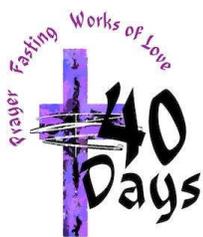
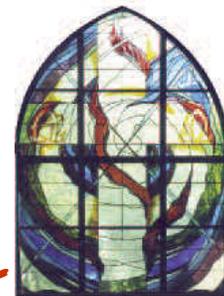


CREATOR

Chronicle



March 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."

Why we need Lent: Fasting, Almsgiving, Prayer

Dear Friends:

When I think of Lent, I think of fish sticks and tuna casseroles. I know, this isn't the most pious of associations, but having grown up with a Roman Catholic mother and being schooled by the Sisters of Mercy, even the school lunch calendar was subject to the liturgical seasons. So every Friday during Lent, we'd get fish sandwiches. I love fish sandwiches, so I was pleased. I also knew that this school lunch schedule was influenced somehow by a call to fast from meat on Fridays during the Lenten season.

Fast forward to the present: Now living in Clinton, Mississippi with many more Baptists than Catholics and Episcopalians, I frequently get asked: *Why do you put that ash on your heads at the beginning of the season? Why do you give things up for Lent? What is Lent, anyway?*

Let's take these in turn. First, Lent is a solemn religious observance that begins on **Ash Wednesday** and ends about six weeks later (**40 days**), before **Easter Sunday**.

Ash Wednesday is a midweek liturgy (this year it falls on **March 1st**). During this service, worshippers make preparations for the season. There's a call to repentance, with prayers of confession. The worship leader calls the assembly to commit to the three primary disciplines of Lent: **fasting, almsgiving, and prayer**. Then the community comes forward for the imposition of ashes on their foreheads, including a spoken reminder of our mortality: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (echoing Genesis 3:20).

Continued on page 11

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.

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS




Prime Timers
No Healing Service or Luncheon in March



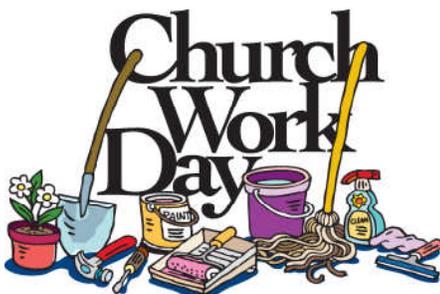
Ash Wednesday Mass

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.”

Fellowship Time between Early Service and Adult Sunday School 8:45 to 9:15am.

We will be providing light breakfast snacks and beverages. We welcome all to participate in getting more acquainted with your fellow church members. If you wish to assist in hosting one or more of these events, a sign-up sheet is in the hallway of the Parish Hall for available dates to provide refreshments.



Creator Outdoor Work Day

8:30am - 11:30am
March 18



Annual Bishop's Visit

Sunday, April 2

Pot-luck Reception



The Rt. Reverend Brian R. Seage will be making his official pastoral visit to Creator, Sunday, April 2 at the 10:30 service. Please plan to attend and let us welcome our Bishop.

Bishop Seage will be confirming: Maddie Gray Braley, Jonathan Dacus, Ruby Lanford, and Landon Daniel.

Bring your favorite meat dish, side dish and/or dessert to share at the pot-luck reception, after church. Volunteers and helpers are needed for set-up and clean-up activities

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.



METHODIST
Children's Homes
of mississippi

January 26, 2017

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

Dear Episcopal Church of the Creator,
I know that you are changing lives through your generous gifts, but do you really know how your donations are making a difference? Because of your gift of \$1,631.29, you are providing homes for our children. Not just homes on our campus, but foster homes as well. You are allowing the opportunity for families to open their hearts and homes to the youth we serve at MCH.

Youth like Lindsey, who was a resident at MCH for 4 years before finding her foster family. Recently Lindsey read a letter she wrote to her foster parents. Her words brought tears to my eyes... because I see and know the difference that you have made in her life.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Just in case I don't tell you enough, I am so grateful for everything you do and have done for me. I am so happy to be a part of this amazing beautiful family. I honestly believe God brought us together for a reason, and I'm so glad He did. You make me smile and laugh daily and I can't even begin to explain how happy I am to be here. I never really thought a day like this would come, but I am so glad it did. Thank you for going out of your way to make sure I'm happy and taken care of because I know you didn't have to do this. I just want you to know that no matter what happens, and years from now when I'm old and grey I will always remember you and the amazing life you brought to me. I've learned so much from you both and I will always carry that with me. Thank you for the amazing opportunity to help me, guide me, and allow me to be the person I've always dreamed of being.

