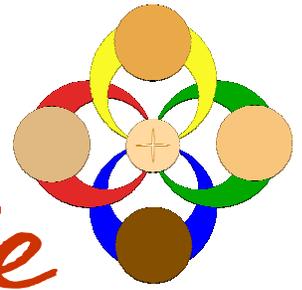


CREATOR

Chronicle



"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."

December 2019

Dear Friends:

*In this December Newsletter I want to share Advent Meditations from two of my favorite teachers. The first is an edited letter from 2017 by Episcopal priest, author, and lecturer **Cynthia Bourgeault** in which she reflects on Mary – the mother of Jesus, “the mother of contemplatives” – as a model for co-creating wholeness in the world and shares poetry from **Denise Levertov**.*

“... I hope your **Advent** season [progresses] wisely and well and richly and deeply. Sometime during the season, and it varies from liturgical year to liturgical year and from church to church ... the **Virgin Mary** makes her appearance. Sometimes it's on the third Sunday of Advent where we dedicate a whole day to pondering her effect, sometimes in monastic traditions she ... weaves her way through the whole [season]. But [she is] very important because ... had there been no Blessed Virgin, there would have been no Incarnation and no Advent. She is an indisputable essential part of the story. Not only the *what* of [the story] and the *how* of [the story], but in a deep way the *why* of [the story]. And it is not without reason that **Mary** has been called the *mother of contemplatives*, because in her bearing, both literally and spiritually, during this whole richly *feminine ... gentle time* of annunciation, gestation, and child birthing she models [for] us ... what it means to be an *active co-creator* ... in [the] world. [What it means to be a participant in a world] in which [Jesus], the treasure from the heart of God, was sent not as a kind of remediation for sin, but as the sort of crowning revelation of what it means to stand with one foot in the *finite* world, one foot in the *infinite*, bridging the gap in our heart and creating ... the wholeness [of] divine love.

“... very often, poets will say things a lot better than theologians ... and one of my favorite of all *explorations of the meaning* of not only the how and the what, but the why of the annunciation comes in a poem called “*Annunciation*” by the modern poet **Denise Levertov** and in this she tries to paint a picture of the psyche, of the state of being of this person that we often just put up on a pedestal and sort of identify as the *mother of surrender* ... Denise is trying to get at the fact that *surrender, the kind of surrender that co-creates the world of redeemed love*, the world of redemption, is not an act of passive knuckling under, but an active *participational intelligence*. Denise writes:

Continued on next page

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

“There's an insight. ‘Courage,’ the word comes from French ‘courage,’ and to see Mary as modeling the way of the heart. Denise continues:

The engendering Spirit did not enter her without consent. God waited.

“And we often think of Advent as the time where *we're doing the waiting*. This is a wonderful flip in this poem that says in a deep way *God waited*. God waited, the whole wheels of creation awaited a *yes* from a *human being*, that is formed not with gritted teeth and humble knuckled under obedience, but an *active intelligence*. And then Denise Levertov goes on to explore what this intelligence was and some of her words, ‘*Compassion and intelligence fused in her, indivisible.*’ So, the *contemplative* act, the act of *courage*, the act of *compassion* and *intelligence* that allows a yes to be yes is indeed an *act of seeing* which is at the same time an *act of participation*, a *yes* which is *not passive* but *active*. The poet continues:

"Called to a destiny more momentous than any and all of Time, she" Mary, "did not quail, only asked a simple, 'How can this be?' and gravely, courteously, took to heart the angel's reply, perceiving instantly the astounding ministry she was offered: to bear in her womb infinite weight and lightness; to carry in hidden finite inwardness, nine months of Eternity; to contain in slender vase of being, the sum of power-in narrow flesh, the sum of light. Then bring to birth, push out into air, a man child needing like any other, milk and love, but who was God."

