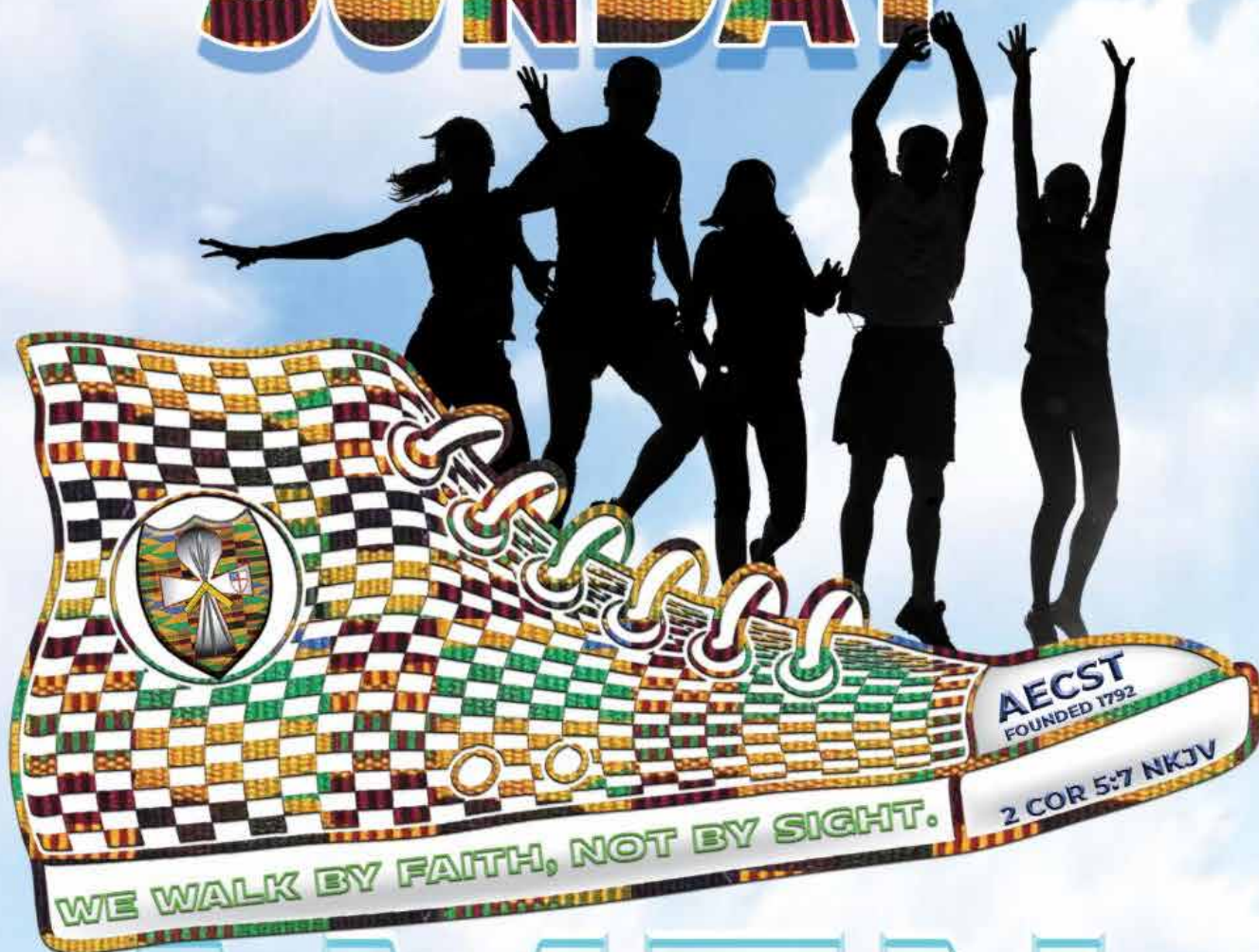


THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY



AMEN

THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2025

The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA, 19151
(215) 473-3065

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest



The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
About The AECST

www.aecst.org

**Scan the QR code to support our church
and our ministries.**

Please click on the link provided for the
[Order of Service.](#)

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this
**The Second Sunday of Easter,
Youth and Young Adult Sunday**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

Martini Shaw +

(The Very Reverend Canon) Martini Shaw,
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deaner

AN EASTER WISH FROM THE RECTOR:

Wishing each one of you a very holy and blessed fifty days
of Easter filled with Joy and Peace.

