

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Lent



Vol. 50, No. 7

Last Sunday After the Epiphany

Week of February 15, 2026



News & Events

ASH WEDNESDAY AT THE ADVENT

Ash Wednesday Is February 18

Worship Schedule:

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes; Advent Episcopal School Choral Ensemble sings
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; Service livestreamed; Cathedral Choir sings; Nursery open for ages 5 and under

Canon Pinter will preach at the 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. services.

Lenten Preaching and Lunches to Begin Ash Wednesday

Bishop Glenda Curry will open our Lenten Preaching Series on Wednesday, February 18, at 12:05 p.m. Daniel Stulac will preach Thursday and Friday. Lenten Lunches will also begin, serving from 12:15-1:00 p.m. in the Refectory and Clingman Commons. See page 2 for more information.



A Word from Canon Gardner

We humans express emotions in a myriad of ways, and cultural/societal norms often condition our behaviors. But a universal human expression seems to me to be laughter.

All sorts of things make us laugh, but laughter often transcends language and cultural barriers. It really is an amazing emotional response when you think about it! Some people laugh to the point of snorting or cackling, others cry when they laugh, others contort their faces and turn red, some laughs are high-pitched or low-pitched or no-pitched (have you ever witnessed people who laugh silently because they run out of breath!?). It's all funny to me, really.

St. Paul did not mention laughter as being among the fruit of the Spirit, but I often see laughter as a clear gift from God. Joy is named among that fruit, and perhaps laughter is sometimes an outward sign of that God-given joy. What makes you laugh? Some of my favorites are *Seinfeld*, the Three Stooges, my children, and of course Dean Pinter!

"So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

- John 16:20

I laughed (and cried) when all three of my children were born. The response was uncontrollable, spontaneous, and ecstatic. It felt right. Everything felt right in those moments. Thank you, Lord.

Doctors tell us that laughter is good for lowering stress. We have also been told that laughter is good for the soul. But laughter cannot be prescribed or forced. It has to come naturally, or perhaps even supernaturally.

Abraham and Sarah both mockingly laughed at the idea that they could have a son at their advanced age. They were laughing anxiously, cynically, and restlessly under the weight of human sin and limitations. But once God delivered his promise, and Isaac was born, they laughed joyfully and gratefully. This is what God's grace causes in us.

We do not deserve this grace or this joy, and yet God delivers. This is the gospel of grace. Jesus took on our sorrow so that we would know his joy. We as Christians can laugh in the face of sin, death, and the devil, because God's promise has the final word. We can laugh, even and perhaps especially at ourselves, because God has justified us sinners once and for all.

- Jay

This Sunday:

February 15, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

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) – *Key Distinctives in Matthew's Gospel* – Dean Pinter

Foundations of Faith (Living Room) – *Suffering God in Scripture* – Gil Kracke

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

Faith and Family (Assembly Hall) – *Raising Boys* – Leslie and Kevin Housman

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!



worship

Lenten Preaching Series

We hope you will join us regularly for our Preaching Series. The service runs from 12:05-12:30 p.m. each weekday of Lent except Good Friday. 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, Facebook Live, and YouTube) or listen later on our audio pages (AdventBirmingham.org/Audio). You can also subscribe to our podcast and have the sermons delivered directly to your digital device; the podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Lent to see the full preacher schedule.

Lenten Preachers this Week

Bishop Curry to Open Series on Ash Wednesday

Glenda Curry was invested as the 12th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama in January 2021. She had been consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor in June 2020. Prior to her election as bishop, she served as Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood, Alabama. Ordained in 2002, she was Rector of Epiphany Episcopal Church in Leeds, Alabama, until her move to All Saints in 2004. She currently serves as Bishop liaison to Episcopal Church Cursillo Ministries.



Prior to her call to ordained ministry, Bishop Curry worked at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's nursing school before she became Dean of Nursing at Troy University. She served as President of Troy's Montgomery campus from 1992-1999, becoming Alabama's first female president of a four-year public university. She and her husband William have two children and seven grandchildren.

Daniel Stulac to Preach Thursday and Friday

Daniel Stulac is Assistant Professor of the Old Testament at Briercrest College and Seminary in Caronport, Saskatchewan, Canada. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he worked as a campus minister and organic farmer in New Hampshire, and then as an agricultural missionary in Rwanda. He attended Princeton Theological Seminary and completed his doctoral studies in the Old Testament at Duke University in 2017.



In addition to numerous essays and articles, Dr. Stulac has published several books including the forthcoming *Worship and Waste: A Christological Companion to the Book of 2 Samuel*. He is married to Danielle, and they have two daughters.

Lectionary

Sunday, February 15

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 • Exodus 24:12-18
2 Peter 1:16-21 • Matthew 17:1-9

Lenten Lunches Begin Ash Wednesday

Lenten Lunches are served from 12:15-1:00 p.m. every weekday of Lent except Good Friday. Look forward to your favorite hot entrées, including lasagna, chicken tetrazzini, meatloaf, chicken and cornbread dressing, and chicken enchilada casserole. Count on the Advent's signature pimento cheese, chicken salad, bing cherry salad, classic tomato aspic, and homemade desserts daily. All proceeds will benefit Restoration Academy, Maranathan Academy, and Lovelady Center.

