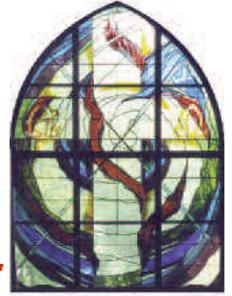


# CREATOR



## Chronicle



April 2016

*“As a congregation named for our Creator, we are children of the Living God, beloved brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, selflessly living out our faith in worship, fellowship, giving, education and outreach.”*

### 10 truths about Jesus that may surprise you (or maybe not)

Dear Friends:

Every once in a while, I'll pick up a book about Jesus in search of fresh insights, accessible to all, on the man and his mission. My personal preference is that these books not be tied to any specific dogma or religion, but that they explore the many mysteries and myths that surround Jesus and his life. Just such a book is *Jesus, the Human Face of God* by scholar Jay Parini.

The author identifies himself as a Christian and a regular churchgoer, but he is decidedly a man who looks beyond the Bible for answers. He has done his homework and uses Gnostic and historical texts to look at the misconceptions about Jesus, as well as uncover hidden truths. Below are 10, many of which I have heard before, that continue to fascinate me, as well as a few that surprise me.

- **Jesus never set out to create a new religion.** He considered himself a devout Jew with his own ideas on how to reform Judaism, not someone who planned to start his own religion. Even his earliest followers, who called him Rabbi or Teacher, mainly saw themselves as Jews who wanted to modify Judaic practices, not create a separate religion.
- **According to Jesus, he didn't perform miracles. Those around him did.** Jesus emphasized that he wasn't the reason miracles of healing occurred, what mattered was the faith of the person being healed. Jesus thought of himself as an instrument of God—who enabled people to be healed through their own belief. For instance, in Luke 17:19, Jesus heals ten lepers and proclaims, “Rise and go, your faith has made you whole.”

*Continued on page 2*

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Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Priest-In-Charge \* office hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Please call the church office, 601-924-2261, to schedule an appointment.

- **Jesus told us a secret: how to access his kingdom.** Parini reminds us that in the Beatitudes, Jesus emphasized that the kingdom of heaven was immediately available to those who practiced the same virtues that he did. These include humility, mercy, peacefulness and, of course, love. If you lived your life with these qualities, Jesus said that you too could open the doors of heaven here on Earth.
- **Post-resurrection, even his closest followers didn't recognize Jesus.** After the death of Jesus, Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb—but does not recognize the resurrected Jesus, mistaking him for a gardener. Neither did several of his other disciples, including two who saw him at the shore (John 21:4). Parini believes there is a subtle teaching here: “We should not expect to recognize Jesus at first, even as he awakens within us.”
- **His family members may have thought he was nuts.** His family appears to have regarded him as somewhat volatile, even mad, and that his ideas were strange. When he was preaching to a large crowd one unidentified family members even yelled out, “He’s out of his mind” (Mark 3:21).
- **Like President’s Day, the birthday of Jesus was combined with another holiday.** Christians didn’t settle on December 25<sup>th</sup> as Christmas Day until the fourth century. This choice probably had something to do its proximity to the winter solstice—and the fact that it was near a “feast day” celebrating Sol Invictus, the official sun god of the Roman Empire.
- **Did Jesus really raise Lazarus from the dead? Maybe, maybe not.** Parini sees the meaning of the raising of Lazarus as potentially symbolic, not a literal raising of the dead, but a figurative one. It ties into an early-Christian belief that many of the teachings of the Bible were not meant to be taken literally. Lazarus stands in for everyone who follows Jesus and finds himself raised from the “living dead” to a new life.
- **“Wake up to God...his kingdom is inside you, within your grasp.”** The bold line above is Parini’s take on the true meaning of Matthew 3:2, which usually reads: “*Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*”. He believes the original translators inserted the word “repent” for an Aramaic word that has a very different meaning. Additionally, as several early Christian texts point out, the kingdom of heaven is found not above, but here within our reach.
- **The Gospel of Paul comes second in the Bible. But was historically first.** The first complete versions of the gospels date to the fourth century—a very long time after the events they describe. It is also important to note, that while the letters of Paul appear after the four gospels in the Bible, they represent the earliest Christian documents. The four gospels were written after them. Also curious: Paul makes no mention of either the life or death of Jesus, only his teachings.
- **To be a follower of Jesus, you don't have to go to church.** To quote Parini: *Jesus never meant to found a formal church with rituals and organized practices, to ordain priests, or to issue doctrinaire statements that formed a rigid program for salvation. Other than “follow me,” his only commandment was “to love one another as I have loved you.”*

# Choir *Notes*

*Submitted by Dr. Ed Dacus, Choirmaster*

The Church of the Creator is a most wonderful, close-knit, thriving community, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to have been a part of this parish. It has been a distinct pleasure to have been a part of the ministry of Creator, and the people of this church will always hold a very special place in my heart. We shall sincerely miss you all.

