

WELCOME TO THE HISTORIC
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS



WELCOME 2023 NEW MEMBERS
“WELCOME TO
THE MOTHER CHURCH”



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE US
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 21, 2024

“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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany/New and Returning Member Sunday.**

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. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,
Martini Shaw +

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



New / Returning Members of 2023
They will be recognized this Sunday and receive
a special token from the Rector.

Julio Rodriguez
Nicolas J. Rodriguez
Michelle Lofton
Thomas Harris
Lynn Harris
Chelsea Selby
Naomi Booker
Carol Eten
Yvonne Verlicchi
Charlotte Card
Michelanne Bradwell
Khalita Wright
Leannett Hill
Luna Marie Quetant

Jerry King
Alice Wright
Makiya Sanders
Marcia Forde
Zenobia Dancy
Carolyn Paige
Kathryn Geiger
Karina Phillips
Eugene Phillips
Amelia De los Santos
Celeste Marie Phillips
Vivian Louise Williams
Luna Marie Quetant

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.

Thank you all sooo much!

I would like to thank my church family for the well wishes, cards, encouragement, and phone calls while I am still recuperating from hip surgery. Thank you to the ladies who volunteered to sit in the office and answer phones.

I would especially like to thank Ryan Brossa who stepped in and prepared and sent out the Newsletter for the past two weeks.

I am on the mend but not there quite yet. Please continue to pray for me.

Gladyce DuBrey



WE CONTINUE TO GROW!!!

A BIG Welcome to **Sukona Davis** and her daughter **Sakiyah Davis** who joined our loving St. Thomas family. Their shepherd will be **Wendella Fox**. Sukona and Sakiyah, we look forward to getting to know you.



The **Anti-Violence Legislative Campaign Letter for December**, and the [QR Code](#) for State Representatives, can be found on the Schuylkill Deanery [website](#).

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

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. Forms are also available on the table in the back of the church. Thanks so much for your help with this.

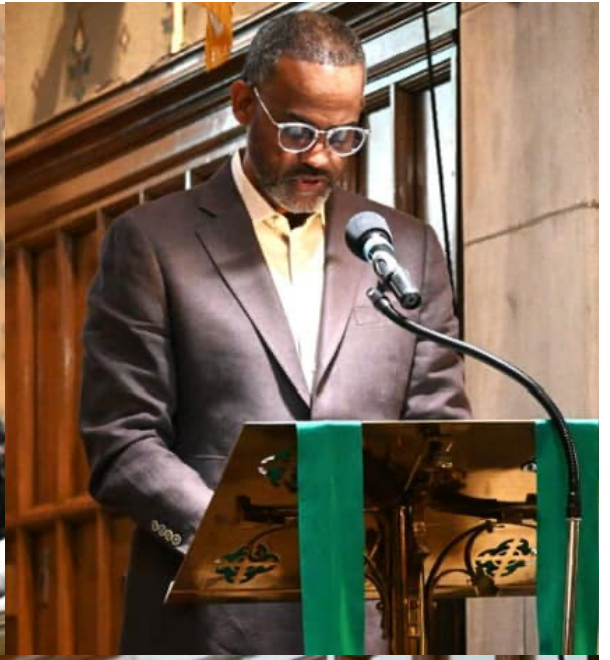
Prayers are offered for our dear neighborly sisters and brothers of the Overbrook Presbyterian Church who suffered a church fire Monday evening.





**Pictures from the Second Sunday After Epiphany
January 14, 2024**





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.**

Confirmation Classes will start **Sunday, January 21, 2024,** at 8:30 A.M. Please speak with [Fr. Daren](#) or [Seminararian Kathryn Brossa](#) for further details.

SHARE YOUR SPECIAL GIFT!!!

The O.V. Catto Voter Education Ministry is in search of individuals who are COMPUTER SAVVY. Are you proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Google Drive, etc.? Are you familiar with constant contact, mail chimp or other email list services? CATTO MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!! Responsibilities include data entry, assisting with Zoom meetings, event flyers, and other small tasks. Please consider sharing your special gift with the Catto Ministry.

For more information, please speak with:

[Ernestine Johnson](#) or [Ted Smith](#).

2024 Liturgical Calendars are on sale for \$8.00 Please see Clare Mae Daniels or any member of the Altar Guild to purchase one.

SAVE THE DATE!!

MARDI GRAS BRUNCH!

