




THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP
MEN'S DAY 
CELEBRATION



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023, 10 AM
“BUILDING A PATH FOR OUR YOUTH”
MINISTER SOLOMON JONES, AUTHOR & RADIO HOST
SPEAKER

*PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL MEN'S DAY DONATION
OF \$25, \$50, \$75 OR \$100, BASED ON YOUR COMFORT LEVEL

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 (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 2023**

“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 **First Sunday of Advent and our Annual Men’s Day Celebration. We welcome Solomon Jones, Minister, Newspaper Columnist, and Radio Host.**

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

2023 ANNUAL MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 3rd



Important Note from the Rector:

Please help us to end the year without a deficit by completing your 2023 financial pledge by **December 31st, 2023**. If you are unsure of your balance, please contact Jeanette in the Fiscal Office.

Any Group, Guild, Ministry, or Fellowship wishing to have a flyer placed in the bulletin will have to provide the copies to the office no later than Wednesday for insertion in the Sunday bulletin.

2024 U.S. Election Year

As our country prepares for the upcoming 2024 elections, please consider joining our own St. Thomas O. V. Catto Education Ministry. For more information, please speak with Wendella Fox, Ernestine Johnson, or Ted Smith.

ENORMOUS THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR 2024 FAITHFUL GIVING CARD!!!!!!!!!!!!

Is your name listed? If not, submit yours now by using the [link](#).

2024 Faithful Giving Cards

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2024 Faithful Giving cards. Is your name included? Please submit yours today.

Patricia Akins	Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Angela Holloway
Alister Allman	William & Quincina Edmonds	Patricia Holmes
Constance Anderson	Carol Etlén	Fleta Howell
Dorothy Archey	Erkia Etlén	Robert Hugh
Jeanne J. Arnold	Fr. Daren Evans	Donald & Patricia Hunt
Rev. Paul Bach	Larry & Deidre Farmby	Diana Hutchins
Dr. Timothy Barksdale	Loretta Ferguson	Kim Hyde
Brenda Battle	Thomas & Meredith Fitzpatrick	D. Lynn Joell
Jennifer Bell	Marcekiné Fitzwilliam	Bobby Johnson
Susan Ben	Marcia Forde	Calvin Johnson
Deborah Billups	Angela Foster	Dr. Frank Johnson
Walter Blocker	Stephen & Donna Foster	Kelvin & Pamela Johnson
Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker	Wendella Fox	Lemont Johnson
Deborah Booker-Mathews	Norman & Nikki Franke	Sheryl Johnson
Guy Booth	Barry & Deborah Frye	Brenda Johnson-Best
Ricardo Bostic	Irenda Gates	Bettie Jones
I. Page Bowser	Edita Gauthney	Donna Jones
Michélanne Bradwell	Edward & Kathryn Geiger	Monica Lewis Jones
Theresa Bramwell	Elaine Gillison	Richard Jones
Conchetta Brewer	Barbara L. Glenn	Robert & Joyce Jones
Lorita Brockington	Swanie Goldsmith	Clarence Jones, Jr.
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Eugene & Marie Golson	Sheila Jones-Smith
Carmen Brown	Jessica Golson	Winsome Josephs
Marilyn Brown	Chad & Toya Gordon	Tyrone Keller
Robert & Jayne Brown	Josephine Graham	Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
William H. Brown, III	Clarice Grant	Jurdina Koiler
Sandra Bryant Miller	Arlene Gray	John Kortue
Sharon Bullock	Linda Greaves Street	Paula Lamb
Kenneth Bundy	Carole W. Green	Gwendolyn Langford
William Burke, Jr.	Michele Green	Nancy Lee
Yvonne Caldwell White	PJ Grier	Doris Levin
Cornelia Camp	Thomasina Hack	Joyce Levin
Deadra Cannon	Joan Perry Hall	Steven & Jameela Lewis
Charlotte Card	Lisa Sharon Harper	Karen Leys
Phyllis B. Cater	Sharon Harper	Landon Leys
Eleanor Chestnut	Carole Townsend Harrell	Michelle Lofton
Suzanne Closson	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris	Adrienne Logan
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Thomas & Lynn Harris	C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
Ronald Coleman	Walter & Nicole Harris	James Lowe
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	Katrina Harris Marshall	Patricia Lynch
Ronnie H. Collins	Deborah Harrison	Constance Lyons
Tracy Collins, M.D.	Joyce B. Harrison	Katrice Mathurin
Gwendolyn Cottman	Richard & Gwenda Hart	Sheila Sawyer McCullough
Albert Dandridge, III	Gregory Hayes	Denise McDaniel-Henderson
Clare Mae Daniels	Maurice Hayes	Cheryl McIntosh
Carl & Mary Dean	Rene Hayes	Michael McIntosh
Dr. Rollo Dillworth	Quentin Heyward	Denise McKinney
Musu Doe	Erica Hill-Yates	Denise McKinney-Gibson
Barbara Douglass	Ashley & Lena Hines	Laura McNeill

