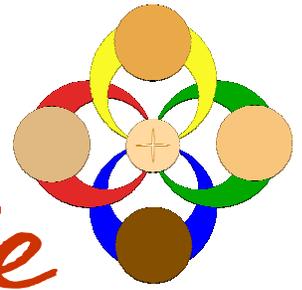


CREATOR

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 2020

Dear Friends:

December's Newsletter is filled with poetry and verse to point to the wonder of incarnation. We are grateful for the witnesses who wander upon the earth recording what they see. They walk with open eyes and listen, pray and chronicle – and we are blessed. These good verses come to us from contemporary American poet, Mary Oliver. Here are four wishing you a Hopeful Advent and a Merry Christmas Season.

Pastor Bob and the Creator Vestry

AN ADVENT POEM

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice – it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances – but it the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat holds the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And I still believe you will

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.

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come, Lord; you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that I am really speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

~ Mary Oliver from *THIRST*

CHRISTMAS POEM

Says a country legend told every year:
Go to the barn on Christmas Eve and see
what the creatures do as that long night tips over.
Down on their knees they will go, the fire
of an old memory whistling through their minds!

[So] I went. Wrapped to my eyes against the cold
I creaked back the barn door and peered in.
From town the church bells spilled their midnight music,
and the beasts listened –
yet they lay in their stalls like stone.

Oh the heretics!
Not to remember Bethlehem,
or the star as bright as a sun,
or the child born on a bed of straw!
To know only of the dissolving Now!

Still they drowsed on –
citizens of the pure, the physical world,
they loomed in the dark: powerful
of body, peaceful of mind,
innocent of history.

Continued on next page

Brothers! I whispered. It is Christmas!
And you are no heretics, but a miracle,
immaculate still as when you thundered forth
on the morning of creation!
As for Bethlehem, that blazing star

still sailed the dark, but only looked for me.
Caught in its light, listening again to its story,
I curled against some sleepy beast, who nuzzled
my hair as though I were a child, and warmed me
the best it could all night.

Praying

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

~ Mary Oliver from *THIRST*

NOVEMBER

The snow
began slowly,
a soft and easy
sprinkling

of flakes, then clouds of flakes
in the baskets of the wind

Continued on next page

and the branches
of the trees -

oh, so pretty.
We walked
through the growing stillness,
as the flakes

prickled the path,
then covered it,
then deepened
as in curds and drifts,

as the wind grew stronger,
shaping its work
less delicately,
taking greater steps

over the hills
and through the trees
until, finally,
we were cold,

and far from home.
We turned
and followed our long shadows back
to the house,

stamped our feet,
went inside, and shut the door.
Through the window
we could see

how far away it was to the gates of April.
Let the fire now
put on its red hat
and sing to us.

Mary Oliver from *Why I Wake Early*

A Thanksgiving Message from the Vestry

Dear Friends,

At the November meeting of our Creator Vestry, we decided to write a letter to the congregation expressing the sense of loss we feel in our physical separation from each other in this season of pandemic and the sense of joy we have as we gather, however conservatively to celebrate Thanksgiving. In short, to share a little about what it has been like for all of us as we have lived in Christ together, apart from each other for three quarters of 2020.

Dr. Joan and Pastor Bob have enjoyed all the extra time they have gotten to spend together; but, like everyone else they, haven't been able to travel as much as they would like. They really got lucky when their son Geoff and his wife Skye decided to drive in from California to celebrate Bob's 75th birthday, his and Joan's 36th anniversary, and share Thanksgiving dinner together. Fortunately, just needing access to the internet, they are able to work remotely wherever they travel. Joan set up the Blanton guest room and her studio so that they each can have a separate office space. Their son Geoff's big project during his time here is to help them sort through the items stored in the new addition to clear it out so they can finish it off in 2021.

We have enjoyed being to stay connected "face-to-face" via the new "Zoom" internet technology. It has enabled us to worship together twice a week at a distance that is safe for everyone (Beth and PB continue to be available to assist anyone who wants to learn how to use this new technology). We do want to stay in touch but many of us have preconditions, including age, that prevent the simplest form of touching much less hugging, shaking hands, and Sharing the Peace. Fortunately, we have been able to stay active as Vestry without having to leave our homes. This is something we may continue even as the pandemic begins to subside. While we will miss getting together with our Creator family and friends for our annual Empty Nesters Thanksgiving Dinner, some of us will gather at a distance with our extended families over Zoom or Skype Thanksgiving weekend.

Dianne Martin says that her and John's Thanksgiving celebrations have varied somewhat over the years but have always included family (yea!) and food (yum!) For these last few years, they have usually gone to their daughter (Rachel)'s house or to Creator. Those have been really happy times together.

