

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Pentecost



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Ninth Sunday After Pentecost and Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Weeks of July 26/August 2, 2026



News & Events

Jesús Means Freedom: A Parish-Wide Study of Galatians

Join us this fall for *Jesús 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. Pre-order your copy of the study booklet (\$10 each) at AdventBirmingham.org/Galatians. See page 2 for more information.

Summer Movie Nights with PZ

Wednesdays, August 5 and 12, at 7:00 p.m. See page 2 for more information.

Consider Serving in Children's Ministry this Upcoming School Year

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.



kingdom of God, and all of which have an agricultural theme.

First there is the parable of the sower, where the seed falls on various soil: the hardened path, the rocky ground, among thorns, or (finally) upon good soil. And Jesus spells out the meaning behind this parable – the seed is the gospel, the soil is the human heart. And whereas some hearts are open and receptive to the Good News, others are hard, or shallow, or strangled.

Next there is the parable of the wheat and the tares. This parable describes the challenging reality within the Church of having weeds growing up among the wheat. And because people naturally want to pull out the weeds, Jesus directs that it's best to leave them alone for now, for pulling them out will almost certainly uproot some of the wheat as well.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed..."

A Word from Vice Dean

For the past several weeks now, our Sunday lectionary has had us in the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Here we've encountered several parables – all of which are about the

And then we get to the parable of the mustard seed. This is really interesting to me, because after a couple of agricultural parables – about the importance of having good soil, and the challenges of pesky weeds – I would expect a follow-up parable about gardening. Right? Like, this is what *you need to do* to till or prepare the soil of your heart, or this is what *you need to do* to help prevent against pesky weeds. But instead, we get not a gardening parable, but a biology parable! *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree."*

Dear friends, our hope is not to be found in our own gardening efforts or abilities, but in the power of the seed itself. As the Lord tells us through the prophet Isaiah, *"So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish that which I have purposed, and prosper in that for which I sent it"* (55:11). Thanks be to God for that!

- Tom

- Matthew 13:31

This Sunday:

July 26, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Young

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Young

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, YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.

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

July 26:

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *A Few of Our Favorite Things: The Reaction Which Happens When Art, Psyche, and Gospel Merge* – Paul Zahl and Hewes Hull

Last Words from Luke (Chapter Room) – Gil Kracke

August 2:

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *A Few of Our Favorite Things: Friendship* – Mary Ann McCarty and Kathryn Maxwell

Last Words from John (Chapter Room) – Adam Young

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Summer Conversations: Does the Gospel Preach in Sports?* – Logan James, Jake James, and Will Fagan

Next Sunday:

August 2, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave.

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory.

Preacher: Mary Ann McCarty

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Mary Ann McCarty



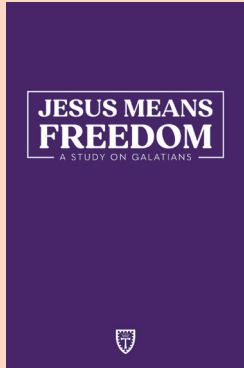
GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



education

Parish-Wide Galatians Study

Study Will Begin in September



All Adventers are invited to take part this fall in our parish-wide study, *Jesus Means Freedom*, a 10-week 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, please fill out the interest form at AdventBirmingham.org/SmallGroups.

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.

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. 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.



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, July 26

Psalms 119:129-136 • 1 Kings 3:5-12

Romans 8:26-39 • Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday, August 2

Psalms 17:1-7, 16 • Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22 • Genesis 32:22-31

Isaiah 55:1-5 • Romans 9:1-5 • Matthew 14:13-21



spiritual growth & fellowship

Summer Movie Nights with PZ

Paul Zahl to Screen Films August 5 and 12

As a follow-up to our evenings together last spring, Paul Zahl will again lead us to consider one-way love as it shows up in cinema. "One-way love" describes God's grace towards sinners, the great change agent of life.

Join us at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) on Wednesdays, August 5 and 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will watch *Susan and God* (a 1940 film starring Joan Crawford) on August 5, and *Phone Call from a Stranger* (1952) on August 12. Feel free to invite friends!

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

St. Elizabeth's Guild

Reboot! Gathering Set for July 30

Along with Debbie Brazeal, Mary Smith has volunteered to help Heather McCalley co-chair our very large group of amazing women in St. Elizabeth's Guild, a guild comprised of women generally in their 50s and 60s.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, July 30, and make plans to join us for a casual get-together from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Debbie's home (14 Bonita Drive, 35209). There is no agenda, and you are welcome just to drop by. We would love to know if you're coming; so, please email Mary (MaryMurdockSmith@hotmail.com) if you can make it. If you feel inclined to make an appetizer or bring a beverage to share, please let Debbie know (DebbieBrazeal@gmail.com). Please feel free to drop in and see if St. Elizabeth's is a good group for you.

