

Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Week of May 3, 2026



News & Events

"I'm New Here: Where Is Everything?" Church Tour this Sunday

If this is you, please join us for a tour of the church this 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, 205-443-8562).

One-Way Love in Film with Paul Zahl

Wednesdays, May 6 and 13, 7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House. See page 3 for details.

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, 205-443-8562) by Tuesday, May 5, if you are interested.



A Word from Will Fagan

Earlier in April, Rory McIlroy won his second Master's Tournament in as many years, joining Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo, and Tiger Woods as the only players to win consecutive titles. Prior to last year's win, however, McIlroy had more than a decade-long drought between major championships, plaguing the prodigious golfer once heralded as the heir-apparent to Tiger Woods. Because of the Masters' particular elusiveness to McIlroy (the final major he needed to complete the career grand slam, only the sixth to do so), it was clear that the Masters held a particular curse over him – a curse that, until 2025, proved unyielding.

Having conquered his demons and in golfer's terms "justified himself" by heroically winning last year and thus completing the career slam, even this year the shadows of the curse emerged, enough for McIlroy to comment multiple times, "I almost have to remind myself that I have a green jacket in the champion's locker room," and to even sit in the champion's clubhouse post-round with his jacket on. The meaning be-

hind his public proclamation was clear: The curse isn't over until I believe it's over.

There are any number of battles that we fight in our inner lives, battles that, even if they are "over," we have to remind ourselves they are over. Such is the case with Paul's Epistle to the Romans when he writes, "... since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God." There are countless ways we have, can, and will seek to justify ourselves – to deal with our sins and shortcomings – even if that isn't on the back nine on a Sunday at Augusta National Golf Club. Yet what Paul writes reminds us that our justification is a passive activity (it's done for us, not by us) and exists in the past, not the future.

After he wobbled on Saturday, McIlroy's continual public insistence that "I am justified" (with a green jacket) unlocked something in him to steady the ship this year on Sunday at the Masters. Though we are far from our own justifiers, when we are reminded that we are justified – covered by Christ – our own doubts, curses, and shadows lose their power. For just a fleeting moment, that's worth something – more than a green jacket, even.

- Will

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.

- Romans 5:1a

This Sunday:

May 3, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Gardner

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Young

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Young

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) – *Christ at the Center: Paul's Letter to the Philippians (1:1-30)* – Jay Gardner

Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – "I'm New Here: Where Is Everything?" *A Tour of the Advent* – Fontaine Pope

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

No Cleverly Devised Myths (Living Room) – *Canaan, Carthage, and the Defeat of Baal* – Wilson Hunter

Faith and Family (Assembly Hall) – *Grandparents and the Gospel* – Mary and Paul Zahl

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!

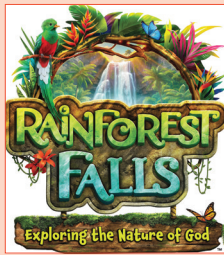


education

Vacation Bible School

Sign Up 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.)

At *Rainforest Falls*, children will learn:

- Day one – God is our creator!
- Day two – God knows everything!
- Day three – God is love!
- Day four – God is forever!

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.

At *The I AM Statements of Jesus* VBS, children will learn:

- Day one – I am the bread of life. I am the light of the world.
- Day two – I am the resurrection and the life. I am the true vine.
- Day three – I am the good shepherd.
- Day four – I am the door.

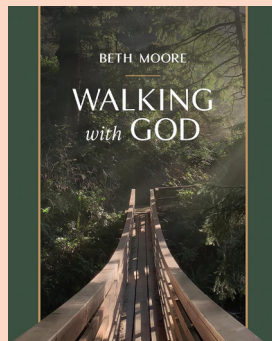
Register at AdventBirmingham.org/VBS or through your Realm account.

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) or Gunter Owens (Gunter@CathedralAdvent.com).

Women's Summer Bible Study

Walking with God: A Journey in Step with the Savior

Join us for this six-week Beth Moore video study. This study journeys through Scripture to explore what walking with God looked like throughout the biblical storyline. It offers rich teaching, practical application, and thought-provoking questions to help you begin – or continue – your own walk with God.



