



## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

May 6, 2025 Newsletter

Third Sunday of Easter



### A message from Father Mark

In Sunday's Gospel passage, Jesus asks Peter three times if Peter loves him. Three times, Peter responds that he does. Jesus' responses to Peter are fascinating. He never says, "thank you" or "I love you, too, Peter," for example. The text says that Peter "felt hurt," implying that Peter thought Jesus did not believe him. Instead, Jesus' responses to Peter's affirmation of love is to tell Peter to do three things: "feed my lambs," "tend my sheep," and "feed my sheep."

I don't think Jesus is looking for human affirmation in this moment. This is meant to be a teaching moment. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him because he wants to make sure Peter understands what it means to love Jesus. That's why Jesus responds the way he does, appearing not even to acknowledge what Peter says. Jesus responds by telling Peter to do three things. In other words, "if you love me, do this." He wants Peter to act. Jesus is telling Peter – and, therefore, anyone who would be Jesus' disciple - "Don't tell me that you love me. Show me."

"Loving other people, as Jesus commanded, means more than having affection for people or saying we love people. We have to prove it. To love like Jesus requires more than words; it requires action."

***Question of the Week: Think of a person in your life who you believe needs to feel the love of God more acutely. What could you DO for that person this week to make that love feel more present?***

Peace,  
Mark+

### **A message from the Vestry**

***Father Mark's successor.*** On March 27, Father Mark announced that his last Sunday with us as interim Priest-In-Charge is June 1. The vestry has been in the process of searching for a permanent, part time Priest-in-Charge. It has admittedly been a slow process; at least five other rural Episcopal churches in the Diocese are recruiting for at this time. We are advertising actively on the nationwide Episcopal News Service as well as through the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Meanwhile, the vestry is discussing plans for post-June 1 and will announce them soon.

***City of Madison Transportation Plan.*** In March, the City of Madison published the draft of a proposed plan which “provides a practical framework for creating a transportation system that works for everyone”. The plan and other associated documents (including church plat, transportation plan, Historic Madison Coalition document) can be found by clicking this link: [ADVENT TRANSPORTATION](#) The draft plan incorporates proposed changes that significantly impact Advent and the surrounding Historic District.

The Vestry wrote a letter to the City Council with its concerns and questions, and is reproduced in its entirety below. Vestry members Annie Hunt Burriss and O. J. Booker and approximately 20 Advent parishioners attended the May 5 Public Forum to hear and make comments on the proposed plan.

May 5, 2025

Dear Honorable Mayor Perryman and Distinguished Members of the Madison City Council,

Thank you for giving citizens a chance to review and provide questions and comments concerning the proposed 20-year Transportation Plan.

On behalf of the Episcopal Church of the Advent, we serve as the six members of the Vestry charged with fiduciary responsibilities for our church campus; this property belongs to the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Dedicated in 1842, this 362 Academy Street historic Gothic brick church commenced as the town's Methodist Church and in the early 1960s was recommissioned and restored as Madison's Episcopal Church by Madison civic leaders who successfully led the 1974 designation of Madison's Historic District...including, but not limited to Adelaide and Graham Ponder, beloved owners of the Madison Citizen. Advent co-founder Henry D. Green, whose national historic preservation leadership helped Madison secure Georgia's second largest historic district, further expanded this church campus through the purchase of an adjacent declining historic residence, rehabilitated and named the Barnett Parish House, 338 Academy Street. From a community service perspective, the Advent campus may be Madison's only house of worship open 24 hours a day and its Parish House hosts not only PupPack preparation (where weekend food supplies are packaged for impoverished school children) and also hosts weekday lunchtime and evening chapter meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous. Advent is always a full participant in Madison's famous tours of homes and, most happily, in partnership with fellow downtown churches, Advent annually commences and ends Madison's fabulous Palm Sunday community processional.

The fact is, Advent's location illustrates surviving examples of Madison's original Street System, when horses, wagons and carriages defined residential and church accessibility.

**We offer five simple questions concerning development of the proposed 20-year plan. ALL answers need to be a simple YES or NO:**

**1. Was this plan developed in concert with the Madison Police Chief and his staff?**

Transportation safety is their responsibility; it's a prime local government mission.

**2. Was this plan developed in concert with Morgan County Commissioners?**

Madison transportation connects into Morgan County transportation systems.

**3. Was this plan developed in concert with CSX and Norfolk-Southern Railways?**

Currently, Kolb Street, a quiet and largely pedestrian street, lines the Historic Madison Cemetery and directly abuts the Advent campus. Its northern end is capped by very active industrial railroad lines. Industrial railroads are extremely concerned about crossing liabilities, proximities to long established residential and historic areas and not known for paying for bridges to provide railroad crossing access to private properties proposed for residential development.

1. Who would pay for the Kolb Street railroad crossing development in general, bridge in particular?
2. Who would pay for the road proposed to connect Kolb Street and Oil Mill Road bridge to GA 83 as illustrated in the 20-year plan?
3. Who would pay for Advent to take down its Sunday School Building which borders the City's 50 foot Right of Way?
4. What happens to the Kolb Street traffic? To connect to South Main, there would be a taking of right of way that will materially damage several homes, and particularly the City's logoed Boxwood residence. Would a Kolb Street extension to South Main necessitate the taking of one of Madison's Gilded Age jewels, the recently beautifully restored historic home at 373 South Main Street?
5. IF Kolb Street traffic is channeled to Academy Street, accompanied by on-street parking (for which there is no residential demand), Academy ends in a difficult turn at Walton Street and in particular could necessitate significant negative Rights of Way impacts to The Oak House at 617 Dixie Avenue.

