

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



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First Sunday After Christmas

Week of December 27, 2020



News & Events

This Sunday Is the Schneiders' Last at the Advent

Canon Matt Schneider and his family's last Sunday with us will be December 27. They will move to Springfield, Massachusetts, early next year, where they will join the team at Biglife, an international ministry that seeks to empower believers worldwide to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus.

Canon Schneider has served as the Advent's Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism since 2014. He will preach at both the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services this Sunday, and Dean Pearson will interview him in the Dean's Class at 10:15 a.m. Matt and members of his family will be on the front steps of the church (on 20th Street) before and after each service to greet parishioners, weather permitting. Covid-19 restrictions prevent us from holding a reception indoors.

We invite Adventers to support the Schneiders' ministry by making a contribution in their honor to Biglife. Online gifts can be made at BigLife/Team/Matt-Schneider. Contributions by mail can be made out to Biglife, PO Box 110431, Naples, FL 34108. Please write "Matt Schneider" in the memo line of your check.



A Word from Canon Schneider

I have spent more than eight years living in the South between South Carolina and Alabama. I love much about the South and Southern culture. It has become a sort-of second home for Hawley and me. And for three of our children, this will always be their birthplace.

Yet there is something I lament about the South – something I haven't been able to do much about. I am afraid that although this is the Bible Belt, many people here are "cultural" (or "nominal") Christians. Actually, I have come to the conclusion that there is even such a thing as the cultural evangelical. It's a weird thing to say, but it is true and breaks my heart.

In effect, what I'm saying is, I fear there are people who identify as Christian yet are un-saved. And a higher concentration of such folks is in the South than elsewhere in the country and the world even.

I know this cultural Christian phenomenon is true and common based on solid evidence. One thing I often train people to do so they can share their faith is to de-

velop a brief testimony. The most common testimony I've heard in Birmingham is for the most part the same: "I grew up in the church. I wouldn't say there ever was a time I didn't believe in God. But at such and such a time in my life, this and that happened. And I realized that I didn't know Jesus. Now Jesus is the most important thing in my life, and I'm now a true Christian."

What about you? Is it possible that you are a cultural Christian, or even a cultural evangelical? You can get by in Christian culture and the church, but Jesus isn't your center of gravity? Or, do you know people like this? People you love and care about? This is such a perilous situation to be in, to have enough of Jesus to be inoculated to him and lacking repentance.

My heart breaks for the cultural Christian. They are some of the hardest to reach for Jesus. Most likely the best people to do something about this are fellow Southerners though. So while I've failed at reaching them, God will use many of you to speak to them. Especially if you're a recovering cultural Christian yourself.

- Matt

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!"

- Revelation 3:15

This Sunday:

December 27, 2020

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

(Band led)

11:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

(Organ and Choir led)

Preacher: Canon Schneider

Register to attend at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

We will livestream both services, at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our livestream.

Adult Education:

The Dean's Class will be held from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Registering in advance is necessary at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship.

Recordings of classes are available at Audio.AdventBirmingham.org.

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *From Birmingham to Springfield: An Interview with Matt Schneider* – Dean Pearson and Canon Schneider

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes for children and youth will not be held this Sunday, December 27, and no childcare will be available.

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3. Watch for information from Tucker Fleming and Rebecca Lankford regarding times and places for Junior and Senior High classes in January.

Lectionary:

Psalms 147

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

We Bid Farewell to the Schneiders this Sunday



Above, the Schneider family (l-r): Matt, Zoë (in front of Matt), Caleb, Hawley, Edén, and Simeon

This Sunday, December 27, will be the Schneiders' last at the Advent before moving to Springfield, Massachusetts, to begin serving with Biglife ministry (see story on front page). Canon Schneider will preach at both services, and he and members of his family will be on the front steps of the church (on 20th Street) before and after each service to greet parishioners, weather permitting. Please join us in thanking God for the Schneiders' six years of ministry with us.

Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting Via Zoom January 4

All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering to take place via the Zoom video app on Monday, January 4, 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 to get the Zoom link, and contact Margaret Pope (Margaret@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information. We hope you can join us.

New Audio Website Is Online

Our new and improved Advent Audio website is up at Audio.AdventBirmingham.org. If you've missed this resource, it's back and better than ever! You can hear recent sermons, classes, and lectures, as well as search to find audio content going back a number of years. You can also access our audio site from our website homepage (AdventBirmingham.org) by clicking on "Media" at the top of the page and then clicking on "Listen."

