



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
January 13, 2026 Newsletter
First Sunday after the Epiphany



Anthony the Great (251-356)

This week we celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Anthony. Most of what is known about Anthony comes from *The Life of Anthony*, written by Athanasius of Alexandria. It depicts Anthony as an illiterate and holy man who, through his existence in a primordial landscape, has an absolute connection to the divine truth. For his importance among the Desert Fathers and to all later Christian monasticism, he is also known as the **Father of All Monks**. Our sister church in Winder bears his name.

Episcopal 101 – Starts tomorrow night!

As of today, we have 12 registered. Wednesday evenings of light supper and Episcopal 101 during the season of Epiphany: We will gather at the Parish House for light supper (soup) followed by conversation about our Anglican tradition. An offering for new members, seekers, and longtime Episcopalians alike we will look at the different components that make us who we are as Episcopalians; i.e. Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, the sacraments, prayer and worship, and our tradition. We will meet from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP. Click here: [\(rsvp link\) https://adventmadisonga.com/advent-episcopal-101-supper-rsvp-form/](https://adventmadisonga.com/advent-episcopal-101-supper-rsvp-form/)

Parish Annual Meeting – January 18

Church of the Advent - Parish Annual Meeting will be held in the Parish House on Sunday - January 18th at 11:45, (immediately following the 10:30 service). Please bring side dishes.

Meal items needed for the Annual Meeting

The hospitality committee is most grateful for responses to food requests for recent parish events. The annual parish meeting is this Sunday the 18th, after the 10:30 service. As is tradition, a luncheon is a part of this meeting. The main dish will be chicken, fried and baked from Benny Paul's restaurant. **We do however, need sides and desserts. Your food contributions for Sunday would be most appreciated.** Please bring your sides/desserts to the parish house on Sunday morning. If you have any questions please contact Vic at vicjacksonga@aol.com.

Nominations for the Vestry Class of 2026

We are now receiving nominations for parishioners to be considered as nominees of the proposed slate of the Vestry Class of 2026. Vestry members serve for three years. The proposed Vestry slate will be voted on at the Parish Annual Meeting on January 18th. All parish members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Vestry. Communicant in good standing is one who is baptized, confirmed, or has been received into the Episcopal Church, attends church regularly, and has made a financial pledge to the work and ministries of the parish within the last six months. Members can nominate themselves. Please make sure that the parishioner whose name you submit has agreed to be considered as a Vestry nominee. Please submit names to adventmadison@bellsouth.net by January 15th.

A Reflection on the Second Sunday After Christmas at Church of the Advent

This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17) opens on the banks of the River Jordan, where John the Baptist baptizes crowds seeking repentance and renewal—a bustling scene of sinners hoping for a fresh start. John, the fiery forerunner proclaiming the Messiah's arrival, draws them with his call to turn from sin and live righteously.

Then Jesus arrives and joins the line. No one knows much about him yet—except John, his cousin. When Jesus steps forward, John protests: “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?” Jesus replies, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” John consents. As Jesus emerges from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and a voice from heaven declares: “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

We have entered the season of Epiphany—from the Greek *epipháneia*, meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” This short season between Christmas and Lent invites us to look beyond the miraculous birth and behold God's grace shining through the ordinary: our daily relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and especially people we frequently see but who remain strangers—the checkout clerk, the waitress, the mail carrier, the bank teller.

The Epiphany Gospels part the curtain of heaven, revealing God's presence in the mundane. It begins here, with Jesus—the sinless one—placing himself among sinners, waiting his turn in the river. The church has never been entirely comfortable with this moment. As Father Tryggvi invites us to ponder: Why couldn't Jesus simply stand apart as a friend of sinners, offering encouragement from the shore? Why wade into the murky Jordan, allying himself with the unwashed crowd reeking of sin? And why does the Father part the clouds at this precise instant—declaring his Son “Beloved” before any ministry, miracles, healings, or resurrection?

Yet this is the story we inherit. Jesus' first public act is to embrace his full humanity in the most embodied way: stepping into the water with us. “Let it be so,” he says—echoing his mother's consent at the Annunciation. In that humble obedience, he surrenders his power freely, entering our messiness so we might follow.