OUR APOLOGIES

The following Lily dedication was omitted
from the list on Easter Sunday:

Easter Lily: In memory of **Robert, Mayme and Marion
Washington and Nathaniel and Bernice Tillman**
given by Bobby, Judy and Teri Tillman

On **Sunday, April 27th**, immediately after service at their
regular meeting, the young adults will discuss the topic:
Christian Dating as a Young Adult. This conversation will
be facilitated by Dr. Tim Barksdale.

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR:

This is a reminder that the Mass (Service) ends following
the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra
effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure
from the Service before the conclusion. This request is
being made in order to respect all gathered wishing to
embrace the fullness of worship.



**Statement from our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe
on the death of Pope Francis:**

My heart is heavy at the death of our brother in Christ, Pope Francis. Throughout his life and ministry, he has been a witness for the Gospel and a champion for the poor and marginalized. Especially in this season, I give thanks for his powerful advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees. Pope Francis, who was the first Latin American pope, understood these siblings in Christ are never at the edges, fearful and alone. As he once wrote, “In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help.”

In 12 years as the Roman Catholic pontiff, Pope Francis transformed our theology of the environment and recognized the need for LGBTQ+ people to feel heard, seen, and included in their church. We are likewise grateful for his emphasis on reconciliation and ecumenical dialogue, in which our church has participated through the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the United States of America.

I thank God for the life of Pope Francis, and ask you to pray for him, for all who loved him, and for our Roman Catholic siblings in Christ. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

You are invited to a celebration and blessing of Holy
Matrimony between our own

R. Seth Williams and Stacey Gail Cummings

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 12:30 PM

at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL UPDATE

March 31st ended the First Quarter of 2025.

Enormous thanks to those who are current with their yearly pledge. It is very important to assure that we remain current in order for the church to fulfill its monthly expenses. You will soon receive your First Quarter statement. Please use the month of April to catch up if you are not already current.

The Saturday before Easter was very busy at St.Thomas.

Enormous thanks to everyone who worked so hard to prepare for a day of joyous celebration with: baptisms, festive music, dance, gospel preaching, Easter Egg Hunt, and much more.





Some of our AMAZING and DEDICATED altar servers of St. Thomas. We give enormous thanks for their weekly ministry.



AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Stream Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

You can also watch [Past Services](#).

The New Members Manual has arrived.
Please use the [link](#) to access it.

OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW!

We are immensely thankful for these eight new members who came forward and became a part of our church family on Easter Sunday. To God be the glory!!

Diane Decoursey

Dr. Ingrid Nembhard (sons - Isaac and Jacob)

Chinwe Onyekere (daughter - Ngozi)

Christin Veney (son - Hamaas)

Welcome Diane, Ingrid, Jacob, Isaac, Chinwe, Ngozi
Christin and Hamaas.



More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

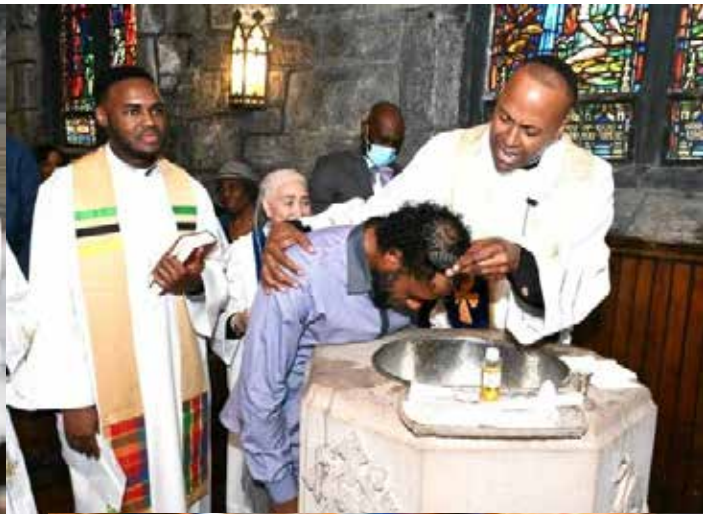
Early Sunrise Easter Sunday Service on the AECST EXPRESS and a 10:00 AM Easter Celebration to Remember





More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#).







