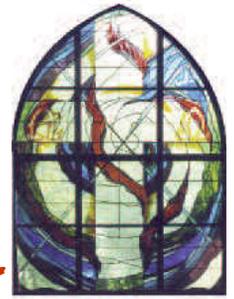


# CREATOR



# Chronicle



May 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:**

## **Works without Faith**

Regarding the Famous quote from The Epistle of St. James "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (James 2:17) sourced from articles by Bruce Sanguin and Richard Rohr.

The issue for James is that the community, it seems, are not walking the talk. They have "faith" but are sucking up to the wealthy people and ignoring the poor. I can't tell you how many times I've heard the saying, "Faith without works is dead". Well, this is where it comes from. Faith, says James, can't save you, and it doesn't put food in the belly of the hungry or money in the hands of the poor.

When "having faith" is understood as a private matter of an individual's soul being saved for eternity, and it never gets much further than saving one's own bacon, James introduces a really important corrective. In an overly academic environment, intellectualism can also replace faith. Richard Rohr points out that St. Francis was a man who intentionally corrected an overly pietistic, private expression of faith in the Roman Catholic Church:

*Those who have analyzed the writings of Francis have noted that he uses the word doing rather than understanding at a ratio of 175 times to 5. Heart is used 42 times to 1 use of mind. Love is used 23 times as opposed to 12 uses of truth. Mercy is used 26 times while intellect is used only 1 time. This is a very new perspective that is clearly different from (and an antidote to) the verbally argumentative Christianity of his time, and from the highly academic theology that would hold sway from then on.*

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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.

*Continued from page 1*

Point, well taken. However, what struck me when I read it is that 2000 years later the liberal church actually has the opposite challenge. We've got plenty of good works, but faith is on its last legs. It seems to me that good works is *identified* with faith. Many of us have become social service agencies. And no question about it, good work is getting done. In fact, most social service agencies got started as church initiatives that got hived off to the government. It's not that this is a bad thing. Theologian Don Cupitt is convinced that the secularization of faith is also its realization. The church can happily fold up its tent now having successfully built the moral foundation of society. (Obviously, this is an exaggeration as the poor are, indeed, still with us).

My argument is that the pendulum has swung in this direction long enough, and it's actually time to swing back toward faith. The progressive church continues to be in the stage that French philosopher, Paul Ricoeur, called "critical distancing". We have been critically distancing ourselves from the traditional, male God-in-the-Sky who rewards the good and punishes the bad, and is engineering the whole show from the wings. This was a necessary stage of faith development, from conventional to post-conventional and beyond.

The challenge is that having successfully eviscerated that God, we haven't been as successful in recruiting a replacement. We don't know what faith means anymore. What is we are supposed to have faith "in" exactly.

It's nobody's fault. But it is taking a toll. Richard Rohr writes: "Thomas Merton said it was actually dangerous to put the Scriptures in the hands of people whose inner self is not yet sufficiently awakened to encounter the Spirit, because they will try to use God for their own egocentric purposes. (This is why religion is so subject to corruption!) Now, if we are going to talk about conversion and penance, let me apply that to the two major groups that have occupied Western Christianity—Catholics and Protestants. Neither one of us has really let the Word of God guide our lives.

"Catholics need to be converted to giving the Scriptures some actual authority in their lives. Luther wasn't wrong when he said that most Catholics did not read the Bible. Most Catholics are still not that interested in the Bible. (Historically they did not have the printing press, nor could most people read, so you can't blame them entirely.) I [Richard Rohr] have been a priest for 42 years now, and I would sadly say that most Catholics would rather hear quotes from saints, Popes, and bishops, the current news, or funny stories, if they are to pay attention. If I quote strongly from the Sermon on the Mount, they are almost throwaway lines. I can see Catholics glaze over because they have never read the New Testament, much less studied it, or been guided by it. I am very sad to have to admit this. It is the Achilles heel of much of the Catholic world, priests included. (The only good thing about it is that they never fight you like Protestants do about Scripture. They are easily duped, and the hierarchy has been able to take advantage of this.)

