

Adventurer

Epiphany

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 48, No. 3

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

Week of January 21, 2024



News & Events

Annual Parish Meeting Is this Sunday

The 151st annual Parish Meeting of the Cathedral Church of the Advent will be held this Sunday, January 21, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. The meeting will include Dean Smalley's address to the parish, a report from the Treasurer, and a word from the Senior Warden. Also, parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve a three-year term on the Vestry of the Advent. *See the insert for profiles of the Vestry nominees.*

Join the Lenten Lunches Team

Lenten Lunches 2024 is right around the corner! We will start on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continue serving lunches each weekday, 12:05-1:00 p.m., through Maundy Thursday, March 28.

There are still plenty of volunteer opportunities available, and we hope you will join us as we work together to prepare and serve delicious hot lunches to our church and to our community. Please contact LaVonda Keel (LaVondaKeel@gmail.com) or Miriam Morris (JcmMbm@gmail.com) to inquire about available volunteer jobs and to sign up!



A Word from Canon Gardner

Recently we had public baptisms at the Advent. I had the pleasure of hearing two fantastic sermons that morning: one from Tom Murray and one from Will Fagan. I commend both of them to you. It was a great Sunday. But the greatest part for me personally was having the privilege of baptizing my youngest child.

Not one of my children will consciously remember their baptism, because babies do not remember such things. As for me, I was baptized at the age of 14. But despite being baptized later in life, I cannot remember my baptism all that well either. It is certainly a blurry memory at best. I do remember wearing a robe and holding my breath as I went under water, but I do not remember my emotions or thoughts. And that is a comfort to me. If I try to reconstruct my emotions or thoughts, then I can

begin to doubt, saying "What if my heart was not really in the right place? What if I was just going through the motions?" These simply are not the right questions to ask. The point is that I was baptized.

At any given moment in this Christian life, we can doubt our own thoughts, responses, or behaviors. Inevitably this leads us down a dark path of trying to find faith or righteousness in ourselves. We will not find it there. Faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit and righteousness belongs to us only through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We look not to ourselves, but to the God who has spoken emphatically to us through his beloved Son. Baptism is simply a "visible word," as Robert Jenson called it, reminding us that we have been claimed by a gracious God in the person and work of Jesus.

- Jay

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- Romans 6:3-4

This Sunday:

January 21, 2024

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Smalley

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Young

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Smalley

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Preacher: Canon Young

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

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

Adult Education:

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, January 21, due to the annual Parish Meeting.

Regular classes will resume next Sunday, January 28.

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!



making music

Midday Music



Samford String Quartet to Perform January 26

Our Midday Music series continues on Friday, January 26, at 12:30 p.m. with a free, 30-minute concert in the Nave by the Samford String Quartet. Members of the quartet include Samford faculty members (*photo above, l-r*) Samuel Nordlund, cello; Angela Flaniken, viola; Jeffrey Flaniken, violin; and Caroline Nordlund, violin. Their program will include music of Felix Mendelssohn, Maurice Ravel, and K. Lee Scott. This concert marks their return to the Advent for the first time since their most recent appearance in the Midday Music series in 2016.

The concert will be livestreamed on AdventBirmingham.org/Live and associated digital platforms for anyone unable to attend in person, and be made available for later listening at any time. All are cordially invited to what promises to be a beautiful half-hour of music!

James O'Donnell at the Advent

Acclaimed Musician to Conduct Cathedral Choir February 11

The Advent is honored to welcome James O'Donnell, LVO, for our morning choral services on February 11, the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. He will conduct the Cathedral Choir at Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m., and at Choral Matins, a special service of Morning Prayer, at 11:00 a.m.

One of the most celebrated concert organists, choral conductors, and liturgical musicians of our time, James O'Donnell served for more than two decades as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey. He currently serves as Professor in the Practice of Organ at the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music. We hope you will make plans to attend and welcome Mr. O'Donnell to the Advent.

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

Youth Ministry

Family Dinner Is Back this Sunday

Family Dinner returns to Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) this Sunday, January 21, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and enjoy a minute to rest with church friends, enjoy a meal together, and worship!

Weekly Bible studies before school have resumed. Check AdventBirmingham.org/Youth for all the meeting times and locations for each grade, and reach out with any questions. Friends are always welcome.

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

Women's Ministries

Join The Middle for "Being Mom to Your Young Adult"

"Oh, thanks for making all my favorite dishes, but I only eat things that are green now."

"I'm going to spend part of the holiday with her family, and part of it with my fraternity friends, but I'll see you guys, um, sometime..."

"I can take care of myself. Can you put some money in my account?"

