801.01	23,800.00	16,300.00
Insurance			
Comprehensive - Umbrella	10,192.00	9,044.00	9,044.00
Work Comp	498.00	600.00	1,648.00
TOTAL Insurance	10,690.00	9,644.00	10,692.00
Music Budget			
Music and Organ Maintenance	2,751.15	2,200.00	2,200.00
Tsunami Productions - Organist Supply	27,630.84	27,630.00	28,486.53
TOTAL Music Budget	30,381.99	29,830.00	30,686.53
Office			
Bank Charge	0.00	400.00	400.00
Computer supply	316.99	500.00	500.00
Internet/Phone/WiFi	5,187.20	5,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous Office Expense	2,047.72	1,500.00	1,500.00
Payroll Service	1,009.48	1,330.00	1,330.00

Postage	389.30	500.00	500.00
TOTAL Office	8,950.69	9,230.00	9,230.00
Property Expenses			
Alarm	2,728.95	2,500.00	2,500.00
Lawn/Landscape Service	8,100.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Pest Control	1,122.20	1,000.00	1,200.00
Property Expenses	44,396.78	26,748.72	20,000.00
Church	148.10		
Church Yard	9,059.04		
Rectory	2,969.27		
Riverside Hall	1,898.84		
Roak House	25,799.56		
Sexton House	4,521.97		
TOTAL Property Expenses	56,347.93	36,248.72	30,700.00
Sundries			
Food/Paper Products/Misc	2,150.57	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL Sundries	2,150.57	2,000.00	2,000.00
Utilities			
U-Gas			
1114501039 Rectory	2,831.75	3,300.00	3,300.00
2114501047 Church	5,012.66	4,600.00	5,600.00
3114501055 Riverside Hall	2,922.96	2,875.00	2,875.00
4114501063 Sexton House	1,499.53	1,380.00	1,380.00
5114501071 Roak House	5,349.62	4,830.00	6,000.00
TOTAL U-Gas	17,616.52	16,985.00	19,155.00
U-PECO Energy			
34262-00609 Rectory and Church	3,618.42	3,000.00	3,500.00
40448-01504 Riverside Hall	3,115.43	3,300.00	3,300.00
43451-01700 Sexton House	2,669.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
49850-01702 Roak House	3,239.44	2,500.00	2,700.00
TOTAL U-PECO Energy	12,642.29	10,800.00	12,000.00
U-Water 012-75780-00904-xxx			
005 Church	0.00	600.00	0.00
005 Rk-S-RSide	3,355.13	3,300.00	3,300.00
TOTAL U-Water 012-75780-00904-xxx	3,355.13	3,900.00	3,300.00
TOTAL Utilities	33,613.94	31,685.00	34,455.00
TOTAL 14 - Operating Expenses	294,362.66	267,772.24	351,510.70
TOTAL EXPENSES for Operating	367,716.52	387,483.24	425,275.70
OVERALL TOTAL	-6,663.44	0.00	0.00

ALTAR GUILD REPORT - Cathy Ufheil

The Altar Guild comprises 4 women currently, but we are hoping to add to that number and even engage some of our young people once they are confirmed.

Besides the normal expenditures for wine, hosts, candles, palm for Palm Sunday, etc. we have made few purchases and all of these well under budget.

I am currently researching someone who can restore our Swedish Palm Sunday frontal and will advise the Vestry of costs and feasibility before going forward.

Thank you to Jeanette Woehr, Christine Pickup and Rachel Armstrong for their continued devotion to this ministry.

SEXTON SIDESHOW REPORT – Jim & Paula Minacci

Fundraising is something we enjoy doing for Gloria Dei!

Through our entity, Sexton Sideshow, we raise money for the general church fund. It is our way of creating community from within the church and inviting our outside community into our scene, and join together in joyful celebration. We could not do any of this without the help from our Sexton Sidekicks, who are friends, neighbors, and church folk who faithfully donate their time & talent to help with our events. In 2023, we raised over \$13,000 with the events mentioned below.

2023 proved to be a great year for getting people out and about. We began the year with a musical play presented by our very own Eric 13. It was called *Bowie Church* and put over 100 people in the seats.

The Flyng Vees with Sug Daniels put on a wonderful show in the Riverside Hall that sold out all 60 seats (plus standing room).

