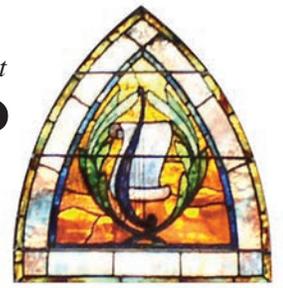


# Adventurer

Advent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 42, No. 43

Second Sunday of Advent

Week of December 9, 2018



## News & Events

### Coat Drive this Sunday

Bring your gently used and new coats to donate in Clingman Commons this Sunday, December 9. We are partnering with Brother Bryan Mission and the Firehouse Shelter to provide warm coats to the men in their programs. 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.

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday the Feagin family – Elizabeth and Cardwell, Will (10th grade) and Mary Carlon (5th grade) – will light the second candle on our parish Advent wreath immediately before the 9:00 a.m. service.

### "Kirkin of the Tartan" Ceremony at 11:00 Nave Service this Sunday

We will have a unique time of dedication within our liturgy of Morning Prayer at our 11:00 a.m. Nave service this Sunday, December 9. At the Offertory, we will join with those of Scottish heritage and the St. Andrew's Society in a traditional "Kirkin of the Tartan" ceremony, which involves special prayers of blessing on all who attend. See page 2 for details.



## A Word from Canon Schneider

If there is someone in your life who is on the fringes of Christian belief in any way, I encourage you to take advantage of Christmas to gently start conversations about faith with them. There is something uniquely special about the Christmas season that connects with those who wouldn't normally discuss spiritual topics. Like Thomas, even people who doubt in our day still at some level believe while doubting, and Christmas is a great time to strike that chord.

You must know what I'm talking about. There are "CEO Christians": Christmas and Easter only. But an increasing number are just "C-level Christians" now: Christmas only. Of course, when push comes to shove, Easter is the more important holiday theologically, but Christmas is more likely to connect with those who doubt, are skeptical, or are melancholy.

Chances are there is someone like this in your life that you love. Some of you have even told me, "I want you to talk to so and

so for me." Some are your children. Some are your very good friends. Some may even be reading this letter. All such folks need to be invited into the wonder of the Word of God made flesh while the season lasts.

We have dozens of Christmas-related activities and services around the Advent and the city of Birmingham. Start inviting these folks to come with you. But don't stop there. Have a meal together afterward and be ready to have a meaningful discussion: Don't you think there must be more to life? What do you make of the virgin birth? Isn't it amazing that God would become a human baby? What did you think of that sermon? I just love that Christmas carol where we sing about such and such; how about you?

Sure, discussing these topics might feel awkward, but right now people are more willing than usual to embrace such thoughts. Don't squander a great opportunity to discuss with people you love some of the most important things in life. Namely, that Christ was born so that he could live and die as one of us for our redemption.

- Matt

**The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.**

- 1 John 1:2

## This Sunday: December 9, 2018

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

Preacher: Dean Pearson

### 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

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 Schneider

### 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Preacher: Doug Webster

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

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

**Faith and Culture: God at Work in Rwanda** (Living Room) – The 2018 Rwanda Team

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

**Great Prayers and Hymns of Christmas** (Assembly Hall) – Dennis Sansom

**Faith and Family** (Lower School Library) – *The Whole Bible Story in 30 Minutes* – Cameron 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, childcare is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:

Canticle 4 or Canticle 16  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

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!

## “Kirkin of the Tartan” Ceremony this Sunday

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 this 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!



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Women's Ministry

#### 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 (*right*), the Advent's Director of Women's Ministries and Clergy Associate, 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

#### Jr. High Progressive Dinner this Sunday

It's progressive dinner time! All Jr. High youth are invited to join us Sunday, December 9, for this Advent youth group tradition of more than 20 years. We will meet at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) promptly at 5:00 p.m. and then travel to different houses for appetizers, entrees, and desserts. The evening will end back at Cranmer House for a Secret Santa gift game; bring a wrapped gift costing \$5 or less. Dress in your tacky Christmas attire; there will be a prize for the tackiest outfit. We'll finish at 7:00 p.m. Contact Rachel Cain ([Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com)) for details.

#### 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.

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



Above: The 2019 Lenten Lunches team: (front, l-r) Ann Campbell, Amy Yates, Shannon Ritchie, Kelley Norwood; (rear, l-r) Dean Pearson, Deborah Leighton, Holly Simmons, Christell Fiveash, Miriam Morris. Not pictured: Lisa O'Neal

### 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 this Sunday, December 9, to buy single tickets, various season passes, and sponsorships, as well as to meet members of the 2019 Lenten Lunches team.

