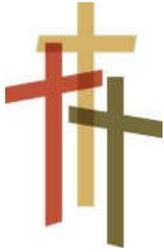
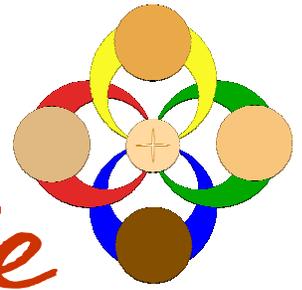


CREATOR

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."

September 2020

Dear Friends,

This month we will continue the study of the Christian Wisdom Traditions. 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.

Faith will either affect ordinary awareness, create new ways of living and energize every dimension of life, or it will be formulaic, superficial and empty.

The Need for Mysticism

We live in a time of both crisis and opportunity. While there are many reasons to be anxious, I still have hope. Westerners, including Christians, are rediscovering the value of nonduality: a way of thinking, acting, reconciling, boundary-crossing, and bridge-building based on inner experience of God and God's Spirit moving in the world. We're not throwing out our rational mind, but we're adding nondual, mystical, contemplative consciousness. When we have both, we're able to see more broadly, deeply, wisely, and lovingly. We can collaborate on creative solutions to today's injustices.

I'm glad there's renewed appreciation in the Christian tradition for people who modeled such wholeness. This week I'll turn toward my own cultural roots in the Rhineland. These mystics were mostly German-speaking spiritual writers, preachers, and teachers, who lived largely between the 11th and 15th centuries.

You might already be familiar with the Benedictines, Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) and Gertrude the Great (1256-1302); the Beguine Mechtild of Magdeburg (c. 1212-c. 1282); the Dominicans, including Meister Eckhart (c. 1260-1327), Johannes Tauler (c. 1300-1361), and Henry Suso (1295-1366); and Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464), in what is now Switzerland. Another Rhineland mystic in recent history who might surprise you was psychiatrist Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961).

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

Jung admits to being influenced by Hildegard, Eckhart, and Nicholas of Cusa – especially Nicholas' fascination with "the opposites." [1]

After the Protestant Reformation, the mystical path was largely mistrusted. Some would even say it was squelched because of Martin Luther's (1483-1546) emphasis on Scripture as the only source of knowledge about God (*sola Scriptura*). To be fair, Luther's contributions led Christians to an early stage "rational" use of the Scriptures as a corrective to Catholic over-spiritualization. Within his own Lutheran tradition, profound mystics arose such as the German shoemaker Jacob Boehme (1575-1624) and the inventor Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772).

In the following centuries, German academic theology flourished, relying almost exclusively on Post-Reformation rationalism. While theological study continues to be an immense gift to the world, one can easily get trapped inside of endless *discussions* about abstract ideas with little emphasis on experience or practice. In contrast, mystics honor the experience of the essential mystery and unknowability of God and invite us to do the same. The more you know, the more you know you *don't know!*

Next, we'll focus on one Rhineland mystic in particular: Hildegard of Bingen. She was far ahead of her place and time, a Renaissance woman before the Renaissance, who led a monastery north of the Alps. Hildegard combined art, music, poetry, ecology, medicine, community, healing, and early feminism. She preached on her own, stood up to bishops, and was persecuted for it. No wonder it took a German Pope, Benedict XVI, over 800 years after her death to declare her a saint in May, 2012, and then name her a Doctor of the Church on October 7, 2012.

[1] C. G. Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, ed. Aniela Jaffé, trans. Richard and Clara Winston, rev. ed. (Pantheon Books: 1973, ©1963), 338.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Following the Mystics through the Narrow Gate: Seeing God in All Things*, disc 1 (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2010), [DVD](#), [CD](#), [MP3 download](#); and

"The Rhineland Mystics," [the Mendicant](#), vol. 5, no. 3 (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2015), 1, 6.

