

AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Mardi Grass MASS



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 LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY /
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY AND MARDI GRAS JAZZ
STYLE MASS
February 19, 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 Last Sunday after
the Epiphany / Transfiguration Sunday and
Mardi Gras Jazz Style Mass.**

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
or the [Order of Service](#)
for this Sunday.

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S MARDI GRAS STYLE SERVICE...

“Mardi Gras” and “Carnival season” refers to events of the Carnival celebrations beginning on or after Epiphany and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”, referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. In English, the day is sometimes referred to as Shrove Tuesday, from the word shrive, meaning “confess.”

The fleur-de-lis (center cover): The fleur-de-lis Christian symbol is associated with the lily which represents purity, which in turn represents the Virgin Mary. Because it is comprised of three (3) petals and three (3) sepals it represents the Holy Trinity. In Christian art it is also the attribute of the Archangel Gabriel.

The Beads: why do they wear beads? In the early 1800's the first Mardi Gras parade took place, as did the evolution of the beads, although it is stated that the tradition began in the 1920's when Rex (King of the Carnival) decided to throw necklaces instead of medallions. these beautiful glass beads were grouped with almonds and coated in sugar and thrown along with other confections into the peasant crowds who then begged for them on the side of the road. The beads thrown now are made of plastic. And no, you don't have to raise your shirt to get them. That's just something some people feel they need to do. Contrary to popular belief, there is no direct link between today's Mardi Gras practices and the early pagan festivals.

The Masks: Why do people wear masks? - Historically, masks allowed people of lower classes to mix undetected with aristocrats, men to dress as women, humans to look like animals, all of which would have been considered taboo outside of the Carnival season. Carnival practices include wearing masks and costumes, overturning social conventions, dancing, parades, etc.

The Colors: What do the colors mean? The traditional colors of Mardi Gras are purple (Justice); green (faith); gold (power). The accepted story behind the original selection of these colors originates from 1872 when the Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff of Russia visited New Orleans. During his stay he was given the honor of selecting the official Mardi Gras colors by the Krewe of Rex... thus these colors also became the colors of the House of Romanoff.

So let us eat, drink and be merry... for on Ash Wednesday, we diet.



CELEBRATING A FEW OF OUR HEROES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
(IS JUST NOT LONG ENOUGH)



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

AECST BLACK HISTORY NOTE 2/19/2023

Frederick Douglass, *In Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, credits Louise Dorsey, for giving him the courage “to face down [racial] hostility and attend President [Abraham] Lincoln’s inauguration in 1865.” Dr. Roger Lane. *William Dorsey’s Philadelphia and Ours: On the Past and Future of the Black City in America* [1991].

“Colored children should be taught by their own.”Caroline R. LeCount [n.d.]

Historians Roger Lane* and David W. Blight* both recount the participation of Frederick Douglass and Louise Dorsey during Lincoln’s second inaugural events. Douglass remembered how he and Louise Dorsey, St. Thomas parishioner and wife of successful caterer Thomas J. Dorsey, were awaiting Lincoln’s address when he saw Lincoln point him out to Vice President Andrew Johnson. Blight suggests that Johnson, inebriated, responded to Lincoln displaying what Douglass interpreted as “bitter contempt.” Afterwards, Lane writes, Douglass decided to challenge racial custom and go to the White House to congratulate the President. Seemingly, Mrs. Dorsey, who possibly helped Douglass secure introductions and housing in Washington, D.C., was his only willing companion. “[T]ogether,” Douglass said, they “joined in the grand procession of citizens from all parts of the country [moving] slowly towards the executive mansion.” At the White House, however, they were prohibited from entering until another guest alerted Lincoln about Douglass’ predicament. Douglass said that with Lincoln’s intervention “Mrs. Dorsey and I walked into the spacious East Room, amid a scene of elegance ... never witnessed before.” It was then that Lincoln, seeing Douglass, greeted him and asked for his opinion of the inaugural address saying “... there is no man in the country whose opinion I value more ...” to which Douglass replied “Mr. Lincoln, that was a sacred effort.” Blight writes that the inaugural speech “left Douglass breathless,” that he regarded it more “like a sermon,” and was “stunned by its biblical foundations.”

St. Thomas member Caroline Rebecca LeCount** – denied a seat on a streetcar in 1867 because of her race – forced a local magistrate to uphold a law passed by the Pennsylvania legislature that outlawed racial segregation on streetcars. Her fiancée, Octavius Catto, had worked with Frederick Douglass recruiting Black soldiers for the Union cause. Catto had also galvanized support for the public transit desegregation law.

