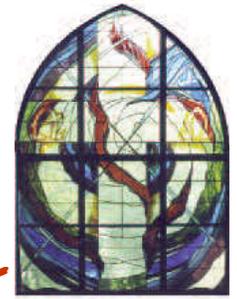


CREATOR



Chronicle

February 2017

“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:

The following is my adaptation of several comments by one of my favorite poets, the last surviving writer of the beat generation, **Gary Snyder**. Many of the comments are taken from *Nobody Home: Writing, Buddhism, and Living in Places*, by Julia Martin and Gary Snyder, Trinity University Press, 2014.

“The thing we are trying to do” here at Kitkitdizze—Gary’s home on the San Juan Ridge in the Sierra Nevada—“is to keep ourselves, so to speak, *local*. In that sense we’re more orthodox than many of [religious] centers that have been [created], in the usual modern mode of establishing a center that caters to rootless and alienated people that come and go and bring their problems, who are sampling the smorgasbord of therapies and possibilities for themselves in modern urban life. Most [religious] centers draw on the alienated educated members of the upper middle class. They also tend to carry on traditional [Christian] forms without any critical thought. That is the way that [newly evolving] cults worked in Rome.

“That’s the way that new religions functioned in Rome in the second and third centuries, as symptomatic of the breakdown of the fabric of society; contending alien cults in a collapsing society. That’s not a very interesting place to be. What’s more interesting to me is something that is quite a bit deeper.

“First of all, what happens when you begin to have something a little more like a real community, and you can look at the possibilities of a sort of post-revolutionary Christianity, or what Paul Goodman calls ‘*a natural society*.’

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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.



Prime Timers

Wednesday, February 1

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



The Divine Dance: Trinity and [Our] Transformation

What if changing our perception of God has the potential to change everything?

God is not what we think. Visions of an angry, distant, moral scorekeeper or a supernatural Santa Claus handing out cosmic lottery tickets to those who attend the right church or say the right prayer dominate our culture. For many others, God has become irrelevant or simply unbelievable.

In *The Divine Dance*, our old friend Fr. Richard Rohr (along with my new friend Mike Morrell) points readers to an unlikely opening beyond this divinity impasse: the at-times forgotten, ancient mystery of the *Trinity* . . . God as utterly one, yet three.

Drawing from Scripture, theology, and the deepest insights of mystics, philosophers, and sages throughout history, Fr. Rohr presents a compelling alternative to distant and fairytale versions of God:

One God, belovedly in communion, as All-Vulnerable, All-Embracing, and All-Given to you and me.

The Divine Dance makes accessible and practicable the Christian tradition's most surprising gift . . . *God as Community* . . . as *Friendship*... as *Dance*.

Come join us on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.



Creator Outdoor Work Day

8:30am - 11:30am

February 18



SHROVE TUESDAY



PANCAKE SUPPER

Presented by Creator's Vestry

Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 pm, Creator's Parish Hall

Pancakes, Sausage, Fixings and Drink

\$5 per person, or \$20 per family

RSVP requested but not required

RSVP by Tuesday February 27th

Let us know if you need a ride!

Ash Wednesday Mass

with imposition of ashes

March 1: Noon and 6:30 pm.



“Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

TROOP 345 2017 CALENDAR

- JAN 5 Eagle BOR
9 1ST Troop Meeting
10 Adult Roundtable
13-15 VOLT (Volunteer Outdoor Leader Training), Hood
21 HSR Camp Staff Interviews (8:30-Noon)
28 STEM Weekend (8:30-4:00)
OA Lodge Banquet
- FEB 2 Eagle BOR
3 Eagle Banquet, Jackson Hilton Hotel (6:30 pm)
12 Scout Sunday
14 Adult Roundtable
17-19 Spring Camporee, 4 Rivers District
24-26 6th Annual Mississippi Indian Seminar
- Mar 2 Eagle BOR
Apr 6 Eagle BOR
May 4 Eagle BOR
June 1 Eagle BOR
July 6 Eagle BOR



Scoutmaster, Troop #345

Chuck Runyan

601-668-5362

Email: crunyan@umc.edu



Prepared. For Life.®



Michael Frank's Eagle Project

“Boy Scouts of Troop 345, Clinton, MS, sponsored by the Clinton, MS Episcopal Church of the Creator, recently completed an Eagle Scout project which benefitted the Clinton Police Department's (CPD) Explosive Ordinance Disposal (bomb) squad. The Eagle Scout project was the design and building of a table that will be utilized by the bomb squad to service its bomb disposal robots.”

The following are pictured in the photo:

Back Row, left to right: Assistant Scoutmaster Tim Dunaway; Eagle Scout Robert Harvey, Jr.; Oscar Dunaway (CHS); and Assistant Scoutmaster Carl Roberts.

Front Row, left to right: Jacob Roberts (CHS); Eagle Scout Taner Douell (CHS); Eagle Scout candidate and project leader, Michael Franks (CHS); Chip Pratt (CHS); Clinton P.D. Patrol Officer Cedric Richardson (CPD), and Clinton P.D. Lt. Todd Peterson (CPD).





