

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 49, No. 31

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of September 13, 2026



News & Events

This Sunday Is Rally Day

We set aside the first Sunday after Labor Day as Rally Day, marking the beginning of a new program year. Breakfast is back (8:15-9:00 a.m. in Clingman Commons), Sunday classes are in full force, weekly Bible studies and small groups return in earnest, and offerings for children and youth resume with renewed energy.

Grateful for the Lord's provision, we celebrate the ministries and programs which extend to every part of our church, as well as to Birmingham and beyond. We are a lively congregation that spans all ages and reaches across much of the city.

Once again, we will have the Rally Day Skit at our 9:00 a.m. service. Unlike other years, our fall Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, October 4, at Regions Field from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

As we gather together, let us continue to encourage and be encouraged by one another: fruit of our rootedness in the gospel. We hope you enjoy reading this expanded issue of the *Adventurer* to learn more about what is happening and coming at the Advent.

Most importantly, may the grace of our Lord, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each of us, now and always. Happy Rally Day!



cover. Matt Dinan, the NYT article's author, is a university professor of literature who had never read Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. The title of his article is, "I Let My Students Watch Me Struggle With a Masterpiece. It Changed Everything."

Dinan speaks pertinently to some of the today's conversations regarding AI and technology and attention spans, the value of education, and what this means for our common society going forward.

What struck me, however, is his contention that the issues are less with technology and the times as much as they are spiritual. He contends that what is needed is something less effective and more affective: "We're really talking about passion, inconvenient and unfashionable as that is to acknowledge. Passion creates a unity of purpose and urgency that is the antidote to the feckless, superficial

A Word from the Dean

A recent article on the Mockingbird website captured my attention, as many regularly do. The article referenced a *New York Times* piece whose author shared a confession and a discovery.

distraction of the algorithmic age. Lots of us pay very close attention to our phones, but what we lack is the sustaining passion that endures difficulty and shapes a life..."

As he grappled with *The Brothers Karamazov* with his young students, his teaching became affective. It was more than transmitting knowledge as the authority; with his honesty and vulnerability before them, their exploring and grappling with the text together, being found and moved by it together, something creative and engaging and life-giving happened.

Christianity can be misrepresented as a hierarchical order where there are those with authority and knowledge who then convey this to those below that they may pass the test. It seems that for Dinan and his students, they discovered something more akin to what it is to walk together as Christians. In their walking together they were drawn from the horizontal to the vertical, something bigger than their own store of knowledge, something akin to the sustaining passion that endures difficulty and shapes a life.

We have a savior who comes down, whose passion for us overcomes difficulties and gives life.

- Craig

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41:10

This Sunday: September 13, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Rally Day Skit

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Emeritus Zahl

We will not hold the 9:00 a.m. Refectory service this Sunday.

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

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *My Own Worst Enemy: Gospel Notes in 90s Alt-Rock* – Craig Smalley and Jay Gardner

The Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *The Gospel* – Adam Young

Fellowship with God (Chapter Room) – Mary Ann McCarty

Look to Christ (Living Room) – *The Lamb of God* – Gil Kracke

Bible 101 (Assembly Hall) – *The Land of Promise (Genesis to Judges)* – Margot Cooney and Will Fagan

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes will be offered for all ages. See the back page of this *Adventurer* or Sunday's service bulletin for details. The Nursery will be open 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Lectionary:

Psalm 114

Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-33

We will livestream the 9:00 Nave service and the 11:00 a.m. service.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

Join a Small Group

One of the best ways to foster meaningful friendships with fellow Christians, especially in a large church like the Advent, is through our Small Groups Ministry. These groups typically consist of 10-to-12 members who meet regularly for fellowship, to study God's word, and to pray. They provide a place for members to deepen their faith and share life experiences in ways that are often difficult in Sunday worship services and Sunday School classes.

For more information, please fill out an interest form on our website: AdventBirmingham.org/SmallGroups.



Bible Studies

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). We offer many Bible studies at the Advent, rooted in our conviction that "Holy Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation." The groups are led by engaging and faithful leaders who wish to share the same gospel that has meant life and salvation for each of them. You can find the listings at AdventBirmingham.org/BibleStudies.

Joining the Advent

Inquirers' Class to Begin this Sunday

Are you deciding whether to make the Advent your church home? The Inquirers' Class will help you make that decision. It's a seven-week series that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. The series will begin this Sunday, September 13, 10:15-10:50 a.m. in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance near the middle of the garden). Please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562) for more information.

Sunday Volunteers

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night (Psalm 92:1-2).

Sunday mornings are the center of the week for many of us – the remaining hours and days flow away from and then back towards our weekly gathering. If you take a quick look around on Sundays, you will quickly notice one thing: We could not do what we do without the throngs of those who give freely of their time and talent to serve.

