

# Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 32

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of September 20, 2020



## News & Events

### Registration Expanded for In-Person Sunday Services

The Advent has acquired a permit to close Sixth Avenue North along our block on Sunday mornings from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. This allows us to increase the number who can safely attend each outdoor service by using the street for additional seating. We gather at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. in our porte cochere parking lot on the corner of Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard and Sixth Avenue North. You still need to register; 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 streaming service, which is recorded on Thursdays, continues to air at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.)

All who come need to bring their own chair, mask, Bible, and beverage, and to help with appropriate social distancing.

The 8:30 service includes band-led music with members of Advent Birmingham. The 9:45 service features live organ-led music with 12 members of our Cathedral Choir.

Each service has its own 3K-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 Michael Weeks

Lately, as I contemplate the difficulty of life, I have been wondering why we continue to live on this broken earth, and why God doesn't just beam us into the new creation to be with him. He is God, he could do it. There must be a reason why he allows us to live on this world and struggle through life. On the one hand, we will never truly understand the depths of God's infinite wisdom. On the other hand, the Bible gives us a number of reasons why this is the case.

In Philippians 1:21-26, Paul is wrestling with this same idea. He has been put in prison for preaching the gospel, throughout his missionary travels he has been beaten, and now some people have been promoting the gospel for their own gain. Paul has every reason to be frustrated and discouraged. He explains that his desire is to depart this world and be with Christ, which would be far better than his current situation.

However, he knows that there is more "fruitful labor" for him and that God has called him to give up his life for the sake of others, just as Christ gave up his life for our sake. So, Paul resolves to continue living that the gospel might advance and that the Philippians might continue to progress and have joy in the faith.

The Christian life is one of suffering. We suffer the trials and temptations of life, but we also suffer the work that God is doing in us, and the work that God is doing through us. One reason why we continue to live in this world is the fruitful labor that God has planned for us. We might not all be apostles or evangelists like Paul. But we have all been given gifts for building up of the body of Christ, and God has prepared good works for each one of us to walk in. My prayer today is that God would give you the grace to say with Paul, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

- Michael

**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

- Philippians 1:21

## This Sunday:

September 20, 2020

We will hold outdoor services in the porte cochere parking lot at 8:30 a.m. (band-led music) and 9:45 a.m. (choir and organ-led music). Registering is necessary; sign up at [AdventBirmingham.org/Worship](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Worship). Dean Pearson will preach.

We continue to offer worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Dean Pearson 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:

The Dean's Class will be available via streaming video this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Wes Sharp, our Clergy Associate, will join Dean Pearson for *Pilgrims on a Journey*. 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).

### Lectionary:

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 145:1-8; Jonah 1; Exodus 16:2-15 or Jonah 3:10-4:11; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

### 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. Fourth and 5th grade will meet in the Menendez's yard (3508 Mountain Lane, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Sixth grade will meet in the Malone's yard (105 Crestwood Drive, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Children's Sunday School video lessons continue to be available online each week at [AdventBirmingham.org](https://AdventBirmingham.org) under the "Worship" tab.

Junior High youth will meet at the Flowers' home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Senior High will meet in Cameron's backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243) from 11:00 a.m.-noon.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

## Stewardship

### Understanding Our Role as Stewards for the Lord

So little about 2020 feels normal and, yet, as the calendar turns to September, we will see two reliable signs of fall in Birmingham – humidity and temperatures will (blessedly) drop, and Stewardship season will begin at the Advent.

As a parish family, we dedicate time each fall to remember and recognize God's gifts and provision. Have you ever considered where the idea of giving originates in the Bible? We find it in the very first chapter of Genesis, when God gives Adam life and then gives Adam dominion over the animals and the land that God created. Thus, everything that we are, and everything that we possess, is a gift from God that we are called to steward on his behalf.

But God has given us far more than life on Earth: Through the sacrificial gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, God has given us eternal life and salvation. *"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"* (2 Corinthians 9:15)

We are called to steward God's gifts and return them to God because God desires to be in relationship with us. We give because we are returning to God what is already his. We give because we trust the Lord to provide.