“*Suppose this world isn't a mistake, a myth, a fall.* Suppose it's ... these conditions of *fragility, finitude, density* which allow the *divine heart* when it's focused and brought to radiance in the heart of a human being who is actively, courageously, intelligently *receptive*, then we have the real *co-creation of the Christ*, the infinite love in finite form. And that's the *why* of what this festival is about. And it takes the whole power and profundity, human depth, physical depth of the — of the god bearer, our earth, our planet to bring forth in human form what the always uncreated brilliant light of love is like. So, during this time of *Advent* as we ourselves *converge* towards the *Christmas*, the *birth* of the *Christic* may it be not just in a *stable without*, but in the *stable of your heart*, in your own human flesh and form that the rays of this uncreated light may *shine forth in you* and radiate your entire ordinary life with the glow of the eternal, from which it is always emerging and into which we are always returning. Thank you and a blessed Advent.”

Poem excerpts: Denise Levertov, “Annunciation,” *A Door in the Hive* (New York: New Directions, The *Second Meditation on the Season of Advent* is from Father **Richard Rohr** who shares the meaning of Christmas from a Franciscan perspective. “When we speak of Advent or preparing for Christmas, we’re not talking about waiting for a little baby to be born. We’re in fact welcoming the universal, cosmic Christ – the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and history.”

Continued on next page

"I'd like to share with you today something that I'd bet most of you don't know. In the *first 1200 years of Christianity* the great feast, hands-down, was *Easter*, the holy week leading up to it, leading up to the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. But around 1200, a new man entered the scene called *Francis of Assisi* and he felt we didn't need to wait for God to love us by the cross and resurrection. In fact, he thought it started with love and he popularized what you and I take for granted today as the big Christian feast, Christmas. But Christmas only started being popular in the 13th century, and it was my order, the Franciscans, frankly, who made it popular. Now, the main point I want to make is the *theological switch* that took place, that *we realized if God had become flesh, taken on materiality, physicality, humanity, then the problem was solved from the beginning*. Francis even celebrated Christmas so much, we fasted in those days most of the days of the week. And he said, "On Christmas Day even the walls should eat meat." That's how much he went wild over Christmas. He said, "Every tree should be decorated with lights to show that it's filled with light anyway." And that's exactly what we do 800 years later. But remember when we speak of the Advent or waiting for Christmas or preparing for Christmas, we're not talking about waiting for a little baby Jesus to be born. That already happened 2000 years ago. We're in fact *welcoming the Universal Christ, the Cosmic Christ, the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and into history*. And believe me we do have to make room for that, because right now there is no room in the inn for such a mystery. *We see things pretty much in their physicality, materiality, but we don't see the light shining through*. We don't see the incarnate spirit that is hidden inside of everything material. So, one final point, because we—even though Francis was a miracle worker here in opening up our eyes, he was a part of the Western Church, and in the Eastern Church, which most people in the United States and Western Europe aren't familiar with, they made it very clear that the incarnation was a universal principal. It was *not just, God became Jesus, but it was that God said yes to the material universe*. God said yes to physicality. They understood the mystery of incarnation in the universal sense, and that's what you and I, I think, are still preparing for. That's the eternal advent. *It's always advent. We're always waiting to see spirit revealing itself through matter. We're always waiting for matter to become a new kind of apparition in which spirit is revealed. Whenever that happens, you're celebrating Christmas*. So, for me it's pretty logical that Christmas became the great celebratory feast of *Christians* because *it's basically saying it's good to be human, it's good to be on this earth, it's good to be flesh, it's good to have emotions, it's good to have sexuality*. We don't need to be ashamed of any of this. This is what God loves. So, Merry Christmas without any hesitation. Thank you." Copyright © 2017 Center for Action and Contemplation

Here's wishing you a Hope-filled Advent and a Merry Christmas,

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

Thank You



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There truly are no words to express our thanks for the outpouring of love and support that you have given the Runyan family during the darkest days of our grief. For fear of leaving someone out, I will not list names but will share the many ways you have touched our lives.

