

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."

October 2019

Are You a Mystic? What Difference Does It Make?

For many years now, I've had a growing conviction that the great Catholic theologian Karl Rahner was right to have claimed: "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all." He meant that people will either have a dynamic, immediate and experiential relationship with God, or they will be bereft of faith.

You may have heard the term *mysticism* floating around. It comes with all sorts of connotations and just about everybody has some sort of preconceived notion about it.

Whether the word conjures up images of inspired mountain gurus or navel gazing hippies, you probably have some sort of opinion about it. Truthfully, what mysticism is could be either of those; and most likely, it is neither.

Mysticism, in its purest form, is simply *the experience of God*. A real and direct experience of the eternal by one who is mortal. You may have a mystical experience when walking in the woods, while doing the dishes, or (and this may seem strange) while in the midst of great suffering.

There is *no formula or criteria*. You do not necessarily have to reach a place of complete inner stillness. You do not necessarily have to climb to the top of a mountain and yell your name to the sky. You do not necessarily have to sit at the feet of a spiritual master and let them guide you. Though, I do actually suggest you do all of those things at some point in this fleeting life.

Mystical experience can come in many forms and from many places but there is one thing that most all of the mystics agree is essential. *Something has to break the habitual patterns we form. Something has to make us question our preconceptions.*

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

Not just the **outward** habits, but the **inward** ones. Something has to **break** our sure sense of who and what we are and what life is all about. As long as we have life all figured out and nicely compartmentalized and neatly sorted and understood we will not be able to break out of those boxes to see the vast expanse of reality in which we actually reside.

This is one of the reasons so many mystics have experienced great hardship. Nothing shatters your sure sense of self and others like a heart-wrenching body-aching uncontrollable catastrophe.

The problem is suffering doesn't necessarily lead to wisdom. It can lead to resentment and selfishness just as easily. This is why so many spiritual traditions have rites of passage for young people.

Fasting in the wilderness is one almost universal example of a spiritual practice that can break our sure sense of self and open us to what is beyond our grasp.

This has definitely been a formative event in my spiritual practices over the years and I owe a great deal to it. If you ever get the chance to fast in quiet isolation with the guidance of a spiritual master, take it.

But even if you don't, there are other ways to slowly chip away at that sure sense of self so that when life throws a catastrophe your way you will be able to accept it as a blessing and not become bitter and broken.

If you're expecting to buy a book on mysticism and study it dutifully and come out the other side a transformed person then you're barking up the wrong tree.

If you think that fasting on its own, or great acts of piety will break your ego and open your heart to the great mystery you are wrong.

The real work of the mystic is to come to know the patterns of your understanding. It is to be able to step back when a coworker picks a fight with you and see what buttons they pushed and why it upset you and how silly the whole thing is.

The reality of a mystical life is not in cosmic principals or esoteric symbols, it is not in anything other than a critical look inward.

It is to know yourself, with all your flaws and triggers and fears and passions, and then to let that all go.

Once you've let go of your preconceptions of **who you are** and **who you are supposed to be**, then you can begin to see the big picture. Then you can look at an ant hill and see an entire civilization at work. You can look at the night sky and see the vastness of reality far beyond anything that has you as the main character. You can see the face of God in both friend and stranger.

Once you begin to see the big picture you are having a mystical experience and you realize that doing the dishes is just as sacred as Holy Communion or an ancient Buddhist temple or anything else.

Continued on page 5



Prayer and Healing Service

Healing Service and Prime Timers

Wednesday, October 2

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



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.

Saint Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

October 6 @ 3:00 p.m.

There will be a dog wash beginning at 3:00 pm with a pet blessing following at 4:00 pm.

For more information please see the article on page 5



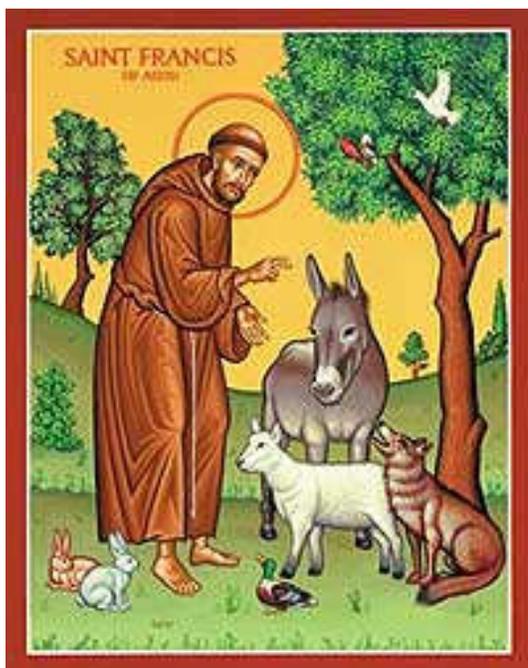
Come and
Join Us!