The past eight years at Creator have been joyous years in the music ministry. The Adult Choir is truly, truly exceptional, able to sing very difficult music remarkably well, but, more importantly, to touch the congregation spiritually week after week with their leadership in the music in worship. This group has remained faithful during some trying times in the recent past, and continues to strengthen a now strong parish through its loyalty to Creator and dedication to the cause of Christ.

We are grateful for Creator's providing a nurturing environment that has allowed us to grow so much spiritually. Emily Katherine was confirmed here, and Jonathan will be confirmed at the next bishop's visit. We will always be appreciative for Creator's rational and compassionate attitude that has taught us to view the world with open eyes and compassionate hearts.

And, thank you for the most generous Kroger gift card you gave us on Easter Sunday! If you were aware of how many groceries we go through in a month, you would know that it was the perfect gift for us!

We will continually pray for Creator and its mission in spreading love to fostering respect for all people, and its mandate to take care of our earthly home.

Thank you, from the depths of our being for allowing us be a part of this most incredible parish.

—*the Dacus family*

## Labyrinth Lovers

**Sunday, April 10, after 10:30 Eucharist**

Mark Sunday April 10 for the labyrinth lovers paint day and cookout! Come one and all to participate in Creator's big day: the painting of the outside labyrinth, as we cook and dine together as well. The menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and dessert, with all the fixings therein.

Consider memorial benches, crosses, and signage to direct the community and provide for comfort for the participants as they seek spiritual connection/direction by walking the labyrinth provided by the Church of the Creator. John Lanford is in charge of the outside painting. Thanks, John!

In the meantime, please contact Polly to sign up for the food! We shall prepare for 100.

We need several people for each category...

*Submitted by Polly Marshall*



## **Rainy day Easter Egg Hunt in the Nave**





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## TROOP 345 2016 CALENDAR

APRIL & MAY

EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECTS

JUNE 18-24

TROOP WHITE WATER TRIP OR SUMMER CAMP @ HSR



**Scoutmaster, Troop #345**

Franklin Nored

601-260-3166

Email: [ffnored@comcast.net](mailto:ffnored@comcast.net)



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## Bible Study: The Experience of God's Presence

Sometimes in the hustle and bustle of the 21st century, we humans get lost in the clamor and noise of Madison Avenue and mass media over the din of how do I pay the mortgage or rent, keep food on the table, and pay the medical bills that we can hear little else. So we need some time to settle down (or center ourselves) on the essence of being human. What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of the Creator God who is true being (the great I AM?) To assist in this "getting back to the basics" effort, it is good to re-visit what the great teachers and masters of the past have to say about our primary calling or vocation as human beings.

The experience of God's presence and recognizing that presence is at the root of Christian Spirituality. All the Spiritual masters understood this and their experiences have been documented from the unknown writer of "The Cloud of Unknowing", to the more contemporary Howard Thurman, Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen, and Fr. William A. Barry, SJ.

These are a few of the authors and teachers we will be drawing on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.**



### Prime Timers

Wednesday, April 6

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



# Stations of the Cross Walkway

Sara Waldbauer has been working on a plan for building a Stations of the Cross Walkway for the Church of the Creator. Our mission as a church family strongly affirms the power of meditation as a great instrument that brings communities into a collective space of praise and reflection. It will be the first of its kind in Clinton and it is hoped that the Walkway will be a way to bring the greater community together. We, as a congregation and as individuals, will be able to experience this expressive way of worship. The trail will begin to the right of the former education trailer/atrium with stations spaced about 15 feet apart on a footpath that will be easily accessible to all. Sara and Larry Estes will be building the stations and we hope to have help from others setting the posts and forming the pathway.

You can sponsor a station with plaque for \$150. Benches will range from \$150 to \$1400 dependent on what type of bench you would prefer. Further costs will include: building the Walkway so that it is a permanent structure, protecting the Walkway by adding some water run-off diversion. More information on this will be coming.

Later, it is hoped that plants will be added to the Walkway to enhance its beauty and serenity. To support Sara in her endeavor, we will sponsor several money raising events for the needed materials.

