

# CREATOR

# Chronicle



February 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.”*

**Dear Friends:**

This month I want to share an adaptation of an article by Tim Hoch I found in the *Thought Catalog*. I would like us to consider some of these unproductive activities/habits when we are identifying behaviors that we might sacrifice this year during **Lent**.

## **10 Ways We’re Making Our Lives Harder Than They Have To Be**

### **1. We ascribe intent.**

Another driver cut you off. Your friend never texted you back. Your co-worker went to lunch without you. Everyone can find a reason to be offended on a regular basis. So what caused us to be offended? We assigned bad intent to these otherwise innocuous actions. We took it as a personal affront, a slap in the face.

Happy people (grateful people) do not do this. They don’t take things personally. They don’t ascribe intent to the unintentional actions of others.

### **2. We’re the stars of our own movies.**

It is little wonder that we believe the world revolves around us. After all, we have been at the very center of every experience we have ever had. We are the stars of our own movies. We wrote the script. We know how we want it to unfold. We even know how we want it to end.

Unfortunately, we forgot to give our script to anyone else. As a result, people are unaware of the role they are supposed to play. Then, when they screw up their lines, or fail to fall in love with us or don’t give us a promotion, our movie is ruined. It is time for us to loosen our scripts. Let someone else star once in a while. Welcome new characters. Embrace plot twists.

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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.

### **3. We fast forward to apocalypse.**

Some of us have a bad habit of fast-forwarding everything to its worst possible outcome and being pleasantly surprised when the result is marginally better than utter disaster or jail time. Our minds unnecessarily wrestle with events that aren't even remotely likely. "My sore throat is cancer. My lost driver's license fell into the hands of an al-Qaeda operative who will wipe out my savings account."

Negativity only breeds more negativity. It is a happiness riptide. It will carry us away from shore and if we don't swim out of it, it will pull us under.

### **4. We have unrealistic and/or un-communicated expectations.**

Among the many shortcomings of our families and friends is the harsh reality that they cannot read our minds or anticipate our whims. "Did your boyfriend forget the six and a half month anniversary of your first movie date? Did your girlfriend refuse to call at an appointed hour? Did your spouse fail to complete a promised task or to show sympathy about a trying time at work?" Unmet expectations will be at the root of most of our unhappiness in life. "Minimize your expectations; maximize your joy."

### **5. We are waiting for a sign.**

I have a friend who won't make a decision without receiving a "sign." I suppose she is waiting on a trumpeted announcement from God. She is constantly paralyzed by a divinity that is either heavily obscured or frustratingly tardy. I'm not disavowing that fate or a higher power plays a role in our lives. I'm just saying that it is better to help shape fate than be governed by it.

### **6. We don't take risks.**

Two words: "Live boldly." Every time you are offered an opportunity that involves some risk, you should consider taking it. "You will lose on many of them but when you add them up at the end of your life you'll be glad you did."

### **7. We constantly compare our lives to others.**

"Several years ago I was invited to a nice party at a big warehouse downtown. I was enjoying the smooth jazz, box wine and crust-less sandwiches. What more could a guy want? Later in the evening I noticed a steady parade of well-heeled people slide past and disappear into another room. I peeked and saw a large party with beautiful revelers dancing and carrying on like Bacchus. Suddenly my gig wasn't as fun as it had been all because it didn't appear to measure up to the party next door . . . a party I didn't even know existed until just moments before." We do this frequently. Those people are having more fun. Mary has a bigger boat. Craig gets all the lucky breaks. Ted has more money. John is better looking . . . **Stop it!** . . . Remember what

*Continued from page 2*

Teddy Roosevelt said: "Comparison is the thief of joy."

### **8. We let other people steal from us.**

If we had a million dollars in cash under our mattress, we would check it regularly and take precautions to insure that it was safe. The one possession we have that is more important than money is time. But we don't do anything to protect it. In fact we willingly give it to thieves.

Self-centered people, egotistical people, negative people, people who have no time for your response. Treat your time like Fort Knox. Guard it closely and give it to those who truly need it and respect it.

### **9. We can't/won't let go.**

These are getting a little harder aren't they? That's because sometimes we have to work at happiness (being grateful). Some hurdles are too difficult to clear by simply adjusting our point of view or adopting a positive mindset. Questions we should consider: "Do you need to forgive someone? Do you need to turn your back on a failed relationship? Do you need to come to terms with the death of a loved one?" Life is full of loss. But, in a sense, real happiness would not be possible without it. Loss helps us appreciate and savor the things that really matter. It helps us grow. It can help us help others to grow. Closure is a word for people who have never really suffered. There's no such thing. "Just try to 'manage' your loss. Put it in perspective. You will always have some regret and doubt about your loss. You may always second-guess yourself. If only you had said this, or tried that. You're not alone. Find someone who understands and talk to that person. Reach out for support. If all else fails, try #10 below."