LeCount, like Catto, was a graduate of the Institute for Colored Youth (now Cheyney University). Also like Catto, she had been valedictorian of her class. She embarked on a career as an educator and an equal rights activist. As a school principal LeCount advocated for the equal treatment of Black educators and championed their unique role in educating Black children.

*Dr. Roger Lane is Professor Emeritus of History at Haverford College. With the permission of Fr. Robert E. DuBose, Jr. Dr. Lane used the AECST archives while doing research for his book. Dr. David W. Blight, author of the acclaimed *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, is the 1954 Professor of American History and the Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University.

** Rename Taney Street as LeCount Street(renametaney.com) seeks to rename Taney Street after Caroline LeCount. Taney Street was named in 1858 after Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, author of the decision in the *Dred Scott* case that held that African Americans were “altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit.” The group is also seeking to erect a headstone on Caroline LeCount’s grave in Eden Cemetery.

From the Rector: Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice.

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. Hand sanitizer is also available.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: The only doors for entry on Sunday mornings are: the Front doors of the church and the front handicap door of the church. Please refrain from using other doors at this time.

**The Parish Annual Meeting, Sunday, Feb 19, 2023,
following 10:00 AM Service.**

ANY MEMBERS wanting a copy of the 2022 Parish Booklet please contact the Parish Office to have one emailed. You may also come to the office for a copy.

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Karen Leys and family on the death of her adopted mother, **Icelyn Irons**, from Kingston Jamaica. Please send her traveling mercies as she travels for the funeral. May the soul of **Icelyn**, rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

to Pastor Brandon Joynes, Tiffany, their son, Zaire (Members of the Gospel Choir) and family on the death of Brandon's sister, **Johrae Thomas**. May the soul of **Johrae**, rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY / MARCH

Sunday, February 19th

Mardi Gras Mass
Parish Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday
Blessing and Imposition of Ashes / Holy Eucharist;
12 Noon and 6:00 P.M

Sunday, February 26th

First Sunday in Lent
Scout Sunday/Youth Sunday
Installation of Officers - Men's Ministry and Fellowship

Sunday, March 5th

Installation and Blessing of the New Vestry Members



**PLEASE JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY DURING LENT
2023 Lenten Series**

“The Ten Commandments, Re-Imagined”

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. - Holy Eucharist / Presentation / Discussion.

March 1 - Introduction to the Ten Commandments, Re-Imagined.

March 8 - You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not steal.

March 15 - You shall not commit adultery. You shall not commit murder. Honor your father and your mother.

March 22 - Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

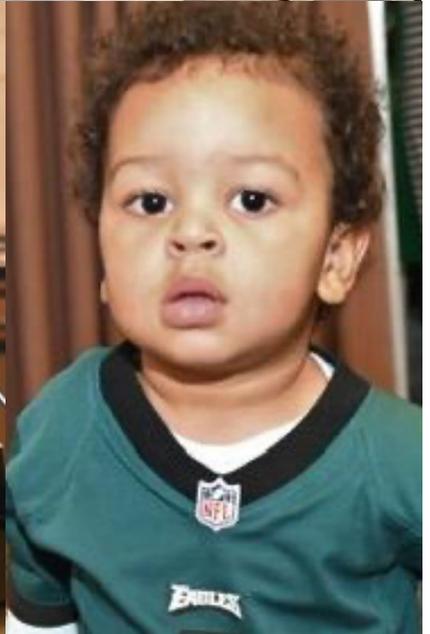
March 29 - You shall not make for yourself any idol. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

A Short Video Presentation of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's recent Visit to Philadelphia and St. Thomas on Sunday, February 5, 2023



