

Adventurer

Advent

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Week of December 11, 2011



News & Events



Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday the Hornsby family, Virginia and John, Stanford (12th grade) and Mary Shelton (10th grade), will light the third candle on our parish Advent wreath immediately before the 9:00 a.m. service.

Second Graders to Receive Bibles

Second graders will sit together with parents and teachers this Sunday at the 9:00 service, where they will receive a blessing from the Dean before receiving Bibles later in Chapel. See page 3 for more information.

Giving Gifts of Grace

Honor friends and family this Christmas by supporting students in Haiti, orphans in Bolivia, and homeless families in Birmingham. Visit www.AdventBirmingham.org to view the Gifts of Grace catalog and download an order form. For a hard copy, contact Carol Williams (carol@cathedraladvent.com, 443-8550).



A Word from Canon Gibbes

A while back, I preached a sermon in which I attempted to articulate our human tendency to choose short-term satisfaction over long-term benefit. This is called procrastination: I put off doing what I need to be doing and choose instead some less important thing that I'd rather be doing. That I'm writing this "Word" after the Adventurer deadline has come and gone is, I'm sure, the reason I'm recalling that sermon today!

Yet this time I have been mulling over procrastination in the face of the Christmas holiday rush. I'm looking at my upcoming calendar and all the (wonderful!) social functions and school activities (and therefore babysitters), my list of presents to purchase (zero purchased to date), people to visit, fruit cakes to bake, thank-you notes, and on and on... oh, and Jesus. Isn't He the "reason for the season?"

I don't know about you, but I find it so easy, in the midst of the Holiday Frenzy, to

miss the real significance of Christmas. It is so easy to be ruled by the to-do list, rather than to rest in the anticipation of the coming Christ, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger; it is so easy to choose to give our energy and focus to the short-term urgency of the holidays rather than to the long-term soul-level benefit of Christmas.

And yet - more amazing than the consistency of our inconsistent focus during the holidays, more amazing even than the fact that God was born in a manger, what really amazes me is that God did not descend from heaven to congratulate the pious for their self-discipline and proper focus. In fact, He came as He did *precisely* for you and me, for the harried and hurried, to save us from the spiritual and eternal consequences our own short-sighted, short-term inclinations. The baby wrapped in swaddling clothes came to one day wrap Himself in our sin, take it straight to hell, and leave it there so that we might live and rest in His eternal pleasure. Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas!

- Joe

Because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord...

- from the Collect for Advent III

This Sunday:

December 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

Services:

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Canon Smalley will preach at all morning services.

5:00 p.m. Evening Service

Preacher: Canon Gibbes

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean's Class (Refectory) - *What Christmas Means: "I Deserve It!"* (*Gift-Giving in an Age of Impossibility*) - Canon Pearson

Anticipating Christ: The Advent of Proclamation (Day School Library) - Gil Kracke

Trinity Bible Study - An Open Study of Luke/Acts (Diocesan Conference Room) - *Luke's Christmas Story: Advent 3 - The Heavenly Host Sing Out* - Jon Harbuck and Steve Tilghman

Genesis 3 and Grace-Driven Ministry (Assembly Hall) - Cameron Cole

Burn Down the Trailer Park: Nanobots in the Blood, YouTube on the Cross, and the Thirty-Nine Articles in 140 Characters or Fewer (Chapter Room) - *Part 4 of 5* - Jack Sharman

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes are offered for 3-years and older. See Sunday's service leaflet for details. Nurseries are open 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Lectionary:

Psalms 126

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

St. John 1:6-8, 19-28

The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on WERC 960 AM, 105.5 FM, and www.WERCFM.com.

Sermon texts and audio recordings are available at www.AdventBirmingham.org.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



servicing & outreach

EYC

Register for Jr. High In-Town Mission Weekend

Registration is open for the 7th and 8th grade In-Town Mission Weekend, set for February 17-19, 2012. We'll partner with St. Luke's and Christ Episcopal Church again for a weekend jam-packed with service work in the Birmingham area and great teaching and worship, plus lots of fun (laser tag, anyone?). For more information and to register, visit www.AdventBirmingham.org.

Poinsettia Delivery

A Bit of Christmas Cheer for Our Homebound

We need volunteers to deliver poinsettias to our homebound parishioners following the Christmas Day service, to be held Sunday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Robin Hinkle at 937-0565.

