

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



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Tenth Sunday After Pentecost and Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Weeks of August 9/16, 2020



News & Events

An Update on Our In-Person Worship

As of the time this issue of the *Adventurer* went to press, we still do not know when we will be gathering again for in-person worship. Please continue to watch our website, social media pages, and the next *Adventurer* for updates, as we will pass along information as soon as we can. *Philippians 1:2-6*

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



A Different VBS this Year

Due to Covid-19, our Vacation Bible School was a little different this year, but that didn't keep us from our *Rocky Railway* adventure, where Jesus' power pulls us through! See page 3 for more on VBS 2020.



A Word from Canon Schneider

There may be no safer and easier place to be a Christian than the American South. It's probably the region of the world with the highest per-capita concentration of church-goers or people who would at least identify culturally as Christian. Being Christian is so common-place here that "where do you go to church?" is an everyday question that doesn't seem to offend even the most secular Southerners.

There are certainly many things to be grateful for with Christianity being in the mainstream of Southern society. But this societal norm also leads to problems, namely that we tend to forget that we are in the midst of a cosmic war. The battles have been going on for so long and in such far-flung places, that we're numb – numb to a crucial part of our identity as the people of God that includes having a warfare mentality. It's easy to be a Christian and complacent in the South when there is very little overt persecution, certainly not much that amounts to actual harm.

Our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world like the Middle East, Central Asia, Northern Africa, and East Asia know they're at war. They're in the frontline trenches. As a matter of fact, many of them used to fight for the enemy, but they've recently changed their affiliation to the Kingdom of Light. Now the prince of darkness is making life ever so painful for them. Yet the persecution they face often strengthens their faith instead of weakening it.

Friends, we might not be on the frontlines where the fighting is most intense, but Satan and his troops are still alive and active here and now. Christ has already won the war and will one day end the war completely, but battles rage on in this life until the day of our Lord's return. Make no mistake that every time you pray, or try to share your faith, or allow the gospel to inform your decisions, you are in the midst of battle and there are forces trying to undo it all. No matter where you are, never forget we are in a war, but remember whose side you are on.

- Matt

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. - 1 Thessalonians 5:8

The Next Two Sundays:

August 9 and 16, 2020

Please join us for worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Dean Pearson will preach on August 9, and Mark Gignilliat will preach on August 16. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, Twitter, or YouTube to access our stream. To download a service bulletin, go to AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. As of the time this issue of the *Adventurer* went to press, 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), 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. Dean Pearson will teach on August 9 and 16. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live.

Recordings of past classes are available on our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

Children's & Youth Education:

Children's Sunday School video lessons are available each week at 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) or Rebecca (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for the Zoom links.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent Small Groups

Invaluable Relationships Growing from Intimate Fellowship



Above: The Thames Family (l-r) – Parker, Britt, Hank, Amanda, and Britton

We appreciate our small group now more than ever. With the recent life changes over the last couple of months, we have all probably felt isolated and distant from those we love. When we were forced to stop our weekly small group meetings, it really showed us how important this fellowship is to us individually and as a couple. The weekly meeting in the comfort of a living room was a dedicated time to study God's word, pray, and connect with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Being unable to meet in person has been difficult, and it shows how much we need it. We need our lives saturated in the word and prayer, we need encouragement from our Christian friends, and we need people that we can be open and honest with about life's hardships and struggles. This type of relationship is invaluable, and God has made us for this kind of intimate fellowship. We long for the time that we can resume these in-person meetings and continue growing in Christ together.

- Amanda and Britt Thames

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, 205-443-8562) if you are interested in joining one.

Youth Ministry

Welcome to Jr. High Pool Day August 16

In lieu of a lake retreat for the rising 7th graders, we'll be hosting a cookout at the Spotswood's house (2741 Abingdon Road, 35243) from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. We'll have a big, cookout-style meal; play some kickball, spikeball, and other games; and get to know each other better going into this year! Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) to sign up.

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, 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. 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.

Women's Ministry

Sign Up to Receive Our Emails

As the Women of the Advent, we hope to stay connected with you through multiple means, especially during this time of social distancing. You may not know that we have a specific email distribution list for the women of the church. If you have not been receiving our newsletters and special reflections, please visit AdventBirmingham.org/News for the link to sign up. For more information, contact Carolyn Lankford (Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511).

Youth Ministry

Welcome To High School "Walking Retreat" August 7

Traditionally, we have a Welcome to High School Retreat to mark a rising 9th-grade student's transition into Senior High Youth Group. Historically, a good number of students who have not been involved with the youth group in junior high give this retreat a shot and become very active throughout high school.

