

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 36

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Week of October 18, 2026



News & Events

Coat Drive the Next Two Sundays

Please bring new or gently used coats and jackets (especially women's and children's) on Sunday mornings, October 18 and 25, to help keep the women of the Lovelady Center and their children warm this winter. 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.

Third Wednesday Luncheon October 21

The Ageless Adventers will gather for the Third Wednesday luncheon on Wednesday, October 21, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209).

Whether you are still active, newly retired, or have been enjoying flexibility for decades, you are welcome! So that we have an accurate count for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, October 16, to Robin Turner (205-226-3500, Robin@CathedralAdvent.com).

Looking Back at a Great Parish Picnic

Adventers gathered at Regions Field for our Fall Parish Picnic on October 4, enjoying food, fellowship, and fun. See page 3 for photos from the event.



A Word from Mary Ann McCarty

Many voices bombard me daily. I wake up to headlines about disasters far away and the trick to getting better sleep, a prompt to spend a moment cultivating gratitude, and a report on my favorite baseball team losing again (so much for gratitude!). In the car my radio sings to me, "Nothing really matters," followed abruptly by a commercial for life insurance. Friends text an invitation or a recipe; my mom sends a health update on a loved one. Behind it all my mind races through my to-do list and want-to-do list with an undercurrent of unrest. Every voice seems to have an opinion on how I should spend each moment of my life, how I should view each world event, how I should engage each group of people. The noise in my head buzzes with competing voices.

I have found myself praying, "I want to hear God's voice." It was a refrain raised recently during my small group discussion, and it captured my longing to sort through the noise. "God, what do you say?"

The prophet Elijah fled from the dangerous chaos in Israel out into the desert and begged God for help, even blaming God for the mess that sent him running. While Elijah screamed his complaint off the side of a mountain, a great wind came, then an earthquake, then a great fire. Was this God speaking? After the wind, the earthquake, and the fire, there came a whisper. And in the whisper was God's present voice. God whispered help and guidance to Elijah, promising to sustain him through the mess.

When I stop and listen for the whisper of God's present voice, I hear him say, "You are my adopted child; with you I am well pleased. I am with you, and I will not forsake you." God repeats his ancient promises to me as consistent whispers, reminding me who I am because of who he is. Thanks be to God for his consistent presence, his whisper of love, his unfailing promises. He is a God who speaks.

- Mary Ann

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- Romans 8:16

This Sunday:

October 18, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Young

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

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) – *What's in a Name?: Rahab and Salmon* – Dean Pinter

The Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Why We Do the Things We Do: Our Worship and Liturgy* – Adam Young

The Temptation of Empire: From Martyrs to Emperors (Chapter Room) – Wilson Hunter

The Birds and the Bees (Assembly Hall) – Tara Davis

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) – *Christ for You: Women from the Reformation* – Will Fagan and Paul Zahl

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

The Strange Economy of the Kingdom Where All That We Give Is Returned to Us Tenfold



Above: Derrill McDavid with her husband Will and their children

Our family took the leap in summer 2025. We moved from my husband's hometown, where we'd been surrounded by life-long friends and family, to a city I'd never been to (save the day we closed on our new house). We moved with a 4-year-old, a newborn, and a dog in tow, and my husband and I both left behind near-decade-long careers in law and education. God had called my husband, Will, to seminary at Beeson Divinity School.

For the first time, I was a stay-at-home mom to two sons – and in a town where I knew five people. Thankfully, four of those five were Adventers! Mary Zahl introduced me to Leslie and encouraged me to attend her Thursday Morning Moms Bible Study.

Just a year later, it seems impossible that I have not known these women – and so many other Advent friends – for most of my life. Thursday morning nursery was where my son John first experienced loving teachers who cheered when we walked in the door each week. The moms of our Bible study have laughed and cried and supported me, all while soaking in deep scriptural lessons and wisdom from our matriarch Leslie. Our eldest son Ben came home from his first day of kindergarten this fall, thrilled that he knew someone in his class thanks to Advent Sunday school. We have been welcomed into homes and dinner tables and artist groups. Both Will and I have been encouraged and strengthened in our own teaching and have learned so much from the knowledge shared by other Advent teachers.

We give our time and our tithe to the Advent because it has shown us, so vividly, the strange economy of the kingdom where all that we give is returned to us tenfold. Thanks be to God!