**Sunday, February 11, 2024, 12:00 noon,
ANDERSON HALL**

**GREAT FOOD, MUSIC, SILENT AUCTION,
PRIZES, And FUN!**

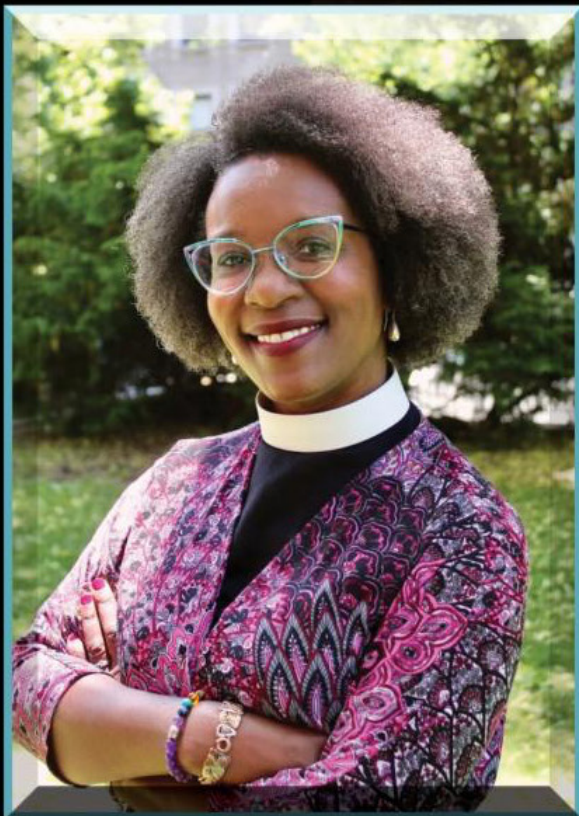
**Donation: \$25 Adults, \$10 Youth,
Children Free(under 5yrs)**

**For more info contact any member of JFA Scholarship
Committee or Paula Lamb (215) 620 -7250
or Thomasina Hack (215) 901- 2773**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
**A SERVICE
OF
CELEBRATION**

**The Life and Ministry
of
THE REV. ABSALOM JONES
and the
ANNUAL MARDI GRAS JAZZ MASS**



**Sunday, February 11, 2024
at 10:00 am**

**~ Guest Preacher ~
The Reverend Canon
STEPHANIE SPELLERS
Canon to Presiding Bishop,
The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry**

**Joining us in celebration:
Church Farm School
www.gocfs.net**

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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**

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

January 21, 2024

3rd Epiphany, Welcome 2023 New Members.

January 28, 2024

4th Epiphany - Youth and Young Adult Sunday.
Girls Friendly Induction and Chat and Chew.*

*Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew)

February 4, 2024

Black History Month Kick Off Celebration.

February 11, 2024

Celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones and Annual
Mardi Gras Jazz Mass.

JFA Mardi Gras Brunch - Noon in Anderson Hall. See any
member of the JFA Scholarship Committee, [Paula Lamb](#)
or [Thomasina Hack](#) for more information.

February 18, 2024

Annual Church Meeting after church.

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Founders Day
Service- 4:00 PM

February 25, 2024

Youth and Young Adult Sunday
St. Thomas Celebrates Episcopal HBCUs

***Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew)**

Have you ever considered hosting a Coffee Hour (Chat
and Chew) following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing
received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please
contact Gladyce for further details.



SPREAD THE NEWS!!!

St. Thomas Kicks off Black History Month Celebration, Sunday, February 4, 2024.

We will welcome:

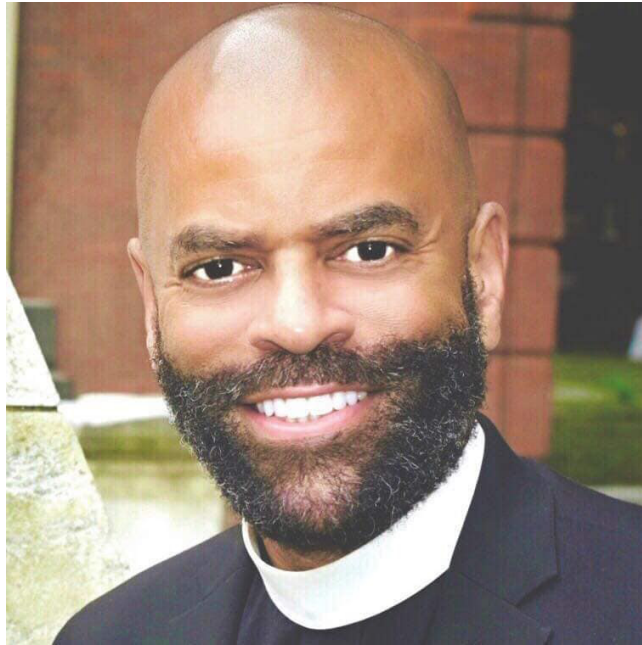
Dr. Ashley Jordan, President and CEO of the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Please wear something Afro-centric if possible.



