

The Cathedral Church of the Advent Birmingham, Alabama

A Church with a Heart for the Gospel of Jesus Christ

OUR PURPOSE AND VISION

We are a gospel-centered church with a living, daring confidence in God's grace that finds the cross and resurrection of Jesus ever and only at its center.



A HEART FOR THE GOSPEL



A HEART FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD THE GOSPEL



A HEART FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BURNED BY THE CHURCH



A HEART FOR THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



OUR HISTORY

In 1872, the new city of Birmingham grew quickly after the Elyton Land Company established a new industrial center on what was formerly undeveloped land. Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer sent Philip Fitts to serve area congregations in the new city. With the 16 Episcopalians he found in Birmingham, Fitts began meeting on the corner lot sold to this young congregation for \$5.00. By 1893, the church's worship space, the Nave, was completed and welcomed worshippers. The first Lenten Preaching Series began in 1908, the Advent Episcopal School opened in 1950, and the Advent became the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama in 1982. Various renovations and building projects added spaces and expanded the school through the years. We also have two satellite locations (Cranmer House and Advent House) for prayer, Bible Study, and other small gatherings.



ADVENT AT A GLANCE

- Founded in 1872
- 19 rectors since its founding
- 2020 Statistics
 - 3,452 Baptized Members
 - 57 zip codes represented in surrounding counties
 - 647 Annual Pledges
 - Average Sunday Attendance: 973
 - Clergy Staff: 5
 - Total Staff: 32
 - 34 Baptisms
 - 58 Confirmed/Received
 - \$845,700 Outreach Budget



WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship at the Advent combines the best elements of our tradition with a fresh vitality. Using the Rite I liturgies, we alternate between services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer to convey the gospel message that Christ Jesus came to save sinners. We hope each part of our gathered time together tells the truth of our need as well as of the Lord's provision through Christ's death and resurrection. Our worship directs our hearts away from ourselves and towards the Lord's grace through the corporate acts of prayer and song, and by hearing Scripture read and preached.

Sunday worship times are 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. We also have monthly services of Evensong and numerous other services throughout the year.