The first event will be a **Soup and Salad Supper and a Movie**, *see below*. We are also planning a Mystery Dinner Theater to be held in May. Sara will also accept any donations you wish to add for the Walkway. Please direct all inquiries to Sara Waldbauer, 601-278-8700.



**Come Join Us!**  
**SOUP, SALAD AND A MOVIE!**

**April 13, 2016, 5:30 pm**

**Episcopal Church of the Creator**

**"Secondhand Lions"**



100% of the donations go to support Sara Waldbauer's "Stations of the Cross Walkway" project.

Suggested Donations: \$25/family of 4, \$10/adult, \$5/child under 12

Pick up Available!

# VESTRY DIGEST

## The March 21 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

**Present:** Bob Blanton, Priest-in-Charge, Joyce White, Senior Warden, Frank Hennington, Junior Warden, Mimi Bussell, Vicky Donaho, Andrew Wilder, John Lanford, Linda Waldbauer, and Chuck Runyan.

**Absent:** Deborah Runyan, Vestry Clerk

**Visitors:** Bettye Sue Hennington and Sara Waldbauer

## **Presentation of Stations of the Cross Trail**

Sara Waldbauer discussed needed materials and basic layout of the trail. Sara will conduct fundraisers and request that the church match raised funds as needed. The project will be presented to the congregation at the Easter Sunday Luncheon. Sara will lead this project with assistance from congregation members. A landscape architect will also be used for putting in a dry creek bed and to prepare area so that it will remain dry. Bettye Sue Hennington assisted Sara with her presentation and the price lists for materials.

## **Junior Warden Report**

- Frank Hennington gave the report. All the exterior lights have been repaired or replaced. He expressed a need to go into the attic and investigate the water leaks over the kitchen. He thinks that the leaks involve the exhaust vents over the kitchen.
- Mike Wright and Frank will repair a broken PVC pipe near the sewer line.
- Frank requested expressed the need for a Grounds and Facilities Committee and has decided to make the third Saturday of each month a repair and clean up day at the church

## **Treasurer Report**

- Mike Piazza presented the financial committee update.
- The Uganda transfer of designated funds has been completed. The Finance Committee continues to meet and organize. Mike Wright and Mike Piazza have been given signatory rights by the bank.
- The Finance Committee recommends that beginning in September 2016 the exterminator contract be awarded to Cook Lawn.

## **Old Business**

- 2017 Delegates for Annual Council have been finalized.
- Completion of the labyrinth has been moved to April 10, 2016 due to the memorial service for Chris Noble on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April.
- A memorial service for the old sanctuary that was in the trailer will be on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The grounds and altar will be deconsecrated.

*Continued on page 8*

## New Business

- Vestry Committees have been determined. Christian Education will have John Lanford as the vestry representative, Grounds and Facilities will be headed by Frank Hennington, Hospitality, Luncheons, and Special Events will have Andrew Wilder and Vicki Donaho as the vestry representatives. Pastoral Care and Home Communion - Mimi Bussell. Worship, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, and Receptions - Chuck Runyan
- Easter Luncheon - An E-mail will be sent out to help coordinate set up and take down crews.

*Minutes of vestry meetings may be found on the bulletin board outside the administrator's office following their approval and correction if needed. If you would like a copy, please call the office and a copy will be provided to you via email.*

*Pastor Bob's article continued from page 2*

- **And:** although we are called to a **personal** faith, we are never called to a **private** faith. There is no such thing as private Christianity. Either the privacy destroys the Christianity, or the Christianity destroys the privacy. Christianity, embodied in **loving one another**, is always a full-time community affair. It is wise to choose a community that supports your love of one another.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

### Gray Center Master Plan Community Meetings

For the past several months, Gray Center has been working with Kaleidoscope, Inc. in Ohio to create a plan for a better Gray Center. An important part of this process is bringing the conversation to you, our diocese. We will be discussing possible future changes with our camp and conference center and would love to hear your feedback as we proceed with this process. You will be able to see preliminary ideas and locations and get a glimpse into our future. Please be part of our growth and progress by attending a meeting in your area. This is an exciting time in the history of our camp and conference center and we are excited to have our diocese travel with us on this journey!

