



**The Episcopal Church of the Advent  
January 21, 2026 Newsletter  
Second Sunday after the Epiphany**



January 18, 2026 – snow day!

***Inclement weather notice***

**Dear Advent family, as we are anticipating inclement weather that might require rescheduling the Celebration of Life service for Ellen Warren on Saturday morning, and/or cancelation of our worship services on Sunday morning, please keep an eye out for an email announcement from Church of the Advent on Friday afternoon. Please direct questions to [info@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:info@adventmadisonga.com). Answers will be prompt.**

## Celebration of Life for Ellen Warren Facebook Live Event

Saturday, January 24 @ 10:45 AM

[Click here for the link to the event.](#)

### Request for pictures of Ellen Warren

The family kindly requests the parish to share any photographs of Ellen they may have taken over the years.

[Please click HERE to share those photos.](#)

### Meal items needed for Ellen Warren's reception

The hospitality committee is most grateful for responses to food requests for recent parish events. Please assist with the reception for Ellen Warren's Celebration of Life on Saturday, January 24. Donations from the larger community are providing meats and desserts. We are asking the parish for side dishes. **Your food contributions would be most appreciated.** Please bring your sides to the parish house by 10:00 on Saturday morning. If you have any questions please contact Vic at [vicjacksonga@aol.com](mailto:vicjacksonga@aol.com).

### Episcopal 101 – Second session tonight!

**Last week, Fr. Tryggvi covered several major topics, including Authority in discerning the will of God, and the Bible – the Holy Scriptures.** Please join us as we learn more about what it means to be an Episcopalian. On Wednesdays during Epiphany, starting at 6:00 in the Parish House, we'll have soup and bread supper 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.

**Please RSVP.** [Click here to RSVP](#)

### Parish Annual Meeting summary

The parish met last Sunday after the 10:30 service. Lunch was served and the meeting followed. Outgoing Vestry members (Vic Jackson, Elizabeth Branch and Mary Horton) were publicly thanked for their service, and the slate of new vestry members (Dianne McNamara, Tommy Sigman and Frannie Hilsman) were approved. Devon Dartnell, senior warden, presented the 2025 Annual Report and provided a summary of events from the past year. Devon also presented the 2026 budget and discussed income and expenses for 2025. Richard Best presented a report on the Building Endowment Trust. Devon thanked Shelley MacMillan for her generous gift to enhance the buildings and grounds. Mary McCauley provided an update on the Altar Guild. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM. The formal minutes will be posted on the website after Vestry approval in February.

[Click HERE for a copy of the Annual report.](#)

### Sermon Notes: Second Sunday after Epiphany

We were greeted on the Second Sunday of Epiphany with a gentle blanket of snow draping our beloved town of Madison. In that quiet hush, the world seemed to pause, inviting inner reflection on the quiet magic of the Gospels and the profound miracle of Jesus himself.

Yet for the people of Israel into whose troubled world Jesus was born, life was far from serene. Father Tryggvi painted a vivid picture of a people struggling to hold body and soul together—laboring under oppression, abuse, and hardship, uncertain whether they had lost God's favor. Amid the darkness, however, seekers clung to hope. They held fast to the ancient promise of a new day, when the Messiah would come to liberate God's people from their long night of suffering. It is precisely into this longing that this week's Gospel reading from John 1:29-42 bursts forth—a pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry, where his divine purpose is recognized and the first calls to discipleship begin. Rich with themes of revelation, invitation, and transformation, the passage reminds us of how ordinary encounters can spark extraordinary journeys of faith.

“John the Baptist sets the tone,” Father Tryggvi reminded us, “echoing his Advent voice now in the season of Epiphany—a season that celebrates God's manifestation among us, physically present in Jesus.”

The scene opens as John spots Jesus approaching and proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" This is no casual remark; it is a thunderous declaration. Having baptized countless in preparation for the Messiah, John recognizes Jesus as the One sent by God. He recalls the Holy Spirit descending like a dove at Jesus' baptism, confirming him as the Son of God.

On this morning, John turns to Andrew and another disciple, essentially saying, “If you seek the truth, this is the one to follow. I baptized with water so that he might be revealed.” Intrigued, they trail after Jesus. When he notices, he turns and asks a simple, searching question: "What are you looking for?" They reply, "Rabbi, where are you staying?"—a question not merely about a place to rest, but about abiding in his presence. Jesus responds with an open invitation: "Come and see." And they do.

Andrew, one of those first followers, hurries to find his brother Simon. “We have found the Messiah!” he exclaims, bringing Simon to Jesus. In that encounter, Jesus looks at Simon and renames him Cephas—Peter, the “rock”—foreshadowing the foundation of the Church.

Father Tryggvi emphasized that this passage is “all about invitation and response. Jesus doesn't overwhelm with doctrine or demands; he simply says, 'Come and see.' It's an open door to relationship, echoing our Episcopal emphasis on inclusive welcome and personal encounter with the divine. Andrew's enthusiasm in bringing his brother shows how faith spreads—through family, friends, and fellow parishioners.”

That initial “come and see” moment set the tone for everything that followed. In those first hours spent with Jesus, the disciples glimpsed his heart: a compassion that recognized a Samaritan woman as a child of God, restoring her dignity when she had been cast aside; a mercy that healed an official's dying son despite initial skepticism; a grace that spared a woman accused of adultery, challenging her accusers with, “Let the one without sin cast the first stone”; a provision that fed thousands and power that walked on water. Through these signs, they witnessed Jesus bringing light and life to those trapped in dread and darkness—offering hope, promise, and the way to God's healing for all humanity.

The chain of invitation continued: the next day, Andrew brought Simon (now Peter); soon Philip found Jesus and brought Nathanael. Seekers became disciples, disciples became apostles, sent to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom—marked by love, compassion, mercy, and justice—to the ends of the earth. Look! Come and see!

“This is what Jesus causes us to do,” Father Tryggvi reflected. “Look—not once or twice, but over and over again. Believing that we are holy mysteries to one another, worthy of a second look, a third look. Breaking from our comfortable viewpoints, admitting that our vision may have been blurred and limited—seeing only through our own eyes, never fully glimpsing our neighbor or the stranger down the street.”

As we gathered afterwards for our parish annual meeting—celebrating the faithfulness of the past and stepping boldly into the future—may our ministries continue to shine with the greatness of Christ's glory, illumined by his boundless compassion, love, and mercy.

In this season of Epiphany, let us keep looking, keep coming, and keep seeing the Lamb of God among us.

In Christ's peace,  
Kim

Question for Reflection: Who has been your "Andrew," drawing you closer to Christ? How can we embody "Come and see" more fully in our community?

**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](mailto: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](mailto:peggyminerhawkins@gmail.com), (229) 881-2584
2. Flower Guild, Rick Crown at [treadwellcrown@gmail.com](mailto:treadwellcrown@gmail.com), (706) 474-8302

### **Rota for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 25, 2026**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. Roman  
1st Reading: M Dartnell  
2nd Reading: D Dartnell  
Altar Guild: Bennett-Roman  
Flower Guild: Eskew  
Organ Tech: K Jackson  
Vestry of the Day: D Dartnell

### **Readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 25, 2026**

#### [Link to readings](#)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 5-13  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
The Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

### **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, 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, Etswana "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](mailto: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**

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Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

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