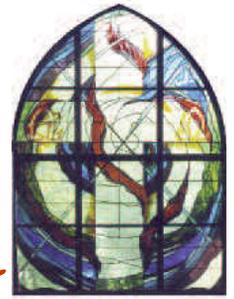


CREATOR



Chronicle



February 2018

"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 am sharing an article from my dear friend Diane Hamilton whom Joan and I first met at an Integral Spiritual Conference in Monterey, California. I think it is significant considering current conversations in our culture.

Diane writes: *"#MeToo": On Perspectives, Listening, and Risk-Taking*

I was in a meeting recently discussing the take down of Harvey Weinstein and others accused of sexual harassment, and the rise of the #metoo campaign. We were freely exchanging opinions about these trends in culture, except for several men who declined to add to the conversation. When I asked them for their thoughts on the matter, and they replied that there wasn't anything they were willing to add; *because, they said, the truth was that they were only allowed to agree with the perspectives already in the room.* As much I as prodded to elicit other points of view, they remained firm. They weren't angry, resentful, or upset about it. They were just unwilling to risk a damn word.

As a mediator, I find this trend troublesome, but not uncommon. And though I am extremely supportive of the rigor in culture right now that calls out racism, demands an end to sexual harassment, or advocates for the fair treatment of all religious groups, *I find it extremely problematic when this passion hardens into dogma, and the impulse to liberate becomes its own form of oppression.* I am particularly aware that in our zeal to rid culture of these forms of abuse, we now throw due process to the wind, treating every offense, regardless of severity, as a high crime, and every person, regardless of true culpability, as already guilty. [Except, of course, in certain political sectors in which, sexual harassment hasn't made it onto the national agenda].

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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.

Philosopher **Ken Wilber** has written extensively about the ironic way in which the impulse towards inclusion and tolerance in pluralistic culture quickly becomes most intolerant and repressive when its politically correct orthodoxies aren't adhered to. *In other words*, he argues that *our attempts at inclusion quickly become exclusive when people disagree with us; our desire for egalitarianism becomes hierarchical when our views are challenged; and, our attempts at justice go only so far as to extend to those of whom we approve*. Ken reminds us that the ability to truly include multiple perspectives in our thinking and conversations is an achievement of human development, and when threatened, we all collapse into seeing just one truth. It is the way our brain works. *When there is a threat, complexity, and nuance downgrade quickly to black and white thinking. It makes it easier to act.*

With that in mind, how do we as a collective make change, finally giving attention, empathy, and real support to those who have suffered from sexual assault and harassment, while still creating room for additional considerations? How do we come to deeply understand how rampant and injurious it has been in so many contexts, while still finding a way to acknowledge all the men who are emotionally and sexually mature, and who conduct themselves with dignity and good taste in their relationships? And how do we recognize the utter lack of [opportunity given victims to] simply be heard, let alone helped, [without] immediately making new victims out of those who have been accused.

It is true that the moment to really listen to these stories of harassment and abuse is now — whether it is online, on the news channels, at the Golden Globes, or in conversation. We can listen to these accounts in a real and sustained way, coming to understand the threats [that have been raised against those] attempting to speak out, including the loss of a job, reputation, and worse, becoming a victim of even further violence. Even now, Tina Johnson's [house] in Alabama [was] recently burned down. (She is one of the women who accused Roy Moore of harassment, and the burning of her [home] is being investigated as arson.)

We are in challenging territory. *It is difficult for any of us to have conversations that include an array of perspectives*, most particularly when culture is trying to make a long, overdue change. But while the collective can sound only one clear note at a time, *repeating it over and over* until it is integrated into our social norms, in our private conversations at dinner, with friends, and at work, there is ample room to *practice including more voices, more experiences, and further nuance* — maybe traveling a little further out on the learning curve than the mainstream conversation can go.

We can accomplish this if we take pains to *practice our listening skills*. *The problem is that we all think we are great listeners until we hear something that isn't consistent with our current thinking. Then we become tense, contracted, and defensive, and the conversation loses its potential for expanding into new territory*. In an atmosphere of political correctness, this is even [truer], and *real listening is often replaced with a compliant form of silence, which isn't listening at all*. To combat that, we have to *calm ourselves in the face of disagreement*, and even when uncomfortable, *attempt to really listen*. When we succeed and the most essential perspectives are deeply acknowledged, we create an *opening for taking risks* into even more perspectives and deeper learning.