Viriditas: The Greening of Things

Hildegard of Bingen is not only mystic; she is also prophet. . . . She disturbs the complacent, deliberately provoking the privileged, be they emperors or popes, abbots or archbishops, monks or princes to greater justice and deeper sensitivity to the oppressed. . . . She can rightly be called the "Grandmother of the Rhineland mystic movement" . . . [which] brought the powers of mysticism to bear not on supporting the status quo, but on energizing the prophetic in society and church. For Hildegard, justice plays a dominant role. – Matthew Fox

Throughout the ages, mystics have kept alive the awareness of our union with God and thus with everything. What some now call creation spirituality or the holistic Gospel was voiced long ago by the Desert Fathers and Mothers in Africa, some Eastern Orthodox Fathers, ancient Celts, many of the Rhineland mystics, and of course Francis of Assisi. I am sorry to say that many women mystics were not even noticed. Julian of Norwich (c. 1343–c. 1416) and Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) would be two major exceptions, though even they have often been overlooked.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 2

Hildegard wrote in her famous book *Scivias*: “You understand so little of what is around you because you do not use what is within you.” [1] This is key to understanding Hildegard. Without using the word, Hildegard recognized that the human person is a *microcosm* with a natural affinity for or resonance with the *macrocosm*, which many of us would call God. We are each “whole” and yet part of a larger Whole. Our little world reflects the big world. *Resonance* is the key word here, and *contemplation* is the key practice. *Contemplation is the end of all loneliness because it erases the separateness between the observer and the observed*, allowing us to *resonate* with what is right in front of us.

Hildegard spoke often of *viriditas*, the greening of things from within, analogous to what we now call photosynthesis. She saw that there was a readiness in plants to receive the sun and to transform its light and warmth into energy and life. She recognized that there is an inherent connection between the Divine Presence and the physical world. This Creator-to-created connection translates into inner energy that is the soul and seed of every thing, an inner voice calling us to “become who you are; become all that you are.” This is our life wish or “whole-making instinct.”

Hildegard is a wonderful example of someone who lives safely inside an entirely integrated cosmology. In her holistic understanding of the universe, the inner shows itself in the outer, and the outer reflects the inner. The individual reflects the cosmos, and the cosmos reflects the individual. Hildegard sings, “O Holy Spirit, . . . you are the mighty way in which every thing that is in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, is penetrated with connectedness, is penetrated with relatedness.” [2] *This is a true, natural, and integrated Trinitarian metaphysics (what is) and epistemology (how we know what is), both at the same time!* Perhaps many Christians overlooked Hildegard’s genius because we ourselves have not been very Trinitarian.

[1] Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias* 1.2.29. Translation supplied by Avis Clendenen, “Hildegard: ‘Trumpet of God’ and ‘Living Light’” in *Chicago Theological Seminary Register*, Spring 1999, 25.

[2] Hildegard of Bingen, *O Ignis Spiritus Paracliti (O Fire of the Spirit)*, stanza 4. This translation is from *Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen*, ed. Gabriele Uhlein (Bear and Company: 1982), 41. This chanted sequence is included in many recordings of Hildegard’s musical works.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [*The Wisdom Pattern: Order-Disorder-Reorder*](#) (Franciscan Media: 2020), 148; and unpublished “Rhine” talks (2015).

Epigraph: Matthew Fox, *Illuminations of Hildegard of Bingen* (Bear and Company: 1985, 2002), 23.

Speak Out

Author and spiritual teacher Mirabai Starr offers us a bit of the story of Hildegard’s life with implications for our own lives today.

“Speak and write!” the voice from Heaven commanded.

But Hildegard of Bingen, medieval visionary nun, remained silent.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 3

Hildegard was forty-three years old when her visions finally became so insistent that she could no longer contain the secret she had harbored since early childhood: the Holy One, identifying itself as “the Living Light,” spoke to her. It spoke to her regularly, its voice emerging from a swirl of spiraling light. . . .