If any of this sounds familiar, you should join The Middle on Thursday, February 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the home of Elizabeth Outland (2901 Southwood Road, 35223). Advent Youth Directors Will Fagan and Mary Ann McCarty will join us for a conversation about *Being Mom to Your Young Adult*.

The Middle is a fellowship group for women in the middle stages of life. Register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. Contact Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (ElFitzPat9511@gmail.com) or Leigh Whatley (LeighHWhatley@gmail.com) if you'd like to bring a snack.



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.

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
- Mark 1:14-15



serving & outreach

Local Outreach

SOUPer Bowl Soup Sale – Help Support Pathways

Support the work of Pathways, a ministry devoted to helping women and children on the path out of homelessness, by contributing to Women's Ministries' annual soup sale. Everyone is welcome to participate in one of two ways (or both!).

Want to provide soup for the sale? Here's all you need to do:

1. Make your favorite soup recipe (hearty ones sell better!).
2. Divide into one-quart *clearly labeled* containers and freeze.
3. Bring soup to church by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 11.

No time to make soup? You can help by purchasing soup for \$10/quart the morning of the sale... just in time for your Super Bowl game party! All money raised will go to support Pathways.

Please contact Nancy McColloch (NdlMcColloch@gmail.com) with questions or to let her know you can contribute soup for the sale.



Children's Sunday School



Above: On January 7 some of our classes reenacted what it was like for the wise men to travel in search of Jesus. 3K, 4K, and Kindergarten left their classes and followed the star path until they found Jesus. Each chose what gift they offered: gold, frankincense, or myrrh.



education

Thursday Morning Moms

Weekly Bible Study Is Back

Our weekly Bible study for moms of little ones is back after our holiday break, and we would love for you to join us! Thursday Morning Moms meets weekly from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Living Room of the church to study Scripture, share the ups and downs of this challenging life stage, and pray for one another. We are currently studying the Gospel according to Matthew.

Nursery is available and new members are always welcome! Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511) with questions or to say you're coming.

Inquirers' Class Series

Interested in Membership?

Join Us Beginning February 4

Are you trying to decide whether to make the Advent your church home? The Inquirers' Class will help you make that decision. It's a seven-week series that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why.

Our next series will begin Sunday, February 4, 10:15-10:50 a.m. in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance near the middle of the garden). For more information, fill out the Interest Form at AdventBirmingham.org/Membership.



worship

Lectionary: Sunday, January 21

Psalms 62:6-14
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Regarding Offering Envelopes

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.

New envelopes requested after the start of the new year will take some extra time to process, and should be on the table in Clingman by the end of January. Please look for them then!

Contact Beth Anne Maier with questions (BethAnne@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3517).

Put your trust in him always, O people,
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

- Psalm 62:9

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:

Birth: Wynn Patricia Rawls, daughter of Jennifer and Jackson, on December 21

Baptisms: Carvel "Car" Alan Bellman, son of Claire and Sam, on January 7; George Cooper Gardner, son of Paige and Jay, on January 7; Margaret "Winnie" Winfred O'Connor, daughter of Katherine and Kerry, on January 7

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Louis C. Culver: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Deenie M. Culver

Ann Derby: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Alice Bowsher

Gail Sharp: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Ann and Donald Sweeney

In Honor of Henry James: (Endowment Fund) by Terri Brownlow

In Thanksgiving for Peter Thomas Teardo: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Carrie and Fred Teardo



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 21 Regular worship schedule Parish Meeting - Nave - 10:00 a.m. Youth Family Dinner - Cranmer House - 6:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26 Midday Music - Nave - 12:30 p.m.	27
Jan 28 Regular worship schedule	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3

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 for a list of options available to you. If you have any questions, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).

NOMINEES FOR THE VESTRY

For election at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024

Each profile contains the answer to the question,

“What are your hopes for the Cathedral Church of the Advent for the immediate future?”

MARY BRADLEY ANDERSON - 14 years • Financial Technology • Husband: Frank • Lenten Lunches Kitchen Volunteer, St. Amelia's Guild Member, Sunday School Teacher, Women's Ministries Volunteer and Study Facilitator • “When Frank and I pray for the Advent, we give thanks for the tremendous preaching and teaching that has fed our family so faithfully and changed our lives, for the intentionality of our family ministries in nurturing our children, and for the many enriching relationships we have in this special place. We also pray and hope that the Lord will continue to breathe the word of life into our congregation, to keep us on steady, sure footing, and provide us the courage to unashamedly proclaim the gospel message of grace, mercy, and life.”



DIN BLANKENSHIP - Member 1 year (attended with family as a child) • Documentary Filmmaker • Husband: Ross • Worship • “I hope that we would be a people who rest in the love of God and find our sense of belovedness, security, and belonging in him. I hope that the ways in which we love our families, our neighbors, our colleagues, and our city would be an outpouring of God's love as we participate in his redemptive work.”