Nursery Provided Thursdays

During Lent we will provide a nursery for children ages 5 and under on Thursdays from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Registration is not necessary.

Parking During Lent

During Lent the Advent's parking lot at the corner of Sixth Avenue North and Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard (21st Street) is especially hard-pressed. We must accommodate volunteers making deliveries for Lenten Lunches and other short-term visitors to the church and school. We also must maintain access for emergency vehicles.

You can help! Please do not block any parking spaces, entrances, or exits at any time.

Parking is available at reasonable rates at meters and at a number of lots and decks within a block of the Advent. Thank you for your cooperation.



spiritual growth & fellowship

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. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) to hear our Lenten preacher Daniel Stulac reflect on themes from a forthcoming book.

Many of us will remember Daniel (see *story left*) 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. For more information, call the church office or email Gil Kracke (Gil@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.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

- Psalm 25:7



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).



serving & outreach

Local Outreach

Join the Gumbo Gala Team

For years the Advent has entered the competition at the Gumbo Gala, benefiting Episcopal Place. This year, it will be held Saturday, April 18, noon-4:00 p.m. at Cahaba Brewing. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) if you would like to help set up, cook, serve, or participate in this fun community event.

World Mission

Doctors Sought for Medical Mission to South Sudan

Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV) is a new mission partner of the Advent. They work to prevent human trafficking and the oppression of children and women in war zones. Each year, they bring a small, specialized medical team through the border of Kenya to provide patient care and to train nursing students in South Sudan. They are asking the Advent if we have any family medicine doctors or pediatricians willing to share their time and resources. The team is going August 1-11 this summer. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) if interested.

Youth Ministry



Our 9th-12th grade students found out the mystery-trip destination was a very cold Orange Beach, Alabama. We are grateful for time spent in devotion, walks, games, and building friendships with each other on our winter retreat, held January 30-February 1.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

St. Mary's Guild and Mom's Bible Study to Hear Kate Gaston

St. Mary's Guild members (women in their 20s and 30s) are invited to join the Thursday Morning Moms' Bible study on Thursday, February 26, to hear Lenten preacher Kate Gaston, a writer and the Women's Ministry Director at City Church of East Nashville. We will meet from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the church Living Room. In thinking about this time together, Kate had this to say:

"God is not twiddling his thumbs, waiting for you to finally get your act together before he is able to use you for his purpose. He loves the woman you are right now, sweat pants and all."

Shaped by her reflections on Psalm 16:6, "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places...", Kate will facilitate a conversation about grace, vocation, creativity, and the quiet, often overlooked work God is doing in the middle of our ordinary days.

Nursery is available by reservation when you register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. Kate will preach in our Lenten series on Friday, February 27, at 12:05 p.m.

Women's Ministry



Women of the Advent and their guests gathered at the home of Sister Clapp on January 29 to hear Hannah Dow share her experiences of God's action and intervention in her life during some periods of great difficulty and pain.

Stay up to date on what's happening in Women's Ministry. Opt in to receive the Women's Newsletter in your inbox each month. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe and click the "Subscribe" button under "Women of the Advent."

February 15 Is the Last Sunday to Pick Up Offering Envelopes in Clingman Commons

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2026 pledge card and have not picked them up yet, this Sunday, February 15, is the last day they will be available for pick-up in Clingman Commons. (Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number.) If you are unable to pick them up by this Sunday, please contact the finance office (205-226-3517).

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:

Births: Violet Vance Dennis, daughter of Joslyn and Charlie, on January 8; Edmund Coates Doss, III, son of Lauren and Coates, on January 27; Lee Allen Mayhew, son of Ginny and Tyler, on February 1

Baptism: Evelyn Sanders Cooney, daughter of Margot and Patrick, on January 29

Death: Mary Jo Varner Crumly, on January 27



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memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Mr. and Mrs. Victor E. Nichol; Pride Fisher; Thompson Family Foundation; Mary Lee Sullivan; Judith Carter (Needleworks LLC); Members of Duffy's Bend • (Mission and Outreach) by Esther Goldberger

Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Janet Beck • (Pastoral Care) by Maibeth Porter and Robert Eckinger

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
Feb 22 Regular worship schedule	23 Lenten Preaching: Ashley Null - 12:05 p.m.	24 Lenten Preaching: Ashley Null - 12:05 p.m.	25 Lenten Preaching: Ronald Sterling - 12:05 p.m.	26 Kate Gaston Talk with St. Mary's Guild - Living Room - 9:30 a.m. Lenten Preaching: David Gaston - 12:05 p.m.	27 Lenten Preaching: Kate Gaston - 12:05 p.m.	28

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.