

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Epiphany



Vol. 50, No. 6

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Week of February 8, 2026



News & Events

Souper Bowl Soup Sale Is this Sunday

The Souper Bowl Soup Sale is here!

Bring your frozen, clearly labeled, quart-sized soups to Clingman Commons by 8:30 a.m. this Sunday, February 8, for our annual sale.

And please purchase soup to support our Youth Ministry's Spring Break mission trip to Japan. Soups are \$10 a quart while supplies last (shop early!). See page 2 for more information.

Concert Series: VOCES8 to Perform February 12

The Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble VOCES8 will present a concert Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Nave. To purchase tickets, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Music. See page 2 for details.

Richard Lawson Elected the Next Bishop of Alabama

The Very Rev. Richard T. Lawson, III, was chosen as the 13th Bishop-elect of Alabama at the electing convention held January 31 at the Advent. He currently serves as Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Denver, Colorado. See page 3 for more information.



A Word from Will Fagan

There's a big word that starts with a "J" that "we don't like to talk about at parties," to quote Jack Nicholson's character from *A Few Good Men* (1992).

We don't, frankly, like to talk about it anytime or any occasion. That word in reference is *judgment* (or *judgement*, depending on your persuasion).

If the mere mention of that word makes you shudder and you're tempted to turn the page, dear reader, please don't! I have good news!

In the natural course of life, it is a fact that we will be judged by people (and we will, sadly, judge others ourselves, often in response to our own being judged). We don't like being judged; it makes us cower, it makes us run, it makes us do anything we can do to "not feel that way."

Such is the reason why it is presently en vogue for many Christian thinkers to teach that God is not a God who judges us. This is incorrect – he does, and he must because

(Nothing)... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

he is the judge of all things, condemning all imperfection "in this present evil age," knowing there is "no one righteous, not even one" (Galatians 1:4; Psalm 14:3). Deep down I think we know that is true, and that makes us wonder where we stand with God.

Where is the good news, you ask?

I cannot convey just how true it is that Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Which means – above all else – that someone, God's Son himself, stood before his Father in place of our own final hearing; and because of that, God Almighty has nothing but love for you.

This reality is not subjective, but objective. It is not speculative, but factual. Perhaps most importantly, it is not a reward, but a gift.

So, dear reader, if in this world you fear the "J" word in relation to where you stand with God, please don't. It is only with affection that he thinks of you, and there is nothing else for you – or anyone in heaven and on earth – to do to make that true.

- Will

- Romans 8:39

This Sunday:

February 8, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Pinter

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Pinter

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) – *Why Matthew in the Gospel Quartet?* – Dean Pinter

Reluctance and Repentance in the Book of Jonah (Chapter Room) – Jay Gardner

Foundations of Faith (Living Room) – *Hear!* – Gil Kracke

A Christian Response to Evil (Lower School Library) – *Evil in the Old Testament* – Dennis Sansom

Faith and Family (Assembly Hall) – *Raising Girls* – Anne-Marie Brown, Virginia Planch, and Gail Chiapetti

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

World Mission

Souper Bowl Soup Sale this Sunday

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 this Sunday, February 8, between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. Tip: Hearty soups sell better!

And/Or

Buy soup(s) in Clingman Commons this 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.

World Mission

Documentary on the Suffering Church in Ukraine to Be Screened February 11

We will screen the documentary *Faith Under Siege* on Wednesday evening, February 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The film explores the persecution of Christians in the war in Ukraine. Adventer Stephen Humphreys is an Alabama lawyer who is prosecuting Russian war crimes in Ukraine and travels there extensively. He will share stories and answer questions after the film. Light refreshments will be provided. Consider bringing your small group or friends from work – all are invited to view the film. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, February 8

Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20



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 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.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering February 13

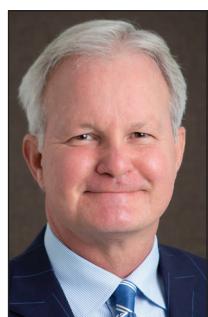
Caregivers are invited to a monthly lunch with others who have been impacted by the demands of caring for a loved one. The next gathering will be Friday, February 13, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you are a full-time caregiver or you are just beginning to 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

Wardens for 2026

Ricky Bromberg and Mike Lucas Begin Year of Service



Ricky Bromberg (*left*) began service as Senior Warden as of the Parish Meeting on January 25, while Mike Lucas (*right*) began service as Junior Warden.