RICKY BROMBERG - Lifelong Member • Retail Jeweler • Wife: Nancy • Former Vestry Member, Former Clerk of the Vestry, Chalice Bearer, Lector, Stewardship Worker, Usher, Children's Chapel, Confirmation Table Leader • “I feel the Advent is positioned to continue to grow and to offer the best teaching and preaching in the Birmingham area with a variety of worship services. Opportunities to serve and connect are essential in our large parish, and I believe we are succeeding in that area as well. When challenges present themselves, support the Dean, staff, and Wardens in their leadership. My immediate hope is the Advent should continue as it has for over 150 years, to ‘preach nothing except Christ, and him crucified’ (1 Corinthians 2:2).”



TARA BRYANT - 23 years • Physician • Husband: Jim • 7-8th Grade Sunday School Teacher (eight years), Small Group Bible Study Participant (15 years), Former Small Group Leader (three years), Host Home for Lenten Preacher Gatherings • “As the Advent defines itself for the future, staying true to the gospel is key. As a church member and small group Bible study advocate, I believe each of us has a role to spread the gospel. The church clergy certainly leads us in this effort, but it is up to each of us to spread the word to everyone we encounter. ‘Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ’ (1 Peter 1:13).”



CRAWFORD BUMGARNER - Member 42 years • Interior Designer/Stager with Set to Sell • Husband: Stephen • Parish Caller, Stewardship Team Captain, Sunday School Teacher, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Lenten Lunches Team Captain, St. Elizabeth's Guild • “My hope for the Advent in 2024 is that we continue in our steadfast commitment to preaching the gospel, and that our message of hope would further encourage our church family and downtown community to worship together. Our opportunities for small groups, fellowship and outreach are such blessings, and I would love to see them continue to grow their reach.”



BEATY COLEMAN - Member 23 years • Interior Design • Husband: John • Over the years I've taught Children's Sunday School and served in many capacities for Lenten Lunches from Cooking to Serving. I've also participated in Small Groups and contributed to the Youth Group when my children were active. • “My hope for the Advent will always be that we continue to enjoy the unwavering pursuit of a gospel-centered faith that fills our sermons, lessons, small groups, meetings, and prayers – and that we humbly carry that with us into the community drawing more people to faith and truth.”



MARGOT COONEY - Member 10 years • Student and Prayer Coordinator at Beeson Divinity School • Husband: Patrick • Advent House, Sunday School Education, Club 456, Baptism Banners • “My hope for the Advent is that we will seek first the kingdom of heaven and his righteousness, come to him like little children, and love our neighbors as ourselves.”



FRED ELLIOTT - Lifelong Member • Renasant Bank – Commercial Relationship Officer • Wife: Kris • Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Stewardship Calling Team Member • “We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful clergy that has never wavered from the gospel. My hope is that we find new ways to reach out to those who are looking for this consistent word. As the world around us gets more uncertain, there has never been a time where the comfort and stability of the Cross is needed more. I pray that we look to expand ways that the Advent can be that welcoming home for those who are searching.”



PARKER EVANS - Member 50 years • Construction • Wife: Jennifer • Sunday School Teacher (long ago), Usher, Stewardship Captain and Caller, Building Committee, Alpha • “To continue to spread the gospel to the city of Birmingham and to minister to its parishioners in meaningful and life-changing ways, and to continue to provide excellent Christian education opportunities for the parish.”



SAM EVERETTE - Member 25 years • President, Alabama Insurance Alliance • Wife: Ennis • Usher Co-Chair, Men's Ministry Chair, Confirmation Table Leader, Cursillo, Stewardship Captain, Small Group Leader, Former Vestry Member • “In an era filled with uncertainty and instability, it is my hope that our church continues to be an unwavering bastion of hope and refuge for those seeking to embark on their walk with Christ. 1 Corinthians 14:33 explains, ‘For God is not a God of disorder but of peace – as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.’ For nearly three decades, Ennis and I have found peace in the Advent's consistent, text-based teachings. As our world changes by the day, the Advent will continue to offer Christ-centered teachings, substantive fellowship, and effectual outreach.”



NOMINEES FOR THE VESTRY

For election at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024

Each profile contains the answer to the question,

“What are your hopes for the Cathedral Church of the Advent for the immediate future?”

CONNOR HERFURTH - Member 7 years • Attorney at Balch & Bingham • Wife: Anne • Youth Ministry, Small Groups, Stewardship, Discernment Committee • “My hope for our church is that we continue to stand firm in the unchanging truth of the gospel. I pray that our church continues to be a beacon of light, proclaiming the transformative power of Christ's finished work on the cross, impacting lives, and glorifying God in all we do.”