### 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 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 (December 20).

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.  
- Titus 2:11-13



## worship

### A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Service Set for Thursday Evening, December 20**

The Cathedral Choir will offer A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 20, 5:30 p.m. in the Nave. This service is modeled after the one held annually at King's College, Cambridge. The Christmas narrative is told through Scripture and song – a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. Deborah Leighton will preach. Whether you are on your way home from working downtown or simply looking for an opportunity to hear the gospel and some seasonal music, all are warmly invited to attend this weeknight service.

### Christmas Worship

**Services to Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord**

Christmas is quickly approaching, and we're thrilled to offer a variety of worship service options to our Birmingham community.

On Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24), our family service at 3:00 p.m. is in a new, more streamlined format this year. Our 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.

services in the Nave will feature our renowned Cathedral Choir, and our new 5:00 p.m. service in the Refectory will feature Advent Birmingham, the group of musicians who regularly lead worship in our Sunday Refectory service as well as our Five O'Clock service. On Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25), our Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m. allows us to gather in worship on the day that marks the arrival of Jesus Christ.

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Christmas](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Christmas) for complete details and forward the link to your friends, neighbors, and family members so that they can come and hear the good news of the gospel!



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Ageless Adventers

**Next Third Wednesday to Feature Christmas Luncheon**

Ageless Adventers, our fellowship group for seniors, will gather for the next Third Wednesday program on December 19, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The meeting will feature our Christmas luncheon, and Deborah Leighton will continue our exploration of Philippians. RSVP to Stella Schreiber (443-8558, [Stella@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com)).



## making music

### 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!

### The Cathedral Choir

**Choir to Sing Carols at Episcopal Place and St. Martin's this Sunday**

The Cathedral Choir will be caroling for residents at Episcopal Place and St. Martin's in-the-Pines this Sunday, December 9. Here is the schedule:

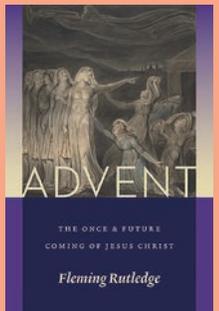
- 1:00 p.m. Episcopal Place
- 2:00 p.m. St. Martin's Memory Care
- 2:30 p.m. St. Martin's Assisted Living
- 3:00 p.m. The Arbors Apartments at St. Martin's



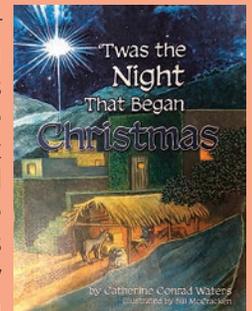
## bookstore

**Fleming Rutledge on the Season of Advent**

Just imagine Fleming Rutledge in person saying, "Advent is definitely not for sissies." In her newest book, *Advent: The Once & Future Coming of Jesus Christ*, Rutledge explores Advent as a time of such paradoxes as waiting and hastening, suffering and hope, justice and mercy, now and not-yet. Showing how Advent at once celebrates Christ's incarnation and his second coming, she masterfully unfolds the ethical and eschatological implications of this special season.



Also newly published is *'Twas the Night That Began Christmas* by Catherine Conrad Waters of Vestavia Hills. Fontaine Pope was introduced to this book in Community Bible Study by the author, who is the Assistant Principal at Crestline Elementary School and a member of the study group. Following the familiar rhyme and verse of Clement Moore's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, this story shares biblical truths to carry the reader from the first Christmas to the Second Coming. It is a reminder to children and adults alike that we need to thank God for Jesus...the greatest Christmas gift ever.



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:** Grace Elise Nechtman, daughter of Carl and Elise, on November 16

**Baptisms:** Simon Sheppard Wood, son of Robert and Krista, on November 22; Theodore Bayse DeBolt, son of Seth and Kandace Brooke, on November 22

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Jason VanFleteren:** (Deborah Leighton's Discretionary Fund) by Anne-Marie and Pratt Brown

**Marian "Teeny" Brannon:** (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Lyn Lanier and Bobbi Lecznar; Samuel E. Urmey

**In Honor of Erica Baggett:** (Outreach) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 9 Regular worship schedule 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
Dec 16 Regular worship schedule	17	18	19 Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday - Cranmer House - noon	20 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Nave - 5:30 p.m.	21	22

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).