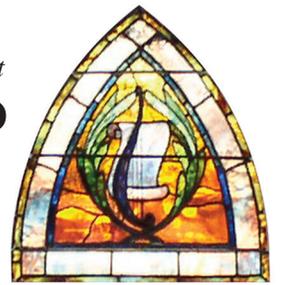


Adventurer

Lent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 11

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Week of March 15, 2026



News & Events

Chad Bird Is Our Lenten Preacher this Week

Chad Bird, Scholar-in-Residence at 1517 and host of the *40 Minutes in the Old Testament* podcast, will preach at noonday all this week, Monday-Friday, March 16-20, at 12:05 p.m. See page 2 for more information.

John Barclay at the Advent: Dinner Sign-Up Deadline Is March 17

Professor John Barclay, one of the world's foremost New Testament theologians, will speak and preach at the Advent March 20-22. Registration deadline for the dinner on March 20 is Tuesday, March 17. Widely known for his groundbreaking work on the Apostle Paul, he was also the doctoral supervisor of our own Dean Pinter. See page 2 for details.

Staff Transitions

We invite you to join us in prayer over two exciting developments in the life of our staff team. See page 3.

Have You Enjoyed a Lenten Lunch Yet?

Lenten Lunches are served from 12:15-1:00 p.m. every weekday of Lent except Good Friday. To see the menu, visit [Advent Birmingham.org/Lent](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Lent).



A Word from Canon Young

Did you know that the official name of the Episcopal Church in the Library of Congress is "The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America"? Quite the mouthful, I know. I like to point this out to people who feel uneasy around the concept of evangelism. We are, as our official denominational title suggests, an evangelistic missionary society. Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are enlisted, empowered, and sent to bear witness to the faith which we profess. It's an awesome privilege!

This Spring Break, our youth ministers Mary Ann and John Mark, along with brave adult youth volunteer Ben, are leading eight high schoolers on a mission pilgrimage to Japan. They will spend a week learning, praying, encouraging, and witnessing up close how God is at work among the people in Chiba, Japan. They will be shadowing an American couple from Global Teams who have established a gospel mission among

the people in a city outside of Tokyo. In a country where less than one percent of the population identify as Christian, it will be an opportunity to explore and wonder how the Lord is calling people to trust in Christ in an upwardly mobile and performance-driven culture. Please join me in praying diligently for this team between March 20-28, that the students and adults would be deeply impacted by their visit, and that seeds planted would bring about Kingdom fruit.

The Advent is dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. We are a domestic and foreign missionary society. We gather weekly in corporate worship, and are sent out in the power of the Spirit to share the Good News. We gather weekly in small groups for prayer and study. We live into our vocations as family members, friends, and neighbors. We serve Christ in the workplace and in the marketplace. We pray for the lost and the least, and the hurting and vulnerable. And when given opportunity, we respond by sharing the hope that is within us in the power of the Holy Spirit. What a wonder that God chooses to use even us to draw all people to himself in Christ! - Adam

The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. - Psalm 98:2-3

This Sunday:

March 15, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Gardner

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, YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.

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

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Listening to Matthew Through the Church Year* – Dean Pinter

The Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Baptism* – Jay Gardner

Biblical "Barrenness" (Living Room) – *God's Hope in the Matriarchs* – Derrill McDavid

Grace in the Rubble (Assembly Hall) – *Help in Suffering* – Marshall Malone

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *How Do Sunday Mornings Get to the Heart of Things?* – Will Fagan

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

The preaching 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 (on our YouTube channel and AdventBirmingham.org/Live) 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

Chad Bird to Preach Monday Through Friday

Chad Bird is a Scholar-in-Residence at 1517, where he hosts the *40 Minutes in the Old Testament* podcast. At 1517 he brings his deep knowledge of Scripture and theology to readers, listeners, and audiences around the world.

Holding master's degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College, he has served as a pastor, professor, and guest lecturer in Old Testament theology and Hebrew. A highly sought-after speaker and teacher, Mr. Bird combines theological insight with a servant's heart. He has written numerous books, including *Night Driving: Notes from a Prodigal Soul*, *The Christ Key*, *Unveiling Mercy*, *Hitchhiking with Prophets*, and most recently, *Untamed Prayers*. A Texan and an avid runner, he and his wife Stacy enjoy traveling together and spending time with their grandchildren.



Nursery Available on Thursdays During Lent

A nursery for children ages 5 and under is provided on Thursdays from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

City-Wide Prayer Service

Adventers Invited to Service this Sunday

This Sunday, March 15, Adventers are invited to participate in a gathering with Christians from a variety of churches across Birmingham to pray for our city. The service will be hosted by Sixth Avenue Baptist Church (1101 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, 35211) at 5:00 p.m. Register online at UWePray.org or contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Lectionary

Sunday, March 15

Psalm 23

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41



spiritual growth & fellowship

John Barclay at the Advent



Above: Dean Pinter with his "doctor fathers" in 2009: (l-r) Dean, Gordon Fee, and John Barclay

Scholar of the Apostle Paul to Speak and Preach

It is our privilege to welcome John Barclay to the Advent, having him with us for a most memorable weekend: Friday-Sunday, March 20-22.

