

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 42, No. 46

The First Sunday After Christmas Day

Week of December 30, 2018



News & Events

Slate Named for 2019 Vestry Election

At its December 13 meeting, the Vestry approved a slate of 20 candidates for the 2019 Vestry election. 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.

Parishioners will elect 10 of these nominees to serve on the Vestry and Chapter of the Cathedral at the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m.

Inquirers' Classes to Begin in New Year

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).

Our Sunday-morning spring series will meet for eight weeks beginning February 24 during the Sunday School hour, 10:10-10:50 a.m. in the Diocesan Conference Room.

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



A Word from Canon Smalley

As I write this to you, what I am referring to as "Smalley's Folly" is only days away. Oh yes, and Christmas too. Smalley's Folly is the addition of a puppy to our family; if that is not enough, we already have a five-year-old dog who will probably be as excited about the addition of a puppy as most older siblings are with the addition of another child.

Years ago, when we had our previous dog, I can remember resisting as Paula pressed for another dog. My reasoning, and it was reasonable, was that I was maxed out. She often reminds me that I remarked I had no more love to give. A family, ministry, numerous other engagements – I was certain that there was no more to give.

And now, years later, we've not only added a dog a year ago, but will add another in days. Like the Grinch, I have found my heart has grown to give and receive more in my life when I thought there was nothing more to give. Paula, and I really

hope she's not reading this, may have been right.

Often we, and clearly I, can operate from a feeling of scarcity. Regardless of how much we have, we worry that it is not enough, and certainly not enough to give more. And I realize there is a place for things I've heard of called boundaries, margins, and rest; there is a place to realize our limits. What I am trying to point to, though, in the fashion of John the Baptist, is the coming of the one who is mightier, whose love, power, and mercy know no limits.

Drawing merely from our own reserves, we do find a shallow well, but drawing on the love, grace, and generosity of our savior is entirely different. Like no other who makes claims to deity, our God, in Jesus our Savior, willingly makes himself less that we might be more, empties himself that we might be filled. From manger to cross, in what seems like folly to the world, he comes as our savior, shield, and shepherd, and I invite us in looking to him, dwelling in him, reflecting on his offering, to be filled.

Merry Christmas, Craig

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... and from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. - John 1:14-16

This Sunday: December 30, 2018

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Deborah Leighton

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Preacher: Deborah Leighton

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Deborah Leighton

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

In the Refectory. Preacher: Doug Webster

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Preacher: Canon Schneider

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

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday, December 30. All are invited to Clingman Commons for fellowship and refreshments during the Sunday School hour. Classes will resume next Sunday, January 6.

Children's & Youth Education:

Classes for children and youth will not be held this Sunday, December 30. All are invited to Clingman Commons for fellowship and refreshments from 10:00-10:50 a.m. Classes will resume next Sunday, January 6.

The Nursery will be open this Sunday for 4K and younger from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. At the Five O'Clock service, childcare is available for 4K and younger.

Lectionary:

Psalm 147; Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

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!



education

Small Groups

Study for Dads with Sons: Join Us Starting January 7

Join Mell Duggan and Jim Dixon as they lead fathers through case studies of men in the Bible as a guide for understanding how God's truth and gospel inform the raising of a boy. This men's group will meet on Monday mornings at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209), 6:30-7:30 a.m. starting January 7. Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562) to sign up.

New Group for Women in Their 20s and 30s

Sally Goings and Gretchen Williams will lead this group at Sally's home (4404 Corinth Drive, 35213). This 10-week study will meet on Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. beginning January 9. On the last Wednesday of each month, the group will attend the Young Adult Community Dinner at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). To sign up or for more information, contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).

Bible Study for Men in Their 20s and 30s Starts January 15

Mike Weeks (Advent's Assisting Clergy), Alfred Goings, and Allan Causey will lead this study on Tuesdays beginning January 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Alfred Goings' home (4404 Corinth Drive, 35213). To sign up, contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).



spiritual growth & fellowship

Youth Ministry

Sr. High: Next Family Dinner Is January 6

All Sr. High youth are invited to join us for our next Family Dinner on Sunday, January 6, 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The theme is "Pajama Night," so wear your favorite PJs! Contact Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).

Jr. High: Register Now for RYM Beach 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. Registration closes January 15, so do it today. Contact Rachel Cain (Rachel@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Welcome!

Please welcome those who have joined the Advent during the last month. We are grateful to have them as a part of our parish family: Quincy Barefoot; Anne-Laura Cook; Cody and Kayla Davis; Bruce Denson; Anne Marie Johnson; Palmer and Karen Kennedy; Rachel Laster; Ruth Massengill; Daniel McCarley; Garrett and Melissa McNeil; Mary, Mary Evelyn, and Vivi Rose Wyatt.

If you are interested in joining the Advent or finding out more, please contact Fontaine Pope (443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com).

