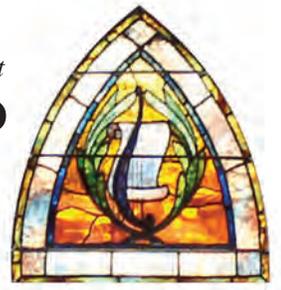


# Adventurer

Advent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 42, No. 42

First Sunday of Advent

Week of December 2, 2018



## News & Events

### Lessons and Carols Services this Sunday Morning in Nave

Two services of Advent Lessons and Carols will highlight the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave. These services, which include lessons, carol-anthems, and prayers, are intended as a preparation for the Christmas celebration. The six lessons will be followed by Mark Gignilliat's sermon.

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday the Essig family – Ashleigh and Brandon, Brooks (2nd grade), Gray (kindergarten), and Bonnie (3K) – will light the first candle on our parish Advent wreath immediately before the 9:00 a.m. service.

### Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting December 3

All parishioners are invited to a prayer gathering on Monday, December 3, 7:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Typically held the first Monday of every month, the hour-long meeting is set aside to pray for the Advent.

### Coat Drive Moves to December this Year

We will collect gently used and new coats on Sunday, December 9, for Brother Bryan Mission and the Firehouse Shelter. See page 2 for details.



## A Word from Deborah Leighton

A few years back, a meme appeared online based on a scene from the sitcom *Parks and Recreation*, in which an official asks the character Tom Haverford: "Please read the transcript of your Twitter page leading up to and immediately following your crash." The accompanying picture showed the imaginary character's tweet: "Four green lights in a row. #blessed." This is just one comedic example of the way the world has used our word in recent years, most troubling of which is to humblebrag on social media about one's own achievements as a thinly guised framework for shameless self-promotion.

We might find it tempting to mention verbally or online how "blessed" we feel – when our child gets into the right college or our house renovation is finally finished, or even if we have a good hair day or a short line at the coffee shop. Of course, gratitude is the only true response to God's grace, and we should see all of life as a gift to be received. But it would be better to

say that we feel thankful when we receive material, earthly gifts.

Throughout Scripture, God blesses those whom he approves, not because of any merit of their own, but because of God's own gracious choosing. God blesses those who rely upon his saving help (Psalm 146:5), including repentant sinners (Romans 4:7); the meek, "poor in spirit," and those who mourn (Matthew 5:2-11); those who have not seen, yet have believed in Jesus Christ (John 20:29); those whose faith works itself out in obedience to him (Luke 11:28, 12:35-48; James 1:25); and those who suffer for righteousness' sake (1 Peter 3:9-14).

Yes, we are blessed – because of the assurance of God's love and favor towards us in Jesus Christ, and not through our own works. Our material circumstances do not confirm, deny, or display our blessedness in Christ. Material blessings might elude us, and our world might even be crumbling around us, yet we know we are blessed because we stand upon the grace of God in Jesus Christ, and therefore we receive every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3).  
- Deborah

**Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.** - Romans 4:7-8

## This Sunday: December 2, 2018

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

Preacher: Mark Gignilliat

### 9:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

Preacher: Mark Gignilliat

### 11:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

In the Nave. Preacher: Mark Gignilliat

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

In the Refectory. Preacher: Dean Pearson

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

Preacher: Canon Schneider

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

**The Dean's Class** (Nave) – 2 *Corinthians*:  
*Paul's Advent Letter* – Mark Gignilliat

**Thoughts on Our Mortality** (Living Room) –  
*Oh Death, Where Is Your Sting?* – Gil Kracke

**Three Revelations, and Three Ways to Die:**  
**Socrates, Jesus, and Muhammad** (Chapter  
Room) – Jason Wallace

**Great Prayers and Hymns of Christmas** (As-  
sembly Hall) – Dennis Sansom

**Faith and Family** (Lower School Library) –  
*Characters Around the Manger: Joseph* – Cam-  
eron Cole

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes are offered for 3-years and older. See Sunday's service leaflet for details. Nurseries are open 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. At the 5:00 service, child-care is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:

*Advent 1*: Psalm 25:1-9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36  
*Lessons & Carols*: Genesis 3:1-15; Isaiah 7:10-15; Isaiah 11:1-9; Isaiah 40:1-11; Micah 5:2-4; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon and class recordings are available at [AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org).

The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on WERC 960 AM, 105.5 FM, and [AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org).



