

Adventurer

Easter

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 20

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Week of May 17, 2026



News & Events

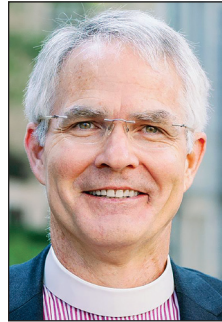
Youth and Adults to Be Confirmed this Sunday

Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama, will be with us for the Confirmation of new parish members this Sunday, May 17. Student confirmands will be confirmed during the 9:00 a.m. service in the Nave, and our adult class will be confirmed during the 11:00 service. Students and their families should report to Clingman Commons at 8:10 a.m. Adults and their sponsors will gather in the Nave at 10:20 a.m.

Students and their families will gather in Clingman Commons for a light reception immediately following the 9:00 service. Adventers are invited to welcome Bishop Curry and extend the hand of fellowship to our new members at a reception in Clingman Commons following the 11:00 service.

A Note from Canon Pinter

Darlene and I are grateful that our "Religious Worker" Visa (R-1) has been renewed for another 30 months, permitting us to stay in the USA and serve the Advent until January 14, 2029. Many thanks to all those who have prayed for us and expressed your concern as we waited for this approval.
- Dean



A Word from the Vice Dean

God." (*"What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you..."*)

A group of us from the Advent recently visited Athens, and saw the remains of the impressive structures which stood as a witness to the power and resourcefulness of those who built them. And it was into this setting that Paul confronted their idolatry with a bold proclamation of *"the God who made the world and everything in it."* (Physically being there has a way of helping to bring home the depth of his courage in challenging them in this way!)

And what was true for them then is no less true for us today – we are, in every way, very religious. Now, to be sure, what people are religious about may vary, but ultimately people of every generation are very naturally drawn to worship. As John Calvin said, "The human heart is an idol factory."

"I perceive that in every way you are very religious." This is what the Apostle Paul said to the men in Athens, before his famous response concerning their altar "to the unknown

In his book, *Seculosity*, David Zahl makes a compelling case for this. Whether it be career, parenting, technology, food, politics, romance, etc., people are very naturally drawn to create objects of devotion that demand their ultimate attention and loyalty. It's as though it's in our very DNA to do so.

Why? Because we were created in God's image, and therefore have within our very makeup a desire to express love and affection toward the One from whom we came. And, as Paul said in Romans, because creation itself bears witness to the Creator, we are without excuse. The problem lies in the fact that our affections so easily get misdirected.

So, what are you religious about these days? Your work? Your family? Or maybe you are indeed religious about your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, within the fellowship of believers. It's been my experience in life that it's truly a struggle to always have "my heart surely there fixed where true joys are to be found," because we all fall short. Which is why it's Good News to someone like me that the God who Paul proclaimed is ultimately (in all things) gracious, loving, and forgiving, through Jesus Christ our risen Savior.

- Tom

This Sunday:

May 17, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion and Confirmation

In the Nave. Preacher: Bishop Curry

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion and Confirmation

Preacher: Bishop Curry

Adult Education:

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, May 17, due to Confirmation.

Regular classes will resume next Sunday, May 24.

We will livestream the 9:00 a.m. Nave service and the 11:00 a.m. service. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](https://www.adventbirmingham.org/Live), YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.

Children's & Youth Education:

This Sunday our 3s and 4s classes will meet at 9:00 a.m. for Children's Church but will not have classes 10:10-10:50 a.m. Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade will start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal to meet for Children's Church; they also will not have classes 10:10-10:50. Children in 4th grade and older and Jr. and Sr. High youth will not have classes this Sunday. See Sunday's worship bulletin for details.

The Nursery will open 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!



spiritual growth & fellowship

Youth Ministry

Trip to Fun City this Sunday

Youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to play at Fun City Adventure Park this Sunday, May 17. We'll meet at Fun City (7001 Crestwood Blvd. #1100, 35210) at 4:00 p.m., and be finished around 6:00. Come and welcome the 6th-grade confirmands into Youth Ministry. Contact Margot Cooney (Margot@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

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).

