

Adventurer

Advent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



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Week of December 18, 2011



News & Events



Lighting the Advent Wreath

This Sunday the Thomas family, Claire and John, Jack (age 3) and Elizabeth (age 2), will light the fourth candle on our parish Advent wreath immediately before the 9:00 a.m. service.

Food Drive this Sunday

Advent will collect items for Grace Food Pantry in Clingman Commons. See page 2.

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

3:30 p.m. Children's Service and Blessing of the Crèche

5:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

8:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

10:25 p.m. The Music of Christmas

11:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion for Christmas Day



A Word from Canon Pearson

time receiving.

Have you ever received a Christmas gift from someone and not had one to give in return? Our reaction, typically, is to lie. "Oh, I accidentally left yours at home!" "The manufacturer is late in shipping it!"

At this point in your life you are prepared for most of these encounters. So, you spend your time Christmas shopping buying gifts for others who are going to get you something, not because you want to get them something, but because you don't want to be left empty handed. There is no worse feeling in the world than to receive without the ability to give back.

If in receiving we feel that we need to give, and in giving we feel that we are

This time of year I am reminded that it is better to give than to receive. Not because it's what we're supposed to do, but because I feel good when I give, and I have a hard

entitled to receive, then there is no such thing as a "gift." In our society, there is no understanding, practically speaking, of "something bestowed or acquired without any particular effort by the recipient or without its being earned" (www.dictionary.com). This is what makes Christmas feel like an obligation to some and Christianity too much to handle for many.

Most of us can go out and get the gift (that is not really a gift at all) for the neighbor who gave you a garden gnome, but when it comes to God, we are incapable of giving anything to him in return for the gift he has given us in Jesus Christ.

It requires a great deal of humility to receive a gift, and my prayer this Christmas is that we would receive into our hearts the greatest gift of all, salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. And thereby, enable our hearts to give without expecting anything in return, and to receive gifts for what they are - undeserved.

- Andrew

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:23

This Sunday:

December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Services:

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Canon Pearson will preach at all morning services.

5:00 p.m. Evening Service

Preacher: Canon Smalley

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

The Dean's Class (Refectory) - *What Christmas Does: Kris Kringle, The Gospel, and the Melting Heart* - Canon Pearson

Anticipating Christ: The Advent of Incarnation (Day School Library) - Canon Gibbes

Trinity Bible Study - An Open Study of Luke/Acts (Diocesan Conference Room) - *Luke's Christmas Story: Advent 4 - "A Light to Reveal Thee to the Nations"* - Jon Harbuck and Steve Tilghman

Of Christmases Long, Long Ago (Living Room) - *Part 2 of 2* - Gil Kracke

Burn Down the Trailer Park: Nanobots in the Blood, YouTube on the Cross, and the Thirty-Nine Articles in 140 Characters or Fewer (Chapter Room) - *Part 5 of 5* - Jack Sharman

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.

Lectionary:

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

St. Luke 1:26-38

The 9:00 a.m. service is broadcast live on WERC 960 AM, 105.5 FM, and www.WERCFM.com.

Sermon texts and audio recordings are available at www.AdventBirmingham.org.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



serving & outreach

EYC

Bake Sale Sunday to Benefit Mission Trip

High school students going on the youth mission trip to Managua, Nicaragua, in July will hold a bake sale to raise money this Sunday, December 18, in Clingman Commons. Stop by and pick up a baked good!

Seniors' Ministry

Seniors to Sack Lunches for Homeless

Advent Seniors will gather for the annual sacking of Christmas lunches for the homeless on Monday, December 19, 10:00 a.m. in Clingman Commons. A complimentary lunch will be served. Call Carol Williams at 443-8550 to be counted for lunch.

Poinsettia Delivery

A Bit of Christmas Cheer for Our Homebound

We need volunteers to deliver poinsettias to our homebound parishioners following the Christmas Day service, to be held Sunday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Robin Hinkle at 937-0565.



spiritual growth & fellowship

College-Age Adventers

Christmas Dinner Set for December 19

All college-age Adventers (those who graduated high school between '08 and '11) are invited to Madaline and Elizabeth Hargrove's house (124 Spring Street) on Monday, December 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, and a word from Canon Pearson. We'll provide dinner - let us know if you can bring a snack or dessert to share. Contact Elisabeth Elliott (elliott@cathedraladvent.com, 443-8563) or Cameron Cole (cameron@cathedraladvent.com, 226-3545).

