

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Pentecost



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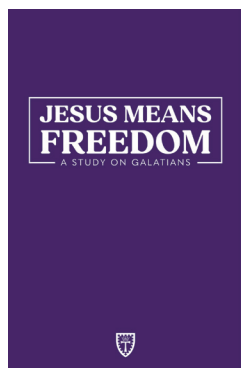
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost and Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Weeks of July 12/19, 2026



News & Events

Parish-Wide Study of Galatians Set for this Fall



Join us this fall for *Jesus Means Freedom*, a 10-week parish-wide study of Galatians, written by our very own Dean Pinter, Will Fagan, Mary Ann McCarty, and Leslie Housman. Small groups will begin their study of Galatians the week of September 20 and

continue through early December. Preorder your copy of the study booklet (\$10 each) at AdventBirmingham.org/Galatians. See page 2 for more information.

Richard Lawson Ordained as 13th Bishop of Alabama

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama ordained and consecrated the Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III as its 13th Bishop on June 27 at the Advent. He succeeds the Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry. See page 2 for more.

Cathedral Choir Heading to England

The choir will embark July 17. See page 3 for more information.



A Word from Canon Gardner

In his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul writes that in Christ we are a new creation. The old grows tiresome, just the same old thing marred by sin and death. The new is possibility.

The new is excitement. The new is freedom.

We often forget this, though. We forget that Christ is making all things new, including us. Why do we forget such wondrous truths of God's love for us in Jesus Christ? Hard to say. But we have to be reminded over and over again.

Two beautiful movies deal with memory loss and its heart-wrenching effects in the lives of loved ones: *The Notebook* and *50 First Dates*. In *The Notebook*, a kind retired man, Noah (James Garner), visits a nursing home daily to read to a woman, Allie (Gena Rowlands), who suffers from dementia. He reads the story of a young couple falling in love. As it is read to her, Allie realizes that the story is about her and Noah, taken from her own journal! She remembers, and she falls instantly in love with the man again.

Similarly, in *50 First Dates* Lucy Whitmore (Drew Barrymore) experiences a terrible car accident, and because of a severe head injury her memory resets daily to the day before her crash. Her father and brother have to curate her life around this reality. And yet a suitor, Henry Roth (Adam Sandler), comes into her life and falls in love with her despite her severe memory loss. He has to daily woo her and find creative ways to surprisingly persuade her of his love. Each time is new, and she is convinced of her love for Henry in their beautiful but painful life together.

The gospel tells us who we are in Christ. God does whatever it takes for us to know and feel this love. He never tires of reminding us, and he will never give up on sharing this love with us by his word and Holy Spirit. Heed the words of the great hymn, "Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriends you."

- Jay

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

This Sunday:

July 12, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

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.):

July 12:

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *A Few of Our Favorite Things: Coming to Our Senses* (Rembrandt's "Return of the Prodigal Son") – Dean Pinter

Last Words from Matthew (Chapter Room) – Gil Kracke

July 19:

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *A Few of Our Favorite Things* – Leslie Housman and Will Fagan

Last Words from Mark (Chapter Room) – Adam Young

Next Sunday:

July 19, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave.

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory.

Preacher: Canon Young

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl



education

Parish-Wide Galatians Study Study Will Begin in September

Join us this fall for *Jesus Means Freedom*, a 10-week, parish-wide study of Galatians, written by our very own Dean Pinter, Will Fagan, Mary Ann McCarty, and Leslie Housman. This verse-by-verse curriculum explores the freedom that is available to us in Christ: a freedom that Paul is desperate for the Galatians to understand as one that "is not merely freedom *from* bondage but freedom *for* something greater."

We will study Paul's letter to the Galatians through the lenses of faith, family, and formation. As Dean writes in his introduction, "[Christian freedom] is grounded in a cruciform *faith*, expressed in the *family* of God, and cultivated through a life of Spirit-shaped *formation*." Our prayer is for this framework to help you navigate this challenging letter and walk away sharing Paul's passion for the gospel and its life-giving freedom.

