

# Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 1

Second Sunday After Christmas Day

Week of January 4, 2026



## News & Events

### A Service of Epiphany Light January 15

In celebration of Epiphanytide, the Cathedral Choir will offer A Service of Epiphany Light on Thursday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. The service will feature lessons and Epiphany carols in a manner much like our lessons and carols services during the Advent season. See page 2 for details.

### Parish Meeting to Include Vestry Election January 25

The annual Parish Meeting of the Cathedral Church of the Advent will be held Sunday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. At the meeting, parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve on the Vestry of the Advent. The meeting will also include parish reports. See page 2 for a list of the Vestry nominees.

### Praying for Our City

We invite the Advent community to join sisters and brothers across the city in praying for Birmingham. The Christian Service Mission has published a helpful guide. Contact Canon Young ([Adam@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Adam@CathedralAdvent.com)) to get a copy. See page 3 for more information.



## A Word from Canon Gardner

For most of us, the magic of the holidays is behind us. Perhaps some of you reading this still have your Christmas trees up (I certainly do!), but so many put them away by New Year's Eve. On to the next thing. Most people will return in earnest to their jobs this coming Monday, if they have not returned already. Students will return to their classrooms. Everything has been a blur. Has this been a long dream? For some perhaps it has been a nightmare. The holidays are immensely difficult for those who are grieving a loss or experiencing strife or heartache. God be merciful.

January for many marks a time of optimism, a new start. For others it is just the same old song of monotony and indifference. Where do you find yourself? Does the calendar dictate your mood and outlook? The New Year can often feel like a false reset to me. Arbitrary as it is though, we do jump back into old and new patterns alike.

I want to hold onto the magic of Christmas a little longer. I love that pause between Christmas and the New Year that is ingrained into so many of us. That pause is predicated on grace. This is the Christian life. Every year we hear those two sacred passages on the First Sunday After Christmas (last Sunday), but so few of us actually hear it. The passages are from Galatians 3 and John 1, and the focus is on how the burden of the law no longer has its hold on us; rather, the grace of Jesus Christ has set us free. This is the point of Christmas!

I have known a handful of people in my life who leave their Christmas decorations up all year. Stay close to these people. On the face of it, they may seem delusional or falsely optimistic. But they know the gospel, and they do not take themselves too seriously. We are free because of Christ. The manger and the cross are our hope and salvation. You are forgiven and free. In the words of my dear friend Jacob Smith in NYC: "Enjoy your forgiveness!"

- Jay

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

- John 1:17

## This Sunday:

January 4, 2026

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

Preacher: Canon Gardner

### 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Gardner

### 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Mary Ann McCarty

### 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

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 Unforced Rhythms of Grace* – Craig Smalley

### 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!

## Parish Meeting Set for January 25

The annual Parish Meeting of the Cathedral Church of the Advent will be held Sunday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. At the meeting, parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve on the Vestry of the Advent. The nominees are as follows:

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

The meeting will also include Dean Smalley's address to the Parish, a report from the Treasurer, and a word from the Senior Warden.

## 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](mailto:BethAnne@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3517).



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Ageless Adventers

#### Next Third Wednesday Luncheon Is January 21

Ageless Adventers will gather for a Third Wednesday luncheon on Wednesday, January 21, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209).

Whether you are still active, newly retired, or have been enjoying flexibility for decades, you are welcome! So that we have an accurate count for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, January 16, to Robin Turner (205-226-3500, [Robin@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Robin@CathedralAdvent.com)).



## worship

### A Service of Epiphany Light

#### Lessons and Epiphany Carols on January 15

In celebration of Epiphanytide, the Cathedral Choir will offer A Service of Epiphany Light on Thursday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This special service will feature lessons and Epiphany carols in a manner much like our lessons and carols services during Advent season. Whether you are on your way home from working downtown, or simply looking for an opportunity to hear some seasonal music and the gospel, all are warmly invited to attend this weeknight service.

The service will be livestreamed from our website at [Advent Birmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live).

