

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 32

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of September 20, 2026



News & Events

In Memoriam: Ricky Bromberg



As most will know by the time you receive this, our Senior Warden, Ricky Bromberg, has entered the eternal fellowship of the saints, having died on September 2. A lifelong member of the parish, Ricky served the Advent in innumerable ways, formally and informally. In addition to his terms as Senior and Junior Warden, he served in roles and ways that are too many to list here. Ricky was grounded, humble, faithful, a trusted advisor and friend.

For the balance of this year, Ricky will remain, in memoriam, in the role of Senior Warden, and our Junior Warden, Mike Lucas, and the rest of our Vestry will continue to assist me in the leadership of our parish.

There is more to share as we remember Ricky. For now, please join me in praying for Ricky's family, and giving thanks to God for his faithful service.

- Craig

Parish Picnic Set for October 4

Sunday, October 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Regions Field. See page 2 for details.



A Word from Will Fagan

In early August we welcomed Alice Fagan into our family – the third of three daughters – and her older sisters are still swinging from the chandeliers with joy. If you had told me five years ago that I would have three little girls at home, I wouldn't have believed you; and yet, more and more I am learning, in the words of Mr. Bueller, that "life moves pretty fast."

I'm often typecast as a man who would want sons, but the reality is I don't know that life could get better than the one that we have. As some of you might have seen on Sunday mornings, our oldest two – practically adolescent at four and two years old, respectively – are *all girl*. Purses and plastic high heels accompany us everywhere we go, babies and toy strollers fill our home. They only want to wear dresses, and it's not like we're forcing this upon them, it's just the girls we have. I have confidence that their youngest sister will be just the same.

What I'm getting at is that we don't have much control of our lives, and that's a good thing. Individuals older than I am might find themselves nodding along with this sentiment, life experience teaching you this invaluable truth. And this isn't just a fact of life, but a thoroughly Christian idea: We aren't in control.

Recently, especially to the 20s & 30s group, I've been known to say, "Christianity Is Entirely For Your Benefit." This is entirely true; we just don't know what the benefits will be or what good things lie down stream of the grace and love offered to us in Jesus Christ. But we do know that God's blessings will be good, no matter how different it might look than what we might have expected.

So I want to write a letter to myself from five years ago and say, "You have no idea how good your life will be with the children God will give you." You will learn how to do ponytails, you'll paint fingernails, you'll start saying, "That's a cute dress, sweetie." And you'll be the happiest man in the world.

- Will

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits...

- Psalm 103:2

This Sunday:

September 20, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Will Fagan

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

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.):

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Who Am I?: Gospel Notes in 90s Alt-Rock* – Craig Smalley

The Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Repentance and Belief* – Rita Wright

Fellowship with God (Chapter Room) – *Jesus' Answer* – Mary Ann McCarty

Look to Christ (Living Room) – *The Son of Man, Lifted Up* – Gil Kracke

Bible 101 (Assembly Hall) – *David's Story (Judges to Song of Solomon)* – Will Fagan and Adam Young

Breakfast:

8:15-9:00 a.m. in Clingman Commons

Children's & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd grade start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal for Children's Church. 4th grade through 6th grade 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.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



spiritual growth & fellowship

Fall Parish Picnic



Event for All Ages Is October 4

We hope all ages will join us for our Fall Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 4, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This year, we will return to the Switchyard at Regions Field, enjoying ballpark burgers and hot dogs. We'll have games and activities for kids (of all ages) – cornhole, ping pong, jumbo Jenga, inflatables, and more.

The entrance to the Switchyard is through the main entrance (at the corner of 1st Avenue South and 14th Street South), or through the gate in the middle of the block on 14th Street South.

The cost for dinner (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and a cookie) is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (14 and under). We need to turn in a head count for food, so please register no later than September 27 at AdventBirmingham.org/FallParishPicnic. (Early registrations are always helpful for planning.)

See you there!



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, September 20

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Psalms 145:1-8

Exodus 16:2-15

Matthew 20:1-16

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.



education

Parish-Wide Galatians Study Small-Group Study Begins this Week

Our parish-wide study of Galatians, *Jesus Means Freedom*, starts this week. We look forward to delving into Paul's letter with you over the next 10 weeks, and we hope that this curriculum cultivates rich discussion and thoughtful meditation. Our prayer is for each of us to leave this study with a deeper understanding of the freedom that is available to us in Christ, sharing in Paul's passion for the gospel.

**JESUS MEANS
FREEDOM**
A STUDY ON GALATIANS



Galatians Zoom Group Forming for Adventers 75 and Older

Women and men ages 75 and older are invited to join a Zoom study based on the parish-wide Galatians study. Mary Ann McCarty, one of the study's authors, will facilitate the study on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., beginning September 23. To sign up, contact Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com).

Women's Bible Studies

Revelation

Led by Margot Cooney

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209)

Thursday Morning Moms

(Moms of young children)

Led by Leslie Housman

Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Study of Galatians

Living Room, with nursery provided

You can start either group at any time, and come as you are able.

Children's Ministry



Youth Helpers Help Make Children's Church Happen

Say "Hello!" to some of our 2026-2027 youth helpers. Youth helpers are 7th-12th graders who assist teachers during 3K-3rd grade 9:00 Children's Church. We are so thankful for them!

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



spiritual growth & fellowship

Weekend with Erika Moore

The Promises of Ezekiel: The Lord Is There

We are delighted to have Dr. Erika Moore with us on Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3, leading us as we engage the promises of God given through his prophet Ezekiel.

