Vacation time for the Smalleys inevitably brings about calamity and fiascoes, and this year was no exception. In previous times Paula has asked if I believe God is trying to tell us something. Maybe, but my response has been, no, I think we just ask for it.

On day one of our trip to Canada, the older of our dogs, Beau, sought to make the most of the wilderness experience by tangling with a porcupine. He and Maple ran off into the woods, and when called only Maple returned, which was the first bad sign. I ran into the woods after Beau, found him, and then proceeded to chase him through the woods and onto the dirt road while he shook the porcupine in his mouth. Apparently at some point it became personal and Beau ended up winning and losing. The porcupine was “vanquished,” but Beau’s mouth, face, ears, chest, legs, etc. were filled with quills.

While I was able to remove most of the quills by hand, I had to carry Beau the mile back to the cottage while Maple, the puppy, danced around us ready for more. This was followed by multiple trips to the vet in town, 45 minutes away.

In speaking with the vet and other locals with similar experience in this matter, I learned what I already knew – Beau would not learn from this experience. Given the opportunity to do it again he certainly would, and he confirmed to me the same. I contend this bears a striking resemblance to you and me, and I do not find it disheartening in light of what God demonstrates to us in Jesus. What wins and saves us is the loving, gracious, sacrificial intervention of God, not our learning curve. Jesus is willing to lose (the cross) that we might win (reconciliation and salvation). In the resurrection we see that God does not forgive only when we learn from our mistakes; and when we’ve done it again to ourselves, he picks us up and carries us home. Thankfully Jesus is more than a guide; he is the savior.

- Craig

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

- Romans 5:10

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.
A Note from the Dean on Women’s Ministry

Dear Church Family,

With Deborah Leighton’s departure, I wanted to write and update you on the process for identifying her replacement and plans for the time in the interim.

From the outset, I want our parish family to know of our commitment to women’s ministry. Having met with the leadership of the women’s ministry, we have together outlined a way forward to find a faithful woman to come and pastor the women of the Advent as the full-time Director. We are looking for a woman of conviction, character, and competency, and the best candidate may or may not be ordained. I hope you will agree with me and with the women’s ministry leadership that we want the best woman, not simply the best ordained woman. Our hope is that we will have a number of lay and ordained candidates to consider for the position.

How can you help? Foremost, pray. Pray for the process and pray for the woman whom God will call to serve at the Advent. We are collecting names and engaging possible candidates, as well as others who may know possibilities. If you are aware of a strong candidate, please pass along her name to me or one of the clergy.

What will happen until a new Director of Women’s Ministries is called?

• Deborah’s departure does leave a pastoral hole, but I would commend to you Stella Schreiber, a licensed counselor who serves on our staff. Stella is faithful and capable – full of wisdom – and stands ready to help any and all, but especially our sisters in Christ.

• When it comes to the Bible studies and discipleship ministries of the Advent, these will continue under the lay leadership of the Women of the Advent. Thanks to the faithful ministry of previous directors and the women of our congregation, we are well-situated to carry on until a new Director is identified and called.

My hope and prayer is that we will have a new Director of Women’s Ministries in place by January of 2020. Until then, please be in prayer for our search, the women’s ministry, and our whole church family.

In Christ,

Andrew

The Forum
This Sunday: Discussing Christian Mission

What is a missionary? Are they only people who do international evangelism work? What about the Great Commission in Matthew 28; does it apply to us? We will discuss this idea of Christian mission and some recent developments involving Global Teams, one of our mission partners, at the next meeting of The Forum this Sunday, August 18, 6:15 p.m. in Clingman Commons.

The Forum is a monthly fellowship and education program that meets following the Five O’Clock service with the purpose of building up our confidence in Jesus Christ and building our community. Each discussion also aims to be as practical as possible and is a good opportunity to invite visitors to join you at our church. Supper is provided, and families with children are welcome. For more information, contact Anita Gray (Anita@CathedralAdvent.com).

Advent Book Event
Mark Gignilliat to Discuss His New Book
September 19

Join us for a discussion with Mark Gignilliat about his new book, Reading Scripture Canonically: Theological Instincts for Old Testament Interpretation, on Thursday, September 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The evening will include a brief description of the book’s chief concerns, with the bulk of the time given to interaction with those in attendance. Mark serves as the Advent’s Lay Canon Theologian as well as Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School.

Youth Ministry
Sr. High Sets Fall Retreat at Lake Winnataoka

All 9th-12th graders are invited to our annual Senior High Fall Retreat at Camp Winnataka. We will leave Friday afternoon, September 6, and return Saturday afternoon, September 7. Register for the retreat at AdventBirmingham.org/Youth. Email Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.
For by grace you have been saved by faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Ephesians 2:8-9

Lucy Kate Green Accepts Call as Jr. High Youth Ministry Associate

Lucy Kate Green (right) has begun work as our new Junior High Youth Ministry Associate, leading our junior high girls. A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Lucy Kate attended Samford University, where she served as Junior Class President and Chaplain of the SGA Executive Committee. She worked as a camp counselor one summer, primarily for middle school-aged children, and also served as a prison chaplain for a summer in Maine. Please join us in thanking God for bringing us Lucy Kate and in welcoming her to the Advent.

