



AECST
Celebrating
THE
JESUS' MOVEMENT



John 3:16

**For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.**

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

My Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Grace and peace to you.

I remain very concerned about your total health and welfare, as we navigate through these difficult uncharted waters of a pandemic. Listed below are a few immediate ways that our faith community is responding to help you remain spiritually fed and connected.

† - Effective IMMEDIATELY, the church and parish offices will be closed for entry until further notice. Only staff will be on the premises Monday- Wednesday and Friday from 9am-2pm to receive calls and other emergencies. Anyone who needs to contact clergy or staff should email: 1792@aecst.org or call (215) 473-3065.

† - Clergy are available for telephone counseling. Please contact parish office.

† - Tuesday Evening Bible Study, led by Fr. Jay Collins, Tuesdays from 7:00 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Please send your email to Father Jay at: jcoll1906@gmail.com to be added to the list. Thanks to our Bishop Daniel G P Gutiérrez and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, this will occur online using Zoom. Please watch your Spearhead email and Facebook posting for connection information.

† - St. Thomas has been identified as one of the Testing Sites for COVID-19. The date will be announced soon.

† - Sign Up for the Spearhead emails, please visit: <http://eepurl.com/djyGiD> to subscribe. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can Unsubscribe at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

Please remember to check-in on loved ones (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) during this time of uncertainty. And know that we “walk by a Faith” that assures us that we will get through these challenging times together.

May we remain both prayerful and faithful.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2020

Our condolences to Waltier Blocker and Daryn Stewart on the death of Waltier's aunt **Pauline Brown**. Please pray for the Blocker and Brown families. May Pauline's soul rest in peace and rise in glory. †

Our condolences to Natasha Bagwell and Phyllis Cater on the death of Natasha's uncle **Rio King**. Please pray for the Bagwell and King families. May Rio's soul rest in peace and rise in glory. †

Our condolences to Anita and James Smith on the death of James' mother, her mother in law **Betty Young**. Please keep the Smith and Young families in prayer. May Betty's soul rest in peace and rise in glory. †

Our condolences to Carole Williams Green on the death of her brother, **Warren Norman Chew**. Please keep the Green, Williams and Chew families in prayer. May Warren's soul rest in peace and rise in glory. †

Our condolences to Anthony Carter, Sr, Kim Carter and Anthony Carter, Jr on the death of both his uncle, **Benjamin Caldwell**; and aunt, **Susie Mae Caldwell**, both residents of New York. May the souls of Benjamin and Susie Mae rest in peace and rise in glory. †

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU to our beautiful St. Thomas Church family on behalf of the Harper, Covington and Mitchell families. We greatly appreciate the many greeting cards, phone calls, emails and gifts with which you have showered us.

The death of our loved-one, **Lucinda Harper** -- a dedicated AECST parishioner since childhood, and baby sister of Pastor Sadie -- was sudden, from acute leukemia that went undiagnosed until less than 48 hours before her passing. We miss her dearly, but find peace and comfort in knowing that she is now in the bosom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers!

-- *Charlene Mitchell Wiltshire*

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Week of 5/4/2020

Monday - **Luke 6:1-11**

Tuesday - **Luke 6:12-26**

Wednesday - **Luke 6:27-38**

Thursday - **Luke 6:39-49**

Friday - **Luke 7:1-17**

Saturday - **Luke 7:18-28, 29-30, 31-35**

Next Sunday's Readings

- 5th Sunday of Easter
(Mother's Day)

First Reading - **Acts 7:55-60**

Psalm **31:1-6, 15-16**

Second Reading - **1 Peter 2:2-10**

Gospel - **John 14:1-14**

UPCOMING SUNDAY VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN MAY

Sunday, May 3

~Youth and Young Adult Sunday~

The Voices of our Youth/Young Adults

"When God calls us to be still:

Finding God in unexpected places"

~Virtual Coffee Hour with Fr. Shaw & Friends~

Sunday, May 10

~Mother's Day: Honoring All Mothers~

Special Recognition to St. Thomas' oldest mother,
youngest mother, and newest mother

Sunday, May 17

~Annual Women's Day~

Theme: "Living in Purpose:

Prayer, Power and Possibilities" (Romans 12:2)

Special Recognition of St. Thomas women

90 years or older

If you know of a St. Thomas lady turning 90 in 2020,
please send their information, including name and
birthday to Gladyce at:

1792@aecst.org no later than May 12th.

**UPCOMING WEEK
DAILY VIRTUAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
AT THE AECST**

Sunday, May 3

10 AM - Morning Worship

11:30 AM - Virtual Coffee Hour with Fr. Shaw & Friends

Monday, May 4

7AM - Morning Music Meditation

9PM - Compline

Tuesday, May 5

7AM - Morning Music Meditation

7PM - Zoom Bible Class

Wednesday, May 6

7AM - Morning Music Meditation

9PM - Compline

Thursday, May 7

7AM - Morning Music Meditation

9PM - Compline

Friday, May 8

7AM - Morning Music Meditation

9PM - Compline

Saturday, May 9

7AM - Morning Music Meditation

12PM - Noonday Prayer

*You're
Invited!*



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**SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR
WITH THE RECTOR & FRIENDS**

You are invited to a LIVE Zoom Coffee Hour
following this coming Sunday Worship.