I love you! Your Daughter, Lindsey

It is my prayer that you *now* know what a difference you are making in the lives of Lindsey and the other youth on our campus. I am so thankful that we are in this together. May God bless you in 2017 and may you continue to see what an impact you are making for our children at MCH.

Because of Him,



Mike Duggar

President and CEO

No goods or services were given in exchange for your contribution. United Methodist Ministry with Children and Families, Inc. is a 501©3 corporation, and all gifts and bequests received are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

P.O. Box 66 • Clinton, MS 39060 • 601.853.5000 • mchms.org

United Methodist Ministry with Children and Families, Inc.
United Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi, LLC



*Wow! Thank you for
loving on kids.
@*



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.®



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 February 20 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

Present: Bob Blanton, Priest in Charge, Joyce White, Senior Warden, Frank Hennington, Jr. Warden, Andrew Wilder, Vicki Donaho, Doug George, Linda Piazza, John Lanford, Michael Piazza, Treasury Committee representative, Dianne Martin, Clerk of the Vestry

Visitor: Bettye Sue Hennington

Update on Walking Trail

Bettye Sue Hennington updated the vestry concerning the drainage problems that are hindering progress on the Stations of the Cross walkway. Bettye Sue reported on a meeting that she and Bob Blanton had with Donnie Hill, who specializes in drainage problems and owns the Hardscape Company of Mississippi. Bob presented an illustration of what a swale looks like.

Donnie recommended that the church not put in a culvert, but instead construct a swale along the natural lines of the existing small swale. He indicated that we should make it at least 8 feet wide and two to two and one-half feet deep. He also suggested that we sod it to keep it from eroding and make the transition smooth enough so that the area could be mowed. Furthermore, he looked at the natural ditch nearer to Clinton-Raymond Road. He thinks the existing culverts that lead from that ditch into the city drainage system are sufficient to handle the amount of water coming from the church property. He encourages us to clean out the natural ditch and possibly make it deeper to allow the water to flow easily from church property to city drainage.

Bettye Sue suggested that the Vestry obtain quotes for building a swale and hire a professional with appropriate equipment to build the swale. Vicki moved that Frank Hennington get three estimates for the work.

Junior Warden Report

Frank Hennington reported on work that has been done on church buildings and grounds.

- The parish hall brick molding around the windows have been repaired where necessary. The molding and frames were primed and painted. The door sweep was replaced and a door stop was to entry door. The LED bulbs that were problematic have been replaced with incandescent bulbs.
- The majority of the leaves at the church and parish hall entrances were raked and hauled away.
- The entrance road culvert has been cleaned.
- A cleanup project list has been posted on a board next to office and extra copies are in the Jr. Warden's in-box.
- Frank also mentioned he had talked with an out-of-state company concerning inspection of the stained glass windows. Bob suggested that Frank also speak to Andy Young who is interested in working on the windows. Frank said he would do so.

Continued on next page

Treasurer Report

Michael Piazza wanted to make sure the vestry was ready for the budget to be entered into the system.

Old Business

John Lanford plans to meet with the youth to discuss youth Sunday School.

New Business

- The vestry welcomed new members Doug George and Linda Piazza and new vestry scribe Dianne Martin.
- An endowment from Martha Weatherall was discussed. Bob Blanton stated that Martha Weatherall willed a baby grand piano and a home organ to the church. Ezra will be able to look at them after the estate's audit which will be sometime in March.
- There was some discussion of the pancake supper which will be held on February 28. It will have a Mardi Gras theme. We will plan for feeding 50 people and will have pancakes and syrup, sausage, fruit and cream, orange juice, tea, and milk.
- Assignments for vestry committees were discussed. It was decided that the Hospitality, Luncheon & Special Events committee and the Worship, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, & Receptions committee will remain as two separate committees due to the differentiation between their functions. Bob Blanton will be added as a participant of the Christian Education committee, of which John Lanford is the chair. Andrew Wilder will be co-chair of the Grounds and Facilities committee along with Frank Hennington. Doug George will be co-chair of the Hospitality, Luncheon & Special Events committee along with Vicki Donaho. Joyce will ask Tori Meyers if she would like to serve on the Pastoral Care & Home Communion committee.
- Girl Scout Troop 3968 will be meeting at the church on Tuesday nights. This is a troop of about 20 girls in 4th and 5th grades.
- Canterbury. Sarah Brantley is establishing an Episcopal club at Mississippi College. Bob Blanton, Ellen Noble, Ed Dacus, and Collin Johnson will help in this effort.
- A checklist packet will be developed for the Fall Festival and kept in the church office. This will be a type of procedures manual. There was discussion that it would be helpful to have such a checklist for each of our recurring events.
- There was discussion as to delegates and alternates for next year's council. Some spouses will need to be contacted but the delegates/alternates may include Michael and Linda Piazza, Joyce and Bob White, and Frank and Bettye Sue Hennington.