"If Catholics need to be converted, Protestants need to do penance. Their shout of 'sola Scriptura' (only Scripture) has left them at the mercy of their own cultures, their own limited education, their own prejudices, and their own selective reading of some texts while avoiding others.

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*Continued from page 2*

Partly as a result, slavery, racism, sexism, classism, xenophobia, and homophobia have lasted authoritatively into our time—by people who claim to love Jesus! I think they need to do penance for what they have often done with the Bible! They largely interpreted the Bible in a very individualistic and otherworldly way. It was ‘an evacuation plan for the next world’ to use Brian McLaren’s phrase—and just for their group. Most of Evangelical Protestantism has no cosmic message, no social message, and little sense of social justice or care for the outsider. Both Catholics and Protestants (Orthodox too!) found a way to do our own thing while posturing friendship with Jesus.”

***I like Sam Keen’s definition of faith as trust.*** It takes it from the realm of intellectual assertion to where it requires that we have some skin in the game. It’s easy to have “faith” in ***a God*** . . . that is, to believe in one. ***But would we stake our life on it?*** Would it make any difference to the way we live? And to stake one’s life on it requires, I think, actual experience that there is some wind at our back.

So what would such a trust look like when it moves beyond the stage of critical distancing? Minimally, “trust in God” would affirm:

1. **That there is immanent in the very heart of reality (and therefore within us) a transcendent impulse, that is infinitely good and loving.** Yes, this leaves the “problem” of evil a great mystery. In the traditional view of God, this is actually a showstopper . . . a God who could use His power to do something to solve our problems but chooses not to.
2. **This sacred impulse is *for us*.** It is not neutral. It is not indifferent. It is ***for us*** in the experience of the longing for self-transcendence, which is discovered by honoring our holy longings, which issues in personal and collective evolution.
3. **This animating power at times feels deeply personal, not *a person*, but profoundly, intimately personal.**
4. **To know this Presence requires a devotional orientation,** a practice of sincere surrender, and a community of support. The intellect will never grasp the meaning of this. It must be experienced. “Those who know don’t have the words to tell. And the ones with the words don’t know too well” (Bruce Cockburn).
5. **This Presence doesn’t solve existential problems.** Rather, it contains and contextualizes them. Animated by this presence, we “make love bigger”, because ***love is bigger***.
6. **The direct experience of this Presence gives us an intuitive sense that the universe is purposeful and heading toward a perfection of love, which is the end game.** Our lives are being transformed by and for this Love, and when we awaken to this, we feel this purpose as an animating, invigorating power.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

# CELEBRATE PENTECOST SUNDAY



## **Pentecost Celebratory Luncheon** **Sunday May 15**

There will be a pot luck, covered dish, luncheon in the parish hall immediately following the 10:30 service. Please bring your favorite meat, casserole, side dish, salad or dessert. Please come and join us as we celebrate the birthday of Christ's Church!

*Volunteers are needed for the following, after-event shut down responsibilities:*

- Dish Duty (wash, dry and put away)
- Clear Off and Wipe Down Tables
- Table Cloth/ Linens (home laundered and returned)
- Garbage Duty (collect garbage bags and take to outside dustbins behind Parish Hall and replace inside liners)
- Table and Chair Removal

We kindly ask that everyone be responsible for cleaning up after themselves by busing their own tables.

A sign-up sheet will be located on the Bulletin Board by the front door in the Parish Hall.

If you have any questions about the Pentecost Luncheon shut down activities, please call Vicky Donaho (601-506-7153).

*Submitted by your Vestry*



## **Prime Timers**

Wednesday, May 4

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch





# Congratulations 2016 Graduates

Creator will be honoring our 2016 graduates from Clinton High School on May 1, during the 10:30 Mass.

This year's graduates are: *Sara Waldbauer and Brianna Prestridge.*

May your graduation from High School be the beginning of a bright and rewarding future for you both.