Thank you for leaving church and coming to our home to sit with us as the shock rolled through our world because we had lost our dearly loved husband, father, brother, and friend. Thank you for all the food, the cards, the flowers, and the memorials in Chuck's memory. To one of the younger members of our congregation who quietly left chocolate chip cookies at our front door, to another congregant who left her chocolate chip cookies one day and doughnuts for Alex another, thank you. To the choir, our organist, the choirmaster, the readers, the acolytes, the worship leaders, the ushers, the publisher of the service bulletins, the AMAZING crew who worked in the kitchen, fed the masses, and cleaned up, we thank you. Did I mention the amazing food and the quantities that you provided for us? My family and guests ate because of your generosity. To all of you, who continue to pray for us and offer assistance, thank you. Last but not least, to our dear Pastor Bob, thank you for your presence, your ongoing support, and the beautiful homily/eulogy you gave at Chuck's service.

During this season of saints and thanksgivings, we thank all of you for being the living body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and touching our lives so deeply.

Love+

Deborah, Alex, and Sarah Runyan



Healing Service and Prime Timers

Wednesday, December 4

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch

Cub Scout Storage Area

(Sunday School Building storage room)

The area on the North wall of the storage room, the wall, the floor underneath and the adjacent shelves are marked with signs stating that this area is reserved for Cub Scouts. We need access to and use items from this area every week at our meetings and outings.

Please do not remove anything from this space or place any miscellaneous items into or in front of this area (blocking access) when organizing and/or cleaning out the storage room.

Thank you,

Mike Milone

Cubmaster, Pack 345



Come and Join Us!

Monthly Church Work Day

Saturday, December 21 (8-12am)

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

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

(3rd Sunday each month)



When you are grocery shopping, please remember to pick up some extra, non-perishable food goods and bring them to church the next time you come. We will be continuing this outreach ministry each month on the third Sunday each month, so mark the dates on your calendar.



Parish Christmas Party

Greening of the Church and Christmas Party

When: December 22

Following the 10:30 Mass, join in the fun at the annual Christmas pot-luck party. Everyone, please prepare your favorite appetizers and desserts and come join in fellowship as we prepare for Christmas week together.

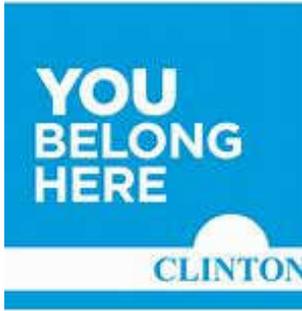
The annual greening of the church will be held immediately after the Christmas pot-luck. Come and join in the fun as we green the church together. Come one, come all!



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Mass: 6:30 pm - Christmas Day Mass: 8:00 am





What to Do, What to Do!?

Here's some of the things that are coming up in our community.

For everything Clinton, visit <https://www.clintonms.org/>

Christmas Tree Lighting

City Hall and the streets of Olde Towne will be the venue for Clinton to kick-off the holiday season. The city's official Christmas tree lighting will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, in front of City Hall.

The choir performance and lighting will be followed by hot cocoa and cookies with Santa himself. Following the Tree Lighting, join Main Street Clinton for the Santa Claus Crawl.

Santa Claus Crawl

Kick off the season at Main Street Clinton's 7th Annual Santa Claus Crawl, a fun holiday event showcasing some favorite Olde Towne businesses. The event will be held on Thursday, December 5, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. along the beautiful brick streets.

The adult event includes a scavenger hunt-style tour from business to business in Olde Towne, with cider, hors d'oeuvres, music and door prizes. After purchasing a ticket, participants will visit each participating business, sampling cider and shopping, while looking for the answer to the business's unique question. A correct answer enters guests in the drawing for a fun door prize from the business!

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the event. Tickets will be available for purchase on Nov. 8 in the Main Street Clinton office at the Olde Towne Depot. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.mainstreetclintonms.org/santaclauscrawl. Each participant will receive a commemorative mug to use along the crawl. For more information, contact Main Street Clinton at 601-924-5472 or visit <https://www.clintonms.org/>.