Jesus Christ Superstar showed up for the 8th time in 2023. This is a timeless show, and we are grateful to E.J. Simpson for his dedication and musical abilities.

Two pancake brunches followed, in August and September. It is believed that pancakes are good to eat any time of the year.

December is the busiest month on the calendar. For the 5th year running, our *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* show has filled the church and pleased the community at large. We now do this show 2 nights in December, following on the tails of the annual Lucia Festival. Monies raised from the *O Brother* shows account for over half of our proceeds at Sexton Sideshow. Thanks to all for their support.

You should also know that we have a silent donor who has given \$500 towards our *Superstar* show every year. We also receive funding from a grant from the City of Philadelphia Parks & Rec for *O Brother*.

All of our events and photo recaps can be found on Facebook & Instagram under “Sexton Sideshow”.

We are working toward a future at Gloria Dei that is filled with music, dance, art, fellowship & community.

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT – Megan Bartlett

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has said quite simply, “Prayer matters. It’s not magic, but it makes a difference.” As the coordinator of our church’s prayer ministry, I have seen the truth in that statement. I still don’t quite understand how prayer “works”, but I don’t think I need to. I see how prayer matters to the people we are praying for, bringing them healing and Presence. I see the impact it has on the people who request prayers for their loved ones, reminding them they and their loved ones are held in God’s Light. I even see how prayer makes a difference in the lives of those of us who do the praying, keeping us in communion with God and awakening us to a Mystery beyond our cognitive and physical knowing.

So, many thanks to all of our intercessors who commit to praying daily for the needs and concerns of others: Dolores Collins, Sally Daly, Julie Daye, Re Henning, Richard Janssen, Margie Kucinski, Nora Melley, Cathy Ufheil, and Rita West. Your prayers matter!

We would love to have others join us in this vital ministry. If you are interested, please let me know: megan77777@yahoo.com. If you have a prayer request, please contact me, Rev. Chris, or Christine McBride (215-389-1513). Prayer requests are sent out to the intercessors once a week on Monday mornings.

MISSIONS REPORT – Jill Duink

Gloria Dei’s Missions Committee meets on zoom the first Wednesday of the month. All are welcome!

In 2023 and 2024 to date Gloria Dei’s missions have included projects with Cradles to Crayons, The Episcopal Diocese of PA, Mercy Hospice, the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, and Snyder Avenue Congregational Church SACC Philly. Our Missions Committee also helped direct funds from the Gloria Dei outreach budget to several families and individuals in need (either members of the congregation or close connections) at the end of 2023. In addition to the work of the Missions Committee, Sexton Sideshow events made it possible for the church to give donations to a family in need, Morris Animal Refuge and to Mercy Hospice.

Cradles to Crayons (C2C) “provides kids with the essentials they need free of charge” (<https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/philadelphia>). In 2023 our confirmation class chose to contribute to and volunteer with C2C for one of their service projects. Ruth and Gigi collected school supplies from our congregation at Gloria Dei; and then they, their teachers, their sponsors and others spent an evening volunteering at the “Giving Factory” in Philadelphia. In January and February of 2024, Gloria Dei collected 8 bags of clothing and shoes, 5 boxes of books, 4 containers of school and craft supplies, and a few personal hygiene items for Cradles to Crayons.

Gloria Dei participated in the 2023 “Giving in Community” project of our Episcopal Diocese of PA. The goal was “to get First Aid Kits into the hands of people who will not seek medical

treatment for simple cuts and are at risk of infection” (<https://www.diopa.org/news/giving-in-communi>). We collected items for and assembled First Aid Kits. We kept several kits and supplies for the community near Gloria Dei, then delivered about 30 kits to Prevention Point at Lehigh & Kensington.

Mercy Hospice “empowers women experiencing homelessness and in recovery to find opportunities for new beginnings....to heal and grow in their ability to lead sober, purposeful lives” (<https://www.mercyhospicephilly.org/mission/>). In 2023 we collected big baskets full of craft and activities supplies for the women, many of whom love to make art and beautiful things. During Lent in 2023 and in 2024, Gloria Dei supported personal growth and Bible Studies at Mercy Hospice by donating Life Recovery Bibles and Workbooks designed to support people in 12-Step Recovery.

