

# Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 29

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of August 30, 2020



## News & Events

### Two Outdoor Services at Church Starting this Sunday Morning

Starting this Sunday, August 30, we will have two outdoor services, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m., each week in our porte cochere parking lot on the corner of Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard and Sixth Avenue North. (The streaming service, which is recorded on Thursdays, will continue to air at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.) You will need to sign up before coming so we can make sure that we keep numbers at a safe level. Starting each Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., you can sign up for the following Sunday at [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship). The services will be our familiar Morning Prayer service, similar to what we have been streaming, lasting 45 minutes.

Everyone who comes will need to bring their own chairs, masks, water or coffee, and to help with appropriate social distancing. Please dress comfortably.

Each service will have its own 3K through 3rd grade Sunday School. These classes have a separate registration process from that of the services. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship) for Sunday School sign-up information.



## A Word from the Dean

Has God ever said “no” to one of your prayers? It is not an easy response to receive. Initially we may think that God is just not listening, because we must certainly know what is best.

But given time we join Garth Brooks, seeing God’s “no” working itself out, sometimes even being grateful that he did not say “yes.”

I have always served “successful” churches, meaning I have rarely had to experience a scarcity of resources for ministry. This is a great blessing, but can lead to an unhealthy assumption that God is simply going to bless every initiative. At a place like the Advent, it is easy to think we have a Midas Touch, and failure is rarely considered, much less experienced.

Over the past few months, the vestries of the Advent and Holy Cross (Trussville) have decided to end our formal partnership. From one perspective, it seems that a ministry endeavor was a failure; but from another, God has simply said “no.” *Failure and God saying no are not the same.*

Our relationship with Holy Cross began when we partnered with the Diocese to help struggling churches become stronger and self-supporting in areas with growing popu-

lations. The Diocese asked if we might consider Holy Cross, whose rector had just left. Joe Gibbes was sent from our staff, and the Advent began our ministry with Holy Cross. After Joe’s departure, our relationship continued through Steve DeGweck’s interregnum, and into Wes Sharp’s term as rector.

The vestry of Holy Cross has determined that even with the Advent’s financial support, it is unable to support a full-time rector. As such, Wes Sharp will end his ministry at Holy Cross on August 31. Holy Cross is searching for a part-time rector to take his place.

Your vestry has voted to bring Wes Sharp on staff at the Advent for a brief period from September 1 through December 31. This will allow the Sharps a time of respite in the midst of our ministry together, as Wes and Allison discern the next steps the Lord would have them take.

Our hopes for Trussville were not realized. God has said “no,” but it has not been a failure. For me, it was a valuable learning experience and I am not discouraged. I trust lives have been changed over the last six years through the ministry at Holy Cross. Though we do not have the clarity of hindsight to see the why quite yet, I am certain that God is working out all things for the good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

- Andrew

## This Sunday:

August 30, 2020

We will hold outdoor services in the porte cochere parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Registering is necessary; sign up at [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship). Canon Hicks will preach.

We continue to offer worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Canon Hicks will preach this Sunday. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream. To download a service bulletin, go to [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship).

**Adult Education:** 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean’s Class will be available via streaming video this Sunday. Dean Pearson will teach. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Live).

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

### Children’s & Youth Education:

Sunday School for rising 3K through 3rd graders will be held at the church during the 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. services for those who have signed up (see page 3). Online, children’s Sunday School video lessons continue to be available each week at [AdventBirmingham.org](https://AdventBirmingham.org) under the “Worship” tab.

Senior High youth will meet for class in Cameron’s backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243) from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Junior High will meet at the Flowers’ home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213) from 10:30-11:15 a.m. A Zoom link will be provided to Junior High students who want one. Contact Tucker ([Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com)).



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



## worship

### Praise Service

#### Thursday Service Moves to Tuesday in the Garden

Our Thursday-morning service is moving to Tuesday! We are excited to bring back our mid-week worship service with a new day and time. Join us in the Rector's Garden at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. This service is open to all! Masks and social distancing will be required as we worship together. Contact Bethany Rushing ([Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.

