

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



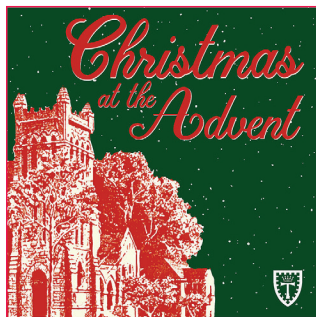
Vol. 49, No. 46

First Sunday After Christmas Day

Week of December 28, 2025



News & Events



Slate Named for 2026 Vestry Election

The Vestry approved a slate of 20 candidates for the 2026 Vestry election at its meeting in December. The nominees are as follows:

Debbie Brazeal	Tommy Kitsmiller
Anne-Marie Brown	Anne Lynn Langloh
Mell Duggan	Tommy Mayfield
Cardwell Feagin	Clay Morris
Brooke Fleming	Dan Price
Beth Flowers	Murray Priester
Charlotte Getz	Frank Taylor
Kelly Hargrove	Jim Williams
Connor Herfurth	Clay Wilson
Perry Keel	Key Yeilding

Parishioners will elect 10 of these nominees to serve a three-year term on the Vestry of the Advent at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the Nave.



A Word from Will Fagan

What does the gospel feel like?

We often talk about this term – that is, *the gospel* – which is translated to *good news*. But we know that it's not "all talk" because *good news* quite often feels like joyous, good news. That is, we're not making this stuff up.

The truth is that we know what good news feels like. What was it like, for instance, when you got the email you'd been waiting for or the letter in the mail? What was it like when the phone call came that made your heart flip?

Good news, of course, takes a front-row seat in the birth narrative of Jesus, the angels telling the shepherds, who are scared out of their skin, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

I love how the angels themselves clarify that the good news is one of great joy, not

of rotten luck. ("No I mean it; we're not kidding! This is good news that feels like good news!")

Perhaps most powerful of all – and we know this – is that good news of great joy usually is so good because it takes place in and around bad or uncertain news.

I hope and pray that is true for you this year, in whatever the circumstances you find yourselves. Because in those circumstances, in whatever those are for you, the good news that we have is found in a person, who is Christ the Lord. He has come to set in motion the redemption of our world and all the painful aspects of it, and he will come again, hopefully soon, for good.

That includes, by the way, whatever bad news that touches your life, and he isn't ambivalent about that. So this year as we celebrate his Incarnation, I hope you know that this good news isn't just for your neighbor down the street or only churchy people. The good news is a reality because Jesus came for all people, and that means you, too.

- Will

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
- Luke 2:10-11

This Sunday:

December 28, 2025

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Young

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Young

We will livestream the 10:00 service. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

The regular worship schedule will resume next Sunday, January 4.

Adult Education:

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, December 28.

Regular classes will resume next Sunday, January 4.

All are warmly invited to enjoy a Christmas reception in Clingman Commons, preceding and following the 10:00 a.m. service in the Nave.

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes for children and youth will not meet this Sunday, December 28. The Nursery will be open for ages 5 and under at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Regular classes will resume next Sunday, January 4.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



serving & outreach

Glen Iris School Outreach



Thanks for the Glen Iris School Supply Bags

A huge thank you to all those who donated money, food, and their time to the Glen Iris Outreach on December 13. Dozens of Adventers gathered with friends from St. Luke's and St. Mary's to pack non-perishables for the students at Glen Iris Elementary School to take home for Christmas holidays. In just one hour, 850 bags were joyously packed and loaded. They are sent with the love of Christ, and we pray that the children who most suffer from food insecurity will experience the grace and provision of Immanuel, God with us.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

— John 1:14



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry



An Advent Quiet Day

The Women's Quiet Day on December 6 was a special event. Using Scripture, artwork, and music, Mary Zahl guided Advent women through three periods of silent prayer and reflection.

Welcome to Our Church Family!

We welcome our newest Advent member: Mary Krontiras.

If you are interested in joining the Advent or finding out more, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).

Reminder from the Finance Office

The Advent wants to make sure that you receive proper credit for all financial gifts in 2025.

We will be able to credit your gifts in this calendar year if they are placed in the collection plate by December 28, delivered to the church office in person during regular business hours (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) by end of day December 31, or postmarked no later than December 31, 2025.

Holiday Closings

The church office will be closed Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of New Year's Day. The office will reopen on Friday, January 2.