What part of this story is hardest for us to accept?

That God so often appears in unimpressive, familiar ways, we might overlook?

That Jesus enters our human family's chaos so willingly, leaving us no excuses to stand apart?

Or that our baptisms are bound to his—universal, not selective? Every baptized person is kin, responsible to one another in ways we too often fail to honor. As the baptized, we are called to solidarity, not separation—from fellow Christians

across denominations and, indeed, from all people, for we are all God's children. Not because we have earned it, but because God's nature is love.

Father Tryggvi reminds us that to embrace Jesus' baptism is to embrace this core truth: We are united in him, interdependent through him. We are all connected. We are all one. Our baptism holds us—not by our professed faith alone, but by the same grace and mercy that holds history, time, earth, sun, wind, and sky. The One who parts the clouds, blesses the water, and calls us all beloved children.

Collect for the Day (from the Book of Common Prayer):

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

May this Epiphany season renew our awareness of God's gentle, dove-like presence in the ordinary—and stir us to live as beloved children, in solidarity with all whom God loves.

In Christ's peace,
Kim

Question for Reflection: In the quiet after hearing God's voice declare Jesus "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"—before any miracles, teaching, or sacrifice—what part of this story most challenges or comforts you today? Is it the reminder that God names us beloved first, long before we've "earned" it through deeds or perfection? Or the way Jesus freely steps into the messy river with the crowd, leaving us fewer excuses to stand apart from others' struggles? Or perhaps the truth that our own baptisms bind us universally—to every baptized person and, indeed, to all God's children—calling us into solidarity rather than division?

Request for Volunteers! Lay Readers, Organ Tech, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Are you interested in serving as Lay Reader, a Lay Eucharistic Minister (L. E. M.), or becoming an expert button-pusher to make the organ play? If you're ready to join as a volunteer to help by reading lessons, becoming an "organ tech", or assisting at the altar during the eucharist as an L. E. M., now is a good time to sign up — the new Rota will be put together during the coming weeks and you can join the schedule.

Contact Richard Simpson (richardsimpson.georgia@gmail.com, (706) 474-4821) if you're interested as a new volunteer in these various ministries. You can also talk to Fr. Tryggvi or Richard if you have questions and want to learn more about these different jobs. All are welcome and we all greatly appreciate the help our volunteers provide in making our worship happen here at Church of the Advent!

Start the New Year by Joining the Altar Guild or Flower Guild

Altar Guild and Flower Guild could always use some new members, too. Both guilds operate with teams made up of church volunteers, serving once a month. You can join either guild by contacting:

1. Altar Guild, Peggy Hawkins at peggyminerhawkins@gmail.com, (229) 881-2584
2. Flower Guild, Rick Crown at treadwellcrown@gmail.com, (706) 474-8302

Rota for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 18, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Pam South —10:30 A.M. Marrett

1st Reading: Jackson-Lewis

2nd Reading: Ramfos

Altar Guild: Jackson Lewis-Hawkins-Pike-Hilsman

Flower Guild: Crown

Organ Tech: Simpson
Vestry of the Day: Jackson-Lewis

**Readings for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 18, 2026**

[Link to readings](#)

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Gospel: John 1:29-42

Parish Prayer List

Robert Boswell, Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Liz Cunningham, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Jan Kozel, Marcy Lay, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, David Medlock, Jennifer Mize, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Betty Thomas, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Gloria Ward, Jack Ward, Eric Wiemann, Jay Whitcomb, Laura, Caroline

January Birthdays: 2 David Brown, 11 Helen Harrell Horton, 14 Bill Abbott, 30 Susan Kurtz, Frank Walsh, 31 David Land, Kim Jackson

Anniversaries: 18 Bill and Beverly Abbott

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, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Pastoral Care Requests: email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com for:

- Additions to the Prayer List
- Inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals
- Use of the Memorial Garden
- Requesting Eucharistic visits
- Short-term meals following surgery or during illness

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

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

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