

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 35

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of October 11, 2020



News & Events



PLEDGE

YOUR PLEDGES MAKE GOSPEL MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Stewardship Sunday: Making Your Pledge for 2021

As we give thanks to God for his blessings to us and our church, please prayerfully consider participating in the ministries of the Advent by giving your time, talent, and treasure. You may return your Pledge Card by mail, in-person at the Church Office, at the outdoor services on October 11 or 18, or on any of the other Sundays following. You may also complete it online: AdventBirmingham.org/Pledge.

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
- 2 Corinthians 9:15

Lisa Wheeler to Speak October 13 and 14

The Rev. Lisa Wheeler will address the women of the Advent on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 13 and 14. See page 2 for details.



A Word from the Dean

The last Sunday we gathered indoors was on March 15. I assumed, like many, that the restriction might last a few weeks, maybe a month, and then back to normal. Nearly seven months later, and still no normal. In fact, we shouldn't assume that we can go back to normal. By that I mean more than just the restrictions that have been placed upon us during Covid-19, but how we do ministry and what we look like as a church.

It struck me recently that the congregation we had in March of this year will not be the same congregation that we have when we finally come back inside. Most of those coming to our one-day Inquirers' Classes were brand new to the Advent when Covid-19 struck. Their experience has been limited to streaming and our parking lot gatherings on Sundays.

I have also noticed a number of newcomers who have been showing up at our Sunday gatherings, especially those who live nearby. I've now heard others share their experience of hearing music, following it to the Advent,

staying for the sermon, and then coming back the next week, and then the next.

This tabernacling season for the Advent has been special for more than just newcomers; a spirit is present in these gatherings that has been a great encouragement to me. We know that the Spirit is present with us when we gather together in Jesus' name, but the spirit I am speaking of is what it feels like to be the body of Christ.

Though our gatherings are not what they used to be, there is an overwhelming sense of gratefulness among you for the ability to gather at all. God has been showing us what is necessary to us being the church and what is simply preference.

To be honest, I'm a little worried about moving back inside. I am fearful about losing the beautiful thing that is happening in our midst as we gather in the parking lot. How do we perpetuate (faithfully steward) this spirit of freedom, welcome, and simplicity when we move back inside?

Of course, things will change when we make that move. Certain restrictions will have to be in place because of Covid, but I pray that our tabernacling experience will not soon be forgotten.

- Andrew

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- 2 Corinthians 3:17

This Sunday:

October 11, 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. Wes Sharp will preach.

We offer worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. Wes Sharp will preach this Sunday. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream. To download a service bulletin, go to AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

Adult Education:

The Dean's Class will be available via streaming video this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Mark Gignilliat will teach. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live.

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

Lectionary:

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or Psalm 23
Jonah 3
Exodus 32:1-14 or Isaiah 25:1-9
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Children's & Youth Education:

Sunday School for 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, and 6th 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 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

Ensuring That We Give God Our First Fruits, Not Our Leftovers

Why do the tenants in the parable of the vineyard balk at giving the owner of the vineyard what he is due? (Luke 20:9-16) The vineyard doesn't belong to them nor does the fruit. It is the owner's fruit, and he asks not for all of it but only for some of it. And yet they refuse to give him any. Why?



Because it feels like the vineyard and its fruit is theirs. Giving what is due to the owner means less for them. Will there be enough? I can see their calculating:

How much I have - how much I need = how much I can give.

And they are loath to give any of it away because they may need it all.

I find myself in this parable, especially during Stewardship which reminds me that I am merely a steward of all that God has given me. Everything I have comes from God, even my money, and yet it feels like it is mine. I feel this selfish pull every time I am asked to pledge.

Don and I tithe as a way of standing against this pull. Our pledge ensures that we give God our first fruits and not our leftovers. Tithing flips the equation:

How much I have - how much I give = how much I need.

Will there be enough? My anxious self still wonders despite a lifetime of proof that God can keep oil in our lamps.

In this unsteady world we don't know what is around the corner, but our pledge affirms our trust that God will once again be faithful and provide for us. 1 Corinthians 4:7 poses a profound question: "What do you have that you did not receive?" Our pledge expresses our gratitude for all we have received from the Lord's hand. And finally, we pledge because there is great joy both in giving and in seeing God's faithfulness. It may sound upside down, but we find a true freedom, security, and joy when we say "All things come from thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

- Jane Menendez

New Church Directory Available

The 2020-2021 Advent Church Directory is 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. Click on "Directory" at the bottom of the home page and follow the prompts to register.