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*For example, when we have really taken in the extent of the abuse and the injury, mainly to women, we can also presence the importance of **due process**, the role of **proportionality**, and the **distinctions** that must be made between that which is crude, but still possibly funny, to that which is distasteful, harassing, or downright criminal.*

Another viewpoint that we might consider putting on the table, even though it is certainly risky, is that *as women, **paradoxically**, we stand to **lose power** by expecting all the learning and change to come from men. We give away our ability to fully participate in setting the tone, the terms, and the conditions of our own encounters, still passively relying on men for our comfort and safety.* And we may unwittingly lose the support of mature men who, like the men in my meeting, don't feel that they can contribute honestly to the conversation.

Another exploration that could arise is to deepen our understanding of consent, which is one theme at the heart of this conversation. By listening to one another, engaging our successes and failures, we may become better at getting clear agreements about our sexual engagements, learning to say or to hear yes without ambivalence, and express or receive a no clearly, without fear or anxiety. In the company of our friends and fellow learners, we may be more willing to look more closely at our own motives for engaging others erotically, including how we conflate power with erotic exchange; seeing when we combine pleasure and opportunity, and noticing that we all lose clarity when we mix sex and ambition.

Finally, we might even go so far as to wonder what the role healthy sexuality has in our friendly relationships, even in the workplace. We might ask aloud whether in excluding all forms of flirtation, innuendo, and play, we are suggesting that all sexuality is by its very nature harmful and wrong. We might ask if, in an effort to prevent hostile work environment lawsuits, that we are allowing the most prudish among us to set the tone. And we might consider whether, in our effort to make sure no one ever feels a drop of discomfort, that we are re-creating a climate of sexual repression, encouraging our psyches to step backwards into private, and often more twisted, expressions of desire. I can't help but think of the dour, grim faces of those from the Victorian era, or the number of perverted ministers in churches, and these images make me want to stand for the eradication of sexual harassment within the context of free and healthy sexual expression.

*When there is the freedom to truly exchange perspectives, when we can **practice listening better and hearing more**, and when we can **risk** with each other, **offering up new, sometimes dicey points of view**, there is potent **potential** for **learning** and for **compassion**. We become capable of navigating through these perspectives in a way that honors the truth in each of them, but still creates a hierarchy of perspectives which offers best and the highest for everyone. That's not an easy thing to do. But it is far more interesting, informative, and helpful than insisting there is only one way to see things, and therefore, only one way to act.*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob



Prime Timers

Wednesday, February 7

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



2018 Annual Parish Meeting and Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 4 is Scout Sunday. Our Troop and Pack will be present at the 10:30 service. Also, at the end of the service, we will be holding Creator's Annual Parish Meeting. It is important that everyone attend this meeting as we will be:

- Presenting the new budget for 2018
- Electing a new Junior Warden
- Electing one new Vestry member.
- Celebrating our successes of 2017

At the conclusion of the Parish Meeting we will be having a Pot Luck lunch in the Parish Hall. Please bring your favorite casseroles, salads, deserts and bread.

Ash Wednesday Mass

with imposition of ashes

February 14: 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



Pack 345



Cubmaster: Mike Milone
Assistant Cubmaster: Tom Simpson
Pack Committee: John Gardner, Chairman, Edie Hill,
 John Fox, Richard McMullan

Pack 345 Calendar - 2017 - 2018

<p>September</p> <p>17 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am 21 New Parent Orientation, 6:30 pm 28 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>October</p> <p>13-15 Akela Cub Weekend 20-22 Akela Cub Weekend 28 Brighton Park, 2:00 pm, Water Rockets</p> <p>November</p> <p>30 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm, Guest is AMR</p> <p>December <i>No Pack Meeting</i>, Winter Pack Outing</p> <p>January</p> <p>25 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm, Guest is CPD</p> <p>February</p> <p>4 Scout Sunday (@ church @ 10:00 am) 9-11 Cub Scout Polar Weekend 22 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Pinewood Derby)</p>	<p>March</p> <p>1 Camp Card Sales Begin 24 District Pinewood Derby 29 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>April</p> <p>12 Camp Card Sales End (money due) 13-15 Cuboree Weekend 26 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>May</p> <p>3 Year-end Parent & Den Leader Meeting, 6:00 pm 31 Blue & Gold Banquet, 6:00 pm Graduation</p> <p>June - July</p> <p>TBD Cub / Webeles Summer Camp TBD District Day Camp TBD Pack Summer Outing</p>
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Pack 345

January 25 Pack Meeting

Our guest presenter this month was Lt. Mike Kelly of the Clinton Police Department. Lt. Kelley talked to the boys about the importance of gun safety: at a shooting range, while hunting, and in the home. He stressed what the boys should do if they saw a gun in the home: “don’t touch it, walk away and ask an adult if the gun is real or a toy”.