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

WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE WITH ONE OF ST. THOMAS' OWN!



The People, Vestry, and Wardens of
St. Philip's Church
request your prayers and presence
at the Institution of

The Reverend Darrell Lamont Tiller

as the 8th Rector of

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano, *Presiding*

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:00 am

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
334 MacDonough Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233
RSVP: (718) 778-8700
spec@stphilipsbklyn.org

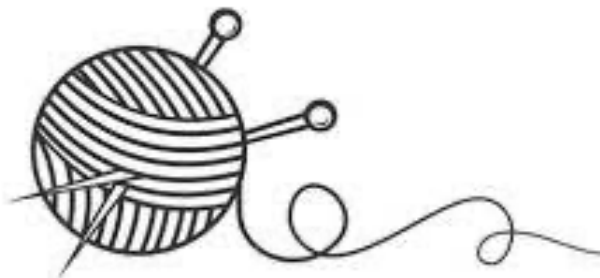
*Clergy are invited to vest: Cassock, Surplice, and White Stole
Reception to follow in Martin Hall*

ATTENTION ALL GUILDS, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS:

The Parish Annual Meeting, **Sunday, Feb 18, 2024**, following 10:00 AM Service. End of the Year Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting must be submitted no later than February 5, 2024. Your 2023 reports should be 1(One) page and include: Your vision, 2023 activities, and 2024 Planned activities and any other information you would like to share. Please send to Gladyce at 1792@aecst.org. **The deadline for reports is Monday, February 5, 2024.**

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.



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!

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](#).

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024

The First Lesson: [Jonah 3:1-5,10](#)

[Psalm 62:6-14](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Mark 1:14-20](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the

Week of January 22, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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



Young Adult Bible Study

Fr. Daren is offering a Bible Study series for Young Adults on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

Fall Topic:

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

Men's Ministry & Fellowship
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas



BSA Scout Troop
133



Gifts of The Magi

All the Month of January



During the month of January BSA Troop 133 and the Men's Ministry and Fellowship will collect men's articles for delivery to St. John's Hospice, a shelter for homeless men. A list of requested is below. Please ensure used articles of clothing etc. are cleaned and useable. Thank You!

Jeans – Waist Size 30, 32, 34, 36, 38

Men's underwear: Boxer Briefs, M, L, XL, 2X L (NEW ONLY)

Hoodies – All Sizes
Backpacks for Men
Bath Towels
Washcloths

Donations accepted and we will make the purchase for you. contact J.R. Brockman to arrange to donate.

Checks can be made out to

Donation Box is located near the Undercroft.

For additional information contact J.R. Brockman at 609-381-9981 or at

brock.man@verizon.net

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 the registration [link](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House

Fr. Darryl James, Joyce Harrison, Leotta Griffin, Patricia Ellison,
Terry Corson - Stapeley Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer,
Gwendolyn Langford, Laverne Hudson, Shirley Winkfield,
Lemont Johnson, Ronald Coleman, Thelma Silvers,
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Linda Holmes. Gladyce DuBrey,
Alletta Parris-Olday.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford,
Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Irving Stevenson,
Joyce Harrison, and Sandra Bryant Miller.

WE PRAY FOR

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

Palm Sunday is March 24th and we would love to have a donkey to lead our procession. Please assist us in securing a donkey with a donation to **"Sponsor a Donkey"**! Any amount is appreciated. Envelopes can be found on the table in the back of the church.



**Ash Wednesday Services
(Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist)**

**February 14, 2024
7:00 A.M., 12 :00 Noon, 6:00 P.M.**

JOIN THE GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY!

Meetings are on Saturdays from 11am -1pm. All girls aged 3-30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Gir Talk, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day, along with trips to the Theatre, 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 the Branch Advisor, Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net**

ALTAR FLOWERS

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 \$ _____

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](#).

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

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 or go on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#) to complete your Faithful Giving Card. You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

The Building Fund Envelopes have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. And if you've already picked your offering envelopes up please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering online once a month. Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month. Thank you

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.

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

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 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. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St. Thomas when filling out your online giving information.)
- 6) **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	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	Tynecia Wilson	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.