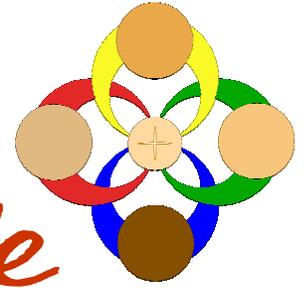


CREATOR

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."

May 2019

Dear Friends:

This month I want to share some thoughts about our spiritual journey adapted from the writings by **Jim Palmer**, an author friend of mine who lives and teaches in Nashville, Tennessee. His latest book, *Notes from Over the Edge: Unmasking the Truth to End Your Suffering*, "... leads us out of [our] own self-imposed prison cells into the joy, freedom, and peace that religious rhetoric promises but [often] fails to deliver." We often find ourselves acting out or responding to internal and external conflicts consciously and unconsciously.

- My God is better than your God.
- My religion is better than your religion.
- My belief system is better than your belief system.
- My philosophy is better than your philosophy.
- My ideology is better than your ideology.
- My tribe is better than your tribe.
- My ism is better than your ism.
- My race is better than your race.
- My cause is better than your cause.
- My country is better than your country.
- My political party is better than your political party.
- My leader is better than your leader.

And the wheels on the bus go round and round.

Meanwhile, there is something beneath all those layers that unites us together as one.

When we are operating out of beliefs, mindsets, narratives and ideologies that are programmed in our heads we are divided and separated. But when we allow ourselves to embrace what we

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know is true in our gut, and what makes us all one human species and family, then there is no real conflict or division between us.

Rumi wrote:

“Out beyond ideas of wrong-doing and right-doing,
there is a field. I will meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass,
the world is too full to talk about
language, ideas, even the phrase 'each other'
doesn't make any sense.”

In other words, ...

Out beyond our cultural, racial, ethnic, and political differences ... out beyond our different religious, spiritual and philosophical traditions and beliefs ... there is a field:

- a field where we are all human;
- a field where we are all leaves of one tree, and drops of one ocean;
- a field where we are tied together in a single garment of destiny;
- a field where we stand together in mutuality and solidarity and our common human bond... and all the hopes and dreams, joys and victories, and wounds and scars... we encounter on life's journey;
- a field where the illusion of our separateness blows away in the wind, and we know we are one.

I will meet you in that field! And our souls will lay down in that grass. And no word will need to be spoken... no belief will need to be explained... no position will need to be debated... no idea will need to be defended... and the truth of who we are together will shine.

And then Jim asks us: “**What is grace?**”

Grace is a posture of empathy, understanding, acceptance, kindness, validation, favor, faith and goodwill toward another.

Flannery O'Connor wrote, “All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us, and the change is painful.”

Why is grace threatening? To receive or accept grace, you have to believe at some level that in Christ you are deserving of it. Many people don't believe they are deserving of these expressions of grace because they look upon themselves with shame, judgment, condemnation and rejection. What makes grace particularly difficult to swallow is that it is not based on a system of personal merit. It basically says, regardless of what you might feel disqualifies you from the acceptance, favor, faith and goodwill of grace, there is something deeper still—the very image in which you are created—that makes you a worthy recipient of it.

Continued on next page

This is why grace can be a transformative force in a person's life. It basically challenges us to think of ourselves in different terms—as someone who is fundamentally deserving of positive regard. It can be a painful change because people become captive to their shame and that's all they know. It's a tall order to lay hold of the kind of self-belief, self-acceptance, self-confidence, self-care and self-love that grace implies. It confronts a person with the idea that first and foremost the grace they most need is the grace they extend to themselves.

What is the rationale for grace? Because what you think makes you unworthy, you are blinded to what makes you unique, special, extraordinary, powerful and beautiful. One's shame also prevents a person from knowing and accessing the tools they naturally have to be the person they want to be and cultivate the life they want to live. That's not to say the process is easy, it never is for any human being. Each person has to face his or her own dragons to be free.

What would it mean for you to live by grace? It would mean...