Slate Named for 2021 Vestry Election

The Vestry approved a slate of 20 candidates for the 2021 Vestry election at its meeting in November. The nominees are as follows:

- Jim Andrews
- Warren Baker
- Russ Chambliss
- Jim Dixon
- Bing Edwards
- Cardwell Feagin
- David Fleming
- Ron Flowers
- Alfred Goings
- David Green
- Jen Green
- Kenan Lucas
- Ginger Mayfield
- Kristen Padilla
- Donny Patton
- Mary Berkeley Pritchard
- Jack Sharman
- Laura Steele
- Robin Wade
- Ann Bailey White

Parishioners will elect 10 of these nominees to serve on the Vestry of the Cathedral Church of the Advent at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 24, at 1:00 p.m. in the Nave. Advent members will have the option to attend in person or virtually (via a Zoom webinar). Registration will be necessary to attend, both in person and virtually. Watch for more information to come about the Parish Meeting.

Dean Pearson Sets Personal Time of Prayer for the Advent, Invites Requests

Dean Andrew Pearson will set aside an extended period of time to pray for our Advent family of faith January 11-13. He will pray in general for the church as we enter 2021 and continue seeking ways to collectively grow in gospel-confidence and make disciples wherever God places us. Dean Pearson will also join individuals in praising God for the blessings of this life and praying specifically for God's attention to requests for help or healing. These praises and prayer requests will be kept confidential and may be submitted by email to the Dean at Andrew@CathedralAdvent.com.

New Year's Closings

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021, in observance of New Year's Day. The office will be open with a small staff on Thursday, December 31, to handle end-of-year gifts and other matters. The office will reopen on Monday, January 4.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- Galatians 4:4-5



spiritual growth & fellowship

Young Adults' Ministry

Gathering Set for January 5

If you're in your 20s or 30s, please join us for fellowship on Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m. at Trimtab Brewing Company (2721 5th Avenue South, 35233). We'll be outside on the patio, wearing masks and observing social distancing.

Beginning in February, the monthly Young Adults' gathering will be on the last Tuesday of each month, starting with February 23. For more information, contact Michael Weeks (Weeks@CathedralAdvent.com).

Youth Ministry

Sr. High Girls' Retreat January 9

The Youth Ministry is excited to announce its first Senior High girls-only retreat on Saturday, January 9, in Birmingham. All 9th-12th grade girls are welcome to join us for a day of fellowship and fun. We will meet at the Embassy Suites on Highway 280 at 9:00 a.m., with various breaks around town; we'll finish around 4:00 p.m. We hope you can join! Sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/News or contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Advent House Prayer Ministry

Intercessory Prayer Available at the Advent House



Anyone desiring prayer for God's intervention in their life for healing, guidance, or protection may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. In the interest of personal safety, 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).

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.



education

Youth Confirmation

Program for 6th Graders to Begin Soon

Confirmation 2021 will commence in the coming weeks. Be on the lookout for more information if you have a student in 6th grade. Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Children's Sunday School



Our Program for Your Children

Sunday School for 3K-6th grade consists of three modules each week: Bible Lesson, Theology (taught through the New City Children's Catechism), and Fellowship Games. The photo above shows our 2nd and 3rd graders playing fellowship games to get to know their classmates. Our hope and prayer is that each class forms meaningful relationships that are rooted in Christ and last a lifetime.

Classes will not meet this Sunday, December 27, and will resume on Sunday, January 3. For more information about children's Sunday School, contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
- John 1:1-14, 16-18

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. Canon Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

transitions:

Marriage: Allie Elizabeth Gilbert and Henry Ben Brown, III, on December 12

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Jean Crosier: (Mission and Outreach) by Ju Ju and Mac Beale

Frances Estes Seibels: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Charlotte S. Murdock

In Honor of the Marriage of Trudy Evans and Russell Levenson: (Garden Fund) by Betsy and Jack Allison

In Honor of Bonnie Krebs: (The Egg Ministry - Shyira Diocese, Rwanda): by Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Jones



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 27 Morning Prayer - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m.	28 Church Office closed	29 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	30 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church Office closed	2
Jan 3 Holy Communion - Nave - 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Adult Education - 10:15 a.m.	4 Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting via Zoom - 7:15 p.m.	5 Praise Service - Nave - 8:00 a.m. Young Adults' Gathering - Trintab Brewing - 7:00 p.m.	6 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	7	8	9 Sr. High Girls' Retreat - Embassy Suites - 9:00 a.m. Investiture of the 12th Bishop of Alabama - Nave - 11:00 a.m.

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.