“Oh mortal, who receives these things not in the turbulence of deception but in the purity of simplicity for making plain the things that are hidden,” the Holy One said that day in 1141, “write what you see and hear.”

It was not doubt that held her back, Hildegard assures us. The voice carried such authority that she was convinced its origin was divine. It was not a case of low self-esteem either, she says, nor a matter of worrying what other people might think. It was, she tells us, simple humility. Who was she, an uneducated woman, to proclaim God’s message to humanity? . . .

[But] the more she resisted, the more seriously ill she became. “Until at last,” she writes in her introduction to the *Scivias*, the first chronicle of her visions, “compelled by many infirmities . . . I set my hand to writing . . . and rose from my sickness with renewed strength.” . . .

We are not all prophets. It may not be our job to challenge authority and expose corruption. We may not be the ones to penetrate the code of sacred scriptures and feed the spiritually hungry. It may be up to others to sound the clarion call of impending doom, calling on humanity to change its ways.

Ours may be a modest awakening. We may simply refuse to participate for another moment in a life against which our hearts have been crying out for years.

It could be time to observe some version of the commandment to “keep the Sabbath holy” [Exodus 20:8] and begin to cultivate a daily contemplative practice. It could become imperative to curtail a pattern of overconsumption and make a concrete commitment to voluntary simplicity. It could be a matter of identifying the subtle and insidious ways in which we participate in a culture of war and take a vow of nonviolence in everything we do, in every relationship we forge and maintain. . . .

Speak out, Hildegard says. And when you do, when you recognize that inner voice as the voice of God and say what it has taught you, the sickness in your heart will melt away. The fatigue you have lived with for so long that you did not even notice how weary you were will lift. Your voice will ring out with such clarity and beauty that you will not be able to stop singing. To speak your truth, Hildegard teaches us, is to praise God.

Hildegard of Bingen: Devotions, Prayers and Living Wisdom, ed. Mirabai Starr (2008), 1-2, 4-5, 6.

We will continue to study the Mystics of the Christian Wisdom Tradition during Wednesday Evening Zoom Services during the month of September.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob



Healing Service and Prime Timers

Still out!

10:30 Sunday Zoom Service

We will gather on Zoom at 10:00 prior to worship for an opportunity for everyone to "Share the Peace." Anyone who wishes to be tutored in connecting to Zoom, please call me at 601-291-0652 and I will walk you through it.

Keep the Faith. In Christ we will survive. In Christ we will Thrive.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bob



Acolyte Recognition

Sunday, September 20

This year we will meet outside for a short service and pictures. *All Acolytes will be notified once the plan is finalized.*



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.



Pack 345 Situation Update

(The following is a portion of the letter I sent to my Cub Scout parents)

To my Cub Scout parents,

It seems that this year has become the year of the “perfect storm”. Not only have we had to deal with the Covid-19 situation, which shut down our pack activities in March, we also lost four members, whose families moved out of town. In addition, several other families have dropped out of scouting this year for various reasons. We currently have 5 registered boys (out of the 12 we started the year with) and 1 remaining Den Leader. Also, there will not be a district round-up of new scouts this fall at Northside and I do not foresee us gaining any new members this year due to the current mandated in-person meeting restrictions.

In addition to all of this, my wife’s health continues to decline and her care is taking more and more of my time, so for these combined reasons, I have decided to make a difficult decision, one I don’t want to make but feel it is a decision that I need to make.

Pack 345 is disbanding as a unit and all active boys will be transferring to Pack 88 at First Methodist Church in Clinton. Pack 88 currently has established Tiger, Wolf and Webelos dens that can take all of you so that you can have the opportunity to continue your Scouting experience and meet new friends. I hope all of you take advantage of this and continue in this very beneficial Scouting program.

I can’t express enough how much I have enjoyed these past four years in leading this program, especially having the opportunity to get to know all of you, and how extremely saddened I am at leaving Cub Scouts after 20 years of service.

