

Adventurer

Epiphany

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 5

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Week of February 1, 2026



News & Events

Parish Elects New Vestry Members

The following were elected to a three-year term on the Vestry of the Cathedral Church of the Advent at the annual Parish Meeting on January 25. The Advent is grateful to all who accepted nomination.

Anne-Marie Brown	Tommy Mayfield
Kelly Hargrove	Clay Morris
Perry Keel	Dan Price
Tommy Kitsmiller	Frank Taylor
Anne Lynn Langloh	Clay Wilson

Additionally, as of the Parish Meeting, Ricky Bromberg began service as Senior Warden, and Mike Lucas began service as Junior Warden. We are grateful to retiring Senior Warden Craig Brady for his faithful service to our parish in 2025.

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.



A Word from Canon Young

"He loves me when I'm guilty." That's what the young priest, Jud, tells detective Benoit Blanc in the latest *Knives Out* movie, *Wake Up, Dead Man*. It's a lightning bolt of grace from a Hollywood film that somehow accurately portrays the central heart of the gospel message with clarity. God loves me when I'm guilty. He loves me when I'm at my worst. He loves me when I've fled to other lovers for self-soothing. He loves me when I'm apathetic or misguided or wallowing in self-pity. He loves me when I throw my mini temper tantrums that life isn't working out for me the way I'd like. He loves me when I have failed to uphold my part of the agreement. He loves me when I'm unlovely.

What sets the Christian gospel message apart from pop psychology, religious systems, or any other human scheme the world has ever devised is the reality of grace. Unmerited favor. Unconditional love. The one-way love of God for sinners and sufferers like you and me. It's absurd, really, that a holy God would pursue and embrace way-

ward humanity when we have disregarded his person and character. The demands of the law stand against us in accusation, confirming our guilt and just deservedness in condemnation. Yet we have an advocate in the God-man Jesus Christ. He loves us when we are guilty and acquits us because of his sacrificial atonement on the cross.

Why, then, do I repeatedly return to efforts to seek validation on my own? Why am I so determined to attempt to cobble together enough evidence of goodness or contrition? Leaky bucket that I am, the relief of forgiveness seeps out repeatedly, and I scramble to cling to my own record, largely because it's mine. I don't like borrowing from others or feeling indebted to other people and certainly not to the God of the universe. It's an affront to my agency. It makes me vulnerable – vulnerable to the love of another. Maybe the discomfort of being loved beyond performance is what you and I most need. To be reacquainted with the profound reality that God really, actually loves us. Even (especially?) when we're guilty.

- Adam

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Romans 5:8

This Sunday:

February 1, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Will Fagan

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

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 (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Raising Teenagers* – Paula and Craig Smalley, Suzy and Bill Andrews

Reluctance and Repentance in the Book of Jonah (Chapter Room) – *Part 1 of 2* – Jay Gardner

Foundations of Faith (Living Room) – *The Word of the Cross* – Gil Kracke

A Christian Response to Evil (Lower School Library) – *What Is Evil?* – Dennis Sansom

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!



serving & outreach

Local Outreach



Souper Bowl Soup Sale February 8

When the weather outside is frightful, warm, homemade soup is so delightful! Please support Women's Ministry's Souper Bowl Soup Sale on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8. The proceeds from this year's sale will support our Youth Ministry's Spring Break mission trip to Chiba and Tokyo, Japan, to support Global Teams workers there.

There are two ways you can support

this effort:

Make and freeze soup in clearly labeled, one-quart containers. Bring to the table in Clingman Commons on Sunday, February 8, between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. Tip: Hearty soups sell better!

And/Or

Buy soup(s) on Sunday, February 8. \$10/quart (cash, check, or credit card only) while supplies last.

Please support the Souper Bowl Soup Sale in whatever way you can and support our Youth Ministry's gospel work in Japan this Spring Break.

Local Mission

Informational Meeting for Mission Opportunity this Sunday

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 this Sunday, February 1, at 11:00 a.m. Come discover how you and your family can serve in Christ's name!

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).



making music

Concert Series



Photo: Andy Staples

VOCES8 in Concert February 12

"VOCES8's gorgeous sound, impeccable ensemble and intense responsiveness to text, harmony and melodic shape is all of the highest quality. Hearing them sing is a joy."

- BBC Music Magazine

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 repertoire 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.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering February 13

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, February 13, 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, 205-226-3500).

