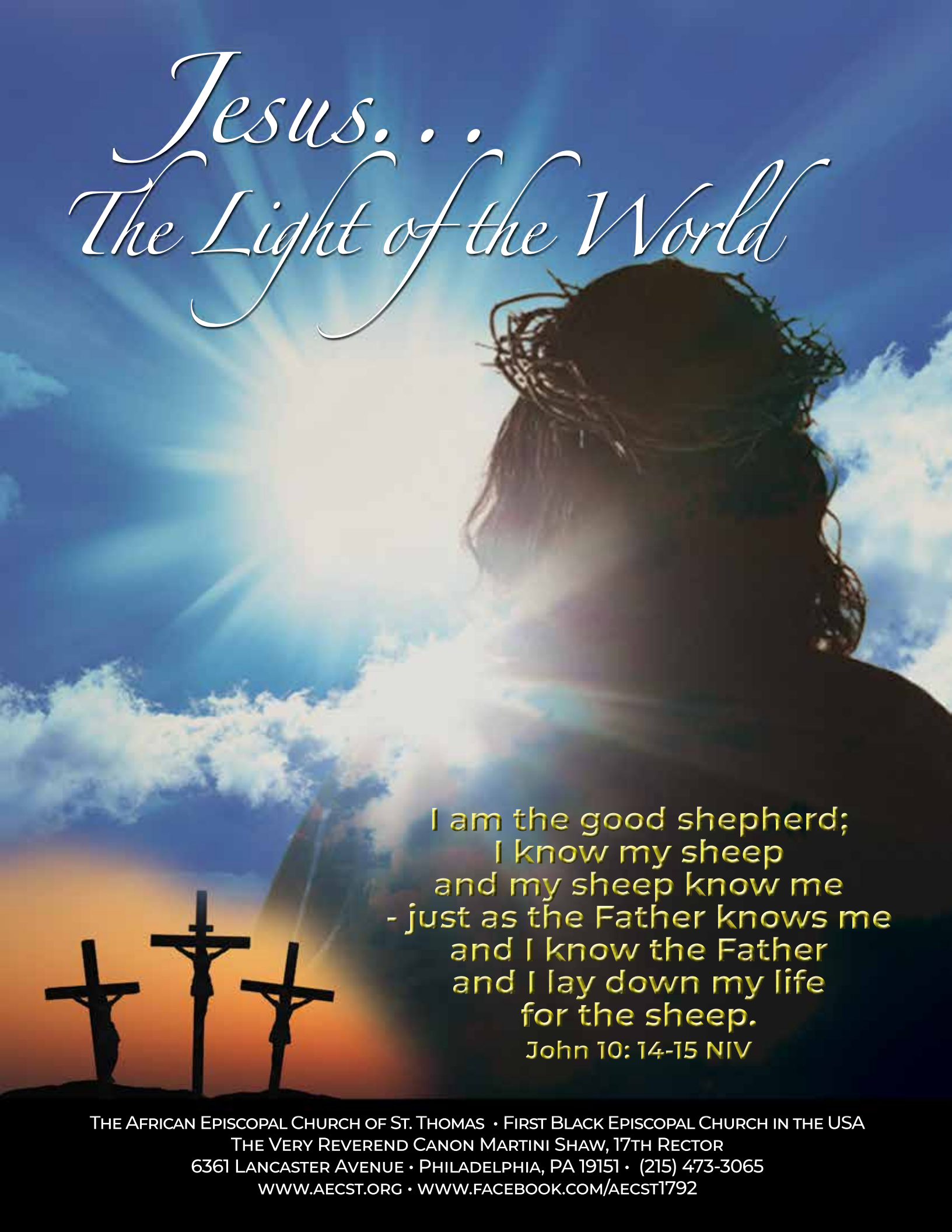


# Jesus... The Light of the World



I am the good shepherd;  
I know my sheep  
and my sheep know me  
- just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father  
and I lay down my life  
for the sheep.