At the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great work tirelessly (so it seems to us) to provide food, clothing and other support to those in need. In 2023 Gloria Dei collected children’s clothing for the Sisters to distribute. Volunteers from Gloria Dei help out at the clothing “store,” where everything is free, on Wednesday mornings.

Snyder Avenue Congregational Church SACC Philly is a “multi-ethnic, multi-congregational, Bible-believing church located in South Philadelphia. We make much of the Gospel and serve many refugee and immigrant communities” (<https://saccphilly.org>). In October and November, Gloria Dei contributed many pounds of sustenance to the SACC food pantry. Each week SACC serves about 180 people, many of whom are immigrants and refugees. At Christmas, Gloria Dei brought Christmas joy to 42+ children at SACC. The angels at Gloria Dei selected names of boys and girls from our Angel Tree and gave a special gift to each child.

RIVERSIDE WEDDINGS REPORT – Candace Roberts

Riverside Weddings at Gloria Dei continues to attract new families to Gloria Dei Church, as well as, reconnecting families who were members of the congregation at some time in the past. Our Church sanctuary has consistently received high marks for our history and beauty. As Amy Liberi noted last year, *“Once couples visit our beautiful church and grounds they are excited to host their weddings here which is wonderful feedback!”*. The excitement our wedding couples experience has almost always led to a contract to be married at Gloria Dei. It remains our goal to schedule a site visit as soon as able when couples indicate an interest in being married at Gloria Dei.

Further, our wedding mission is attracting the diversity we have been seeking for many years. Our couples feel welcomed here and many, including their wedding guests, have indicated a desire to come back to Gloria Dei for Sunday services.

We have 5 weddings scheduled between May 18th and June 22. We even have our first weekend with 2 weddings scheduled on a Friday and Saturday.

As an interim stage, Christine McBride has been working with inquiry intake and follow-up; Rev Chris has been become a star at giving tours; and I have been greatly enjoying being the onsite volunteer for rehearsals and weddings to be sure our couples have everything they need to have a stress-free, day of joy at Gloria Dei church.

HISTORY REPORT – Jeanette Woehr

The History Committee is continuing to organize all the records that now reside on the third floor of the Rectory. Some of the letters from our collections. The spelling is as per the record.

To Mr. Charles Harrisson clerk of the Swedes church at Wicacoa

Mr. Harrisson

Sir

I have the misfortune to loose another child a boy. Should be glad you would have the grave opened which the last child was buried in, so as to put them both in one grave, the present corpse to be undermost but if inconvenient to be taken up, dig a fresh grave at the foot or side of the other, 4 feet by 20 or 22 inches wide. The corpse will be at the burying ground at 6:00 if it can be kept like that hour otherwise if it cannot, I shall take care to send word when it will be there; so desire that you may have the grave opened as expeditious as you can, and acquaint the parson that he may govern himself accordingly.

Yours,
Reynold Keen

Sunday night
June 26, 1775

Extract of Elizabeth Vanderspiegle's will dated Dec. 15, 1773

I give and bequeath to the rector, church wardens, and vestrymen of the united Swedish Lutheran churches of Wicoco, Kingsessing, and Upper Merion in the county of Philadelphia the sum of 50 pounds to be expended or laid out for such exigences or uses as concern the said Upper Merion church in particular and in such a manner as by a majority of the male members thereof shall be directed or approved of.

By The briefe of the title made out for Anthony Duche Marget David & Francis Garrigues (by Paul Isaac Voto in the year 1754 or 1764 In their following recital in their said briefe No 4 Vic. The said Gunner died sired of his part of the premises with other hands having first made his last will & Testament. In wrighting dated the 2nd March 1701 and there by did assign all his lands & unmovable estate at Wicaco to be shared in three equal parts one for the Church and Congregations at Wicaco the Church Wardens. Peter Rambo, Mathias Keen & two parts for his brothers Christopher & Andrew.

We continue to be part of "Digitizing Philadelphia's Historic Congregations." Gloria Dei is one of the several historic churches that have joined together to apply and be awarded a \$385,205 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). We are now in the process of transcribing the scanned records.

HGDPC REPORT – Amy Grant

The Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a non-profit organization that preserves and restores Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and its graveyard. Our board of directors are all volunteers ... not one member is paid a single cent for the work we do to help preserve this magnificent property. It's all gratis.

