Pentecost

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Vol. 50, No. 40 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost | Week of November 15, 2026

News & Events

Mary Ann McCarty Ordained as Priest



Mary Ann McCarty was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on October 29 at the Advent. A member of the Advent staff since 2022, Mary Ann was ordained to the diaconate in April of this year. She serves as the Advent's Curate. *See page 2.*

Intercessory Prayer Is Ongoing at Advent House

Prayer with trained intercessors is available through the Advent House Prayer Ministry. Advent House is located at 2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205. To schedule an appointment, contact Kathy Logue (Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com). *See page 2 for details.*

Scan an Ornament, Help a Child

There will be an Angel Tree with ornaments in Clingman Commons this Sunday, November 15. Pick an ornament off the tree and use the QR code to purchase *specific* gifts for *specific* children in the Kidz2Leaders program. *See page 3 for more information.*



A Word from Canon Gardner

One of the joys of parenting young children is reading to them before bed. Recently we sat down to read the parable of the "Treasure Hunt" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, which is from Matthew 13. This is the parable where the man sells all that he has in order to procure the hidden, buried treasure. I loved reading the words to my children (and myself) that we are God's treasure, and he has given everything in order to secure us as his treasure forever.

It got me thinking of another saying of Jesus from Matthew: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). This is about so much more than simply money and resources. It is about our deepest longings and how our lives and practices naturally gravitate around them.

I have mentioned before lyrics from one of my favorite bands, The Wonder Years. They are a rock/emo band from Pennsylvania who have touched the ears and hearts of many disgruntled millennials. And admittedly, the frontman Dan "Soupy" Campbell sings brutally honest lyrics about relationships, grief, loss, and searing criticism of organized religion. I love his voice and truly admire his honesty despite not sharing his atheism/agnosticism.

He has softened a bit over the years, and one of his recent songs, "Junebug," is about his youngest son. I listen to this song weekly, and I especially queue it up when my heart needs to be softened. In the song he describes his son being quite ill in the hospital after being born. This line crushes me beautifully when he says, "And I don't pray, so I know it's pathetic when they wheel you away, I get down on my knees." Even though he is not a believer, and he does not pray, there is something deep in his heart that wants to cry out to God about his treasure, his son.

Again, where is your treasure? Where is your heart? God wants to hear about it. And he cries out to you that you are his treasure. Jesus paid it all on the cross to keep you forever.

- Jay

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- Matthew 6:21

This Sunday:

November 15, 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: 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) – *Why Augustine Matters to History (and to the Advent) – Part II: Three Debates Still With Us* – Jason Wallace

Look to Christ (Chapter Room) – *I Will Not Leave You as Orphans* – Gil Kracke

Incarnational: How Amistad Mission Reflects God's Heart (Living Room) – Adam Young and Advent Friends

Bible 101 (Assembly Hall) – *Acts and Paul (Acts to Philemon)* – Dean Pinter and Will Fagan

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

Women's Ministry



Photo: Cup of Hope Coffee Shop is an extension of Portraits of Hope, training and employing Lovelady graduates.

Register for Christ in the Christmas Crunch

Invite a friend and join us for this year's "Crunch" on Thursday, December 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons. With beautiful music of the season provided by Carrie Teardo and Lowana Wallace, this year's event features readings and reflections given by Nina Botsford, Tara Davis, Charlotte Getz, Glynn Lassiter, Derrill McDavid, Ann Evans Nix, Louise Wright, and Mary Zahl.

New Ministry Market vendors, including The Lovelady Center, Darling Grey, Over the Moon, and our own Youth Ministry, join Portraits of Hope and bookstore favorites to help you take care of some of your holiday shopping while supporting the work of these organizations. We are thrilled once again to partner with Oak Tree Ministries in collecting gifts for their Christmas Village. See "Toy Drive in December to Benefit Christmas in the Village" under *Serving & Outreach* on page 3 for more information and a link to a wish list to help you choose a gift to bring, unwrapped, to the "Crunch." A delicious lunch will be served

Please register through your Realm account or at Advent Birmingham.org/Women to help us plan appropriately. Nursery is provided for children ages 5 and under.

Ageless Adventers

Next Third Wednesday Luncheon Is November 18

The Ageless Adventers will gather for the Third Wednesday luncheon on Wednesday, November 18, 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, November 13, to Robin Turner (205-226-3500, Robin@CathedralAdvent.com).

Mary Ann McCarty Ordained as Priest



Mary Ann McCarty was ordained by Bishop Richard Lawson to the Sacred Order of Priests on October 29 at the Advent. She 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. Please join us in thanking God for Mary Ann.

Photo above: Mary Ann with our clergy staff at her ordination: (front, l-r) Craig Smalley, Mary Ann McCarty, Jay Gardner; (rear, l-r) Tom Murray, Adam Young, Dean Pinter, and Will Fagan

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Come for Intercessory Prayer

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.
The works of his hands are faithful and just.
He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name! *- Psalm 111:1,7,9*



How awesome is our God! He has prepared a way for us to come to him. We may bring our prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and supplications to him through his Son Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer Intercessors at the Advent House welcome you to come for prayer, and as they pray on your behalf they will be listening to God and trusting in his faithfulness, his wisdom, his redemptive life-giving power, and his desire for good for you.