### Worship Intern

#### Emily Hanrahan to Serve During this School Year

The Advent is excited to welcome our 2020-2021 Intern in Liturgy and Worship. Emily Hanrahan (*right*) began this month and will work alongside Zac Hicks and Annie Lee for the school year, helping to facilitate, plan, and lead our worship services. A senior at Samford University majoring in music and worship, Emily has considered the Advent her church home and has attended and served here (in both our music and outreach ministries) throughout her time in college. Emily grew up in Hoover, is a gifted musician and singer (you've seen her singing on some of our streamed services this summer), and is discerning a call of vocational ministry on her life. In Emily's words, "I love the Advent!"



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Rally Day Picnic

#### Event Canceled this Year Due to Covid-19

Unfortunately, we have canceled our Rally Day Picnic this year. Given the concerns about the coronavirus and the understandable limitations at the zoo for large gatherings, we will not be able to enjoy our afternoon gathering together. Though this likely does not surprise anyone, it is still a disappointment to many of us. We have already made our reservation at the zoo for the Rally Day Picnic for 2021. Lord willing, we will see everyone there!

### 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 list for the women of the church. If you have not been receiving our newsletters and special reflections, please visit [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News) for the link to sign up. *If you don't see the story when you visit the News page, please click "Load More" at the bottom of the page.* For more information, contact Carolyn Lankford ([Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3511).

### Divorce Recovery

#### Group to Meet Starting September 10

If you are experiencing the hurt and turmoil of a divorce, consider joining with others for healing and support. An eight-week Divorce Recovery Group will meet at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209), Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m., beginning September 10. The group is open to men and women, but will be limited to no more than 10 participants. We plan to meet in a large room with good air flow, and adhere to distancing guidelines, but will adapt how we meet if necessary in order to stay safe. If you think now might be the right time for you to reach out for healing, please contact Stella Schreiber, Counselor and Pastoral Care Associate ([Stella@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8558).

### Youth Ministry

#### Sr. High: First Family Dinner Set for September 20

Mark your calendars for our first Family Dinner of the season on Sunday, September 20, 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). All 9th-12th graders are welcome to attend. We will maintain social distance and masks will be required – dinner, worship, and a talk all provided. The theme is "Talladega Night," so come dressed for the races!

Due to Covid-19, we will be taking registrations for the dinner to ensure we maintain a safe number of students. To register, visit [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News). Questions? Contact Rebecca Lankford ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)).

## Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting Via Zoom September 7

All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering to take place via the Zoom video app on Monday, September 7, 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.

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.

### Children's Ministry

#### "Pops at the Park" with Tara and Lucy Kate

"Pops at the Park" was a great success! Families and children signed up to gather briefly at Central Park or Overton Park on August 9 and 12 for introductions and fellowship. Children enjoyed the fresh air and a delicious popsicle, and we enjoyed meeting many children and families! Though everyone practiced social distancing, the atmosphere produced a newfound closeness with one another. For families that were unable to attend, we would still love to meet you. Reach out to Tara Davis, Director of Children's Ministries ([Tara@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tara@CathedralAdvent.com)), or Lucy Kate Green to arrange a get-together.



## education

### Children's Sunday School

#### In-Person Sunday School for 3K-3rd Grade at Both Outdoor Services this Sunday

We will have in-person Sunday School for rising 3K through 3rd Graders at both of the outdoor services this Sunday, August 30, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. After registering themselves for one of the services, parents need to register their 3K through 3rd graders for Sunday School. The Sunday School registration is second and separate from registering for the services. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship) for registration information. Contact Tara Davis ([Tara@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tara@CathedralAdvent.com)) with questions.

Children will be in three different groups based on age and take part in three stations: Bible teaching, catechism music, and fellowship games. Everyone will be required to wear a mask.

### Youth Sunday School

#### Youth Holding In-Person Classes

**Junior High** youth will meet at the Flowers' home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213) from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Breakfast will be provided; bring your own lawn chair, mask, and drink. A Zoom link will be provided for students who aren't comfortable gathering in person. Contact Tucker Fleming ([Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information and the Zoom link.