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



worship

Lenten Preaching Series

Series to Begin February 18

The Lenten Preaching Series will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, with services every weekday, 12:05-12:30 p.m., through Maundy Thursday, April 2. Join us in person as much as you are able, but when you can't we hope you will join us for the livestream (AdventBirmingham.org/Live) or listen later on our audio pages (AdventBirmingham.org/Audio). We also offer a podcast featuring the sermons, available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Lenten Lunches also will begin on February 18. Here is the schedule of preachers:

Ash Wednesday, February 18: **Glenda Curry**, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Alabama; Birmingham, Alabama

Thursday-Friday, February 19-20: **Daniel Stulac**, Assistant Professor of the Old Testament, Briercrest College and Seminary; Caronport, Saskatchewan, Canada

Monday-Tuesday, February 23-24: **Ashley Null**, Anglican Bishop of North Africa

Wednesday, February 25: **Ronald Sterling**, Lecturer in Pastoral Studies and Spiritual Formation, Beeson Divinity School; Birmingham, Alabama

Thursday, February 26: **David Gaston**, Physician; Nashville, Tennessee

Friday, February 27: **Kate Gaston**, Writer and Women's Ministry Director, City Church of East Nashville; Nashville, Tennessee

Monday-Tuesday, March 2-3: **Curt Benham**, North Campus Pastor, Trinity Parish; St. Augustine, Florida

Wednesday, March 4: **Kristen Deede Johnson**, Principal, Wycliffe College; Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Thursday-Friday, March 5-6: **Trygve Johnson**, Executive Director, PreachFor Foundation

Monday-Tuesday, March 9-10: **Daniel van Voorhis**, Scholar-in-Residence at 1517, Christian History Almanac Podcast

Wednesday, March 11: **Mark Rector**, Associate Minister, Mountain Brook Baptist Church; Mountain Brook, Alabama

Thursday-Friday, March 12-13: **Julie Canlis**, Liturgical Director, Trinity Church; Wenatchee, Washington

Monday-Friday, March 16-20: **Chad Bird**, Scholar-in-Residence at 1517, 40 Minutes in the Old Testament Podcast

Monday-Wednesday, March 23-25: **Charleston Wilson**, Rector, Church of the Redeemer; Sarasota, Florida

Thursday-Friday, March 26-27: **Paul Zahl**, Dean Emeritus, Cathedral Church of the Advent; Birmingham, Alabama

Monday-Tuesday, March 30-31: **Mark Mattes**, Lutheran Bible Institute Chair in Theology, Grand View University; Des Moines, Iowa

Wednesday-Thursday, April 1-2: **Robert Smith**, Distinguished Professor of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School; Birmingham, Alabama

Good Friday, April 3 (One-hour service starts at noon.): **Craig Smalley**, Dean and Rector, Cathedral Church of the Advent; Birmingham, Alabama

Lectionary

Sunday, February 1

Psalm 15 • Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 • Matthew 5:1-12



spiritual growth & fellowship

Youth Ministry

Super Bowl Brunch Set for February 8

All 7th-12th graders are invited to brunch on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 12:30 p.m. at the home of Margot Cooney (2808 Cherokee Road, 35223). Contact Margot (Margot@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

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.

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- Micah 6:8

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- Matthew 5:1-12

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 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: Sullivan Jackson McDonough, son of Gage and Joseph, on January 12

Baptism: Claude Hugh Estes, VI, son of Cameron and Claude, on January 18

Marriage: Farley Southland Morris and Wilson Coe Taylor, on January 17

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Donna De Marta; Mr. and Mrs. B.G. Minis-man, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pradat • (Pastoral Care) by Cindy and Steve Tilghman

Henry Goldthwaite Seibels, III: (Altar Guild) by Toody W. Sullivan

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Pastoral Care) by Toody W. Sullivan; Kim and Bruce Rogers

Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Pastoral Care) by Alice M. Bowsher

In Honor of Margot Cooney: (Endowment Fund) by Vandy Wade



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 1 Regular worship schedule	2	3	4	5	6	7
Feb 8 Regular worship schedule Souper Bowl Soup Sale - Clingman Commons Youth Super Bowl Brunch - 2808 Cherokee Road - 12:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Concert Series: VOCES8 - Nave - 7:00 p.m.	13 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	14

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.