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frank Hardy Bromberg, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. McGahey; Elaine K. Smith; Trudy Evans; Louise and Jimmy Wright; Marion T Pylar; Jack W. Trigg, Jr.; Pat and Billy Hiden; Dr. and Mrs. David Stallworth; Jimmy Wiygul; Mary B. Weatherly; Alice and Bob Schleusner; Marna Bromberg Williams; Ann Thompson; Patrick L. O’Sullivan; Victor and Laurie Slay; Gene and Eleanor Cushman; Tommy and Molly Snow; Dot and Wally Nall, Jr., and Family; Kathy and Matt Whatley and Family; Wally Nall, III, and Family; Hanna and Matthew LePere and Family; Lissa and Mark Handley; Mary Harmon; Mae Rose and Paul Tyson; Mr. and Mrs. Borden H. Burr, II; Cynthia S. Sproull; Beverley D. Harrell; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Wilbanks, Jr.; Marilyn and Kelly Newton; Kappie and Evans Dunn; Henry and Libby Weatherly; Mrs. Claude C. White; Henry Sharpe Lynn, Jr.; Sallie and Bill Pradat; Mr. and Mrs. Tynes Quares, Jim and Margaret Little; Dr. and Mrs. Joe Kelly; Nancy M. Poynor; Julie and Jim Goyer, Carla and Bob Reich; Mr. and Mrs. Miller Gorrie; Mrs. Francis H. Crockard, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Cory Jackson; Kathryn B. Jeffers • (Fine Arts Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. A. Jack Allison • (Garden Fund) by Pam and Robert Baugh • (Dean’s Discretionary Fund) by Billy and Allison Pritchard • (Altar Guild) by Kate C. Stockham; Amy Neal Ager • (Pastoral Care) by Mary K Wilson • (Outreach) by Janet Hill; Elizabeth and Bayard Tynes; Mary and Victor Hanson; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez; Mr. and Mrs. Pete Pritchard; Fontaine and Lee Pope

Oliver Charles “Chum” Baker, III: (Endowment Fund) by Sandra Davis; Julie and Jim Goyer; Mr. and Mrs. Tynes Quares, Jim and Margaret Little; Dr. and Mrs. Joe Kelly; Nancy M. Poynor; Julie and Jim Goyer, Carla and Bob Reich; Mr. and Mrs. Miller Gorrie; Mrs. Francis H. Crockard, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Cory Jackson; Kathryn B. Jeffers • (Fine Arts Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. A. Jack Allison • (Garden Fund) by Pam and Robert Baugh • (Dean’s Discretionary Fund) by Billy and Allison Pritchard • (Altar Guild) by Kate C. Stockham; Amy Neal Ager • (Pastoral Care) by Mary K Wilson • (Outreach) by Janet Hill; Elizabeth and Bayard Tynes; Mary and Victor Hanson; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Y. Menendez; Mr. and Mrs. Pete Pritchard; Fontaine and Lee Pope

William Carl Ray, Jr.: (Outreach) by Betty Taylor Renneker

John Worrell Poynor: (Outreach) by Betty Taylor Renneker

Rollo William Gilbert Knight: (Outreach) by Roy F. Knight

Marian “Teeny” Brannon: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Deborrah and Marzette Fisher; Stephen G. Schaeffer

Louise Ellis: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Nancy and Ricky Bromberg; St. Bridget’s Guild

John Corey: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Stephen G. Schaeffer

Spiritual Growth & Fellowship

Small Groups

Enriching Our Lives in So Many Ways

Being a part of a small group at the Advent has been so meaningful to us. Our time spent studying Scripture, spending time in prayer, and enjoying fellowship with our group has allowed us to grow in our faith and has increased our understanding of God’s word and its application in our lives. Our small group also gives us the opportunity to love and encourage each other as we share our joys and struggles. This connection has allowed us to grow close to the members of our church as we share life together. Our group has enjoyed serving together in church ministries as well as spending time in fellowship together and with our children. Being a part of a small group has definitely enriched our lives in so many ways, and we highly encourage others to consider becoming a part of a group this fall.

- Suzanne and Craig Vinson

New small groups are forming for the fall. Consider joining one! Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).

Changing-Roles Support Group

For Those Caring for a Sick Family Member

An eight-week support group for men and women who are coping with the changes that come with caring for a sick family member will meet on Thursdays, September 12 through October 31, 9:30-11:00 a.m., at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). If you are caring for a loved one part-time, full-time, or just experiencing unexpected changes and challenges brought on by the illness of someone close to you, you are invited to join us for support, hope, and healing. For more information or to join the group contact Stella Schreiber (Stella@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8558).
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. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon
The Rev. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

memorials:
Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:
Thomas A.S. Wilson: (Endowment Fund) by Sandra
Davis • (Altar Guild) by Amy Neal Ager
Calvin Neal Fleming: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Samuel
Urmey; Donna Fleming
In Honor of Caleb Graham Schneider: (Endowment
Fund) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner

calendar:

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Every Sunday: Breakfast – Refectory, 8:00 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 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).