

# Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 45, No. 29

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of August 29, 2021



## News & Events

### Search Committee Issues Update

The Search Committee for our next Dean and Rector has been meeting since June, and has released an update on its work. See [page 2](#) to read the update, and get more detailed information on our website, [AdventBirmingham.org](#), under "News – Dean and Rector Search" tab.

### Parishioner Photo-Taking for Online Directory on September Sundays

On Sundays in September, we will be taking photographs of parishioners between services (8:15-9:00 a.m. and 10:15-11:00 a.m.) and after the 11:00 service until 1:00 p.m. These photos will be used only in our online directory.

The online directory is available to parishioners through our website, [AdventBirmingham.org](#). Click on "Directory" at the bottom of the home page and follow the prompts to register.

### Masking Guidelines Update

Out of consideration for others, we ask that you please wear your mask on Sunday mornings and for any other indoor events. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to monitor the ever-changing situation with Covid.



## A Word from Michael Weeks

Who is Jesus? Recently I have been thinking about this question whilst reading one of John Stott's classic works, *Basic Christianity*. In this work, Stott lays out three main criteria for understanding Jesus: his claims, his character, and his resurrection. These three things present an overwhelming case that prove that Jesus is God, the chosen Messiah come to save the world.

In Mark 7:37, we see the character of Christ laid out before us. In the passages just before this one, Jesus was interacting with the Pharisees and Scribes who were interrogating him about why he and his disciples were eating with defiled hands. In response, Jesus explained to them that it is not what goes inside you that defiles you, but what comes out of your heart that defiles you.

This claim of Christ is supported by his actions as he proceeds to travel into Gentile territory. While he is in the region of the

Decapolis, a deaf man with a speech impediment is brought to Jesus to be healed. For Jesus to touch this man would have defiled him, but Jesus disregards the human traditions; instead he looks up to heaven, sighs and says, "Be opened." At once the man is healed. Not only does Jesus touch him, but he heals him too, making this unclean man clean once again.

We often put ourselves in stories like this as the hero. But this healing is a parable for our own uncleanness. I am the deaf and speech-impaired man, I need healing, I need to be made whole. Praise be to God that this is the Jesus we worship, the long-awaited Messiah who has come "to proclaim good news to the poor," "liberty to the captives," "sight to the blind," "liberty those who are oppressed," and "the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19); who not only comes into our world, but reaches out to us in love and rescues us from sin and death. May we, like this once-deaf-and-speech-impaired man, zealously proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

- Michael

**And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."**

- Mark 7:37

## This Sunday:

August 29, 2021

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

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

**11:00 a.m. Holy Communion**

Preacher: Canon Smalley

We will livestream the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](#), Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

**Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):**

Recordings of classes are available at [Audio.AdventBirmingham.org](#).

**The Dean's Class (Refectory) – A Season in the Psalms – Mark Gignilliat**

**Finding Faith in the Filth: Death, Drugs, and Dysfunction (Assembly Hall) – Liz Scribner**

**Faith and Family (Lower School Library) – Aspirations for Our Children: An Eternal Life – Cameron Cole**

**Children's & Youth Education:**

Incoming 4K-6th graders have been promoted in their church classes to their current grades to create consistency with children's school lives. Younger children (Kindergarten through 3rd grade) will start the 9:00 and 11:00 services with their families in the Nave before leaving during the children's dismissal to meet teachers in Clingman Commons. Older children (4th grade and higher) and youth will have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services (10:15-10:50 a.m.).

The Nursery will be open for our current Infants, Toddlers, and Twos classes from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. These children will be promoted on Rally Day, September 12.



# GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

## Update from Our Search Committee

The Search Committee began meeting in June, and we are well on our way to discerning God's will regarding our next Dean and Rector.

The process of calling a new Dean is not one that has a definitive time frame but one that depends on God's timing, not ours. We do not have any information to share now regarding candidates.

Our time this summer has been spent preparing for the months ahead. Most importantly, this preparation has involved prayer and praise for our church family, our clergy, each other, and especially for the person God is preparing to move into the position of Dean. We have connected individually by sharing our personal faith journeys, we have learned the rich history of the Advent, we have prayerfully divided leadership duties, and we have set in place our goals. We have been busy! A parish survey is coming soon.

How can you help? First, you can pray alongside of us. A book we read, *When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search* by Chris Brauns, will give you insight as to how we are approaching this search. We are praying and waiting on God to act. *Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain* (Psalm 127:1). Secondly, you can be patient and understanding of the need for confidentiality. We value your thoughts, so please share them in person or via email at [DeanSearch@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:DeanSearch@CathedralAdvent.com), but please know we are not able to provide feedback on what has been addressed in our meetings.