Up-coming Church Work Day

Saturday, October 19, (8-12am)

Rhea will be out of the country!, however; she asked that volunteers please do ground cleanup (especially the stations walkway) such as: limb & trash pick-up, blowing off the parking lot and walkways, etc.

Continued on next page



Saint Francis Day Observed

October 6 @ 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the blessing of our pets as we celebrate St. Francis' Day.

We will be offering a free pet wash beginning at 3:00 pm. Donations to C.A.R.A appreciated.

Beginning at 4:00 pm in the parking lot, we will meet for a "people and pet" social time followed by the Blessing of the Animals service.

Submitted by Mike Milone

Please note! — We ask that everyone please help support God's homeless creatures by bringing to the **Blessing of the Animals** one or more items as a donation to C.A.R.A.



TASTE OF THE ARTS & ARTIST SHOWCASE

October 19

The Arts Council of Clinton will present the Taste of the Arts celebration on Saturday, October 20th at The Church of the Creator, 1445 Clinton Raymond Road, Clinton. The event will last from 4 pm to 7 pm and will feature live music, art and light hors d'oeuvres, wine and other beverages.

Continued on next page

BBQ on the Boulevard

October 12, (12pm - 4 pm)

BBQ on the Boulevard: Clinton Plaza Shopping Center. Gates will open at noon for event festivities and the official tasting will begin at 2:00pm Get ready for another great year of Clinton's best BBQ and entertainment for grown ups and kids alike. This is a great family-friendly event filled with good food, live music, and children's activities. May the best barbecue win! Creator will have a team competing for the second year in a row. We will also need help selling Fall Festival tickets and pork butt reservations).

Go to <http://www.mainstreetclintonms.com/events/all/bbq-boulevard> to register for the amateur Corn Hole competition.

Continued from page 2

You can begin to see life as a divine liturgy.

We don't simply decide, of course, that we will become mystics.

Instead, we learn to spend time in shared worship and solitary silence; to listen; to open our eyes and hearts to the wonders of creation; to pay attention to our feelings, longings, fears and hopes; to share our lives with those who need our love and whose love we need; to surrender to, rather than attempt to conquer, mystery; and to expect the embrace of the Holy Spirit. These practices open us to awareness of the God who is always present with us.

Anthony de Mello described the role of such practices in this brief exchange between a wise Master and his disciple:

Disciple: "Is there anything I can do to make myself enlightened?"

Teacher: "As little as you can do to make the sun rise in the morning."

Disciple: "Then of what use are the spiritual exercises you prescribe?"

Teacher: "To make sure you are not asleep when the sun begins to rise."

And, Zen Master **Shunryu Suzuki** is purported to have said:

"Enlightenment is an accident ... Practice makes us Accident prone."

So, my dear friends, I pray you take the time to ***know yourself***. Sit down and spend a good amount of time looking at how your past affects your future, how your parents and siblings still shape your character, and how your society has molded you into the person you are today. Spend significant time in activities and fellowship in the company of a Community of Faith that supports you in stepping out beyond who you have always thought you were ... beyond what you were told were the limits within which you must dwell to survive.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob



Saturday, October 26th

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Fall Festival. Fall Festival activities will kick off Saturday, October 26th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The 2019 Fall Festival proceeds will benefit the Creator Scouting program and the Arts Council of Clinton.

Frozen casseroles and soups will be sold at the Festival, as well as a variety of fresh baked and canned goods. We will be selling pulled pork BBQ sandwich plate, with baked beans, potato salad and a soda for \$8. Starting in September, come by the church office to pre-order your cooked pork butts, \$40 each (only pre-ordered butts will be available for pick up on October 27th). BBQ lunch advanced tickets sales and pork butt pre-ordering will take place every Sunday in September and October (by the Vestry Person of the Day). The supply of the BBQ lunches and pork butts will be limited based on advanced ticket sales. Lunch will be dine in or carry-out. Please take a set of 10 tickets to sell to your friends and family. Help get the word out about this annual Creator event.

Volunteers are needed to assist with set up, pulling pork, serving, and counter/cash register sales the morning of the festival, starting at 8:00 a.m. till close. Two hour shifts will be set up, please let Beth in the church office know (by email: theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com) if you can volunteer for a shift.

The Arts Council of Clinton and the Episcopal Church of the Creator will be joining hands to promote artists in Clinton and the surrounding areas with their *Annual Artists' Showcase*. The Showcase will open with the Arts Council's *Taste of the Arts*, on Saturday, October 19. The gallery will run for one week, ending on Saturday, October 26th with Creator's Fall Festival.