~An opportunity to fellowship
with the rector and friends~

When: Sunday, May 3, 2020, 11:30 AM
Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance
for this meeting.

After registering, you will
receive a confirmation email
containing information
about joining the meeting.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN MAY

5/2 Ella Richmond

5/5 Richard Hart, Kelvin Johnson, Deborah Sampson

5/6 Fleta Howell, Amia Hines, Sandy Miller

5/8 D. Lynn Joell, Katrina Marshall

5/10 Carolyn Summers

5/11 Teri Taylor, Julie Geiger

5/12 Allen Wing

5/13 Donald Hunt, Jr., Reginald Royster. Gail Young

5/14 Ronnie Collins

5/15 William Burke, Phyllis Cater, Sheryl Johnson

5/16 Camryn & Cydney Hamlin

5/17 JoAnn Bradley

5/18 Thomas Clark, Tonya Brown, Helen Peterson

5/19 Soisette Robinson, Lynn Starr

5/20 Tyler Stafford, Joyce Jackson, Ralph Marshall

5/21 Antwyne Caviness, Gwendolyn Langford, Marie Golson

5/23 Beatrice Yates, Nikkol Simms, Lorna Wilson

5/24 Kenneth Dow

5/26 Charlene Wiltshire, Walter Blocker

5/27 LeeAnne Trotman, Sheila McCullough, Jeanne Arnold

5/28 Beatrice Lacy, Roger Smith

5/29 Malynda Smith

5/30 Barbara Savage

5/31 Susan Closson

ATTENTION 2020 ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Book Awards from the JFA, Sr. Scholarship Committee for the year 2020 are available. To be eligible students must be a member of St. Thomas Church and also have participated in a Youth Activity sponsored by the church for a minimum of one year. Interested students may contact Barbara Douglass at 215-480-2441, email: barbd6920@msn.com or Thomasina Hack at 215-901-2773. An application will be sent to you, which must be completed and returned to Barbara Douglass by May 25, 2020. Thank you and God Bless you.

-Jesse F. Anderson, Sr. Scholarship Committee

AECST GIVING

How Can I still give to the church when I am asked to stay indoors / maintain social distancing?

1) Mail in your check or money order to the church. Please use the following address:

The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

2) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Please download the Givi app (givi iOS App) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (Givi Android App) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with Deadra Cannon, 215-844-6115.

3) Drop off a payment at the church anytime in the mail slot of the AJ House door on the patio.

4) Church website - <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm> (Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e., your pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc. NOTE: Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St. Thomas, when filling out your online giving information.)

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Mail in your check or money order to the church. Please use the address listed above under AECST GIVING.

STEWARDSHIP

For all those who didn't give me your name last year and want to stop getting your offering envelopes so you can give through the Givi App or the Donate Button on the AECST webpage, please send your name and envelope number to me at: tillman_72@msn.com

Please send them to me from now through August 2nd.

Thank you, Judy Tillman

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

St. Thomas is proud to partner with the following two organizations to address community needs during the Pandemic: Overbrook West Neighbors (OWN) and Project Isaiah began lunch distribution for Philadelphia's Seniors, those with pre-existing illnesses and vulnerable families on Friday, April 24th here at St. Thomas. Meals will be distributed a few days a week.

VOTING IN THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

It is extremely important that we vote in the upcoming election on **June 2nd** and **November 3rd**. But will it be safe to do so? Pennsylvania has voting by mail for both the **June Primary** and the **November 3rd General Elections** this year.

How do I get a mail ballot?

Go to votespa.com and click the "Apply Online" button. Applications MUST be received by the County by 5pm on May 26th. Mail in ballots MUST be received by 8pm on June 2nd.

*Please don't hesitate, go online and get your ballot.
There are no excuses for not voting!*

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden- Richard C Jones

Accounting Warden- Deborah Camp-Frye

Clerk of the Vestry- Johanna W. Daye

Treasurer- Kelvin Johnson

Alister Allman

Patricia Bantom

Ronnie Collins

Albert S. Dandridge

Deborah Harrison

D. Lynn Joell

Brenda Johnson-Best

Steven Lewis

Jonathan Muse

Darryl (Bobby) Tillman

Judith Tillman

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Address: 6361 Lancaster Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19151

Phone: 215.473.3065 • Emergency: 215.627.1606

email: 1792@aecst.org • www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/aecst1792

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt Rev Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Assistant to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev Dr Sadie S Mitchell	
Associate Priest	The Rev Fr Gerald Collins	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Thomas G Snowden	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Paul Bach	
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	
	Karen Ragland	
	Lisa Stewart	
Executive Assistant to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	t792@aecst.org
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	
Investments Advisor to the Rector	Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	
Asst Sexton	James Brown	
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	215.875.0609
Chancel Choir Master	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	drjfluellen@gmail.com
Gospel Choir Master	Waltier Blocker	
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	215..474..2815
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	215..450..9312
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	215..643..7223
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	302..502..6375
	Dale Williams	
Social Media Manager	Gregory J Allen, PhD	215..477..2672
Scout Pack 133	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Sound Ministry	Joe Stevenson	
Transportation Ministry	J Reggie Kimble	610..585..8053
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Brenda Johnson Best	
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	ghwebmaster@aecst.org

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is taught, lived and spread.