**Senior High** youth will meet for Sunday School in Cameron's backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243) from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Breakfast will be provided, but students need to bring their own lawn chair, Bible, and mask. Contact Rebecca Lankford ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.

### Inquirers' Class

#### Interested in Membership? Come September 19

Our next Inquirers' Class will be on Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562).

### Small Group Studies

#### New Women's Groups Organizing

- Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning September 15  
Led by Kelly Hargrove at her home  
Study: *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts
- Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Start date to be determined  
Led by Tanya Cooper and Lisa O'Neal at Tanya's home  
Study to be determined
- Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m., beginning September 17  
Led by Carolyn Lankford and Melinda King in the Advent's Chapter Room or via Zoom (to be determined)  
Study: *Eight Weeks in the Gospel of Matthew*

Contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562) if you are interested in joining one of these groups.



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Advent Small Groups

#### Take the Small Group Leap of Faith

Joining a small group is a leap of faith, a plunge into hearing the word more deeply. People are made for community; even those of us who do better in small doses of community find our hearts and minds more open to Holy Scripture when read with the viewpoints and ideas and just plain presence of others.

In a small group we have a leader to share research and wisdom with us, to encourage questions, and to lead us in prayer, all things we would miss if studying alone. But that's just the beginning, for in a small group we listen to each other's thoughts and questions. Hearing what the passage means to someone else gives perspective to our own interpretations and thus amplifies our understanding of God's truth and grace. I often hear things expressed that I didn't have the words for. I hear questions I can't answer and realize again how much there is to learn. And for sure I often say things I didn't know I knew, thoughts which never would have come to life without kind listeners!

All the while our care and appreciation grow deeper toward our fellow members. There is an intimacy to studying Scripture together, to feeling our way through the great questions. As we listen to the word through our own lives, we are more known to one another, grounded in forgiveness and understanding, which leads to friendly listening and a good bit of laughing at ourselves.

We pray for each other, and see the Lord's hand in our lives. I have found all I have described to be true in every group I have been with, from new ones to decades old, for the Holy Spirit makes it so!

- Robin Anderson

*With our ability to gather together restricted, small groups are many people's primary contact with the church. We are working on forming new groups 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.*



### Parish-Wide Reading

#### Reading of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Kicks Off on Rally Day

What is it about *The Pilgrim's Progress* that has made it one of the bestselling books in history, second only to the Bible in sales? Let's find out! Join us in reading this book this fall. Dean Andrew Pearson will kick off our reading with an introduction to the book in the Dean's Class on Rally Day Sunday, September 13. You can order one of the two editions we recommend from the Advent Bookstore (205-323-2959), which is open on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information contact Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, [Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com)).

## diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama  
 The Rt. Rev. Dr. 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:

**Births:** Jack Robert Malone, son of Marshall and Leslie, and Piper Ann Malone, daughter of Marshall and Leslie, on August 10

**Baptism:** Thomas Woodward Walker, III, son of Tom and Jane, on August 15

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Terry White:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Randy and Rosemary Ham

**Richard Bland:** (Endowment Fund) by Intermark Group, Inc.

**Barbara A. Oliver:** (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan

**Joan Johnston Thomas:** (Endowment Fund) by Frances Emond; Elberta Reid; Mallie Ireland and Stewart Dansby • (Pastoral Care) by Charlotte Murdock

**Edith Quarles:** (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan

**Carol Sanders Williams:** (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Toody Sullivan

**In Honor of Will Sledge** (Mission and Outreach) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	31	Sept 1 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	2 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	3 Young Adults' Gathering - Avondale Brewing - 7:00 p.m.	4	5
Sept 6 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	7 Labor Day Church Office closed	8 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	9 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	10	11	12

**Lectionary this Sunday, August 30:** Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c or Psalm 26:1-8; Exodus 3:1-15 or Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

**Young Adults' Gathering:** Adventers in their 20s and 30s are invited to a social gathering Thursday, September 3, 7:00-8:30 p.m. We will meet at Avondale Brewing (201 41st Street South, 35222) and sit outside. The group plans to meet the first Thursday of each month through December. Contact Michael Weeks ([Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com)) 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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Give).