

Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 19

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Week of May 10, 2026



News & Events

Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day May 14

We will hold 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 feasts days of the Church. The Cathedral Choir will sing, Will Fagan will preach, and Canon Pinter will be the Celebrant. See page 2 for more information.

One-Way Love in Film with Paul Zahl

Paul Zahl will present *One-Way Love in Film* on Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Paul will show illustrations of one-way love from movies. See page 2 for details.

VBS Is Coming – Sign Up Now!

If you haven't already done so, sign up now for Vacation Bible School 2026, set for 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. See page 3 for more information.



A Word from Canon Gardner

my children play this game. Who am I kidding? I do not simply watch; I still play too!

Hiding is a recurring theme in the Bible. Adam and Eve hide from God after they partake of the forbidden fruit. They try to hide from the presence of God, but he knows where they are. He asks Adam, "Where are you?", simply to get Adam talking. Adam confesses that he hid because he was afraid of God. Psalm 139 tells us that there is nowhere that we can flee or hide from God. He knows everything about us. Jonah too knew this well as he tried to flee from God. God's presence is overwhelming to us sinners accused by the law. But when we know his grace, we no longer hide *from* God but rather *in* God. Psalm 32:8 reveals that God is our hiding

place. As we are forgiven of our transgressions, now we can safely hide in him.

All of the above deals with humans hiding either from or in God. But what about God – does he hide? Isaiah 45:15 reveals "Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior." Which is scarier to us, a God who is overwhelmingly present or a God who hides? Unlike my children, God is a really good hider. When God hides, he is silent. And his silence is deadly. When God is silent, the voice of the law grows louder and angrier.

I once went through an intense season of God's silent hiding. Perhaps you have been in that season before or feel as though you are in that season now. Isaiah 54:8 promises that he will not hide forever. He will reveal himself to you in his love and mercy in the crucified and risen Jesus Christ, who breaks the silence forever, as he, the Good Shepherd, calls you by name.

- Jay

"In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer.

- Isaiah 54:8

This Sunday:

May 10, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

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 (2:1-30)* – Dean Pinter

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

No Cleverly Devised Myths (Living Room) – *Egypt as Cradle of Civilization and Christianity* – Wilson Hunter

Faith and Family (Assembly Hall) – *Grandparents and the Gospel* – Gil Kracke and 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

Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day



Sung Communion Service 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. Will Fagan will preach, and Canon Pinter will be the celebrant.

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 10

Psalm 66:7-18 • Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22 • John 14:15-21

20s & 30s Ministry

Welcome-to-Summer Dinner May 31

Adventers and their friends in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us for a relaxed summer evening filled with good food and great company! We will gather on Sunday, May 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the home of James and Lyn Bradford (2500 Aberdeen Road, 35223). Expect a warm, casual atmosphere with space to connect and terrific views of downtown Birmingham atop Red Mountain. Whether you're new or have been around for a while, we'd love for you to join us! Please register at AdventBirmingham.org/20s30s. Contact Will Fagan (Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com) for details.

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.



spiritual growth & fellowship

One-Way Love in Film

Paul Zahl to Present Film Excerpts May 13

The second installment of *One-Way Love in Film* will be Wednesday, May 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). (You don't need to have attended the first part in order to attend the second.)

In his book *Grace in Practice*, Paul Zahl 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 as Paul shows illustrations of one-way love from films. Feel free to invite friends!

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

Youth Confirmation Class



Sixth-Grade Confirmants Visit 16th Street Baptist Church

The Advent's 6th-grade Confirmation class took a field trip to worship with our neighbors at the historic 16th Street Baptist Church on April 26. Fellowship is one of our many inheritances of the Kingdom. Let's be sure to welcome the Advent's newest confirmants on Confirmation Sunday, May 17! Cake and celebrations will follow the 9:00 a.m. Nave service.

Ageless Adventers

Next Third Wednesday Luncheon Is May 20

The Ageless Adventers will gather for a Third Wednesday luncheon on Wednesday, May 20, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209).

Whether you are still active, newly retired, or have been enjoying flexibility for decades, you are welcome! So that we have an accurate count for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, May 15, to Robin Turner (205-226-3500, Robin@CathedralAdvent.com).

[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



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.)

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.

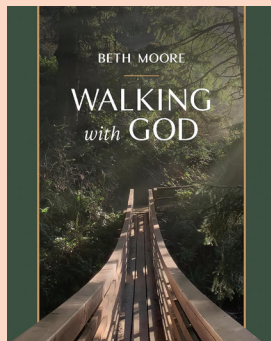
Register at AdventBirmingham.org/VBS or through your Realm account.

Group Leaders Needed: 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).



Breakfast Trial-Run Continues in Clingman

We will serve breakfast in Clingman Commons on Sundays, May 10 and 17, 8:15-9:00 a.m., before breaking for the summer. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children (cash, debit card, or credit card). This Advent "test kitchen" is operating in preparation for serving breakfast regularly in the fall.

Children's Ministry

Consider Serving in Children's Ministry

Coming up in June, Tara Davis and Gunter Owens will begin recruiting and scheduling volunteers to teach in Children's Ministry for this upcoming school year. If you have never served in the Children's Ministry before and feel even the slightest call to learn more, please contact Tara (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) or Gunter (Gunter@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information. This is a wonderful way to get to know people of all ages in our church family.



serving & outreach

Acolyte Training



Above: Thanks to our Acolyte Masters for leading an introductory class on acolyting for our 5th graders on April 19 and 26. If your child is interested in serving as an acolyte, please contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com).

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

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:

Carolyn Hare: (Endowment Fund) by Katherine and Billy Wade

Andrew DeAtkine: (Endowment Fund) by Robert Schuler

John Rudolph: (Endowment Fund) by Lowell Christy

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Minerva Winslow; Nancy Sparks; Pam Rucker; Susan Danner; Mr. and Mrs. William C. Slaughter; Mr. and Mrs. Carter E. Anthony; Mr. and Mrs. David N. Nevad; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Virciglio; Dean D. Smith; Julia B. Stewart; Faye Boyd

In Honor of Sandy Ash: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Susan Bowman



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 10 Regular worship schedule Breakfast - Clingman Commons - 8:15 a.m.	11	12	13 <i>One-Way Love in Film</i> with Paul Zahl - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	14 Choral Evensong for Ascension Day - Nave - 6:00 p.m.	15	16
May 17 Regular worship schedule Breakfast - Clingman Commons - 8:15 a.m. Confirmation at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Nave	18	19	20 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday - Cranmer House - noon	21	22	23

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.