Minister Solomon Jones

Biography



Minister Solomon Jones accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior as a pre-teen at Peniel United Methodist Church. He was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church, and was licensed to preach the Gospel on April 2, 2017 at Great Commission Church. He now serves as Minister of Evangelism at Great Commission Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Larry L. Anderson, Jr.

Minister Jones has since delivered messages at numerous churches, including Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Calvary Christian Church, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Tabor A.M.E, and more.

Professionally, he is an Essence bestselling author and award-winning journalist who appears frequently on CNN. He has also appeared on Nightline, NPR, HLN, TV One, the BBC and Al Jazeera. His story was featured in a Verizon advertising campaign called Realize, which spotlighted entrepreneurs who overcame adversity to succeed.

Jones is the host of *Wake Up With WURD*, which airs weekday mornings on WURD Radio from 7am to 10am. He is also Community Affairs Director for Radio One Philadelphia, and hosts *Your Voice*, a weekly show on Classix 107.9 FM. He holds a B.A. in journalism from Temple University, and pens a column on race and social justice for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Jones is the author of 11 books, including his latest, *Ten Lives Ten Demands: Life and Death Stories and a Black Activist's Blueprint for Racial Justice* (Beacon Press, 2021).

Jones created ManUpPHL, a non-profit that partners with the Philadelphia School District and criminal justice agencies to reach those most likely to be impacted by gun violence. ManUpPHL pays stipends to participants, provides them with mentoring, and assists them in finding employment.

Jones began his professional writing career in 1993 while living at the Ridge Avenue Homeless Shelter, and went on to serve on the boards of the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness and The Doe Fund—an organization that helps homeless men reclaim their lives.

Jones is a national voice on race and politics. He is a recipient of Temple University's "Lew Klein" award, the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists "Online Journalist of the Year" award, the Father's Day Rally Committee's "Father of the Year" award, the Knight Foundation's "Black Male Leadership" award, and Community College of Philadelphia's "Distinguished Leadership" award.

Jones is a married father of three and lives in Philadelphia. Most importantly, he is a born-again believer.

Regina Meacham-Devero	Cary Smith
William Meek	Ted Smith
Deidre Milanes	Catherine Stafford
Colin Mitchell	H. Lyn Starr
Donald & Dorothy Roberts Moore	Daryn Stewart
Elsie Moto	Joyce Ann Stewart
Cynthia Muse	Shelly & Ann Stewart
Jonathan Muse	Brandon Stiff
Mueni Mwanzia	Arthur & Michele Sudler
Vincent & Lisa Napoleon	Carolyn Summers
Francina Norris	Lynda Tapper-Smith
Deborah Otey	Dr. Monica Taylor
Carolyn Paige	Rosita Taylor
Samuel & Deidre Patterson	Cheryl Taylor Stiles
Andrea Petrocelli-Fields	Gloria Thomas
Eugene Phillips	Calvin Thompson
Kim Phillips	Darryle & Judy Tilman
Mary Ann Phillips	Teri Tillman
Simone Pollard	Harold Townsend, III
Stephen Pugh	Arnott Trotman
Michael Pyles	Justin & Lee Ann Trotman
Karen Ragland	Louise Trotman
Ella Randall	Elizabeth Trulear
Dolores Redmond	Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Clarence Rice	Robin Vann-Lynch
Caryn Rivers	Karen Vaughn
Victoria Rivers	Evelyn Washington
Shonalie Roberts	Joe & Alexcia Wells
Rosalind Roberts Smalls	Barbara Wiley
Julio Rodriguez & Alexandra McFadden	Michelle Wilkinson
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin	Julia Williams
Yvonne Ruiz	R. Seth Williams
Mercedes Sadler	Stephanie Williamson
Edwin & Sharahn Santana	Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Georgia Sawyer	Charlene Wiltshire
Deborah Seay	Denise Wing
Stephanie Seay Wood	Diane Winkfield
Nancy Jean Sewell	Shirley Winkfield
The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw	Edgar Wise
Leah Sheppard	Wanda Wood
Kayma Sherman-Knuckels	Lisa Woodley
Judith Simkins	Khalita Wright
Arlene Singletary	Paula Wright
Velva Daniels Smalls	I. Bernadette Wyche
Anita Smith	Alice Young
	M. Elaine Young