Pack 345

Cubmaster: Mike Milone

Pack Committee: Jim Brantley, Chairman, Edie Hill, John Fox,
Richard McMullan



Calendar - 2017

January, 2017

20 - 22 Cub Scout Polar Weekend (Hood Scout Reservation)

26 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

February

12 Scout Sunday (@ church @ 10:00 am)

23 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Pinewood Derby)

March

30 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

31 Cuboree Weekend

April

1 Cuboree Weekend

2 Cuboree Weekend

27 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

May

25 Last Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Blue & Gold Banquet)
Graduation



VESTRY DIGEST

The January 16 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

Present: Bob Blanton, Priest in Charge, Joyce White, Senior Warden, Frank Hennington, Jr. Warden, Chuck Runyan, Mimi Bussell, Andrew Wilder, Deborah Runyan, Clerk of the Vestry

Absent: Vicki Donaho

Junior Warden Report

- Frank Hennington reported that we still have one air conditioner with a locked compressor in the parish hall. We have a \$5,000 estimate to replace the unit.
- The second unit in the parish hall has a leak.
- Frank has an ongoing list of projects.

Old Business

- John Lanford stated that piping in sound to the nursery would be easy. All that is needed is a wireless transmitter and receiver and that this could be completed for \$200 or less. John requested permission to make the needed purchase and it was granted.
- The Valentines Dinner was discussed, dates, cost, etc. and the decision was made to cancel the event for 2017.
- John had nothing to report on the youth education program. The December meeting he hoped to have had with the youth was cancelled. He hopes to meet with them this Wednesday, January 18th.
- The Diocesan Youth training session has been moved from January to March. John plans to attend.
- The Vestry voted and approved the motion to allow Vicki Donaho to complete the final year of Mimi Bussell's term on vestry.

Continued on next page

Treasurer Report

- Mike Piazza presented the monthly review. Mike also reviewed the proposed budget for next year. A healthy discussion was held on various line items and adjustments to amounts for various accounts were made.
- A letter from the flower guild to the vestry was read which requested increased funds for their account.
- Mike requested that the Deacon's checking account be closed and that the funds be moved to a designated account for outreach
- The proposed budget for 2017 was approved unanimously by the vestry.

New Business

- There are 8 smoked pork butts in the freezer. Vestry will discuss with Dianne Martin if the Children's Village would like to have them.
- Frank Hennington is going to check on the actual amount of our electric bill for 2016 and will also check on "level billing" for the church in 2017.
- Committee reports for the Annual Parish Meeting are due to Beth on Wednesday.
- Chuck Runyan is now the Scout Master of Troop 345. He is the sole signee on the account and he requested for someone to be a secondary signee. Mike Wright or Jim Brantley were suggested.
- Home Communion Ministry needs help with additional members.

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
			1 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	2 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	3 Annual Council	4 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting Annual Council
5 Annual Council No services	6 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	7 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	8 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	9 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	10	11 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
12 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass  Scout Sunday	13 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	14 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	15 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	16 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	17	18 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting Outdoor Work Day 8:30 am - 11:30 am
19 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	20 6:30 pm: Vestry 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	21 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	22 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	23 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	24	25 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
26 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass	27 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	28 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	1 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	2 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	3	4 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting

February Servers

	5 No Service	12 Scout Sunday Home Communion	19	26	
Chalice	N/A	Bob White	Mike Milone	Chuck Runyan	
	N/A	Joyce White	Tori Meyers	Richard McMullan	
Lectors	N/A	Boy Scouts	Richard McMullan	Wendy Brantley	
	N/A	Boy Scouts	John Richard	Michael Piazza	
Prayers	N/A	Boy Scouts	Wendy Brantley	Deborah Runyan	
Acolytes	N/A	Landon Daniel	John Richard	Maddie Gray Braley	
	N/A	Ruby Lanford	Max Lanford	Rowan Braley	
Ushers	N/A	Frank Hennington	Vicky Donaho	Tom Kany	
	N/A	Betty Sue Hennington	Abby Donaho	Tori Meyers	
Altar	N/A	Joyce White	Larry Estes	Beth Braley	
Home Communion		Edie Hill			
Vestry Person of the Day	N/A	Joyce White	Frank Hennington	Andrew Wilder	



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

What does that mean in particular? “It means a society in which people live in one place for a good number of years; it means that they know each other personally on a first-name basis; it means that they know a considerable amount of the personal history of the individuals concerned; it means that they know their own family history and that they keep in touch with their parents; it means that they are engaged in their community in one or another ways by serving on committees, formal and informal committees; it means that they do not expect everybody to do what they do—a community in its own nature cannot be homogeneous.