If you are already one of the many who serve as an acolyte, breakfast cook, usher, welcome team member, chalice bearer, lector, prayer intercessor, sound or livestream operator, Altar Guild member, Children's Ministry teacher or helper... thank you! If you are interested in serving and in getting more deeply involved in meaningful ways, please contact Dean Pinter (Pinter@CathedralAdvent.com) or Gil Kracke (Gil@CathedralAdvent.com) to learn more.



For by grace you have been saved by 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

Care Services

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

Transition moments bring extra opportunities to connect with one another and experience the grace of God in our lives. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals are major milestones and landmarks in our faith and life together. To coordinate one of these services, please contact Robin Turner or Canon Jay Gardner through the Pastoral Care office (Robin@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3500).

Advent House Prayer Ministry

The Advent House Prayer Ministry welcomes men, women, couples, Adventers and beyond who desire to come and request prayer for God's intervention, guidance, and healing of the sickness, sorrows, and concerns in their lives. The prayers of the intercessors, who will be praying on your behalf, will be grounded in the Holy Scriptures, dependent on our Savior Jesus Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit. For more information or to schedule a prayer appointment at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), contact Kathy Logue (Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-410-4622).



Advent House

Children, Youth, and Family

The Children, Youth, and Family ministries of the Advent enter the 2026-2027 school year with continued enthusiasm and a shared commitment to growing in faith together as a church family.

This year, the **Children's Ministry** will explore the overarching narrative of Scripture. Our hope is that, over time, children will grow in their understanding of the Bible and deepen their trust and love for God. In addition to our regular Sunday programming, we will continue to offer a variety of events and programs tailored to specific age groups, including Club 456 and Bible studies for 5th and 6th graders, the 2nd Grade Bible Presentation, the Christmas Pageant, and service opportunities.

In the Advent **Youth Ministry**, 7th-12th grade students learn how to engage in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through his word, his church, and his mission in the world. On Sunday mornings, you can find our youth worshiping and serving as acolytes, band members, lectors, and Children's Ministry helpers. For Sunday school, our Junior High will wade through the book of Matthew as our Senior High sits in the Old Testament prophets. Sunday evenings are for dinner, devotionals, and discipleship as well as paintball battles, golf competitions, and pick-up games of kickball. As they are fed breakfast and the gospel, weekday Bible studies create rhythms of fellowship and Scripture application to daily life. Play and rest are essential to connecting with God, each other, and our neighbors – we will continue building relationships with our after-school program at Park Place. Bigtime and Advent retreats allow students a time away together. This summer, students are invited to serve locally with Camp Hope, a ministry that serves children of incarcerated parents, and to see globally how the Lord desires to bring all nations to him.

Family Ministry: We are grateful for the countless families that are members of one another in our parish, and we have multiple offerings by which our church ministers to the family unit. Our morning men's groups continue to be a wonderful place for dads to invest in one another, as well as the Moms of Young Children Bible study, led by Leslie Housman on Thursday mornings. Our Small Groups Ministry continues to be a core of parish life at the Advent where families share their lives together. Our *Raising Families* Sunday school class will continue this year, with emphasis on classes on raising children in an age of anxiety. Lastly, join us for a wonderful evening out at the Dinner for Parents on Sunday, November 15, hosted at the home of James and Lyn Bradford – an evening of great food and fellowship you won't want to miss!

For more information, contact Tara@CathedralAdvent.com (children), Margot@CathedralAdvent.com (youth), and Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com (family).



Women's Ministry

Whatever your age or stage in life, whether you are new to the church or a longtime member, no matter where you are in your walk with the Lord, there is a place for you to study, serve, gather, and grow within this active, vibrant community of women. Our hope is that each of us will be involved in meaningful ways that will challenge, equip, and encourage us in our faith in such a way that we would be compelled to share the truth of the gospel with others. For more information, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Women or contact Leslie Housman, (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511).



Women's Key Dates:

- Kickoff
Thursday, September 10
Cranmer House
6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Weekend with Erika Moore:
The Promises in Ezekiel's Visions: The Lord Is There
Friday-Saturday, October 2-3
Refectory
5:45-8:00 p.m. Friday
9:00 a.m.-noon Saturday
- Quiet Day with Mary Zahl
Saturday, November 7
Clingman Commons
9:00 a.m.-noon
- Christ in the Christmas Crunch
Ministry Market and Luncheon
Thursday, December 3
Clingman Commons
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Women's Retreat
Friday-Sunday, February 5-7
Camp McDowell
4:00 p.m. Friday to
10:00 a.m. Sunday
- Lenten Preaching and Lunches
Series
Wednesday, February 10-
Thursday, March 25
- Sabbath Saturday
Saturday, April 3
Red Mountain Park
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Men's Ministry

Men of the Advent share in the gospel of grace by equipping, encouraging, and extending for the sake of the Kingdom. We gather weekly in small groups for Bible study, then in larger numbers monthly for events and quarterly for renewal. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) to be connected to a Bible study group and see the Men's Ministry page on the website (AdventBirmingham.org/Men) for upcoming events.



