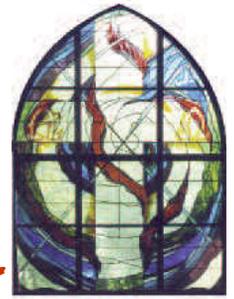


CREATOR



Chronicle



May 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.”

Journeys in Faith

Dear Friends,

There is a lot of talk these days about writing and sharing our personal stories. Not just any old stories, but the stories of our lives, our Journeys in Faith, the road maps that got us to where we are today. For most of us that’s a pretty daunting thought. I mean, “Why would anyone be interested in hearing my story anyway?”

At the Episcopal Church of the Creator, during the month of May, two members of the congregation will be sharing excerpts from their life stories—small portions of their personal Journeys in Faith. On Sunday May 21st, during Morning Prayer at 8 and 10:30 am, **Michael Piazza** will share his Faith Journey. Then on Sunday May 28th, **Doug George** will share his story with us.

*This month’s article is based, in large part, on “**How to Write Your Story in 6 Steps**” by Claire DeBoer. You can download her free eBook, “**Soul Writing.**” Claire’s goal is to help her readers come to a new place of awareness and personal growth through writing their own stories. I hope her reflections and suggestions in this simple guide will encourage you to begin to write and share your own story—your own Journey in Faith.*

Life changing

Claire DeBoer writes, “Well, I’m a big proponent of this personal story writing business, and I’ll tell you why: it has changed my life.”

Continued on page 13

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, May 3

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



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.



WORK DAY • a t t h e • CHURCH

Creator Outdoor Work Day

May 20

8:30am - 11:30am

For a current list of completed and upcoming projects please review the Vestry Minutes in this newsletter.

There is a lot going on and we could really use some extra hands!

Annual Bishop's Visit

Sunday, April 2



The Rt. Reverend Brian R. Seage made his official pastoral visit to Creator, Sunday, April 2 at the 10:30 service.

Bishop Seage confirmed: Maddie Gray Braley, Jonathan Dacus, Ruby Lanford, and Landon Daniel. The Bishop also received Katy Lanford.

All four confirmands are Honor Acolytes serving in Creator's Corps of Acolytes.



Congratulations 2017 Graduate

Creator will be honoring our 2016 graduate from Clinton High School on May 14, during the 10:30 Mass.

This year's graduate is *John Richard*

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

John Richard



John Richard will soon graduate from Clinton High School and will continue his education at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, MS, with plans to later go to University of Southern Mississippi, where he will study Kinesiology to become an athletic trainer.

While at Clinton High School, John was involved in a number of activities outside of his academic work. John ran cross country on the Cross Country Team. He also was a distance runner on the Clinton High School Track Team. John enjoyed participating in the Crew with Attache. His most enjoyable role at the school was as trainer for the Clinton High School Football Team and Soccer Team.

Outside of school John works for Home Depot and has been a devoted Acolyte to The Church of the Creator and cherished the opportunity. John is currently "Acolyte of the Year" and has been named "Honor Acolyte" multiple times.



Sam Brantley

Sam is currently on a submarine somewhere for another 2-3 months and would love to hear from folks back home, just general conversation about things going on back in the states. I imagine being underwater with the same people for 3-4 months can get tough pretty quickly. His email address on board is brantljs@georgia-blue.navy.mil.

Thank you so much! Wendy Brantley

TeamUSA Taekwondo



The Horizon Taekwondo located in Clinton, MS has four members representing TeamUSA Taekwondo in 2017. Macy McWilliams, Landon Daniels, Instructor Jonathan Couch, and instructor Calvin Couch will be competing internationally in Scotland this summer - June 30th to July 2nd, 2017.

Landon's mother, Amy, will be accompanying Landon to Scotland and they will be holding several fundraisers to help finance their trip. Anyone wishing to assist with their expenses may do so by writing a check payable to Landon Daniel, memo line: Landon TeamUSA. You may place the check in the collection plate, or bring / mail to the church office.

Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi

Troop 3968



Leader: LeAnne Morgan, 601-720-3463

Co-leaders: Ana Jeffereson and Grace Bufkin

Our troop consists of Juniors, 4th and 5th graders.

This year our activities have included:

Mr. Percy King's Zoo, that was brought to us, visiting the Ms. Natural Science Museum, and painting bird houses for the Animal Habitat badge. Last Saturday we visited Mynelle Gardens and Tuesday the 25th we planted flowers to begin earning the Gardening badge. Our troop will leave Saturday the 29th to go to The Wildlife Global Zoo in Folsom, La.

Troop 3968 meets two Tuesdays a month at the church starting at 6:00pm and one field trip each month.

Anyone interested in joining us may contact LeAnne Morgan @ 601-720-3463.



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

- 4 Year-End Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 25 Last Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Blue & Gold Banquet) Graduation

July

- 15 Horseback riding, fishing, games, food & Fun at the Donaho's!



