

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 28

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of August 23, 2026



News & Events

The Last Chance to Get Galatians Study Booklets Is this Sunday

This Sunday, August 23, will be the last opportunity to pick up or purchase booklets for *Jesus Means Freedom*, our parish-wide small-group study of Galatians. All Adventers are invited to take part this fall in our study, written by members of our clergy and program staff. Small groups will begin their study of Galatians the week of September 20. See page 2 for more information.

Rally Day Is September 13; Parish Picnic Set for October 4

Save the dates for two important events which will take place on different days this year. Rally Day is Sunday, September 13, and the fall Parish Picnic will be Sunday, October 4, at Regions Field.

Rally Day marks the beginning of the new program year, with Sunday classes back in full force and weekly Bible studies and small groups returning in earnest. It will feature the annual Rally Day Skit at the 9:00 a.m. Nave service.

As always, the picnic will include food, fellowship, and games and activities for kids of all ages. More information to come.



A Word from the Dean

One of my buddies and I trade songs with one another, and I look forward to seeing what the next one will be. Songs communicate, don't they? Beyond the lyrics, the tone and tempo, a riff or a run can land in ways that we can't fully explain, taking us back, taking us forward. As Elton John sings, "They reach into your room, oh/ Just feel their gentle touch (gentle touch)/ When all hope is gone (ooh)/ Sad songs say so much." Joyful songs too.

He recently shared one I love that brings back memories from a stage in life, living in Alexandria, Virginia, driving daily along the Potomac River on the George Washington Parkway. It was 1993, and I was listening to the Gin Blossoms' *New Miserable Experience* and the Counting Crows' *August and Everything After*. Those were my two CD's.

If you've stayed with me this far, I'm getting to the point. The song he sent was a Gin Blossoms song from 1996, from their album *Congratulations, I'm Sorry*, and the

song is *Follow You Down*. It's a catchy tune, I like it, and forgive me, the actual meaning of the song's lyrics is the opposite of what I love about it and what I'm thinking about now. It's actually about, and this sounds very modern, personal boundaries in a messy relationship filled with bad decisions and emotional chaos. In response to the singer's question, "Are they going to find us lying face down in the sand..." he sings, "Anywhere you go, I'll follow you down/ Any place but those I know by heart/ Anywhere you go, I'll follow you down/ I'll follow you down but not that far."

What has remained with me is my gratitude that God does not maintain healthy boundaries and emotional distance. He is the kind of God that follows us down, to the places known by heart, the same sad state of affairs, same struggles, lying face down in the sand, again. In the cross God follows us down, all the way down, that in his saving grace he raises us up.

- Craig

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

- John 12:32

This Sunday:

August 23, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Will Fagan

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Will Fagan

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Gardner

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

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) – *A Few of Our Favorite Things*: Arvo Pärt – Dean Pinter

Law and Gospel (Assembly Hall) – *The Good Thing that Kills* – Will McDavid and Gil Kracke

Children's & Youth Education:

4K meets at 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd graders start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal for Children's Church. 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 (rising 3K) classes at 8:45 a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6 weeks-5 years during the 11:00 service.



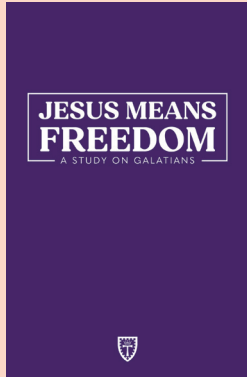
GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



education

Parish-Wide Galatians Study

Small-Group Study Will Begin in September



Join us this fall for *Jesus Means Freedom*, a 10-week, parish-wide study of Galatians, exploring 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."

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.

This Sunday, August 23, will be the last opportunity to pick up or purchase booklets (\$10 each) in Clingman Commons. For more information, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Galatians.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Kickoff Set for September 10

Join us to kick off the new program year on Thursday, September 10, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Meet new friends and learn about upcoming events as well as other ways you can get involved and get to know more women in the church. Refreshments will be served. Register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511) with questions.

20s & 30s Ministry



Dinner to Kick Off the New Season September 13

Save the date for the 20s & 30s Fall Kickoff Dinner on Sunday, September 13, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the home of Sidney and Martin Clapp (57 Fairway Drive, 35213). In addition to fellowship and food, Jen Green – an Advent member and psychologist – will join us for a conversation about resilience during the significant life stages many of us are navigating and what the gospel has to say about them. The cost is free. Please sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/20s30s. Contact Will Fagan (Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

St. Elizabeth's Guild



Members of St. Elizabeth's Guild (formerly The Middle) gathered on July 30 for fellowship over snacks at the home of guild co-chair, Debbie Brazeal. The guild meets a couple of times a year to share the joys and struggles of this stage of life. Some members volunteer to provide two-serving entrees for participants in the Caregiver Support Group. For more information or to be added to St. Elizabeth's roster, please contact Debbie Brazeal (DebbieBrazeal@gmail.com).

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.



bookstore

Bookstore Open on Sundays Through Rally Day

The Advent Bookstore will reopen this Sunday, August 23, from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and will be open each Sunday thereafter for those hours. After Rally Day, beginning Monday, September 14, the store will reopen on weekdays. Our weekday schedule will remain the same as last year, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Closed Friday and Saturday)

Contact us: 205-323-2959 or Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com.