Advent Mission and Outreach

Jesus tells us that as the way, truth, and life, he has come that we might live abundantly in his name. It is indeed “for the life of the world” (John 6:51) that his ministry extends to the least, last, and lost. In everything the Church of the Advent does, we endeavor to witness to this pearl of great price, the gospel of Jesus Christ. In our common life together as well as in our disparate vocations and communities, we work alongside people of peace toward the spiritual and material restoration of our city and world. Serving others through evangelism, works of mercy, mentoring, and empowerment through the Holy Spirit, we support and participate alongside mission partners local and abroad. All ages, abilities, and commitment levels are encouraged to live out our professed longing for “thy kingdom come.” Just a few ways people can join in mission and outreach at the Advent:

- Pray with and for our ministry partners (visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission)
- Ask your small group to serve a meal at a local mission (once, or on a regular interval)
- Attend a Neighborhood Bible Study with some of our downtown residents on Wednesday mornings, 8:00 a.m. in the Chapter Room
- Take your family on a mission trip to Amistad Mission in Bolivia
- Volunteer to provide supplies or mentoring at one of our mission partners
- Participate in periodic fundraising efforts
- Respond to different volunteer opportunities that arise throughout the year

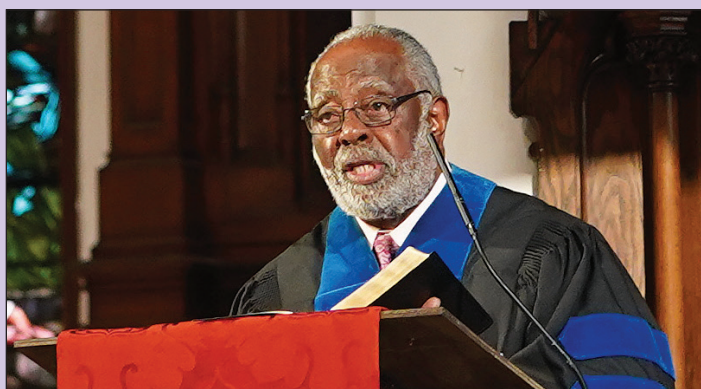
Contact Anita Gray (Anita@CathedralAdvent.com) or Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) to learn more about our mission partners.



Lenten Preaching and Lunches

We are looking forward to another great Lenten Preaching and Lunches Series in 2027!

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 10, and concluding Maundy Thursday, March 25, the lunch effort has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available for people of all skill levels in and around the kitchen. Enjoy great fellowship and support the hearing of the gospel. Please contact Ann Campbell (Ann@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions and to volunteer.



Music at the Advent

The Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral Choir (*right*) is composed of auditioned adults, both professional and volunteer, who sing the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services in the Nave each Sunday and other worship services during the liturgical year, as well as concerts in the Cathedral Concert Series.

The choir is always seeking new members – tenors in particular! If you can read music, sing parts independently, and love singing, the choir is for you. If you are interested in joining the choral ministry, please contact our Director of Music and Liturgy, Fred Teardo (Teardo@CathedralAdvent.com).



Special Worship Services and Evensong

The choir leads special choral services throughout the year. Our first Choral Evensong is on Thursday, October 1, at 5:30 p.m. On All Saints' Day (Sunday, November 1), the choir will sing Evensong in celebration of the 25th anniversary of our Lammermuir continuo organ, joined by a guest string ensemble. The month of December features several services of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas. In the new year, we celebrate the season of Epiphany with A Service of Epiphany Light on Thursday, January 14. Our final Evensong of the year on Thursday, April 8, will feature the Advent Episcopal School Choral Ensemble. Please visit AdventBirmingham.org/Music for a detailed schedule.



Photo by Benjamin Ealorega

Cathedral Concert Series and Midday Music

The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge (*above right*) is one of the most highly regarded collegiate choirs in England, and they will kick off this season's Concert Series on Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. After being so well received last Advent, the women of the Cathedral Choir will reprise their performance of Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with guest harpist Diedre Agustin on December 17 at 5:30 p.m., before Nine Lessons and Carols. Shortly after Easter, the choir will perform Brahms' iconic *Ein deutsches Requiem* (A German Requiem) with guest soloists Adelaide Boedecker and Calvin Griffin (*right*) on Friday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Please visit our website AdventBirmingham.org/Music for more information regarding the Concert Series, Midday Music, and all our choral events.



The Advent Band

The band leads us in song during Sunday worship in the Refectory service. Often the band includes instruments like drums, bass, acoustic guitar, mandolin, banjo, keyboard, piano, violin, and vocalists. We sing a selection of old and new arrangements of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and band members are a combination of professional and volunteer musicians. If you can read music and are interested in serving in the band, please reach out to Lowana Wallace (Lowana@CathedralAdvent.com).