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

<u>Yearly Income</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>10%</u>
\$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



OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Sharon and Lisa Sharon Harper, on the death of their cousin, **Sheila Elizabeth Jenkins**. May the soul of Sheila rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Gerald and Jenelle (Wilson) Johnson and their families on the death of their father and father-in-law, **Gerald Johnson, Sr.** May the soul of Gerald Sr. rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Bernard Cummings, Kathy Johnson Clinton, and their families on the death of their mother and aunt, **Adele Cummings**. Her funeral will be held at St. Thomas on Friday, December 8, 2023. The viewing will be at 10:00 AM. Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Adele rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Lisa Woodley and Irving Stevenson, and their families on the death of their father, **Joseph Stevenson**, director of the St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble. May the soul of Joseph rest in peace and rise in glory. Arrangements are pending. Please pray for the family.

We welcome **Thomas** and **Lynn Fields Harris** and **Michelle Townes Lofton** as new members of our church family. Their shepherds are Bobby and Judy Tilman and Sharon Bullock. We look forward to getting to know them.



**Thomas and
Lynn Fields Harris**



Michelle Townes Lofton

MEMBER INFORMATION FORMS

In an effort to get correct member information, we are asking **EVERY** parishioner to fill out a Member form. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Please fill out the [form](#) and return it to the [church office email](#). Please fill out 1 form for each adult member of your family, children may go on one of the forms. Thanks so much for your help with this.

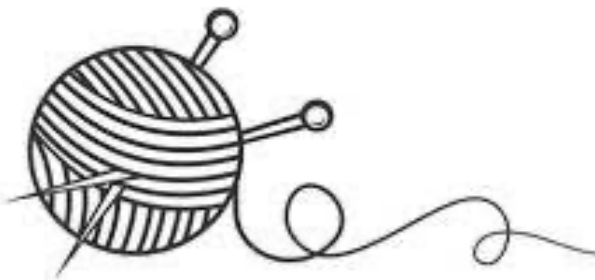
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Festive Christmas Eve Service
The Christ Mass
Sunday, December 24th 7:00 PM

STEWARDSHIP:

During Stewardship Month please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We need strong support for our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card by going on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#). You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount are placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) me. We appreciate your help with this.

The Anti-Violence Legislative [Campaign](#) Letter for November, the [QR Code](#) for State Representatives, and a [flyer](#) for a Day of Prayer and Action: Harrisburg Rally Agenda & Hotel Information can be found on the table in the back of the church or please see Phyllis Cater for more information.



KNITTING CLUB:

Is back in the Absalom Jones House on Tuesdays from **10:00 AM - Noon**. Bring your yarn, and patterns and join in on the fun!

Pictures from the Last Sunday after Pentecost, November 26, 2023 Youth and Young Adult Sunday





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



**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.

**A CALL TO LEADERSHIP -
SHARE YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITY**

Nominations for Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry Positions, Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery, and Delegates and an alternate delegate to the 2024 Diocesan convention will be accepted from **December 10, 2023, until January 21, 2024.**

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

Annual Men's Day Celebration

Guest Speaker: Minister Solomon Jones

Dec. 10th - Second Sunday of Advent.

Dec. 17th - Third Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday)

Church School Christmas

Presentation. A very special guest will be present at the end of the service to bring Holiday Greetings to all.

Dec. 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent- 10:00 AM,
Virtual prayer.

Christmas Eve Christ-Mass - 7:00 PM

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 10:00 AM. You can also watch [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, 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.

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](#).

THIS WEEK AT AECST - December 3, 2023

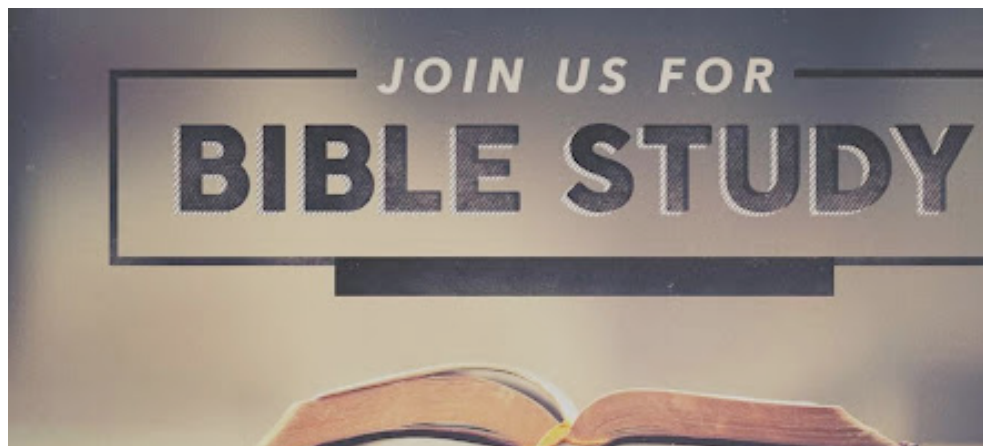
Tuesday 12/5 - -Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7:00 PM

