

Adventurer

Epiphany

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 43, No. 2

The First Sunday After the Epiphany

Week of January 13, 2019



News & Events

Food Drive this Sunday

We will collect non-perishable food items in Clingman Commons this Sunday morning, January 13. This year's Food Drive once again will support our ministry partner, Bridge Ministries. Bridge focuses on preventing homelessness in the Birmingham area by assisting people in crisis situations to pay their rent or utility bills or to secure temporary emergency lodging.

Please check expiration dates and avoid open containers. Contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com, 226-3512) for more information. See page 2 for a list of food pantry needs.

Weeknight Worship: Evensong Service January 17

The Cathedral Choir will sing Choral Evensong on Thursday, January 17, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. Evensong, a sung version of the Evening Prayer service, is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. This service offers an evening of respite and rest during the work week. Doug Webster will preach, with Katherine Jacob officiating. Join us for worship of our Lord and Savior through prayer and song.



A Word from Canon Schneider

As we look back at 2018, you might note the alarming amount of tragedy: disasters, mass shootings, and rumors of wars. Nothing is new, yet a person skeptical of all religious worldviews might look on the tragedies of the year and demand, how could one believe in a good and all-powerful God with so much suffering and evil?

My initial response to this common question is that I am sympathetic. I too have a more difficult time learning about current events lately. I wish the suffering would stop. Most of it seems pointless at best, banal at worst. To answer the concern, the first place we need to turn is not to philosophical explanations, but to the Cross of Christ. And I take a cue from an unlikely place to do so: Jewish author Ellie Wiesel.

In his book *Night*, Wiesel, who was a holocaust survivor, describes an experience in a concentration camp of being forced to watch the hanging of a boy who lingers be-

tween life and death for more than half an hour before finally dying. Wiesel explains, "Behind me, I heard (a) man asking: 'For God's sake, where is God?' And from within me, I heard a voice answer: 'Where He is? This is where – hanging here from this gallows.'"

Indeed, here God is in the midst of our suffering, hanging from a tree. A unique aspect of the Christian claim is that God is not distant and distinct from suffering. Jesus entered human history and subjected himself to our suffering not to empathize but to die at the hands of his enemies and pray for their forgiveness.

At the Cross, God took on all the evil and suffering of the world – past, present, and future. All the killings, all the calamities, and all the anxieties were placed on his shoulders for our sakes so there could be a day when people will live together with no more evil and heartache. A new year is upon us with tragedies yet unknown, but know that Christ has already taken them to his gallows.

- Matt

Creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. - Romans 8:20-21

This Sunday: January 13, 2019

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Dean Pearson

9:00 a.m. Holy Baptism

Preacher: Dean Pearson

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Nave. Preacher: Dean Pearson

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Canon Hicks

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Preacher: Canon Hicks

Adult Education: 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean's Class (Nave) – *The Parables: Mercy Over Merit* – Doug Webster

Epiphany Stories (Chapter Room) – *Presentation in the Temple* – Jon Harbuck and Steve Tilghman

The First Half: Faith and Finances (Especially for Those Under 45) (Living Room) – Helen and Dickie Owens

Faith and Family (Lower School Library) – *God Knows Families Need a Break: Principles of Sabbath* – John Halsey Wood

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes are offered for 3-years and older. See Sunday's service leaflet for details. The Nursery is open 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

At the Five O'Clock service, childcare is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:

Psalm 29

Isaiah 43:1-7

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon and class recordings are available at AdventBirmingham.org.

The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on WERC 960 AM, 105.5 FM, and AdventBirmingham.org.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



serving & outreach

Food Drive

Bring Non-Perishable Items this Sunday Morning

We will collect non-perishable food items in Cranmer Commons after the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. services this Sunday, January 13. This year's Food Drive once again will support our ministry partner, Bridge Ministries. Food pantry needs include:

- Canned meats and fish
- Hearty soups, stews, and chili
- Dried beans, peas, and rice
- Peanut butter
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Whole grain pasta
- Cereal (low sugar and oatmeal preferred)
- Powered or canned milk



We do not need sugar, meal, or flour. *Please check expiration dates* and avoid open containers. Expired food is a consistent issue with the food drive, which creates more work for those we're aiming to help.

For more information, please contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com).



education

Inquirers' Class

Weeknight Series Starts January 17

We will offer a weeknight Inquirers' Class series on four Thursday evenings beginning January 17, 7:00-8:45 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). This course will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. It is open to anyone, but is particularly designed for newcomers, as well as adults considering confirmation.

We will also offer a Sunday-morning spring series, meeting for eight weeks beginning February 24 during the Sunday School hour, 10:10-10:50 a.m. in the Diocesan Conference Room (no class on March 24 or April 21, Easter Day).

For more information on these classes or joining the Advent, contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).

Youth Confirmation

Classes for 6th Graders Begin January 27

Confirmation for 6th graders will begin on Sunday, January 27. That morning during the 9:00 service, students will report to the Coe Conference Room as the younger children leave at the announcements. That night at 6:00 p.m., we will host a Confirmation kickoff dinner for parents and 6th graders in the Refectory. Please contact Rachel Cain for more information (Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com).



spiritual growth & fellowship

Ageless Adventers

Next Third Wednesday Program Is January 16

Ageless Adventers, our fellowship for seniors, will gather for the next Third Wednesday program on January 16, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Come for lunch, fellowship, and a gospel-centered word of encouragement. For more information, contact Stella Schreiber (443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

Support Group

For Mothers of Special-Needs Children

A six-week support group for mothers of children with special needs will meet on Thursdays from January 17-February 21, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The group will provide space to reflect on how parenting children with special needs impacts our relationships, views of ourselves, and our spirituality, among other topics. For more information or to sign up, contact Stella Schreiber (443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

Advent House: Intercessory prayer is on-going at Advent House. To schedule a prayer session, call Kathy Logue at 410-4622.

