

2023 Lenten Preacher Biographies

Ash Wednesday, February 22 – Glenda Curry

Glenda Curry was invested as the 12th **Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama** in January 2021. She had been consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor in June 2020. Prior to her election as bishop, she served as Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood, Alabama. Ordained in 2002, she was Rector of Epiphany Episcopal Church in Leeds, Alabama, until her move to All Saints in 2004. Prior to her call to ordained ministry, Bishop Curry worked at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's nursing school before she became Dean of Nursing at Troy University. She served as President of Troy's Montgomery campus from 1992-1999, becoming Alabama's first female president of a four-year public university. She and her husband William have two adult children.

Thursday-Friday, February 23-24 – Erick Sorensen

Erick Sorensen handles **Church Partnerships** in the Relations and Development department at **1517**. Residing in **Rancho Cucamonga, California**, he is also a podcaster and writer. A graduate of Biola University, he earned his M.Div. degree from the Lutheran Brethren Seminary. He served as a pastor in Fontana, California; Staten Island, New York; and Roxbury, New Jersey. In 2015 he planted Epiphany Lutheran Church in New York City. Mr. Sorensen is host of the *Law & Gospel Devotional*, and co-host of the *30 Minutes in the New Testament* and *Field Guide to the Bible* podcasts. He is co-author with Daniel Emery Price of *Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on Parables*.

Monday-Tuesday, February 27-28 – Collin Hansen

Collin Hansen is **Editor-in-Chief** and **Vice President for Content** at **The Gospel Coalition in Birmingham, Alabama**. He graduated from Northwestern University and attended seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Mr. Hansen hosts the *Gospelbound* podcast and has written and contributed to many books, most recently *Rediscover Church: Why the Body of Christ Is Essential* and the forthcoming *Timothy Keller: His Spiritual and Intellectual Formation*. He has published articles with the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and offered commentary on CNN and Fox News, among others. A member of Iron City Church in Birmingham, he is an adjunct professor at Beeson Divinity School, where he also co-chairs the Advisory Board.

Wednesday, March 1 – Richard Vise

Richard Vise has served as **Senior Pastor** of **Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama**, since 2013. A native of Meridian, Mississippi, he attended Vanderbilt University, where he discovered the love of God in Christ. Exploring a call to ministry, he interned with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Texas, and then attended seminary at Covenant Theological Seminary. In 2001 Dr. Vise was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in America to serve with RUF at Auburn University. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors and plays a little tennis. He and his wife Amy have three children.

Thursday-Friday, March 2-3 – Elisabeth Elliott Hayes

Elisabeth Elliott Hayes serves as **Director of Parish Ministry** at **Third Church in Richmond, Virginia**, where she is also preparing for ordination. She grew up attending the Cathedral Church of the Advent, and after attending Wake Forest University she returned to work with Cameron Cole in Youth Ministry from 2010-2012. The Advent then sent Mrs. Hayes as a missionary to Matagalpa, Nicaragua, where she served from 2012-2016 and hosted several mission teams and interns from the Advent. She holds an M.A. in Biblical Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary, and a Th.M. in Theology and Ethics from Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is married to Will.

Monday-Wednesday, March 6-8 – Simeon Zahl

Simeon Zahl is **Professor of Christian Theology** at the **University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England**, and a Fellow of Jesus College. He is a historical and constructive theologian whose work spans the period from 1500 to the present. Previously he taught at the University of Oxford and the University of Nottingham. Dr. Zahl is the author most recently of *The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience*. The son of former Advent Dean Paul Zahl, he grew up at the Advent and attended The Altamont School. He graduated from Harvard and received his doctorate in Theology from the University of Cambridge. He is married to Bonnie, and they have three children.

Thursday-Friday, March 9-10 – Wes Hill

Wes Hill is **Associate Professor of New Testament** at **Western Theological Seminary** in **Holland, Michigan**. He discovered a love for Scripture and theology while an undergraduate at Wheaton College and was confirmed in the Church of England while attending graduate school at Durham University. An Episcopal priest, Dr. Hill has spoken and lectured at numerous Christian colleges and seminaries in the United States and internationally. He has written several books, including *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality* and *The Lord's Prayer: A Guide to Praying to Our Father*. A contributing editor for *Comment* magazine, he writes regularly for *Christianity Today*, *The Living Church*, and other publications.

Monday-Tuesday, March 13-14 – Ethan Richardson

Ethan Richardson is **Therapist-in-Residence** at **Christ Episcopal Church** in **Charlottesville, Virginia**. A clinical social worker, he directs The Downtown Counseling Center, serving individuals, couples, and families in the parish and surrounding community. Before entering clinical work, he served for 10 years at Mockingbird Ministries, predominantly as Editor-in-Chief of their magazine, *The Mockingbird*. A native of Lexington, Kentucky, he graduated from the University of Virginia and earned his Masters in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. He and his wife Hannah have two sons.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 15-16 – Gretchen Ronnevik

Gretchen Ronnevik is an **author** and **podcaster** for **1517**, working from her family farm in **Fergus Falls, Minnesota**. She co-hosts *Freely Given*, the 1517 podcast about the freedom that comes through dependence on Christ, and she authored a training course for intergenerational mentoring, *Gospel Mentoring*. Mrs. Ronnevik's first book is entitled *Ragged: Spiritual Disciplines for the Spiritually Exhausted*, and she publishes articles at 1517, The Gospel Coalition, and Women's Ministry Toolbox. A homeschool mom, she enjoys knitting, reading many books at the same time, and embarrassing her teenagers in public. She is married to Knut, and they have six children.