New Year's Closings

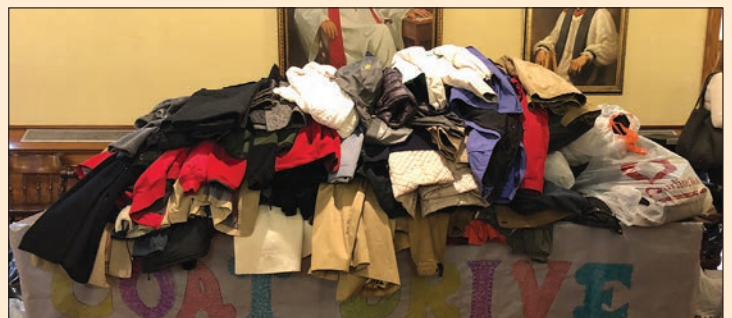
The Church Office and the Advent Bookstore will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2019, in observance of New Year's Day. Both will reopen Wednesday, January 2.

Offering Envelopes Available in Clingman

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2019 Pledge Card, you can pick them up in Clingman Commons this Sunday, December 30. Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number.



serving & outreach



Coat Drive

Thanks to the generosity of Adventers on December 9, we donated a full van load of coats to Brother Bryan Mission, with extra coats going to Firehouse Shelter and Pathways. We are so grateful for our ministry partnerships which allow us to share the warmth of this season in a practical way with our neighbors.

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 be part of this group, contact Stella Schreiber (443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com).

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- Galatians 4:4-5



servicing & outreach



Praising God for St. Alice's Guild

Above – Members of St. Alice Guild, seated l-r: Shirley Anne Stringfellow and Rita Schoenherr; standing l-r: Glenda Sparacio, Elna Brendel, Lyn Bradford, Margaret Aderholt, Cindy Wingard, Dorothy Lyles, Kathy Tracy, Judy DeWitt, Robin Anderson, Marsha Duell, Anne Moulton, Hallie Rawls, Kathy Logue, and Louise Wright

Since 1994, members of St. Alice's Guild have faithfully and prayerfully crafted by hand banners for every child who would receive baptism publicly in our Sunday morning service. Those banners have become part of the fabric of many Advent homes, reminding several generations of our children of the truth of the gospel, preached and displayed at their baptism.

Recently, St. Alice's Guild made the decision to discontinue making the banners, as many were finding it hard to do the work. While we are sad to see this particular ministry of the guild cease, we thank the Lord that they will continue in fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. Though we will no longer see these banners at our public baptisms, please join many of us in praising God and thanking the servants of St. Alice's Guild for nearly 25 years of selfless ministry.

Food Drive

Save the Date: Food Drive on January 13

We will collect non-perishable food items after the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, January 13. This year's Food Drive once again will support our ministry partner, Bridge Ministries. Please check expiration dates and avoid open containers. For more information, please contact Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com).



making music

Concert Series

Organist Michael Unger in Concert January 10

Multiple award-winning organist Michael Unger will perform a concert on Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Nave. Dr. Unger, who serves as Assistant Professor of Keyboard at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, frequently appears as a soloist in North America, Europe, and Japan. All are warmly invited to this free concert.



education

Youth Confirmation

Classes for 6th Graders to 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).

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.

Advent House: Intercessory prayer is on-going at Advent House. If you would like to schedule a prayer session, please call Kathy Logue at 410-4622.



bookstore

Thank You!!

Thanks to all our patrons and volunteers for supporting us during the year. We especially thank all our volunteers who have helped throughout the year for the extra time and effort they have freely given. *Sunday Volunteers:* Rebecca Campagna, Pat Goodwin, Shirley Nicholls, Hallie Rawls, Lanette Sherrill, Mary Smith, and Glenda Townsend; *Weekday Volunteers:* Ann Campbell, Barbara Robinson, Debbie Tiffin, Rebecca Campagna, Glenda Townsend, and Gray Thuston.

Our After-Christmas Sale begins this Sunday, December 30, with 50-percent off sale items.

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).

After Christmas we return to our regular hours: Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The store will be closed Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's Day. 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

transitions:

Births: Parker Catlin Cade, son of Emily and Catlin, on December 11; Luke Clement Yeager, son of Lisa and Andrew, on December 12

Marriage: Kelsey Holdbrooks and Peyton Thetford, on December 15

Death: Carol Jean Murphy, on November 7

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

John Worrell Poynor: (Pastoral Care) by Katharine and Donald Patton • (Outreach) by Elizabeth and Charles Scribner • (Endowment Fund) by Billy Angell

Samuel Eason Balch: (Endowment Fund) by Matthew Sharp

Carol Jean Murphy: (Pastoral Care) by Hatton Smith

Marian "Teeny" Brannon: (Cathedral Choir Fund) by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anthony; Diane J. Fitzgerald

Betty Tanner: (Endowment Fund) by Mary and John Turner

In Honor of Thompson Douglas White: (Endowment Fund) by a Small Group



Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150 for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 30 Regular worship schedule	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day Church Office and Bookstore closed	2	3 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.	4	5
Jan 6 Regular worship schedule Sr. High Youth Family Dinner - Cranmer House - 6:57 p.m.	7 Fellowship in the Pines - St. Martin's - noon	8	9	10 Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m. Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m. Michael Unger Organ Concert- Nave - 7:30 p.m.	11	12

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

Monday-Friday (No meeting January 1): 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).