

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 34

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of October 4, 2026



News & Events

Stewardship Sunday: Making Your Pledge for 2027

As we give thanks to God, please prayerfully consider your pledge to support the Advent financially in 2027. The pledges of parishioners fund more than 90 percent of the Advent's annual operating budget, and it is from pledges that we move forward in our budgeting process. You may return your Pledge Card by mail, in-person at the church office, or by placing it in the offering plate at all services the next two Sundays, October 4 and 11. You may also turn in your Pledge Card at the Stewardship Table in Clingman Commons or complete it online: AdventBirmingham.org/Pledge.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. — Ephesians 2:8

Fall Parish Picnic this Sunday

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Switchyard at Regions Field this Sunday, October 4, for our Fall Parish Picnic. We'll start at 5:00 p.m. with fellowship, games, and activities followed by dinner. We will get on the field starting at 5:45 – we'll have kickball and wiffle ball in the outfield, or you can just walk around. We will wrap up by 7:00. Questions? Please call the church office (205-251-2324).



A Word from the Vice Dean

It has been referred to as "the Gospel in one verse," and is without question the most often quoted and best known verse in the entire Bible. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

And for purposes of our stewardship campaign this year, I'd like for us to consider two fundamental truths that are revealed through this simple, yet incredibly profound, verse. First, God's love is defined through behavior. We often speak of love from the perspective of mere feelings and sentiment, but the kind of love being described in John 3:16 is active. Biblical love is ultimately expressed on the hard wood of Jesus' cross.

But this verse also reveals a more fundamental aspect of God's character, and that is that God is a giver. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave...."* And because we were created in God's image, we too were

For God so loved the world, that he gave....

intended to be givers. In fact, as Eugene Peterson has said, "Giving is what we do best. It is the air into which we were born. It is the action that was designated into us before our birth."

So as you contemplate your annual pledge to the Advent for 2027, please consider these two important truths: Love is expressed and realized through the decisions and actions we make, and because we were created in God's image, we were intended to be givers.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Son! Thanks be to God for creating us in his image, and blessing us with the gift of life that we might become a blessing to others! And thanks be to God for you, as you prayerfully consider the gift of your financial pledge to support the ministries of the Advent in 2027!

Faithfully in Christ,

Tom

- John 3:16a

This Sunday:

October 4, 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: Dean Smalley

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

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) – *Why Augustine Matters to Church History (and to the Advent)* – Jason Wallace

The Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Baptism* – Jay Gardner

For Love He Would Become a Deadly Man: Seeing Jesus with Julian of Norwich (Living Room) – Kristen Padilla

Bible 101 (Assembly Hall) – *The Gospels (Matthew to John)* – Margot Cooney and Gunter Owens

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Christ for You: Balm for Bruised Bones* – Will Fagan and Gil Kracke

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. 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.

Breakfast:

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



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

Stewardship

We Give Because We Are Called To... and It Feeds Our Souls



Above: Temp Millsap with his wife Laura and their children

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

- Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Moses' warning to his people as they prepare to enter a new land of prosperity is a tough reminder. His words are not just a rebuke or warning of his people's pride, but they are also a joyful reminder of God's power, his promises kept, and his blessings on his people.

I will admit that I am the first that needs to be reminded that whatever success I may have in life, whatever material possessions I have, has all been given by God. Any material possession I have is not mine but the result of God's will – his work through me, his appointment of blessings, and with it the responsibility of good stewardship.

I have never missed a dollar I gave in tithing or to those in need. I have never given and later thought to myself, "That really was too much." I suppose it could be because I don't give enough – I know I could always do more – but more importantly I think it is because giving feeds our souls. Giving is not only an act of obedience to God's commandments, it's an acknowledgment of where our possessions come from and whose they are to begin with.

Our family gives to the Advent because we are called to, and also because it feeds our souls. This stewardship season I encourage you to join us in giving and see what sustenance the Lord has in store.

- Temp Millsap



worship

AES Choral Ensemble



Advent School Group to Sing at 9:00 Service this Sunday

The Advent Episcopal School Choral Ensemble will sing for our 9:00 a.m. Nave service this Sunday, October 4, joining forces with members of our Cathedral Choir. The Choral Ensemble is comprised of 4th-8th grade auditioned choristers and sings for weekly chapel services at the school. We look forward to having them help to lead worship!

Lectionary

Sunday, October 4

Psalm 19 • Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 80:7-14 • Philippians 3:4b-14 • Matthew 21:33-46



education

Parish-Wide Galatians Study

Galatians Zoom Group Begins Study

Men and women 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.