- Derrill McDavid

Lectionary

Sunday, October 18

Psalm 99 • Exodus 33:12-23 • Matthew 22:15-22

Mary Ann McCarty to Be Ordained as Priest October 29

Mary Ann McCarty will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on Thursday, October 29, 6:00 p.m. in the Nave. A member of the Advent staff since 2022, Mary Ann serves as the Advent's Curate. We will hold a reception for Mary Ann following the service. All Adventers are invited to attend the service and reception.



worship

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day

Service to Mark the 25th Anniversary of Our Continuo Organ

The Cathedral Choir will sing a service of Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This service will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Lammermuir continuo organ, given in memory of John Hiram Urmey Jr. and Lucille McPhillips Urmey. The instrumentation for the service will feature exclusively the continuo organ and a string quartet accompanying our Cathedral Choir. The music for the service will be the very same music sung and played at the dedication service 25 years ago. Please join us for this very special service of Choral Evensong on All Saints' Sunday.



serving & outreach

Local Outreach



Trunk or Treat at Park Place October 29

Grab a few friends from your small group to come support our neighbors at Park Place at a family-friendly Fall Festival on Thursday, October 29, 4:30-6:00 p.m. across from Marconi Park. As in years past, we will provide trunks for the trunk or treat. Decorate your car trunk with a theme, wear fun costumes, and pass out candy! There will be bounce houses, a DJ, and other organizations participating. It's a tremendous way for the Advent to participate in our central-city neighborhood with the joy and hope of Christ. Sign up your group on the church website (AdventBirmingham.org/Mission) or contact Canon Young (Adam@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



making music

Midday Music

Music for Viola and Piano October 22



Our Midday Music series continues on Thursday, October 22, at noon in Clingman Commons with a free 30-minute concert by Lucina Horner Cosby, viola (*above left*), and Ken Watson, piano (*below left*). Lucina has held positions in numerous symphony orchestras, and has been a member of the viola section in the Alabama Symphony Orchestra since 1998. Ken is active in the local community, collaborating with most of Birmingham's arts organizations, including the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Thursday's program will include a variety of interesting music covering a wide range of styles. Please note the change this season from Fridays to Thursdays for the Midday Music series. Please also note we are unable to livestream concerts from Clingman Commons at this time.

Please come and hear what promises to be a half-hour of magnificent and beautiful music!



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Quiet Day with Mary Zahl November 7

Between pumpkin carving and turkey carving, come to the church on Saturday morning, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, for a Quiet Day led by Mary Zahl.

Bring your Bible, pen, and paper. We will be spending time in Scripture, in prayer, and in silence, all thoughtfully guided by Mary.

This is an opportunity to prepare your heart and mind to receive Jesus afresh before the season of Advent begins. I hope you will join us for this morning of quiet observance.

There is no cost for this event, but please register so we know how many to expect. You can register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511) with questions.



Looking Back at a Great Fall Parish Picnic

What a wonderful evening at Regions Field for our Fall Parish Picnic on October 4! Adventers enjoyed spending time together over dinner, games, and plenty of good fellowship!



Children's Ministry



Fred Elliott has everyone's full attention during his group games at the 5th and 6th Grade Night on September 27. Join us next time on Sunday, October 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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:

Marriage: Anna Wellingham and Kenneth Toledo, on October 3

Death: Ann Grace Mayhall Dodd, on October 3

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Robert William Klyce: (Garden Fund)
by James and Glenda Sparacio; Susie Heard Wetzel; Louise and Butch Clayton

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Pastoral Care)
by Stewart Alvis

Frederick "Ricky" Wilkinson Bromberg: (Endowment Fund) by Stanley and Andy Virciglio; Lisa and Charlie Miller; Cynnne Sproull; The Welch Group, LLC; Tonia Ulsh, Mountz Jewelers; Joan and Stan Starnes; Jani and George Jones; Lissa and Marc Tyson; Robbie and Warren Lightfoot; Frances, Charlotte, and the Sloane Street Team, Gadbois Jewelry LLC; Elizabeth Brinkley; Zoe and Marcus Cassimus; Don and Debby Hughes • (Garden Fund) by Sue Ellen and Mike Lucas



Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150
for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017
6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.
Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes to
THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT,
2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

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

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

Park Place Fall Festival (Trunk or Treat)

Thursday, October 29
4:30-6:00 p.m. at Park Place

Ordination of Mary Ann McCarty

Thursday, October 29
6:00 p.m. in the Nave

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

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

Caregivers Support Luncheon

Friday, November 13
Noon at Cranmer House

Women's Christ in the Christmas Crunch

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

Children and Youth

Club 456

Sunday, October 18
4:00-6:00 p.m. at Tara Davis' home

5th/6th Grade Bible Study and Pizza

Sunday, October 25
6:00-7:30 p.m. at Ashley Essig's home

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