More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#).

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Plans are underway to begin our New Members/Confirmation Classes soon. Most of these classes will be held via Zoom. Please watch the bulletin and Spearhead for further information. Please speak with Fr. Daren or Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

RECTOR'S "EXECUTIVE ORDERS" signed during Easter sermon.
Rector's Executive Order – The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas - Philadelphia
April 20, 2025 (Easter Sunday)

- 1) **The First Rector's Executive Order** to sign is to reaffirm that St. Thomas is a Christ-centered community of faith that welcomes all people. We are an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is taught, lived and spread.
- 2) **The Second Rector's Executive Order** is to reaffirm our commitment to the two Great Commandments: A.) Loving the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind and soul; and B.) loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- 3) **The Third Rector's Executive Order** is to reaffirm and renew our Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; and striving for justice and peace among all people, while respecting the dignity of every human being.
- 4) **The Fourth Rector's Executive Order** is to reaffirm that St. Thomas is a safe and prayerful sanctuary community, where all are welcomed to come and worship and pray and bring their burdens and fears and concerns and uncertainties to the altar of God regardless of nationality.
- 5) **The Fifth Rector's Executive Order** is to reaffirm our commitment to serve and minister to those who are hungry, those who are homeless, those who are in prison; those who are sick, those who feel rejected or oppressed, those who are mourning.

6) **The Sixth Rector's Executive Order** is to reaffirm that our doors are open to all of God's children regardless of where you may be on your spiritual journey; regardless of race, gender, age, religion, denomination, sexual orientation, political party, social class, or financial status. In this Church, all are INVITED AND WELCOMED to join us at the Lord's feast table.

7) **The Final Executive Order** is this one: there are those who are threatening to cut funding in order to silence and remove the full story and truth being told at our museums, in particular:

The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. (where our church and Blessed Absalom Jones are on exhibit). Well, I want to officially announce this morning that the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, and each Vestry member and Auxiliary Vestry member will become an official financial supporter and member of the museum; and we will encourage our entire church membership to become individual members of such an important entity of historical knowledge and truth in our country. To become a member or to donate to the museum, go to <https://support.si.edu/site/Donation>





More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#).

JOIN OUR PARTNERS

The St. James School will celebrate its Annual Benefit
on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025,**

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum,
6825 Norwitch Drive, Philadelphia.

You may recall that our church was one of the past
honorees for this beautiful celebration.

This year's honorees are the former Presiding Bishop
Michael Curry and the former owners of
Royal Electric Supply. [Go to www.stjamesphila.org/thrive](http://www.stjamesphila.org/thrive)
for event details and registration.

Once registered, please [email](#) Phyllis Cater, if you wish to
sit at the St. Thomas table.

This Week at AECST – April 28, 2025

Tuesday, April 29th

~Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~ 6:00- 9:00 PM

~Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study~
with Fr. Jay via Zoom – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 30th

~St. Thomas Gospel rehearsal~ – 7:30 PM
in Anderson Hall

Saturday, May 3rd

~Scout Troop #133 meeting~ 1:00 - 4:00 PM
in Anderson Hall

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN APRIL / MAY

Sunday, April 27th

The Second Sunday of Easter
~Youth and Young Adult Sunday~

Sunday, May 4th

The Third Sunday of Easter
~St. Thomas Men are Cooking~ Anderson Hall

May 11th

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
~Mother's Day~

May 18th

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
~Heroes Sunday~
Guest Speaker: Philadelphia Fire Commissioner
Jeffrey Thompson

May 25th

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
~Memorial Day Observance~

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS/FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members/families of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson

Rev. Dr. Paul Bach &

Dr. Julie Hergerather

Christopher Burks

Deadra Cannon

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Rashid and Christie Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Dr. John Rich

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Howard Tucker

Allison Young

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks for **Paula Cropper**, members of St. Thomas for 57 years. She says “Thank you AECST family for always supporting me and my family, We love you all”.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

St. Thomas Men are Cooking - May 4th
Have you gotten your tickets yet?

