

# Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 17

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Week of April 26, 2026



## News & Events

### Cathedral Choir in Concert this Sunday

The Cathedral Choir will sing a concert this Sunday, April 26, 4:00 p.m. in the Nave. The performance is offered as a preview of the choir's tour to England in July. *See page 2.*

### Sign Up Now for VBS

Vacation Bible School 2026 will happen Monday-Thursday, June 1-4, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Advent. We will offer two different VBS programs: one for current 3K-3rd graders, and another for current 4th and 5th graders. Register at [AdventBirmingham.org/VBS](http://AdventBirmingham.org/VBS). *See page 2 for more information.*

### Interested in Adult Confirmation?

Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama, will join us for Confirmation on Sunday, May 17. She will witness the Confirmation of our 6th-grade confirmands during the 9:00 a.m. service and several adults during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Confirmation is the formal way of joining the church and is usually offered once a year. Adults who have attended the Inquirers' Class series are invited to participate in this Confirmation service. Please contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562) by Tuesday, May 5, if you are interested.



## A Word from Canon Young

One morning last week, I was meeting with a ministry partner in the Park Place community when a car crashed into a work-truck trailer right in front of us. Fortunately, nobody was injured in the incident. Two of us stepped in and assisted the driver and went about changing her flat tire. The problem was her hydraulic jack was too short for her small SUV. So I grabbed my manual jack out of my car, rolled up my sleeves, and started to work. Chester also took a turn. Then a man rolled over in his wheelchair and began correcting us as we went about the tire change.

It turns out we needed Cedrick, because none of the tire irons in our midst matched the lug nuts on the tire. He fetched his pneumatic drill with its ever-larger attachments, and we went back to work removing the old tire, stripping one of the lug nuts badly in the process. Cedrick got out of his wheelchair at points and did part of the work. My friend Chester and I alternated as well. A maintenance man walked

up and began giving other instructions along the way. It became a comical community event in an alley next to a parking lot!

Nearly 40 minutes later, we had successfully changed the tire and the driver was able to drive away, hopefully to get some actual help from someone who knew what they were doing. Chester and I were dripping in sweat and covered in grease. We laughed with and at one another in the ridiculousness of the scene that just played out.

As I reflect on it, this interaction was a simple parable. Three men, all capable on their own of changing a car tire. Each of them brought something to the proceedings individually that was helpful. Yet if all three had not offered their services, the job would not have been completed. Three were better than one, and someone benefited from their ability to share. The body of Christ is one body with many members. Our ministry is most effective not when we work autonomously, but when we are shoulder to shoulder with others. Thankfully God's grace is working immeasurably more than we could ever imagine on our own. - Adam

**We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

- Ephesians 4:15-16

## This Sunday:

April 26, 2026

### 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Smalley

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Will Fagan

### 11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Will Fagan

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

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.

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

**The Dean's Class** (Refectory) – *Christ at the Center: Paul's Letter to the Philippians (Introduction)* – Dean Pinter

**Inquirers' Class** (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Why We Do What We Do: Our Worship and Liturgy* – Adam Young

**Why Am I a Christian?: Challenges and Reasons for Believing** (Chapter Room) – Bill Wortman

**Our Hide-and-Seek God** (Lower School Library) – *Part 2 of 2* – Jay Gardner

**Faith and Family** (Assembly Hall) – *Grandparents and the Gospel* – Rita and Drew Wright

### 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!



## making music

### Concert Series



#### Cathedral Choir to Offer Preview of England Tour this Sunday

The Cathedral Choir will sing a concert this Sunday, April 26, 4:00 p.m. in the Nave. The performance is offered as a preview of the choir's tour to England in July. Admission is free.

The choir will have residencies in Winchester Cathedral and St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and the concert will feature in large part the music they will sing while on tour. Come support our Cathedral Choir and wish them well on their upcoming pilgrimage.

### Mary Ann McCarty Ordained



Mary Ann McCarty was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on April 12 at the Advent. Mary Ann has served at the Advent since 2022, first as Girls Youth Director and then as Director of Youth Ministry. She now joins our clergy staff, serving as Curate. Join us in praying for Mary Ann as she takes this next step in ministry.

*Photo above: Mary Ann with our clergy staff following her ordination: (l-r) Craig Smalley, Adam Young, Mary Ann McCarty, Dean Pinter, Will Fagan, Jay Gardner*

### Lectionary

Sunday, April 26

Psalm 23 • Acts 2:42-47 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10



## education

### Vacation Bible School

#### Register Now for VBS 2026

Join us for 2026 Vacation Bible School, Monday-Thursday, June 1-4, 9:00 a.m.-noon at the Advent. We will offer two different Vacation Bible Schools: one for current 3K-3rd graders and a separate format for current 4th and 5th graders.

