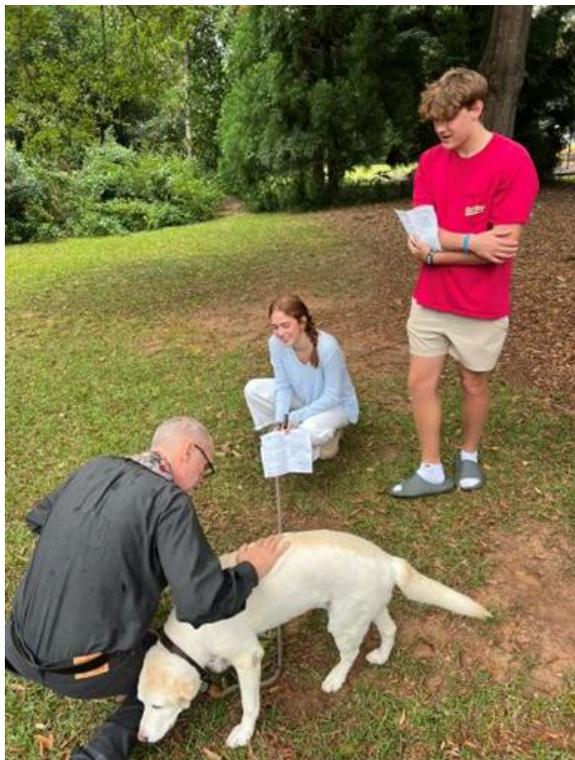




The Episcopal Church of the Advent
October 7, 2025 Newsletter
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost





Sermon Notes –Faith and Faithful Service

In Sunday's sermon, Father Tryggvi shared the inspiring story of Virgil Smith, a thirteen-year-old from Dickinson, Texas, who, during the devastating floods of Hurricane Harvey in 2017, used an inflatable air mattress to rescue 17 neighbors trapped in their homes. Armed with the ability to swim and a quiet trust in God, Virgil acted without hesitation, saving lives until his mattress gave out. When asked about his courage, he simply said, "I just thanked God there were no snakes or alligators in the water." His mother noted that his faith in God gave him confidence that "everything would be alright." For his heroism, Virgil received the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Young Hero Award in 2018.

This story of humble, courageous action connects powerfully to the Gospel of Luke 17:5-10, where the apostles ask Jesus, "Increase our faith!" They feel their faith is inadequate for the demands of discipleship, especially as Jesus journeys toward Jerusalem, where sacrifice awaits. Jesus responds, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." The message is clear: faith isn't about quantity but quality. Even a small, authentic trust in God can accomplish the extraordinary, as Virgil's actions showed.

Jesus follows with a parable about a servant who, after a day's work in the fields, prepares a meal for his master without expecting praise, saying, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty." This challenges us to serve humbly, not for recognition but as a joyful response to God's grace. In our Episcopal tradition, this call to service—through worship, outreach, or daily kindness—reflects our covenant with God, not a quest for reward.

Father Tryggvi reminded us that faith is not the absence of doubt, fear, or struggle. Even Jesus, on the cross, cried, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" We are encouraged to use faith as a verb—an active, daily leaning into God's love. Virgil didn't wait for perfect confidence; he acted with the faith he had, trusting God one rescue at a time. Similarly, Jesus teaches that the faith we already possess is enough when we put it into action, allowing God's power to work through us.

For our congregation, this Gospel invites us to trust God in small, faithful steps. Like Virgil, we are called to act with the faith we have, however modest, and to serve humbly, knowing God's love seeks us out daily.

Let us move forward, trusting that God works through our faithful actions, no matter how small, to transform lives and the world around us.

Question for Reflection: Where can you act on your "mustard seed" faith this week?

Peace be with you, Kim

Blessing of the Animals: The blessing of the animals on Sunday afternoon was a spiritual, funny and heart-warming event! The sprinkling rain didn't dampen the spirits of the participants. About a dozen animals arrived, most on four legs and a number of them in pictures, to receive blessings from Fr. Triggvy. A number of folk from other churches came as well! Make sure to see all the pictures by going to the website (adventmadisonga.com) under the news section.

First Wednesday at the Steffen Thomas Museum: About 25 parishioners enjoyed refreshments, each other's company and the museum on October 1. We are very fortunate to have such a jewel in our community as the Steffen Thomas Museum. Please try to visit and see for yourself the beautiful art and the marvelous legacy Thomas left behind. <https://steffenthomas.org/>

Volunteer for Council Delegate: We are seeking a parishioner to be one of Advent's delegates to represent our parish at the Diocesan Annual Council! The 119th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta will be held on November 7-8 at the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the larger workings of the Episcopal Church. Delegates participate in legislative and business sessions of the diocese and have the opportunity to meet and worship with members of other parishes in our diocese, as well as learn about the variety of ministries throughout the diocese. If you would like to serve as a delegate, please submit your name in an email to: priest@adventmadisonga.com by **October 24**.

This Saturday - October 11 - Faith, Family, and Fellowship Festival. The Morgan County Sheriff's Office is hosting its annual Faith, Family, and Fellowship Festival as part of the National Faith & Blue Weekend. We will participate in the festivities by having a booth at their celebration at Morgan County Public Safety Center - 1380 Monticello Road from 10:00am - 1:00pm. Help us spread the good news about our church by greeting people at our booth for 30 minutes, an hour, or the whole time; we would love to have you. Please confirm that you plan to be there by email to priest@adventmadisonga.com or info@adventmadisonga.com, or call the office at (706) 342-4787.

Father Tryggvi's contact information and office hours: Father Tryggvi's email is priest@adventmadisonga.com. He typically holds office hours at the Parish House on Mondays and Tuesdays. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cellphone number at 828-446-7843. For an appointment, please contact the church office at 706-342-4787 and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

Stewardship Campaign: By now, parishioners should have received mail and email containing pledge cards and other information. If you haven't, please email info@adventmadisonga.com.

Foyer Sign Up: The Vestry encourages everyone to sign up for this season's foyer dinners, which are small gatherings held monthly at someone's house on a rotating basis. They are fun and provide a way to interact with your church family outside of church. You may sign up in the Narthex at the Church or by emailing foyers@adventmadisonga.com by the end of September.

**Rota for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 12, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M.--- 10:30 A.M. Marrett
1st Reading: M Dartnell
2nd Reading: D Dartnell
Altar Guild: Abbott-Yost-Strickland
Flower Guild: Branch
Organ Tech: Quillin
Vestry of the Day: D. Dartnell

**Readings for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 12, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 29:4-7
The Psalm: 66:1-11
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15
The Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Parish Prayer List

Fr. Dann Brown, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Julie Hancock Jones, Mary Mack Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jack Leo, Jerry Maddoz, David Medlock, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Emily Sigman, Betty Thomas, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jay Whitcomb, Eric Wiemann.

October Birthdays: **12** Gloria Baldwin, **25** Tim Pridgen, **27** Jim Branch, **31** June Harrell

Anniversaries: **10** Rick Crown and Richard Simpson, **16** Beth and Tim Pridgen, **27** Terry Blum and Paul Roman

Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM

- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, Su @7:30 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

338 Academy Street • Madison, Georgia 30650 • 706-342-4787

www.adventmadisonga.com • adventmadison@bellsouth.net

Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

Newsletter editors: Kim Jackson and O. J. Booker

News and Newsletters: <https://adventmadisonga.com/news/>

Contact: info@adventmadisonga.com

To UNSUBSCRIBE, click “Unsubscribe” at the bottom of the newsletter.