- believing in your unconditional worth
- holding yourself in positive regard
- extending patience and understanding to yourself
- positive, affirming and empowering self-talk
- not placing unrealistic demands/expectations upon yourself
- acknowledging your goodness, gifts and uniqueness
- giving yourself permission to be and express yourself
- believing in your ability to cultivate the life you want
- having faith in yourself and what lies within you
- allowing yourself to make mistakes
- prioritizing caring for yourself
- setting boundaries with toxic people
- not allowing others to diminish or demean you
- respecting yourself
- loving and celebrating who you are

What would it mean to stop holding yourself to a standard of perfection, and start holding yourself to a standard of grace? The standard of grace says that at any and every moment in life—regardless of the circumstances, situation or the thoughts and feelings blowing around in your heart and head—you can stop and give yourself the acceptance, regard, understanding, kindness, patience, and empowerment you need and are worthy to receive.

You have been saved by Grace through Faith ... Now Act Like It!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob



Healing Service and Prime Timers

Wednesday, May 1

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch

Lenten Study Series Continued

The study series will continue each Wednesday night at 6:30 through May 8.

(Soup & Salad will be served from 6:00—6:30 pm)

See page 6 for a list of class subjects.



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.



Come and Join Us!

Up-coming Church Work Day

Saturday, May 18 (8-12am)

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

EVENTS continued on next page



WORK DAY • a t t h e • CHURCH

The workday that was moved to 4/13 due to Holy Week. Unfortunately, that day was affected by the stormy weather and other conflicting activities. Thanks to Chuck Runyan, who came to help organize and picked up branches. Also a thanks to everyone who came by on alternate days to ensure the stations of the Cross were ready for Monday at noon. The mailbox post has also been painted.

The next workday is scheduled for 5/18. A work list is posted on the bulletin board in Parrish Hall if you would like to work on things at your own convenience.

We will also need to work on the playground and Stations of the Cross during the next workday. We also have inside projects that can be done in case of rain.

Thanks again to everyone for helping maintain our church buildings and grounds.

Submitted by Rhea Estes, Senior Warden



Many thanks to everyone who made our children's Easter Egg Hunt such a terrific success. It was so delightful watching everyone running around before Easter Mass searching for eggs. It looked like they were all having a blast!

Upcoming Lenten Study Series

There will be a series of classes presented each Wednesday night at 6:30 during Lent.

(These classes will also qualify as part of confirmation class requirements)

Below is the list of class subjects.

God | Faith is a Quest | Brian McLaren: “If you ask me, ‘Is God real?’ I first have to ask, ‘Which God are we talking about?’” With these words, Brian McLaren gives voice to a common struggle among people of faith – who exactly is this God we worship? Is God a mighty fortress, solid and unchanging? Is God a mystical, unknowable force that floats around us like a vapor? How can we speak of faith if we can’t even speak of God with any certainty? How can we chart a course through the often-murky waters of Christian tradition and find our way to God?

Religion | Spirituality Is Not Enough | Lillian Daniel: What does it mean to be spiritual? Is it the same as being religious? Lillian Daniel pushes back at this question that has been stirring up the cultural conversation for a while now. She asks us to consider how the seeds of faith to take root and thrive. What role does organized religion play in helping – or hindering – growth? If religion is the problem, why has it held fast for thousands of years? In this age of religious pluralism, is it possible or even desirable to stick with our age-old traditions?

Jesus | The Revolution Of Love | Mark Scandrette: What does it mean to walk in the way of Jesus? To explore this question, Mark Scandrette looks to the ancient Japanese concept of the Dojo. What if our churches became places where we practiced being like Jesus? What if we were serious about joining in with Jesus’ Revolution of Love? What if we took the kind of social and economic risks Jesus took and reshaped what it means to be a Christian? As Mark invites us into the Dojo, we find ourselves looking at a Master who might be asking us to walk down a path we never imagined.