### **10. We don't give back.**

"One way to deal with loss is to immerse yourself in doing good. Volunteer. Get involved in life. It doesn't even have to be a big, structured thing. Say a kind word. Encourage someone. Pay a visit to someone who is alone. Get away from your self-absorption. When it comes down to it, there are two types of people in this world. There are givers and there are takers. Givers are happy (grateful). Takers are miserable (self-centered). What are you?" Always remember: "In Christ, all things are possible."

**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Bob**



## **Prime Timers**

Wednesday, February 3

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



*From the*

## Deacon's *Desk*

I was ordained in January 2003. While reflecting last year on my approaching 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a deacon, I decided that it was past time for me to spend some time in reflection on my ministry. At my annual meeting with Bishop Seage in January, I discussed with him the possibility of taking a sabbatical in order to “get away” to spend time in discernment about my ministry. Bishop Seage was very supportive and encouraged me to do so.

I've spoken with Pastor Bob and we've agreed that my sabbatical will coincide with Lent. My last Sunday to serve liturgically before my sabbatical begins will be February 7. I will return to Creator on Sunday, April 10.

My plan is to spend some of my sabbatical on retreat at the Jesuit retreat center of Grand Coteau and the Franciscan retreat center, the Dwelling Place. I ask for your prayers that this time will be meaningful for my ministry as a deacon. I look forward to being back with you in April.

Deacon Bill

### **Confirmation and Inquiry Class**

During Lent, Pastor Bob will be leading a *Confirmation and New Members-Inquiry Class* at 6:30 p.m. beginning on February 17th and continuing on Wednesday evenings for 6 weeks, until March 16th. Congregation youth as well as adults interested in learning more about the Episcopal expression of the Christian faith and practice are encouraged to participate.

Every youth participant will be expected to be accompanied by an adult relative or sponsor for every session. Contact the church office for complete details.

### **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.** as we continue in our course of study during Lent.



Creator's VESTRY is pleased to present:

Our Creator is Love  
**VALENTINE'S DINNER**

Sunday, February 14, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Creator's Parish Hall

Tea, Water, Salad, Baked Potato, Steak, Rolls and Dessert  
(Wine corking available, if you wish to BYOB)

**\$20.00 per person**

**Free Transportation and Child Care Available**

**Please RSVP to this email by *Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>***

or see a Vestry Member.

Come join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and LOVE!





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



### Welcome Boy Scout Troop #345

Have you heard the great news? Creator has been chartered by the Boy Scouts of America to host Troop #345. In honor of this, we will be celebrating our first “Scout Sunday” on February 7, (*February 8 is the anniversary of the founding of Scouting in America*).

Troup 345 began meeting at our church January 18 and will continue to meet each Monday at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Franklin Nored is the Scout Master and Jim Brantley is our Scouting Committee Chairman.

## TROOP 345 2016 CALENDAR

JAN 23	HSR CAMP STAFF INTERVIEWS
JAN 29	STEM WEEKEND @ UMMC
JAN 30	OA LODGE BANQUET
FEB 5	EAGLE BANQUET, JACKSON HILTON
FEB 7	SCOUT SUNDAY
FEB 19-21	TROOP CAMPING TRIP (tentative)
MARCH 4-7	HSR SPRING CAMP
MARCH 18-20	FOUR RIVERS SPRING CAMPOREE at NATCHEZ POW WOW
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)



**Prepared. For Life.®**



# Why Scouting!

Scouting is a youth organization that uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness for every member. The Boy Scouts of America makes Scouting available to our nation's youth by chartering community organizations to operate Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, and Explorer Posts. The chartered organization (*The Church of the Creator*) must provide an adequate and safe meeting place and capable adult leadership, and must adhere to the principles and policies of the BSA.

## How Scouting Came to America

*(The Story of a Good Turn, Boy Scout Handbook, Tenth Edition, Chapter 26, Boy Scouts of America)*

How good must a Good Turn be to be good? The answer is best given by telling you the story of how Scouting came to America. It shows that it isn't the size of a Good Turn that counts. What is important is the spirit with which a Scout does a Good Turn. "Do a Good Turn Daily" is the Scout Slogan.

One Day in 1909 in London, England, an American visitor, William D. Boyce, lost his way in a dense fog. He Stopped under a street lamp and tried to figure out where he was. A boy approached him and asked if he could be of help. "You certainly can," said Boyce. He told the boy that he wanted to find a certain business office in the center of the city. "I'll take you there," said the boy. When they got to the destination, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket for a tip. But the boy stopped him. "No thank you, sir. I am a Scout. I won't take anything for helping."

"A Scout? And what might that be?" asked Boyce. The boy told the American about himself and his brother Scouts. Boyce became very interested. After finishing his errand, he had the boy take him to the British Scouting office.

At the office, Boyce met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the famous British general who had founded the Scouting movement in Great Britain. Boyce was so impressed with what he learned that he decided to bring Scouting home with him.

On February 8, 1910, Boyce and a group of outstanding leaders founded the Boy Scouts of America. From that day forth, Scouts have celebrated February 8 as the birthday of Scouting in the United States.