How do you distinguish this from what is called an intentional community? “An intentional community can enforce a point of view. A natural community is a culture. Consequently, points of view are formed almost subliminally, over the long run, by the totality of the experiences that people go through and by the songs and the stories that they tell each other. So on many levels such a place is, so to speak, self-motivating. So that’s a natural community, a symptom of a natural society.

“I don’t think [Christianity] can function in a way that’s truly beautiful, truly interesting, until it has a natural society as its ground. Then the truly existential problems become the problems you’re dealing with. You get the politics out of the way by having a sane society. Then you can begin to work on the really refined study of the mind. This is what I’ve understood from [studying history and culture], that that is what [Christianity] was doing at its best. We are in an era of tremendous social and political breakdown. [natural Christian community] is not the cure for [all of] that, although it may be of help. But it can only be one of the kinds of measures.

“So that’s why I divide my time between what you may call culture building, or community building, and [Christian] teaching. It would be really easy to live in a [large city] and teach at a [college or seminary] and do nothing but [Christian] teaching. I wouldn’t want to do it that way. I’d rather go out and start working in the neighborhoods as much as I could, because I think you have to work the ground for a [Christian] society first. You can’t just leave your society the way it is and say “We offer this as one of [many] teachings.” You’ve got to help the society get its feet on the ground before those teachings can begin to flourish.

You made a comment in 1974 that has stuck with me as a puzzle: “*Knowing that nothing need be done, is where we begin to move from.*” What did you mean, exactly? “Yes, that’s a [Christian perspective of grace]. Lots of people have asked me about that. In the larger scale, things will take care of themselves. It’s obviously human hubris to think we can destroy the planet, can destroy life. It’s just another exaggeration of [our self-importance]. Actually we can’t [as an isolated congregation. We must model the commitment of our community to the larger church]. We’re far too small to have major impact on our own.

“The time scale is far too large, and the resistance of cellular life is far too great. [James] Lovelock [the British environmentalist] is very interesting on this, on the extraordinary resilience of cells. But that’s no excuse. That would be no excuse for doing things poorly. A kind of bottom line is that all human activity is as trivial as anything else. We can humbly acknowledge that and excuse ourselves from exaggerating our importance, even as a threat,

Continued from previous page

and also recognize the scale and the beauty of things. And then go to work. Don't imagine that we're doing ecological politics to save the world. We're doing ecological politics to save ourselves, to save our souls. It's a personal exercise in character and in manners. It's a matter of etiquette. It's a matter of living right. It's not that the planet requires us to be good to it. It's that we must do it because it's an aesthetic and ethical choice.

Would you say, then, that there's a lot of hysteria about the environment out there?

"What about the ozone hole? Those issues are all real. Those issues are all real, but they're not total. And the power of the universe far surpasses any damage we can do to it.

Can you see any ways that the work you're involved in, in Buddhism particularly, might benefit from Christian or Occidental religious traditions? "That's an interesting question. Of course Western Buddhists, coming out of Western culture and being probably from Christian or Jewish backgrounds, are already bringing those things into Buddhism, by virtue of their personalities and their background. So there's already some kind of exchange there, I'm sure.

"My own view is that Buddhism can profit from, but wouldn't necessarily want to emulate, an understanding of the Christian concern for history—and the historical fact of the Christian concern for personality—as a kind of leavening factor in the evolution of Buddhist thought. I think that the Buddhists also have to admire the commitment of certain Christian sects, such as Quakers, to peace, and the Christian idea of witness and bearing witness as a matter of conscience. It has pitfalls from a Buddhist standpoint, pitfalls of over-ego-stimulation. But that side of Christian engagement is admirable. It certainly can be learned from. Buddhists can learn from, or at least take note of, the section of the Church that is doing liberation theology. Buddhism has been quiescent, socially, for much of its history, and what and how it becomes more active in the social sphere is going to be very interesting. I'm sure it will, because in the West everybody gets more social. And also the power makes a difference: political action, political involvement, makes a difference in a pluralistic democracy, whereas in a traditional Asian culture there's very little direct political action possible.

"Part of the actualization of [Christian] ethics is, in a sense, to be a deep ecologist. The actualization of [Christian] insights gives us a [Christian] economics not based on greed but on need, an ethic of adequacy but simplicity, a valuation of personal insight and personal experience over possessions.

"What I like most about [Biblical Christianity] really is its fearlessness. So much of what warps people is fear of death and fear of impermanence. So much of what we do is simply strategies to try and hold back death, trying to buy time with material things. So at its best [Christianity] provides people with a way of seeing their own frailty: [As faithful Christians we] need less in the way of material objects and fortresses around [us to protect us from a threatening world]."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

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

Administrator

Beth Braley

ecreator@bellsouth.net

Choir Director

Ezra Wall

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

Pastoral Emergencies

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

Polly Marshall, Cell: 601-953-2980

Acolytes

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Adult Christian Education

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

Altar Guild

Larry & Rhea Estes, Cell: 601-813-3859

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

Funeral Guild

Chuck Runyan, 601-925-0829

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

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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.”