Friday, March 17 – Joel Busby

Joel Busby is **Lead Pastor** of **Grace Fellowship** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. He joined Redeemer Community Church's staff in 2016 as Planting Pastor in order to begin the process of forming Grace Fellowship. He grew up in the Birmingham area, and attended Samford University. After some time in ministry in Missouri and Texas, Dr. Busby returned to Birmingham in 2008 to study at Beeson Divinity School, where he earned an M.Div. in 2011 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2018. He also holds an M.A. in Youth and Family Ministry from John Brown University. He and his wife Mandy have three children.

Monday-Wednesday, March 20-22 – Peter Ong

Peter Ong is **Ministry Director** at **Living Faith Community Church** in **New York City**. He also serves as Program Manager at Redeemer City to City. Previously he was a youth worker and Director of Gospel Community at Living Faith Church. Mr. Ong has served in New York for nearly 20 years, with his passion for mercy and justice focused on engaging the church to serve local immigrant youth. In 2011 he was a Redeemer City to City Church Planting Fellow, during which time he and his wife Jamie planted King's Cross Church in Queens, New York. He holds degrees from New York University and Westminster Theological Seminary. He and Jamie have two sons.

Thursday-Friday, March 23-24 – Will Willimon

Will Willimon is **Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry** at **Duke Divinity School** in **Durham, North Carolina**, where he directs Duke's Doctor of Ministry Program. For eight years he served as Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church and also as visiting professor at Birmingham-Southern College. Before his election as bishop in 2004, Dr. Willimon served for 20 years as Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University. He is the author of 90 books, including *God Turned Toward Us: Christian A,B,C's*, and a memoir, *Accidental Preacher*. Last year he gave the prestigious Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School. This is his fourth visit to the Advent's Lenten Preaching series. He and his wife Patsy have two adult children and four grandchildren.

Monday-Tuesday, March 27-28 – Clayton Hornback

Clayton Hornback serves as **Minister of Spiritual Formation and Discipleship** at **Homewood Community Church** in **Homewood, Alabama**. Originally from southwest Missouri, he moved to Birmingham in 2011 to attend Beeson Divinity School. Mr. Hornback previously served as College Pastor at Mountain Brook Community Church. He is currently pursuing ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America. He is married to Sarah, and they live with their springer spaniel Penny.

Wednesday-Friday, March 29-31 – Joe Gibbes

Joe Gibbes has been **Rector** of the **Episcopal Church of Our Saviour** in **Jacksonville, Florida**, since December 2015. Before his call to Jacksonville, he served for more than five years as Canon for Christian Education at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, during which time he also worked as Interim Rector at Church of the Holy Cross in Trussville, Alabama. Born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. Gibbes grew up in the Episcopal Church and gave his life to Christ when he was 15. He graduated from Wake Forest University and attended seminary at Trinity School for Ministry. He is married to Amy, and they have three children who have seen to it that he has learned to pray daily.

Monday-Tuesday, April 3-4 – John Cantelow

John Cantelow has been **Senior Pastor** of **Sixth Avenue Baptist Church** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, since August 2011, when he returned to the church where he had grown up and been ordained into Christian ministry. A native of the Titusville neighborhood in Birmingham, he graduated from the University of Alabama in 1991. Dr. Cantelow earned his M.Div. at Beeson Divinity School, and in 2016 completed his Doctor of Ministry Degree at Beeson. He began ministry work in 1990 at Sixth Avenue Baptist, and served there until his call in 1999 to pastor the Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, Alabama. He and his wife Rhonda have three children.

Wednesday-Thursday, April 5-6 – Jono Linebaugh

Jono Linebaugh is **Anglican Chair of Divinity** at **Beeson Divinity School** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, where he also serves as Director of the Institute of Anglican Studies. Before coming to Beeson he was Professor of New Testament at the University of Cambridge and a fellow of Jesus College. Ordained in 2008, he has had an extensive preaching and education ministry in churches throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially in England and North America. An old friend of the Advent, Dr. Linebaugh has written several books, including *The Word of the Cross: Reading Paul* and *God's Two Words: Law and Gospel in the Lutheran and Reformed Traditions*. He and his wife Megan have three children.

Good Friday, April 7 (Service begins at noon.) – Craig Smalley

Craig Smalley is **Dean and Rector** of the **Cathedral Church of the Advent** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. A graduate of The Citadel, he earned his M.Div. at Virginia Theological Seminary. After being ordained in 1995, he served churches in South Carolina and Texas before being called in 2001 to be Rector of the Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. In 2006 Dean Smalley joined the clergy staff at the Advent, where he has also served as Canon for Christian Education, Canon Missioner, Canon Pastor, and Chaplain to the Advent Episcopal School. He is married to Paula, and they have three children.