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Women's Ministry

#### Christmas Bazaar at St. Luke's December 3

The women of the Advent are invited to join our sisters in Christ and fellow Episcopalians from St. Luke's and St. Mary's for the annual Christmas Bazaar on Monday, December 3, at St. Luke's Church (3736 Montrose Road, 35213). The Advent's Deborah Leighton will speak on a gospel Christmas theme at 11:00 a.m., followed by a "Green Reindeer" sale and light lunch. This year, we will sell our beautifully wrapped bundt cakes once again as well as a new item – a rosemary-parmesan icebox cracker as an appetizer. Both make great gifts or can add to holiday entertaining! To contribute your cake, acquire the sponsored appetizer recipe, or help out with the Advent's booth at the sale, please contact our ECW Liaison, Rachel Fry ([RBFry@Bellsouth.net](mailto:RBFry@Bellsouth.net), 908-8070).

#### Experience Christ in the Christmas Crunch December 14

Advent women are invited to take a break from all the hustle and bustle to enjoy a light breakfast (including the best hot chocolate ever!) on Friday, December 14, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive, 35209). Deborah Leighton will speak this year on "A Star, a Star, Dancing in the Night." Please RSVP by Monday, December 10, to Laura Steele ([LauraGSteele@yahoo.com](mailto:LauraGSteele@yahoo.com)).

### Youth Ministry

#### Sr. High Progressive Dinner this Sunday

All Sr. High youth are invited to join us for our progressive dinner, a beloved youth group tradition for more than 20 years. We will meet at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) this Sunday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. and then travel to two houses for appetizers and a main course. We will end the evening back at Cranmer House for dessert and Dirty Santa. Please bring a gift of \$10 or less value to contribute. Hope to see you there! Contact Rebecca Lankford for details ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)).

#### Coffee with Rebecca Lankford for Moms of Sr. High Youth December 6

All mothers of Sr. High youth are invited to get to know Rebecca Lankford, the new Sr. High Youth Director. Please join us for coffee on Thursday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. at Kate Hamilton's home (169 Peachtree Circle, 35213). Please RSVP to Rebecca Lankford ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)).

#### Jr. High: Register Now for RYM Trip June 24-28

All current 6th-8th graders are invited to the Reformed Youth Ministries conference in Panama City Beach, Florida, 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 – please don't hesitate to ask us about them.

Sign up at [AdventBirmingham.org/Youth](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Youth). Registration closes January 15, so do it today. Contact Rachel Cain ([Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.



## serving & outreach

### Coat Drive

#### Collection on December 9 this Year

This year we're switching things up a bit! In the past we've held our Coat Drive in January, but it gets chilly long before then. We'll be partnering with Brother Bryan Mission and the Firehouse Shelter to provide warm coats to the men in their programs.

Bring your gently used and new coats to Clingman Commons on Sunday, December 9. Although this year we are looking specifically for men's coats, we are happy to find homes for women's or children's coats, as well. Contact Bethany Rushing ([Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com)) with questions.

### Lenten Lunches

#### Lunch Tickets on Sale this Sunday

As Christmas approaches, remember to get the perfect stocking-stuffer for the Lenten Lunches fan! Stop by the Lenten Lunches table in Clingman Commons on Sundays, December 2 and December 9, to buy single tickets, various season passes, and sponsorships, as well as to meet members of the 2019 Lenten Lunches team.



## worship

### Advent and Christmas Worship

#### Services to Anticipate and Celebrate Christ's Coming

Make plans to join us as we wait together in anticipation of the arrival of Jesus Christ. In addition to our morning services of Lessons and Carols this Sunday, December 2, we'll have two evening L&C services featuring our Cathedral Choir (Thursday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m.) and the group of musicians from our Five O'Clock and Refectory services known as Advent Birmingham (Sunday, December 23, at 5:00 p.m.). On Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24), our family service will take place at 3:00 p.m., followed by services at 5:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. Nursery will be provided at both the family and 5:00 services. On Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25), join us at 10:00 a.m. for a service of Holy Communion.

### Ageless Adventers

#### Fellowship in the Pines December 3

All Adventers are invited to join our friends at St. Martin's for lunch and a word from Canon Smalley on Monday, December 3, at noon. Lunch is served in the private dining room of The Arbors at St. Martin's (4941 Montevallo Road, 35210). For more information, contact Stella Schreiber (443-8558, [Stella@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com)).



## servicing & outreach

### Thursday Morning Congregation

#### December Brings Service Opportunities

During the month of December, we offer warm weather items and special food gifts to those who attend the Thursday Morning Service. Join us in showing hospitality by donating one or more of the items below with your small group, family, or Bible study group! Also, consider coming out for our worship service on any of these Thursdays at 8:30 a.m., especially December 20, when we'll host a wonderful Christmas Social. Families and little ones are welcome!