There are two meeting opportunities:

- Wednesday evenings* at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) June 10-July 22 (no meeting on July 1), 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday mornings* in the church Living Room (Nursery provided.) June 11-July 23 (no meeting on July 2), 9:30-11:30 a.m.

For more information or to register, contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).



worship

Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day

Service Set for May 14

The Cathedral Choir will sing Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day on Thursday, May 14, 6:00 p.m. in the Nave. The Feast of the Ascension is one of the seven major feast days of the Church. The service will include the anthem *Viri Galilei* for double choir and organ, with two organists, by English composer Patrick Gowers. Bruce Ludwick, Director of Music and Organist of the Cathedral of St. Paul here in Birmingham, will join our own Charles Kennedy as the second organist. The choir will also sing music of Harold Darke and Sir Charles Villiers Stanford.

Come join us in celebration of the Ascension of our Lord on this important feast day of the church year!

The service will also be livestreamed at AdventBirmingham.org/Live and on our YouTube channel.

Lectionary

Sunday, May 3

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

How You Can Give Online

There are several ways to give to the Advent online. One is by scanning the QR code printed here. Another is to download the tithe.ly app. Or you can give via our website; visit AdventBirmingham.org/Give. For more information on giving options, contact Dorothy White (Dorothy@CathedralAdvent.com).



Incline your ear to me;

make haste to deliver me.

Be a strong rock, a castle to keep me safe. -Psalm 31:2-3a

Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." - John 14:1-3

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- 1 Peter 2:10

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.

[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



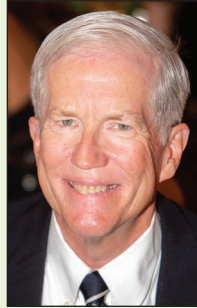
spiritual growth & fellowship

One-Way Love in Film

Paul Zahl to Present Film Excerpts May 6 and 13

We hope you will join us for one or both evenings of *One-Way Love in Film*.

In his book *Grace in Practice*, Paul Zahl (right) introduced the phrase "one-way love" to describe God's grace towards sinners. "Grace is one-way love. One-way love lifts up. One-way love cures. One-way love transforms. It is the change agent of life."



Join us at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) as Paul finds illustrations of one-way love in different films. You can come to either or both evenings: Wednesdays, May 6 and 13, both nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Feel free to invite friends!

If you have any questions, please call the church office (205-251-2324).

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering May 8

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, May 8, 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).

Walking in the Footsteps of Paul

Earlier in April, a group of Adventers had the privilege of walking in the footsteps of Paul (as well as the apostle John), visiting Patmos, Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth, and many other places in Greece and Turkey. Relationships were made and deepened, as "the Lord opened (their) hearts to pay attention to what was said by Paul" (Acts 16:14).



servicing & outreach

Children's Ministry



Fifth and Sixth Graders Serve at Brother Bryan

Our 5th and 6th graders had a wonderful evening serving dinner and sharing a meal with our neighbors at Brother Bryan Mission on April 19. Following dinner, we joined together in worship at their nightly service.



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:

Baptisms: Violet Vance Dennis, daughter of Joslyn and Charlie, on April 19; Sullivan Jackson McDonough, son of Gage and Joseph, on April 19

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Connie H. Grund
John W. Prugh: (Endowment Fund) by Oak Street Garden Shop Employees
Andrew DeAtkine: (Endowment Fund) by Sandra Killion

My Mom: (Mission and Outreach) by Robert Hornak
Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Rafield, III; St. Thomas Episcopal Church; Fairway Investments, LLC; St. Mary's on the Highlands; Mr. and Mrs. Willard L. Dean; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stephens; Barbara Flatau; Brenda Copeland; Cathy Tubb; Cheryl Hoge; Kathi Ash; Mary Saunders
In Honor of Darlene and Dean Pinter: (Mission and Outreach) by Charles and Elizabeth Scribner



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 3 Regular worship schedule Church Tour - Diocesan Conference Room - 10:10 a.m.	4	5	6 One-Way Love in Film with Paul Zahl - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	9
May 10 Regular worship schedule	11	12	13 One-Way Love in Film with Paul Zahl - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	14 Choral Evensong for Ascension Day - Nave - 6:00 p.m.	15	16

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.