VESTRY DIGEST

The April 17 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

Present: Bob Blanton, Priest in Charge, Joyce White, Senior Warden, Vicki Donaho, Doug George, Linda Piazza, Michael Piazza, Treasury Committee representative, Dianne Martin, Clerk of the Vestry

Absent: John Lanford, Frank Hennington, Jr. Warden, Andrew Wilder

Visitors: Rhea Estes, Larry Estes, Bettye Sue Hennington

Junior Warden Report

Bettye Sue and Larry gave the junior warden report in Frank's absence.

Drainage Quotes:

The church requested three (3) quotes from the following:

- Birdsong Construction
- David Landrum
- Paul Gorney

The quotes were to include the following work:

Build a dirt berm / swell about eight (8) feet wide and three (2) feet in height for a length of about 180' to divert water run-off from the back property of the church. Water should be diverted so that it enters the main drainage ditch directly across from the power boxes (approximately) at the rear of the Parish Hall. Also move the existing tree logs from this area and clean the ditch of saplings and roots downstream from the culvert that goes under the road to that goes to the Labyrinth. Fix the low spot that holds water across the ditch outback.

After six or more weeks of discussion, Birdsong stated that the job was too small and they did not want to be considered.

David Landrum's quote was a soft \$5000 and did not include everything needed.

Paul Gorney's quote was \$6948 which included tax. This quote includes everything that was asked and also included the following:

He suggested that a small area of rip-rap be added where the water will drain into the main drainage ditch. He thinks that this will be a problem area with so much water draining into the ditch during heavy rains.

Removing one of the trees that is growing in the ditch on the downstream side. (Toward Clinton Raymond Rd.)

He will also fix the low spot that holds water across the ditch outback using 12 loads of dirt.

His plan included 4 rolls of Jute fabric to lay down on the berm to stabilize the dirt. This fabric will hold grass seed in place until it roots.

Frank's recommendation was to use Paul Gorney. Vicki moved to approve Paul Gorney's bid. The motion was seconded and passed.

Continued on next page

Outdoor Maintenance:

Projects Completed thus far in 2017 include the following:

- Repairing, cleaning, caulking, and painting of windows, door frames, and doors
- Flowers planted and tree branch trimmed
- Drainage ditches cleaned
- Mold killer sprayed on stucco panels on front of church
- “Office” sign installed

Projects Planned for 2017 include:

- More painting
- More cleaning for drainage purposes
- Create water diversion area on back property
- Planting of additional bushes, ground-cover, and flowers

A list of Monthly Maintenance Day regular tasks was noted and future outdoor maintenance projects were discussed including:

- Addition of pea gravel to the playground area and pressure washing needed in the playground area
- Removal of electrical wires and pole that once powered the trailers
- Update of flower bed around the church sign
- Removal of dead and dangerously placed trees and of the gum ball tree on the north side of the playground
- Shortening of the big cross outside so that it can be flowered next Easter in conjunction with the egg hunt
- Gutters need to be checked monthly and cleaned when necessary

Treasurer Report

Reports for January through March 2017:

Michael Piazza said that yearly revenues and expenditures to date are very close to what we had this time last year.

Continued on next page

Old Business

- **Audio system for nursery:**

Michael will talk with John Lanford with some ideas concerning the audio system.

- **Checklist for fall festival:**

Vicky said she will basically have this done by May but will need others to fill in some of the blanks.

- **Bob will be gone May 21 & May 28:**

Finding a supply priest is problematic so this is still a work in process.

New Business

There was some discussion concerning church outreach and growth. Michael will draft a letter for Joyce to send Bishop Seage concerning the Bishop's idea for the churches in Bovina, Raymond, and Clinton to reach out to the new people who will be moving into our area soon. Linda brought up some points on how to be more welcoming to visitors. Consideration is being given to obtaining help from Mary Parmer who is a congregational development consultant.

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.

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 *May Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	2 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	3 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	4 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	5	6 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
7 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass	8 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	9 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	10 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	11 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	12	13 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
14 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass Mother's Day Senior Recognition Day	15 6:30 pm: Vestry 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	16 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	17 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	18 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	19	20 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Outdoor Work Day 8:30 am - 11:30 am
	Bob Blanton out 15th - 30th					
21 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	22 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	23 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	24 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	25 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	26	27 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
28 8:00 am: Mass 9:00 am: Sunday school 10:30 am: Mass	29 6:30 pm: Boy Scouts 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group  Memorial Day Office Closed	30 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	31 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	1 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	2	3 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
						

May Servers



	7	14	21	28	
Chalice	Mike Milone	Bob White	N/A	N/A	
	Richard McMullan	Joyce White	N/A	N/A	
Lectors	Deborah Runyan	Joan Blanton	Wendy Brantley	Richard McMullan	
	Chuck Runyan	John Gardner	John Lanford	Fred Shirley	
Prayers	Fred Shirley	Wendy Brantley	Janie Fields	Deborah Runyan	
Acolytes	Landon Daniel	John Richard	N/A	N/A	
	Ruby Lanford	Rowan Braley	N/A	N/A	
Ushers	Vicky Donaho	Tom Kany	Frank Hennington	Doug George	
	Tristan McMullan	Rivers McMullan	Betty Sue Hennington	Abby Donaho	
Altar	Katy Lanford	Joyce White	N/A	N/A	
Home Communion		Edie Hill			
		Tom Kany			
Vestry Person of the Day	Vicky Donaho	Frank Hennington	Andrew Wilder	Doug George	



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
- 20 Tom & Jane Kany
- 22 Fred & Jolyne Shirley

Continued from page 1

“I used to write fiction. I loved hiding behind the facades of the characters I created. But then my work led me into writing for a magazine where people share their personal stories, and I found myself on unfamiliar territory.

