

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



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Black History Month Kick-Off Observance
Sunday, February 6, 2022
10:00 AM.



FROM THE RECTOR

Whoever you may be and where you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that you are always welcome at St. Thomas Church.

SAINT THOMAS IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE

Masks are **MANDATORY** for all in attendance. Hand sanitizer is available. The ventilation system has been changed to let in outside air. We request that all in attendance be **VACCINATED**. Unvaccinated individuals are requested to watch the Service via [Live Stream](#).

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

“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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany. Today is our Annual Black History Kick-Off Observance.

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. 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. Again, welcome! May Jesus reveal himself to you during the Season of Epiphany.

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



BLACK HISTORY MONTH TIDBITS

The celebration of Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” which was created in 1926 by **Carter G. Woodson**, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Heavyweight Champ: Jack Johnson became the first African American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908. He held onto the belt until 1915.

Self-Made Millionaire: Madam C.J. Walker was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana and became wealthy after inventing a line of African American hair care products. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories and was also known for her philanthropy.

First Lawyer: John Mercer Langston was the first Black man to become a lawyer when he passed the bar in Ohio in 1854. When he was elected to the post of Town Clerk for Brownhelm, Ohio, in 1855 Langston became one of the first African Americans ever elected to public office in America. John Mercer Langston was also the great-uncle of Langston Hughes, famed poet of the Harlem Renaissance.

Famous Protestors and Activists: Claudette Colvin: While Rosa Parks is credited with helping to spark the civil rights movement when she refused to give up her public bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955—inspiring the Montgomery Bus Boycott—the lesser-known Claudette Colvin was arrested nine months prior for not giving up her bus seat to white passengers.

First Senator: Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He represented the state of Mississippi from February 1870 to March 1871.

First Woman Representative: Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of New York. She broke ground again four years later in 1972 when she was the first major party African American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States.

Oscar Winner: In 1940, Hattie McDaniel was the first African American performer to win an Academy Award—the film industry’s highest honor—for her portrayal of a loyal slave governess in *Gone With the Wind*.

First Professional Black Baseball Player: On April 5, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He led the league in stolen bases that season and was named Rookie of the Year.

First Black Billionaire: Robert Johnson: Before Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan joined the billionaire’s club, Robert Johnson became the first African American billionaire when he sold the cable station he founded, Black Entertainment Television (BET) in 2001.

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 10:00AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).

AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
& A Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Absalom



SPEARHEAD EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, or have someone else you wish to receive, [click here](#) to subscribe. 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.

Please Join us for
A Service

of
Celebration

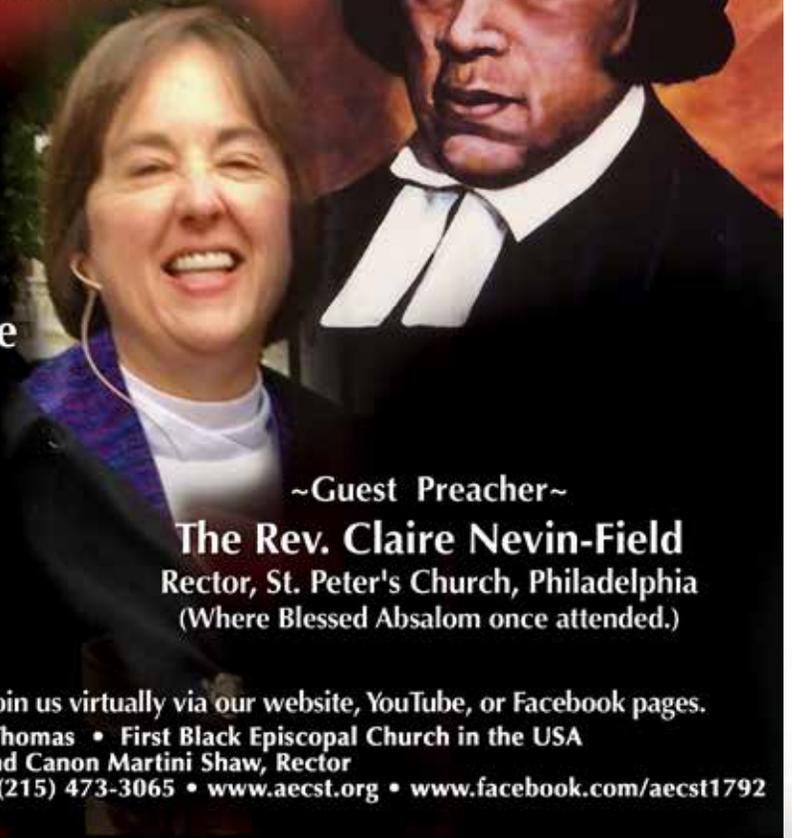
The Life and Ministry
of
The Rev. Absalom Jones
A Valentine's Day Observance
of
Love

