

# Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 49, No. 41

Last Sunday After Pentecost

Week of November 23, 2025



## News & Events

### Subscribe to Our Email Lists

The Advent uses several email lists to communicate with parishioners quickly about various news and events. You can sign up for any of these four lists at [AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe). On that page, click the "Subscribe" button to receive Parish-Wide News, Email *Adventurer*, Women of the Advent, and/or Pastoral Care Notices, which share news of births and deaths in and close to our parish.

### Christ in the Christmas Crunch Returns December 4

Advent women and their guests are invited to the annual Christ in the Christmas Crunch on Thursday, December 4, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons. Come for fellowship, lunch, Scripture meditations, and song, plus the Ministry Market. Register through your Realm account or at [AdventBirmingham.org/Women](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Women). See page 2 for more information.

### Holiday Closings

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on Monday, December 1.



## A Word from Canon Gardner

Years ago my wife and I attended a church that had an extended moment of silence at each Sunday service. The minister would read the words from Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," and this would lead into a quiet time set aside for each congregant to personally encounter God. It was only a minute long, but I always loved this portion of the service. It was a holy pause. Sometimes I was moved to silently pray. Other times I just reflected on God's character. Admittedly, many times my mind wandered into to-do lists and lunch plans. But in any case, I loved the weekly experience of being still.

Our modern lives are so terribly hurried and stressful. Everything is rushed these days: two-day shipping (or less!); messages received via text that demand an immediate answer; too many projects on our plates to give appropriate attention to any one of them – just get it done quickly and move to the next one; appointment after

appointment after appointment. This is the normal, everyday buzz of stress that we all experience. It is like a persistent headache that just will not go away.

Once I heard of a minister who would go out on painstakingly slow walks when his calendar would be too full and time demands were causing unmanageable stress. When life was moving too fast, he would walk at a snail's pace. This practice allowed him to listen to God's still, small voice.

I have not tried the painstakingly slow pace myself, but I do find that walking outside, no matter the weather, is a way that allows me to experience God's grace too. When life feels chaotic, a walk with the Lord gives me reassurance that he is working all things out. He does not need my half-baked efforts. He has it. He has me. The Gospel tune, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" expresses it well: "I am weak, but Thou art strong. Jesus keep me from all wrong. I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, Dear Lord, close to thee."

- Jay

**"Be still, and know that I am God."**

- Psalm 46:10

## This Sunday:

November 23, 2025

### 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Will Fagan

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Will Fagan

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Young

### 11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Canon Young

We will livestream the 9:00 a.m. Nave service and the 11:00 a.m. service.

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

### Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

**The Dean's Class** (Refectory) – *The Apostle to the Mediterranean: The Greco-Roman Background to the Work of Paul* – Jason Wallace

**Faith and Family** (Assembly Hall) – *Field Notes: Rest in a Weary Land* – Beth Young

### Children's & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd grade start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal for Children's Church. 4th grade through 6th grade and Jr. and Sr. High youth have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. See Sunday's worship bulletin for locations. The Nursery opens for our Infants, Toddlers, and 2s classes at 8:45 a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6 weeks-5 years during the 11:00 service.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Women's Ministry

#### Christ in the Christmas Crunch Set for December 4



Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 4, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., when the annual Christ in the Christmas Crunch will happen in Clingman Commons.

Invite a friend (or two!) to celebrate the season with fellowship, Scripture meditations, and song. Visit the Ministry Market to check off your shopping list for neighbors, babysitters, teachers, hostess gifts – you name it! In addition to Ministry Market favorites from previous years, we are excited to welcome some of our ministry partners, including Maranathan Academy, Restoration Academy, and Oak Tree Ministries, as first-time vendors. We are also pleased to welcome Tula

Hats and cuddle+kind whose wonderful gift items will be available in the market this year, along with beautiful products from a variety of fair-trade organizations.

This year, we will gather donated gifts for Oak Tree Ministries' ninth annual Christmas in the Village, making gifts available at affordable prices for our neighbors in the Marks Village public housing community to shop for their own children with dignity. All money raised will go toward summer programs for the children. Details will be available soon on the women's webpage.

With a delicious lunch, music by Lowana Wallace, and a selection of Frederick Buechner's Scripture reflections shared by a variety of readers, the "Crunch" is a great way to kick off your holiday season.

Register through your Realm account or at [AdventBirmingham.org/Women](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Women). Contact Leslie Housman ([Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3511) with questions. Hope to see you there!

#### Women's Advent Quiet Day with Mary Zahl December 6

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.*

On Saturday morning, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, the Women's Ministry is hosting an Advent Quiet Day at the church, led by Mary Zahl.

Bring your Bible, pen, and paper. We will be spending time in Scripture, in prayer, and in silence, guided by Mary. This is an opportunity to prepare your heart and mind to receive Jesus afresh this Advent. Register through your Realm account or at [AdventBirmingham.org/Women](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Women).

*By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone.*

### 20s & 30s Ministry



#### Christmas Party Set for December 4

Save the date for the Advent 20s & 30s Christmas Party! We will gather on the evening of Thursday, December 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the home of Carolyn and Stephen Greene (101 Pine Crest Road, 35223). We'll enjoy dinner, Christmas music by Lowana Wallace, and festive cheer to kick off the Advent and Christmas season. Sign up to attend through your Realm account or at [AdventBirmingham.org/20s30s](http://AdventBirmingham.org/20s30s). Contact Will Fagan ([Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com)) for details.

