

Adventurer

Christmas

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



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Week of December 25, 2011



News & Events



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve Service Schedule Saturday, December 24

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

Homily by Canon Smalley
Child care for ages 3 and under

5:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

Sermon by Dean Limehouse
Child care for ages 5 and under

8:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

Sermon by Dean Limehouse
Child care for ages 5 and under

10:25 p.m. The Music of Christmas

11:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

Sermon by Dean Limehouse
Nursery closed



A Word from the Dean

which is the absolute paradox, veritably exists. This is the theme of the Gospel..."

The fact that we creatures are in any kind of relation with our Creator punches a hole in the fabric of skepticism, but this goes beyond that by proclaiming that it is a positive relation - the absolute paradox, as Barth said, that sinful creatures and Holy God are in a positive relation. At the time of Jesus' birth this was the essence of the message of the angel delivered to the shepherds that holy night when they were out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"
- St. Luke 2:13

Karl Barth, arguably the most influential academic theologian of the 20th century, once wrote these words: "The positive relation between God and man,

The remarkable words of the heavenly multitude would have no meaning if Christ hadn't died on a cross and then risen from the dead. But he did, because "God so loved the world..." *And you, who once were estranged... Christ has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before God (Colossians 1:21-22).*

The amazing thing is that God's love and our positive relationship with him are not based on our character but God's character. The "American work ethic" is built on hard work, accomplishment, and "earning it the old-fashioned way." We are constantly trying to earn the respect and admiration of others. But our positive relationship with God, the absolute paradox, is not a matter of trying, but trusting. *All who received him (Christ), who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God (John 1:12).*

I am a child of God? Talk about the absolute paradox! May God grant us all peace in believing this New Year and always.

- FFL

This Sunday: December 25, 2011 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day

Service:

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

Preacher: Canon Smalley

Regular service schedule will
resume next Sunday, January 1.

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

Adult classes will not meet this Sunday morning, Christmas Day.

Children's & Youth Education:

Children's and youth classes will not meet this Sunday, and nurseries will be closed.



Lectionary:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 3:4-7

St. John 1:1-14

The 2011 Advent Service of Lessons and Carols will be broadcast at 9:00 a.m. 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!



servicing & outreach

Local Outreach

Coat Drive Coming in January

Get a new coat for Christmas? Consider donating the old one. Shopping after-Christmas sales? How about picking up outerwear for homeless men, women, and children in Birmingham. Our annual Coat Drive will be held Sunday, January 22, in Clingman Commons. Larger sized coats are especially needed.



Outreach Service Opportunities



Discovery Clubs of Alabama

Advent Outreach Service Opportunities - *Join in!*

For more information, contact Canon Smalley (craig@thedradadvent.com, 443-8569)



spiritual growth & fellowship

Poinsettia Delivery

Sharing the Color of Christmas Day

Spread the joy of Christmas beyond our cathedral walls. We need volunteers to deliver poinsettias to our homebound parishioners immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service. For more information, contact Robin Hinkle at 937-0565.

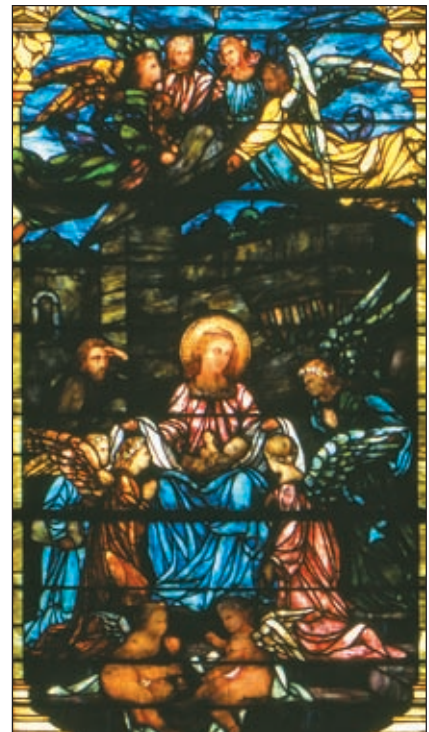


Pastoral Notice: If you are going into the hospital, have need of prayer or counsel, or have a family member unable to attend church, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 226-3500.