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



worship

Compline

Cathedral Choir to Lead Special Choral Service

The Cathedral Choir will sing the Office of Compline on Thursday, September 3, 7:30 p.m. in the Nave. Compline is one of the ancient monastic services sung before the close of day, and this service led entirely by the choir will provide a time of reflection, prayer, and reverence.

Lectionary

Sunday, August 23

Psalm 124 • Psalm 138 • Exodus 1:8-2:10

Isaiah 51:1-6 • Matthew 16:13-20



serving & outreach

Local Outreach

Marks Village Offers Volunteer Opportunities

Come see what God is doing in Marks Village in East Lake! Adventer Lisa Yeager has been involved for years with this incredible ministry that is holistically serving the community in Christ's name. There are three upcoming ways to learn more about the mission of Oak Tree and ways to be involved:

- Lunch & Learn – Friday, September 11, noon-1:00 p.m. Individuals, families, groups welcome! Register here by September 9: OakTreeMinistries.org/Events.
- Trauma-Informed Volunteer Training – Sunday, August 30, 2:00-4:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn the specifics about how we serve our neighbors at Oak Tree, and for all who are interested in volunteering with us. Register by August 28 at OakTreeMinistries.org/Events.
- Volunteer Opportunities – We're looking for elementary math and reading tutors on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 2:30-5:00 p.m., to commit to one day a week from August 31 through November 30. We're also looking for folks interested in serving in our Teen Girls and Teen Boys programs. Register for Volunteer Training to express interest, or contact Lisa Yeager (Lisa.Yeager@OakTreeMinistries.org) with any questions.

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Thomas F. Teardo: (Pastoral Care) by Virginia and John Hornsby

- (Music Discretionary Fund) by Lyn Lanier and Bobbi Lecznar

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Scott Barringer; Alice Bowsher; Nancy Brower; Dane Christensen; John Coleman; Martha Cook; Elizabeth Cook; Ralph Cothran; Richard Darden; Charlie DeBardeleben; William Denson; Isabelle Dreher; Patrick Druhan; Shirley Fagan; Cardwell Feagin; David Fleming; Ron Flowers; Charles Fry; Hariett Gee; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Goings



making music

The Cathedral Choir



Choir Sings Residencies in Storied English Cathedral and Chapel

Our Cathedral Choir occasionally travels to sing residencies in cathedrals and chapels in England as a part of its ministry. These experiences not only help these venues continue their choral missions while their own choirs are on break, but they offer our choir a pilgrimage of sorts, to sing in the places where the composers of the music we sing lived, worked, and prayed. They also provide our choir members the opportunity to better themselves, grow as a group, and foster fellowship on a large scale, taking all of that back to the Advent to further their own ministry here.

The choir sang services in Winchester Cathedral (July 20-24) and St George's, Windsor Castle (July 25-26). Winchester Cathedral is the longest medieval cathedral in the world, with a storied musical heritage. St. George's Chapel is the burial place of countless monarchs, including the late Elizabeth II. Our Director of Music conducted the choir while literally standing on top of the burial vault of Henry VIII.

The tour was an enormous success, and the choir represented the Advent on an international scale. The four services sung by our choir at Winchester Cathedral were livestreamed, and you can watch and listen to these services on Winchester Cathedral's YouTube channel; visit YouTube.com/@WinchesterCathedralTV and click on "live".

Photo above: The Cathedral Choir in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle

Did You Know... to Be Wary of Scammers?

Please be wary of odd-sounding emails, texts, or voice mails purporting to be from one of the clergy or staff. Churches are a favorite target of scammers. None of our clergy or staff will ever contact you and vaguely ask for assistance, or ask that you would email them discreetly by replying, or that they need help because they have lost something while traveling, or that they need help with a specific errand or task, etc. If it sounds odd, it almost certainly is.

If you ever have a question, rather than replying to that email or text, or replying to a voice mail by calling any number other than the church office, call the office and ask for clarification: 205-251-2324.

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: Alice Evelyn Fagan, daughter of Elizabeth and Will, on August 3;
William "Billy" Stewart Tynes Jr., son of Frances and William, on August 6;
Stella June Pendley, daughter of Emily and Robert, on August 8; Lynn Kathleen Humphreys, daughter of Fallon and Fraser, on August 11

Marriage: Emily Morrisette Franklin and Alec James Johnston, on August 1

Death: Robert William Klyce, on July 30

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Harry Edward "Ed" Logue: (Endowment Fund) by Oak Street Garden Shop Employees; Jane Pearson; Steven and Martha Fazio • (Garden Fund) by Eugenia Greer • (Pastoral Care) by Jane and Harold Goings; Mary Headley
Wendy Hall Jacoway: (Garden Fund) by Mrs. Jack S. Allison



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 23 Regular worship schedule	24	25	26	27	28	29
Aug 30 Regular worship schedule	31	Sept 1	2 Youth Park Place Partners - 3:30 p.m.	3 Compline Service - Nave - 7:30 p.m.	4	5

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.