Local Outreach

Food Drive Set for December 18

Advent will collect items for Grace Food Pantry on Sunday, December 18, in Clingman Commons. Items that are especially needed include cooking oil, mac & cheese, rice, pasta, soup, peanut butter, tuna, and Vienna sausages.



Coat Drive to be Held in January

The annual Coat Drive will be Sunday, January 22, in Clingman Commons. We'll collect coats for homeless and low-income men, women, and children in Birmingham.



spiritual growth & fellowship

College-Age Adventers

Christmas Dinner Set for December 19

All college-age Adventers (those who graduated high school between '08 and '11) are invited to Madaline and Elizabeth Hargrove's house (124 Spring Street) on Monday, December 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, and a word from Canon Pearson. We'll provide dinner - let us know if you can bring a snack or dessert to share. Contact Elisabeth Elliott (elliott@cathedradaladvent.com, 443-8563) or Cameron Cole (cameron@cathedradaladvent.com, 226-3545).

Fellowship Groups

The Advent 20-Somethings group will have its annual Christmas Party at the Deanery (3538 Lenox Road) on Sunday, December 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m. There will be food, fellowship, and a short message from the Dean. Please join us to celebrate the holidays with your fellow 20-somethings of the Advent! For more information, please contact Emily Jones (427-1522, ejones@capstone-dev.com).

Guild Meeting

St. Martha's Guild will meet Monday, December 12, 11:00 a.m. at the home of Frances Blount, 50 Cross Creek Drive West.

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 226-3500.

Lenten Lunches

Stocking Stuffers and Sponsorships Available



Photo: 2012 Lenten Lunch chairs (l-r) - Jane Sharp, Kelly Hargrove, Jennifer Lyles, Tanya Cooper

Preparations are well underway for the Advent's 2012 Lenten Preaching and Lunches series, and we need your help. Are you looking for the perfect stocking stuffers or a unique way to honor someone this Christmas season? The Lenten Lunch chairs will be in Clingman Commons on Sunday, December 11, and Sunday, December 18. Please consider purchasing Lenten Lunch cards for stocking stuffers or honoring someone with a Lenten Lunch sponsorship. These are gifts that will definitely keep on giving. Want to know more about sponsorship opportunities? Please contact Kelly Hargrove (kellyphargrove@charter.net, 871-6048).

Marriage Retreat

Register at Our Website

Registration continues for the Advent's upcoming marriage retreat, January 20-22 at The Hotel at Auburn University. Trey Hill, a psychologist at Covenant Counseling who combines faithfulness, humor, and insight, will be our leader for the weekend. Details and registration are all online at www.AdventBirmingham.org. Questions? Contact Gil Kracke (gil@cathedradaladvent.com, 226-3516).

By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - not because of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9



making music

The Cathedral Choir

Choir to Offer Caroling at Episcopal Place and St. Martin's

The Cathedral Choir will bring its ministry of song through caroling to residents of Episcopal Place and St. Martin's this year. The choir will visit Episcopal Place on Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m., and St. Martin's on Sunday, December 18, at 1:30 p.m., moving from the apartments to assisted living and nursing. Please inform any of your friends in these places to look for this Christmas cheer.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent Small Groups

Quote of the Week

Even though I grew up going to the Advent, I was hesitant to join a small group at first. But I had been away and didn't feel that I knew many people my age, so I decided to give it a try. The group was immediately inviting and exactly what I needed to feel plugged into the Advent again.

- Forsyth Tynes



To find out more about Advent Small Groups, please contact Marilyn Dixon (423-9689, marilyn@cathedraladvent.com) or Barry McRae (602-1061).

Midday Musical Menu

Carver High School Choir to Offer Christmas Program

The G. W. Carver Concert Choir will perform a Midday Musical Menu concert entitled *A Christmas Celebration* on Friday, December 16, 12:30 p.m. in the Nave. Conducted by Bobby Stringer, the choir is comprised of students attending George Washington Carver High School in Birmingham. You are warmly invited to this free, 30-minute concert.

Advent Radio Broadcast Has New Home

The long-running broadcast of the Advent's 9:00 a.m. service is now carried by WERC on FM 105.5 and AM 960. Streaming audio of the service is available through the website www.WERCFM.com.