The book of Ezekiel is uniquely intense, visual, dramatic, and engaging, as it conveys memorably and truly the promises of God for each of us. It is our privilege to have Erika Moore with us; the former Academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament at Trinity Seminary (Ambridge, Pennsylvania), she is an engaging, faithful Bible teacher. It will be a wonderful weekend.

We will begin Friday night at 5:30, gathering and visiting with one another for a few minutes before dinner at 6:00 (catered by Homewood Gourmet). The cost for dinner is \$20. Dr. Moore will begin speaking after dinner. There is no cost to attend Saturday morning, which begins at 9:00 a.m. For a complete schedule of the weekend, additional details, and to register, please visit AdventBirmingham.org/Ezekiel. (The deadline to register for Friday's dinner is Sunday, September 27.)

We hope you will be able to join us – feel free to invite friends. For more information, please contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com) or Gil Kracke (Gil@CathedralAdvent.com).



serving & outreach

Parish Inreach



Members of **The Newborn Welcome Team** gathered recently to prepare gifts for delivery to families in the parish with a recent new addition.



making music

Midday Music

Organist James McGalliard to Perform September 24



The Advent's 2026-2027 Midday Music series opens on Thursday, September 24, at noon in the Nave with a free, 30-minute recital by James McGalliard, Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of St. Paul here in Birmingham. McGalliard (left) will play a program featuring a wide variety of composers. Please note the change this season from Fridays to Thursdays for our Midday Music programs. This concert will also be livestreamed on AdventBirmingham.org/Live and associated digital platforms.

Please do not miss what promises to be a beautiful half-hour of music performed on our Grieb-Williams Organ, and please help spread the word!

Did You Know... about Hospitals?

If you or someone you love is ever admitted into the hospital, we would like to know. Because of HIPAA laws, the hospital will not let us know, and unless someone tells us, we sometimes do not know. We would like to be able to pray for you and visit, whenever possible.

If you or someone is admitted, please contact Robin Turner, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, and let her know (205-226-3500, Robin@CathedralAdvent.com).

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Hugh Browning Thornton Jr.: (Mission and Outreach) by Frank and Kathie Taylor

Charles Edward Gill: (Mission and Outreach) by Frank and Kathie Taylor

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Nancy Robinson; Robert Robotti; Douglas Rollins; Robert Schoenvogel; Fonda Shaia; The Very Rev. and Mrs. Craig Smalley; Mr. and Mrs. Boynton Smith; Caroline Smith; David Stewart; Daniel Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tindall; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Townsend; Mr. and Mrs. Craig Vinson; Mr. and Mrs. Robin Wade; J. Otey Walker; David Williamson; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Yeilding

Robert William Klyce: (Garden Fund) by Cathy and Jimmie Harvey; Nancy McCollum; Ann and Don Adams; Mark Johnson; Paula Cox; William "Bill" Anderson; Carolyn Reed

In Honor of Lyn Lanier, Bobbi Lecznar, and Sam Urmey: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Jane Gibbs

In Thanksgiving for Cameron Crowe: (Endowment Fund) by Troy and Ann Haas

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: William Robert "Wells" Patton, son of Anniston and Sam, on September 8

Deaths: Frederick Wilkinson "Ricky" Bromberg, on September 2; Kelly Wayne Ball, on September 3

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Dr. Thomas F. Teardo: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Virginia and John Hornsby

My Mom: (Mission and Outreach) by Robert Hornak

John Barratt Rudolph Jr.: (Mission and Outreach) by Frank and Kathie Taylor

Harry Edward "Ed" Logue: (Mission and Outreach) by Frank and Kathie Taylor • (Endowment Fund) by Sue Ellen and Mike Lucas

Sharon Turner: (Garden Fund) by Rachel Weingartner

In Honor of Eleanor and Jim Smith's 25th Anniversary: (Music Discretionary Fund) by their Family



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upcoming events:

Interested in more information?

Watch the *Adventurer*, check social media and the website, or call the church office (205-251-2324).

Parish-Wide

Midday Music

Thursday, September 24
Noon in the Nave

Choral Evensong for Michaelmas

Thursday, October 1
5:30 p.m. in the Nave

Weekend with Erika Moore

Friday-Saturday, October 2-3
5:45-8:00 p.m. (Friday)
9:00 a.m.-noon (Saturday)
Refectory
The Promises in Ezekiel's Visions:
The Lord Is There

Parish Picnic

Sunday, October 4
5:00-7:00 p.m. at Regions Field

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 1
5:30 p.m. in the Nave

Groups

Needlepoint Guild

Sunday, September 20
3:00-6:00 p.m. at Cranmer House

Caregivers Support Luncheon

Friday, October 9
Noon at Cranmer House

Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday Luncheon

Wednesday, October 21
Noon at Cranmer House

Men's Sporting Clays/Golf

Saturday, November 7
7:00 a.m.-Noon at Pursell Farms

Women's Quiet Day

Saturday, November 7
9:00 a.m.-noon at the Advent

Children and Youth

Club 456

Sunday, September 20
4:00-6:00 p.m. at Margot Cooney's home

BigTime Ministries Retreat for 7th-9th Grade Boys

Friday-Sunday, October 2-4

Youth Park Place Partners

Wednesday, October 7
4:00-5:00 p.m. at Park Place

Youth Paintball

Sunday, November 1
4:00-6:00 p.m. at Central Alabama
Paintball Park

BigTime Ministries Retreat for 7th-9th Grade Girls

Friday-Sunday, November 6-8

AA: Monday-Friday, Coe Conference Room, noon