Continued on next page

This year's Thanksgiving, like most things, will be a bit different. Rachel's boyfriend's mother is in a nursing home and she won't be able to leave because of Covid-19. So, Rachel and her boyfriend will be coming to Dianne and John's house. They just got back from their son Louis' small but wonderful wedding in Indianapolis and won't see him on Thanksgiving, but they'll talk on the phone.

This year, too, while difficult, has been mostly good for many of us and for our families. We are so grateful for that. But it has been so hard for so many. Our dear friend Tori Meyers, who has struggled so long with leukemia and respiratory limitations passed away this week. Others of us have had family and friends who have died this year. Some have friends who are currently in the hospital being treated for Covid-19. We miss so many 'normal' things: crocheting at a coffee shop with friends, seeing each other in the flesh at church, Worshipping, meeting, and studying together, just getting together with folks face to face. But we are grateful to be alive, to be able to accomplish a few goals we've had for decades during this down time. We continue to hope and pray that we'll be able to get past this pandemic in the next year.

Dianne hopes that, as a result of our 2020 experience "... we will all remember to slow down some and truly appreciate life's little pleasures after we get to our new norm."

We love you all and miss you much.

Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Your Creator Vestry: Pastor Bob Blanton, Jennifer Longmire Duncan, John Lanford, Dianne Martin, Tommy and Isabel Mills, and Ross Turner





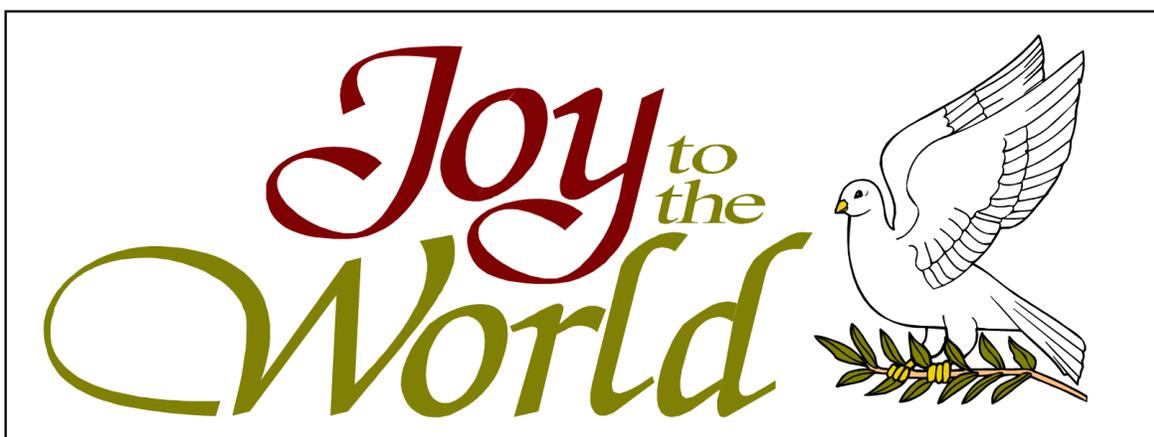
Christmas Eve Mass

December 24

Safe Harbor will host their Christmas Eve Service on Zoom at 5:00 pm.

Creator will host its Christmas Eve Service on Zoom at 6:30 pm.

(Only those scheduled to serve will worship in-person)



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.



ATTENTION!
In-Person Worship
Change

10:30 mass

Creator will be changing our format for worship again during this extended Covid-19 Pandemic Season. At our Vestry Zoom meeting Monday evening, in light of Governor Reeves setting a limit to indoor gatherings to 10 or fewer participants, we agreed to shift our emphasis back to online worship.

Beginning this Sunday, November 22nd, we will be worshipping on Zoom from the Creator Nave. **Only people who have assigned roles during worship** (Lectors, Prayer Leader, Acolyte, Vestry Person, Musicians (3), Pastor Bob, and Joan) **will attend in person.**

We will email a copy of the worship service on Saturday afternoons. The service will be a combination of our traditional service and our online Spiritual Communion. We are hoping that by setting worship in the Creator Nave you will be provided with a more nurturing experience.

We will continue to worship in this manner through the end of the governor's current meeting limits. We will also be continuing our Zoom Compline service on Wednesday evenings.

If you have any questions, please call my cell phone (601-291-0652) or call Beth at the Church office (601-924-2261).

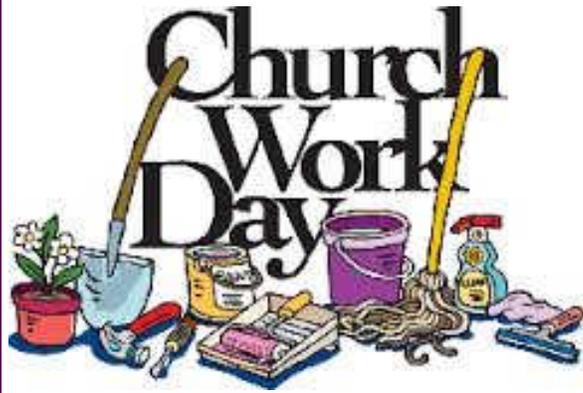
May God Bless and keep you safe and healthy during these difficult times.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob and the Creator Vestry



Advent



Monthly Workday List

3rd Saturday, (8-12 am)

The following is a list of things that need to be done most workdays. There are tasks that can be done individually, so if you cannot make it to a work day then please feel free to work on list items when you can.