Offering Envelopes Available

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2026 pledge card, you can pick them up in Clingman Commons. Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number.

Contact Beth Anne Maier with questions (BethAnne@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3517).



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, December 28

Psalm 147 or

Psalm 147:13-21

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- John 1:1-5

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- John 1:17

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.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- Galatians 4:4-5



serving & outreach

Lenten Lunches



Behind the Scenes: The Chicken Cookers

Do you know how much chicken is used each week of Lenten Lunches? Well it's a lot. Last year on average, 100 pounds of chicken were prepared each week. This process begins with our chicken cooking team. Alan Stamm and Mary Altz-Smith (*photo above*) and Robin Anderson will again be on our cooking team, along with new member Raymond Osbun. It is a fine-tuned process to have freshly cooked chicken for Chicken Salad, Chicken Tetrazzini, Cornbread Dressing with Chicken, and, new this year, Chicken Enchilada Casserole. We are so blessed to have these wonderful volunteers as part of our Lenten Lunch Team. You too can be a part of this group and take advantage of the wonderful fellowship we share.

Lenten Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

Pray for Our City

Devotional Guide Available



As we enter 2026, we invite the Advent community to join sisters and brothers across the city in praying for Birmingham. There is a helpful guide put out by our friends at the Christian Service Mission. Entitled *From Division to Devotion – Together We Pray*, the guide is an invitation for our city to come before God with one heart and one purpose. Rooted in Matthew 6:10, this devotional calls us to pray boldly for God's Kingdom to come and his will to be done right here in Birmingham, Alabama. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3519) for a prayer booklet if you are interested in joining this effort.

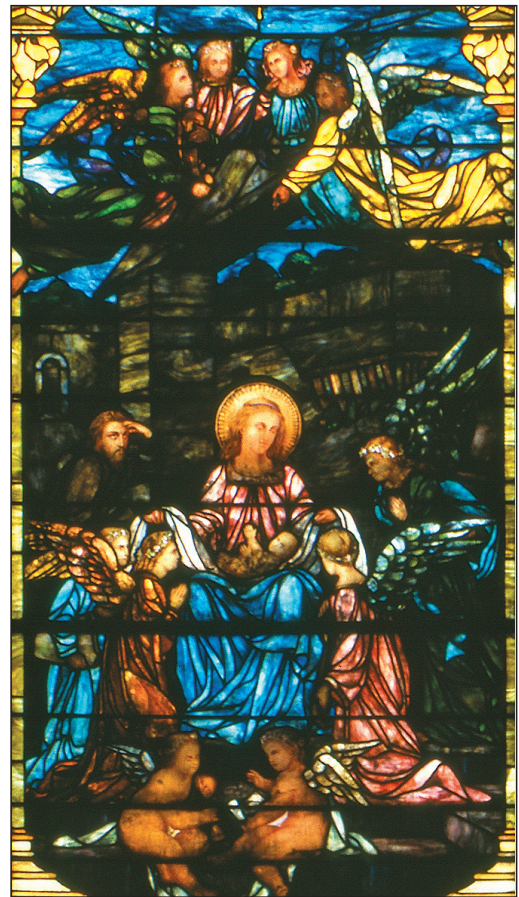


education

Children's Sunday School



Above: Our 1st grade students made Christmas ornaments for the Advent Christmas tree.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 1:14

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:

Birth: Samuel Harris Moulton, son of Catherine and Patrick, on December 8

Baptisms: Estelle Jane Chiappetti, daughter of Gail and Randall, on December 13; Madelyn Virginia Planch, daughter of Virginia and Brian, on December 13

Death: Ella Cobbs Cook, on December 13

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Mitchell "Mickey" Lewis Flynn: (Altar Guild) by Miriam and Clay Morris

Charles "Chuck" Carlisle: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Frank A. Romanowicz

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Pastoral Care) by Dean and Jenny Robb

Firmon E. Hardenbergh: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Bill McElwee and Thomas Graves

Eleanor Arn, Peter Matthew Arn, and Ferdinand David Arn: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Bill McElwee

The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Mission and Outreach) by Mabry and Jeanne Rogers



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28 Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - Nave	29	30	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church office closed	2	3
Jan 4 Regular worship schedule	5	6	7	8	9 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	10

Monday-Friday (No meeting January 1): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

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.