Small groups will begin their study of Galatians the week of September 20 and continue through early December. If you are not currently in a small group and want to participate in the study, contact Fontaine Pope for more information about new groups being formed (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).

Preorder your copy of the study booklet (\$10 each) by July 31 at AdventBirmingham.org/Galatians. Booklets will be available for pickup or in-person purchase in Clingman Commons on Sunday mornings, beginning August 2.

Children's Ministry

Consider Serving in Children's Ministry

Tara Davis and Gunter Owens continue to recruit and schedule volunteers to teach in Children's Ministry for this upcoming school year, and they still have several teaching spots to fill. 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 or simply to sign up. This is a wonderful way to get to know people of all ages in our church family.

Sunday Children's and Youth Education

Rising 4K and Kindergarten meet at 9:00 a.m. Rising 1st through 3rd graders start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal. Rising 4th graders through 6th graders and Jr. and Sr. High youth have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

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.

Lectionary

Sunday, July 12

Psalms 65:1-14 • Romans 8:1-11 • Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19

Psalms 139:1-11, 22-23 • Psalm 86:11-17 • Genesis 28:10-19a
Isaiah 44:6-8 • Romans 8:12-25 • Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III was ordained and consecrated as the 13th Bishop of Alabama on June 27 at the Advent. He succeeds the Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry.

Bishop Lawson comes to Birmingham from Denver, where he served as Dean and Rector of St. John's Cathedral. A native of Guntersville, Alabama, he graduated from Auburn University. He is married to Katherine, a Birmingham native, and they have two adult children.

Please join us in praying for Bishop Lawson as he begins his service in our diocese.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Small Groups



Above: Janet and Cary Beck with their grandchildren

Supporting One Another and Celebrating Joyful News

I have been a member of my small group since soon after joining the Advent almost 20 years ago. Other than attending worship, it is the most important part of Cary's and my church experience. I initially joined with my late husband Bill. When I was widowed, my small group was one of the few places that I felt very comfortable. When I married Cary, he was immediately welcomed. Over the years some members have left the group, and others have come in as individual circumstances have changed. Friendships with former members remain strong, and friendships have deepened or been established with new members. Through Bible study, dinners, special meetings with clergy members, prayers, and text threads, our group is very connected. We support one another in difficult circumstances and celebrate joyful news and occasions. - Janet Lucas Beck

This fall we are inviting current small groups to participate in a 10-week parish-wide study of Galatians, written by Dean Pinter, Will Fagan, Mary Ann McCarty, and Leslie Housman. If you are not currently in a small group but are interested in this study, new groups are being formed. For more information, please complete the interest form at AdventBirmingham.org/SmallGroups.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Ephesians 2:8-9



making music

The Cathedral Choir



Choir to Sing in Storied English Cathedral and Chapel

Our Cathedral Choir will embark on a pilgrimage to England on July 17 to sing in residence at two of the UK's glorious sacred spaces, Winchester Cathedral and St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The choir will sing Evensong during the week of July 17 in Winchester, and it will lead a variety of services the week of July 25 and 26 at Windsor Castle. Part of their experience will be singing music that was written by former organists and music directors of each location. Please pray for the choir's safe travel, health, and stamina. *The choir is pictured above during its last trip in the UK to sing for a full week in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.*



spiritual growth & fellowship

St. Elizabeth's Guild

What's Old Is New Again!

Join St. Elizabeth's Guild co-chairs Debbie Brazeal, Heather McCalley, and Mary Smith for a casual time of fellowship over snacks and drinks on Thursday, July 30, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the home of Debbie Brazeal (14 Bonita Drive, 35209).

Recently known as The Middle, the St. Elizabeth's Guild is comprised of women generally in their 50s and 60s (growing up, if your goals included collecting the most friendship bracelets, producing the highest hair, or mastering the dance from the *Thriller* video, this is your group!).