We hope that each member of our parish family will prayerfully consider giving back to God a portion of what he has so generously provided. Along with fellow parishioners who have graciously volunteered to share their thoughts on Stewardship, we'll spend the next few weeks exploring the idea of giving as an act of faith. Each Sunday will focus on a different aspect of this message, beginning this week with God's gifts, followed by how we steward those gifts, and then why we pledge. We pray that you end the Stewardship season this year enriched, drawn into relationship with the Lord and your fellow Adventers, and blessed with a deeper understanding of our role as stewards for the Lord.

There is no greater gift than the grace of Jesus Christ. Humble acceptance of this most miraculous and undeserved gift allows each of us to hand over the cares and worries of this world to God, walk in relationship with him, and trust in him. In doing so, we come to see clearly God's love and provision for us, and we understand ultimately that we possess nothing and have earned nothing. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8). Thanks be to him!  
- Shannon Lisenby



## education

### Parish-Wide Reading

#### *The Pilgrim's Progress* this Week

We hope you have been able to purchase your copy to read with us! For the week of September 20, the *Crossway* edition reading is chapter 1 and the first half of chapter 2 (stop at footnote "p" on page 41). The *Desiring God* edition reading is pages 1-24 (to footnote "43"). After your reading, go to [AdventBirmingham.org/Pilgrim](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Pilgrim) to access the summary video by Dean Pearson.

### Children's Sunday School



#### Sunday School for 3K-3rd Grade at Church Continues

We are so grateful that we have been able to gather for in-person Sunday School with our 3K-3rd graders. Each week the children are learning a Bible story, worshipping together with the New City Catechism songs, and enjoying non-touch fellowship games. It is a privilege to walk alongside them as they grow in Christ!

We have Sunday School for rising 3K through 3rd graders at both of the outdoor services, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Children must be registered. 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 in 4th-6th Grade Meeting for Class Off Campus

Students in 4th and 5th grade will meet for Sunday School in the yard of Matt and Emily Menendez (3508 Mountain Lane, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Sixth grade will meet in the yard of David and Mary Anna Malone (105 Crestwood Drive, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Children should bring a Bible, chair, and mask.

## Recognition of 4th Graders

This Sunday, September 20, we will publicly recognize our 4th graders as they begin their first year of attending the full worship service. We will acknowledge them at both the 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. services. Please join us in praying for their spiritual journeys as they begin to experience and participate in the worship service with our fellow parishioners.

## Youth Ministry

### Small Groups Are Back!

Small groups for both Junior and Senior High have begun for the fall semester, but it is never too late to join! We offer small group options for each gender and grade, as well as one co-ed study. To find out when and where these groups meet, visit [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News).

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



## making music

### Midday Music

#### Season Opens with Music for Flute and Piano



The 2020-2021 Midday Music series will open with a 30-minute concert on Friday, September 25, 12:30 p.m. featuring Barbara Harrington, flute (left), and Jennifer Hartsell, piano. Due to Covid-19, the program will not be open to a live public audience, but will be livestreamed from the Advent's website ([AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live)) and associated digital platforms, and be made available for later listening at any time.

Harrington teaches at Samford University, maintains a large flute studio in Birmingham, and plays on occasion with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. From 1997-2007, she worked primarily as a symphonic musician, holding positions with orchestras including the Orlando Philharmonic and the St. Louis Symphony.

Please do not miss what promises to be a beautiful half-hour of music!

### Women's Ministry

#### Lisa Wheeler to Speak October 13 and 14

Mark your calendars! We are pleased to have as our Fall Speaker the Rev. Lisa Wheeler. Lisa's message to us will be *When God Stirs the Waters*. We are offering two opportunities to hear Lisa in person: the first on Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. in the large Assembly Hall at Cranmer House, and also on Wednesday, October 14, at 10:00 a.m. in our church Nave. Her Wednesday morning talk will also be recorded for those who can't be with us in person.

Lisa currently serves as a Deacon at the Church of the Apostles in Columbia, South Carolina. She is married to Thomas and is the mother of two children.

