

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 47, No. 47

First Sunday After Christmas Day

Week of December 31, 2023



News & Events

Slate Named for 2024 Vestry Election

The Vestry approved a slate of 20 candidates for the 2024 Vestry election at its meeting in December. The nominees are as follows:

Mary Bradley Anderson	Connor Herfurth
Din Blankenship	Lee Hoerner
Ricky Bromberg	Julia King
Tara Bryant	Catherine Kirpalani
Crawford Bumgarner	Bailey Knight
Beaty Coleman	Thomas Nelson
Margot Cooney	Taylor Pursell
Fred Elliott	Stacy Townsend
Parker Evans	Drew Wright
Sam Everette	Haley Yearout

Parishioners will elect 10 of these nominees to serve a three-year term on the Vestry of the Advent at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. in the Nave.

Epiphany Service Set for January 11

In celebration of Epiphanytide, the Cathedral Choir will offer *A Celebration of Epiphany Light* on Thursday, January 11, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This service will feature lessons and Epiphany carols in a manner much like our lessons and carols services during Advent. See page 2 for more information.



A Word from the Dean

Perhaps among the heaviest weights is the weight of expectation. A sibling of expectation is comparison, and athletics is one of their many playgrounds. One of the ongoing NBA storylines is judging the progression of Zion Williamson compared to Victor Wembanyama. For context, both were selected number one in the NBA draft a few years apart, Williamson by the New Orleans Pelicans and Wembanyama by the San Antonio Spurs. Immediately the unfettered hopes and weight of expectations were placed upon these young men, not only from the franchises, their communities, and fan bases, but also from the NBA machine.

Williamson has struggled to stay healthy and maintain his weight, and Wembanyama, despite being seven-foot-four (!) with point-guard skills, has struggled to acclimate. Combine this with the fact that their vast salaries engender resentment and increase expectation, many are ready to pounce on their failures or struggles. You

have two people, as David Bowie would sing, "under pressure."

We too know pressure, the weight of expectations, the tyranny of comparisons. In response to the critique of Williamson, one of his teammates, Jose Alvarado, recently came to his defense: "They're trying to push him to be great. Obviously, we appreciate that. But forget all that (negativity) towards him. He's a human being. If that was me, I don't know how I would respond. ...I don't know how he could do it at that age. He handles it very well. I crash out when I have bad games, and I'm not even a star. I'm a role player and I go in there and lose my mind. He stays professional. He accepts all the criticism. He's a good dude. He's a person that's growing, and we've got his back."

What a great word from a teammate, a rare word of perspective, a word of grace. Would you like to hear that someone appreciates your struggles, your humanity, has your back? That is a Christmas word. Not a word that pounces on our failures, but a word of saving grace and love: the news of a Savior, that God has our back.

- Craig

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

- Luke 2:10-11

This Sunday:

December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Cameron Cole

We will livestream the 10:00 service. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

The regular worship schedule will resume next Sunday, January 7.

Adult Education:

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, December 31. All are invited to enjoy fellowship and coffee in Clingman Commons following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Regular classes will resume on Sunday, January 7.

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes for children and youth will not meet this Sunday, December 31. The Nursery will be open for ages 5 and under at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Regular classes will resume next Sunday, January 7.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



making music

A Celebration of Epiphany Light

Service to Be Followed by Organ Concert January 11

In celebration of Epiphanytide, the Cathedral Choir will offer *A Celebration of Epiphany Light* on Thursday, January 11, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This special service will feature lessons and Epiphany carols in a manner much like our lessons and carols services during Advent season. 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.

Concert Series

Organist Kevin Kwan to Perform Following Epiphany Service

Kevin Kwan will perform an organ recital as part of the Cathedral Concert Series on Thursday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. following the *A Celebration of Epiphany Light* service. Kevin is Organist and Director of Music at Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Norfolk, Virginia, and previously served on staff with our own Director of Music, Frederick Teardo, at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue in New York. His program will include music of J.S. Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, Robert Schumann, and Carl Haywood.

Both the service and recital be livestreamed from our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Live.



worship

Lenten Preaching Series

Preaching Schedule Available on Our Website

You can see the schedule of preachers for our 2024 Lenten Series at 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) or listen later on our audio pages (Audio.AdventBirmingham.org).

Lectionary: Sunday, December 31

Psalm 147 or Psalm 147:13-21

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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

John 1:1-18

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 Ministries

Feeling "Consumed" by Holiday Frenzy?