WERC "News Radio" is a popular station in Birmingham, with excellent facilities, equipment, and staff. We are very pleased to have this opportunity to extend the reach of our Sunday morning preaching and worship.

Please tell everyone you know - if you can't be here in person on Sunday morning, listen on WERC!



education

Bibles for Children

Do You Have a 2nd Grader?

If you do, then please plan to attend the 9:00 service this Sunday, December 11. Dean Limehouse will bless the 2nd grade children and their parents during the service. Canon Gibbes will then present Bibles to the children during their Chapel service. In January, they will begin learning how to use their Bibles. This is a very exciting time for our 2nd graders!

Parents, please plan to arrive in the Nave at 8:40 a.m. The children will be seated together with you and their teachers (Fred Elliott, Valerie and Stuart Roberts, and Lydia Somerville) in the first three pews. Please contact Elizabeth Wilson (226-3547, elizabeth@cathedraladvent.com) with questions or for more information.



Book Group

The Advent Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 18, 2012, to discuss Albert Camus' *The Plague* (available through the Book Store). New participants are always welcome. Call John Adams at 321-1236 for details.



book store

Christmas Opened Up -

Recommended by Our Children's Ministry

This is a great Family Bible Discovery Pack for Christmas, containing an Advent calendar and booklet. The booklet is designed to help families have daily Bible times during Advent, each lasting about five minutes. Every day you open a new calendar window to a picture and Bible verse - then use the booklet that offers a simple reading or activity to lead into the Bible passage - followed by a few questions and a suggestion for prayer. This will draw families together to discover the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel and to unlock the secret message about Christmas.



Regular store hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Contact us: 323-2959, ebinfo@episcobooks.com. Visit us at any hour: www.episcobooks.com.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 11 Regular worship schedule Kirkin O' the Tartan - 11 a.m. service	12 Allen Ross Bible Study - Advent Park - 7 a.m.	13 Diocesan Ordination Service - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	14 Holy Communion - Chapel - 12:05 p.m.	15 "Sunrise Sinners" Bible Study - Refectory - 7 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Undercroft - 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Conf. Rm. - noon	16 Women's Bible Study - Latimer House - 9:15 a.m. Midday Musical Menu - Nave - 12:30 p.m.	17
Dec 18 Regular worship schedule Fifth Grade Pageant - 9 a.m. service Outreach Food Drive - Clingman	19 Allen Ross Bible Study - 7 a.m. Seniors' Sacking Lunches - Clingman - 10 a.m. College-age Christmas Dinner - 124 Spring St. - 6 p.m.	20	21 Holy Communion - Chapel - 12:05 p.m.	22 "Sunrise Sinners" Bible Study - Refectory - 7 a.m.	23 Church Office closes at noon	24 Christmas Eve Service schedule below

Every Sunday: Breakfast - Refectory, 8:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday: AA - Coe Conference Room, noon

coming up:

•Christmas Eve: Saturday December 24 - Children's Service at 3:30 p.m.; Festal Holy Eucharist at 5:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m., The Music of Christmas at 10:25 p.m.

- Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25 - Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.
- Christmas Holiday (Observed): Monday, December 26 - Church Office and Book Store closed

transitions:

Baptisms: Arthur Tilghman, son of Chris and Samantha, on November 23; Kate Bright, daughter of David and Laura, on November 26

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Elizabeth (Liz) Petesch Vogtle: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Weatherly, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold W. Umbach, III; Mr. and Mrs. Borden H. Burr, II; Paul and Marsha Adair; Elizabeth B. Elliott; Ann Petesch Hazzard

Virginia Reeves Brown: (Advent House) by Nan Broughton

Carol Long Merrill: (Music Discretionary Fund) by H. Mack Jolly; The Cathedral Choir

Boots and Adrian Shook, Doris Shook Ford, and Jason Ford: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Sandra and Paul Ash

In Thanksgiving for Barry McRae: (Discretionary Funds) by Troy and Ann Haas

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Bishop of Alabama
The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop Suffragan of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. Frank F. Limehouse, III, Dean of the Cathedral
The Rev. Canon Joseph P. Warren, Director of Pastoral Care & Counseling
The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Missioner & Day School Chaplain

The Rev. Canon Joseph A. Gibbes, Canon for Christian Education

The Rev. Canon Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism

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