Son of AdventBirmingham.org: New Website Coming Online



By the time you read this, it is likely that our new website will be available at the familiar www.AdventBirmingham.org address. This is the first complete revision of the entire site since its inception more than 10 years ago. Our goals include presenting a more vivid picture of the faithful people of this parish, and making it easier for visitors and newcomers to find their way around the website (and the church!) - among other things.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
- St. John 1:14

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

Christmas Singing Schedule

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 Wednesday, December 28.

The Cathedral Choir

Choir to Offer Special Music for Christmas



In addition to great hymns and carols, the Advent's Christmas services feature special music from The Cathedral Choir.

The choir will be accompanied by brass, timpani, and organ at the 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services. Its offerings will include "Sussex Carol," arranged by Dale Grotenhuis, "Glory to God in the Highest" (*Messiah*) by G. F. Handel, and "Susanni," arranged by Robert Shaw and Alice Parker.

The Music of Christmas is a choral prelude to the 11:00 Christmas Eve service, starting at 10:25 p.m. The choir will sing a variety of works, including "O Magnum Mysterium" by Morton Lauridsen, "Wassail Carol" by William Mathias, and "I Saw Three Ships," arranged by Richard Lloyd.

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.



Our living as real human beings,
And loving the real people next to us
is, again, grounded only in God's
becoming human,
in the unfathomable love of God
for us human beings.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

education

Children's and Youth Classes

The Next Few Weeks

Children's and youth classes will not be held Christmas Day, this Sunday, December 25, and nurseries will be closed.

Classes will also not be held next Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day); nurseries will be available for ages 5 and under from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. All are invited to Clingman Commons for a New Year's reception with refreshments during the Sunday School hour that day.

Regular classes will resume Sunday, January 8.

Adult Education

The Next Few Weeks

Adult education classes will not be held the next two Sundays, December 25 (Christmas Day) and January 1 (New Year's Day). On January 1 all are invited to Clingman Commons for a New Year's reception with refreshments during the Sunday School hour, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Regular classes will resume Sunday, January 8.

Book Group

The Advent Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 18, 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

Merry Christmas from the Book Store

May your Christmas be filled with the wonder and joy of the Christmas story. Blessings to you, from the Book Store staff.

We have an immediate need for weekday volunteers on Monday and Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Those of you familiar with the Book Store know that it can't happen without our faithful volunteers. They are part of that crew of true "church mice" who get things done! Three of our volunteers are retiring - Frances Daugherty, Martha Ann Doyle, and Debbie Tiffin have given of their time and talent, and we are most grateful. Is it your turn now? Maybe you could pair with a friend and come help us! Call Cindy Funderburk at 443-8572. Thanks for considering this ministry!

The store will be closed Friday, December 23, through Monday, December 26, reopening Tuesday, December 27. 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 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 - Refec- tory - 7 a.m.	30	31
Jan 1 New Year's Day Regular Service Schedule - No Sunday School	2 Church Office and Book Store closed	3	4 Holy Communion - Chapel - 12:05 p.m.	5 "Sunrise Sinners" Bible Study - Refec- tory - 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Conference Room - noon	6	7 Investiture of the 11th Bishop of Alabama - Nave - 11 a.m.

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

Monday-Friday: AA - Coe Conference Room, noon
(No meeting December 26 or January 2)

coming up:

•Midday Musical Menu - Charles M. Kennedy Organ: Friday,
January 20, Nave, 12:30 p.m.

- Marriage Retreat: Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, The Hotel at Auburn University
- Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, January 29, Nave, 10:00 a.m.

transitions:

Birth: Tessa Frances Wood, daughter of Jordon and Krista, on December 6

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

William Mims Jones: (Endowment Fund) by Janie Mashburn; Mr. and Mrs. Cory Jackson

Dr. James E. Ramsey: (Endowment Fund) by Dr. and Mrs. Max McDonald

Andrew, Julia, Andrew Jr., and Rollo Knight: (Endowment Fund) by Roy Knight

Bamie Williams, Betty Kent, Herbert Longenecker, and Netagene Williams: (Endowment Fund) by Harold and Jane Goings

In Honor of Alexandro, Drogo, and Dalre Knight: (Endowment Fund) by Roy Knight

In Honor of George Taylor's Birthday: (Endowment Fund) by Michael and Sandra Davis

In Thanksgiving for Caroline Knight: (Endowment Fund) by Roy Knight

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

The Rev. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Canon J. Thompson Brown, Canon Emeritus

The Rev. John Harris Harper, Vice Dean Emeritus

The Very Rev. C. Edward Reeves, Jr., Vice Dean Emeritus

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