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.

Women's Ministry



Above: Moms of graduating high-school seniors gathered on May 5 to sip, sob, and celebrate this exciting and emotionally complicated transition.

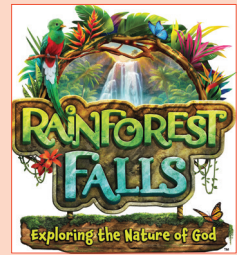


education

Vacation Bible School

VBS Is Coming – Sign Up Now!

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.

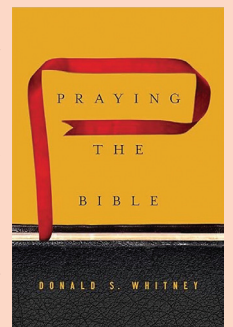
Register at AdventBirmingham.org/VBS or through your Realm account.

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).

Men's Summer Bible Study

Summer in the Psalms: Praying the Bible

Join us for this 12-week event on Tuesday mornings, June 2-August 25, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). We will read and discuss the book *Praying the Bible* by Donald S. Whitney and apply it by praying through a Psalm together. Please contact Craig Ogard (CTOgard@aol.com, 205-966-5656) for more information.



Women's Summer Bible Study

Study of Galatians to Begin June 3

Bill Wortman will lead a study on Galatians on Wednesdays, June 3-July 29, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). A Zoom option is available for those who want to stay in their robes with a mug of coffee. Contact Anne-Marie Brown (AMGuin@aol.com) for more information.

[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

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.



bookstore

Bookstore Closing for the Summer After this Sunday

The Advent Bookstore will close for summer at close of business (12:15 p.m.) this Sunday, May 17. The store will reopen in mid-August, date to be determined.

Store staff will be checking voicemail (205-323-2959) and emails (Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com) daily throughout the summer if anyone needs to get in touch or place a special order. We will respond to any messages or emails promptly.



serving & outreach

Youth Ministry

Park Place Partners Coming this Summer

Partner with us as we serve and play with our Park Place neighbors. This summer our Youth Ministry will bring lunch and fellowship on Monday mornings, starting June 8. We will play games, make crafts, and form friendships all summer long. We'll meet in the Advent kitchen at 9:30 a.m. and be done around 12:30 p.m. Bring your friends! Contact Margot Cooney (Margot@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Welcome to Our Church Family!

We welcome our newest Advent members:

Ryan Branton
Lyn Garrett
Anne Townsend Love
Mckenzy Smith.

If you are interested in joining the Advent or finding out more, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).



Breakfast Trial-Run Concludes this Sunday

We will serve breakfast in Clingman Commons this Sunday, May 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.

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. - Acts 1:6-9

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:6-7



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, May 17

Psalms 68:1-10, 33-36 • Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Sarah Madtson; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Wilson; J. Bryan Stickney, IV; Elna R. Brendel; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Norwood; Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Sydney F. Frazier, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. John L. McDonald

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 Rev. Mary Ann McCarty, Curate

The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

transitions:

Birth: Bruce Peterson Loftin, son of Tiffany and Peterson, on March 24

Baptism: Amelia Clair Spardello, daughter of Mollie Clair Everitt and Kevin Joseph Spardello, on May 3

Marriages: Margaret Russell Bromberg and John Thornton Cole, on April 23; Turner Nicholson Hull and Ethan Baker Hughes, on May 2

Death: Naneita Leach Cobbs, on May 2

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

David C. Dailey: (Pastoral Care) by Marlee, Will, and Alex Dailey

Hugh Browning Thornton, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Emily Curtis

In Honor of Mary Ann McCarty's Ordination: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Charles Scribner



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
May 24 Regular worship schedule	25 Memorial Day Church office closed	26	27	28	29	30

Monday-Friday (*No meeting May 25*): 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.