



WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

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 • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 3, 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



**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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.

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 Deanery



The Rector is away on summer holiday. For emergencies, please contact Fr. Daren or the parish office.



July and August Parish Administrative Office Hours
Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - Noon

THIS WEEK AT AECST - August 4, 2025

Tuesday, August 4th
Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

OUR FAMILY GROWS!!!

We welcome into our church family
Evelyn Johns, who joined our church
family last Sunday. Her shepherd is Ronnie Collins.
We look forward to getting to know her.



A NEEDED REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR

Our amazing Livestream Ministry continues to be an enormous blessing to many of us who are not able to physically be present for worship on any given Sunday, but able to tune in. We are very grateful to those who serve as operators in this ministry each week.

Our live stream equipment is in desperate need of upgrading. We are establishing a fund to support this need. Please prayerfully make a donation toward this initiative and indicate the purpose of your contribution.

Enormous thanks in advance.

GREAT NEWS TO REPORT ABOUT OUR CHURCH!!!

A Report from the Rector's Wish List and the Capital Improvement Fund:

RECTOR'S WISH LIST

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

a) New air conditioning units in Anderson Hall

- **Completed**

b) Restoration of walls (altar and choir areas)

- **Work to begin in the Fall.**

(An anonymous parishioner donor has made this possible)

c) New air conditioning units needed for the church nave.

- **Donors are needed.**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

-**Donors are needed.**

a) Ceiling structural work - **Completed**

b) Roofing work - **In the final stages of completion**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Please speak with William Burke, Property Chair, if you have any questions. You may also email him at **property@aecst.org**.

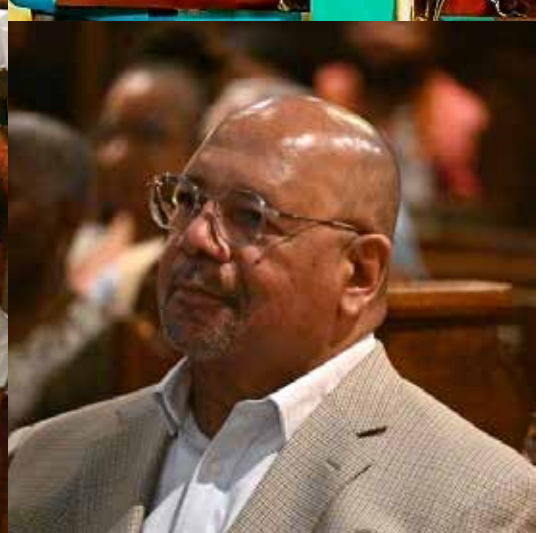
The New Members Manual has arrived.

Please use the **[link](#)** to access it.

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 27, 2025









Photos: Bill Edmonds, Stephen Pugh and Justin Trotman
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR:

The first half of the year 2025 was filled with many exciting ministry activities and opportunities.

Plans are now underway for the next six months of ministry.

Summer months are always challenging to meet budgeted expenses. I am asking you to please assure that you have now contributed **AT LEAST HALF** of your 2025 yearly pledge.

A record of your financial giving to date has been mailed. If you have not received yours, please contact Jeannette in the Fiscal office. If you can contribute additional funds, please prayerfully consider.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of our amazing church.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes will begin **September 21, 2025**, every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45 AM in person and via Zoom on designated days.

Check the bulletin and Spearhead for additional information.

Please speak with Fr. Daren or Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

**SPECIAL SUMMER HOMILY/MEDITATION SERIES:
"Feeding the Spirit"**

During the summer months of July and August,
our homilists will include our clergy, seminarians,
and music ministers.

August 3rd

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Waltier Blocker, Homilist

August 10th

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Fr. Evans, Homilist

August 17th

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Dr. Rollo Dilworth, Homilist

August 24th

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Fr. Evans, Homilist

August 31st

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Homilist

AECST LIVE STREAM

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

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATES

1. “Congress Comes to You” is a series of constituent service events facilitated by Congressman Dwight Evans and his staff, sharing vital information from Medicaid, Immigration Services, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, the Postal Service, IRS, to Passport Services. Choose the date, time and place that works best for you and get accurate and reliable information. Invite family and friends to attend with you. All events will be held from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, except where noted:

Monday, Aug. 4: Blanche A. Nixon Library,
5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway, 19143

Tuesday, Aug. 5: South Philadelphia Library,
1700 S. Broad St., 19145

Tuesday, Aug. 19: Nicetown-Tioga Library,
3720 N. Broad St., 19140 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Aug. 20: 5-8 pm., Philadelphia Zoo
Community Night, 3400 W. Girard Ave., 19104

Monday, Aug. 25: Queen Memorial Library,
1201 S. 23rd St., 19146

Monday, Sept. 22: Joseph E. Coleman Northwest Regional Library,
68 W. Cheltenham Ave., 19144

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Falls of Schuylkill Library,
3501 Midvale Ave., 19129
(Events in bold are in the West Philadelphia area,
not far from St. Thomas.)