Here are some of our successes in 2023 ...

- Held 5 “Great Talks at Gloria Dei” – With packed programs on Commodore Barry, General Lafayette, popular new foods served at the 1876 Centennial Fair, the importance of historic preservation and stories of immigrants who came into Pier 53 near Washington Avenue – we provided interesting programming for our community.
- Added Special After-Program Social Time – To build community ties and encourage people to mingle, socialize and talk with the speaker or author after our Great Talks programs, we started charging \$10 admission that included a beverage ticket (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). These after-program events in nearby Riverside Hall were very popular. They helped people connect, and also generated needed funds for our preservation efforts. We think that's a win-win-win.
- Sponsored Popular Walking Tours – Led by researcher and writer Michael Schreiber. Among them: tours of Queen Village and of Philadelphia's Headhouse Square.
- Introduced “Boos & Brews” at Halloween Time – Featuring ghost stories and local craft ciders and brews, this event attracted many local young people. This is a key audience we hope to continue to develop.
- Produced a Convenient Smartphone App for Tours – To help our members, visitors and friends better understand who's buried in our graveyard and find them easily, we've put over 80 of these personal stories on our Smartphone App. Developed by our board with the help of a generous grant from both QVNA and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, these self-guided tours and graveyard map allow people to choose whatever graves they want to see – on their schedules.

PROPERTY REPORT – Rev. Chris Micklewright

The past year have seen some major projects around the Gloria Dei buildings and grounds, and I am profoundly grateful for the work of the Property Committee in making these projects a reality. Maintenance of our historic site is always a significant part of our annual budget, and the following list might help you to see why:

- *Move to Rectory:* In August we moved the church office out of the Roak House, allowing us to rent the full building to YCCA. The church offices are now located in the Rectory, which means that we have plenty of space for meetings, that we can better host wedding parties, and that our archives finally have a dedicated space. I've also been discussing with HGDPC the possibility of creating some exhibits in the library on the first floor of the Rectory, which could be a great outreach to tourists and which would make us eligible for more grants.
- *Roak Renovations:* The terms of our new lease with YCCA required some painting and renovations on the building. While we initially ran into some problems with the age of the building and the materials used in construction, the project was successfully completed by the end of 2023.
- *Sexton Roof & Ceiling:* After a little time away, our Sextons came home to discover a leak in their roof. Working with a wonderful contractor, we were able to make repairs to the roof that will keep it in good working order for years to come. In repairing the interior damage, we also upgraded the lighting on the third floor of the Sexton house.
- *Riverside Gutters & Floor:* Speaking of water damage, we had been having leaks in the Riverside Hall that resulted in some holes in the floor. New gutters and some roof repairs seem to have solved the leaks, and we patched the holes in the floor. However, the Riverside floor is definitely showing its age, and it is now too thin to allow further sanding and refinishing. As such, the Vestry is discussing options for replacing the floor in the next year or so.
- *Organ maintenance:* At the recommendation of Paul Fejko, we have committed to a major servicing of our organ. This will keep the instrument in good working order, and prevent it from needing a full rebuild (like was done 20+ years ago).
- *Church Roof Grant Application:* With the help and support of Partners for Sacred Places, HGDPC has applied for a grant that could cover the cost of a new roof for the church. We are also excited by new materials that mimic the look of the historic cedar roof while lasting decades longer. Please pray that the grant gets approved!
- *Riverside Kitchen Grant:* Speaking of grants, a generous anonymous donor recently gave us \$10,000 toward repairs and improvements in the Riverside kitchen. This will cover new condensers for the fridge and freezer (hopefully much quieter), a new dishwasher, new sink fixtures, and more.

Even with all that has been accomplished in the past year, there is still so much more to do. To that end, the Property Committee has created a master list of projects around our site. If you'd like to learn more, you're warmly invited to speak with Rev. Chris or to join us for Property Committee meetings.

Notes...

S T A F F

Paul Fejko, Music Director
Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
Paula & James Minacci, Sextons
Christine McBride, Wedding and Event Coordinator

V E S T R Y

Jaime Konowal (Rector's Warden)
Ann Brilliant - Carol Jenkins - Jill Duink - Amy Grant - Lisa Reeves
Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden) - Cathy Ufheil (Secretary) - Jeanette Woehr