20s & 30s Ministry

The 20s & 30s Ministry boasts wonderful opportunities for all Adventers in their 20s and 30s to connect with one another. Our Sunday school classes and evening events are a great place to plug in if you are new to the Advent or to meet folks you see around church who look like they're about your age but maybe go to a different service or are in a different small group.

The 20s & 30s Fall Kick-Off dinner will be held on Sunday, September 13. We will be joined by Advent member and psychologist Jen Green, who will speak on navigating the defining shifts of our 20s and 30s with resilience.

We will have two Sunday school series this fall semester: "Not Just High School History: The Reformation and Its Meaning for You" from September 27-October 18, where Gil Kracke, Leslie Housman, and Paul Zahl will join in teaching the series, as well as our annual "Advent at the Advent" series from November 29-December 20. Classes meet in the Lower School Library.

This fall, we are also excited to introduce monthly Thursday Lunches. Featuring separate gatherings for men and women, these monthly meetups are a wonderful way to carve out time for intentional fellowship, good food, and deeper conversation. Grab a friend and join us on September 24, October 22, and December 17!

No matter where you fall in the age range or if you're single, married, or have little ones at home, these are fun chances to come together for all Adventers in their 20s and 30s (and friends). For more information, visit AdventBirmingham.org/20s30s or contact Will Fagan (Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com).



How We Communicate With You

The Advent uses a variety of methods to communicate with parishioners and others about our ministries. We hope you will utilize as many as are helpful to you.

Website

AdventBirmingham.org. Streaming video is at AdventBirmingham.org/Live, and audio content is at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

Newsletter

The *Adventurer* is published weekly, except during the summer when it's produced bi-weekly. To subscribe to the print version, email Communications@CathedralAdvent.com. You can also receive the *Adventurer* via email – visit AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe to sign up – as well as read it on our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Adventurer.

Email

The Advent uses several email lists to communicate with parishioners quickly about various news and events. You can sign up for any of these lists by visiting AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe or by emailing Communications@CathedralAdvent.com.

- Parish-Wide News
- Email *Adventurer*
- Women of the Advent
- Pastoral Care Notices (Births and Deaths)

Social Media

The Advent and several of its ministries maintain pages on social media platforms.

- Cathedral Church of the Advent: Facebook – @CathedralAdvent; Instagram – @CathedralAdvent
- Women's Ministry: Instagram – @WomenOfTheAdventBham
- 20s & 30s Ministry: Instagram – @Advent_20s30s
- Youth Ministry: Instagram – @TheAdventYouth
- Children's Ministry: Instagram – @AdventChildrensMinistry
- Cathedral Choir/Music Department: Facebook – @CCAdventMusic; Instagram – @CCAdventMusic
- Advent Bookstore: Instagram – @Advent.Bookstore

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

Connect with Realm

One of the primary features of Realm, our church database platform, is the on-line directory that is available to all of us (either by web browser or via an app for your phone or tablet). If you need more information, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Realm or email Communications@CathedralAdvent.com.

Bookstore Fall Open Hours

Starting September 14, the Advent Bookstore hours will be:
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Monday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: Closed

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

David Andrews: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Carrie and Chip Mattison

Thomas F. Teardo: (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson

In Honor of Carolyn Lankford: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Josey Lee



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept 13 Rally Day Breakfast - Clingman - 8:15 a.m. Skit at 9:00 a.m. Nave service 20s & 30s Kickoff Dinner - 57 Fairway Drive - 5:00 p.m.	14	15 Episcopal Place Birthday Party - 1112 26th Street South - 2:00 p.m.	16 Third Wednesday Luncheon - Cranmer House - noon	17 Concert Series: The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge - Nave - 7:00 p.m.	18	19
Sept 20 Regular worship schedule Needlepoint Guild - Cranmer House - 3:00 p.m.	21	22	23	24 Midday Music Concert - noon	25	26

Where and When Do My Kids Go on Rally Day?

Children in 3K begin their first day in the Children's Ministry on Rally Day. Children in 3K and 4K will have the option to be dropped off in their classrooms before the 9:00 a.m. service or start in the service with their families and depart with a parent after the Rally Day skit around 9:45 a.m. to go to their class. Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade will depart as usual after the skit and walk to the gym. Older children (4th grade and higher) and youth (7th-12th grade) will have Sunday School classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services (10:10 to 10:50 a.m.). For classroom locations, refer to your service bulletin.

Our Toddler Nursery class will be promoted to the 2s class this Sunday. The Nursery will be open for our Infants, Toddlers, and 2s classes from 8:45 to 11:00 a.m. and for children ages 5 and under from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.