



The Episcopal Church of the Advent

January 22, 2025 Newsletter
Second Sunday After Epiphany



A message from Father Mark

Our Gospel lesson from last Sunday is one of my favorites: The Wedding at Cana. What intrigues me is the dynamic between Jesus and his mother, Mary. First, Mary announces to Jesus, “They have no wine.” Jesus responds with the enigmatic, slightly haughty, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My time has not yet come.” But then Mary turns to the servants and says, “Do whatever he tells you to do.” From that point, Jesus tells the servants to fill six jars with water, and off we go. Basically, Mary just ignores Jesus’ objection. Beyond that, she starts giving instructions that contradict his words!

The text doesn't tell us why Jesus hesitated beyond the strange statement that his time had not yet come. But I wonder if maybe Jesus just didn't feel quite ready. Maybe he was a little nervous about such a display. And what if Mary knew that about her son? By putting him on the spot a little, Mary gently pushed Jesus and encouraged him to take that first big step into public ministry.

And who doesn't need a push from time to time? Who among us doesn't need a little encouragement when we're a little unsure of ourselves or what we should do? Pushed out of false beliefs about our abilities, worth or effectiveness. Pushed out of our ideas that we'll just be in the way or that God has somebody better mind. We can all be that person who says, "You know, I really enjoyed your insights in our last Bible study. Have you considered leading a Bible study yourself? I think you'd be fantastic at it." There are people just waiting for someone to give them that tiny boost of confidence to launch them into new areas of ministry or service. We can all be that person.

Question of the Week: Whom do you know that just needs a little encouragement from you to step into a new ministry?

Thank you and peace,
Mark+

ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday, January 26

Advent's Annual Meeting will be held in the Parish House on **Sunday, January 26**, immediately after the 10:30 AM service. The church will provide chicken. Please bring a side dish. We will elect new Vestry members and review the church's performance last year and plans for the near future.

COMMUNITY PRAYER VIGIL - Sunday, January 26, 6:00 PM

Gather and pray for the friends, classmates, teachers, community members and the families of Bennett Raburn, Avett Jackson, and Bryson Hammond. Held at the Morgan County High School Gym and led by Pastors Danny Harrell and Matthew Mitchell on behalf of the Morgan Cares Center.

Rota for Third Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 10:30 A.M.

Altar Guild – Bennett-Roman
Flower Guild – Glenn Eskew
LEM/PoP – Paul Roman
1st Reading – Maryann Dartnell
2nd Reading – O.J. Booker
Vestry of the Day – Elizabeth Branch
Organ Tech - Betsy Quillin

Readings for Third Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 10:30 A.M.

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
The Psalm: 19
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
The Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Parish Prayer List

Parish: Carol Blow, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Sally Green, Kate Jackson, Shandon Land, Kathy and Brian Lehman, MaryAnn Lisle, Anna Maret, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, Betty Thomas, and Ellen Warren.

Friends and Family: Eugene Broadbridge, Jane Brooks, Daphne Carter, Lynn Cupples, Lillian and Turner Eby, Mary Ann Edelman, Joseph Gagliano, Annita Hunt, Grainger Hunt, Johanna Dufort Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Nancy Labak, RB Lewis, Meg Limmer, Tracy Limmer, Jerry Maddox, Ross Mason, Dustin Pullen, Dennis Reeder, Carla Sherrill, Robin Thomas, Parker Westphal, Jay Whitecombe, and Carl & Joanna Yost.

Community and Beyond: Iliana Arias, Bishop Michael Curry, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz, Sherry MacMahon.

January Birthdays - 30 Frank Walsh; **31** David Land, Kim Jackson

Week at a glance

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday, January 20, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Tuesday, January 21, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Wednesday, January 22, 2025	9:00 AM	CH	Morning Prayer, Rite I
Thursday, January 23, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open Book study)
Thursday, January 23, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed discussion)
Thursday, January 23, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	Al-Anon (open meeting)
Friday, January 24, 2025	7:00 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed Book study)
Saturday, January 25, 2025	11:30 AM	PH	Annual Meeting
Saturday, January 25, 2025	6:00 PM		Community Prayer Vigil
Sunday, January 26, 2025	8:00 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
Sunday, January 26, 2025	9:15 AM	PH	Sunday School - Lectionary Study
Sunday, January 26, 2025	10:30 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
Sunday, January 26, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (open meeting)

PH - Parish House CH - Church

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Office hours by appointment.

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright - Bishop of Atlanta.

Reverend Mark Stewart Johnson - Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Elizabeth Branch - Senior Warden, Shelley MacMillan - Junior Warden.

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