Pack 345

Cubmaster: Mike Milone
Pack Committee: John Lanford, Chairman, Edie Hill,
 John Fox



Pack 345 Calendar - 2019 - 2020

September

16 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 20 New Parent Orientation, 6:30 pm
 27 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

October

12-14 Akela Cub Weekend
 19-21 Akela Cub Weekend
 27 Brighton Park, 2:00 pm, Water Rockets

November

9 Church Campout
 21 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm, Flag Retirement

December

1 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 7 *No Pack Meeting*, Winter Pack Outing

January

30 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm
 31-Feb 2 Cub Scout Polar Weekend

February

9 Scout Sunday (@ church @ 10:00 am)
 27 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Pinewood Derby)
 Camp Card Sales Begin

March

TBD District Pinewood Derby
 26 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

April

17-19 Cuboree Weekend
 23 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm
 Camp Card Sales End (money due)

May

3 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 14 Year-end Parent & Den Leader Meeting,
 6:00 pm
 28 Blue & Gold Banquet, 6:00 pm
 Graduation

June

6-8 Cub / Webelos Summer Camp
 15-19 District Day Camp
 TBD Pack Summer Outing





Vestry Digest

November 18, 2019

Present: Rhea Estes, Senior Warden, Ross Turner, John Lanford, Doug George, Deborah Runyan, Tommy Mills, Treasurer, Dianne Martin, Clerk of the Vestry

Absent: Pastor Bob Blanton, Priest-in-Charge, Jennifer Duncan

Visitor: Bill Singletary

Junior Warden Report

- Next scheduled workday is the third Saturday in December (12/21/2019).
- Rhea will ask Entergy to disconnect the one exterior light that has not been working properly. Rhea will contact Mr. Cirates about repairing the stucco.
- Rhea has received two quotes on removing the dead tree. Due to our current financial status, the vestry decided to table handling the removal of the tree until next year.

Old Business

- Signs -- Doug expects to have the Episcopal shield sign and AA signs put up next week.
- Plaques for Stations of the Cross walkway—The only bench plaque remaining to be done is the one for Jolyne and Fred Shirley. We just need to know what they want the plaque to say.
- Narthex use -- Safe Harbor is using a rug in the Narthex and has toys for children and parents to use if needed.
- Scout trailer – Rhea will ask Mike Milone to contact Doug about moving the scout trailer to Doug's land.

New Business

- Angel Tree – Dianne reported that many of the gifts had been chosen. Rhea will take the list to early church next week. If any gift requests remain after that, Dianne will provide an opportunity after 10:30 service.
- Lay Worship Leader application -- Ross moved that vestry approve the renewal of Mike Milone's lay leadership license. Deborah seconded. Vestry approved.

Vestry Minutes *continued on next page*

- Choir – Ezra’s position will go unfilled for some time due to the church’s financial situation. Members of the choir and Jeanine will carry on the best they can and may rotate who leads the choir. John made a motion that we continue to pay the sopranos through December and then determine what to do in January after we have the information about pledges for the new year. Doug seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer Report and Budget

- Tommy handed out the Treasurer report and noted that expenditures were way up in October and receipts were way down.
- The church, as of the end of October, has spent \$1,480.06 out of restricted funds to pay general fund expenditures.
- Currently we are paying \$2,880.00 a year for yard and ground maintenance which should include bush hogging. The contractor has not done the bush hogging. Ross made a motion that, at least for next year, we not continue contracting out this work and that church members take over yard and ground maintenance. He has a bush hog but we need to find a means to transport it to the church as Ross does not have a trailer. Ross, John and Rhea stated that they would help with yard and ground maintenance. John seconded the motion and it passed.
- Rhea mentioned the task of cleaning the church but no one volunteered for that.
- Doug made a motion that we ask each AA group to pay \$40.00 per month for use of our facility. This request should state that if the group cannot afford \$40.00 that they pay what they can and that, regardless, the church would still allow them to meet in our facility. He stated that AA requires that groups be self-supporting, declining outside contributions. John seconded the motion and it passed.
- After the pledges come in, the vestry will look at the possible need to cut hours (and thus salary) for Bob and Beth.

