

Adventurer

Epiphany

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 4

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

Week of January 25, 2026



News & Events

Annual Parish Meeting Is this Sunday

The 153rd annual Parish Meeting of the Cathedral Church of the Advent will be held Sunday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. The meeting will include Dean Smalley's address to the parish, a report from the Treasurer, and a word from the Senior Warden. Also, parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve a three-year term on the Vestry of the Advent. *See the insert for profiles of the Vestry nominees.*

Rooted's Hannah Dow to Address Women January 29

Advent women will gather on Thursday, January 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the home of Sister Clapp. Join us for light snacks, conversation, and a helpful word from Hannah Dow, Executive Director of Rooted Ministries. *See page 2 for details.*

Southern Harmony to Sing at Midday January 30

Birmingham vocal quartet Southern Harmony will present a Midday Music concert on Friday, January 30, at noon in the Nave. *See page 2 for more information.*



A Word from the Vice Dean

I'm a somewhat anxious person. Actually, I'm a more-than-some-what anxious person. It's probably due to a combination of factors, some nature and some nurture: temperament, upbringing, personality, life experience. But for whatever reason, it really can be a struggle for me to (in the words of my kids), "just be chill."

On days of acceptance, I'm quick to reference the fact that being anxious is a sign that I care. You know, if you're completely care-free, well then maybe you just don't care. However, on days when it's really weighing me down, I'm mindful that living with constant anxiety must reveal something less-than-perfect about how I'm doing spiritually.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul wrote from a first-century Roman prison. *"Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

- Philippians 4:6

Could it really be that simple? Prayer? How might prayer change things? Well, first of all, prayer reorients our perspectives, such that we're more mindful of the bigger picture. It also reminds us that we're children of a God who cares for us. In fact, prayer connects us to the One who knows us better than we know ourselves, the One who has good plans for us, *"plans to prosper us and not harm us, plans to give us a hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Maybe the question isn't "What are the circumstances in my life that cause me stress, and how can I get rid of them?", but rather, "Why do I have such a need to be in control over the way my life is unfolding? Do I really think that I know better than God?"

I'll conclude with this great Epiphany prayer: "Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

- Tom

This Sunday:

January 25, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Dean Smalley

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Dean Smalley

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

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

Adult Education:

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, January 25, due to the annual Parish Meeting.

Classes will resume next Sunday, February 1.

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

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 (57 Fairway Drive, 35213) for light snacks, conversation, and a helpful word from Hannah Dow, Executive Director of Rooted Ministry.

Hannah's talk, *Truths 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 for details and to register.

Youth Ministry

Kickball Returns this Sunday

Our next Advent Holy Rollers kickball game will be this Sunday, January 25, 4:00 p.m. at the Crestline Fields. All youth and parents are invited to attend the competitively friendly contest.

Children's Ministry

Bible Study and Pizza for 5th and 6th Graders this Sunday

We invite 5th and 6th graders to the monthly Bible Study and Pizza Night this Sunday, January 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at 411 Euclid Avenue, 35213. Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.



serving & outreach

Men's Ministry

Men to Serve at Brother Bryan Mission this Sunday

Advent men will provide dinner and evening-prayer worship at Brother Bryan Mission this 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, 205-226-3519) to see how you can take part.

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. 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.



making music

Midday Music



Vocal Quartet Southern Harmony to Perform January 30

Birmingham male vocal quartet Southern Harmony will present a Midday Music concert on Friday, January 30, at noon in the Nave. Founded in 1994 by a group of Birmingham-Southern College alumni, the quartet consists of Kyle Bass, Thomas Head, Daniel Potts, and founder Thomas Waters. With a repertoire that spans 500 years and several musical genres, Southern Harmony has performed at multiple venues and events throughout the Southeast. The group last performed here in the Midday series in December 2008, and we are thrilled to welcome them back to the Advent!

The concert will also be livestreamed at AdventBirmingham.org/Live and associated digital platforms, and be made available for later listening at any time. All are cordially invited to this free, 30-minute concert.

Local Outreach

Reformed University Fellowship Seeking Food and Drinks

RUF at UAB is seeking churches and small groups to provide food and drinks for their weekly Tuesday-evening gatherings during spring semester. Reformed University Fellowship reaches undergraduate and graduate students with the gospel of Jesus Christ and depends on local church connections to aid their hospitality on campus. If you or your small group would like to sign up to provide pizza or snacks for around 50 college students, contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com).

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.

