A Word from Canon Hicks

“You are dead. Therefore, put to death the dead things.” This is the strange logic of Paul in Colossians 3. Not long ago, I was processing this passage with my kids, and one of my sons rightly picked up what appeared to be the end-of-life idea in Paul’s teaching here. Brody said something like, “When we die, God will make all these bad things in us go away.” This is an understandable reading of the text, especially if you know your Bible well enough to pick up on the fact that freedom from sin is something we will only know fully on the other side of our physical death – what is biblically called, “glorification.”

However, the odd logic of Paul is this: you are dead, or more literally, “you have died” (Colossians 3:3). I don’t know about you, but I don’t feel dead yet. I feel pretty alive. I’m breathing, moving, interacting. What Paul means here is that for the Christian, our “flesh” (our sinful nature) has been dealt a death blow on the cross. We could say that our flesh has been mortally wounded and is currently in the state of bleeding out. If you’ve read books or seen movies where someone has been mortally wounded, there is inevitably that moment when they finally give up struggling and give in to death. When Paul says, “Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you,” in a way he’s saying, “Resign yourself; let those things die; don’t let them put up any more fight.”

The deeds of the flesh, here listed as “sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness” (Colossians 3:5), but listed as other things elsewhere, are on their way to the grave. Paul’s logic is, “Why would you want to spend any time on those dead things?” Well, if you’re like me, there’s a very real answer to that question: “Because they’re easy and they feel good.” Indeed, they do…to the dying flesh. Christians should ask God for wisdom to discern, among the muddled desires that swarm within us, which ones are “of the flesh” and which are “of the Spirit.” For this struggle of discernment, we must ever always look at the originating death-moment – the cross of Christ. It is there we will find the power.

- Zac
- Romans 1:16
GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT’S GOING ON!

Parish Meeting Set for January 26

The annual Parish Meeting of the Cathedral Church of the Advent will be Sunday, January 26, beginning at 10:05 a.m. in the Nave. Parishioners will hear from Dean Pearson about “the state of the parish” – looking back over the past year and looking ahead to 2020 and beyond.

Also at the meeting, parishioners will elect 10 persons to serve on the Vestry. The nominees are as follows:

- Brian Barr, Lyda Burnette, Russ Chambliss, Martin Clapp, Tanya Cooper, Bing Edwards, Jay Ezelle, Ford Hamilton, Kate Kiefer, Bailey Knight, Shannon Lisenby, Don Menendez, Britton Neal, Gunter Owens, Shannon Price, Frank Springfield, Browning Thornton, Chris Weingartner, Ann Bailey White, Tommy Wilson, Jr.

If you’re at the 9:00 a.m. service, please stay for this meeting; if you’re attending an 11:00 a.m. service, please come early for this 10:05 a.m. meeting. Early service and Five O’Clock regulars will also find it worthwhile to make a special trip to attend this once-a-year, important parish gathering.

We hope to see you there.

Vacation Bible School 2020

Registration Opens January 26

Registration for Vacation Bible School opens on Sunday, January 26, in Clingman Commons. Parents and children are welcome to stop by the table (look for the VBS banner) for more information about all the fun we have planned for June 1-4. Our theme this year is Rocky Railway: Jesus Pulls Us Through.

Children who register in person will receive a balloon, wristband, and invitation to take to a friend. The registration table will be set up the mornings of January 26 and February 2; after those dates registration will take place online at AdventBirmingham.org/VBS.

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.

Youth Ministry

Jr. High: Register for RYM January 26 and February 2

Registration opens for RYM 2020 (Reformed Youth Ministries) on Sunday, January 26, in Clingman Commons. Parents are welcome to stop by the table (look for the RYM banner) for more information about this fun, annual beachside conference for Junior High students, set for June 22-26 in Panama City Beach, Florida. Find out more about the conference at AdventBirmingham.org/News.

Sr. High: “Ski Night” Family Dinner Set for January 26

All Senior High youth are invited to our next Family Dinner on Sunday, January 26, 6:57-8:15 p.m. at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). The theme is “Ski Night,” so come ready to hit the slopes! Find out more by contacting Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).