Current 3K-3rd graders are invited to *Rainforest Falls* VBS, where they will explore the nature of God. (Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2025, and be potty trained.)

Current 4th and 5th graders are invited to *The I AM Statements of Jesus* VBS. They will participate in hands-on learning to reflect on what Jesus meant with each statement. Space is limited to 16 participants.

Register at [AdventBirmingham.org/VBS](http://AdventBirmingham.org/VBS) or through your Realm account.

**We still need a handful of volunteers** to be group leaders who lead groups of children from station to station. If you are available and feel a nudge, please contact Tara Davis ([Tara@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tara@CathedralAdvent.com)) or Gunter Owens ([Gunter@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Gunter@CathedralAdvent.com)).



### Children's Ministry



#### Second Grade Students Receive Bibles

The Advent presented the Adventure Bible (NIV) to our 2nd grade students on April 12. Join us in praying for these children as they begin their lifelong journey of reading God's word.

### Church Tour

#### I'm New Here: Where Is Everything?

If this is you, please join us for a tour of the church on Sunday, May 3, immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service. We'll meet in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance is near the middle of the garden). Coffee will be available, and a restroom is nearby. For more information, contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562).

[Jesus prayed to the Father] "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent [those you have given me] into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth." - John 17:18-19



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Youth Ministry

#### Kickball Season Wraps Up this Sunday

The last Advent Holy Rollers kickball game will be this Sunday, April 26, 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](mailto:Margot@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.

### Women's Ministry



#### A Beautiful Sabbath Saturday

Pointing us to the faithfulness of the Lord historically and in our own lives, Julie Ogard led a group through Psalm 66 as Dorothy White led us on a 1.25 mile trail through scenic Red Mountain Park on April 11.



#### Save the Date! Women's Retreat Set for February 5-7

Remember that time we had the Women's Retreat and it wasn't so humid our clothes stuck to us as we walked to our cabins? When we weren't forced to choose between going on the Women's Retreat and meeting our child's teacher? When we got to make s'mores and drink hot chocolate by the fireplace?

Mark your calendar for Friday-Sunday, February 5-7, 2027, for our next Women's Retreat at Camp McDowell. More information to come!

*Photo above from the Women's Retreat in 2023.*



## serving & outreach

### Lenten Lunches



#### Showing Appreciation for our Lenten Lunches Leadership

We celebrated another great year of Lenten Preaching and Lunches with our 2026 Lenten Lunches leadership team on April 13. Many thanks to all who contributed to another wonderful season of preaching and fellowship!

*Photo above (l-r): Nancy McColloch, Ann Campbell, Rosemary Ham, and Tommy Kitsmiller*

### Men's Ministry



*Above: A group of Advent men hiked a four-mile loop at Ruffner Mountain early on the morning of Good Friday, April 3.*



*Above: A group of Adventers walked through significant scriptural locations of the early Church in Ephesus and Patmos, in the footsteps of Paul and John. More photos to come.*

## 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 Rev. Mary Ann McCarty, Curate  
 The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

## transitions:

**Birth:** John "Jack" Trueheart Hayes, son of Elisabeth and Will, on April 16  
**Baptisms:** Evelyn James Carter, daughter of Brooke and Tyler; Albert "Tripp" Whiting Copeland, III, son of Adelaide and Albert; Ann Ashford Clapp, daughter of Lee Ashford and Brandon; Althea "Thea" Stuart Hurt, daughter of Franny and Tucker; Charlotte "Lottie" Shepherd Nelson, daughter of Kate Wells and Wayne; all on April 12  
**Marriage:** Melanie Berry McCraney and Andrew Johnson Marsch, on April 10

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Ella Cobbs Cook:** (Children's Ministry) by Michael C. McCray; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Caley; Mr. and Mrs. Kip Porter; Mr. and Mrs. Guy K. Mitchell, Jr.; UAB Angel Squad; Jerry L. Parker; Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Daniel; Marjorie Foreney; Mr. and Mrs. Conrad M. Fowler, Jr.



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 26 Regular worship schedule Concert Series: The Cathedral Choir - Nave - 4:00 p.m. Youth Kickball - Crestline Fields - 4:00 p.m.	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
May 3 Regular worship schedule Church Tour - Di- ocesan Conference Room - 10:10 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	9

Monday-Friday: AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

**Intercessory Prayer Available at 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.