John 10: 14-15 NIV

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
[WWW.AECST.ORG](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

# **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Youth / Young Adult Sunday**

**April 25, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

## **PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM.

Please be advised that with social distancing still in effect:

1. No more than three (3) persons can visit the office at a time.
2. You must be masked to enter the building and must practice social distancing while present.
3. You must sanitize your hands upon entering the door.
4. Only entry to the entire property will be ONE DOOR, the Absalom Jones House ramp door.

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## **IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICE RE-ENTRY**

It is presently uncertain when we will return to worship in the church however planning is underway to assure that we are all able to safely worship upon our return. The Rector has appointed the following Committee to discern/guide the process and make recommendations to him and the Vestry. The Co-Chairs are Richard Jones, Rector's Warden, and Deborah Camp-Frye, Accounting Warden.

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## **THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY**

Thank you Fr. Martini Shaw, Verger Lisa New, Jenelle Wilson-Johnson, Joyce Adams, Wanda Tarawaly, Linda Royal, the members and all others who continue to participate and support our weekly Circle of Prayer call.

We look forward to our next prayer session on **April 26, 2021**. We start promptly at **6:30 am**.

You are encouraged to reach out to us at [circleofprayer@aecst.org](mailto:circleofprayer@aecst.org) to submit prayer request or if you are interested in leading the Intercessory Prayer, the Prayers for the People, or a Meditation in Song.

The teleconference call number is 605-313-6361:access code is 268105

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### **FROM JFA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Attention: St Thomas high school grads:  
The Jesse F. Anderson Sr Scholarship St Thomas Book Award applications are now available. These awards are given to graduates who are active members for at least one year and plan to attend an institution of higher learning in 2021. **Application deadline is May 17, 2021.**

Please contact:

Paula Lamb (215) 620-7250 for application.



**ST. THOMAS  
CIRCLE  
OF  
PRAYER MINISTRY**

**PLEASE JOIN  
US WEEKLY FOR  
MONDAY MORNING  
PRAYER CALL**

**AT 6:30 AM**

**THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS:  
(605) 313-6361 CODE: 268 105**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND  
AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER  
REQUEST TO:**

**[CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG](mailto:CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG)**

**PHYLLIS B. CATER \* DAPHNE GILSTRAP  
FACILITATORS**

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW  
RECTOR**



**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**  
FOUNDED 1792  
**6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065**

**THE BLACK CLERICUS EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PA & UBE**

invite you to attend a Virtual Healing  
from Internalized Oppression conference  
on **May 8, 2021.**

The Rev. Canon Ronald Charles Byrd, Missioner for  
Black Ministries for the National Episcopal Church,  
returns to Philadelphia to continue his conference series  
on The Health of Black Episcopal Churches.

The third offering in his Stewardship Series follows  
Acquiring New Skins to Hold the New Wine:  
The Challenges of Today's Black Episcopal Church  
and The Theology of Giving. Healing from  
Internalized Oppression delves into the emotional  
and spiritual health of Black Episcopalians.

Registration is through Eventbrite and can be accessed  
via this link:

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-black-clericus-episcopal-diocese-of-pa-amp-ube-17901057347>**

The Zoom link will be sent to all registered participants on  
**Friday, May 7, 2020.**

Please join us for this most important conversation.

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# DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

## Readings For The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 25th

First Reading: Acts 4: 1-12

Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 16-24

The Holy Gospel: John 10: 11-18

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## Week of 4/26/2021

Monday - Matthew 5: 1-10

Tuesday - John Matthew 5: 11-16

Wednesday - Matthew 5: 17-20

Thursday - Matthew 5: 21-26

Friday - Matthew 5: 27-37

Saturday - Matthew 5: 38-48

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## Readings For The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 2nd

First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40

Psalm 22: 24-30

Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-21

The Holy Gospel: John 15: 1-8

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## TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASSES

with Fr. Jay on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Please send your email to:

Fr. Collins at [JayCollins@comcast.net](mailto:JayCollins@comcast.net) or  
267-634-6185 to be added to the list.



## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN APRIL / MAY**

**April 25th**

Youth / Young Adult Sunday

**May 9th**

Mother's Day

**May 16th**

Annual Women's Day

**May 23rd**

Day of Pentecost (Birthday of the Church)

Please watch the early morning Virtual Service, then come to receive Holy Communion at the church either outside or inside 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

**May 30th**

Memorial Day Observance

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### **PLEASE BE ADVISED**

The St. Thomas Thrift Shop is NOT taking donations at this time.

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### **PARISH GIVING**

Quarterly Statements will be sent out the end of June due to the Pandemic.



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

The African Episcopal Church  
of  
St. Thomas  
Church School

Calling ALL AECST  
Students K-12, Parents  
and Teachers

JOIN US  
FOR OUR  
VIRTUAL CLASSES  
EVERY  
SUNDAY @ 12:00 NOON

**KNOW JESUS.  
CHANGE THE WORLD!**

Registration required via email  
To RSVP contact Supt. Dottie Archey  
(215) 837-6941 or email at [churchschool@aecst.org](mailto:churchschool@aecst.org)

Interested in becoming a Church School Teacher?  
Contact Dottie Archey to learn more.

The Very Reverend Canon Fr. Martini Shaw, Rector

"Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it"

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)





## **PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER**

### **Recovering At Home**

Linda Holmes, Waltier Blocker, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Kenneth Dow, Carl Dean, Suzanne Closson, Carl Dean, Joan Hall, Georgia Sawyer, Adinah Edwards, Tyrone Keller, William Edmonds, Isedora "Gwen" Francis, Francina Norris, Shirley Winkfield, Joseph Stevenson, William Edmonds, Judith Simpkins-Booth, Lisa Woodley, Joyce Jackson, Donald Young, Robert Brown, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Leatrice Snowden

### **We Pray For**

Those who are Incarcerated and their families/loved ones, as well as those affected by their actions.

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## **OUR CONDOLENCES TO**

Our condolences to Richard & Rebecca Scales and their family on the death of Richard's grandfather, **Earl Potts**. May the soul of Earl rest in peace and rise in glory!

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## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

is now being scheduled. If you are someone or know of someone who wish to be baptized, please go to our website [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org), go to "About The AECST" drop down and click on Holy Baptism. All the information about baptism and the electronic form can be found there.

## **FROM THE RECTOR**

There is still time for you to prayerfully submit your 2021 Faithful Giving Card. You may do so by several methods: mail, drop off in the office, on our website online: ([aecst.org](http://aecst.org) or Facebook)

If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from 10am-1pm Monday-Thursday.

Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

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## **A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP**

Our theme for this year's Stewardship - "Our Doors Are Open" 2021 St. Thomas Offering Envelopes are now ready for pick up in Anderson Hall. You may pick them up during Parish Office Hours (M-F 9:00 AM - 4:00PM) by entering through the A.J. House entrance with the ramp.

Please don't forget your mask. If by chance you live in the same neighborhood of a church member who is unable to pick theirs up, perhaps you can pick theirs up and put it in their mail slot or between their doors.

If you have changed your address, home/cell phone number or email address, please send your changed contact information to Judy Tillman at: [tillman\\_72@msn.com](mailto:tillman_72@msn.com) or the church email: [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org) so that we can update the church records. Thank you.

"To whom much is given, much is required." Luke 12: 48

## **WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP**

- 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 click the links below for the type of device you own to 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) Bring your check directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 9am-2pm). After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
  
- 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, Church School, Chosen 300, 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.



# **A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING**

**Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of  
(10% of our earnings)**

**Where are you on your spiritual journey?  
Annual Faithful Giving**

<b>Yearly Income</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

## **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.

Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check.

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If you are not receiving 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.

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Please join us for service on the St. Thomas Website [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792> every Sunday morning.

## 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 Fr Gerald Collins	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Thomas G Snowden	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Paul Bach	
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	
	Lisa Steward-New	
	Karen Ragland	
Executive Assistant to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@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	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	215-473-3065



## **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	Albert S. Dandridge	Jonathan Muse
Patricia Bantom	Deborah Harrison	Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Ronnie Collins	D. Lynn Joell	Judith Tillman
	Brenda Johnson Best	

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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.

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