I waited patiently upon the Lord; he stooped to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.
- Psalm 40:1-3
Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

- Mark 1:14-15

**education**

**Bible Benchmarks**

**Reading Plan Available January 26**

The Advent will publish the Old Testament edition of *Bible Benchmarks: A Reading Plan to Build Biblical Literacy* on Sunday, January 26. A large team of Adventers started this project at the end of 2017. This guide provides a Bible reading plan with 104 readings (two per week) with key people, places, and items included to help families and parishioners grow in their knowledge of the Bible. Copies can be purchased at the Advent Bookstore. A free PDF copy is also available at AdventBirmingham.org/News.

**Inquirers’ Class**

**It’s Not Too Late to Join the Class**

The Inquirers’ class began last Sunday, January 12, but you can still join us! It will run through March 15 (no meeting on January 26 or February 16). The eight-week series meets in the Diocesan Conference Room (entrance in the garden area).

The Inquirers’ Class is an adult education course that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. It is open to anyone, but it is designed particularly for newcomers to the Advent. Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562) with questions.

**Youth Confirmation**

**Classes for 6th Graders Begin February 2**

All current 6th graders are invited and encouraged to participate in Confirmation this spring. The semester-long experience will begin on Sunday, February 2, and run through the beginning of May, ending with Confirmation on May 6. Find out more by contacting Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com).

**making music**

**Midday Music**

**Sadie Goodman, Zachary Palamara, and Cindy St. Clair: Music for Voice and Piano January 24**

Our Midday Music series continues on Friday, January 24, 12:30 p.m. in Clingman Commons with a performance by Sadie Goodman (right), soprano; Zachary Palamara, baritone; and Cindy St. Clair, piano. Their program will include music by Britten, Fauré, Mendelssohn, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rorem, Schumann, and Vaughan Williams. For the last set of songs, the group will be joined by violinist Jeffrey Flaniken. Sadie’s singing is familiar to many Adventers through her tenure in the Cathedral Choir. All are cordially invited to this free, 30-minute concert.

**Music Ministry**

**Nathan Peace Assists Musical Worship as Organ Scholar**

Nathan Peace (right) has been serving as Organ Scholar at the Advent since August. Nathan is a senior at Samford University, where he majors in Music and Worship. As a part of his degree, he is required to fulfill an internship at a local church, where he can observe and participate in a well-established music ministry. Nathan assists Fred Teardo and Charles Kennedy with playing hymns and service music for our Sunday Nave services, as well as accompanying, singing, and occasionally directing the choir. We pray this experience is a joyful one for Nathan, and please do pray for his continued growth in learning here at the Advent, at Samford, and beyond.

**Holiday Closings**

The Church Office and Advent Bookstore will be closed Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 21, and the Bookstore will reopen for regular hours on Wednesday, January 22.

**Offering Envelopes Available**

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2020 pledge card, you can pick them up in Clingman Commons. Please note that you have been assigned a new envelope number.

**Advent House: Intercessory prayer is on-going at Advent House. If you would like to schedule a prayer session, please call Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622.**
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. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon
The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Jan 19
Regular worship schedule
The Forum - Clingman Commons - 6:15 p.m.

20
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Church Office and Bookstore closed

21	22
23
Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m.
Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.

24
Midday Music - Clingman Commons - 12:30 p.m.

25
Sr. High “A Heart for Birmingham” Weekend - 9:00 a.m.

Jan 26
Regular worship schedule
Parish Meeting - Nave - 10:05 p.m.
Jr. High Dinner - 5:59 p.m.
Sr. High Dinner - 6:57 p.m.

27	28	29
30
Sunrise Sinners - Refectory - 7:00 a.m.
Praise Service - Nave - 8:30 a.m.

31
Feb 1

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 for a complete list of options available to you. If you have any questions, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 443-8562).

memorials:
Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:
Frank H. Bromberg, Jr.: (Endowment Fund) by Cece and Kenny Hartley
Charles Eugene Sharp: (Endowment Fund) by J. Dowe Bynum
In Honor of Kathryn Keith: (Mission and Outreach) by Ann and Troy Haas

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