Artist Showcase proceeds, by item, will be distributed in the following manner: 70% will go directly to the artist; 15% to Creator Scouting programs; and 15% to the Arts Council of Clinton. Artists may submit four items and price them for sale. When an item has been sold, the artist will be notified; and, may replace the sold item with another.

The Showcase committee will include members from the Episcopal Church of the Creator and the Arts Council of Clinton. They will oversee the artwork and sales for the artists over the week period. The deadline for applications is October 6 and all approved artwork should be delivered by October 14.

Continued on next page

Fall Festival continued

Go to the Facebook page of the Arts Council of Clinton for more information and registration forms or email **Robert Blanton**, Arts Council President at rmbblanton1@gmail.com or call 601-291-0652.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the hanging and displaying of the works of art throughout the campus buildings on October 17 and 18. Please contact the Creator office if you are willing to volunteer.



Calling all Creator Cooks and Bakers

This year we are adding baked beans and potato salad to the lunch plate menu. A box has been set up in the kitchen for those of you willing to donate canned baked beans. We are also in need of volunteers to make potato salad. To keep the salad uniform, we will have a simple potato salad recipe that is to be used. Beth will have copies of potato salad recipe.

We encourage all cooks and bakers to participate in supporting the Fall Festival activities by making their favorite casseroles, soups, and baked goods.

A freezer will be available in the Kitchen, for the storage of frozen items in September and October. In order to keep an inventory list, be sure to log your items on the sheet hanging outside the freezer, as they are placed in the freezer. It is requested that 8x8 or 8x12 disposable, plastic or aluminum freezer containers with lids be used to keep uniformity of the sale items. Please display on the container lid the name of the preparer, the name of the item, re-heating instructions, and list any allergen ingredients such as wheat, milk, soy, peanuts, etc. for customers with food allergies.

Baked goods may be prepared for sale whole or in ready-to-eat, pre-wrapped or bagged portions. Fresh baked and canned goods will be collected the week of the (October 26th) sale.

Janie Fields & Tori Meyers will be organizing baked goods and casseroles.

Acolyte Recognition Day

September 15, 2019





What to Do, What to Do!?

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

Neighborhood Night Out 2019

The city of Clinton's Police and Fire Departments, Mayor Phil Fisher, and the Board of Aldermen/Alderswoman will be participating in Neighborhood Night Out festivities Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

Clinton's Neighborhood Night Out is an annual event designed to strengthen our communities by encouraging neighborhoods to engage in stronger relationships with each other and with their local law enforcement partners.

Once again, the City of Clinton is requesting information from Neighborhoods and groups hosting events this year so that elected officials and first responders may attend the events. A final list of NNO events will be placed in The Clinton Courier, City website (link below), social media and city E-newsletter.

Fall Cleanup and Hazardous Waste Disposal

The city of Clinton will offer hazardous waste disposal on Saturday, October 5, at the Public Works Facility at 525 Springridge Road. Disposal will be allowed from 8 a.m. until noon. Residents are encouraged to dispose of common household chemical waste, such as used motor oil, paint, paint thinners, propane tanks, batteries, aerosols, antifreeze and insecticides, by bringing it to the facility for proper disposal.

Other common items of household waste include car batteries, tires, fluorescent bulbs and electronics (computers, printers, TV's, etc.). Any chemical or article that is designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to be "hazardous" will be collected on this day.

Bark Park

Clinton officials broke ground on August 19 on the Clinton Bark Park adjacent to Kid's Towne Park. Once completed in late August, the 2 acre dog park will feature water fountains, play structures and separate play areas for small and large dogs.



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

2 Church Campout
 29 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm, Flag Retirement

December

2 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 TBD *No Pack Meeting*, Winter Pack Outing

January

24 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

February

3 Scout Sunday (@ church @ 10:00 am)
 8-10 Cub Scout Polar Weekend
 28 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Pinewood Derby)

March

1 Camp Card Sales Begin
 TBD District Pinewood Derby
 28 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

April

25 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm
 25 Camp Card Sales End (money due)
 26-28 Cuboree Weekend

May

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

June - July

TBD Cub / Webelos Summer Camp
 TBD District Day Camp
 TBD Pack Summer Outing





Present: Pastor Bob Blanton, Priest-in-Charge, , Ross Turner, Jennifer Duncan, John Lanford, Doug George, , Tommy Mills, Treasurer, Dianne Martin, Clerk of the Vestry

Absent: Rhea Estes, Senior Warden, Deborah Runyan

Visitor: Marilyn D'Isepo

Amendment and Approval of Minutes

John moved to accept the August, 2019 meeting minutes. Jennifer moved to amend the minutes to clarify the information concerning the movement of monies from some restricted funds to the General Fund. John seconded and acceptance of the amended minutes passed.

