

# Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 26

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost and Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Weeks of July 26/August 2, 2020



## News & Events

### An Update on Our In-Person Worship

Unfortunately we had to cancel our scheduled plans to worship together in person outdoors on July 12, in our porte cochere lot, because of the surge in the prevalence of Covid-19 in Jefferson County. As of the deadline for this issue of the *Adventurer*, we are not certain about when we will be able to resume our plans to hold services in person. Please watch our website ([AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship)), social media pages, and the next *Adventurer* for further updates.

We continue to offer worship via streaming video on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, Twitter, or YouTube to access our stream.

### Now More Than Ever ... Small Groups

With the pandemic restricting our ability to gather together, small groups are, now more than ever, many people's primary contact with the church. We are working on forming new groups this summer that we hope will begin this fall. Please contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562) if you are interested in joining one. See page 3 for *Ashleigh and Brandon Essig's* testimonial about their small-group experience.



## A Word from Michael Weeks

Something I have been wrestling with these past few months is the sovereignty of God and the problem that evil poses to God's absolute rule. Never in my lifetime have I experienced so much turmoil in the world and felt more than ever that evil is winning. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, month after month, to ravage our world, subjecting our friends and families to its cruel fate, and as racial tensions bubble to the surface, flooding our news feeds, it feels like God has lost control of this world. We are tempted to cry out to God, "What are you doing?"

In these times, I am reminded by one of my favorite memory verses (Philippians 2:5-11) that Jesus' path did not finish at the cross, but that he was raised from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God, reigning as king of the world. He is ruling and reigning right now! He is in control. We do not have to worry about tomorrow, or the trajectory of this world, for we know

that God is the author of our history. We know that nothing has slipped passed him.

But we do not yet fully experience the kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven." We are still waiting for God's kingdom to be consummated and fully revealed, waiting for the "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). So, we constantly pray to God, pleading with him to make his rule a reality in this world and begging for Jesus to return to finally make everything right!

However, as we live in the now but not yet reality of God's kingdom, we also live in the tension that though we long for Jesus' return, we should not rush it. This is because God's patience means salvation (2 Peter 3:15). His patience provides an opportunity to proclaim the freeing power of the gospel, and to make disciples wherever God has placed us. "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

- Michael

**Therefore God has highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.**

- Philippians 2:9

## The Next Two Sundays:

July 26 and August 2, 2020

Please join us for worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Canon Smalley will preach on July 26, and Michael Weeks will preach on August 2. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, Twitter, or YouTube to access our stream. To download a service bulletin, go to [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship). As of the deadline for this issue of the *Adventurer*, we are not certain about when we will be able to resume our plans to hold services in person. Please watch our website ([AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship)), social media pages, and the next *Adventurer* for further updates.

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

The Dean's Class will be available via streaming video the next two Sundays. Mark Gignilliat will teach on July 26, and Dean Pearson will teach on August 2. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live).

Recordings of past classes are available on our website at [AdventBirmingham.org/Audio](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Audio).

### Children's & Youth Education:

Children's Sunday School video lessons are available each week at [AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org) under the "Worship" tab. Junior and Senior High youth gather every Sunday via Zoom for Christian education at 10:30 a.m. Contact Tucker ([Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com)) or Rebecca ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)) for the Zoom links.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

## Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting Via Zoom August 3

All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering to take place via the Zoom video app on Monday, August 3, at 7:15 p.m. Typically held the first Monday of each month, this hour-long meeting is set aside to pray for the Advent. As Dean Pearson wrote about these gatherings, "If we are not on our knees, we are trying to do ministry in our own strength. We know that apart from the Lord Jesus we can do nothing."

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News) to get the Zoom link, and contact Margaret Pope ([Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information. We hope you can join us.

## Send Us Your Contact Updates

We're getting ready to update our printed Church Directory, and we'd love to keep you connected to our community. If you have changed your phone number(s) or address and haven't let us know, please contact Margaret Pope with the updated information ([Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3510). Please indicate which phone number you would like to have listed as your primary number, or if you do not want a phone number listed in the directory at all.

An online directory is available to parishioners through our website, [AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org). Click on "Directory" at the bottom of the home page and follow the prompts to register. While we need your primary phone for our print directory, we can list separate home, cell, and work numbers for everyone online.

## Elizabeth Wilson Concluding Term as Children's Ministry Director

With sadness we report that July 31 will be Elizabeth Wilson's final day as the Director of Children's Ministries at the Advent. Elizabeth (*right*) has faithfully led a remarkable gospel-centered, Bible-based ministry to our children for more than a decade. Heaven only knows the number of children who have come to faith in Christ through her ministry. We know that hundreds and hundreds of young people have experienced the love of Christ through her kind, warm spirit. Please join us in thanking God for his glorious work in Elizabeth's ministry.



## LaVonda Keel to Retire

At the end of July, LaVonda Keel will retire from her position as the "jack of all trades" in Christian Education. Since January 2011, LaVonda (*right*) has served the various ministries of Christian Education, including nursery, children, youth, family, and others, with financial administration and general support. She has also been a valuable member of our children's ministry team on Sunday mornings. In a sense, she's been the "Team Mom" for Christian Education. LaVonda has been instrumental in doing anything and everything to support these ministries of our church. Please join us in giving God thanks for LaVonda's nine years of valuable service and ministry.



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Youth Ministry

#### Dinner and Bible Study Gatherings Wrap Up July 29 and 30

All rising 10th through graduated 12th graders are invited to our last Senior High dinner and Bible study of the summer on Wednesday, July 29, 5:30 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). We meet with the garage door open at a social distance; bring your own dinner and utensils. Contact Rebecca Lankford ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)) for details.