### Lectionary

*Sunday, January 4*

Psalm 84 or Psalm 84:1-8

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or

Luke 2:41-52 or

Matthew 2:1-12

### Club 456

#### Next Gathering for 4th-6th Graders Is January 11

The next Club 456 will be Sunday, January 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the home of Margot Cooney (2808 Cherokee Road, 35223). Club 456 is a monthly gathering for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders on Sunday evenings that includes dinner, Bible study, and fellowship. Contact Tara Davis ([Tara@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tara@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.

### Caregivers Support Group

#### Lunch Gathering January 9

Caregivers are invited to a monthly lunch with others who have been impacted by the demands of caring for a loved one. The next gathering will be Friday, January 9, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you are a full-time caregiver or you are just beginning to experience changes in your life due to the health of a family member. To RSVP or for details, contact Robin Turner ([Robin@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Robin@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3500).

This text speaks of the birth of a child, not the revolutionary deed of a strong man, or the breath-taking discovery of a sage, or the pious deeds of a saint. It truly boggles the mind: The birth of a child is to bring about the great transformation of all things, is to bring salvation and redemption to all of humanity.  
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

### 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](mailto:Adam@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3519) for a prayer booklet if you are interested in joining this effort.

### Men's Ministry

#### Men to Serve at Brother Bryan Mission



Advent men will provide dinner and evening-prayer worship at Brother Bryan Mission on Sunday evening, January 25. We will gather at 5:00 p.m. to set up the meal, serve at 5:30 and join in fellowship with the 70 men

in the program, and then assist in leading the worship service at 6:30. Our own Franklin Bradford will preach, and music will be led by Stephen Greene and Ben Nye. Contact Canon Young ([Adam@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Adam@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3519) to see how you can take part.



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Women's Ministry

#### Rooted's Hannah Dow to Speak January 29

Join us on Thursday, January 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the home of Sister Clapp for light snacks, conversation, and a helpful word from Hannah Dow, Executive Director of Rooted Ministry.

Hannah's talk, *Truth in Trial*, will draw from various Scripture passages and the ways the Lord has ministered to her through them during periods of suffering.

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Women](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Women) for complete details and to register.



## bookstore

#### Bookstore Reopening After Break

The Advent Bookstore will reopen after its year-end break on Monday, January 5, at 10:00 a.m. Here are the store's open hours:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
Monday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Friday: Closed  
Saturday: Closed

Contact the store for more information (205-323-2959, [Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com)).



## education

### Come and See

#### Women's Bible Study to Resume January 14

*Come and See*, the women's Bible study of the Gospel According to John, will resume Wednesday, January 14. Led by Margot Cooney, this group meets on Wednesday mornings at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Contact Leslie Housman ([Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com)) with questions.

### Thursday Morning Moms

#### Bible Study Returns January 15

Thursday Morning Moms, our Bible study for moms of young children, will resume on Thursday, January 15, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Meeting weekly in the Living Room, the group is currently studying Genesis. Nursery care is available, but we are also glad to have little ones join us! New members are welcome to jump in any time. Contact Leslie Housman ([Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3511) with any questions.

"They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord... Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord." - Jeremiah 31:12a, 13-14

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- Matthew 2:10-12

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

**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), contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, [Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com)).

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Douglas Barr:** (Garden Fund) by the Millbrook Garden and Study Fund  
**George D.H. McMillan:** (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Frank A Romanowicz  
**Henry Goldthwaite Seibels, III:** (Endowment Fund) by Eleanor Turkiewicz

**The Rev. John Thompson Brown:** (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. McGahey; Billy and Jane Howard Angell  
**Ann C. Johnston:** (Endowment Fund) by Ann and Carl Jones; St. Bridget's Guild  
**In Thanksgiving for the Life of Merle Robertson:** (Endowment Fund) by Paul and Christie Walker



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 4 Regular worship schedule	5	6 The Epiphany	7	8	9 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	10
Jan 11 Regular worship schedule Club 456 - 2808 Cherokee Road - 4:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15 A Service of Epiphany Light - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	16	17

Monday-Friday: 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.