Salvation | Abundant Life Now | Shane Hipps: The cross of Christ stands as a symbol of God’s saving work. But what, exactly, does it mean to be saved? From what? For what? Is salvation a reward we claim at death or something meant to change our lives right now? For Shane Hipps, these are the questions we need to answer if we are to truly receive the release that comes with salvation in the here and now.

Cross | Where God Is | Nadia Bolz-Weber: The cross sits at the center of our faith, and yet our understanding of what exactly happened on that cross remains conflicted and confusing. Was Jesus our proxy? The payment? The only way to appease an angry God? Nadia Bolz-Weber reminds us that our theories about the cross tell us as much about ourselves and our view of God as they do about Jesus and salvation.

Bible | A Book Like No Other | Lauren Winner: Why read the Bible? This is Lauren Winner’s central question. For Lauren, an avid reader, there remains something odd about the way Christians read the Bible. Why do we keep turning to the same stories in search of some new revelation? What is it about the Bible that makes it worth repeated reading? What gets in our way as we read the Bible and try to make sense of it? These are issues the church has wrestled with for centuries and yet we keep at it. We keep coming back to this book and its strange narrative full of plagues and miracles and destruction and rebirth. So why do we do it?

Church | An Imperfect Family | Bruce Reyes-Chow: Bruce Reyes-Chow knows he’s not inventing the metaphor of the church as family. So he suggests we take our changing notions about what it means to be a family and let them seep into our understanding of the church. For Bruce, it’s the messiness, the dysfunction, and the joy that comes from complex relationships that make church worth hanging on to. So how do we stay connected to this sometimes-broken family system? What does it mean to commit ourselves to the church family, for better or for worse?



Vestry Digest

April 15, 2019

Present: Rhea Estes, Senior Warden, Chuck Runyan, Jr. Warden, Deborah Runyan, Ross Turner, Jennifer Duncan (online), John Lanford, Dianne Martin, Treasurer, Bettye Sue Hennington, Clerk of the Vestry

Absent: Bob Blanton, Doug George,

Visitor:

Treasurer's Report:

Discussion followed noting positive changes in the budget including increased revenues.

Junior Warden Report:

- Chuck Runyan came to Workday and the weather prevented work.
- All the doors that needed repairs have been completed by Chuck Runyan and Larry Estes.
- Larry Estes cleaned up the Stations of the Cross walkway for Holy Week.
- New Signs for the Offices, AA group meetings, exit/entrances and restrooms are still in the works. More research must be done to be completed.
- The work needed to hang the Episcopal shields is also being continued until next month. Pastor Bob is working on the needed supports.

New Business:

- It would be best if all Vestry members and members of the Altar Guild attend Maundy Thursday services so that there is help for stripping the altar.
- The next work day will be May 18, 2019. Safe Harbor has been invited to participate.
- The inserts for the Good Friday Offering will continue to be placed in the bulletin.
- Ezra Wall has worked to get a quote for repairing of the organ. The quote is \$16,558. The choir is suggesting that we raise \$20,000 for the organ so that there will be a built-in amount for maintenance. The cost of a new organ is \$215,000. Church organ repairs will continue to be discussed. One idea proposed to make the money was having a Capital fund raising campaign. It was also suggested that over half of the money be raised before the repairs begin.
- The members of the Vestry, who are also choir members, will meet with the entire Choir. The entire choir will forge a plan and bring the plan to the Vestry.

Vestry Minutes *continued on next page*

Upcoming Calendar:

- Workday for May will be 5/18.
- Tuesday 4/16 Stations of the Cross 12 noon
- Wednesday 4/17 Stations of the Cross 12 noon
- Thursday 4/18 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm service
- Friday 4/19 Good Friday 7 a.m. Stations of the Cross
- Good Friday Service 12 noon and 6:30 pm
- Sunday 4/21 Easter Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am
- Easter luncheon. We need clean-up crew.
- Easter Egg hunt Sunday at 9:45. Several of the Creator youth will be working.

Vestry meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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.



