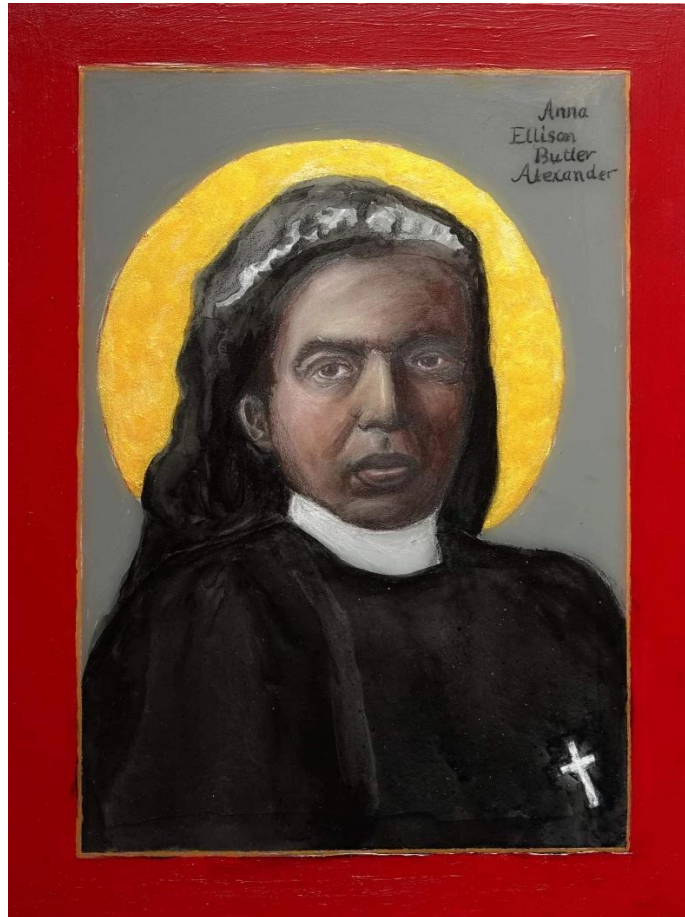




**September 23, 2026 Newsletter**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Deaconess Anna Alexander: A Georgia Life of Service**

I look each week for something of interest for the front page of this newsletter. I'm not sure my heart has been as moved as this week, when I learned of the life of Anna Alexander, one of Georgia's own Saints. **Her feast day is tomorrow, the 24<sup>th</sup>.** I urge you to look her up, starting with [her Wikipedia article](#). –OJB

Alexander's ministry began with a simple conviction: children in her community deserved both an education and a place in the church. Born on St. Simons Island shortly after the Civil War to formerly enslaved parents, she became a teacher in coastal Georgia. In 1894, she founded an Episcopal mission in Pennick while teaching elsewhere during the week. She later established a school there and helped build the Church of the Good Shepherd, which still exists.

In 1907, Alexander became the first and only African American woman consecrated as a deaconess in the Episcopal Church. The title recognized work she was already doing. She taught, led worship and cared for neighbors through decades when segregation limited opportunities and church support. To keep the mission going, she earned money through sewing. During the Depression, she helped secure aid for Black and white residents alike.

Alexander also taught generosity by example. After the 1923 earthquake in Japan, her small congregation gave money it had been saving for its own building. Her ministry reached far beyond Pennick, even as she remained rooted there.

Alexander died on September 24, 1947. The Episcopal Church now remembers her on that date—a fitting tribute to a woman whose faith took the form of persistent, practical service.

### **Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi**

The Railway Man is a movie based on the true story of Eric Lomax, a British prisoner of war who, surrendering to the Japanese army, suffered horrific abuse while forced to work on the Burma Railway, also known as the "Death railway", during World War II. Years later, the trauma of his experience resurfaced to haunt him, dangerously threatening his well being; including his newly formed marriage. When Eric discovers that his former Japanese tormentor, Takashi Nagase, is still alive, he travels to Thailand intending to confront him; forcing him to atone for his evil tortures acts, and then possibly kill him.

Yet Eric ultimately cannot carry out the revenge he had imagined. Instead, a letter from Nagase, expressing profound remorse and sorrow, opens a path toward reconciliation. The two men eventually become friends and remain so until their deaths. Their incredible life-story illustrates that forgiveness does not mean forgetting, excusing, or minimizing terrible harm. Rather, forgiveness is the miracle that breaks the cycle of hatred and resentment, preventing the wounds of the past from continuing to control one's life in the present.

This is the deeper meaning of Jesus' command to Peter to forgive "seventy-seven times." Forgiveness is not so much about what the offender deserves as it is about freeing oneself from the destructive power that bitterness, resentment, and hatred has. We do need God's strength and wisdom to release the past and reclaim the life God has given us. "The hating has to stop" was the turning point for Eric. We could reframe this by saying: "Resentment has to stop." "Bitterness has to stop." "Toxic negative thoughts have to stop." And this means, both toxic and negative thoughts towards ourselves, as well as others. Only when these loosen their destructive grip upon our hearts - and indeed, upon anyone's - can we truly taste reconciliation, peace, and the freedom to blossom into our true selves - the very selves that God created us to be.

#### **Questions for Contemplation**

- *What hurt, resentment, or anger from the past might still be exercising power over my present, and what would it mean to begin releasing that power to God?*
- *Where in my life might forgiveness be possible, not as an excuse for harm or a denial of what happened, but as a way of breaking the cycle of resentment and making room for peace?*

Peace, Tryggvi+

### **~~Announcements~~**

#### **Last Wishes - "the best gift you can give your family!"**

Due to construction in and limited access to the Parish House, we are postponing the Wednesday night "Last Wishes" series until the construction is finished. Current target date: February 2027.

#### **Stewardship season is upon us!**

Welcome to our Plenty Good Room season of stewardship! Over these next six weeks, we'll reflect on God's abundance and our call to make space for all. There is room for everyone at God's table.

#### **Bishop's Visitation**

Please note that we have had to reschedule the Bishop's visitation. The Bishop's visitation is now set for **November 29**, the first Sunday of Advent.

### **120th Annual Council - Anchored for the Future:**

We are **currently seeking two parishioners** to represent the Church of the Advent as either delegate or alternate delegate at the diocesan 120th Annual Meeting - **Nov. 6-7, 2026** at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. If interested and /or need additional information, please reach out to Fr. Tryggvi or contact the church office.

## **Rota and Readings Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. South—10:30 A.M. Roman

1st Reading: B McCauley

2nd Reading: Freyer

Altar Guild: Bennett-Roman

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: Quillin

Vestry of the Day: McNamara

### **Link to readings**

First Reading: Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

### **Parish Prayer List**

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

**Birthdays in September:** **1** Alexander Reid, **4** Penny Lyle, **14** Vic Jackson, **15** Maryann Dartnell, **17** Julie Jenkins, **20** Ray Bennett, **20** Alex Branch, **26** Devon Dartnell, Harrison Yost, **27** Amanda Vernon, **28** William Wood Burriss

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

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