Formerly the Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University (England), Professor Barclay was also the doctoral supervisor of Dean Pinter. It is no exaggeration to describe him as one of the world's foremost New Testament theologians, widely known for his groundbreaking work on the Apostle Paul. His influential book, *Paul and the Gift*, has reshaped contemporary scholarship on Paul and on our understanding of grace.

We will begin our weekend with dinner and his first talk on Friday evening at 5:30, continuing Saturday morning at 8:30. Both Friday night and Saturday morning will be at the Advent. Professor Barclay will also be our preacher on Sunday morning at the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. services (in the Nave).

For a schedule of the weekend, for additional details, and to register, please visit AdventBirmingham.org/Barclay. *Tuesday, March 17, is the registration deadline for Friday's dinner.*

We hope you will be able join us in welcoming Professor Barclay to the Advent. For more information, please contact Dean Pinter (Pinter@CathedralAdvent.com) or Gil Kracke (Gil@CathedralAdvent.com).

Youth Ministry

Kickball Returns this Sunday

Our next Advent Holy Rollers kickball game will be this Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m. at the Crestline Elementary fields. All 7th-12th graders and parents are invited to attend the competitively friendly contest. Contact Margot Cooney (Margot@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

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

Staff Transitions



We invite you to join us in prayer over two exciting developments in the life of our staff team.

First, please join us in giving thanks for Mary Ann McCarty, whose faithful and fruitful ministry with our youth has been a gift to this congregation. Mary Ann is currently in discernment for Holy Orders and is expected to be ordained to the diaconate this spring – a cause for great celebration. Following ordination, we expect her to begin a curacy here at the Advent, a role designed for new ordinands. While she will continue her meaningful relationships with our young people through leading Bible studies and one-on-one ministry, she will step back from her day-to-day role as Director in order to join the rest of the clergy team in engaging the privileges of preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. Please pray for wisdom and peace as she, and we, navigate this transition.

This leads to our second prayer request: The Advent is actively seeking a new Youth Minister to serve alongside Margot Cooney, John Mark Haase, and our wider ministry team. This parish has been richly blessed over the years with gifted, dedicated youth ministers who have shaped the faith of countless young people, and we do not take that witness lightly. As we enter this search, we are trusting that the same God who has provided so faithfully in the past will once again bring us the right person – someone with the heart, the gifts, and the calling to invest deeply in the next generation. Please pray with us that God would raise up and send exactly that person to the Advent.

Please contact Will Fagan (Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-382-3293) for more information.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Subscribe to Our Email Newsletter

Stay up to date on what's happening by opting 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."



worship

AES Choral Ensemble



Advent School Group to Sing at 9:00 this Sunday

The Advent Episcopal School Choral Ensemble, directed by Frederick Teardo, will sing for our 9:00 a.m. service in the Nave this Sunday, March 15, joining forces with members of our Cathedral Choir. The Choral Ensemble is comprised of 4th-8th grade auditioned choristers and sings for weekly chapel services at the school. We look forward to having them help lead worship!



education

Youth Confirmation



Our 6th graders began their Confirmation journey on March 1, and they're loving every minute of it! We're so thankful to walk alongside them in this special season of faith and growth. Confirmation will be Sunday, May 17.

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.

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, Director of Parish Life and Evangelism
 The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

transitions:

Baptism: Dylan Wright, on February 25
Death: Ardis Marie Albany, on February 26

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Sarah Britton Neal: (Endowment Fund) by Lessie and Craig Brady
The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Endowment Fund) by Beth and Rich Henry
Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Florence Tyson; Andy and Carolyn Parker

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Mr. and Mrs. Chuck R. Stewart; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hinds; Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan P. Burke; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Higgins; Mr. and Mrs. John Heins; Mr. and Mrs. Greg Ricca; John G. Macfarlane, III; Strategic Fund Services, LLC; Mr. and Mrs. David M. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. M. James Gorrie; John Barnett; Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Howard, Jr.; Craig K. Harsh



Cathedral Church of the Advent
 2017 6th Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
 Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150 for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.
 Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 15 Regular worship schedule Youth Kickball - Crestline Fields - 4:00 p.m.	16 Lenten Preaching: Chad Bird - 12:05 p.m.	17 Lenten Preaching: Chad Bird - 12:05 p.m.	18 Lenten Preaching: Chad Bird - 12:05 p.m.	19 Lenten Preaching: Chad Bird - 12:05 p.m.	20 Lenten Preaching: Chad Bird - 12:05 p.m. John Barclay Dinner and Talk 1 - Refectory - 5:30 p.m.	21 John Barclay Talks 2 and 3 - Refectory - 8:30 a.m.
Mar 22 Regular worship schedule	23 Lenten Preaching: Charleston Wilson - 12:05 p.m.	24 Lenten Preaching: Charleston Wilson - 12:05 p.m.	25 Lenten Preaching: Charleston Wilson - 12:05 p.m.	26 Lenten Preaching: Paul Zahl - 12:05 p.m.	27 Lenten Preaching: Paul Zahl - 12:05 p.m.	28

Monday-Friday: 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.