After hearing how several local children were injured or killed last year from accidental shootings, I felt this was something that should be discussed. After the presentation the boys engaged Lt. Kelly in an “lively” question and answer session.

Submitted by Mike Milone, Cubmaster

VESTRY DIGEST

The January 15 meeting of the Vestry of Creator:

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

Absent:

Visitor: Joan Blanton

Junior Warden Report

- Frank will look into alternatives for fixing the parking lot wall.
- About half the spotlights in the nave are out. Frank will look into having them all replaced with LED bulbs.

Treasurer Report

- There was a large expense in December for the support of the diocese. This occurs every year in December. Michael said that next week he and Beth will finish bringing together the information on the 2017 budget year.

Old Business

Financial support for the diocese

- Joyce informed the vestry that the vote taken in the December meeting concerning financial support for the diocese was held without a quorum.
- Vicky made a motion that our church's percentage be 5%. The motion was seconded and passed.

Parish Development Council

- The Public Information Committee presented a mock up of their proposed logo for the church. Vicky made a motion to accept the logo. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Also, the committee plans to begin posting to the Facebook page a few times a week and to begin using Instagram as well.
- The Welcoming Committee discussed plans for usher recruitment, visitor cards and packets, and a once-a-month Sunday social to begin in March.

New Business

2019 Stewardship

- The stewardship campaign for 2019 will begin September 2018. The vestry will formulate the plan for congregational stewardship based on the format from the Development council. The vestry will compose a letter to the congregation concerning stewardship.

Application for Renewal

- The Application for Renewal of Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lay Eucharistic Visitor was presented. John made a motion to approve it. The motion was seconded and passed. Bob and Dianne signed the application.

Safe Harbor Congregation

The Safe Harbor congregation is looking for a place to meet on Sundays and Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. They would like to meet in our parish hall. John moved that authority be given to Bob to negotiate with Safe Harbor concerning their use of and payment for the space. The motion was seconded and passed.

There being no further business to come before the vestry the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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.



**Come and
Join Us!**

Monthly Church Work Day

Saturday, February 17

8:30 - 11:30

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

CREATOR *February Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	2	3 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
4 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts Annual Parish Meeting / Scout Sunday	5 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	6 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	7 12:00 am: Healing Service 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	8 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	9	10 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
11 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts	12 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group Parish Hall Rental	13 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	14 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group  Noon & 6:30 pm Valentine's Day	15 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	16	17 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Church Work Day
18 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts 1st Sunday of Lent The Great Litany	19 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	20 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Trials	21 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	22 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scout Pack Meeting - Pinewood Derby	23	24 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
25 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts	26 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	27 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Girl Scouts	28 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group			

February Servers

	4 Annual Parish Meeting & Scout Sunday	11	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm	18	25
Chalice	Bob White	Mike Milone	Mike Milone	Mike Milone	Bob White
	Tori Meyers	Richard McMullan	N/A	Chuck Runyan	Tori Meyers
Lectors	Boy Scout	Richard McMullan	Michael Piazza	John Lanford	Chuck Runyan
	Boy Scout	Michael Piazza	Maddie Gray Braley	Joan Blanton	Max Lanford
Prayers	Chuck Runyan	Deborah Runyan	N/A	Janie Fields	Fred Shirley
Acolytes	Maddie Gray Braley	Tristan McMullan	Maddie Gray Braley	Rowan Braley	Ruby Lanford
	Max Lanford	Manny Diaz-Olarra	Rowan Braley	Tristan McMullan	Manny Diaz-Olarra
Ushers	John Gardner	Tom Kany	Beth Braley	Frank Hennington	Doug George
	Cub Scouts	Rivers McMullan	Stone Braley	Betty Sue Hennington	Abby Donaho
Altar	Katy Lanford	Joyce White	Larry Estes	Beth Braley	Rhea Estes
Home Communion				Edie Hill	
				Tom Kany	
Vestry Person of the Day	Frank Hennington	Joyce White	John Lanford	Andrew Wilder	Doug George



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

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

- 15 John Lanford
- 18 Kevin White
- 24 Wendy Brantley
- 25 Mitchell Singletary

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

Administrator

Beth Braley

theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

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: theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

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

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

John Gardner, Cell: 601-955-3611

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.”