A Birmingham-Southern graduate, Lisa holds an M.Div. from Beeson Divinity School. During her years in Birmingham, Lisa served on the Advent staff in the Christian Education Office.

While we will have to forgo sharing food and drink, we do ask that women register to attend one of these events. This will help us keep our attendance at a safe number. Registration is free, and you can sign up at [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News).

We look forward to hearing from Lisa as we safely assemble together. For more information, contact Carolyn Lankford ([Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com)).

### Young Adults' Ministry

#### Next Gathering Is October 1

If you're in your 20s or 30s, please join us for our first-Thursday-of-the-month gathering on October 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m. We'll meet at Avondale Brewing (201 41st Street South, 35222) and sit outside. Contact Michael Weeks ([Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com)) with questions.



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Youth Ministry

#### Jr. High Dinner this Sunday

Junior High youth will gather for the first socially distant Sunday-evening gathering of the year this Sunday, September 20, 5:58-7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). We'll supply dinner; students will need to bring their masks. We're excited to get together for food, fellowship, and Bible study! Contact Tucker Fleming ([Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com)) with questions.

#### Sign Up for Sr. High Family Dinner

We are excited to begin our Senior High Family Dinners for this year. All 9th-12th graders are invited every other Sunday from 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House for fellowship, dinner, and a talk. We will socially distance and meet outside when possible. Please bring a mask! Our first Family Dinner will be this Sunday, September 20. The theme is "Talladega," so come dressed for the races!

To help us ensure Covid safety, we are asking students to sign up in advance to ensure we maintain a safe number attending. To register, visit [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News). Questions? Contact Rebecca Lankford ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)).

#### Sr. High: Retreat Campout Set for October 2-3

All 9th-12th graders are invited to join us for our Senior High Fall Retreat Friday-Saturday, October 2-3. We will camp out in the Pursell backyard (4116 Abingdon Lane, 35243) on Friday night. Social distancing will be enforced! Connor Coskery, Youth Director at Redeemer Community Church, will be our guest speaker. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News) to register.

#### Jr. High: Walking Retreat Planned for October 10

All 7th and 8th Graders are invited to join us as we embark on a one-day fall retreat on Saturday, October 10, noon-8:00 p.m. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, we'll walk from outdoor place to outdoor place around Mountain Brook as we play some games, hear a couple of talks, and end with an outdoor movie night! In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be October 17. Go to [AdventBirmingham.org/News](http://AdventBirmingham.org/News) to sign up.

### New Church Directory Available

The 2020-2021 Advent Church Directory is now available. You can pick up a copy at a service on Sunday mornings, or you can stop by the Church Office on weekdays and get one at the receptionist's desk.

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.

## 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

The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

## transitions:

**Birth:** William Prestwood Braswell, son of Joseph and Abby, on August 31

**Baptism:** Conner Quitman Thomas, son of Daniel and Hannah, on August 30

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Jasper Dowe Bynum:** (Mission and Outreach) by Charles and Elizabeth Scribner

**Ann and Thomas Kennedy:** (Pastoral Care) by Amy Ager

**Charles Richard Saunders:** (Mission and Outreach) by Katherine Bellenger

**Richard L. Smalley:** (Pastoral Care) by Allen and Kathryn Corey

**Ann and Brother Pritchard:** (Endowment Fund) by Sara and Rex Harris • (Pastoral Care) by Donald and Katharine Patton

**In Thanksgiving for Robin Anderson:** (Canon Hicks' Discretionary Fund) by Terry Douglas

**In Honor of Stella Schreiber and Nan Broughton:** (Mission and Outreach) by Alice Elizabeth Shoemaker



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept 20 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - 9:00 a.m. Jr. High Dinner at 5:58 p.m.; Sr. High at 6:57 p.m. - Cranmer	21	22 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	23 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	24	25 Midday Music - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 12:30 p.m.	26
Sept 27 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham.org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	28	29 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	30 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Oct 1 Young Adults' Gathering - Avondale Brewing - 7:00 p.m.	2 Sr. High Fall Retreat	3 Sr. High Fall Retreat

**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 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)) 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).