Women's Retreat



Save the Date: February 5-7, 2027

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 retreat or meeting our child's teacher? When we met new friends while making s'mores and drinking 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!

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



serving & outreach

Local Outreach

Helping Our Neighbors Get Ready for the School Year

We will partner with Park Place for their Back-to-School Backpack Bash on Friday, August 7, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at their housing office (600 24th Street North, 35203).

School supply donations are *greatly* appreciated. You may bring items during the week to the church office (before Thursday, August 6) or to our Park Place table in Clingman Commons on Sundays, July 26 and August 2. Advent parishioners are invited to attend the celebration at Park Place on August 7 as well.

On Thursday, August 6, we will sort supplies and set up at Park Place from noon-2:00 p.m. for Friday's event. Here is what we need:

- Clear backpacks
- School supplies (binders, looseleaf paper, pens, scissors, hand sanitizer, pencils, crayons, highlighters, pencil cases, etc.)
- Healthy snacks or hygiene kits

Contact Margot Cooney (Margot@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Needlepoint Guild

A Call to Stitchers – New and Seasoned Alike

The first gathering of the Needlepoint Guild will be Sunday, August 16, 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you have stitched for decades or have never threaded a needle. Come share an afternoon of fellowship and stitching. Please let us know you are coming by contacting Catherine Kirpalani (Catherine.Hall1@me.com).

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Intercessory Prayer Continues Year-Round



The Christ-centered prayer ministry of Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue, 35205) is available to men, women, and couples who would like to come and request prayer for God's healing of an illness or of a strained or broken relationship, or God's guidance for a decision, or for God's comfort in a time of stress, sorrow, or grief. This ministry continues year-round. If you would like to find out more about this ministry or schedule an appointment for prayer, please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

In my distress I called upon the Lord;

to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,

and my cry to him reached his ears.

The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock,

and exalted be the God of my salvation. - Psalm 18:1-2, 6, 46



spiritual growth & fellowship

Small Groups

A Lifegiving Source of Friendship, Faith, and Community

As my husband and I discerned our church home, the Advent already held a special place in his family's story. My one requirement was simple: Wherever we settled, we needed to find a way to become involved. Joining a small group was one of the best decisions we made.

For nearly five years, our small group has been a lifegiving source of friendship, faith, and community.

On Wednesday evenings, we gather for dinner, catch-up on each other's lives, and spend time studying God's word together. In the middle of busy weeks, this time serves as a much-needed reset – grounding us in faith, perspective, and relationships.

Our group has given us familiar faces to look for on Sunday mornings, people to serve alongside in Children's Church, and additional opportunities for fellowship and fun. More importantly, these friends have supported us through difficult seasons, offered wisdom when we needed a sounding board, and celebrated life's joys alongside us. What began as a way to get connected has become one of the most meaningful and sustaining parts of our life at the Advent.

- Katie Bromberg

Photo above: Katie and Wil Bromberg with their children



New groups are being formed that will participate in the parish-wide Galatians study in September. For more information, please complete the interest form at AdventBirmingham.org/SmallGroups.

Youth Ministry

Youth Heading to Six Flags August 8

Advent youth will travel to Six Flags Over Georgia on Saturday, August 8. We'll meet at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) at 8:30 a.m. We will spend the day at the park and arrive back at Cranmer House between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Park tickets are \$45. Please purchase them ahead of time at SixFlags.com. Please bring a form of payment for food and beverages, and a bag to carry a towel, cover-up, swimsuit (for Hurricane Harbor), change of clothes, sunscreen, and water bottle.

Contact Margot Cooney (Margot@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.



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: Olivia Curran Eguren, daughter of Lucy and Pedro, on June 25; William Thomas McDonough, son of Mary Rives and John, on July 4

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Harry Edward "Ed" Logue: (Pastoral Care) by Emily Curran; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abernethy; Peggy Holly • (Advent House) by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Bromberg; Cynthia S. Sproull

In Honor of the Marriage of Mary Margaret Shoe and Crawford Bradley Schwieger: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Kristin and Ron Shoe

In Honor of Florence Young and in Thanksgiving for the Advent House Prayer Team: (Advent House) by Ellen MacNiven



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 26 Regular worship schedule Youth Food and Fellowship - Hidden Park - 4:00 p.m.	27 Youth Park Place Partners - Advent Kitchen - 9:30 a.m.	28	29	30 St. Elizabeth's Guild Gathering - 14 Bonita Drive - 4:30 p.m.	31	Aug 1
Aug 2 Regular worship schedule	3	4	5 Movie Night with Paul Zahl - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8 Youth Six Flags Trip - Cranmer House - 8:30 a.m.

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.