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor Advent 1	2 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	3 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	4 12:00 am: Healing Service 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	5 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	6	7 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Safe Harbor Christmas Party 6pm—9 pm
8 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor Advent 2	9 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	10 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	11 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	12 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	13	14 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
15 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's Advent 3	16 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	17 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	18 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	19 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	20	21 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Church Work Day 8am-12pm
22 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor Greening the Church 2:pm Advent 4	23 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	24 12:00 pm: AA Meeting Christmas Eve 6:30 pm	25 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Christmas Day 8:00 am	26 12:00 pm: AA Meeting <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Office is Closed all week </div>	27	28 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
29 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	30 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	31 12:00 pm: AA Meeting New Year's Eve				

	1 Advent I	8 Advent II	15 Advent III	22 Advent IV	29 1st Sunday after Christmas
Chalice	Bob White Joyce White	Mike Milone Ruby Lanford	Bob White Tori Meyers	Mike Milone Maddie Gray Braley	Bob White Wendy Brantley
Lectors	Ross Turner Pennie Van Brocklin	Wendy Brantley Ruby Lanford	John Lanford Landon Daniel	Ross Turner Maddie Gray Braley	John Lanford Pennie Van Brocklin
Prayers	Janie Fields	Deborah Runyan	Ross Turner	Pennie Van Brocklin	Wendy Brantley
Acolytes	See December Acolyte & Christmas Schedule on next page				
Ushers	Deborah Runyan	Beth Braley Stone Braley	Landon Daniel Ruby Lanford	Vicky Donaho Doug George	Austine Onyia Emmanuela Onyia
Altar	Joyce White	Katie Lanford	Larry Estes	Ross Turner	Tommie Kirksey Sandra Randall
Home Communion			Eddie Hill		
Vestry Person of the Day	Deborah Runyan	Jennifer Duncan	Ross Turner	Doug George	John Lanford



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 7 Deborah Runyan
- 11 Sara Waldbauer
- 12 Sarah Margaret Wilder
- 14 Sarah Runyan
- 16 Ruby Lanford
- 17 Mike Milone
- 21 Joyce White

22 Wallis Schutt

- 25 Emmanuela Onyia
- 26 Dianne Martin
- 31 Marti Williams

Anniversaries

- 11 Larry & Rhea Estes
- 31 Bill & Marty Singletary

December Acolyte & Christmas Eve Schedule



Advent I, Dec. 1

Manny Diaz-Olarra - Crucifer
Kate Onyia - Gospel Book

Advent II, Dec. 8

Maddie Gray Braley - Crucifer
Rowan Braley - Gospel Book

Advent III, Dec. 15

Landon Daniel - Crucifer
Kate Onyia - Gospel Book

Advent IV, Dec. 22

Rowan Braley - Crucifer
Max Lanford - Gospel Book



Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 (6:30 pm)

Landon Daniel - Thurifer
Ruby Lanford - Crucifer
Rowan Braley - Torch
Max Lanford - Torch
Maddie Gray Braley - Gospel Book

Chalice: - Mike Milone
- Bob White

Lectors/POP: - TBD

Altar: - Rhea Estes

Ushers: - Beth Braley

Vestry Person: - Rhea Estes



Sunday after Christmas Dec. 29

Max Lanford - Crucifer
Manny Diaz-Olarra - Gospel Book

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

Vacant

Senior Warden

Rhea Estes, 601-813-3863

Junior Warden

Vacant

Treasurer

Tommy Mills, 601-259-5333

Vestry

Ross Turner, 601-214-2484

John Lanford, 601-708-4374

Doug George, 601-502-5063

Deborah Runyan, 601-497-7947

Jennifer Duncan, 601-850-6353

Contacts

Church Office

Administrator—Beth Braley, 601-924-2261

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

Vacant

Children's Christian Education

John Lanford, Cell: 601-966-3441

Columbarium

Wendy Brantley, Cell: 601-954-3946

Flower Guild

Becky Wright, Cell: 601-940-4861

Funeral Guild

Vacant

Parish Lunches & Special Events

Andrew Wilder, 601-842-0058

Doug George, 601-502-5063

Cubmaster

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Wedding Coordinator

Vacant



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.”