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

worship

Lectionary

Sunday, November 15

Psalm 90:1-12 • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 • Matthew 25:14-30

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

serving & outreach

Ministry Partner Kidz2Leaders

Gifts Needed for Hope4Christmas Party

The Advent is hosting Hope4Christmas, a party for families of Kidz2Leaders, our ministry partner which works with the children of incarcerated adults in the Birmingham area. On Saturday, December 12, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Refectory, we will gather for crafts, food, a program, and gift distribution. Volunteer sign up is at AdventBirmingham.org/Mission.

Gifts are needed! There will be an Angel Tree with ornaments in Clingman Commons this Sunday, November 15. Simply pick an ornament off the tree and use the QR code to purchase *specific* gifts for *specific* children and turn them in at the church office. The deadline is Sunday, December 6, as there will be a gift-wrapping party in Clingman on December 8. Contact Canon Young (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Glen Iris Elementary School

Preparing Christmas Food Bags for Glen Iris Students

The Advent is glad to partner with sister churches St. Mary's and St. Luke's to pack holiday food bags that go home with Glen Iris Elementary students during the Christmas holidays. Many of the school's students go without basic nutrition when school is out during the break. We need financial and material donations as well as physical in-person volunteers.

Please go to AdventBirmingham.org/Mission and use the link on that page to the Signup Genius so that we provide the correct supplies. You can purchase and bring the items to Canon Young or Anita Gray in the church office, or bring them for collection in Clingman Commons Sunday mornings, November 22 and November 29. You may also make a financial contribution to the Advent, marking it for Glen Iris. All items are due Wednesday, December 2. Then join other volunteers on Saturday, December 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at St. Mary's on the Highlands (1910 12th Avenue S, 35205) for packing the bags.

Oak Tree Ministries

Toy Drive in December to Benefit Christmas in the Village

We have the joy and opportunity to support the work of Oak Tree Ministries in Gate City by holding a toy drive the first two weeks of December. Christmas in the Village supplies new toys for parents and grandparents of children in Gate City to shop at 90-percent off retail price. The proceeds contribute to the summer ministry programming at Oak Tree. There will be a table in Clingman Commons on Sundays, December 6 and 13, to drop off toy donations. The Women's Ministry is also collecting toys for the Village at Christ in the Christmas Crunch on Thursday, December 3. There are also opportunities for volunteers to serve by pricing and setting up the store on Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to see a complete wish list, volunteer sign-up, and ways to donate treats to the cause.

Clergy Spotlight

Q&A with Will Fagan

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

Parish Life and Evangelism covers several areas of ministry, though I'm currently most involved in our 20s & 30s Ministry, which is a real joy. I love connecting with those who are visiting for the first time, along with those who are "returning" to the Advent after college or living elsewhere. It's great fun to explore ways for them to connect to parish life and to one another. Planning the 20s and 30s Class series, events, and plugging those folks into small groups has been a blast. I also work on several "teams" of great program staff at the Advent, including our communications team, Small Groups Ministry, and Family Ministry. I love working with these groups, along with our great clergy team and staff as a whole.

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

As with any vocational call, my call to ministry took different shapes. I probably felt something like a call to ministry when I was young, but it was really after college when I began to pray about it more seriously. It was clear God had a plan for me to pursue it, and so the best thing I knew to do was to dive right in. I was the chaplain for a college baseball team for several years while I was in seminary and began working at the Advent during that time, having felt led to ordained ministry. The parishioners and clergy of the Advent supported us greatly during that time of discernment, and Elizabeth and I are overjoyed and grateful for the Advent's support and to serve here.

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

Christianity is entirely for your benefit. If you were the only person in the world, Jesus would have still come into this world and died for you. He loves you personally and desires that you might find freedom in his life, death, resurrection, and love for you! God sees you clothed in the righteousness of Christ – that's all he sees.

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

I don't think I'm full of surprises. Elizabeth and I have three wonderful daughters that we play with endlessly. I love playing golf, running, reading widely, and spending time with friends and family.



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.

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:

Baptisms: Jackson Ransom Reeves, son of Kristina and Jackson; Alice Katherine Reeves, daughter of Kristina and Jackson; Addison Celia Burke, daughter of Paige and Michael; Stella June Pendley, daughter of Emily and Robert; Emmeline Hill Hagood, daughter of Claire and Jeff; Kenneth Ross Blanksenship, son of Din and Ross – all on November 1

Death: Mildred Deaver Huey, on April 22

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frederick "Ricky" Wilkinson Bromberg: (Endowment Fund) by Casey and Dennis Pash; Nancy and Bill Skinner; Mr. and Mrs. Neal Hutchinson; N.J. and David Edge; Alabama Retail Association/Alabama Retail Group, Jennifer Henderson; John Fitzgibbon; Sandra Killion; Your Partners at David Yurman, Rebecca Jarman • (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Maibeth Porter and Robert Eckinger

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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

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

Toy Drive for Oak Tree Ministries
Sundays, December 6 and 13
Clingman Commons

Hope4Christmas Party for Kidz2Leaders
Saturday, December 12
10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Refectory

A Ceremony of Carols
Thursday, December 17
5:30 p.m. in the Nave

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 17
6:00 p.m. in the Nave

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20
9:00 a.m. service in the Nave

Groups

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

Caregivers Support Luncheon
Friday, December 11
Noon at Cranmer House

Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday Luncheon
Wednesday, December 16
Noon at Cranmer House

Children and Youth

Youth Park Place Partners
Wednesday, December 2
4:00-5:00 p.m. at Park Place

Youth Dinner and Devotional (Regressive Dinner)
Sunday, December 6
6:00-8:00 p.m.

AA: Monday-Friday, Coe Conference Room, noon