Youth Ministry

Jr. High: Deadline Nears to Sign Up for RYM Beach Trip

January 20 is the deadline to register for the Reformed Youth Ministries conference in Panama City Beach, Florida, so sign up today! All 6th-8th graders are invited to the conference, set for June 24-28. This week is full of incredible speakers, spiritual growth, team games, beach time, and loads of fun. The cost is \$535 per student. We have scholarships available for any families who need it.

Register at AdventBirmingham.org/Youth. Contact Rachel Cain (Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8551) for more information.

Jr. High Youth to Meet this Sunday

Jr. High youth will gather this Sunday, January 13, 6:30-7:45 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209), and the theme is "Winter Olympics." Come for dinner, games, and a lesson, and play games like basketball, spike ball, and cornhole. For more information, contact Rachel Cain (Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com).

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

Parish Meeting Set for January 27

The annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, January 27, 10:10 a.m. in the Nave. Dean Pearson will deliver his annual address to the parish, and parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve on the Vestry. The nominees are as follows:

Fran Cade, Richard Cook, Fred Elliott, Shirley Elliott, Sam Everette, Ford Hamilton, Mary Hanson, John Hargrove, Melinda King, Glynn Lassiter, Miriam Morris, Craig Ogard, Brad Oser, Ed Partridge, Emily Price, Frank Springfield, Shirley Anne Stringfellow, Browning Thornton, Chris Weingartner, Jay Wright.

Offering Envelopes Available

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2019 Pledge Card, you can pick them up in Clingman Commons. Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry

Luncheon with Charlotte Botsford Getz January 30

Ladies of all ages are invited to a luncheon on Wednesday, January 30, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Clingman Commons with speaker Charlotte Botsford Getz. Charlotte grew up at the Advent and worked on staff in youth ministry before marrying and starting a family. She serves as the blog editor for Rooted Ministry, and contributes to other blogs, including Mockingbird. She co-wrote her first book, *Unmapped*, published last year. She will speak on, "A Woman and a Well: the Living Water of the God Who Sees Us."

Lunch is \$10. Register online at conta.cc/2AvSt59. Contact Deborah Leighton (Deborah@CathedralAdvent.com).



education

Book Group

Group Reading *On Reading Well*

The Advent Book Group will meet to discuss Karen Swallow Prior's *On Reading Well* on Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m. at the home of James and Lyn Bradford (2500 Aberdeen Road, 35223). Prior is an English professor and Christian essayist/writer. In *On Reading Well*, she explores Christian themes and virtues through her reading of works by authors ranging from Henry Fielding to Cormac McCarthy, Jane Austen to Flannery O'Connor. New members are always welcome. Please contact James Bradford (JBradford@Balch.com, 873-5833) if you plan to attend or for more information.



making music

Midday Music

Birmingham Boys Choir to Perform January 25

Our Midday Music series will continue on Friday, January 25, 12:30 p.m. in the Nave with a performance by the Birmingham Boys Choir. The choir is conducted by Ken Berg, who has led the ensemble since 1978, and accompanied by pianist Susan Berg. All are warmly invited to this free, 30-minute concert.



The Cathedral Choir

Above: Fred Teardo conducts The Cathedral Choir in A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 21. Please join us as the choir sings Choral Evensong on Thursday, January 17, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. *See story on front page.*

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 226-3500.



bookstore

Check Out Our Sale!

The Bookstore continues its After-Christmas Sale, with items 50-percent off regular price. We're still pulling gifts, books, and jewelry to add to the sale. So come in to see what bargains are available!

The Bookstore needs you! A new schedule for Sunday volunteers will start in February. Sunday volunteers usually help about one Sunday per month, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please call Cindy Funderburk (323-2959).

Store hours are Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Contact us: 323-2959, Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com. Visit us any time: AdventBirmingham.org/Bookstore.

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Pastor and Day School Chaplain

The Rev. Canon Matthew C. Schneider, Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism

The Rev. Canon Zac Hicks, Canon for Liturgy and Worship

The Rev. Deborah R. Leighton, Director of Women's Ministries and Clergy Associate

The Rev. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Giles Perkins: (Pastoral Care) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner

Clare Draper, III: (Endowment Fund) by Augusta and Scott Andrews

Marian "Teeny" Brannon: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin S. Carroll • (Endowment Fund) by Jackson McCullough • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Mrs. Phil H. Neal, Jr.

Terry Lewis Harris: (Endowment Fund) by Terry Harris

In Honor of Laura and Richard Abernethy: (Outreach) by Studie and Zach Young

In Thanksgiving for Bill and Sallie Pradat, Charlie and Jane Sharp, Boo and Bud Woodall, Kathryn Keith, Pete and Mary Berkeley Pritchard, Mell and Cathy Duggan, Cary and Janet Beck: (Youth Ministry) by Troy and Ann Haas

In Honor of Tom and Pat Hinton: (Endowment Fund) by Claude Hinton



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 13 Regular worship schedule Jr. High Youth - Cranmer House - 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday - Cranmer House - noon	17 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m. Choral Evensong - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	18	19
Jan 20 Regular worship schedule	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Office and Bookstore closed	22	23	24 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.	25 Midday Music - Nave - 12:30 p.m.	26

Every Sunday: Breakfast – Refectory, 8:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday (No meeting January 21): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

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