Come visit with old friends and meet new ones! Let Heather McCalley (Heather.McCalley@gmail.com, 205-492-3049) know if you can come and if you'd like to bring a snack!

Women's Ministry

Opt in for the Women's Email Newsletter

Stay up to date with all that's happening in Women's Ministries. Go to AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe and select "Women of the Advent" to receive a monthly list of upcoming events and a Scripture reflection in your inbox. Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Clergy Spotlight

Q&A with Curate Mary Ann McCarty

1. *What area of ministry are you most involved in, and what do you enjoy most about it?*

I'm the rookie on the clergy team, so I get to do a little bit of everything. I love getting to visit parishioners outside of Sunday mornings. Let's meet for coffee, lunch, or a walk!

2. *What inspired you to pursue a call to ordained ministry?*

Jesus' loving presence has sustained me since I was a teenager, and from then on I have felt compelled to help people encounter Christ and his eternal hope in a real way.

3. *If you could share one piece of spiritual advice with the parish, what would it be?*



I have been really helped by reading the Bible as I seek to know God. Understanding God's character and promises from beginning to end strengthens my faith and my prayer life, and that is what I want for everyone: to grow in their personal knowledge of God. Lately I have found the Daily Office readings in the back of the Book of Common Prayer to be a helpful guide. Each reading is short, but it helpfully guides my reading through the Psalms, Old Testament, Epistles, and Gospels each day. This reminds me of the whole story and character of God daily.

4. *On your day off, what is something you enjoy doing that parishioners might be surprised to learn about you?*

I love to knit while I watch sports. SEC sports are my favorite, but I also love the MLB, tennis, the Olympics, and anything else available.

Trip to Italy Planned for January 2027

Plans are underway for an Advent trip to Italy in early January 2027. Jason Wallace, Dean Pinter, and Gil Kracke will lead the trip, tracing our story in the gospel through art and history, spending five nights in Rome and three in Florence. For those interested, there will be the option for an additional two nights in Venice.

The itinerary is still being worked out, with the intention of departing on January 1, 2027. Brownell Travel is coordinating the trip and its details, working with its partners in Italy. If you are interested in finding out more or if you would like to be notified when registration opens, please call or email Gil Kracke (205-226-3516, Gil@CathedralAdvent.com).

Local Outreach

Advent is invited to support a UAB-based education enrichment camp called Use Your Noodle. This is a simple way to join others as we care for common-good concerns in our city. There are two ways to provide food as an individual or small group:

- Providing lunch for 15 adults on July 10 or July 17
- Helping recruit friends to make or send lunch for 80 kids!

Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) for details and to get the Sign Up Genius link.

advent clergy

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

diocese of alabama

The Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III, Bishop

transitions:

Births: Lucy Foster Hyde, daughter of Lauren and Foster, on April 16; Madeline Jo Brummett, daughter of Gabi and Eldon, on June 22; Florence Marie Chiappetti, daughter of Gail and Randall, on June 25

Marriage: Kaitlin Payne and Mac Farley, on June 20

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Harry Edward "Ed" Logue: (Pastoral Care) by Peggy and Ed Goodwin
 • (Advent House) by Millie and Billy Hulsey
Naneita Leach Cobbs: (Endowment Fund) by Paula and Francis Crockard; Kitty Lineberry; Nina and Ken Botsford
Hugh Browning Thornton Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Mrs. John W. Stowers Jr.



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 12 Regular worship schedule Youth Food and Fellowship - High- land Golf Driving Range - 4:00 p.m.	13 Youth Park Place Partners - Advent Kitchen - 9:30 a.m.	14	15	16	17	18
July 19 Regular worship schedule Youth Food and Fellowship - Fun City - 4:00 p.m.	20 Youth Park Place Partners - Advent Kitchen - 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25

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.