Inside projects

- Clean up pantry, storage closets, and storage rooms in education building and Parish hall.
- Cleaning scuff marks from walls in Nave and Education building.
- Clean window sills of cobwebs, etc.
- Any general sorting or reorganizing in sacristy, narthex, kitchen, Ed. Building foyer, classrooms, attic, etc.

Outside Projects

- Check trash cans and place at road if they need to be emptied. Garbage days are Wednesday and Saturday. Recycling is on Wednesday.
- Blowing off sidewalks and parking lots.
- Hedge trimming, trim plants in front of parish hall.
- Burn leaf pile near education building.
- Picking up trash and limbs in front of church and near road.
- Weed beds around church buildings as needed.
- Clean debris out under foot bridge and culverts.
- Treat, pull, or round up any weeds or trees in drainage ditches.
- Clean up playground area.
- Pick up limbs behind church and place in burn pile.

Contact Beth if you have any questions or additions or would like to form a grounds committee.



Vestry Digest

November 16, 2020

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

Absent:

Visitor:

Treasurer Report

Tommy reported that revenues were \$5000 below budget last month. He said Beth thinks this is normal for this time of year and that we will get a bump in revenues for November and December. Bob and Beth may put out a letter concerning stewardship.

Old Business

Bob said that the baptism service the first of November was well attended. We have had a good group at the in person / on zoom meetings with about 30 people attending in total.

Those wishing to bring their Salvation Army Angel gifts to the church can bring them when they come to service or on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 10:00 until 2:00. If those times are not convenient, they can call Dianne Martin at (601) 906-5086 or Bob's cell phone to make other arrangements. The donations will be kept in the conference room.

New Business

The governor has limited inside gatherings to 10 people. We will probably have a combination in-person/zoom/Facebook service with those who are to assist in worship and others up to a total of 10 people coming in person.

The vestry has decided to compose a Thanksgiving letter to the congregation as a means of reaching out to each other as we are not able to be together as much as we would like.

Ross made a motion for adjournment and John seconded it. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

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.



December, 2020

The Episcopal Church of the Creator

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <i>Advent</i>		1 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	2 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	3 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	4	5 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
6 10:30 am: Zoom Mass 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor Advent 2	7 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	8 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	9 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	10 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	11	12 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
13 10:30 am: Zoom Mass 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor Advent 3	14 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	15 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	16 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	17 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	18	19 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting Church Work Day 8am-12pm
20 10:30 am: Zoom Mass 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor Advent 4 Greening the Church 2:pm (Flower Guild only) FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	21 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	22 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	23 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	24 12:00 pm: AA Meeting Zoom Safe Harbor Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Zoom Christmas Eve 6:30 pm	25	26 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
	Office closed all week					
27 10:30 am: Zoom Mass 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor	28 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	29 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	30 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	31 12:00 pm: AA Meeting New Year's Eve Office Closed		

	6 Advent 2	13 Advent 3	20 Advent 4	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 pm	27 1st Sunday after Christmas
Chalice	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lectors	Jennifer Duncan	Joan Blanton	John Lanford	Joan Blanton	Ruby Lanford
	John Lanford	Jennifer Duncan	Ruby Lanford	Ross Turner	John Lanford
Prayers	Janie Fields	Deborah Runyan	Janie Fields	Deborah Runyan	Ross Turner
Acolytes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ushers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Altar	Ross Turner	Joyce White	Beth Braley	Joyce White	Beth Braley
Home Communion			N/A		
Vestry Person of the Day	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



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

Tim Walsh

25 Emmanuela Onyia

26 Dianne Martin

31 Marti Williams

Anniversaries

11 Larry & Rhea Estes

31 Bill & Marty Singletary

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

Vacant

Junior Warden

Vacant

Treasurer

Tommy Mills,

Vestry

Ross Turner

John Lanford

Dianne Martin,

Isabel Mills

Jennifer Duncan

Contacts

Church Office

Administrator—Beth Braley, 601-924-2261

Email: theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

Pastoral Emergencies

Rev. Robert M. Blanton

Acolytes

Mike Milone

Adult Christian Education

Rev. Robert M. Blanton

Altar Guild

Joyce White

Choir

Vacant

Children's Christian Education

John Lanford

Columbarium

Vacant

Flower Guild

Becky Wright

Funeral Guild

Vacant

Parish Lunches & Special Events

Andrew Wilder

Doug George

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.”