Pentecost

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Vol. 50, No. 37 | Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost | Week of October 25, 2026

News & Events

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. We will hold a reception for Mary Ann following the service. All Adventers are invited to attend the service and reception. *See page 2 for more information.*

Coat Drive Wraps Up this Sunday

Please bring new or gently used coats and jackets (especially women's and children's) this Sunday morning, October 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.

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day November 1

We will hold Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave, celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Lammermuir continuo organ. *See page 2 for "An Invitation to Evensong" by parishioner Margaret Pope.*



A Word from Canon Young

"I ain't afraid of no ghost." Cue the *Ghostbusters* theme music! This time of year is absolutely glorious and magical to me. The ritual of children and adults alike dressing up and collecting candy is among the most deeply Christian community-oriented activities in our modern culture. Showing up on neighbors and strangers doorsteps with a pumpkin bucket or a pillowcase and receiving candy is among my preferred images of grace. Unearned, undeserved, but simply delightful to the giver and receiver alike.

To some, however, the spooky aspects of Halloween can veer dark and even sinister. Ghosts and ghouls, goblins and gremlins can strike momentary fear into observers when done strategically. I remember being spooked by a grown man walking around in a Dracula costume in my own childhood. Those fangs still make me shudder sometimes, probably because it was at 1 a.m. and I had snuck out to meet friends as a 7th grader. The truth is, we are all to some degree haunted by something.

Whether it's a secret skeleton in your past, a shameful sin of omission or commission, or a regret that seems to cling to you like dryer static – we all can relate to the idea of haunting. It may be a deep grief over loss or a painful memory. Or perhaps reminders of opportunities squandered or dreams crushed. When fearful haunting arises, life can seem dark indeed. The *Ghostbusters* song asks: "If you're seein' things runnin' through your head, who you gon' call?" The chorus of voices shout, "Ghostbusters!" with the image of a squad of brave public servants rushing through the foggy dark night.

Who you gon' call? Another song rings into my ears in times of haunting. Our Advent Church ballad from the First Song of Isaiah – "Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord our God is my stronghold and my sure defense; and he will be my Savior!" Time and again, the haunting spirits may tempt us to despair or quake or feel hopeless. But the promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ meets us over and over. - Adam

"Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth." - Isaiah 54:4b

This Sunday:

October 25, 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: Mary Ann McCarty

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Preacher: Mary Ann McCarty

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?: Ruth and Boaz* – Dean Pinter

The Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Fellowship and Gathering* – Leslie Housman

What's the Big Deal About Babylon? (Chapter Room) – Wilson Hunter

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

Becoming Whole (Living Room) – *Poverty's Story and the Gospel's Song* – Adam Young and Lisa Yeager

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!

Mary Ann McCarty to Be Ordained as Priest October 29



We are delighted that Mary Ann McCarty *(right)* is taking the next step in ordained ministry. Bishop Richard Lawson will ordain Mary Ann to the Sacred Order of Priests on Thursday, October 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Advent. All Adventers are invited to attend the service.

Mary Ann joined the Advent staff in 2022, serving first as Girls Youth Director and then as Director of Youth Ministry. She was ordained to the diaconate in April of this year, and has since served as the Advent's Curate.

We will hold a reception for Mary Ann in Clingman Commons following the service. Please join us in praying for Mary Ann as she takes this next step in ministry.

Call for Vestry Nominee Suggestions

The Nominations Committee of the Vestry invites parishioners to suggest names for consideration for next year's Vestry class slate. Please complete a Nomination Suggestion Form if you know someone who would contribute to our parish's leadership. Forms can be submitted digitally on our website; visit AdventBirmingham.org/Nominations. Forms are also available at the Ushers' Stations on Sunday. Forms must be returned to Rachel DeSanto in the Dean's office by Friday, November 13.

It is recommended that you *not* notify the person that his/her name has been suggested.

The final slate of 20 candidates will be presented to the Vestry at the December meeting, and thereafter will be announced to the parish. Elections will take place during the annual Parish Meeting on January 24, 2027.

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).

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.

worship

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day

An Invitation to Evensong

If you have been at the Advent for any length of time and you are anything like me, you hear the first few words of an Evensong announcement and start to glaze over, too-familiar details going in one ear and out the other. Well, allow me to shake things up a bit and personally invite you to a restful evening of prayer, Scripture reading, and gorgeous choral music.

I have been a member of the Advent for my entire life but did not start attending Evensong until about a year ago when I realized that the service slotted in perfectly at the end of my workday. I could leave work at 5:00, make it downtown just in time for the service at 5:30, and be home by dinnertime. After that first service, I was hooked – the music was breathtaking and the atmosphere so peaceful. I was gifted a brief pause, a moment to breathe a little easier, as the busy workweek came to a close. Now the services are standing appointments in my calendar, a monthly priority.