“I actually had no interest in sharing my story—I wasn’t a fiction writer for nothing. I thought my past was empty and depressing. But given my role as both a writer and editor for “Positive Writer” magazine, I really didn’t have much choice.”

Resistance

“So I sat down at my computer and with absolute resistance I began to write the truth of my life. I was full of fear—afraid to reveal my authentic self and the vulnerability that came with doing it. I was also fearful that no one would give a hoot about my story.

“My resistance to the process resulted in quite the crappy effort. Apparently my chief editor thought so too. She sent the article back to me with these words: “*go deeper*.” Not quite the response I was looking for.

“So I went back to my computer, stared at a blank page for a while and began to write. But this time I didn’t write from a place of resistance, I wrote from the heart.

“The result was tears, not just on my part, but my editor’s too.

“But more important than tears was the overwhelming sense of release. In reconnecting with my story, I somehow gave it a voice. I gave myself a voice that needed to be heard.

“I have continued to write my story and to pursue the practice of helping others do the same. Not only do I believe that telling our stories is an important way to get to know ourselves and find healing, I also believe it’s a way to connect with others on a deeply authentic level.”

*If we are to be disciples of Christ, and we are, we need to learn to tell the stories of our **Journeys in Faith** and share them with the world!*

Where do we begin?

Writing our personal stories is the most vulnerable kind of writing we can do. We fear being laughed at, rejected, or that our words will be met with silence. And in turn, we ourselves remain silent. In the process of writing her own story, Claire DeBoer has identified *six helpful steps*:

1. Tap into your emotions.

Your story won’t resonate with others if it is void of emotion, as I discovered when writing that first draft of my own story. So take out your paper and pen and write down some *key feelings* that you associate with your life so far. Then write something about each feeling and the story behind it.

Continued on next page

2. List the turning points.

People often make the mistake of starting with their earliest childhood memory and moving through their story chronologically. But *rather than starting at the beginning*, it's more helpful to *make a list of your life's key turning points*—those times when you were standing at a *crossroads* and the direction you chose marked a significant change in your life.

3. Write everything down.

It might not seem like much at the time but it's amazing how *one memory leads to another* and allows you to go deeper into your story. As with all writing, you may not use many of the scenes you write, but that doesn't mean they don't have a purpose.

4. Use your senses.

The one thing that will help you explore long forgotten memories is to use your senses. As you recall events, *try to remember the smells, tastes and sounds* that accompany them. Not only will this help you remember details, it will also enrich your writing.

5. Find the theme.

Once you have compiled several significant scenes, it's likely you will begin to see a theme emerging. *Your theme is the central question driving your story*. The ability to carry this theme through the sequence of events you have recorded is what will turn your individual scenes into one story. It may be that you discover more than one theme. That's okay; it's likely there will be one that stands apart from the others.

6. Tell a story.

You have your theme and a multitude of scenes; you've gone through a box of tissues in the process of exploring your emotions, but have you told a story? As you begin to work on pulling it all together, *focus on the reader or potential listener*. What about your story will connect with her or him? The best stories are ultimately those that connect with the reader the most.

This process of telling your story is, I believe, one of the most rewarding and clarifying things you can do for yourself, and for others. I believe, when we talk about sharing our Faith, oftentimes, we are afraid we don't know enough, that we don't have the right words; or, we think we must be able to share some extraordinary "mountaintop" experience, when sharing the simple Kyries and Glorias, the trials and celebrations of our lives would be sufficient.

So, my invitation to each of you as Children of Faith, Members of Christ's Body, as simultaneously Saints and Sinners, is to step into that place of discomfort and write the words that will bring freedom and meaning to your life. Is it not time?

We will present several opportunities throughout the Season of Pentecost for members of our community to share their Journeys in Faith.

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, Cell: 601-954-3946

Flower Guild

Becky Wright, Cell: 601-940-4861

Betty Sue Hennington, Cell: 601-955-9970

Funeral Guild

Linda Piazza, 601-594-6704

Parish Lunches & Special Events

Vicky Donaho, 601-924-5107

Scouting Committee Chairman

Jim Brantley, Cell: 601-940-1962

Scoutmaster

Chuck Runyan, Cell: 601-668-5362

Cubmaster

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Wedding Coordinator

Betty Sue Hennington, Cell: 601-955-9970



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.”