AdventBirmingham.org/Worship



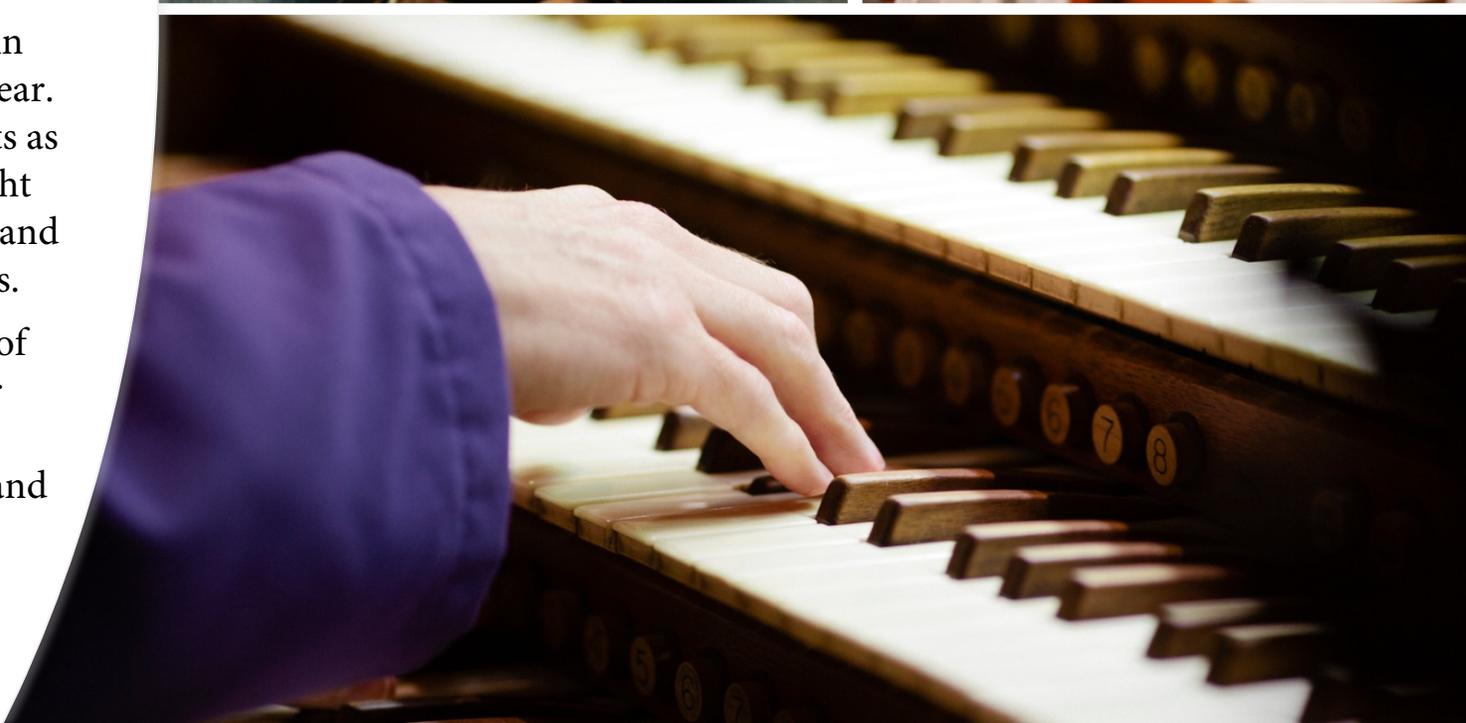
OUR MUSIC

The Advent offers meaningful worship opportunities through modern and traditional sacred music. Concerts and other events enrich our community in many ways, enriching our heart for the city of Birmingham.

The Cathedral Choir: The Cathedral Choir is composed of auditioned adults who sing at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services in the Nave each Sunday and at all major services of the church year. Additionally, the choir presents Evensong services and concerts as part of the Cathedral Music Series. The Choir has recorded eight albums, many of which are available in the Advent Bookstore, and the most recent of which is available on all streaming platforms.

Advent Birmingham: Advent Birmingham is a diverse group of musicians who lead our Five O'clock service and support other worship services during the week. They also write and record modern hymns of their own and set ancient Christian hymns and songs to modern settings.

AdventBirmingham.org/Music



ADULT EDUCATION

Standing squarely in the tradition that emphasizes the ministries of preaching and teaching, the Advent has a robust, year-round adult education program. In addition to numerous classes at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning, there are quite a few special events and programs held throughout the year. Whether it is traditional Bible study or the consideration of theological and cultural intersections, the Advent's adult education holds a focus on the gospel and its proclamation of Good News for sinners.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Seeking to serve as a partnership between the home and the church, the Children's Ministry at the Advent comes alongside parents and grandparents by sharing the gospel with children. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we desire that our children will recognize both their sin and God's faithfulness to rescue through the death and resurrection of his Son. Sunday School classes communicate this message via age-appropriate activities, including storytelling, art, games, and music. Additionally, special programs are offered seasonally throughout the year: a Posada during Advent, the Easter Walk during Easter, and Vacation Bible School during the summer.

AdventBirmingham.org/ChildrenAndYouth



YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Advent's Youth Ministry seeks to meet students with the Good News of what has already been accomplished for them in Jesus. As we partner with parents and all generations of the church, students are invited to rest, learn, and be encouraged through our weekly Bible studies, breakfast groups, Sunday School, dinners, trips, and other outings. Amidst all the pressures and anxieties of the world today, we look to the comfort, peace, and joy of a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

AdventBirmingham.org/ChildrenAndYouth



Good News
FOR *teens* **PODCAST**

MEN'S MINISTRIES

The Men's Ministry at the Advent keeps the gospel in front of men as they go through their varied lives. This occurs through men's weekly Bible studies, occasional events, cookouts in homes, lunches at the church, and more. All of these are done to allow the gospel to equip men with the confidence and courage needed for day-to-day life.

AdventBirmingham.org/Men



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Advent's Women's Ministry brings together groups of all ages for Bible study, prayer, service, and fellowship in small and large group gatherings. Spring and fall luncheons and coffees include guest speakers from within the Advent, from the greater Birmingham area, and occasionally from around the United States and the globe. A popular annual retreat at Lake Martin in August gives women a chance for renewal and restoration as they relax into God's word in the company of sisters-in-Christ.