Mary Hanson has graciously taken on the role of Prayer Coordinator. Each month we would like a new prayer focus, with this month's being unity. If you would like to receive these prayers, email Mary ([MHanson59@gmail.com](mailto:MHanson59@gmail.com)).

We will post monthly updates in the *Adventurer*, as well as more detailed information on our website under "News – Dean and Rector Search" tab.

Lastly, please join us in this prayer for unity: *Holy Father, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit are one, bring oneness to our Advent Search Committee. We pray that this team will be unified in purpose and walk together in the direction you set before them. Protect this group from the evil one who would seek to divide and sow seeds of discord. Allow trust to flourish among them as they labor to uncover the minister you have been preparing in heart, mind, and spirit for our church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- Tanya Cooper



## worship

### Lectionary

Sunday, August 29: Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10 or Psalm 15  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Rally Day Picnic

#### No Charge to Attend Picnic on September 12 at Children's Zoo

After a 2020 hiatus, the annual Rally Day Picnic is back, set for Sunday, September 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Birmingham Children's Zoo (2630 Cahaba Road, 35223). Dinner will be served, and we'll have activities for all ages.

There is no charge to attend and eat, but we need people to register so that we have an accurate count for food. See our website ([AdventBirmingham.org](http://AdventBirmingham.org)) or visit the table in Clingman Commons Sunday morning for information on registration. We'll have more information in next week's *Adventurer*.



### Men's Ministry

#### Skeet Shoot and Luncheon Set for September 11

Our Men's Ministry kick-off event will be a skeet shoot and luncheon on Saturday, September 11, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Pursell Farms in Sylacauga. Each registration includes 100 rounds of clay skeet and a buffet lunch to follow. This is a bring-your-own-shotgun-and-shells event; however, some have extras to share, and the facility has options for renting.

Registration deadline is September 1, and attendance is limited to the first 75 men (ages 16 and up). Cost is \$50 per person. Sign up at [AdventBirmingham.org/Men](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Men). Contact Wes Sharp with questions ([Wes@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Wes@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-226-3519).

### Youth Ministry

#### Jr. High Lake Day Retreat for Rising 7th Graders this Sunday

All rising 7th graders are invited to a lake day retreat this Sunday, August 29, to welcome them officially to Junior High youth group. We'll leave after Sunday School to head to Smyer Lake, and arrive back at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209) by 5:00 p.m. Children are encouraged to stick around for our youth group dinner from 6:16-7:16, but are also free to be picked up then. Please bring a mask. Cost for the lake day is \$12. Contact Tucker Fleming ([Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com)) for more information.

#### Sr. High Kickoff Dinner this Sunday

All 9th-12th graders are invited to join us to kick off a new school year this Sunday, August 29, 7:16-8:26 p.m. at Cranmer House. Dinner will be served. Please bring a mask. We hope to see you there! Contact Rebecca Lankford ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)) for details.

#### Sr. High Fall Retreat Set for October 1-2

Mark your calendars for the Senior High Fall Retreat, happening Friday evening to Saturday afternoon, October 1-2. We will camp out in the Pursell's front yard and enjoy games, fellowship, and a guest teacher. Cost to attend is \$50. Register at [AdventBirmingham.org/Youth](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Youth). Contact Rebecca ([Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com)) with questions.

For by grace you have been saved through 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



## education

### Church Tour and Inquirers' Class

#### I'm New Here: What's Going On? Where Is Everything?

If this is you, please join us for a tour of the church and the Inquirers' Class series. The tour will take place on Rally Day Sunday, September 12, immediately following the 9:00 service, and the six-week Inquirers' Class series will begin the following Sunday, September 19, at the same time. We'll gather for both events in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance is in the middle of the garden). The Inquirers' Class series will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. For more information, please contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562).

### Bible Studies

#### A Wide Range of Studies Offered this Fall

We have Bible studies meeting on a variety of days and times from which to choose this fall. Visit [AdventBirmingham.org/Bible-Studies](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Bible-Studies) to find out more. Contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562) with questions.

### Women's Bible Studies

#### Virginia Webster to Lead Study of Jesus' Parables

Jesus chose parables to get around obstacles of resistance and resentment. He introduced the gospel by means of earthy, secular stories about sowing seed, finding treasure, and casting a net. His characters were farmers, merchants, and fishermen. Jesus does in the parables what the Spirit has been doing throughout salvation history, using stories and images to teach the invisible truths of the gospel. We will study a parable each week. This is a 10-week study on Wednesdays, beginning September 15, 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the home of Virginia Webster (3905 Village Center Drive, 35226). To join, contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562).