Contact Congressman Evans’ office at **(215) 276-0340** or **(215) 254-3400** if you have questions or want to join his email list.

2. Do you know a young person heading off to college? Help them register to vote. VOTING IS YOUR SUPERPOWER!

Pennsylvania www.vote.pa.gov

New Jersey <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

Delaware <https://elections.delaware.gov/>

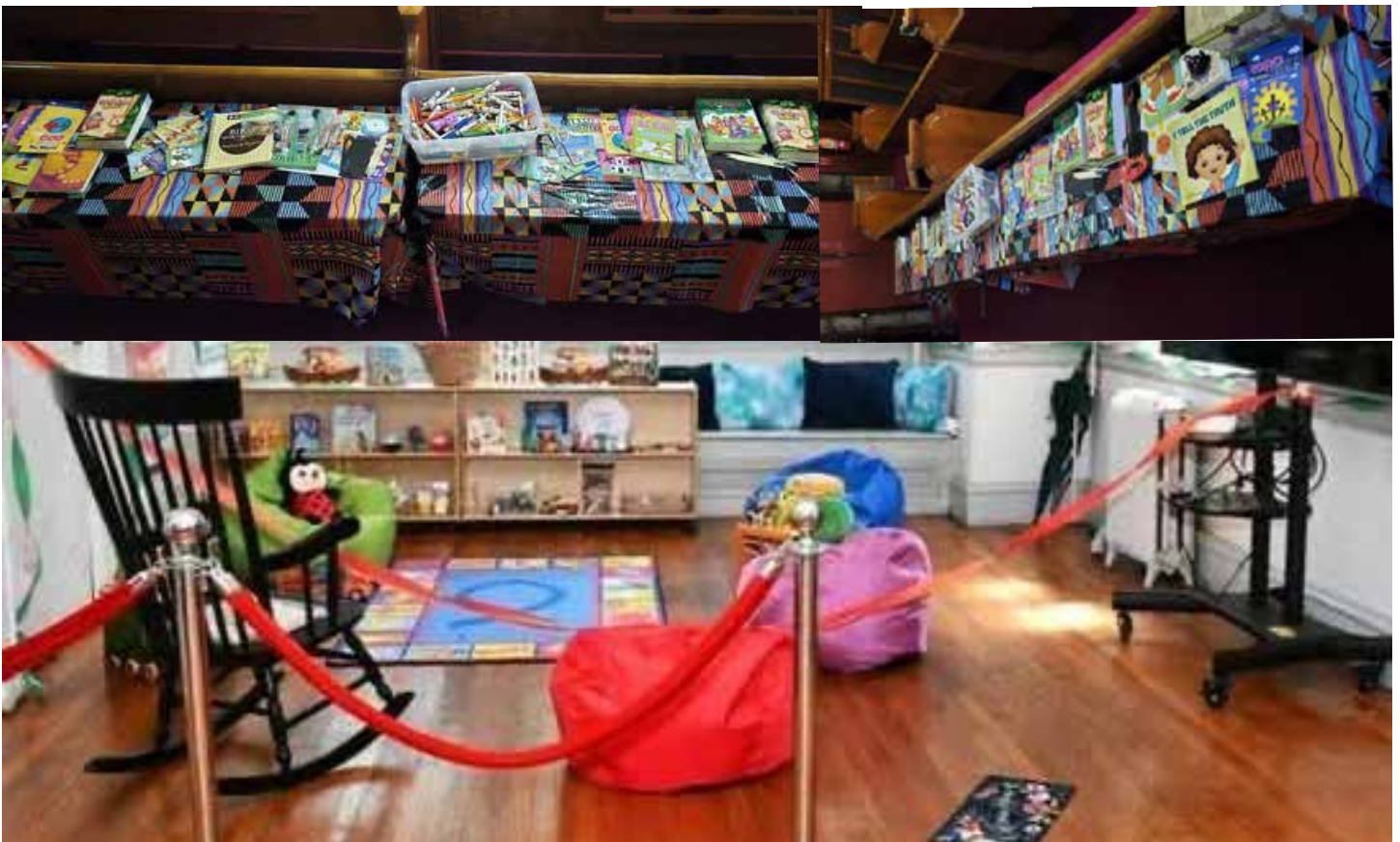
SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES!!