AdventBirmingham.org/Women



ADVENT SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are one of the best ways to be involved at the Advent. God created us to relate to one another, and we need others to keep the gospel central. The Advent has 62 small groups that meet weekly. Typically consisting of ten to twelve people, the Advent's small groups provide a place to connect, to encourage one another with the Good News of Jesus Christ, to study the Bible, to pray, and to serve others.

AdventBirmingham.org/SmallGroups



SMALL GROUPS
AT THE ADVENT

MISSION AND OUTREACH

A life lived in service of our neighbor is a natural expression of faith when we are transformed by the gospel. As we recognize our own sinfulness and the brokenness of the world around us, we are invited by our Lord to participate in his wondrous work of reconciliation. With specific interests in leadership development, ministering to unreached people and the persecuted church, and in helping the poor, the Advent partners with local and global ministries to proclaim Christ's redemptive power over all things.

AdventBirmingham.org/Outreach



PASTORAL CARE

The Advent offers various ministries and programs to care for our members, as well as Christian counseling for those in need. Our ministry is available to Adventers who are suffering illness, caring for a sick family member, transitioning home after a hospital stay, grieving because of the death of a loved one, or experiencing other difficulties. The Advent's prayer teams are available to pray for church members and others, for any reason someone might seek prayer.

AdventBirmingham.org/Care



ADVENT HOUSE

Located between Highland Park and English Village at 2317 Arlington Avenue, Advent House is a center for prayer, teaching, and respite. It is home year-round to the Advent House Prayer Ministry, and for six weeks each year, it serves as a meeting place for the Advent's Grief Recovery Group. Additionally, it is used sometimes as temporary lodging by visiting missionaries, seminarians, and guest speakers. Anyone—church member and community resident alike—is welcome and may request prayer for healing or discernment from God.



LENTEN PREACHING SERIES AND LUNCHESES

For more than a century, the Advent has hosted the Lenten Preaching Series and Lunches, a series of sermons and lunches prepared by parishioners every weekday during Lent. Preachers from around the world attract both those who work in downtown Birmingham and those who make a trip especially for this unique opportunity. One of the Advent's most intensive and expansive ministries, the Lenten Preaching and Lunches nourish both body and soul.





OUR STORY

After reading Michael Horton's book, *Christless Christianity*, which describes the absence of the gospel in the American church, Frank Limehouse, then the Dean of the Advent, had a simple vision: a youth ministry conference that focused on the message of the crucified Christ and nothing more. Rooted Ministry has been simple from the beginning. What started with a small gathering of people ministering to youth from around the country has grown into a movement to see the gospel of grace serve as the only core of student ministry. This movement takes place through our conferences, blog, website, publications, and more. Rooted is community of people in ministry to youth, working and praying to see teenagers liberated by and enamored with Jesus and his gospel.

MISSION STATEMENT

To equip and empower churches and parents to faithfully disciple students toward lifelong faith in Jesus Christ.

OUR APPROACH

Rooted Ministry espouses a simple approach to youth ministry, based on our understanding of scripture and validated by research on effective models for cultivating sustainable faith in young people. Therefore, we emphasize the following foundations for youth ministry:

- (1) *Gospel centrality*– faithfully proclaiming the good news of God's unconditional love for sinners through Christ.
- (2) *Theological depth through expository, biblical teaching*– equipping students with a biblical worldview.
- (3) *Relational discipleship*– pursuing all facets of ministry in the context of caring relationships with students.
- (4) *Partnership with parents*– educating, equipping, and collaborating with parents in the discipleship of their kids.
- (5) *Intergenerational integration*– including students among all the generations of the church.

YOUNG ADULTS & ARC FELLOWS

Men, women, and couples in their 20s and 30s are always welcome at the Advent and may join our Young Adults community for Bible study and monthly fellowship gathering.



For recent college graduates, the Advent offers a 10-month Arc Fellows program. As an Arc Fellow, a young adult grows in Christian community through weekly Bible studies, a service role in the church, mentorship, and monthly socials. Being an Arc Fellow gives an emerging adult the opportunity to immediately get plugged into a community and a church home as they transition from college — all while living and working in Birmingham. It is our hope that Arc Fellows will experience lasting Christian community and deepen their relationships with Jesus Christ.