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
- Mark 1:14-15



serving & outreach

Lenten Lunches



Behind the Scenes: Our Ordering Team

One of the biggest jobs for Lenten Lunches is getting all the food and supplies ordered, delivered, and checked in each week. From fresh produce and meats to take-out containers, plastic wrap, and cleaning supplies, our incredible ordering team makes everything run smoothly. The next time you see Bobbi Lecznar and Lyn Lanier (*above, left-right*), or Gretchen Williams and Robin Anderson, please let them know how much their unwavering service is appreciated. It just could not happen without them.

Lenten Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 12:15 p.m.

Local Mission

Informational Meeting for Mission Opportunity February 1

Please prayerfully consider a local mission opportunity this summer with Canon Young. We are excited about partnering with the Georgia-based organization Kidz2Leaders, who are focused on ending generational incarceration. They provide stability, opportunity, and Christian community for the children of incarcerated adults. The Church of the Advent is helping to start an Alabama branch of this wonderful Christ-centered ministry in Birmingham. We will begin a summer camp for 8-10 year olds at Shocco Springs, to be held June 13-18. Individuals, couples, and families with children are all able to participate as counselors to create a nurturing overnight sleepaway camp experience.

Canon Young is hosting an informational brunch in the Refectory on Sunday, February 1, at 11:00 a.m. Come discover how you and your family can serve in Christ's name!



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, January 25

Psalm 27:1, 5-13 • Isaiah 9:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 • Matthew 4:12-23



making music

Concert Series



Photo: Andy Staples

VOCES8 in Concert February 12

The Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble VOCES8 will perform Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Nave. Touring globally, the group performs an extensive repertory both in its a cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading orchestras, conductors, and soloists. Versatility and a celebration of diverse musical expression are central to the ensemble's performance and education ethos which is shared both online and in person. Visit VOCES8.com for more information on the group.

To purchase tickets, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Music. Tickets are: Reserved Seating – \$35; General Admission – \$25; Student Ticket – \$10.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

- Isaiah 9:2-4

One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days
of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

- Psalm 27:5-6

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

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 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: Finley Grace Lucas, daughter of Whitney and Michael; John Frederick Lucas, son of Whitney and Michael; Lillian Reese Lucas, daughter of Whitney and Michael; all on January 11



Cathedral Church of the Advent
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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 25 Regular worship schedule Parish Meeting - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Youth Kickball - Crestline Fields - 4:00 p.m.	26	27	28	29 Women’s Event with Hannah Dow - 57 Fairway Drive - 6:30 p.m.	30 Midday Music - Nave - noon	31 Election of the Bishop of Alabama - Nave - 1:00- p.m.
Feb 1 Regular worship schedule	2	3	4	5	6	7

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.

NOMINEES FOR THE VESTRY

For election at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026

Each profile contains the answer to the question,

“What are your hopes for the Cathedral Church of the Advent for the immediate future?”

DEBBIE BRAZEAL – Member eight years • Retired Pediatric



Nurse • Husband: Ellis • Women's Small Group Leader, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Ordination Discernment Committee, Outreach Volunteer • “The theology and ministries of the Advent have greatly blessed my life, my family, those within my small group, and other friends and relations. The Advent openly discusses and confronts the difficulties of life – never whitewashing over them. Then, the unmerited favor of God, his inestimable grace, is proclaimed. This year we have experienced such tragedy within our church family! I'm so thankful for the truth and grace that is preached through our church, and the love poured out by our staff. ‘Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ’ (Galatians 6:2). I want to be a part of ensuring this message continues to impact lives today and in the future.”

ANNE-MARIE BROWN – Member 38 years • Financial Officer



• Husband: Pratt • Altar Guild, St. Catherine's Guild, Abigail Guild, Weekly Women's Bible Study at Cranmer House, Lenten Lunches, Vacation Bible School • “My hope is for the Advent to continue to be a vibrant community of faith that is being nurtured through small groups, Bible studies, Sunday School classes and worship services. I hope that the joy of the gospel spreads through our members as we serve our church and our community.”

MELL DUGGAN – Member 16 years • Urologist • Wife:



Cathy • Small Group Leader, Stewardship Campaign, Men's Bible Study Co-Leader, Usher, Men's Backpack Trip, Inquirers' Class Shepherd • “I'm running for Vestry with deep appreciation for how this church has carried Cathy and me through every high and low. Together, we've seen God's grace in action, and now I'd love to give back – keeping our decisions gospel-led, our policies rooted in faith.”