**4. Was this plan developed in concert with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the source of State and Federal transportation resources?**

**5. Was this plan developed in concert with the 1974 Madison Historic District citizens?**

- Please note Advent happily shares its Kolb Street parking with local citizens from across town, county citizens and tourism visitors from all over. Advent's campus is core to Madison's Historic District where citizens easily side street park their cars & pickups to enjoy safety from heavy traffic plus environmentally clean walking conditions for humans and dogs of all ages and bike riders thanks to few vehicles and no big trucks maneuvering narrow quaint streets made charming by old vegetation, bird sanctuaries and among Madison's most distinctive residential lots and architecture.
- Please note plans to cross railroads will dump traffic onto Kolb Street and which will materially impact our Sunday School building AND reduce our Academy and Porter Street access by 50 percent.
- We raise fiduciary concerns this transportation plan materially impacts not only our campus access but also creates unplanned expenses for a Sunday School Building, onsite parking and a church campus reconfiguration.

In closing, we deeply appreciated the time, interest and courtesies extended to us last week by the in-person visits by our City Council Members Eric Joyce, Carrie Peters-Reid (who leases non-profit office space in the

Barnett Parish House) as well as our newly elected Morgan County First District Commissioner, Carl Jones. They not only reviewed the Advent property plat (SEE ATTACHED) but walked our property and visited our Barnett Parish House. We are most thankful for their Servant Leadership.

Please know the Episcopal Church of the Advent cherishes its Madison-Morgan-Lake Country members as well as our greater community. We have high on our priorities of service to be a responsive member of this community and in particular, to be roundly supportive of our city leaders, citizens, area non-profits and employers seeking to preserve our historic town and county, farms, forests and front porches.

Sincerely,

The Church of the Advent Vestry: Senior Warden Devon Dartnell, Junior Warden Vic Jackson, Mr. Oliver J. Booker, Ms. Elizabeth Branch, Dr. Annie Hunt Burriss, Ms. Mary Horton

### **Curious about joining Advent?**

If you're new to the Church or have been worshipping with us for a while and are curious about what it means or how to become a member, we welcome your interest! On the Church's website, there is a specific section on membership. It can be found here: <https://adventmadisonga.com/membership/>. That's a great place to start! If you have questions or are interested in starting the process officially to become a member, reach out to the Church office at [adventmadison@bellsouth.net](mailto:adventmadison@bellsouth.net) or (706) 342-4787 and we will put in touch with the right person to answer questions or facilitate your request!

### **Picture Galleries**

Great Vigil and Easter Sunday 2025: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/sQREWTkpJj6Ja3wJ9>

Palm Sunday 2025: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kLX9jqWwMDTwVfxN7>

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 2025: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/WVBEvowq6rQcgkbw6>

Advent past pics and altar/flower guilds: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VtdMnk8uki3NW6CJ9>

A way of organizing, storing and sharing Advent pictures is taking shape. If you have any pictures of Advent that you would like to share, please send O. J. Booker a copy and he'll add them to the gallery – [info@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:info@adventmadisonga.com)

### **Wednesday, May 7, Next "First Wednesday" Drop-in**

**Host: Annie Hunt and Woody Burriss**

**Address: 912 Dixie Avenue**

Please mark your calendars for the next "First Wednesday"! Join your fellow parishioners and guests in a casual gathering from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Please bring a snack or dessert or beverage to share, and feel free to bring a guest. Those who would like to host a First Wednesday gathering can email the church at [info@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:info@adventmadisonga.com) or call the church.

### **2025 Madison in May Spring Tour of Homes**

Church of the Advent will be in the Spring Tour of Homes, May 16 and 17, 10 AM – 4 PM.

### **Rota for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**May 11, 2025 10:30 A.M.**

Altar Guild – Abbott-Yost-Strickland

Flower Guild – Elizabeth Branch

LEM/PoP - 10:30 – Rick Crown

1st Reading – Debbie Permar

2nd Reading – Jackson-Lewis  
Vestry of the Day – Jackson-Lewis  
Organ Tech - Maryann M Dartnell

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 11, 10:30 A.M.**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Acts 9:36-43  
The Psalm: Psalm 23  
Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17  
The Gospel: John 10:22-30

**Parish Prayer List**

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

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

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

May birthdays: **7** Zach Yost, **8** Gertrude Rainwater, Olivia Ramfos, **9** Beth Pridgen, **17** Charles Baldwin, IV, Rhodes Baldwin, **19** Pamela Hall, **22** Shelley MacMillan, **25** Luke Roman, **28** Brennan Easton, **29** Bill Kurtz, **30** Allison Lehman

**Week at a glance**

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday, May 5, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Wednesday, May 7, 2025	9:00 AM	CH	Morning Prayer, Rite I
<b>Wednesday, May 7, 2025</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>		<b>First Wednesday at the Burriss'</b>
Thursday, May 8, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open Book study)
Thursday, May 8, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed discussion)
Thursday, May 8, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	Al-Anon (open meeting)
Friday, May 9, 2025	7:00 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed Book study)
Sunday, May 11, 2025	8:00 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
Sunday, May 11, 2025	9:15 AM	PH	Sunday School - Lectionary Study
Sunday, May 11, 2025	10:30 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
Sunday, May 11, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (open meeting)

**PH - Parish House CH - Church**

**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**

338 Academy Street, Madison, Georgia 30650. 706-342-4787.  
www.adventmadison.org. [adventmadison@bellsouth.net](mailto:adventmadison@bellsouth.net).

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

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

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden.

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