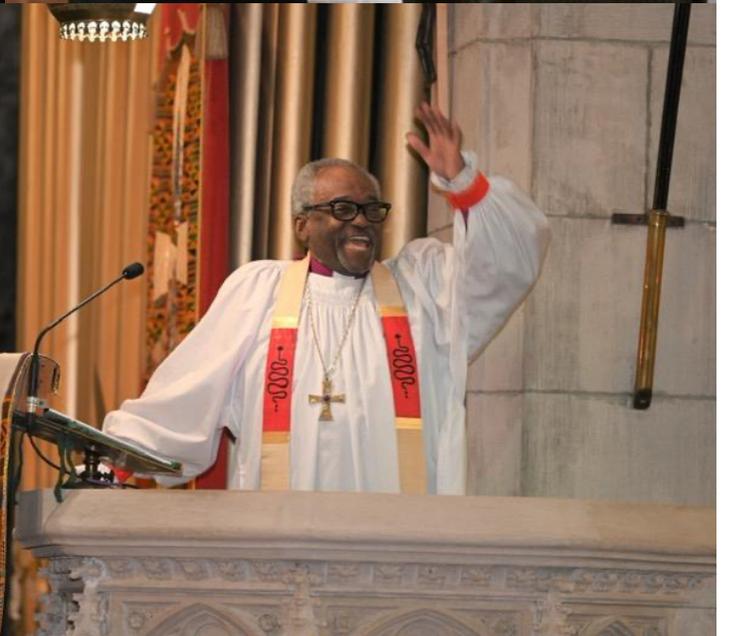
PICTURES FROM THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, LOVE SUNDAY - IN CELEBRATION OF VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023





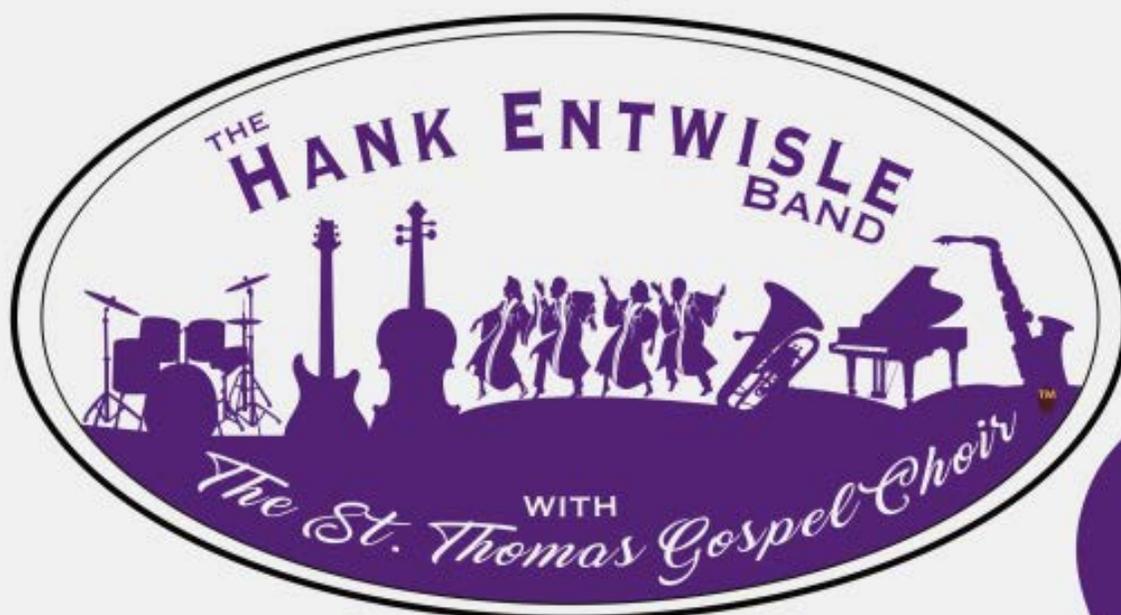






Please Support
Johns Hopkins Nursing
And
Baltimore Area First Responders

By Attending A
Special Concert
Featuring



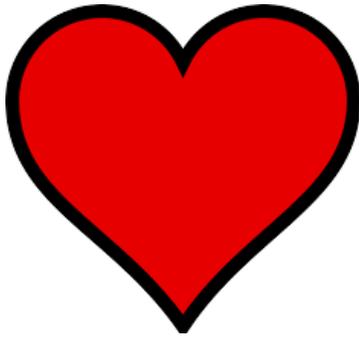
SIXTY VOICES
THIRTY INSTRUMENTS
ONE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE™

Saturday February 18, 2023 at 8 pm
The Hippodrome Theatre at The France-Merrick Performing Arts Center

**THE BAND AND CHOIR COVER AN AMAZING
RANGE OF MUSIC FROM ROCK, BLUES,
INDIE, JAZZ, ACOUSTIC, POP,
R&B, MOTOWN AND SOUL-SIZZLING GOSPEL**

Make ticket requests to: hankandchoir@gmail.com

**hankentwisleband.com
ZenMed Entertainment, LLC**



CHOSEN 300

“Have a Heart for the Homeless” Fundraiser

Our 2023 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will begin in “Heart Month” on February 5th.