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.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Lisa Wheeler Returns to Speak October 13 and 14



Above: Lisa Wheeler with her husband Thomas and children Alice and Thomas

Advent women are invited to hear our Fall Speaker, the Rev. Lisa Wheeler. 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 (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209), 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's message to us will be *When God Stirs the Waters*.

Lisa 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 graduate of Birmingham-Southern College, Lisa holds an M.Div. from Beeson Divinity School. During her years in Birmingham, she served on the Advent staff in publications and 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 to help us keep our attendance at a safe number. Registration is free, and you can sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/News. For more information, contact Carolyn Lankford (Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com).

Youth Ministry

Sr. High: Sign Up for "Tailgate Night" Family Dinner

We hope all 9th-12th graders can join us for our next Family Dinner on Sunday, October 18. We will meet from 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) for fellowship, dinner, and a talk. We will socially distance and meet outside when possible. Please bring a mask! The theme is "Tailgate Night," one of our favorites of the year! Families will compete to assemble the ultimate tailgate spread. Come hungry!

To keep the number attending at a safe level, we are asking students to sign up ahead of time. To register, visit AdventBirmingham.org/News. Questions? Contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).

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

Parish-Wide Reading

**The Pilgrim's Progress: Reading for the Week
Beginning October 11**

In our last reading, we saw how Christian was edified and encouraged at the house called "Beautiful." In this upcoming week's reading (*Crossway* edition: chapter 4; *Desiring God* edition: pages 61-73), we'll see the spiritual truths Christian learns as he walks through the Valleys of Humiliation and Death. The suggested Bible passages to read beforehand are Ephesians 6:10-20 and Psalm 23. Please go to AdventBirmingham.org/Pilgrim to view the short video summary after you finish your reading.

Children's Sunday School



Classes Continue On- and Off-Campus

Sunday School for 3K through 3rd grade is held at the church during the 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. services (*photo above*) for those who have registered on the SignUp Genius links sent by Tara Davis.

Students in 4th and 5th grade meet in the yard of Matt and Emily Menendez (3508 Mountain Lane, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Sixth grade meets in the yard of David and Mary Anna Malone (105 Crestwood Drive, 35213) from 11:00 a.m.-noon. Please sign up your children for these off-campus Sunday School classes on the SignUp Genius links sent by Tara Davis. Please contact Tara (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.

Children's Sunday School video lessons continue to be available online each week at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Intercessory Prayer Available at the Advent House



Anyone desiring prayer for God's intervention in their life for spiritual, physical, or emotional healing; for guidance; or for protection may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. Personal safety is of utmost importance at this time, so the needs of each individual calling will be taken into consideration when deciding whether to meet virtually or in person at the Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205). For further information and to schedule a prayer appointment, please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 4:4-7

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Richard L. Smalley: (Pastoral Care) by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simmons; Betsy and Jack Allison; Katharine and Donny Patton • (Endowment Fund) by Mrs. George B. Elliott
William "Brother" Pritchard, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simmons

Charles Richard Saunders: (Endowment Fund) by Merrill Stewart

Joan Thomas: (Endowment Fund) by Kate and Claude Nielsen

Jane Ziegler: (Endowment Fund) by Kay Guess

In Honor of Nina and Ken Botsford: (Endowment Fund) by Holly Young

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:

Births: Carl Mandel Nechtman, IV, son of Carl and Elise, on September 3; Charlotte Alexandra Vanderbilt Köller, daughter of Robert and Caroline, on September 27

Baptisms: Sarah Katherine Winter Thornbury, on September 25; Jonathan Davis Thornbury, Jr., and Andrew Robert Thornbury, sons of Jonathan and Katie, on September 25; Margaret Gindrat Thornbury, daughter of Jonathan and Katie, on September 25; Harrison Lee Lewis, son of Blake and Carlee, on September 27

Marriage: Katharyn Gray Neil and Benjamin Echols, on September 26

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Sandra Keen Bates: (Mission and Outreach) by Nan Broughton

Ann Bush Kennedy: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Kate Kiefer

Carol Sanders Williams: (Mission and Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. James Morris, Sr.



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 11 Stewardship Sunday Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham. org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	12	13 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m. Women's Event with Lisa Wheeler - Cranmer House - 7:00 p.m.	14 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Women's Event with Lisa Wheeler - Nave - 10:00 a.m.	15	16	17
Oct 18 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.	19	20 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	21 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	22	23	24

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.