All rising 7th through 9th graders are invited to our last Junior High dinner and Bible study of the season on Thursday, July 30, 6:00 p.m. at the Woods' house (3041 Salisbury Road, 35213). Please bring your own dinner and utensils, as we meet outside at a social distance. Email Tucker Fleming ([Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.

## Advent House Prayer Ministry



### Intercessory Prayer Available at the Advent House

Anyone desiring to seek God in prayer may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. We are offering prayer sessions in the garden at the Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205) or via the Zoom video app. Please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, [Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com)) to schedule a prayer appointment or for more information.

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

### Advent Small Groups

A Refuge to Connect with Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ



Above: The Essig Family (l-r) – Brooks, Gray, Brandon, Bonnie, and Ashleigh

We consider our Advent small group to be one of the most profound blessings in our life. When we relocated to Birmingham from Montgomery a couple of years ago, we undertook a prayerful search for a church home looking for three things: 1) a gospel-centered church, 2) a children's ministry to help our children grow in their faith, and 3) a way to connect with people our age to bolster our walk with Christ. At the Advent, we found a church home that met these needs. As we've settled into Birmingham and faced the challenges of parenting and living out our faith, our small group has been a solid foundation of support and encouragement. Our weekly small group meeting is a refuge for us to connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ in prayer, fellowship, and inspiration as we carry out life's burdens. In a short time, our small group members have become our closest friends, and we cannot imagine our faith lives without them.

- Ashleigh and Brandon Essig

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If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?  
- Romans 8:31b-32

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
- Romans 8:37-39

## Welcome!

Please welcome those who have joined the Advent during the last several months. We are grateful to have them as members of our parish family: Helen Owens and Mabry and Michele Smith.

If you are interested in joining the Advent or finding out more, please contact Fontaine Pope (443-8562, [Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com)).



## worship

### Lectionary

*Sunday, July 26:* Psalm 105:1-11 or Psalm 128 or  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Genesis 29:15-28 or 1 Kings 3:5-12  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*Sunday, August 2:* Psalm 17:1-7, 16 or Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22  
Genesis 32:22-31 or Isaiah 55:1-5  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Richard L. Smalley:** (Pastoral Care) by Sandra Davis; Tracey Anderson; Taylor and Lydia Pursell • (Endowment Fund) by DeBardeleben Foundation, Inc.; Carla and Bob Reich

**William "Brother" Shelton Pritchard, Jr.:** (Endowment Fund) by Burgin and Hillary Kent; Benny and Lynn LaRussa; DeBardeleben Foundation, Inc.; Carla and Bob Reich; Cameron and Derrill Crowe; Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Naftel; Lee and Gray Thuston; Tanya and Skip Cooper; Dana and Tony Davis; Rob and Nancy Burton; Ann and Russ Chambliss

**Barbara Anne Schroeder Oliver:** (Mission and Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez • (Endowment Fund) by Mary and Mike Tibbets; Harlan and Alice Prater

**Martha Praytor Lawrence:** (Altar Guild) by Bill, Frank, Greg, Rebecca, and John Ferrell; Regions Bank

**Frank H. Bromberg, Jr.:** (Endowment Fund) by Tanya and Skip Cooper

**Murray Berry Johnston:** (Mission and Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Jones

**Johnnie Brown Richey:** (Mission and Outreach) by Anita Gray

**Joan Johnston Thomas:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Nancy and Ricky Bromberg • (Endowment Fund) by Nancy Poynor; Mary B. Weatherly; Karen and Doug Eddleman; Dorothy and Edwin Shelton; Sadie Jackson; Anne Lanier Suttle

**In Thanksgiving for the Rev. Canon Craig Smalley and Robin Turner:** (Altar Guild) by Debbie and Tom Tiffin

## diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama  
 The Rt. Rev. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop Coadjutor of Alabama

## advent staff

The Very Rev. Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Dean and Rector  
 The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Pastor and Day School Chaplain

The Rev. Canon Matthew C. Schneider, Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism

The Rev. Canon Zac Hicks, Canon for Liturgy and Worship

The Rev. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

## transitions:

**Birth:** Elizabeth "Betty" Anne Charlson, daughter of Jake and Hamilton, on July 1

**Marriages:** Mary Margaret Slaton Brown and Andrew Marks Curtis, on June 20; Emily Fallon Wilson and James Fraser Humphreys, IV, on June 27; Sarah Ellen Boyd and Steve Jose Radtke, on July 11

**Death:** Suzanne "Sue" Keller Pierce, on June 21

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Susie Judge:** (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Nicole Judge and Scott Goodwin

**Carol Sanders Williams:** (Mission and Outreach) by Anita Gray; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez; Rufus and Beth Elliott

**Mike Murphy:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Coffee and Margie Colvin

**In Honor of the Ministry of Elizabeth Wilson:** (Endowment Fund) by Katie and Thomas Nelson



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 26 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow.	27	28	29 Sr. High Dinner/ Bible Study - Cranmer House - 5:30 p.m.	30 Jr. High Dinner/ Bible Study - 3041 Salisbury Road - 6:00 p.m.	31	Aug 1
Aug 2 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow.	3 Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting on Zoom - 7:15 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8

**A Note on Financial Support:** Your financial support makes gospel ministry possible. Church staff continue to process mailed checks, and information about digital giving options may be found at [AdventBirmingham.org/Give](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Give).