Chefs! Get your recipes ready! The Men's Fellowship will be outside the church to sign up chefs for the event and recipes for the cookbook. Please email

Dr. Tim Barksdale, tim.barksdale@merakey.org, your recipes by email for the cookbook. Sorry, please do not send screenshots. Tickets are \$20.00 and will be on sale after service outside church.



***The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
Presents***

St. Thomas Men Are Cooking

**The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector
The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans, Associate to the Rector**

Calling All Men to Prepare and Serve your Favorite Dish(es) and
to forward your recipe for the cookbook to be available close to the event
Email Recipes to Cookbook Editor & Event Organizer: Dr. Tim Barksdale :
Tim.Barksdale@Merakey.org

\$20.00 includes:

- Delicious Food, Dessert & Drinks
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating
- Table Service for Those in Need
- Door Prizes & Give-aways
- \$10.00 for those under 12 years
- Free for toddlers



Sunday, May 4th, 2025, Immediately after service

AECST Anderson Hall, 6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151

For More Information Contact
ED Geiger: 716-207-0405
Andrew Dumas: 917-325-4434

**Get Tickets from
The Men's Ministry & Fellowship,
Edward Geiger, President**

**ANNOUNCING THE 2025 “MEN ARE COOKING”
CHEFS OF ST. THOMAS!!!**

Fr. Martini Shaw
Fr. Daren Evans
Michael Archey
Dr. Tim Barksdale
Dr. Massimo Baudo
Guy Booth
Ricardo Bostic
Paige Bowser, Jr.
Howard Chapman
Carl Dean
Dr. Rollo Dilworth
Andrew Dumas
Bill Edmonds
Larry Farmbry
Norman Frank
Barry Frye
Ed Geiger
Eugene Golson
Dr. Derek Griffith
Tyrone Gunby
Dennis Hall
Thomas Harris
Dr. Walter Harris

Gregory Hayes
Maurice Hayes
Quentin Heyward
Ashley Hines
Donald Hunt
Kelvin Johnson
John Kortue
Thomas Lynch
John Maxwell
Michael McIntosh
Eugene Phillips
Stephen Pugh
Dr. Reginald Royster
Edwin Santana
Irving Stevenson
Bobby Tillman
Harold Townsend
Arnott Trotman
Justin Trotman
Joe Wells
Seth Williams
Brian Wilson
Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Jr.
Edgar Wise



HEROES' SUNDAY

MAY 18, 2025 10:00 AM

Philadelphia Fire Commissioner
JEFFREY THOMPSON, GUEST SPEAKER



ALL first responders are invited to attend!

- * All First Responders are encouraged to arrive by 9:45, attend in uniform and proceed into church together.
- * There will be a reception with light refreshments in the church hall immediately following mass.
- * For More Information Please Contact: Seth Williams
Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
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WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

ATTENTION AECST STUDENTS:

The Jesse F. Anderson Sr. Scholarship Fund is offering the St. Thomas Book Awards for graduating high school seniors who are members of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) and plan to attend a school of higher learning in Fall 2025. Additionally, applications are available for AECST members enrolled in a full-time graduate program. **The application deadline is May 12, 2025.**

For more information contact [Paula Lamb](#) (High School Seniors) or [Diana Hutchins](#) (Graduate Students) or [Thomasina Hack](#).

THE ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY presents

A Weekend Celebration of Women

Saturday, May 31st

Women's Wellness Retreat

Get your Retreat Tickets Today!

Includes: Mindfulness Wellness and Inspiring Speakers, Creative Expressions Workshops, Healing Drum Circle, Continental Breakfast, Delicious Lunch, and more!