What happened to the boy who helped Mr. Boyce find his way in the fog? No one knows. He had neither asked for money nor given his name, but he will never be forgotten. His Good Turn helped bring the Scouting movement to our country.

In the British Scout Training Center at Gilwell Park, England, Scouts from the United States erected a statue of an American buffalo in honor of this unknown Scout. One Good Turn to one man became a Good Turn to millions of American boys. Such is the power of a Good Turn.

**Be Prepared**



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®**

**Do a good Turn Daily**

# VESTRY DIGEST

## The January 11 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

**Present:** Bob Blanton, Priest-in-Charge, Joyce White, Senior Warden, Frank Hennington, Junior Warden, Vicky Donaho, Jane Kany, Chuck Runyan, Linda Waldbauer, Mimi Bussell, Deborah Runyan, Clerk of the Vestry, Jennifer Wilson, Treasurer.

**Junior Warden Report:** Projects are on going, but Frank Hennington stated that the piping in the attic of the new building is not insulated, and he thinks it would be a good idea to insulate the pipes. Frank will procure and install the insulation.

### **Treasurer Report:**

The proposed budget for 2016 was reviewed. Various categories were discussed and minor alterations made. Fundraisers are no longer part of the budget. Chuck Runyan moved to accept the budget after discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **Old Business:**

- Linda Waldbauer moved to appoint Mimi Bussell to complete Jane Kany's remaining two years of office. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- John Lanford and Andrew Wilder have volunteered to serve on the vestry.
- Jennifer Wilson has served as treasurer for many years and no longer wishes to serve in this role. She is willing to assist during a transition.
- The vestry discussed forming a finance committee to serve in the treasurer's role. Chuck Runyan moved that the Vestry recommend that Creator form a finance committee. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Valentines Day Dinner-Menus were reviewed. Cost, tickets, and services to be provided were discussed. Tickets will be \$20 each. Finalization of details will be forthcoming soon from Linda Waldbauer and Vicky Donaho.

### **New Business:**

- The annual meeting was discussed. Vestry members who have headed various committees will prepare a summary of the years activities, and hopes and plans for the coming year.
- Planned remarks should be given to Bob Blanton, priest in charge, for review by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

*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.*

# CREATOR *February Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	<i>1</i> 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	<i>2</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>3</i> 12:00 am: Healing Service 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 7 pm: Adult Choir	<i>4</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
<i>7</i> 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass  <b>Scout Sunday</b>	<i>8</i> 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	<i>9</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>10</i> 7 pm: Adult Choir <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Noon &amp; 6:30 pm</b> 	<i>11</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
<i>14</i> 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass <b>Valentine's Dinner</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> <b>Lent I</b>	<i>15</i> 6:30 pm: Vestry 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	<i>16</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>17</i> 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class 7:00 pm: Adult Choir	<i>18</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
<i>21</i> 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass <b>FOOD PANTRY</b> <b>for the 4 C's</b> <b>Lent II</b>	<i>22</i> 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	<i>23</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>24</i> 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class 7:00 pm: Adult Choir	<i>25</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
<i>28</i> 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass <b>Lent III</b>	<i>29</i> 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	<i>1</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>2</i> 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class 7:00 pm: Adult Choir	<i>3</i> 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting

# February Servers

	7	14	21	28	
Chalice	Mike Milone	Bob White	Mike Milone	Bob White	
	Chuck Runyan	Joyce White	Wendy Brantley	Richard McMullan	
Lectors	Deborah Runyan	Wendy Brantley	John Lanford	Michael Piazza	
	Max Lanford	Stone Braley	Maddie Gray Braley	Jonathan Dacus	
Prayers	Janie Fields	Chuck Runyan	Fred Shirley	Deborah Runyan	
Acolytes	Landon Daniel	John Richard	Landon Daniel	Jonathan Dacus	
	Ruby Lanford	Stone Braley	Rowan Braley	Max Lanford	
Ushers	Mimi Bussell	Monty Braley	Doug George	Richard McMullan	
	Tristan McMullan	Rowan Braley	Abby Donaho	Rivers McMullan	
Altar	Larry Estes	Joyce White	Rhea Estes	Kathy Milone	
Home Communion		Jane Kany			
		Mimi Bussell			
Vestry Person of the Day	Vicky Donaho	Joyce White	Mimi Bussell	Frank Hennington	



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

- 4 Isabel Mills
- 5 Rhea Estes
- 6 Landon Daniel
- 7 Fred Shirley
- 8 Pam Claypool
- 10 Marty Singletary
- 11 Hannah Gardner

13 Mary Page

- 14 Tony Chandler
- 15 John Lanford
- 18 Kevin White
- 24 Wendy Brantley
- 25 Mitchell Singletary
- 26 Christopher Hanna

### Anniversaries

# 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

### *Choir Director / Organist*

**Dr. Edward Dacus**

eddacus@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

### 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

### Adult / Youth Choirs

Dr. Edward Dacus, Home: 601-925-9304

### 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

Mary Page, 601-924-1828

### 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.”