During the summer months, while Church School is on break, we are pleased to announce two areas to enrich the lives of our children:

The "Children's Corner" a space designated for children ages 4 and up in the sanctuary. Children are invited to enjoy reading materials, games, and activities during the Service.

The "Tiny Tykes Temple" located in Anderson Hall for infants, children 3 and under, and parents.

We encourage families to take advantage of these wonderful spaces!





THE ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY POPCORN FUNDRAISER

It's a Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser and we are asking for your support to raise funds for the Women's Ministry.

The Popcorn Fundraiser will begin on August 1st and extend through August 5th. When you buy Double Good's award winning, ultra-premium popcorn, 50% of the purchase goes to supporting AECST, and you will receive Double Good deliciousness!

Please see a member of the Women's Ministry.

THANK YOU for your continued support!

In Gratitude,
the AECST Women's Ministry

THE JESSE F. ANDERSON (JFA) SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

will sponsor a bus trip to:

The National Museum of African American History and Culture and National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC on Wednesday, **August 13, 2025**, departs from St. Thomas at 8:30 AM, returns 7:30 PM.

Cost: \$75.00 (cash or check). Lunch on your own.

Deadline for tickets is **Sunday, August 3, 2025**.

Contact Thomasina Hack at **215-901-2773**, Paula Lamb at **215-620-7250** or any member of the committee for more information.



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



**THE JESSE F. ANDERSON (JFA) SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
WILL SPONSOR A BUS TRIP TO:**

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND
CULTURE AND NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, WASHINGTON, DC**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025, DEPARTS FROM ST. THOMAS
AT 8:30 AM, RETURNS 7:30 PM**

COST: \$75.00 (CASH OR CHECK). LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.

DEADLINE FOR TICKETS IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025.

CONTACT:

**THOMASINA HACK: 215-901-2773 OR PAULA LAMB: 215-620-7250
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE JESSE F. ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND.**

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY COMMITTEE

ATTENTION:

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOGRAPHS

will be taken on AUGUST 6th ,7th ,8th , and 9th

If you do not have an appointment, please make one today after service, in Anderson Hall.



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

This is an annual observance to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. This campaign aims to provide facts to support the benefits of vaccination.

The [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), a trusted source, offers a wealth of information on information and resources.

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

This campaign helps educate caregivers and children on their eye health and safety. Trusted information is available from the National Eye Institute.

<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/nei-for-kids>

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY

There are several ways in which we memorialize and cherish our loved ones at the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas:

- 1) dedicate pew memorial plaques
- 2) present floral tributes;
- 3) purchase a niche in the Geraldine B. Wood Columbarium
- 4) dedicate new or restored areas of the Church in memory of loved ones

These examples of dedications are designed to celebrate those whom we loved and remember.

If you are looking for a ministry within the AECST that will allow you to share in the joy of families, friends, and neighbors, please prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Memorial Tribute Ministry.

Please reach out to Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at victoria.rivers@verizon.net or call **267-253-2899** and express your desire to obtain information about this Ministry.

CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY

There is still an opportunity for students to apply for this year's Freshman Class (2029). Any high school senior with a 3.5 GPA or higher, may apply for a full academic scholarship (all expenses paid). High school seniors with a 3.0 to 3.25 GPA may apply for a partial scholarship.

These scholarships are for PA Residents only. For more information, contact Cheyney University at:

admissions@cheyney.edu or call **(610) 399-2275**

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

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather

Christopher Burks

Deadra Cannon

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Yvonne Hyde-Carter

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Nohjay Nimpson

Zennetta Peters

Dr. John Rich

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Howard Tucker

Allison Young

WE ARE FAMILY

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks for **Shelly and Ann Stewart**, who live in Florida and Massachusetts and have been members of St. Thomas for 13 years. They say, “We miss being there in person but love tuning in to the service!”



MARIAN ANDERSON TRIBUTE CONCERT

We honor our great Marian Anderson and her musical relationship with historic composer Nathaniel Dett in this stellar Tribute Concert event featuring the dramatic and dynamic compositions of composers, Nathaniel Dett and his “The Ordering of Moses” & Robert Ray's Gospel Mass.”

These exceptional works will feature our outstanding National Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, our Marian Anderson Historical Society Instrumental Ensemble, the Elizabeth City University Choir, and Choral Director Dr. Walter Swan, all under the direction of Marian Anderson Historical Society Director of Music and Pianist Dr. Jay Fluellen on

Saturday, September 27th, 2025

The African Episcopal Church of St Thomas
6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151
at 3:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00

Please register on our website:

[www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com.](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)

You may call the office: 215-779-4219

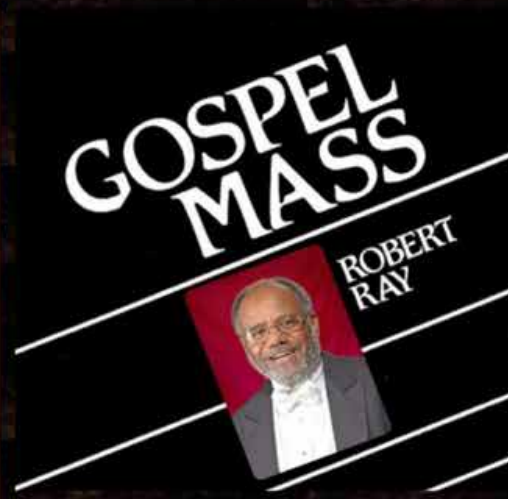
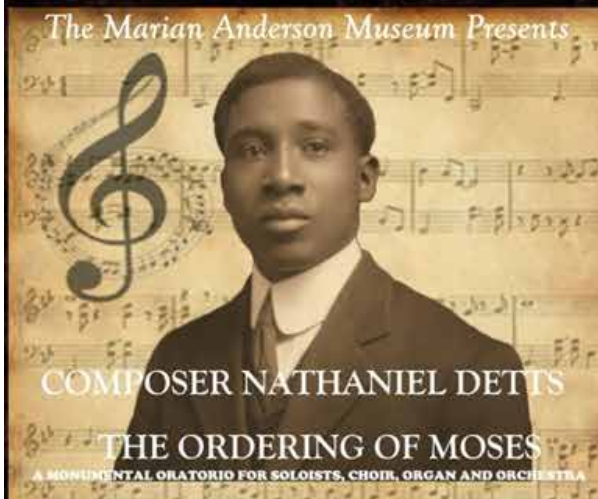
or send the registration to:

762 S. Martin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146
RSVP TODAY!

ATTENTION:

If you are going with the Youth Council to Sight and Sound Theatre's production of “Noah” on **Friday, August 22, 2025**, please note that the bus will be leaving from St. Thomas at 4:30 PM.

THE MARIAN ANDERSON MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
THE ORDERING OF MOSES & THE GOSPEL MASS IN CONCERT



We honor our great Marian Anderson and her musical relationship with historic composer Nathaniel Dett in this stellar Tribute Concert event featuring the dramatic and dynamic compositions of composers Nathaniel Dett and his *The Ordering of Moses* and Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*. These exceptional works will feature our outstanding National Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, our Marian Anderson Historical Society Instrumental Ensemble and MAHS Choral Ensemble under the direction of MD and Pianist Dr. Jay Fluellen.

WHEN: Saturday September 27th 2025

WHERE: The African Episcopal Church of St Thomas
6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151

TIME: 3PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00

FEATURING



SOPRANO LAURICE KENNEL



SOPRANO JILLIAN PIRTLE



SOPRANO LILY KASS



TENOR TERRANCE HART



BASS BRENTON MATTOX



DR. JAY FLUELLEN DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
CONDUCTOR - PIANIST

THE MARIAN ANDERSON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE



ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR
DR. WALTER SWAN CHORAL DIRECTOR



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS

Please register on our Website www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com OR
CALL OUR OFFICE @ 215-779-4219 OR SEND IT IN TO OUR OFFICE @ 762 s. Martin
Street Philadelphia Pa 19146 TO CONFIRM YOUR TICKETS



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving memory of **Elizabeth (Betty) “Tootie” Stanley, on her 80th heavenly birthday**, given by her daughters, Paula and Nicole.

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

Unfortunately, due to rising costs of goods, the Altar Guild has increased the cost of the flowers.

High Altar - \$70
Absalom Jones Altar - \$60
the Columbarium - \$50

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



MAZZONI CENTER
HONORS
Melba Moore

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 3
MARIAN ANDERSON HALL
KIMMEL CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

SAVION GLOVER • LISA FISCHER • LOW CUT CONNIE • J HARRISON GHEE
JOY WOODS • MYKAL KILGORE • VICKI PETERSON • RICHARD BARONE
NIKKI RENEE DANIELS • BRITTANY LYNN • JOHN COWSILL • VANCE GILBERT
LAUREN HART • THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR • AND MORE TO COME!

Hosted by Peabody Award-winning journalist
SOLEDAD O'BRIEN

With special appearances by local radio legends
PATTY JACKSON
AND DYANA WILLIAMS

Tickets start at \$35 and go on sale
FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

For full details and ticket information visit
MAZZONICENTER.ORG/HONORS

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS
Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025

The First Lesson – [Hosea 11:1-11](#)
[Psalm 107:1-9, 43](#)

The Second Lesson – [Colossians 3:1-11](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of August 4, 2025

Monday - [John 1:1-18](#)

Tuesday - [John 1:19-28](#)

Wednesday - [John 1:29-42](#)

Thursday - [John 1:43-51](#)

Friday - [John 2:1-12](#)

Saturday - [John 2:13-25](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY is on vacation
for the summer. We will resume
meeting on Tuesday, **September 9th**
at our usual time and venue.
As always, it is an honor to serve
as the facilitator for this ministry,
Fr. Jay

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY
with Fr. Daren is on vacation for the summer.
They will resume on Wednesday, **September 17th**.



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.



THE AECST PODCAST

A series dedicated to tackling tough questions our children may ask, all from a faith-based perspective, will return soon. Each episode offers thoughtful discussions to help families navigate complex topics with wisdom and compassion.

If you or someone you know in our congregation has an expertise in or a passion for any of the following subjects, we'd love to have you as a conversation partner!

This season's topics include:

Understanding Your School-Age Child
Building Friendships
Talking About Suicide, Grief, and Loss
Understanding Cultural Appropriation
Bullying
Gun Violence
Honoring Difference
Wealth, Poverty, and Income Inequity
Use of Technology

Join us in creating meaningful conversations that support families in faith and life. Contact [Fr. Daren](#), to get involved.
Stay tuned for more details!

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](#).



**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: [Gladyce 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.



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 welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

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.

Our new **"TINY TYKES TEMPLE"** needs YOU! Thank you to **Sarah Shaw Thomas, Julio Rodriguez, Chelsea Selby,** and **Ashley Quetant** for joining the oversight committee! We are going to make a great team that will ensure that the Tiny Tykes Temple is available most Sundays.

You know, there's always room for one, two, or three more! Email Father Daren, associaterector@aecst.org, and let him know you can assist.

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.

Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector with special announcements? Do you know someone who does not receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](#)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Ken Bundy-Jeanes Hospital, Temple

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen - Simpson House;

Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center; Francina Norris- St. Francis Nursing Home

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison,
Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock,
Solomon Cropper, Verger Stephen Hannum, Virginia DuBrey,
Joyce Stewart, Edita Gauthney, Francina Norris,
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Patricia Holmes

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley,
Adinah Edwards, Waltier Blocker, Arlene Gray, Daryn Stewart,
Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Yvonne Sydnor,
Sharon Harper, Mary Ann Phillips, Ann Stewart,
Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez, Quincina Edmonds,
Alice Bowman Cropper

WE PRAY FOR

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

CALLING ALL YOUTH



What's an Acolyte? Am I old enough? Why do I want to be one? These and other questions can be answered by Father Daren! No prior experience is necessary to serve in the Acolyte Ministry. Rehearsals are on Sundays, immediately after service. This is an excellent opportunity for children and youth to become involved in the life of the church. Contact [Fr.Daren](#) for details.

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 provide [Fr. Daren](#) with your contact information as soon as possible, including your cell phone.
Our prayers remain with you.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

HOW CAN I 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”
2 Corinthians 9:7

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or 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 treasure. Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below.



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.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, using the QR code below, [website donations](#), downloading the Givi app, U.S. mail, or hand deliver it to the Fiscal office.

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.



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.

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

- 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
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Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
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	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
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Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
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Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
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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