Marriage Retreat

Register at Our Website

Registration continues for the Advent's upcoming marriage retreat, January 20-22 at The Hotel at Auburn University (right). Trey Hill, a psychologist at Covenant Counseling who combines faithfulness, humor, and insight, will be our leader for the weekend. Details and registration are all online at www.AdventBirmingham.org. Questions? Contact Gil Kracke (gil@cathedraladvent.com, 226-3516).



Local Outreach

Food Drive is this Sunday

Advent will collect items for Grace Food Pantry this Sunday, December 18, in Clingman Commons. Items that are especially needed include cooking oil, mac & cheese, rice, pasta, soup with pop-tops, peanut butter, tuna, and Vienna sausages.



Gifts of Grace

Reach Out this Christmas

Honor friends and family this Christmas by supporting students in Haiti, orphans in Bolivia, and homeless families in Birmingham. Visit www.AdventBirmingham.org to view the Gifts of Grace catalog and download an order form. For a hard copy, contact Carol Williams (carol@cathedraladvent.com, 443-8550).



worship

Fifth Grade Pageant



Tradition Continues this Sunday

The annual 5th Grade Christmas Pageant will be held this Sunday, December 18, during the 9:00 a.m. service.

Lenten Lunches

Stocking Stuffers and Sponsorships Available

Preparations are well underway for the Advent's 2012 Lenten Preaching and Lunches series, and we need your help. Are you looking for the perfect stocking stuffers or a



unique way to honor someone this Christmas season? The Lenten Lunch chairs will be in Clingman Commons this Sunday, December 18. Please consider purchasing Lenten Lunch cards for stocking stuffers or honoring someone with a Lenten Lunch sponsorship. These are gifts that will definitely keep on giving. Want to know more about sponsorship opportunities? Please contact Kelly Hargrove (kellyphargrove@charter.net, 871-6048).

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.

By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - not because of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9



making music

Children's Choirs

Upcoming Events

The Gabriel Choir (grades 3-6) will sing and lead worship at the 9:00 a.m. service this Sunday, December 18. Choristers will gather in the Assembly Hall at 8:15 a.m.

The St. Nicholas Choir (grades 1-2) and **The Gabriel Choir** will go **caroling** at St. Martin's-in-the-Pines on Wednesday, December 21. Singers will gather at Advent Park at 9:15 a.m. and will return at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Sharon Benefield (871-1914, 482-6651, sharon@cathedraladvent.com).

The Angels and Cherubs (ages 3-5K) will sing at the 3:30 p.m. Children's Service on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24. Choir members will sit with their parents until time to come forward to sing.

The St. Nicholas Choir will also sing at the 3:30 service. Choristers will gather in the Assembly Hall at 2:45 p.m.

The Gabriel Choir will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist service on Christmas Eve. Singers will meet in the Assembly Hall at 4:00 p.m.

Children's choirs will not rehearse on Wednesdays, December 21 and 28.

Midday Musical Menu

Carver High School Choir in Concert December 16

The G. W. Carver Concert Choir will perform a Midday Musical Menu concert entitled *A Christmas Celebration* on Friday, December 16, 12:30 p.m. in the Nave. Conducted by Bobby Stringer, the choir is comprised of students attending George Washington Carver High School in Birmingham. The program will begin with the opening movement of Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and will continue with several arrangements of well-known Christmas carols, among them "Mary Had a Baby" and "Joy to the World." You are warmly invited to this free, 30-minute concert.



Christmas Closings

The Church Office will close at noon on Friday, December 23. The office and Book Store will be closed Monday, December 26. Both will reopen Tuesday, December 27.



education

Nursery

"Ol' Rockin' Chair..."