Sunday, May 12



Pack 345

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



Pack 345 Calendar - 2017 - 2018

<p>September</p> <p>16 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am</p> <p>20 New Parent Orientation, 6:30 pm</p> <p>27 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>October</p> <p>12-14 Akela Cub Weekend</p> <p>19-21 Akela Cub Weekend</p> <p>27 Brighton Park, 2:00 pm, Water Rockets</p> <p>November</p> <p>29 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm, Flag Retirement</p> <p>December</p> <p>2 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am</p> <p>TBD <i>No Pack Meeting</i>, Winter Pack Outing</p> <p>January</p> <p>24 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>February</p> <p>3 Scout Sunday (@ church @ 10:00 am)</p> <p>8-10 Cub Scout Polar Weekend</p> <p>28 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Pinewood Derby)</p>	<p>March</p> <p>1 Camp Card Sales Begin</p> <p>TBD District Pinewood Derby</p> <p>28 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>April</p> <p>25 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm—CPD Headquarters</p> <p>25 Camp Card Sales End (money due)</p> <p>26-28 Cuboree Weekend</p> <p>May</p> <p>5 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am</p> <p>16 Year-end Parent & Den Leader Meeting, 6:00 pm</p> <p>30 Blue & Gold Banquet, 6:00 pm</p> <p>Graduation</p> <p>June - July</p> <p>TBD Cub / Webeles Summer Camp</p> <p>TBD District Day Camp</p> <p>TBD Pack Summer Outing</p>
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	2 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	3	4 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Parish Hall Rental 9:00 am—12:00 pm
5 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor Pack Committee Meeting After 10:30 Mass	6 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	7 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	8 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	9 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	10	11 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
12 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor Mother's Day	13 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	14 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	15 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	16 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts - Parent Meeting	17	18 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Church Work Day 8am-12pm
19 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	20 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	21 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	22 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	23 12:00 pm: AA Meeting Parish Hall Rental 6pm—8:00 pm	24	25 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
26 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 2:00 pm: Boy Scouts 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	27 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group Memorial Day Office Closed	28 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	29 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	30 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts - Blue & Gold Banquet	31	

	5	12	19	26	
Chalice	Bob White Joyce White	Mike Milone Wendy Brantley	Bob White Tori Meyers	Mike Milone Chuck Runyan	
Lectors	Chuck Runyan Ruby Lanford	Fred Shirley Ross Turner	John Lanford Ruby Lanford	Landon Daniel Deborah Runyan	
Prayers	Janie Fields	Wendy Brantley	Pennie Van Brocklin	Fred Shirley	
Acolytes	Ruby Lanford Manny Olarra-Diaz	Maddie Gray Braley Rowan Braley	Landon Daniel Max Lanford	Landon Daniel Ruby Lanford	
Ushers	Doug George Abby Donaho	Beth Braley Stone Braley	Beverly Wilder Pamela Wilder	Need Usher Need Usher	
Altar	Katy Lanford	Sandra Randall Tommie Kirksey	Joyce White	Rhea Estes	
Home Communion			Edie Hill		
Vestry Person of the Day	Doug George	Jennifer Duncan	John Lanford	Chuck Runyan	



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 7 Rowan Braley
Stone Braley
- 10 Lauren Wilson
- 11 Alex Runyan
- 16 Tori Meyers
- 19 Melissa White
- 21 Charles Dieth, III

Anniversaries

- 7 Charlie & Lisa Dieth
- 13 Ross & Pam Turner
- 22 Fred & Jolyne Shirley

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

Rhea Estes, 601-813-3863

Junior Warden

Chuck Runyan, 601-668-5362

Treasurer

Dianne Martin, 601-906-5086

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

Ezra Wall, Cell: 601-454-4811

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

Bettye Sue Hennington, Cell: 601-955-9970

Funeral Guild

Open

Parish Lunches & Special Events

Andrew Wilder, 601-842-0058

Doug George, 601-502-5063

Scoutmaster

Chuck Runyan, Cell: 601-668-5362

Cubmaster

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Wedding Coordinator

Bettye 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.”