Wear something red!

Sunday, February 13, 2022
at 10:00 am



AECST
Founded 1792



~Guest Preacher~

The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field
Rector, St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia
(Where Blessed Absalom once attended.)

If you are physically unable to attend, please join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas • First Black Episcopal Church in the USA

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

6361 Lancaster Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065 • www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/aecst1792

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to
Alfreda Brockman or Clare Mae Daniels.

(Please **do not** place in the collection plate or give to the
church office). Thank you

To place flowers: on the High Altar \$60.00

Absalom Jones Altar \$50.00, the Columbarium \$40.00

Please PRINT

In Memory of, In Thanksgiving for, Name, Envelop#, Amount.

Old Pine Conservancy Presents

Under the direction of Musical Director &
Choirmaster, Waltier Blocker

The St. Thomas Gospel Choir



A concert highlighting the vitality of African American
music from the past to the present.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 - 4:00 P.M.

Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church
412 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106



FREE EVENT!
MASKS AND
VACCINE ID
REQUIRED



HOUSE OF MIRACLES HEALING CATHEDRAL

February
20
2022
@ 4:00pm

Bishop Designated
J.C. Chandler
Honoree

Bishop
Derrick Bentford,
Guest Speaker
Baltimore MD

FOUNDERS

Day

CELEBRATION



THE SAINT THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR
GUEST CHOIR



ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT PINN MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH CHAPEL
2251 N 54ST PHILADELPHIA PA 19131

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

is now being scheduled. If you or someone you know wish to be baptized, please go to our website www.aecst.org, go to "About The AECST". Use the drop down to click on About the **Sacrament of Baptism**. All the information about baptism and the **Baptism Application Form** can be found there.



**SIXTY VOICES
THIRTY INSTRUMENTS
ONE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE™**

Presents A

**Benefit Concert
To Honor the Strength and
Commitment of the
Healthcare Team at
Johns Hopkins Medicine**

Saturday March 5, 2022
Hippodrome Theatre, Baltimore • 8 pm

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

ZenMed Entertainment, LLC



**May I Have
Your
Attention
Please**

**ATTENTION ALL GUILDS,
MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATION
PRESIDENTS:**

The Annual Parish Meeting is
Sunday, **February 27, 2022, 11:30
AM. (In-Person and via Zoom).**

Please have End of the Year Reports submitted for the Annual Parish Meeting no later than **February 14, 2022.**

Your 2021 reports should be 1 (one) page and include: Officers, Your vision, 2021 activities and meetings, plans for Re-Imagining in 2022 and any other information you would like to share.

Please send to Gladyce at: 1792@aecst.org. During the Annual Meeting elections will be held for Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Schuylkill Deanery and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Candidate profiles [can be found here.](#)



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY

Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume via Zoom at 7:00PM. If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact Fr. Jay via email/ associatepriest@aecst.org to be included on our membership list serve. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare – in advance for the week's meeting.

A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON “VIRTUAL WORSHIP”

“Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion).”

(From Fr. Martini Shaw’s Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

“Online Masses and Spiritual Communion do not represent the church. The faithful not gathered to receive the Sacraments is not the church. Jesus’ disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord in Community. They gathered, around the sacrament, at the same table, as a sign of community”. (Pope Francis’ recent message)

“If you are unable to receive the Sacrament, by reasons of extreme sickness or physical disability; or when being present at a celebration is absolutely impossible, it is possible to open yourself to God’s grace and blessing”. (Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer).

VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school will meet by ZOOM on Sundays at noon. All parents and church school aged children are encouraged to attend. If you need more information please contact Dottie Archey at: 215-474-2815 or you can send an email to [Dottie Archey](mailto:dottie.archey@stthomasparish.org) for more information.

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.

NEW MEMBERS/ CONFIRMATION CLASS

Attention All New Members Adults and Youth: Have you been confirmed yet? The bishop will be making his Visitation to St. Thomas on Sunday, **May 1st, 2022**. Classes will begin **Monday, February 14th at 7:00PM**. They will be Zoom classes facilitated by Fr. Shaw and Fr. Jay. There are eight(8) meetings before the Bishop's visit. We are in the process of forming a New Member / Confirmation Class of 2022. Please contact Gladyce DuBrey in the Parish Office to add your name.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings For

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 6th

First Reading: [Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13](#)

[Psalm 138](#)

Second Reading: [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 5:1-11](#)

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: [Jeremiah 17:5-10](#)

[Psalm 1](#)

Second Reading: [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 6:17-26](#)

Week of 2/7/2022

Monday - [Mark 9:30-41](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 9:42-50](#)

Wednesday - [Mark 10:1-16](#)

Thursday - [Mark 10:17-31](#)

Friday - [Mark 10:32-45](#)

Saturday - [Mark 10:46-52](#)

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 13th

Annual Celebration of the Feast
of Blessed Absalom Jones

Special Guest: The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field,
Rector of St. Peter's Church

"Love Sunday"

in observance of Valentine's Day.
(Wear Something RED)

Fr. Shaw will be giving each person
in attendance a token of his love.

February 20th

The Episcopal HBCUs Sunday
(Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

February 27th

Youth Sunday / Mardi Gras Jazz Mass
(Before the start of Lent)
Annual Parish Meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

RECOVERING AT HOME

Inez Turner, Edita Gauthney, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Dow, Leotta Griffith. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Joseph Stevenson.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Shirley Caldwell, Adinah Edwards, Shirley Winkfield, Robert Brown, Stephanie Williamson, Linda Holmes, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Georgia Sawyer, Joan Hall, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Isadora "Gwen" Francis, Francina Norris, Leatrice Snowden, Leotta Griffith.

CONDOLENCES

to Katrina Harris Marshall, Eugene Harris and Family on the death of their brother **Ronald Harris**. May the soul of Ronald rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

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

FROM THE RECTOR

You should have received your Third Quarter Statement of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2021 Pledge is current. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from 9:30 AM-2:00 PM Monday -Thursday. Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

I ask that you, using the chart below to assist you, prayerfully fill out your 2022 Faithful Giving Card. Please place it in the offering plate, postal mail, or electronically use our Faithful Giving. [Pledge Form](#) on our website.

Again, thanks so much for your continued support to the ministries of our amazing parish.

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

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

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](#).

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

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$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

THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now ready for you to pick up in Anderson Hall. If you're unable to pick them up on Sundays after church you may do so Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you have a parishioner who lives near you who can't get to church, perhaps you can pick theirs up as well.

You can now complete your pledge card by mail or on our [website](#).

If you have decided to use the Givi App or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email me at stewardship@aecst.org with your name and envelope number.

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.

Thank you very much.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Committee

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.

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.

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 Sextons	James Brown	1792@aecst.org
	Ronald Jones	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
Bible Study	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
	Dale Williams	thebeamerator@gmail.com
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	auntdd48@aol.com
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
	Carlia Miller	trublu265@aim.com
Investments Advisor to the Rector	Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	aldandridge@schnader.com
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry Co-Directors	Quentin Heyward - Co-Chair	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman - Co-Chair	teritill@yahoo.com
	Dale Williams - Co-Chair	thebeamerator@gmail.com
	Yaseen Farooq - Co-Chair	yifarooq@gmail.com
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.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	
Reach Out and Touch Ministry	Elizabeth Derr	hmomlitz@.aol.com
Social Media Manager		communications@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry		

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye
Treasurer - Kelvin Johnson

Patricia Bantom
Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Albert S. Dandridge
Clare Mae Daniels
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith 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 taught, lived and spread.