<p>Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016</p> <p>St. Andrew's Cathedral</p> <p>Jackson, MS</p> <p>6:00 – 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016</p> <p>St. Peter's By-The-Sea</p> <p>Gulfport, MS</p> <p>6:00 – 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016</p> <p>St. Peter's</p> <p>Oxford, MS</p> <p>6:00 – 7:30 PM</p>
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# CREATOR *April Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<p><i>3</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p> <p><b>Beth out of the Office 4th - 6th</b></p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>12:00 am: Healing Service 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>1</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>10</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p> <p><b>Labyrinth paint day and cookout!</b></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 5:30 Soup, Salad &amp; Movie</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>15</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>17</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p> <p><b>FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's</b></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Vestry 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>24</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting</p>

# April Servers

	3	10	17	24	
Chalice	Wendy Brantley Chuck Runyan	Bob White Joyce White	Mike Milone Richard McMullan	Mike Milone Chuck Runyan	
Lectors	John Lanford Wendy Brantley	Chuck Runyan John Richard	Fred Shirley Stone Braley	Richard McMullan Joan Blanton	
Prayers	Fred Shirley	Chuck Runyan	Max Lanford	Janie Fields	
Acolytes	Ruby Lanford Max Lanford	John Richard Max Lanford	Landon Daniel Stone Braley	Maddie Gray Braley Rowan Braley	
Ushers	Richard McMullan Tristan McMullan	Mimi Bussell Rivers McMullan	Beth Braley Rowan Braley	Doug George Abbey Donaho	
Altar	Kathy Milone	Katy Lanford	Larry Estes	Lisa Prestridge	
Home Communion			Mimi Bussell		
Vestry Person of the Day	John Lanford	Andrew Wilder	Joyce White	Mimi Bussell	



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



	<b>Birthdays</b>	10	Nickie Carre	29	Courtney Randall
2	Joan Blanton		Gale Nelson	30	Charles Williams
3	Jolyne Shirley		Beverly Wilder		<b>Anniversaries</b>
	Pamela Wilder	13	Kathy Milone	4	Scott & Linda Waldbauer
6	Jim Green	15	Jim Sharp	9	Chuck & Deborah Runyan
	Richard McMullan	16	April Daniel	19	Frank &
	Amy Daniel	20	Tristan McMullan		Betty Sue Hennington
7	Max Lanford	28	Mary Hulsebosch		

# Episcopal Church of the Creator

## Church Office Hours:

9:00 am—2 pm, Monday—Thursday

### *Presiding Bishop*

**The Most Reverend Michael Curry**

### *Bishop*

**The Very Reverend Brian Seage**

### *Priest-In-Charge*

**The Reverend Robert M. Blanton**

### *Deacon*

**The Reverend Deacon Bill Hanna**

### *Administrator*

**Beth Braley**

[ecreator@bellsouth.net](mailto:ecreator@bellsouth.net)

### *Choir Director*

**Ezra Wall**

[ewallmedia@gmail.com](mailto:ewallmedia@gmail.com)

### *Senior Warden*

**Joyce White, 601-924-3796**

### *Junior Warden*

**Frank Hennington, 601-924-3056**

### *Treasurer*

**Vacant**

### *Vestry*

**Chuck Runyan, 601-925-0829**

**Andrew Wilder, 601-842-0058**

**John Lanford, 601-708-4374**

**Mimi Bussell, 601-924-7066**

**Vicky Donaho, 601-924-5107**

## *Contacts*

### Church Office

Administrator—Beth Braley, 601-924-2261, Home: 601-924-7889

Email: [ecreator@bellsouth.net](mailto:ecreator@bellsouth.net)

### Pastoral Emergencies

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

Polly Marshall, Cell: 601-953-2980

### Acolytes

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305, Home: 601-925-6009

### Adult Christian Education

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

### Altar Guild

Peggy Wilder, Home: 601-926-1075

### Choir

Ezra Wall, Cell: 601-454-4811, Text preferred

### Children's Christian Education

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

### Columbarium

Wendy Brantley, Home: 601-924-1695

### Flower Guild

Becky Wright, Cell: 601-940-4861

Betty Sue Hennington, Cell: 601-955-9970

Lisa Chandler, Cell: 601-540-4045

### Funeral Guild

Chuck Runyan, 601-925-0829

### Outreach

The Reverend Deacon Bill Hanna, 601-605-8523

### Parish Lunches & Special Events

Janie Fields, Home: 601-922-2759, Cell: 601-624-8614

### Scouting Committee Chairman

Jim Brantley, Cell: 601-940-1962

### Wedding Coordinator

Kathy Milone, Home: 601-925-6009



Episcopal Church of the Creator  
1445 Clinton-Raymond Rd.  
Clinton, MS 39056

*We are part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion and in communion with the  
Archbishop of Canterbury.*

“We are a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi: One church in mission, inviting, transforming, and reconciling. We seek to serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.”