**Wednesday 12/6 - Young Adult Bible Study
with Fr. Daren 7:00 PM**

Friday 12/8 - Funeral of Adele Cummings.
Viewing at 10:00 AM Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM.

Saturday 12/9 - Community Mass Choir - 10:00 AM
Scouts - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Sunday 12/10 - PDG #1 - After church



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#).

The St. Thomas Gospel Choir will join the “No Name Pops” and guest conductor, Enrico Lopez-Yanez for “A Very Philly Christmas” at the Kimmel Center.

THE DATES FOR THE CONCERTS:

Saturday, Dec. 2nd 3:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 9th 3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10th 6:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 15th 2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 16th 3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 17th 2:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 22nd 2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 23rd 7:30 PM



[The Box Office link](#) at the Academy of Music is open daily from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

To purchase discount tickets: You may purchase discount tickets either at the Academy Box Office or online. The 20% off Discount Ticket Code for online purchases:
PHILLYSPECIAL

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for:

Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

The First Lesson: : [Isaiah 64:1-9](#)

[Psalm 80:1-7,16-18](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

The Holy Gospel: : [Mark 13:24-37](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the

Week of December 4, 2023

Monday - [Luke 20:1-8](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 20:9-18](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 20:19-26](#)

Thursday - [Luke 20:27-40](#)

Friday - [Luke 20:41-21:4](#)

Saturday - [Luke 21:5-19](#)



Young Adult Bible Study

Fr. Daren is offering a Bible Study series for Young Adults on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.

Fall Topic:

“If It’s Not About Love, It’s Not About God”

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](#).

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 Boy Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule. Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

Church School

begins at **10:00 AM**. The theme this year is: "Exciting Stories of the Bible" Registration forms may be found on the tables in the Undercroft Sunday school room or [here](#).



Nikkol Simms
Branch Advisor
njsimms@verizon.net

For more info:
<http://gfsus.org/>

Find us on Facebook!
GFS PA African
Episcopal Church of St.
Thomas

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75+ years of legacy at St. Thomas.

We meet Saturday mornings

First meeting:

September 30, 2023

11am-1pm

Membership Ages:

Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.

Junior Members: 5-13 yo.

Senior Members: 14-21 yo.

Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:

Service Projects

Girl Talks

Arts & Crafts

World Day of Prayer

Founder's Day

Mission Day

GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:

White water rafting

Theaters

Museums

Ice Skating

Segway/Ziplining

Mini Golf

Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

GFS World Council Sri Lanka 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House

Thelma Silvers - Rosemont Care Center

Dr. Thomas Snowden - Kearsley Rehab

Fr. Darryl James - Stapeley Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer,
Gwendolyn Langford, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper,
Laverne Hudson, Leotta Griffin, Shirley Winkfield,
Lemont Johnson, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall, Cathy Stafford,
Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

As we enter the Season of Advent, flowers are only placed on the Altar for Rose Sunday, December 17, 2023. Please see below for **Poinsettia** and **Christmas Tree** information.

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 \$ _____

Your gift of Christmas poinsettias and altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the holidays and will be a beautiful tribute to your loved ones, or a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. Please fill out (Print) the form below and return it to Alfreda Brockman or Clare Mae Daniels at 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Phila., PA 19151

Please do not place it in the collection plate. **DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023**

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @125.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar @ 85.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium @ 45.00

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount\$_____

Poinsettia and Christmas Tree Adoption

I would like to purchase a Poinsettia @ \$25.00 (5 names per plant)

I would like to adopt a Christmas Tree @\$35.00 per tree.

Please PRINT the names below:

Please circle one: In memory of / In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$_____

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](#).

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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.

FROM STEWARSHIP: 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.

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

“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) **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 Fiscal Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 10 am-2 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.
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the website 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	davidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
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THE VESTRY

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Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

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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.