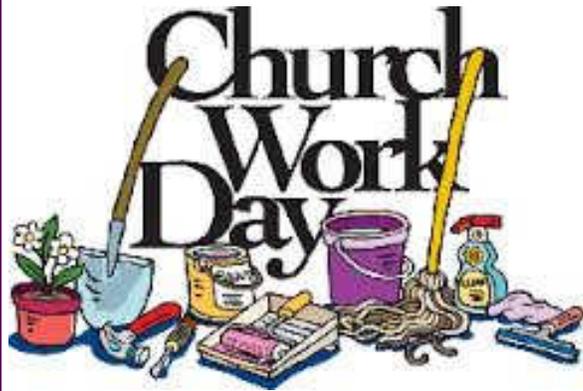
I have notified my church and the Andrew Jackson Council office of my decision and have contacted Sherry Smith at Pack 88, who is excited at the prospect of gaining you as members of her pack. I gave her your contact information and she will be reaching out to each of you soon. Since all of you are currently registered with Pack 345, all you need to do is fill out a new application with Sherry at their first meeting, which will transfer you into her pack. There is no additional cost as your BSA membership is paid through next June.

Good Luck! I hope each of you continues in Scouting.

Again, I have thoroughly enjoyed the past four years as your Cubmaster and absolutely regret that this has come to pass.

Sincerely,

Mike Milone
Cubmaster, Pack 345



Monthly Workday List

Saturday, August 19 (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

August 17, 2020

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

Absent: John Lanford

Visitor:

Treasurer Report

- Tommy noted that the reconciled balance has gone from \$39,937.83 in January to 75,46.68 in July, mainly due to the PPP loan. Also, tithes and offerings are over what was budgeted.
- Rhea asked why restricted accounts 8109.00 (Connections), 8150.00 (EYC), and 8155.00 (Fundraisers) are not showing an ending balance of zero. Tommy will get with Beth to fix this.

Junior Warden Report

The most recent workday was August 15. Five people came and the primary work done was hedge trimming and weeding.

Old Business

- Bob has put the information concerning desired donations for families impacted by the ICE Raids into the newsletter. We already have some contributions.
- The church has made an agreement with Jason to mow everything we need for \$185.
- Church building locks should all be done before Rhea leaves; parish hall locks remain to be done.
- Wednesday night and Sunday zoom services are having a regular group in attendance. One Sunday we had about 30 people in attendance.

Vestry Minutes *continued on next page*

New Business

- Mike Milone is disbanding our scout program.
- Tommy will ask Beth to put the money remaining in the Scout account back into the outreach fund.
- The scanner should be fixed now.

The vestry meeting was adjourned at 6:56 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.

Update on the Brantley's

New Address:

Jim and Wendy Brantley
1003 Brookridge Lane
Cullman, Alabama. 35055

Good news!!

Sam Brantley and his wife are expecting their first child in January!



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

25 John Martin

3 Polly Marshall
10 Michael Onyia
14 Sam Brantley
Collin Johnson
Austine Onyia
20 Andrew Wilder
23 Lee Carre

Anniversaries

11 John & Katy Lanford
12 Mike & Becky Wright
27 Mike & Kathy Milone



September, 2020

The Episcopal Church of the Creator

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		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: Healing Service 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor	7 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group Labor Day Office Closed	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: Healing Service 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	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: Healing Service 6:00 pm: Zoom: Safe Harbor Acolyte Recognition Day	21 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	22 12:00 pm: AA Meeting First Day of Fall	23 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	24 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	25	26 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
27 10:30 am: Zoom: Healing Service 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			

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, 601-259-5333

Vestry

Ross Turner, 601-214-2484

John Lanford, 601-708-4374

Dianne Martin, 601-906-5086

Isabel Mills, 601-954-3769

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

Vacant

Choir

Vacant

Children's Christian Education

John Lanford, Cell: 601-966-3441

Columbarium

Vacant

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

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.”