The funds will provide meals to be served at the Chosen 300 Spring Garden St. site and the Lancaster Ave, site. Checks should be

made payable to: **AECST Chosen 300**: Put Chosen 300 and your envelope number on the memo line. Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church, 6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151. Attention: Chosen 300 or place your check in the collections plate.

Questions: scmci@aol.com



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS!

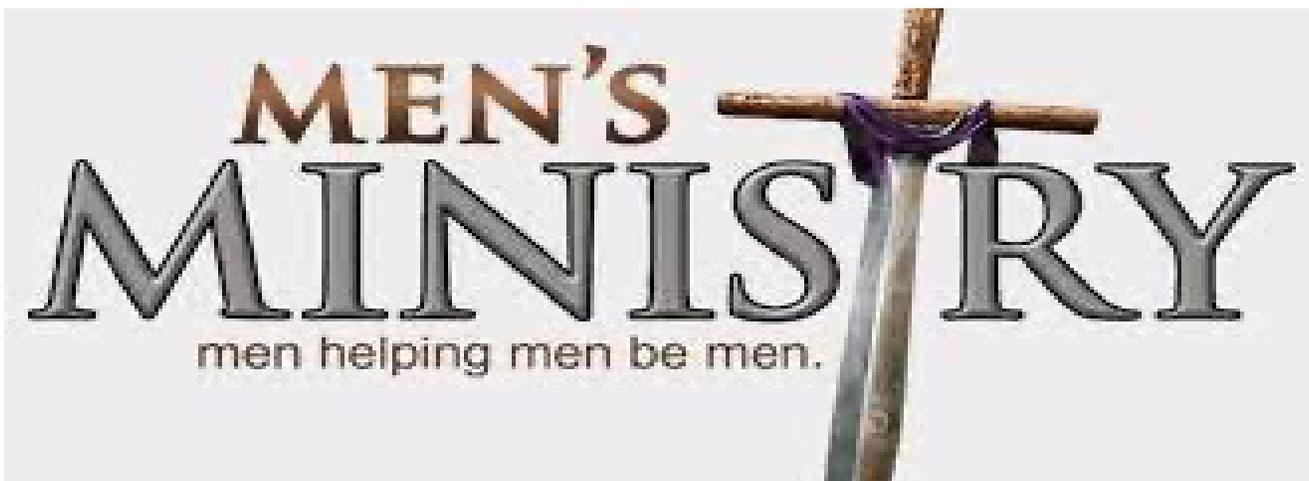
(AGES 18 YEARS - 99 YEARS)

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO JOIN THE RECTOR FOR A
"BREAKFAST MEET AND GREET"

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023; 8:30 AM

Please RSVP ASAP:
Rector@aecst.org
or place the RSVP form
in the Sunday offering plate.

THE
LOCATION
WILL BE
ANNOUNCED
THE DAY BEFORE
THE EVENT.



MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Men's Ministry & Fellowship IN PERSON MEETING
on **Saturday, February 18th.**

Recognition and Installation of New Officers
Sunday, February 19th.

MM&F will be collecting Membership Dues for 2023.
Dues are \$35.00

**ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**

Breakfast with the Rector.
Saturday, March 18, 2023; 8:30 AM.
Please RSVP to 1792@aecst.org

There will be a Network for New Music Concert in
Anderson Hall on Monday, **February 27, 2023**
at 7:30 PM.

Scriptural music guided improvisations,
and premier music
by our own, Dr. JaFluellen.
The concert is free and open to the public.

The UBE is still collecting new or gently used suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks to be used for the children in the Philadelphia Foster Care System. They will be collected each Sunday morning from **9:15 AM** until **9:45 AM** in the back entrance of the Thrift Store.

Contact persons: Conchetta Brewer 267.975.7283,
or Wendella Fox 215.880.4936.

WHERE WILL THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR BE?
STGC & the Hank Entwisle Band concert on **February 18, 2023**, at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Hall, 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 at **8:00 PM**.
For more information, please see Daryn Stewart or Waltier Blocker.

STGC presents its Annual Palm Sunday Concert, Sunday, **April 2, 2023, at 3:00 PM**. Free will offering.

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.

There will be NO GFS meeting on February 25th.
Please help support our St. Thomas GFS Branch with a love donation. Donations will go to helping them go on their Founders Day trip to Washington D.C. in March and World Council in South Africa August 3-11, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact [Nikkol Simms](#).