ADVENT EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

The mission of our school is to provide students with a superior education in a caring, Christian environment to prepare them for a life of continued learning, leadership, and service. The school is comprised of Pre K/Kindergarten, the Lower School (1st-4th grades), and the Upper School (5th-8th grades).

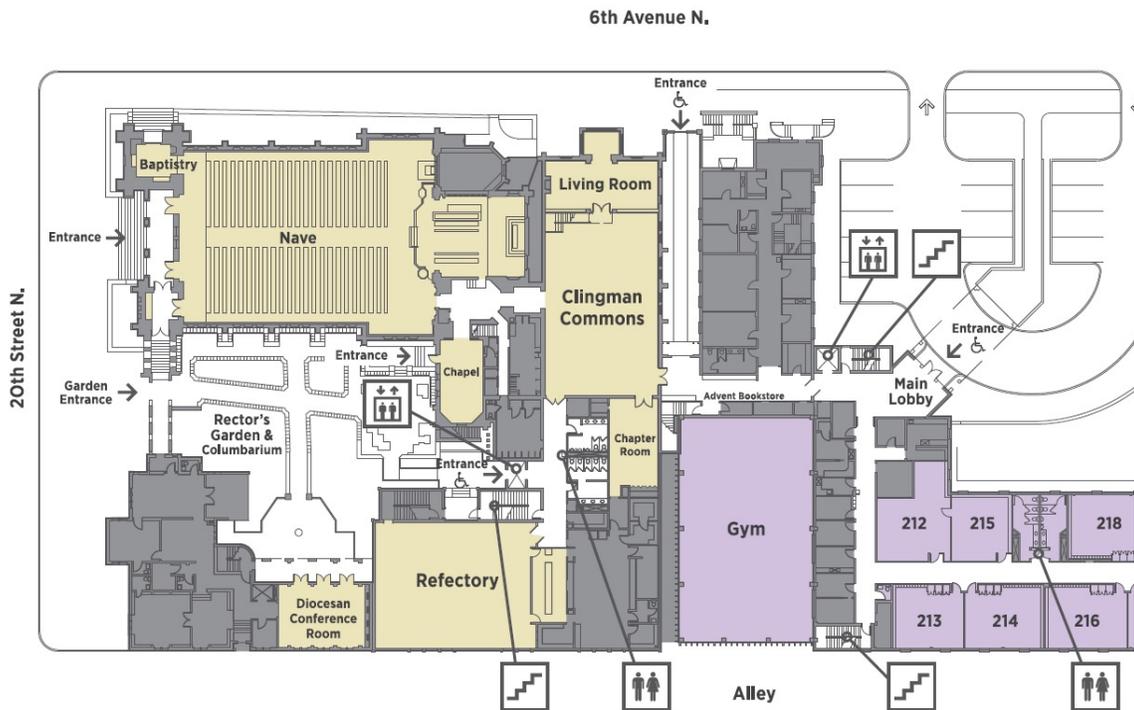
→ Student Body at a Glance

- Student body of 200
- 43 zip codes
- Standardized test scores: 90%
- 100% participation in art, French, and music
- 10:1 student to teacher ratio
- 74% are student athletes

AdventEpiscopalSchool.org



OUR CAMPUS



BIRMINGHAM AT A GLANCE

Metropolitan Birmingham is a dynamic and thriving urban area. The city was born 150 years ago to be a vibrant industrial city and has transitioned to a service-based economy of health care, financial services, logistics and technology. Its immediate environs boast a population of 1.1 million people. A center of cultural opportunities, its arts scene is anchored by strong institutions including the Civil Rights Institute, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the McWane Science Center, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and the Alabama Ballet. In addition to those cultural fixtures, citizens of the Birmingham region enhance their quality of life through the offering of events and festivals such as the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, the Pepper Place Farmers Market and the Magic City Art Connection. City parks and nearby state parks provide ample opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Several institutions of higher learning have helped promote the intellectual life of the city, and in particular, the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) Hospital has become a regional and national leader in providing superior health care. It is the home of a James Beard Award winning restaurant, Highlands Bar and Grill, that was honored recently with its most prestigious Best Restaurant in the Country Award, anchoring Birmingham's reputation as a dynamic food city. Large enough to provide a range of activities but not so large to be overwhelming, Birmingham strikes the perfect balance.