Ricky served as Junior Warden during 2025. A lifelong member of the Advent, he has served the church in a number of areas, including work on Stewardship campaigns and as a chalice bearer, lector, and usher.

Mike is in the second year of a three-year term on the Vestry, and has been a member of the parish for 41 years. His service includes teaching Sunday School and serving as an usher, as well as working on Stewardship campaigns.

Craig Brady retires as Senior Warden, taking with him the gratitude of the parish for his faithful service.



Richard Lawson Elected Next Bishop of Alabama

The Very Rev. Richard T. Lawson, III (*right*), was chosen as the 13th Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Alabama at the electing convention held January 31. Currently serving as Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Denver, Colorado, he will succeed Glenda Curry as diocesan bishop upon her retirement later this year. Dean Lawson is scheduled to be consecrated as bishop on June 27. Our prayers are with him as he becomes our next bishop.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Come to Advent House for Intercessory Prayer

The ministry of prayer at Advent House is for men, women, and couples who would like to come and request prayer for illnesses, broken relationships, losses, fears, doubts, or other difficulties in their lives. Prayer intercessors gather in the name of Jesus Christ and pray on behalf of each person who comes, trusting in and totally dependent upon the redemptive, restorative, healing, life-giving power of Christ Jesus.

If you would like to schedule a prayer appointment at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).



education

Inquirers' Class Series

Join Us Beginning February 22

Are you trying to decide whether to make the Advent your church home? The Inquirers' Class will help you make that decision. It's a seven-week series that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why. Our spring session will begin Sunday, February 22, 10:15-10:50 a.m. in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance near the middle of the garden). Questions? Contact Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com).

Lenten Preacher Event

Daniel Stulac at Cranmer House February 19

We hope you will join us on Thursday evening, February 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to hear our Lenten preacher Daniel Stulac reflect on themes from a forthcoming book.



Many of us will remember Daniel (*right*) as a preacher from last year. As an Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Briercrest College in Saskatchewan (and a former parishioner in Dean Pinter's parish in Moose Jaw), Daniel uniquely combines an incisive grasp of Scripture with an enlivening and compelling use of literature, art, and history. His talk is entitled *Water into Wine* and will focus on the Song of Songs.

Please feel free to bring friends to this event at Cranmer House. For more information, please call the church office or email Gil Kracke (Gil@CathedralAdvent.com).

Youth Ministry

Super Bowl Brunch Set for this Sunday

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.



worship

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
12:05 p.m. Lenten Preaching Series begins
12:15 p.m. Lenten Lunches begin
6:00 p.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

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

Birth and Death Notices: You can receive emails containing news of births and deaths in and close to the parish. To sign up for these emails, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe and click "Subscribe" under "Pastoral Care Notices."

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Leander; Mr. and Mrs. Walt Laughlin; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Chin; Kate C. Stockham; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Godrich; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bradford; Charles Scribner; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson R. Sharman, III; Mr. and Mrs. E. Wilson Hunter; Mr. and Mrs. Claude Nielsen

The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Mission and Outreach) by Louise and Butch Clayton
Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 8 Regular worship schedule Souper Bowl Soup Sale - Clingman Youth Super Bowl Brunch - 2808 Cherokee Road - 12:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Documentary Screening: <i>Faith Under Siege</i> - Cranmer House - 6:30 p.m.	12 Concert Series: VOCES8 - Nave - 7:00 p.m.	13 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	14
Feb 15 Regular worship schedule	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Lenten Preaching: Glenda Curry - 12:05 p.m.	19 Lenten Preaching: Daniel Stulac - 12:05 p.m. Daniel Stulac Speaking Event - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	20 Lenten Preaching: Daniel Stulac - 12:05 p.m.	21

Monday-Friday (starting February 18): Lenten Lunches – Refectory/Clingman Commons, 12:15 p.m.

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.