Aside from the beautiful music, I was struck by the structure of the service itself. It does not include much congregational participation, which can feel strange to our well-trained liturgical muscles, but I would argue this offers a unique opportunity (or necessary challenge) for our minds to be still and simply receive the Good News through Scripture and sacred music. As an attendee, only three things are required of you (well, five, if you include the opening and closing hymns): confess your sin, profess your faith, and pray the Lord's Prayer. And if I may be so bold, these are the three most important components of our liturgy: the words that reorient our hearts and minds to who we are as sinners, who God is, and what he has done for us. Then, the choir takes it from there with "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).



Please join us for the next Evensong on Sunday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m., celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Lammermuir Continuo Organ. (Evensong services are typically held on Thursday evenings, November's service being the exception. A schedule of this year's services is available at AdventBirmingham.org/Music.)

- Margaret Pope

Lectionary

Sunday, October 25

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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

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.

Men's Ministry



Sporting Clays Event November 7

Men of any age are invited to shoot sporting clays at Pursell Farms in Sylacauga on Saturday morning, November 7, starting at 7:45 a.m. Whether you are a first-time shooter or a veteran, all are invited. Friends and co-workers are more than welcome.

For more information and to register, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Men. The registration deadline (November 1) is approaching – please register soon, as registration depends on space being available on the course.

Questions? Contact Adam Young or Gil Kracke (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com or Gil@CathedralAdvent.com).

Advent House: Intercessory prayer for healing 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.

making music

Advent Musicians

Lowana Wallace Releases New Song Online



This year, our Refectory service music leader Lowana Wallace *(right)* has been spending more time songwriting. She regularly writes with Kate Bluett, a poet and lyricist based in Dallas, Texas. Some of these newly co-written songs are shared as offertory anthems in Sunday worship. On October 23, Lowana releases a new single, "I Lift My Eyes," inspired by Psalm 121. Visit LowanaWallace.HearNow.com to hear it on your preferred streaming platform.

education

Documentary: "Beyond Utopia"

Film Presents Themes to Enrich Our Galatians Study

A pastor in South Korea has been creating a sort-of underground escape network for people fleeing political oppression in North Korea. The 2023 documentary *Beyond Utopia* has real-life footage of the last known defectors to attempt leaving the authoritarian state. It turns out that St. Paul's daring statement in Galatians 5:1 that "for freedom Christ has set us free" is the very real hope we are offered in the gospel. There is tremendous spiritual insight offered through discussing the themes of this film that illustrates and enriches our church-wide reading of Galatians.

Join Jason Wallace, Dean Pinter, and Adam Young as they lead a panel discussion at the home of John Hawlsey and Marne Wood on Sunday, November 1, at 7:00 p.m. Small group leaders and members would find this enriching to their Galatians studies this fall. There is no requirement to watch the film beforehand. RSVP to Adam at Adam@CathedralAdvent.com.

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frederick "Ricky" Wilkinson Bromberg: (Endowment Fund) by Sallie and Bill Pradat; Carol and Charles Hunn; Mr. and Mrs. Ingram D. Tynes; Bobby and Meg Byrd; Mimi and Fred Renneker; Elizabeth and Tom Broughton; Allison and Billy Pritchard; Henry Sharpe Lynn Jr; Kitty Lineberry; Martin and Anne Sumblin; Stan and Kaki Blanton; Felix Drennen; Margaret and Doug Martin; James Orville McLemore Jr.; Slade and Tierney Screven; Jeffrey and Jenny Beall; Kathy G. and Co., Inc.; Joann Ferguson Purdie; The Hackney Foundation; Ward and Martha Bailey; Frank and Mary Joyce Lynch; Wesley and Hal Lassen; Derry Bunting

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: Juliet Bellinger Gewin, daughter of Amanda and Phillip, on October 10; Josephine Nim Moore, daughter of Abi and Patrick, on October 11

Marriage: Sarah Lulich and Michael Winston Brudi, on October 10

Birth and Death Notices:
You can receive emails containing news of births and deaths in and close to the parish. To sign up for these emails, visit AdventBirmingham.org/Subscribe and click "Subscribe" under "Pastoral Care Notices."

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Jim Cochran: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Kate Kiefer and Kelley Washburn

In Thanksgiving for Gil Kracke: (General Programs) by Deborah and Marzette Fisher

In Thanksgiving for Charles Kennedy: (Endowment Fund) by Una Battles

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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

Coat Drive
Sunday, October 25
Clingman Commons

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

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 6
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave

Groups

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

Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday Luncheon
Wednesday, November 18
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

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

The Bible Talks About *That?*
Saturday, November 14
9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Advent
For 5th and 6th graders and parents

AA: Monday-Friday, Coe Conference Room, noon