To sign up, contact Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com).



serving & outreach

Coat Drive

Collection Set for October 18 and 25

Please bring new or gently used coats and jackets on Sunday mornings, October 18 and 25, for a coat drive to support women at The Lovelady Center. The Lovelady Center provides much-needed services in a Christ-centered environment with the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty and incarceration. Look for the table in Clingman Commons.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering October 9

Caregivers are invited to a monthly lunch with others who have been impacted by the demands of caring for a loved one. The next gathering will be Friday, October 9, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you are a full-time caregiver or you are just beginning to experience changes in your life due to the health of a family member. To RSVP or for details, contact Robin Turner (Robin@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3500).

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Come for Intercessory Prayer



"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters."
- Isaiah 55:1

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

- Matthew 11:28

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."

- John 7:37

We welcome you to come for intercessory prayer at the Advent House, whatever your circumstances or need might be. We will come alongside you and pray for you as we listen to God and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This ministry of prayer is totally dependent upon the redemptive, healing, life-giving power of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to schedule a prayer appointment at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205) please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

Brother Bryan Mission

Mission Graduation at Advent October 22

We all love a good redemption story. It's exciting to see men having their lives completely changed by Jesus Christ. Come be a part of an evening of celebrating the accomplishments of our friends at Brother Bryan who are leaving lives of addiction to become Christ-honoring productive citizens. The testimonies of these men are deeply moving!

This graduation will take place Thursday, October 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Refectory. The Advent is hosting and serving Taziki's dinner. Contact Canon Young to sign up and be a part of encouraging 60 men from Brother Bryan Mission (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com).

Clergy Spotlight

Q&A with Canon Jay Gardner

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

As Canon Pastor my time in ministry at the Advent is spent predominately in pastoral care. What I enjoy the most is the relationships with church members and their families. I love seeing where God is at work in people's lives and getting to name it. God's grace touches down in real lives, and I am thankful to often be a front row witness to it.

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

I became a Christian as a teenager, and the gospel message gripped me. I felt called and continually feel called to proclaim the message of Christ setting sinners free. The call comes from God, and while I often (usually) feel inadequate to the task, I am assured that he is at work.

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

I regularly tell people that I am not in the business of giving advice (I especially tell this to couples engaged to be married!). But I suppose if we are to call it "spiritual advice," then I would say that everyone needs a preacher. I do not necessarily mean an ordained preacher, although those are typically adequate. What I mean is to have someone in your life who will continually whisper the gospel of grace in your ear. We forget it, we doubt it, we neglect it, but a preacher will keep on reminding us of God's faithful promises. My preacher is my wife Paige.

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

My typical days off are unstructured and rather lazy unless a buddy has set a tee time for me. I like to be home. I like to walk. I like to listen to music. I like to pretend that I enjoy doing yard work. Most of all I like being with my wife and children. I am remarkably boring, but perhaps this is not a surprise to anyone!



memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Robert William Klyce: (Endowment Fund) by Shelley Gerrits; John Burch Jr.; Dottie and Thomas Hoover; F. Robert Salerno • (Garden Fund) by Robert Bentley; Ron Nelson • (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Barbara Klyce • (Mission and Outreach) by Amy Ager

Robert Keyes: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Barbara Klyce

My Mom: (Mission and Outreach) by Robert Hornak

In Thanksgiving for Samuel Abney Britton Neal: (Endowment Fund) by Amy Ager

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: Fred William James, son of Peyton and Joe, on September 2; Tomas Campbell Brudi, son of April and Campbell, on September 18

Baptism: Edmund Coates Doss III, son of Coates and Lauren, on September 20

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frederick Wilkinson "Ricky" Bromberg: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Patricia Blinn • (Pastoral Care) by Charles Scribner; Cindy and Steve Tilghman
Stella Scott Schreiber: (Mission and Outreach) by Anonymous

In Thanksgiving for the Fourth Sunday Team:

(Altar Guild) by Deborah and Marzette Fisher

In Thanksgiving for Gaston Lee Petznick and Sarah Bibb Petznick: (Endowment Fund) by Eliza Petznick

In Thanksgiving for the Knight, Howard, Finklea, Lindsey, Spankie, Barret, Lennard, and Mulligan Families: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Roy F. Knight



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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

Parish Picnic

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

Coat Drive

Sundays, October 18 and 25
Clingman Commons

Midday Music

Thursday, October 22
Noon in Clingman Commons

Brother Bryan Graduation

Thursday, October 22
5:30 p.m. in the Refectory

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day

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

Midday Music

Thursday, November 12
Noon in the Nave

Groups

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

Saturday, November 7
7:45 a.m.-Noon at Pursell Farms

Women's Quiet Day

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

Women's Christ in the Christmas Crunch

Thursday, December 3
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons

Children and Youth

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

Youth Park Place Partners

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

BigTime Ministries Retreat for 7th-9th Grade Girls

Friday-Sunday, November 6-8

AA: Monday-Friday, Coe Conference Room, noon