## Sara Waldbauer

As a soon to be graduate of Clinton High School, Sara Waldbauer is excited to begin the next chapter of her life. While at CHS, Sara was a member of National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.), Mu Alpha Theta, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Anchor Club, and Choir. She has also taken many AP and Dual enrollment classes. While outside of school Sara has been dancing on the Kids For Christ Competition Team for the past 5 years, has been a member of New Stage's Youth Acting Troupe for 5 years, and has been a Girl Scout since she was in kindergarten, even earning her bronze and silver awards. She presently works at the Kids for Christ dance studio teaching tumbling class as well as being a nanny

for the most amazing little girl one will possibly ever meet, Olyvia Thornton, age 9. This summer Sara plans to cross several items off her bucket list by traveling to the United Kingdom and going skydiving. After her adventures, Sara plans on attending Southern Miss. University, where she plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Sara has received the Luckyday Citizenship Scholarship from USM and with that will be among some of the top students on campus with special classes and will continue to participate in community service projects – a passion that she enjoys.

## Brianna Prestridge

Bryanna Prestridge will be graduating from Clinton High School this year ranked number 24 out of 308 students in her class as well as maintaining a 3.9 GPA.

Due to being born and raised in Tennessee, she spent her freshman and sophomore year of high school at Rhea County High School in Dayton, Tennessee, where she played varsity soccer both years. Once in Clinton she began volunteering for Teeny Tears, working at Applebees and now GameStop, as well as writing for the Clinton High School newspaper *The Arrow Appeal*. Throughout high school Bryanna has avidly taken honors level courses, and she will also be

graduating with three college classes already completed. Bryanna will be returning to her home state to attend college at Chattanooga State Community College before moving on to University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. She plans on majoring in Business Management and getting a minor in communications.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## TROOP 345 2016 CALENDAR

APRIL & MAY EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECTS

MAY 14 MAGNOLIA MELTDOWN 6am!!

MAY 21-22 **TRAIL of HONOR**

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.®**

## 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.**

# VESTRY DIGEST

## The April 18 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

**Present:** Bob Blanton, Joyce White, John Lanford, Andrew Wilder, Frank Hennington, Mimi Bussell, Vickie Donaho, Mike Piazza, Bettye Sue Hennington, Mimi Bussell

**Absent:** Chuck Runyan, Deborah Runyan

Mimi Bussell acted as secretary in the absence of Deborah Runyan

## **Stations of the Cross Trail Update:**

- Bettye Sue Hennington presented an updated Stations of the Cross trail report with the 4 foot wide trail. She reviewed the costs that may be incurred. She said the intent was to raise ½ the monies by Sara's Crew staging 4 Wednesday night Soup/Salad Movie Nights and a Mystery Theater Dinner and having sponsors donate toward the 14 Stations and a few benches. Sara's Crew is asking that the church match their fundraising dollar for dollar.
- Bob Blanton recommended putting metal sheeting at the base of each station pole so that they are not damaged by weed-eating.
- Joyce stated that before Stations of the Cross Trail project could proceed, the water issue on the property needs to be addressed.

## **Jr Warden Report:**

Frank Hennington reported that the first work day went well. The following jobs were completed: cleared culverts of debris, cut low hanging limbs over parking lot near labyrinth at the back of the Parish Hall, painted hand rails on playground structure, replaced swing-set seats, repaired sewer clean-out PVC, cut and removed dead blueberry bushes, cut bush from main electrical box at the back of the Parish Hall, removed stepping stones from between Parish Hall and church building, cleared bushes from around AC condenser, removed dangling wire from telephone cable and picked up litter at road entrance. Frank said it would a good idea to keep a detailed list of things that need doing for the crew to work from. Next work day is Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>, (2<sup>nd</sup> week instead of 3<sup>rd</sup> because of Pentecost). Frank said a tree is blocking the light from a light pole on the right side of the parking lot. He will look into what it would take to move it so that the light can be beneficial.

## **Treasurer Report:**

Mike Piazza reported BankPlus records could not be accessed online, because of computer issues. He feels the accounts are in good shape, though. After reviewing funds going in and out for Jan/Feb, funds were even. March found more funds coming in than going out. The Uganda transfer of designated funds has not been completed. Apparently there was a change of banks on their end. The bank in Uganda is sending the money back. We will try to rewire it when we get the correct information. Mike asked if it would be ok if he simplifies our monthly reports. We could call Mike or Beth with any specific questions.