You don't want to miss it!

Sunday, June 1st

Annual Women's Day Celebration



The Women's Ministry Presents

The St. Thomas Women's Weekend

Saturday, May 31 - Sunday, June 1, 2025

REVIVE. RESTORE. RENEW.

FINDING STRENGTH IN FAITH

WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT

Saturday, May 31, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

~Karen Taylor Bass~

Certified yoga instructor, mediation coach, wellness trainer, author, Radio Show Host

~The Reverend Canon Toneh Smyth~

Canon for Missions of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

~AND MORE~

FEATURED WELLNESS RETREAT EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

Creative Expressions workshops | Get your Affairs in Order

Mindful Meditation | Closing Drum Circle

Tickets: \$50 per person

Checks payable to: St. Thomas Women's Ministry - Memo: Women's Retreat

Cash App payments: \$46DBM | Memo: Women's Retreat | GIVI App Memo: Women's Retreat

For more information, contact Deborah Matthews | email: debmadanco@verizon.net

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SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Our 2025 Women's Day Speaker is
the renowned
Emmy Award Winning Actress
and Singer

SHERYL LEE RALPH

Sunday, June 1, 2025 - 10:00 AM

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS APRIL IS STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

Stress is unavoidable but here are some steps you can take to reduce the effects of stress on your health. To Learn Steps to Stress Less, see attached information on page 24.

Healthy Living: The Mainline Health Newsletter of Community Health & Outreach – Spring 2025 Lots of good information. To read this newsletter go to this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1afS5JkE2sVZOo3Zn-7kh9P2rVLHaQYh0/view>

Mindspring Mental Health Virtual Events for April
The Mindspring Mental Health Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides no-cost mental health education, support, and advocacy programs to community members. Got to <https://www.mindspringhealth.org/> for more information.

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

Folks, now, more than ever, voting is critical! Just think, if it isn't important why is the current political administration trying so hard to rescind our right to do so? An enormous amount of time and money is being spent on creating new impediments for voters' rights. **DO NOT LET AN ELECTION DAY GO BY WITHOUT CASTING YOUR BALLOT!**

What else can I do besides vote on May 20, 2025, in the Pennsylvania Primary?

- 1) Register a young person to vote before May 5, 2025, in the Pennsylvania Primary.
- 2) Register newly naturalized citizens to vote
- 3) Become a poll worker.
- 4) Plan for you, a neighbor, or a friend to go together to your polling place.

COMING SOON

Information regarding the Pennsylvania Primary candidates and Philadelphia ballot questions.

If you need more information regarding the above, please reach out to Wendella Fox or Elaine Gillison, co-chairs of the Catto Voters Education Ministry.

VOTING IS YOUR SUPERPOWER!

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman.
(Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office. Thank you)

High Altar - \$60
Absalom Jones Altar - \$50
the Columbarium - \$40

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers or contribute to our church ministries.



CHAT AND CHEW

Have you ever considered hosting a Chat and Chew following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office for further details.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings For The Second Sunday Of Easter

April 27, 2025

The First Lesson - [Acts 15:27-32](#)

[Psalms 150](#)

The Second Lesson - [Revelation 1:4-8](#)

The Holy Gospel - [John 20:19-31](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of April 28, 2025

Monday - [John 17:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [John 17:12-19](#)

Wednesday - [John 17:20-26](#)

Thursday - [Luke 3:1-14](#)

Friday - [Luke 3:15-23](#)

Saturday - [Luke 4:1-13](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

with Fr. Jay meet on Tuesdays
7:00 PM via Zoom.

Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with
questions/requests.

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY
with Fr. Daren will resume in the AJ House on
April 30th at 6:00 PM.

Our Spring study will be a
"Journey through the Book of Revelation."

TINY TIKES TOT AREA

Now that all the basic items have arrived, we are designing and planning the space. Soon, the tiniest Saints will have a place to share with their parents. Keep your eyes open to see the new area.

Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you have questions.

ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please [email](#) Fr. Daren your contact information as soon as possible (including cellphone). Our prayers remain with you.



A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:

ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladycy DuBrey](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.



CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson.](#)



VERGERS NEEDED!

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or
the Rector for more details.

GFS Holiday House is in Jeopardy!

In the early morning hours, on January 26, 2025, notification arrived that the frigid cold weather caused a pipe to burst in our beloved summer retreat center, Holiday House. The water damage is beyond extensive and travels from the third floor down to the first floor. Built in 1870's, this is the last of 30 Holiday Houses in existence. It has offered shelter and housing to immigrant women, a retreat center for girls and women, and a place where summer memories were made and friendship cured.

This historic retreat center holds a special place in the hearts of St. Thomas GFS members. There is a room dedicated to Julia Porter, our first Branch Advisor. We need your help. Are you good at researching grants? Can you write a proposal? Do you have the acumen for gross fundraising? Can you provide a monetary donation? Please contact Nikkol Simms, Branch Advisor, if you can assist.

“Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (GFS Motto)

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

- to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.
- to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office.
- to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).
- to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office to sign up.
- to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service. Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the office if you are interested.
- as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you are interested.
- **Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).
- **The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).



ST. THOMAS PODCAST

Stay tuned! Our podcast will soon return. In the meantime, please enjoy the three previous episodes. If you would like to be a guest on any of the podcasts, please speak with Fr. Daren or [email](#) him for more information.



ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Are you willing to serve, at least one Sunday per month, as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please use this [link](#) to register to become a church school teacher.



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW but also as the church of TODAY!!! We embrace and celebrate our youth. If you have children in your family or neighborhood, please invite or bring them to be a part of our amazing Church School program. When was the last time you invited someone to church?

YOUTH COUNCIL

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

All young adults (those in their 20's and 30's) are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

All young ladies are invited to join us on Saturdays in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM.

The Girls' Friendly Society does not meet every Saturday.

Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information and the schedule.

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

CALLING FOR YOUTH ACOLYTES!



Calling all youth! You are needed to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren.](#)

Scout Troop #133 - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at **2:00 PM on Saturdays.**

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program meets at **3:00 PM on Saturdays.**

Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen - Simpson House;
Linda Holmes and Leotta Griffith - Saunders House;
Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill;
Inez Turner - The Residence at Bala Cynwyd;
Ola Bass - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting;
Ridart "Butch" Farmer- Centennial Healthcare and
Rehabilitation Center; Patricia Holmes - 62nd Street Nursing Home;
Elizabeth Trulear - Riddle Village Retirement Community

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson,
Patricia Ellison, Barbara Douglas, Mary Ann Jones,
Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Quincina Edmonds,
Solomon Cropper, Sharon Harper, Donald Hunt, Sr.,
Verger Stephen Hannum, Marie Golson, Virginia DuBrey

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley,
Adinah Edwards, Ann Stewart, Waltier Blocker,
Arlene Gray, Daryn Stewart, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway,
Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Sydnor

WE PRAY FOR

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as
those affected by their actions.

HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?

“To whom much is given, much is required.” -Luke 12:48

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways, your time, your talent or your treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasures. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all of the special requests below.

FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2025.

You'll be able to complete your [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

THE BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. If you've already picked your offering envelopes up, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering [online](#). Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month.

Thank you.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select "Building Fund." If using checks write "Building Fund" on the memo line of your check.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The church has received many "undeliverable" mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by [email](#) or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shut-in parishioners? If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. A list of our sick and shut-in parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

IMPORTANT: Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact [Patricia Lynch.](#)

RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST

\$100,000.00. Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating toward the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



**The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
Abou...**

www.aecst.org

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

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. II Corinthians 9:7

1) **Sunday Offering Plate**

2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.

Please use the following address:

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator, 6361 Lancaster Avenue,
(Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151

3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and nor 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.

4) **Bring your check** directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM) **After business hours**, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

5) **Church Website - [Online Giving](#)**

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.

6) **Faithful Giving Cards (Pledge)** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **www.aecst.org** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much to all who have return them.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGillberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller