



**SING
TO THE LORD
A NEW SONG;
SING TO THE LORD,
ALL THE EARTH. PSALM 96:1**



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
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

“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 Twelfth 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. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. 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. Whomever 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.

Faithfully,
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw,
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

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

From the Rector:

The mode of receiving holy communion has returned to the sacrament being placed in each person's mouth by the priest or Eucharistic Minister. If only a blessing is desired and not communion, please cross your chest with your arms.



SUMMER PARISH HOURS (July and August)

Administrative Offices and Church will be open

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Parish Offices and Church are closed on Fridays and Saturdays. If you have an emergency, please leave a message on the church voicemail which is regularly monitored.

RE-IMAGINING SUMMER WORSHIP

During July and August we are reimagining our weekly worship by using a combination of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and hymnals in place of bulletins. Together we will become more familiar with the BCP and all its beauty.



**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](#) or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

Fr. Shaw is away on Holiday. Any emergencies should be directed to Fr. Evans.

Pictures from the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 2023





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

CONDOLENCES

The funeral service for **Aleatha Wilson** will be held here at St. Thomas on **September 7, 2023**, at 10:00 AM. Please continue to pray for the family.

Our condolences to Carolyn Summers and her family on the death of her sister, **Shirley Irene Smith**. May her soul, rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a monthly Vestry meeting via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to vestryclerk@aecst.org at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.

**Have you been away from church for a while?
Do you know of individuals who have been missing
and need reclaiming?**

**Come join us on Homecoming Sunday!
Please reach out to those who have been missing since
the Pandemic and invite them to Homecoming Sunday.**

**Vacation will be over soon and it's time to come back
to the House of the Lord.**



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



Homecoming Sunday 2023

"Celebrating 231 Years
of relevant and vibrant ministry"

All onboard the AECST EXPRESS!!!!

September 10, 2023 - 10:00 AM
(Reception to follow Service)

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Episcopal
Community
Services

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



AUGUST
31
2023

ST. BARNABAS COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTER
6006 GIRARD AVE, PHILA, PA

FREE & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

3 PM
TO
6 PM

School Supplies • Face Painting • Games and Prizes • Cotton Candy • Popcorn • DJ • Hula Hoop Competition • Food and Drinks • Health and Wellness Activities for the Whole Family Exhibitors And More! One Bookbag Per Student While Supplies Last • Child Must Be Present

FOR MORE INFORMATION



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

Call 215-528-5410

Email sbm@ecsphilly.org



SISTERHOOD GUILD Purse



BYOE - Cabaret Style

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 AT 1:00 - 4:00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30PM, COST \$25.00

*** NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

ANDERSON HALL

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA PA 19151

*** NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED**



EDUCATION SUNDAY

"KEEPING WISE EYES ON THE PRIZE:
ADVOCATING
FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN"

ANNUAL
BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, 10:00 A.M.



Speaker:
Deidre R. Farmbry, Ed.D.
Former Interim Superintendent of
The School District of Philadelphia

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SAINT THOMAS CHAPTER

A Celebration of God's Love, Grace and Glory!

75 + 1 YEARS!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
1 PM - 4 PM**

**ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF
PRAISE, MUSIC, JOY, REFLECTIONS, AND more...**

**AT THE BEAUTIFUL BELMONT MANSION
2000 BELMONT MANSION DRIVE
PHILADELPHIA**

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE 'CROWN'!

**DELICIOUS LUNCH BY BROWN'S KITCHENS
TO ATTEND: \$60 PER PERSON
-NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR-**

JOIN US! CONTACT:

MONICA LEWIS JONES: MBJ03@GMAIL.COM

DEBORAH MATTHEWS: DEBMADANCO@VERIZON.NET

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THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

CHURCH SCHOOL RETURNS!

OCTOBER 1st, 2023

CALLING ALL AECST
YOUTH AGES 4 THRU HIGH SCHOOL
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL THEME FOR 2023

“EXCITING STORIES OF THE BIBLE”



REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 13, 2023
IN PERSON OR USING OUR REGISTRATION LINK
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/44FHDmXzFK6ATNUFA](https://forms.gle/44FHDmXzFK6ATNUFA)

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The registration form may be found [here](#)

Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited 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](#).

From August 3-11, Leaders of our St. Thomas Chapter of the Girls Friendly Society traveled to South Africa to attend the 2023 GFS World Council. They visited Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Soweto.





FLEA Market

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE WOMEN'S DAY MARKETPLACE

New DATE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

[RAIN DATE: 10.21.23]

9am-4pm

*Held on the Grounds of The Historic
African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Church
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151*

**Showcase your unique Crafts,
Collectibles, Vintage
and Gift items...
and turn them into cash!**

**Reserve your
Space Today!**
(before 10.11.23)

To receive your reservation form

Contact:

Yvonne Caldwell White
luycs@icloud.com

Deborah Matthews
debmadanco@verizon.net

*Hosted by the
2023 AECST Women's Day Committee*

*The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw - 17th Rector
Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans - Associate Rector*

*Bring your
unwanted
Gold, Silver &
Diamond
Jewelry
And
a certified
jeweler will
appraise it and
you'll get
CASH on the
spot!*

**\$30.00
BYOT**
*(Space & bring
your own Table)*

\$35.00
**Reserve space
+ Table**
*(Table will be
provided for you)*

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 who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. 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](#).

AECST/CHOSEN 300 Community OUTREACH

Calling Volunteers to Serve @ Chosen 300 locations

Arrive at 4:30pm – Directions will be given – Completed by 7:30pm, 2023 SERVING DATES :



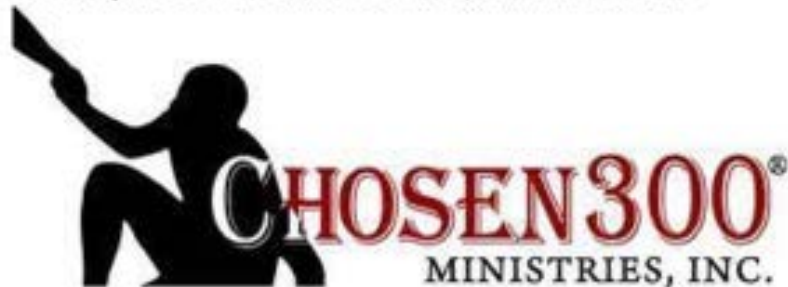
Friday , July 14th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17th : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Friday, Nov. 17th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20th: Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104



For Any Questions, please contact Dr. Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766

"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 21:10
"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!

Are you passionate about doing ministry among and with youth and children? Are you a warm, welcoming, and willing person who has a growing relationship with Christ? Then we ask you to prayerfully discern whether God may be calling you to be our next Church School Superintendent. For more information please contact [Fr. Daren](#), the Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministry.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in Loving memory of our **Trulear, George, Moore, Stokes, and Walker family Ancestors.**

Given by: The Reunion Families - Trulear, George, Moore, Stokes, and Walker families.

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

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of paper for more names.)

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$ _____

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER (VISITOR)

Do you have a special calling for visiting sick and shut-in members of St. Thomas? Would you be interested in becoming one of our commissioned members to take the sacrament (communion) to those at home? If you feel such a special calling, please speak with the rector or contact him via email to prayerfully discern such a calling.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS
Readings for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 13, 2023

Readings for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023

The First Lesson: [Genesis 45:1-15](#)
[Psalms 133](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 11:1-2a,29-32](#)
The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 15:\(10-20\),21-28](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of August 21, 2023

Monday - [John 5:19-29](#)

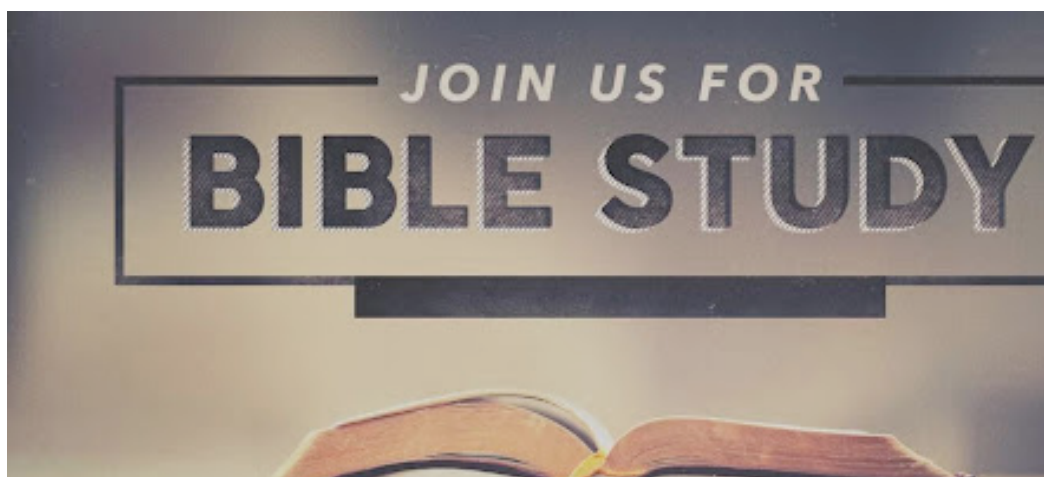
Tuesday - [John 5:30-47](#)

Wednesday - [John 6:1-15](#)

Thursday - [John 6:16-27](#)

Friday - [John 6:27-40](#)

Saturday - [John 6:41-51](#)



AECST BIBLESTUDY MEETING WITH FR. JAY
will not meet in July and August.

Our St. Thomas Catto Ministry Leadership Team

Ernestine Johnson



Wendella Fox



Ted Smith





Attention!! Attention!! Your Vote Matters!! Come Join the Catto Ministry

We hope that the Summer is going well for you and yours. The Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry is a non-partisan ministry that honors the legacy of Octavius Catto, who was a member of St. Thomas, a civil rights activist who registered Black men to vote, spearheaded the effort to integraterolley cars in Philadelphia and accomplished so much more.

He was murdered after voting on Election Day October 10, 1871, by an angry mob who didn't want Black men to vote.

The objective of the Catto Ministry is to provide Voter Education and to promote civic engagement. You may have heard that during the Spring 2023, we focused our efforts on the Philadelphia Primary – the Road to the Primary VOTING WITH PURPOSE -- by (1) fifteen members of St. Thomas participated in the Mayoral Forum hosted by POWER Interfaith and joined more than 700 members from more than 40 churches [the largest gathering to hear Mayoral candidates]; (2) hosted a forum where we learned about the responsibilities of the City Controller as well as the City Commissioner; (3) hosted a forum where we heard from judicial candidates about the duties of judges; (4) hosted a forum where we learned about the Mayor's responsibilities for a \$6 Billion dollar budget; how to fill out a mail-in ballot correctly; and the opportunity to practice using the new electronic poll book for in-person

voting; discussed the ballot questions; and (5) developed and distributed a voter's guide about which positions were on the ballot and the responsibilities of each office, ballot questions, etc.

Exciting activities are planned and we want you to join us with your ideas, and enthusiasm, bring a friend or two, to be an integral part of this crucial ministry for members of St. Thomas and for our community. Won't you join us?? We are planning to meet in September. In the meantime, if you are interested, if you have questions, please contact [Wendela Fox](mailto:Wendela.Fox@stthomas.org) at 215-880-4936 or wpfox3008@verizon.net. You can find out more about this Ministry in the Spearhead.

Ernestine Johnson, Wendella Fox, Ted Smith
Catto Ministry Leadership Team

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch [Past Services](#) and [Highlights](#) from past services.

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. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

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-as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office 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](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

In Hospice Care: Ruth Moses

IN REHAB:

Linda Holmes - St. Ignatius Rehab; Helena Allen - Simpson House.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriguez, Stephen Hannum, Inez Turner.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Joe Stevenson, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut, Joan Hall, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds, Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson, Cathy Stafford, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Teri Taylor, Tyrone Keller, Seminarian David King, Conchetta Brewer, Joyce Jackson, Helena Allen, Cassandra Ruffin, Lisa Woodley, Fr. Darryl James, Joe Stevenson.

WE PRAY FOR

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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please remember to maintain your pledged financial giving during the summer months of travel!

Parishioners, please remember to include your envelope number as well as your name on your offering envelope. The number is especially important. If you don't have your envelope number please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks so much for your help with this. [Judy Tillman](#)

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or [email](#), **please do so ASAP**. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. Judy Tillman

A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you could slot their envelopes. Thank you

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 or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).

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

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

- 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, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **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.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. 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.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link [Click>](#) or send an email to our [Fiscal Administrator](#). Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

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 Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administor	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tigattorneys.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	Dottie Archey	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	Joe Stevens	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.royellison@gmail.com
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	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
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 - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
William Burke
Deadra Cannon
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Marie Golson
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Jonathan Muse
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Conchetta Brewer
Ronnie Collins
Eugene Golson
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Pamela Johnson
Patricia Lynch
Cynthia Muse
Darryle "Bobby" Tillman

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 re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.