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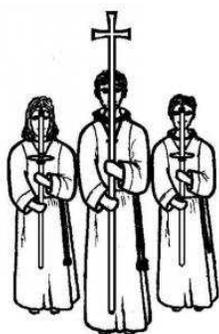
## Old Business

- Final Labyrinth report: The painting of the labyrinth is complete and looks great.
- Canon David Johnson said we can hold a deconsecrating service for the land where the Atrium once stood. A suggestion was made to bring the old altar out as a symbol for the building and use it in the service.

## New Business

- The columbarium cross, the credence table, the labyrinth and the land for the ground-breaking for the Stations of the Cross Trail must be blessed or consecrated. The suggested day for this would be Pentecost Sunday. It was also suggested pot luck be held after services on Pentecost. Perhaps the deconsecrating of the Atrium site and the blessings of the columbarium cross, credence table and the labyrinth and Stations of the Cross Trail could be part of the Sunday Service? Bob will work on that.
- Joyce was embarrassed by our old pew markers during Chris Noble's memorial service. She says the Altar Guild has funds to buy new ones.
- Bob Blanton and Joan will be out of town for the Lutheran Assembly May 26 - 29, 2016 and are taking vacation June 13 - July 15, 2016 this year. Bob suggested we consider two Sundays having Morning Prayer and finding replacement priests for June 19, June 26 and July 10. Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> were suggested as Morning Prayer Sundays as attendance is usually low on those days. ) Pastor Bob will check with Bill and Mike for their availability on June 19 & 26 and July 10. Joyce will work on finding replacement priests for the other Sundays.

*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.*



## Pentecost Sunday Acolytes

John Richard	-	Thurifer
Landon Daniel	-	Crucifer
Stone Braley	-	Torch
Max Lanford	-	Torch
Maddie Gray Braley-		Gospel
Ruby Lanford	-	Pentecost Dove



# CREATOR *May Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senior Recognition Day</b></p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>4</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>5</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mother's Day</b></p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pentecost ( Covered Dish ) Youth Labyrinth Class 9:00 am</b></p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:00 Soup/Salad &amp; Movie Night</b></p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trinity Sunday</b></p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Vestry 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:00 Soup/Salad &amp; Movie Night</b></p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting</p>
<p><i>29</i></p> <p>8:00 am: Morning Prayer 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Morning Prayer</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Memorial Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b> </div>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>1</i></p> <p>7 pm: Adult Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>12:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting</p>

# May Servers

	1	8 Mothers Day	15 Pentecost	22 Trinity Sunday	29 Morning Prayer
Chalice	Bob White	Mike Milone	Mike Milone	Bob White	N/A
	Joyce White	Wendy Brantley	Richard McMullan	Joyce White	N/A
Lectors	Wendy Brantley	Joan Blanton	Jolyne Shirley	Michael Piazza	Max Lanford
	Maddie Gray Braley	Deborah Runyan	John Lanford	Richard McMullan	John Lanford
Prayers	Deborah Runyan	Wendy Brantley	Fred Shirley	Fred Shirley	Janie Fields
Acolytes	Ruby Lanford	Landon Daniel	<b>See special schedule</b>	John Richard	N/A
	Rowan Braley	Max Lanford		Ruby Lanford	N/A
Ushers	Beth Braley	Doug George	Mimi Bussell	Richard McMullan	Richard McMullan
	Stone Braley	Abby Donaho	Tristan McMullan	Rivers McMullan	Tristan McMullan
Altar	Joyce White	Peggy Wilder	Katy Lanford	Kathy Milone	N/A
Home Communion			Edie Hill		
Vestry Person of the Day	Frank Hennington	Vicky Donaho	John Lanford	Andrew wilder	Joyce white



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

- 3 Jonathan Dacus
- 7 Rowan Braley
- Stone Braley
- 10 Lauren Wilson
- 11 Alex Runyan
- 14 Mimi Bussell
- 16 Tori Meyers

- 19 Melissa White
- 21 Charles Dieth, III

### Anniversaries

- 7 Charlie & Lisa Dieth
- 9 Jobe & Peggy Wilder
- 20 Tom & Jane Kany
- 22 Fred & Jolyne Shirley

# 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.”