LEE HOERNER - Member 37 years • Retired Educator • Husband: John • Christian Education, Small Group Leader, Five O'Clock Altar Guild and Chalice Bearer, Abigail Guild, Advent Outreach Committee, Senior Ministry, Diocese Outreach Committee, Cursillo, Member Companion Diocese Virgin Islands • “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matthew 11:28). Each Sunday as John and I enter the Nave, I know that we will hear the pitter-patter of little feet rushing off to an exemplary Christian Education program, we will hear the gospel preached, hear the spirit-filled hymns sung, and be amongst my loving Advent family. My hope is that this long tradition will grow stronger and more faithful throughout the coming years.”



JULIA KING - Member 22 years • Retail • Husband: Peyton • Women's Ministries, Sunday-Morning Prayer team, Lenten Lunch Volunteer, St. Dorothy's Guild Member, Reader/Lector at 11:00 • “I feel the Advent is poised to grow in many directions not yet realized until now. The hope is that through our excellent clergy team, our members can eagerly see ways to grow our congregation in service, prayer, and outreach. My love for our church is exemplified by men and women of all ages who by the Holy Spirit come together through study, worship, and teaching. I am grateful that our hope is in Jesus alone to lead us to a better understanding of his unending love for all of us.”



CATHERINE KIRPALANI - Member 25 years • Self employed • Husband: Bob • Altar Guild Co-Chair – member for 25 years, Lenten Lunches - Desert and Day Cook, Garden Guild, St. Dorothy's Guild, 150th Celebration Decorating Committee • “The Advent is and has been a real home for me for many years. What I hope for is to see the Advent grow in its commitment to reaching out to the Birmingham community not familiar with Christ's message – however, not forgetting those who are believers (of all ages) but need a church home. I hope for a vibrant place of learning God's word and celebrating God's redeeming love, all centered on the life-giving gospel message. ‘Come near to God and he will come near to you’ (James 4:8).”



BAILEY KNIGHT - Lifelong Member • Financial Consultant • Wife: Margaret • Stewardship Chair, Stewardship Caller, Former Vestry Member, Usher • “My hope is that the Advent will continue to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and be a meaningful example to the Birmingham community.”



THOMAS NELSON - Member 13 years • Chief Financial Officer • Wife: Katie • Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Stewardship Campaign Caller, Small Group Member • “All believers have been given the gift of salvation that we could not possibly have earned on our own accord but is given to us freely by our Lord through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. My hope is that each of us as individuals and as a congregation will continue to spread the good news in whatever ways God presents before us. Some forms of ministry are more overt and obvious while others can be less discernible to us. God does not call those who are equipped but rather equips all those who are called.”



TAYLOR PURSELL - Member 20 years • Pursell Capital, LLC • Wife: Lydia • Support of the Advent Youth Summer Interns each year • “It is exciting to see the services filling up again after Covid and the many new faces attending the Advent. Our new Dean has assembled an excellent team and staff all aligned in their mission. My hope is that we can continue to provide the resources and support needed to continue the very positive momentum of our Church.”



STACY TOWNSEND - Member 10 years • Homemaker • Husband: Jacob • Children's Sunday School Teacher, VBS Group Leader and Chair, St. Amelia's Guild Co-Chair, Women's Retreat Co-Chair, Lenten Lunches, Small Groups, Women's Discipleship Group Participant, Stewardship, Confirmation Table Leader • “My hope for the Advent is to draw others in through our wonderful preaching, teaching, and living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know we can accomplish this by focusing on our commitments of community outreach, nurturing true relationships, and providing a comfortable place to worship for all.”



DREW WRIGHT - Member 22 years • Vistage CEO Peer Advisory Group Chair • Wife: Rita • Kindergarten Sunday School Teacher, Small Group Leader, Usher, Welcome Committee, Stewardship Captain and Caller, Lenten Lunch Volunteer and Host • “The Advent has been our family's church home for more than 20 years and has deeply enriched our lives through consistently teaching and preaching the gospel. So, my hope for the Advent is that we will continue to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified, the good news to man and our only true hope.”



HALEY YEAROUT - Member 9 years • Stay-at-home Mom, Freelance Journalist • Husband: Christopher • Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Volunteer, Lenten Lunches Volunteer, Club 456 (a gathering for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders held one Sunday per month) • “We face giants in our lives every day – giants that seem insurmountable. Like David, we might seem unfit to slay them. But we know the rest of the story. My hope is for the church to prayerfully choose its stones (like David) – harness its resources and people – to further the truth that the one true God goes before us and has won the ultimate battle. My hope is to broaden outreach to our community and youth so they come to know the grace of our good, good Father.”