ALTAR FLOWERS (Please Print All Names)

Flowers on the Columbarium are In Loving Memory of my wife **Phyllis B. Johnson** given with love by your husband Bobby.

Flowers on the High Altar are given in Loving memory of **Kevin Michael David, Jr.**, on what would have been his 21st birthday, given by Patricia Akins, his grandmother.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving memory of my parents, **Nancy & Glenn Kent** and my sister, **Deborah Kent**, given by Paula Kent Boone.

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)

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @60.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar @ 50.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium @ 40.00

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount _____

A St. Thomas Health Ministry Note

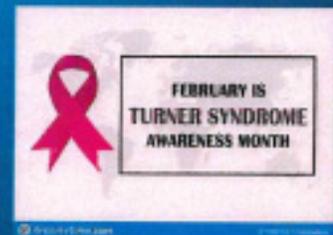
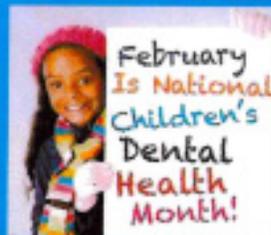
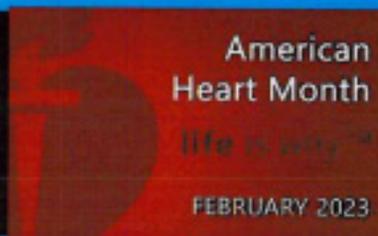
STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens).

Go on their website to schedule an appointment.



February Health Awareness



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

CHURCH SCHOOL

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 through High School. The theme for this church school year is “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or contact [Dottie Archey](#) for more information or 215 837-6941.

SCOUT TROOP #133 -

Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

The 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.

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.

JOIN THE GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY!

Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: service projects, girl talks, arts & crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips to the theater, museums, ice skating, mini golf, trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape, May, NJ. If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact our Branch Advisor, [Nikkol Simms](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)



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

**Meetings
begin
Oct. 1, 2022
11am-1pm**

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.

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

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 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](#).

**Readings for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 19, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Exodus 24:12-18](#)
[Psalm 2](#)

The Second Lesson: [2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of February 20, 2023**

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

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

Ash Wednesday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Thursday - [John 1:29-34](#)

Friday - [John 1:35-41](#)

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

**Readings for the First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7](#)
[Psalm 32](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 5:12-19](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of February 27, 2023**

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

Tuesday - [John 2:13-22](#)

Wednesday - [John 2:23-3:15](#)

Thursday - [John 3:16-21](#)

Friday - [John 3:22-36](#)

Saturday - [John 4:1-26](#)

**Readings for the Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Genesis 12:1-4a](#)
[Psalm 121](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 4:1-5,13-17](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 3:1-17](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of March 6, 2023**

Monday - [John 4:27-42](#)

Tuesday - [John 4:43-54](#)

Wednesday - [John 5:1-18](#)

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

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

Saturday - [John 7:1-13](#)

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the [Newsletter](#) sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

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.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.



AECST BIBLESTUDY WITH FR. JAY

From Fr. Jay: Tuesday, February 21st will be the last meeting until Fr. Jay returns/recover from surgery. Fr. Shaw invites the group/class to join the Lenten Teaching Series every Wednesday at 6:00 PM. The zoom address will be noted in the Sunday Service Leaflet (**Y'all know the drill, "It's In the Bulletin."**). You may also find the zoom address in the weekly Spearhead.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

HOSPITALIZED: John Shield - University of PA hospital.

N REHAB:

Ronald Coleman - Promedica Rehab, Exton, PA.
Nora Corbin- Little Flower Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriguez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates,
Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden,
Shirley Winkfield. Linda Holmes, Dr. Thomas Snowden,
Pearl Henderson, Joe Stevenson.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman,
Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson,
Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer,
Karen Ragland, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut,
Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall,
Sheryl Johnson.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last
year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium
inurnment, please contact the church office at 215-473-3065.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

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
Assistant to the Rector		
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 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
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H 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 Assistant to the Rector	Deborah Camp - Frye	1792@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.roy.ellison@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
	Lisa Steward-New	ljs210@msn.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	dneharrison04@gmail.com
Special Advisor to the Rector	Richard Jones	r724jones1@gmail.com
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Que ntin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon
Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Patricia Bantom
Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Pamela Johnson
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Patricia Akins
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Frank Johnson
Gregory Lyles
Patricia Lynch

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.