Comforting a toddler who has fallen down, lulling a baby to sleep, reassuring a preschooler that mommy and daddy will come back soon... these are just a few of the ways our caregivers in the nursery teach our tiniest disciples about God's love. Some of our rocking chairs have been worn beyond repair. If you have a rocker in good shape that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to our nursery. Contact Leslie Housman (443-8552, leslie.housman@gmail.com) if you can help.



Book Group

The Advent Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 18, 2012, to discuss Albert Camus' *The Plague* (available through the Book Store). New participants are always welcome. Call John Adams at 321-1236 for details.



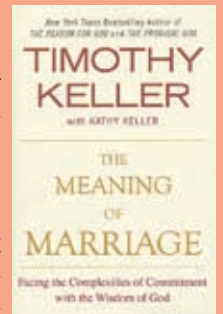
book store

Timothy Keller's New Book

The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller - Just in time for that special, last-minute, meaningful gift... Based on the sermon series by Tim Keller, this book shows everyone - Christians, skeptics, singles, longtime married couples, and those about to be engaged - the vision of what marriage should be according to the Bible. Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that your spouse is there to help you realize your potential; that marriage does not mean forever, but merely for now; and that starting over after a divorce is the best solution to seemingly intractable marriage issues. All these modern-day assumptions are, in one word, *wrong*.

Using the Bible as his guide with insightful commentary from his wife of 36 years, Keller shows that God created marriage to bring us closer to Him and to bring more joy into our lives. This is essential reading for anyone who wants to know God and love more deeply in this life.

Regular store hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Contact us: 323-2959, ebinfo@episcobooks.com. Visit us at any hour: www.episcobooks.com. We hope to see you in the Book Store!



calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 18 Regular worship schedule Fifth Grade Pageant - 9 a.m. service Outreach Food Drive - Clingman	19 Allen Ross Bible Study - 7 a.m. Seniors' Lunch Sacking - Clingman - 10 a.m. College-age Christmas Dinner - 124 Spring St. - 6 p.m.	20	21 Holy Communion - Chapel - 12:05 p.m.	22 "Sunrise Sinners" Bible Study - Refectory - 7 a.m.	23 Church Office closes at noon	24 Christmas Eve Service schedule below
Dec 25 Christmas Day Holy Communion - Nave - 10 a.m.	26 Church Office and Book Store closed	27	28 Holy Communion - Chapel - 12:05 p.m.	29 "Sunrise Sinners" Bible Study - Refectory - 7 a.m.	30	31

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

Monday-Friday: AA - Coe Conference Room, noon
(No meeting December 26)

coming up:

•Christmas Eve: Saturday December 24 - Children's Service at 3:30 p.m.; Festal Holy Eucharist at 5:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m., The Music of Christmas at 10:25 p.m.

- New Year's Holiday (Observed): Monday, January 2 - Church Office and Book Store closed
- Investiture of the 11th Bishop of Alabama: Saturday, January 7, Nave, 11:00 a.m.

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Sara T. McCullough: (Music Discretionary Fund) by Louis and Deenie Culver

James Wilson Jolly and Louise Gray Jolly: (Music Discretionary Fund) by H. Mack Jolly

A. J. "Jack" Pittman: (Music Discretionary Fund) by H. Mack Jolly

Virginia Burke Hezlep and Robert Bushnell Hezlep, Jr.: (Radio Memorial) by David Hezlep

Armina McMichael: (Outreach) by Dee Lee

Walter Evans, Joe Farley, Connie Pittman, Bibby Smith, and Ann Pritchard: (Endowment Fund) by Harold and Jane Goings

In Honor of the Rev. Anthony Johnson: (Outreach) by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scribner

In Honor of the Rev. Canon Craig Smalley: (Endowment Fund) by Pamela Ledbetter

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop Suffragan of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. Frank F. Limehouse, III, Dean of the Cathedral

The Rev. Canon Joseph P. Warren, Director of Pastoral Care & Counseling

The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Missioner & Day School Chaplain

The Rev. Canon Joseph A. Gibbes, Canon for Christian Education

The Rev. Canon Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Canon for Parish Life and Evangelism

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