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 *March Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Ash Wednesday Noon & 6:30 pm 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
5 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass	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 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class	9 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	10	11 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting  Time to Spring Ahead
12 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass	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 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class	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 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class	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	29 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class	30 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	31	1 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting

March Servers

	5	12	19	26	
Chalice	Bob White	Mike Milone	Chuck Runyan	Mike Milone	
	Joyce White	Richard McMullan	Tori Meyers	Wendy Brantley	
Lectors	John Lanford	Chuck Runyan	Joan Blanton	Richard McMullan	
	John Richard	Max Lanford	Stone Braley	Fred Shirley	
Prayers	Chuck Runyan	Fred Shirley	Janie Fields	Deborah Runyan	
Acolytes	John Richard	Landon Daniel	Maddie Gray Braley	John Richard	
	Max Lanford	Ruby Lanford	Rowan Braley	Rowan Braley	
Ushers	Vicky Donaho	Frank Hennington	Doug George	Tom Kany	
	Rivers McMullan	Betty Sue Hennington	Abby Donaho	Tristan McMullan	
Altar	Rhea Estes	Katy Lanford	Larry Estes	Joyce White	
Home Communion			Edie Hill		
Vestry Person of the Day	Vicky Donaho	John Lanford	Doug George	Linda Piazza	



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

	13	Bill Hanna
1	16	Megan White
4	22	Dianne Carlton
6	25	Larry Estes
		Linda Waldbauer
9	26	Liam Cospelich
12	31	Chuck Runyan
		Luke Elder

Continued from page 1

The first discipline of Lent is the one related to fish sandwiches—**fasting**. Over the centuries, the church has called the people of God to fast in various ways. One of the most common fasts is from rich foods. This is why some people give up chocolate, or wine, or meat for Lent. Personally, this year I'm going to fast from red meat and chocolate (My Weight Watchers diet has me giving up fried foods so no fish sandwiches).

Fasting in the Christian tradition is complicated. We're aware that the prophets called the people to a different kind of fast.

Isaiah 58.6 *Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?*

And **Matthew 6:17**, one of the texts read at our Ash Wednesday service, directly instructs the community not to fast in ways that draw direct attention to the fasting.

What does this mean for Lent? Well, it means that **social justice** is a crucial, perhaps **the** crucial theme for Lent. We are called during Lent as the form of our fast to **loose** the bonds of injustice, to **let** the oppressed **go free**, and to **break** every yoke.

This is a very active form of fasting. In addition to, or as supplement to, the fast of social justice, Christians over the centuries have learned that traditional fasting (from meat and rich foods, or even fasting from food altogether) can strengthen the efforts of the community in social justice. **Fasting makes the community stronger** (see Daniel 1:12).

Then there are **two other Lenten commitments**. There's a commitment to **almsgiving**. Almsgiving is simple: it's giving gifts to the poor. This is not giving with strings attached (like, for example, giving food stamps but only with the addendum that 'junk' food is forbidden). You give to the poor simply because it is good to give.

There's a significant passage in the **Apocrypha** related to almsgiving that is worth quoting.

***Tobit 12.8** Prayer with fasting is good, but better than both is almsgiving with righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than wealth with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. **9** For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life.*

Significantly, this passage places **almsgiving** even **above prayer** and **fasting** in terms of value, which is likely related to the prophetic insight that *the fast God desires is a fast that accomplishes good for the oppressed*.

Continued on next page

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As we journey through this Lenten season, I will be using the ELCA World Hunger's "**40 Days of Giving**" daily devotional calendar to reflect on economics, hunger, hope and faith throughout the weeks of Lent (if you wish, you too can sign up for the daily devotional here: <http://www.elca.org/40days>).

Finally, ***Lent is a season steeped in prayer***. Prayer has a certain mystique in our culture. It's simple and complex, easy and awkward. During this season, one simple way we increase your opportunity to pray is by adding the second mid-week service where we sing evening prayer. I encourage you to consider other prayer resources that might suit your prayer habits. One of my favorites is the daily prayer offices <http://www.lchwelcome.org/spirit/office/office.php>.

The whole season of Lent is, in another sense, solemn preparation for our observance of ***Holy Week***. The focus of our fasting, almsgiving, and prayer is deepening attention to the ***life, death, and resurrection of Christ***. We observe Lent that we might convert ***our time-keeping*** more to the ***holy time of God in Christ***.

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

Linda Piazza, 601-594-6704

Andrew Wilder, 601-842-0058

John Lanford, 601-708-4374

Doug George, 601-502-5063

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.”