CARDWELL FEAGIN – Member eight years • Chief Operating



Officer, VIVA Health • Wife: Elizabeth • Men's Discipleship Small Group Leader, Bible Study Leader, Usher, Shepherd, Confirmation Table Parent • “It is a special blessing that our family hears the gospel proclaimed each week. Advent has renewed my faith as I have surrendered control and committed to making Jesus the Lord of my life. Scripture reminds us, ‘He will wipe away every tear and death shall

be no more... for the former things have passed away’ (Rev. 21:4). It would be an honor to serve a church that has given so much to my family. If elected to the Vestry, I would focus on strengthening and expanding our Men's Discipleship program.”

BROOKE FLEMING – Member 10 years • CEO, Digital Motion



Event Services • Husband: David • Women's Ministry Committee Member, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Home Group Participant, Ladies Discipleship Group Member, Ladies Bible Studies Participant, Nave Tours Docent • “My prayer for the Advent is that we continue to be a bright light in downtown Birmingham as a thriving, Spirit-filled church. My hope for the immediate future is that all who come through our doors are

pointed to Jesus through Scripture-centered preaching and teaching, called to worship with our incredible Cathedral Choir, modern worship team and music ministry, and supported by our life-giving ministries for women, men, youth, and children. I also pray that we continue to use our resources, facilities, and efforts for God's glory.”

BETH FLOWERS – Lifelong Member • Travel Advisor • Hus-



band: Ron • Small Group Member, St. Amelia's Guild, Amistad Mission Participant, Pathways Volunteer, Lenten Lunches Volunteer and Speaker Host, Stewardship Volunteer, Sunday School Teacher/Volunteer • “I hope and pray that the Advent will continue to be a refuge for sinners, a home for the weary, and devoted to a cross-centered theology justified by faith in Christ alone – a gospel-focused church in all of our preaching, teaching, and outreach, spreading the message near and far.”

CHARLOTTE GETZ – Lifelong Member • Author • Husband:



Alex • Youth Minister, Adult Sunday School Teacher, Chalice Bearer, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Welcome Team, Former Vestry Member • “My hope for the Advent is that we would grow to be a close-knit body of believers. As such, that we would preach the gospel of God's love and grace to both each other and to our community at large.”

KELLY HARGROVE – Member approximately 36 years • Retired



Educator • Husband: John • Christian Education (Sunday School Teacher, VBS Director), Small Groups (Leader and Member), Altar Guild, Lenten Lunches (Volunteer and Co-Chairman), Cursillo (Lay Rector) • “My immediate hope for the Advent is that we go out from our sanctuary more into a world desperately in need of individual and collective peace, love, and hope. Jesus charges us to deliver by word and deed (our hands and feet!). The gospel of truth, love and peace through an eternal hope. Hope in the God of all truth and unfathomable love. Hope in a Savior who bled and died so that we might live. And hope in the Holy Spirit who leads us personally to the feet of both.”

CONNOR HERFURTH – Member nine years • Attorney, Balch



& Bingham • Wife: Anne • Children's Church Teacher, Children's Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group Volunteer, Small Groups, 20s and 30s Host • “My hope for the Cathedral Church of the Advent in the immediate future is that it would continue to be firmly rooted in and shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray that the gospel is proclaimed clearly and faithfully each day in our worship, our teaching, and our daily lives. I hope

the church continues to shine as a light in our community and that our members would bear lasting fruit through lives of faith, service, and joyful obedience to Christ.”

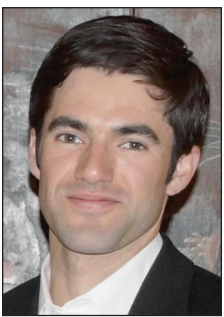
NOMINEES FOR THE VESTRY

For election at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026

Each profile contains the answer to the question,

“What are your hopes for the Cathedral Church of the Advent for the immediate future?”

PERRY KEEL – Lifelong Member • Owner/Engineer, Fluid Engineering, Inc. • Wife: LaVonda • Stewardship Caller/Group Leader, Usher, Sunday School Teacher, Outreach, Small-Group Co-Leader • “The Advent is on a great path! My prayers are for continued preaching and teaching of our living, active, and loving God, and of his Son, the resurrected Jesus Christ. Increase activities and participation in community outreach. Become an even more welcoming congregation through God's grace.”



