

# Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Advent



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Second Sunday of Advent

Week of December 10, 2023



## News & Events

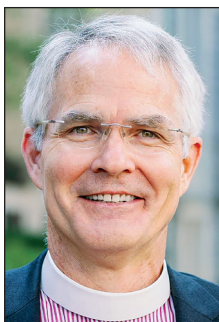
### Third Wednesday Luncheon Is Early this Month: December 13

The next Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday luncheon will be a week earlier than normal, on Wednesday, December 13, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Dean Craig Smalley will speak, and Barbara Partridge will prepare lunch.

Whether you are still active, newly retired, or have been enjoying flexibility for decades, you are welcome! So that we may have an accurate count for lunch, *please RSVP by Friday, December 8*, to Stella Schreiber (205-443-8558, [Stella@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com)).

### Lenten Preaching Schedule Available on Our Website

You can see the schedule of preachers for our 2024 Lenten Series at [AdventBirmingham.org/Lent2024](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Lent2024). The series will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with services every weekday, 12:05-12:30 p.m., through Maundy Thursday, March 28. Join us in person as much as you are able, but when you can't we hope you will join us for the livestream ([AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live)) or listen later on our audio pages ([Audio.AdventBirmingham.org](http://Audio.AdventBirmingham.org)).



## A Word from the Vice Dean

One of our favorite family holiday traditions is watching the movie *Christmas Vacation*, a comedy from the 1980s starring Chevy Chase. Along with the humorous character development, I think one of the reasons we love it so is because it paints such an honest picture of what the holidays are really like – complicated family dynamics and plans going awry. It's refreshing, especially amid the cultural pressures we all face to present as though everything is going perfectly well, when in truth it really isn't. Like the bumper sticker says, "May your life someday be as awesome as you pretend it is on social media."

The truth is, below the surface, beneath the outward appearances, most of us are struggling with something. And because of that, many are wondering this time of year if all this talk about Christmas hope and joy, and the peace of God which passes understanding... can all of that really be a reality for them this year?

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that the people of God have always asked that question, and that God responded with the promise of a coming Savior, a Messiah. *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined"* (Isaiah 9:2).

If everyone in your family is doing well right now, and life is currently all you could hope it to be – then praise God! But if you are one who approaches the manger this year with pain in your heart, know this: the Good News of Christmas is that the messianic promise of God is fulfilled. *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."*

As my favorite Christmas card says, "He came to pay a debt he didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay." Thus, Christmas is merely the first step on the journey that ultimately leads to the cross and empty grave, because that is where sin and death were ultimately defeated by God, through the One born that first Christmas Day – Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Tom

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

- Isaiah 9:6

## This Sunday:

December 10, 2023

### 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

*In the Nave.* Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

*In the Refectory.* Preacher: Dean Smalley

### 11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Vice Dean Murray

### 5:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

*We will livestream the 9:00 Nave, 11:00, and 5:00 services.*

*Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live), Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.*

### Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

**The Dean's Class** (Refectory) – *Understanding Israel: A Postscript* – Jason Wallace

**My God, My Life, My Holy Delight** (Chapter Room) – *"Did not our hearts burn within us?"* (Luke 24) – Gil Kracke

**The Message of Isaiah and the World Today** (Living Room) – Dennis Sansom

**Faith and Family** (Assembly Hall) – *Kids, Tech, and Truth: Insta-Envy and Gratitude* – Cameron Cole

### Children's & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00 a.m. Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal to meet teachers in Clingman Commons. Children in 4th grade and higher and youth have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. See Sunday's service bulletin for details.

The Nursery opens for our Infants, Toddlers, and 2s classes at 8:45 a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6 weeks-5 years during the 11:00 service.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



## serving & outreach

### Lenten Lunches



Above: Our 2024 Lenten Lunches Chairs with Dean Smalley

#### Our Series Needs Your Help

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, but Lenten Lunches teams are assembling now – contact Miriam Morris ([JcMMbM@gmail.com](mailto:JcMMbM@gmail.com)) or LaVonda Keel ([LaVondaKeel@gmail.com](mailto:LaVondaKeel@gmail.com)) if you'd like to help. No experience necessary. All training provided. Variety of schedules available. And... So. Much. Grace. Join the team for a great opportunity to make new friends while serving your church and community! *Can't make it up to the church each week to work? We have opportunities for you to serve from home, too!*

#### Lunch Tickets Available

*Making your list and checking it twice?* Give the gift of fabulous preaching and a delicious meal! Tickets for a single meal or a series of meals are available for sale in the bookstore now through Lent!

### Community Outreach

#### Pack Christmas Bags for Glen Iris Elementary Students this Sunday

The Advent is partnering with St. Luke's Episcopal Church and St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands to share the expense and volunteer pool to pack Christmas-Break bags for every student (825 of them!) at Glen Iris Elementary School. We will gather this Sunday, December 10, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's near Five Points South (1910 12th Avenue South, 35205). The bags will consist of a variety of non-perishable food items for underserved families and be distributed later that week. This is a great opportunity for individuals, couples, youth, and families with children all alike to lend a hand. Contact Canon Young ([Adam@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Adam@CathedralAdvent.com)) with any questions.

**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.



## worship

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday, December 10, the Marshall family, Katie Bee and Seton, Gray (7th grade), Elizabeth (5th grade), and Leslie Hails (2nd grade), will lead the lighting of the second candle on our Nave Advent wreath at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. service.

In the Refectory service, the Houston family, Megan and Colton, Caroline (3rd grade), Garland Grace (1st grade), and Birdie (2-years-old), will lead the lighting of the second candle on our Advent wreath at 9:00 a.m.