While an overnight retreat is obviously not an option right now, we have a fun, creative, and safe event planned. We will have our Welcome to High School "Walking Retreat" on Friday, August 7, from 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. On this retreat, we will walk to various locations in the Crestline/Mountain Brook area. More information to come, of course. (We will stay outside and ask students to keep a safe distance to promote Covid-19 safety.)

We will provide lunch and dinner. Cost is \$20 to attend.

More importantly, your child will have the opportunity to get to know their new "families" and "family leaders." These "families" exist to build community in our youth group. Your child will be put into a "family" with a boy and girl "family leader" in 11th or 12th grade.

To register for this event, please contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).

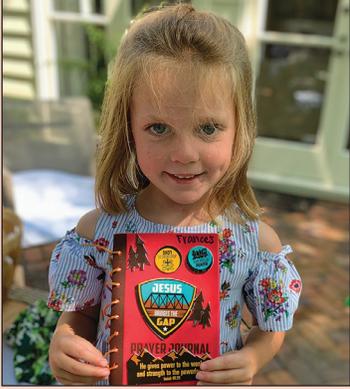
Pastoral Notice: If you are going into the hospital, have need of prayer or counsel, or have a family member unable to attend church, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 205-226-3500.

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



education

Vacation Bible School 2020



Backyard Bible Camp: A Different Style VBS Brings Learning and Fun

Due to Covid-19, our VBS looked a little different this year, but it didn't stop us from embarking on our *Rocky Railway* adventure where Jesus' power pulls us through! Since we were not able to meet on campus or off-site as a large group this summer, we were excited to offer Backyard Bible Camp kits to host three days of fun with neighbors, friends and family, July 20-22. We had 20 amazing hosts and 100 children participate! On Monday, we learned that Jesus' power helps us do hard things as we heard the story of Ananias helping Saul (Acts 9:1-19). Tuesday we learned that Jesus' power gives us hope through the story of Paul encouraging others in a storm (Acts 27). Finally, on Wednesday, we learned that Jesus' power lets us live forever through the amazing story of Jesus' death and resurrection (Matthew 26:17-28:10). We are so grateful to our host families and all the children who were able to participate in Backyard Bible Camp!



Be the Bridge

Organization Offering Course on Racial Bridge Building

Be the Bridge, an organization that works to bring awareness to racial injustice, is offering a class entitled *BTB 101: An Education Program for White People*. The class will meet via Zoom on Thursday evenings, August 6, 13, 20, and 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Classes will be recorded, however, and you will be able to watch at your convenience.

The course is designed for white people who want to learn more about how to be a racial bridge builder in the church and in the world. Cost is \$25 for the instruction and \$10 for the guide. Contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com) for registration information.



worship

Lectionary

Sunday, August 9: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b or Psalm 85:8-13
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 or 1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16: Psalm 133 or Psalm 67
Genesis 45:1-15 or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Joan Johnston Thomas: (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Ehney Camp, III: Shelley and Jerry Clark; Walter and Millymac Shackelford • (Pastoral Care) by Lella Bromberg; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Cushman • (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson
William "Brother" Pritchard, Jr.: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Ginny and Richard Anthony
Richard L. Smalley: (Pastoral Care) by Dan and Dorothy Lyles • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Deenie M. Culver; Randy and Rosemary Ham
Johnnie Richey: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Deenie M. Culver • (Endowment Fund) by Marilee and Robert Mallory; Madeline Harris
In Memory and Honor of My Parents, Kelly and Sophie: (Canon Hicks' Discretionary Fund) by Kelly Seibels

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: Mary Reid Griffin, daughter of Joe and Alice, on July 6

Baptism: John Wilder Curtis, son of Ellis and Catherine Anne, on July 17

Marriage: Robert Bruce Anderson and Alison Claire Webster, on July 11

Death: Sandra Keen Bates, on July 24

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Robert MacElvain: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Sue Ellen and Mike Lucas

Dan Trawick: (Garden Fund) by Amy Baddour • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Leslie Moody

Carol Sanders Williams: (Mission and Outreach) by Dan and Dorothy Lyles

Martha Praytor Lawrence: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Kate Kiefer

In Thanksgiving for Craig and Paula Smalley: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Randy and Rosemary Ham



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 9 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow.	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug 16 Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m. Dean's Class will follow. Welcome to Jr. High Pool Day - 2741 Abingdon Road - 3:00 p.m.	17	18	19	20	21	22

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) to schedule a prayer appointment or for more information.

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.