TOMMY KITSMILLER – Member 11 years • Entrepreneur • Acolyte Master, Bridge Ministries Board Member, Brother Bryan Mentor, Chalice Bearer, Cursillo Parish Lay Rector, Diocesan Board Member for Mission and Outreach Committee, Lenten Lunches Dishwasher, Maranathan Academy Volunteer, Nave Brass Polisher, Neighborhood Bible Study Organizer, Stewardship Caller • “For us to continue going in peace to love and serve the Lord!”



ANNE LYNN LANGLOH – Member 17 years • Non-Profit Program Manager • Husband: Drew • Elementary Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation Table Leader, VBS Volunteer, St. Elizabeth's/The Middle Guild, ECW Leadership and Women's Ministry Volunteer, Lenten Lunches Co-Chair and Volunteer, Bookstore Volunteer, Caregivers Support Group Meal Provider, Sunday Breakfast Coordinator • “I pray for Advent's continued growth – in size, purpose, and faith in Christ. My hope is: that we provide a uniquely comforting and welcoming space for new individuals and families; that we continue to nourish the Birmingham community with gospel-centered outreach programs; that our Children's and Youth Ministries have all resources necessary to create purposeful programming and adapt to the ever-changing needs of our youngest members. Finally, I pray that the preaching and teaching with which we are blessed embolden all of us to support Advent's mission and, most importantly, each other.”



TOMMY MAYFIELD – Member 16 years • Entrepreneur and Staff Member, Center for Executive Leadership • Wife: Ginger • Adult Sunday School Teacher, Prayer Intercessor at Advent House, Adult Small Group Facilitator, Stewardship Caller • “That we continue to be a church that proclaims the incredible good news of the gospel.”



CLAY MORRIS – Member 42 years • Insurance Broker • Wife: Miriam • Former Vestry Member, Stewardship Chairman/Captain/Caller, Small Group Leader, Men's Bible Study, Chalice Bearer, Usher, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Brother Bryan Volunteer • “The Advent is a church with a faithful and courageous witness to the gospel. My hope is that we will continue to preach and boast in nothing but Christ and him crucified – that we will remain firmly grounded in the truth that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed in Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone. Finally, I pray that the outside world would see the Advent as a welcoming and inclusive hospital for sinners.”

DAN PRICE – Member 20 years • Construction • Wife: Shannon • Welcome Team, Usher, Stewardship Caller/Captain, Small Groups, Missions and Outreach Committee • “From my first visit to the Advent, I was overwhelmingly drawn to the grace-centered preaching and the humble authenticity of our clergy and staff. Twenty years later, that transformational power is still present. I am grateful to have such a Christ-focused ministry for my family and especially for my children. My hope for our church is to continue to prioritize our strong children's and youth programs, providing Christian education and opportunities to develop lifelong friendships. The Advent is a tremendous source of Jesus Christ's love and forgiveness for our parishioners and our entire community.”



MURRAY PRIESTER – Member 57 years • Retired • Husband: Jim • Former Vestry Member, Former Search Committee Member, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Sunday School Teacher, Children's Chapel Volunteer, Coat Drive Volunteer • “My hope for the future of the Advent is that it continues to grow in faith, unity, and compassion. I pray that it remains a welcoming place where everyone feels valued and supported. I want to promote the continued service to our community, guide young people, and most importantly encourage the good news of our Savior Jesus Christ!”



FRANK TAYLOR – Member 40 years • Retired • Wife: Kathie • Former Vestry Member, Acolyte Master, Usher, Chalice Bearer, Stewardship Caller, Christmas Poinsettia Delivery, Breakfast Cook • “We have been blessed with wonderful clergy over the years and particularly at this time who continue to preach the gospel. This is paramount to growing a sound church. As we continue to grow Advent Outreach, this allows us to spread the gospel and help those who are less fortunate. I believe this is the message Christ called us to do, preach the gospel and help those in need.”



CLAY WILSON – Member 33 years • Construction Executive • Wife: Meg • Miserable Offender • “My prayer is to see the Advent grow in its role as an urban church that lovingly ministers to those throughout the local community and within the congregation. I would like the Advent to invest in our local ministry partners, clergy, Christian education, and Youth Ministry programs to broaden our reach and strengthen our message of God's grace.”



KEY YEILDING – Member six years • Banker • Husband: Lee • Sunday School Teacher, Small Groups, Advent Weekend Away, Stewardship Captain • “I hope for the Advent to continue to be a gospel-centered church that lives out the grace-filled community described in Acts 2:42: ‘They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.’”