Plan to join us Thursday, January 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Cranmer House as Dr. Gisela Kreglinger-Smith shares *Being Consumed*. We live in a click-to-buy, same-day delivery, binge-watching society. But our freedom in the gospel means we can view consumption differently – less as getting and more as receiving with joy and celebration, rather than as slaves to "stuff."

Gisela will help us understand how we can "consume redemptively" through three teachings delivered in between courses of a delicious, well-sourced meal.

Gisela is a university professor, speaker, and author whose passion is to lead Christians to recognize how our faith informs every part of our lives.

Please register soon so we can plan for space and food. Registration is available at AdventBirmingham.org/Women, through your Realm account, or by contacting Janet Dozier (Janet@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3503).

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering Set for January 12

Caregivers are invited to a monthly lunch with others who have been impacted by the increasing demands of caring for a loved one. The next gathering will be Friday, January 12, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you are a full-time caregiver or you are just beginning to experience changes in your life due to the health of a family member. To RSVP for lunch or for more information, contact Stella Schreiber (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8558).



bookstore

Bookstore Reopening After Break

The Advent Bookstore will reopen after its year-end break on Tuesday, January 2, at 10:00 a.m. Here are the store's open hours:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Monday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

Saturday: Closed

Contact the store for more information (205-323-2959, Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com).

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

Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting January 8

Adventers are invited to a Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting on Monday, January 8, 7:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). This hour-long meeting is set aside to pray for the Advent. Usually held the first Monday of the month, the gathering will be held on January 8 because of the New Year's Day holiday on January 1. For details, contact Carol Ann Collier (CarolC11118@gmail.com, 205-478-8081).

Holiday Closing

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

Offering Envelopes Available

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2024 pledge card, you can pick them up in Clingman Commons. Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number. Contact Beth Anne Maier with questions (BethAnne@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3517).



worship

Christmas Pageant



Our 5th and 6th graders blessed our 9:00 Nave service on December 17 with their offering of the Christmas Pageant. Thanks to the cast and to all who made the pageant happen!



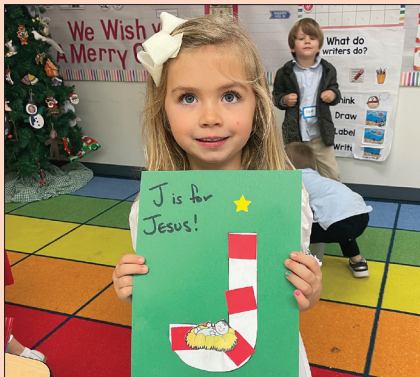
education

Class for Parents

"Closer to God" Class to Begin January 8

Starting in January, Cameron Cole will lead a class for parents on Mondays, 11:00 a.m.-noon at Cranmer House, called *Closer to God*. This class breaks down the Christian life into four sectors: relationship with God, others, self, and creation. The class helps people to have broad structure in how they think about their spiritual life but also provides framework and direction on how to have meaningful conversations within a family. This is a great class to bring a friend to. The class will start on Monday, January 8, at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You can sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Family. Contact Cameron for more information (Cameron@CathedralAdvent.com).

Children's Sunday School



Above: Charlotte Benefield with her "J is for Jesus!" craft, made by our 3K and 4K classes December 17

Right: 1st graders with their Nativity crafts on December 17



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:

Baptism: Eleanor Holland Hagood,
daughter of Claire and Jeff, on
December 17

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Ruth Sanders: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Donald Sanders

Katherine and Charlie Sharp: (Endowment Fund) by Dianne and Dan Matheson

Freddy Julian Gannon: (Pastoral Care) by Charles Scribner, IV

In Thanksgiving for the Birth of Peter Thomas Teardo: (Music Discretionary Fund) by the
Cathedral Choir

In Thanksgiving for the Cathedral Choir: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Una Battles



Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150
for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017
6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.
Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes
to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT,
2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 31 Holy Communion - Nave - 10:00 a.m.	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church Office closed	2	3	4	5	6
Jan 7 Regular worship schedule Youth Family Dinner - Cranmer House - 6:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11 A Celebration of Epiphany Light - Nave - 5:30 p.m. Concert Series: Kevin Kwan, organ - Nave - 6:30 p.m. Women's Gathering - Cranmer House - 6:30 p.m.	12 Caregivers Support Luncheon - Cranmer House - noon	13

Monday-Friday (No meeting January 1): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

Intercessory Prayer Available at Advent House: Anyone desiring to seek God in prayer may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. We offer prayer sessions at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205). Please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com) to make an appointment or for more information.