#### Bible Study with Nursery Set for Thursday Mornings

Leslie Housman, our new Director of Women's Ministries, will lead a Bible study on Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m., beginning September 23 in the Living Room. If childcare is needed for at least six children, ages 6-weeks to 5-years-old, a nursery will be provided. To join, contact Fontaine Pope ([Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8562).

### Book Study

#### The Gospel Comes With a House Key

In *The Gospel Comes With a House Key*, Rosaria Butterfield writes about hospitality in a life-changing way. Studying this book, we will take inventory of our hearts and lives – how we offer our homes and resources to God and his kingdom. Lucy Kate Green and Liz Scribner will lead this study on Tuesdays, beginning September 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. This study is open to all. Contact Lucy Kate ([LucyKate@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:LucyKate@CathedralAdvent.com), 678-997-6191) with questions or to express your interest.

## Gunter Owens Joining Children's Ministry Staff

The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry is excited to announce that Gunter Owens is joining the Advent staff as the Assistant Director of Children's Ministries, working alongside Tara Davis. Gunter (*right*) has attended of the Advent since 2011, and has served the church faithfully in a number of areas. A graduate of Hollins University, she has a Masters in Education with a focus in Early Childhood from UAB. Gunter and her husband, Rhett, are parents to Helen and Charlie. We are delighted to welcome her to the Children's Ministry. *Psalm 107:1*



Lucy Kate Green, who has been serving with our children, will transition to a full-time role with the Youth Ministry. Rebecca Lankford will work with our 12th-grade girls during this school year, but will work primarily with young adult women starting on September 1.



## spiritual growth & fellowship

### Ageless Adventers

#### Third Wednesdays Program to Resume September 15

The Ageless Adventers will resume the Third Wednesdays luncheon series on September 15, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). We will gather for lunch and a word from Wes Sharp, our Clergy Associate.

All ages are welcome! For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Stella Schreiber ([Stella@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Stella@CathedralAdvent.com), 205-443-8558).

## Rooted Ministry

#### Conference Coming to the Advent October 7-9

Rooted, a ministry that promotes gospel-centered ministry for parents and youth pastors, will hold its annual conference at the Advent October 7-9. Advent parents who sign up by September 1 get 10 percent off the registration cost with the code ADVENT. Visit [Rooted-Conference.com](http://Rooted-Conference.com) to find out more and register.

Rooted was founded at the Advent in 2010, and our own Cameron Cole serves as its founding Chairman. Speakers at this year's conference include Alice Churnock and Charlotte Getz.

## memorials:

#### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Blakelee Grace Goodwin:** (Music Discretionary Fund) by Samuel Urmey; H. Mack Jolly



## diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama

## advent staff

The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Interim Dean and Rector

The Rev. Canon Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

## transitions:

**Marriage:** Margaret Louise Pritchard and Grayson Rice Wiles, on August 14

## memorials:

### Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

**Lamont Major, Jr.:** (Endowment Fund) by Carolyn W. Smith

**Richard McManus:** (Endowment Fund) by Kay Beachum

**Howard "Buck" W. Cater, Jr.:** (Mission and Outreach) by Mary and Victor Hanson

**Lella Clayton Bromberg:** (Endowment Fund) by Cynthia Sproull; Brad Sims, Philip and Liz Sims, Hardie Sims; Tom and Cindy Bowron; Happy and Bill Anthony; Billy Angell; N.J. and David Edge; Mrs. Deen Day Sanders; Trudy Evans; Sue and Stanley Virciglio; Dr. and Mrs. Ronald W. Orso; Bob McArdle • (Garden Fund) by Elizabeth and Bayard Tynes; Dr. and Mrs. George W. Matthews, Jr.; Louise and Jimmie Wright • (Music Discretionary Fund) by Alice M. Bowsher



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## calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 29 Holy Communion - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. Jr. High Lake Day - 11:00 a.m. Sr. High Kickoff Dinner - Cranmer House - 7:16 p.m.	30	31 Prayer Walk - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	Sept 1	2	3	4
Sept 5 Holy Communion - 7:30 a.m. Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.	6 Labor Day Church Office closed	7 Prayer Walk - Nave - 8:00 a.m.	8	9	10	11 Men's Ministry Skeet Shoot and Luncheon - Pursell Farms - 9:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday (No meeting September 6): AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

**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 205-226-3500.

**Intercessory Prayer Available at Advent House:** Anyone desiring to seek God in prayer may reach out to the Advent House Prayer Ministry. We are offering prayer sessions at the Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205). Please contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, [Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com](mailto:Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com)) to make an appointment or for more information.