### A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

#### Traditional Service to Be Offered December 21

On Thursday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. the Cathedral Choir will offer A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, modeled after the service held annually at King's College, Cambridge. The Christmas narrative is told through Scripture and song – a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons. Whether you are on your way home from working downtown, or simply looking for an opportunity to hear some seasonal music and the gospel, all are warmly invited to attend this weeknight service.



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Youth Ministry



**The Advent Bowl:** We had another great two-hand-touch football tournament at the Youth Ministry Advent Bowl on November 26 at Mountain Brook High School. This beloved event is played annually on the Sunday following Thanksgiving as youth come together for an afternoon of fellowship and friendly competition.

For information on our Youth Ministry, contact Mary Ann McCarty ([MaryAnn@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:MaryAnn@CathedralAdvent.com)) or Will Fagan ([Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com)).



For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.  
- Titus 2:11-13



## making music

### Midday Music

#### Music for Clarinet and Piano December 15

Our Midday Music series will continue on Friday, December 15, 12:30 p.m. in Clingman Commons, with a free, 30-minute concert by Brian Viliunas, clarinet (*right*), and Laurie Middaugh, piano. Viliunas is Professor of Music and Orchestra Director at Samford University, and Middaugh is staff accompanist and piano instructor at the University of Montevallo, where she has served for more than two decades.

The concert will be livestreamed on [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Live) for anyone unable to attend, and be made available for later listening at any time. All are cordially invited to enjoy a half-hour of beautiful music!



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### 20s & 30s Ministry

#### Group to Attend A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Followed by Dinner

Adventers in their 20s and 30s are invited to attend the Cathedral Choir's offering of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 21. This beautiful service is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons, hearing the Christmas story told through Scripture and song. Meet Will Fagan at the church on the 20th Street steps at 5:15 p.m., and we will find a place to sit together before the service starts at 5:30. We hope you will join us for dinner at Back Forty immediately following. Contact Will for more information ([Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fagan@CathedralAdvent.com)).



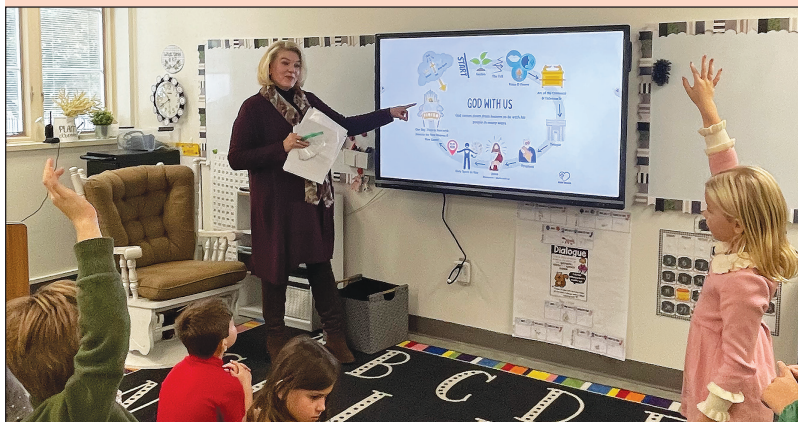
## education

### Children's Sunday School



Above: Sam Harris reads the Bible with 2nd graders Teddy McAllister, Tynes Marie White, and Mac Lucas.

Below: Lalie Given leads 3rd graders through the many ways God has come down to be with his people. Eager hands are raised to share the best is yet to come: being face-to-face with Jesus for eternity!



## worship

### Lectionary: Sunday, December 10

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."  
- Isaiah 40:3-5

Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

- Psalm 85:10-11

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Gail Sharp:** (Endowment Fund) by John Coleman • (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Tony and Dana Davis • (Music Discretionary Fund) by John and Virginia Hornsby

**Advent House:** Intercessory prayer is on-going through the Advent House Prayer Ministry. To schedule a prayer session at Advent House, call Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622.

## diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop of Alabama

## advent staff

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean

The Rev. Canon Jay Gardner, Canon Pastor

The Rev. Canon Adam Young, Canon Missioner

## transitions:

**Baptisms:** John Hinton Burkhardt, son of Joshua and Sarah B, on November 19; Henry Pittman Parsons, son of Conner and Amelia, on November 22; Charles Grantland Mathis, son of Chase and Emily, on November 26

**Marriage:** Emily Craig Gilliland and Charles Dudley Smith, on November 18

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Brenda Smith Flynn:** (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Ann and Troy Haas • (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson

**Virginia "Din" Goodall Johnson:** (Endowment Fund) by Toody Sullivan; Julie and Jim Goyer • (Garden Fund) by Lyda White

**Mary K Wilson:** (Endowment Fund) by Toody Sullivan; Julie and Jim Goyer

**In Honor of Carrie and Fred Teardo:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Samuel E. Urmev



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 10 Regular worship schedule  Christmas-Bag Packing - St. Mary's - 3:00 p.m.	11	12	13 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	14	15 Midday Music - Clingman Commons - 12:30 p.m.	16
Dec 17 Regular worship schedule  Christmas Pageant at 9:00 a.m. Nave service	18	19	20	21 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Nave - 5:30 p.m.  20s & 30s Dinner - Back Forty Beer Co. - Following Lessons and Carols service	22	23

Monday-Friday: AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

**Bible Studies:** We have more Bible studies meeting than we can list on the calendar! Please join us in praising God for this blessing and visit [AdventBirmingham.org/BibleStudies](http://AdventBirmingham.org/BibleStudies) for a list of options available to you. If you have any questions, please contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562).