



August 26, 2026 Newsletter
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



The Baptism of the Eunuch, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1626.

On August 26 the Episcopal Church commemorates him as Simeon Bachos, the Ethiopian Eunuch. His addition to our calendar received final authorization at General Convention in 2024. In Acts 8, Philip the Evangelist is directed by an angel to take the wilderness road from Jerusalem toward Gaza. There he encounters an Ethiopian traveling home in a chariot. He is an important court official, responsible for the treasury of the Candace, or queen of Ethiopia. He had been to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home while reading aloud from Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I," the Ethiopian replied, "unless someone guides me?"

Philip joined him in the chariot and, beginning with Isaiah, told him about Jesus. When they came to water, the Ethiopian asked one of the great questions in Scripture: "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" Apparently, nothing. Philip baptized him on the spot. Acts tells us that Philip disappeared and the Ethiopian simply "went on his way rejoicing."

Scripture leaves him there, but Christian tradition continued his story, remembering the Ethiopian as an evangelist who carried Christianity home to Africa. Later traditions supplied the names Bachos or Bakos and Simeon. His place on the Episcopal calendar is quite new. After trial use beginning in 2022, General Convention gave his commemoration final approval in 2024 and established August 26 as his feast day. So one of the newest names on our Episcopal calendar belongs to one of Christianity's earliest converts.

Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

If you have been in a children's Sunday school room anywhere, for the past 40 years, you are bound to have seen the enormously popular "portrait" of Jesus - Head of Christ by Warner Sallman. It's a "portrait" of Jesus whose facial features can't be accurate, for he looks much more like a northern European, rather than Middle-Eastern, which reminds us that the religious images are quite often inaccurate in what they portray.

The late Austrian poet and novelist Rainer Maria Rilke was known to encourage his students to live patiently with questions which they do not yet have answers to. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter quickly gives the correct answer: "the Messiah, the Son of the living God". Yet Peter soon discovers that knowing the right answer is not the same as understanding Jesus. When Jesus speaks of suffering, Peter objects and is rebuked, revealing how much he still has to learn.

Peter's life, ultimately, becomes the answer to Jesus' question. Through fishing, healing, failure, fear, denial, and then receiving forgiveness in encountering the risen Christ, Peter gradually grows into an understanding he could never have articulated at the beginning of his journey with Jesus. Jesus is discovered not merely through answers, but through one's lived experience with him. Ultimately, the question "Who do you say that I am?" remains alive for each of us: Who has Jesus been to us, who is he now, and who do we hope he will become for us in the future? We may discover that by faithfully living the question, we gradually live into the answer.

Questions for contemplation:

- *"Who do you say that I am?" Beyond inherited images, doctrines, or other people's answers, who has Jesus actually been in your life? How has that understanding changed through experience?*
- *Can we live the question? Where might God be inviting you to remain patient with an unanswered question rather than rushing toward certainty? What might you discover by allowing your life to become part of the answer?*

Peace, Tryggvi+

Parish House Construction Update – August 26

Demolition began Monday, August 24 on the rear of the building. The handicapped ramp and kitchen porch has been removed, and there is now a partition wall separating a third of the large meeting room and both bathrooms from the rest of the house. The only entrance to the building is now through the front door. Work has not begun on the second floor yet.

Opportunity Sunday - September 13

"Opportunity Sunday" is the day our current ministry members gather to answer questions and share their experience in the various ministries of the church. If you are interested in getting involved in the support of the church, we hope you'll make plans to attend and possibly sign up! [Click here](#) to see a list of the current ministries at Advent.

With the Parish House construction and weather permitting, milder September temperature, we are planning to hold Opportunity Sunday outside in the Memorial Garden. If you would like to offer an alternative place to gather, please reach out to Fr. Tryggvi. or the church office.

Rota and Readings
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. T Pridgen

1st Reading: B Pridgen

2nd Reading: Hilsman

Altar Guild: Jackson Lewis - Hawkins - Hilsman - Urena- Pike

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: Jackson-Lewis

Vestry of the Day: TBA

[Link to readings](#)

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Parish Prayer List

Robert Boswell, Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, June Harrell, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, David Medlock, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Monaray Powers, Lynne Roach, Bobbie Rushing, Kathie Schmidt, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Wayne Tankersley, Betty Thomas, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Eric Wiemann, Jim, Caroline Hill, Gail Thompson, Linda Carswell, Beth, Steve Huggins, O.J. Booker, Betty Camnitz, Bob Kite

Birthdays in August: **3** Elizabeth Crotts, Elizabeth Adkins; **4** Kate Branch, Becky Adkins; **8** Kate Roberts; **12** Betsy Quillin; **14** Kathie Schmidt; **18** Avery Jackson, Malin Dartnell, Gail Thompson; **24** Reese Freyer, IV; **26** Jamie Crotts

Anniversaries in August: **2** Maryann and Devon Dartnell; **3** Emily and David Buck; **12** Peggy and Charlie Hawkins

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

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, [click this link!](#)

To add a name to the prayer lists, either restricted or public, email: prayer-list@adventmadisonga.com.

Prayer list requests go to Tim and Fr. Tryggvi only. You can always add names to the register at the back of the nave. For other pastoral care requests such as inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals, use of the Memorial Garden, requesting Eucharistic visits and short-term meals following surgery or during illness, email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com.

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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