Treasurer Report

Tommy related that Beth had not been able to make two deposits for a total of \$4,469 collected in August until September. The Outreach fund which had been voted to be moved is still remaining in its restricted account. The General Fund Revenue and Expenditures report did not show the moved monies, probably because the report needs to be amended to include the account into which those monies were moved. Tommy and Dianne will get with Beth to ascertain that account number and make sure it is included in the report.

Ross indicated that since the financial situation is so tight, we need to make getting the collections deposited in the bank timely a priority.

Junior Warden Report

The next scheduled work day is September 21 and there is outside work that needs to be done.

Old Business

Organ - The new organ has been installed and is being used.

AA signs and Episcopal shield signs - Doug is continuing work on this project.

Plaques for walkway benches - Rhea will discuss this with Beth in October.

Fire pit - Fire pit will possibly be built in October.

Painting - Painting has been completed for now.

Vestry Minutes *continued on next page*

New Business

Band - Doug discussed having open mic group participation and having a band he knows play as well as any others who may wish to play. Doug can serve as DJ also. We also approved using up to \$500 from the Performing Arts fund for getting a recognized, professional, artistic band if needed.

EYC fund - It was mentioned that it had previously been voted that the EYC fund should be moved into the General Fund. Tommy will look into getting this completed.

Eucharistic ministers - John moved that we accept Mike Malone's candidates of Ruby Lanford and Mattie Gray Braley as Eucharistic Ministers.

Next year's stewardship campaign - Bob stated that Bob White has volunteered to head up a year-long campaign for visiting parishioners in their homes to discuss stewardship. John moved that we endorse Bob's proposal. Jennifer seconded the motion and it passed.

Upcoming calendar

Pre-BBQ meeting 10/07/2019 7:30 PM

We will have a meeting on Oct 7 to discuss both the BBQ on the Boulevard and the Fall Festival BBQ.

BBQ on the Boulevard 10/12/2019

Bob had registered us for this event. We will offer rock painting again and it will be set up together with the Arts Council which will be right next to us. We will need people to help with this event.

Taste of the Arts 10/19/2019

Fall festival 10/26/2019

Doug has ordered 15 butts for the fall festival. We will need people to help with this event. One thing in particular that was mentioned was needing people to make potato salad.

Camping on the church grounds

We will have a campout / cookout / evening prayer event All Saints weekend in November with the scouts and Safe Harbor.

Marilyn D'Isepo expressed appreciation for our work.

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 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	2 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	3 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	4	5 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
6 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor Animal Blessing & Pet Wash 3pm	7 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	8 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	9 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	10 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	11	12 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting BBQ on the Boulevard 12am - 4 pm
13 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	14 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	15 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	16 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	17 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	18	19 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Church Work Day 8am -12pm Taste of the Arts 4pm - 7pm
20 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	21 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	22 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	23 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	24 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	25	26 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Creator Fall Festival 10am - 2pm
27 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	28 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	29 12:00 pm: AA Meeting Parish Hall Rental 5pm -9pm	30 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	31 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 		

	6	13	20	27	
Chalice	Bob White Tori Meyers	Mike Milone Joyce White	Ruby Lanford Tori Meyers	Mike Milone Wendy Brantley	
Lectors	Joan Blanton Landon Daniel	Pennie Van Brocklin John Lanford	Ross Turner Ruby Lanford	Deborah Runyan Wendy Brantley	
Prayers	Pennie Van Brocklin	Ross Turner	Janie Fields	Pennie Van Brocklin	
Acolytes	Landon Daniel Manny Diaz-Olarra	Ruby Lanford Kate Onyia	Landon Daniel Manny Diaz-Olarra	Ruby Lanford Kate Onyia	
Ushers	Andrew Wilder Sarah Margaret Wilder	Pamela Wilder Need Help	Andrew Wilder Sarah Margaret Wilder	Doug George Vicky Donaho	
Altar	Tommie Kirksey Sandra Randall	Katie Lanford	Rhea Estes	Larry Estes	
Home Communion			Edie Hill		
Vestry Person of the Day	Jennifer Duncan	Ross Turner	Rhea Estes	Doug George	



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 11 Vicky Donaho
- 12 Ezra Wall
- 17 Darby Donaho
- 21 Tommy Mills
- 24 Brittany White
- 25 Rylee Johnson

Anniversaries

- 6 Monty & Beth Braley
- 18 Samuel & Elisabet McGahey
- 28 John & Dianne Martin

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

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

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

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.”