### Children's Ministry



#### 5th and 6th Graders to Gather for Pizza and Bible Study this Sunday

In addition to Club 456, 5th and 6th graders are invited to a monthly Pizza Night and Bible Study led by 5th-grade teacher Fred Elliott. Our next gathering will be this Sunday, November 23, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Contact Tara Davis ([Tara@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tara@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3547) for more information.



## worship

### Lectionary

Sunday, November 23:

Psalm 46

Jeremiah 23:1-6 • Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43



For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  
- Ephesians 2:8-9



## serving & outreach

### Lenten Lunches



#### Behind the Scenes: Ann Campbell and Nancy McColloch

If you have ever eaten a Lenten Lunches meal at the Advent, you are well aware of the large presence of volunteers who make this preaching/lunch ministry possible. On a weekly basis, there are 200-plus volunteers from food choppers to sandwich makers, dishwashers to waitress/waiter staff, entrée cooks to cashiers, and so many more. Heading up the volunteer process this year are Ann Campbell and Nancy McColloch (*l-r above*). Well known to most Adventers, Ann and Nancy have been working tirelessly, along with our day chairs, to fill the many positions needed for Lenten Lunches success. Please contact Nancy or Ann if you are interested in becoming a part of our wonderful volunteer group. There are numerous opportunities, and this service is a wonderful way to foster both old and new friendships here at the Advent.

#### Lunch Ticket Presale Will Begin November 30

Presales of Lenten Lunch tickets will start on Sunday, November 30. Tickets will be available in Clingman Commons between the 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. services as well as the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services each Sunday starting November 30 and ending December 21. Tickets make great stocking-stuffers.



## education



Above: 1st-grade students love when Mrs. Gunter comes in to teach!

### Local Outreach

#### Packing Holiday Supply Bags for Glen Iris School Students

Advent is glad to partner with sister churches St. Mary's and St. Luke's to pack holiday supply bags that go home with Glen Iris Elementary students during the Christmas holidays. Last year dozens of volunteers gathered at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands for a wonderful team operation of packing these food bags to help meet the needs of the hungry children in our city. Most of the students who attend Glen Iris Elementary often go without basic nutrition when school is out during the break. Our Episcopal churches bless them with fun and nutritious foods. Would you consider joining us in this effort this year? We need financial and material donations as well as physical in-person volunteers.

Below is the list of requested items that Advent will supply (other churches will have their own lists). Please go to [AdventBirmingham.org/Mission](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Mission) and use the link on that page to the Sign Up Genius so that we can provide the correct supplies. You can purchase and bring the items to Canon Young or Anita Gray in the church office or to the collection in Clingman Commons on Sunday mornings, November 30 and December 7. You may also make a financial contribution to the Advent, marking it for Glen Iris. All items are due Wednesday, December 11. Then join other volunteers on Saturday, December 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's (1910 12th Avenue South, 35205) to pack the bags.

Questions? Contact Canon Young ([Adam@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Adam@CathedralAdvent.com)).

#### Advent Requested Items:

- Ramen packs (70 boxes of the 24 pack)
- Applesauce pouches (regular flavor only – 108 boxes)
- Mandarin Orange cups (70 boxes)
- Vienna Sausages (92 boxes)
- Belvita snack packs (variety pack – 69 boxes)
- Mini candy canes (16 tubs)

### Women's Ministry



#### Touring The Lovelady Center

Advent women recently took a tour of The Lovelady Center, the largest faith-based transitional facility of its kind in the United States. Organized by Advent member and Lovelady Center board member Mary Bradley Anderson, the tour allowed participants to see the many facets of the center's program, the most important of which is giving the women there the opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of the Lord. For more information or to volunteer, go to [LoveladyCenter.org](http://LoveladyCenter.org).

## diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama

## advent staff

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean

The Rev. Canon James "Jay" W. Gardner, III, Canon Pastor

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop of Alabama

The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean L. Pinter, Canon Theologian

The Rev. Canon Adam A. Young, Canon Missioner

The Rev. William J. Fagan, Curate

The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

## transitions:

**Baptisms:** Elizabeth Jean Breckenridge, daughter of Katherine and John, on November 9

**Death:** Ann Coffman Johnston, on November 7

**Pastoral Notice:** If you are going into the hospital, have need of prayer or counsel, or have a family member unable to attend church, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 205-226-3500.

## memorials:

**Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:**

**Stella Scott Schreiber:** (Endowment Fund) by Davis and Sharon Brown • (Pastoral Care) by Donna Seibels

**In Honor of and Thanksgiving for Bob Reich:** (Pastoral Care) by Terry and Nancy McColloch



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 23 Regular worship schedule  5th/6th grade Pizza and Bible Study - 5:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	28 Church office closed	29
Nov 30 Regular worship schedule	Dec 1	2	3 YouthServe - 4:00 p.m.	4 Christ in the Christ- mas Crunch - Cling- man - 11:00 a.m. 20s & 30s Christ- mas Party - 6:00 p.m. PZ's <i>Twilight Zone</i> - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Women's Quiet Day - Advent - 9:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday: AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

**Intercessory Prayer Available at Advent House:** Intercessory prayer is on-going through the Advent House Prayer Ministry. To schedule a prayer session at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), call Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622.