- December 6 – Five dozen bananas
- December 13 – 10 dozen cookies (wrapped in bags of two cookies each)
- December 19 – Join us at 9:30 a.m. in Clingman Commons to bundle sweatshirts, sign Christmas cards, and bag our gift of holiday food to be distributed at the Christmas Social (RSVP to Anita Gray – [Anita@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Anita@CathedralAdvent.com)).
- December 20 – Christmas Social: provide supplies and serve at the biscuit station, dessert station, hot chocolate station, or photo station!
- December 27 – Six dozen oranges or cuties

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Outreach-SignUp](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Outreach-SignUp) to donate one of the items, or email Anita Gray. Items need to be dropped off to Anita at the church office the Wednesday prior to the date scheduled or the day of for the Christmas Social.

### “Kirkin of the Tartan” Ceremony December 9

All are warmly invited to participate in a unique time of dedication within our liturgy of Morning Prayer at our 11:00 a.m. Nave service on Sunday, December 9. At the Offertory, we will join with those of Scottish heritage and with the St. Andrew's Society in a traditional “Kirkin of the Tartan” ceremony, which involves special prayers of blessing on all who attend. Traditionally, a local church has hosted this ceremony when one of its members is being inducted as the President of the St. Andrew's Society. The Advent's own Jim Porter will be the new President, and so we will be joyfully setting aside this time to celebrate God's work amongst various cultures, remembering that we are a part of a body of believers from every tribe, tongue, and nation. Come early for the pre-service bagpipe music, as well!



## making music

### The Cathedral Choir

#### Choir Offers Caroling to Raise Funds

Add a bit of sparkle to your Christmas gathering with caroling by the Cathedral Choir of the Advent. Choristers are available on weekends from December 7-23 in groups of four or more to perform traditional Christmas carols for a donation. All funds raised will support the choir's upcoming tour to St. Paul's London in July 2020 and other ministry events. Contact Fred Teardo for more information ([Teardo@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Teardo@CathedralAdvent.com), 226-3506).

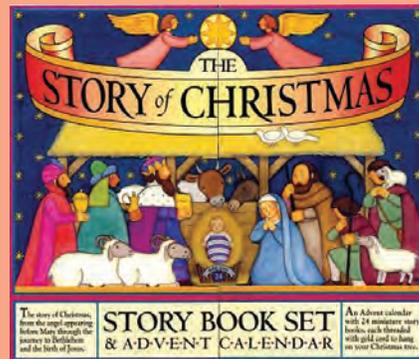
### Midday Music

#### Cathedral Ringers to Present Handbell Concert December 14

Our Midday Music series continues Friday, December 14, 12:30 p.m. in the Nave with a concert of seasonal music by our own Cathedral Ringers Handbell Ensemble. Fred Teardo and Charles Kennedy will conduct the group in the free, 30-minute performance. All are warmly invited to enjoy a beautiful half-hour of music!



## bookstore



#### Advent Is Here!

Along with the Advent calendars in paper, cloth, and book form, we also have Advent candles (and rings) and Advent devotionals. And we have some activity books to help your little ones get into the Christmas spirit.

Check the bookstore for copies of the Advent's new music recordings: *Our Strivings Cease* by Advent Birmingham (artists from the Five O'Clock and Refectory services), and *A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols* from the Cathedral Choir.

Advent season store hours are Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; and Thursday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact us: 323-2959, [Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com). Visit us any time: [AdventBirmingham.org/Bookstore](http://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

## transitions:

**Birth:** Zion Thomaston Howell, son of Mary Katherine and Walter, on November 9

**Baptisms:** Louise Goodwyn Bibb, daughter of Murray and Chandler, on November 18; Daniel Edward Clinkman, on November 18

**Marriage:** Emily Alice Yearout and Parker Yates McAnnally, on November 17

**Death:** Marian "Teeny" Brannon, on November 15

## memorials:

**Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:**

**William "Bill" Doric Tynes, Jr.:** (Garden Fund) by Betsy and Jack Allison

**Clare Draper:** (Endowment Fund) by Mallie Ireland

**In Thanksgiving for the Leadership and Ministry of Dean Pearson:** (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 2 Regular worship schedule Sr. High Youth Progressive Dinner - Cranmer House - 6:00 p.m.	3 Women's Christmas Bazaar - St. Luke's - 11:00 a.m. Fellowship in the Pines - noon Parish-Wide Prayer Meeting - Cranmer House - 7:15 p.m.	4	5	6 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m. Coffee for Moms of Sr. High Youth - 169 Peachtree Circle - 9:00 a.m.	7	8
Dec 9 Regular worship schedule Coat Drive - Clingman Commons. Jr. High Youth Progressive Dinner - Cranmer House - 5:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.	14 <i>Christ in the Christmas Crunch</i> - The Club - 9:30 a.m. Midday Music - Nave - 12:30 p.m.	15

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](http://AdventBirmingham.org/BibleStudies) for a complete list of options available to you. If you have any questions, please contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 443-8562).