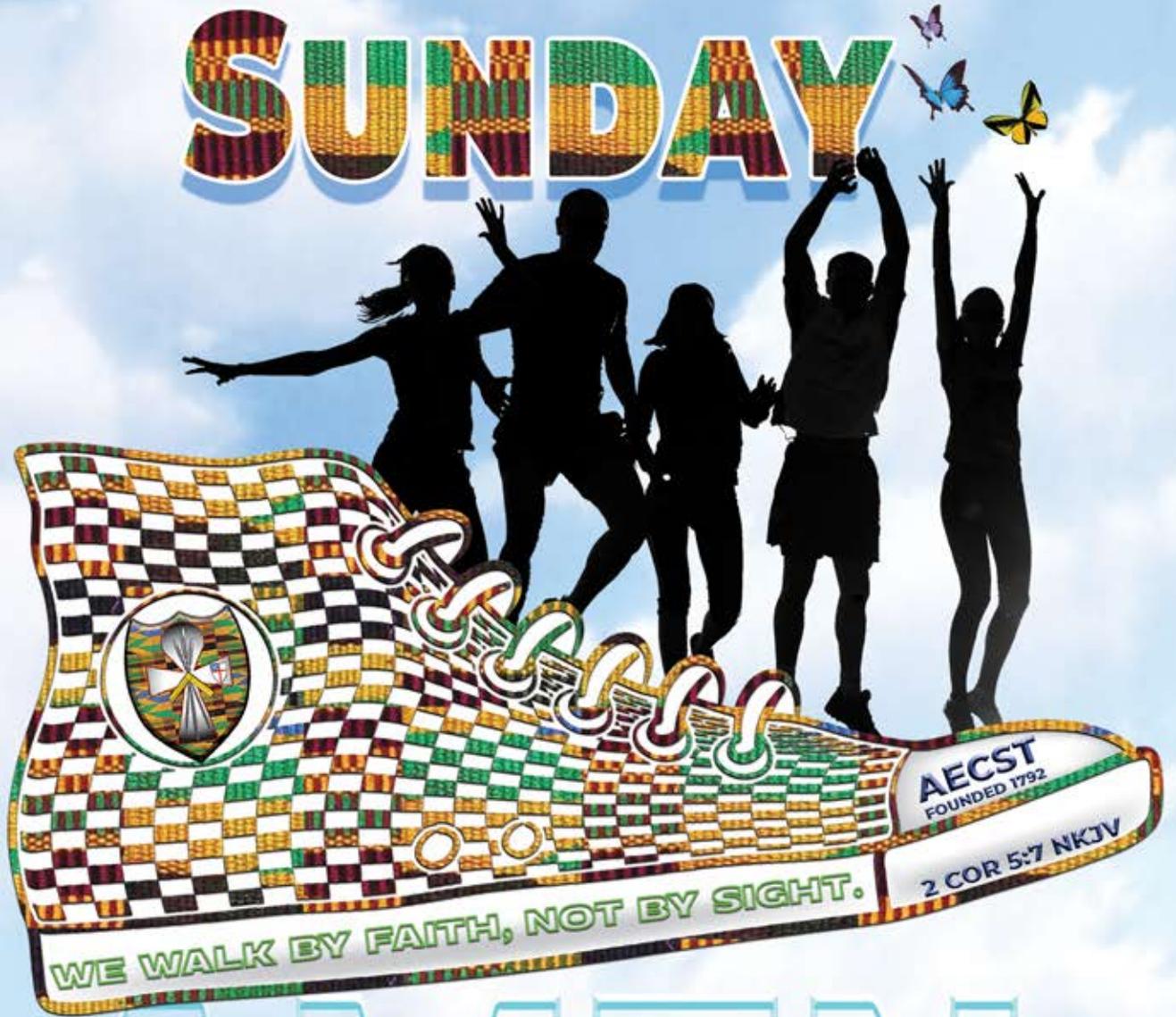


THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY



AMEN

START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO,
AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT. PROVERBS 22:6 NIV
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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY
GIRL'S FRIENDLY INDUCTION**

“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 Youth and
Young Adult Sunday, Girl's Friendly Induction**

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 for the [Order of Service](#)
for this Sunday's service.

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. 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](#).

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.

We welcome **Kathryn Geiger**, who joined our church family, last Sunday. We look forward to getting to know her. Her shepherd will be Pam Johnson.





AECST
FOUNDED 1792

A Major Celebration...

PLEASE JOIN US!



Sunday, February 5, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Celebration of the
THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES
and
231ST PARISH ANNIVERSARY

The Most Reverend Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church
~Preacher~

The Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez
Bishop - Diocese of Pennsylvania
~Celebrant~

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN JANUARY / FEBRUARY

Sunday, January 22nd

Youth / Young Adult Sunday
Girls Friendly Induction

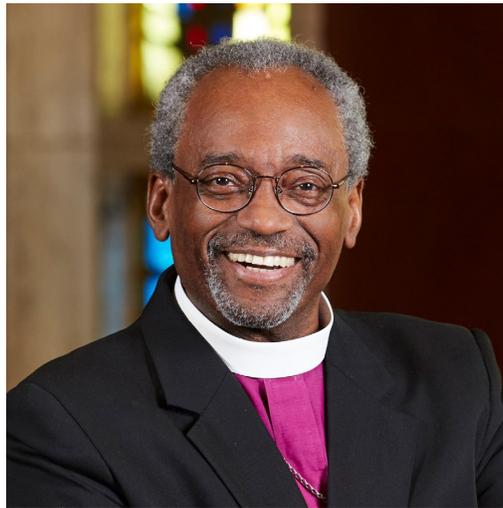
Sunday, Jan. 29th

Health Ministry Sunday

Sunday, February 5th

Celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones
and 231st Parish Anniversary

Visit by Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal
Church, **THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY** and
The Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez



Sunday, February 12th

Love Sunday” In celebration of St. Valentine’s Day
Installation of Officers - Men’s Ministry and Fellowship

Sunday, February 19th

Mardi Gras Mass
Parish Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 26th

Scout Sunday

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.

A GREAT HONOR

Our own St. Thomas Gospel Choir was honored to sing at the Inauguration of the 48th Governor (Josh Shapiro) and 35th Lieutenant Governor (Austin Davis) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **Tuesday, January 17, 2023.**

Please click the [link](#) provided for pictures from that wonderful day.



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.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.
Second Sunday after the Epiphany/MLK Sunday**



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.

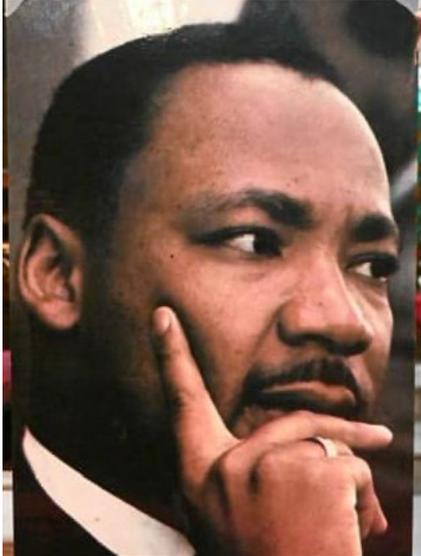
Contact persons: Conchetta Brewer 267.975.7283,
or Wendella Fox 215.880.4936.

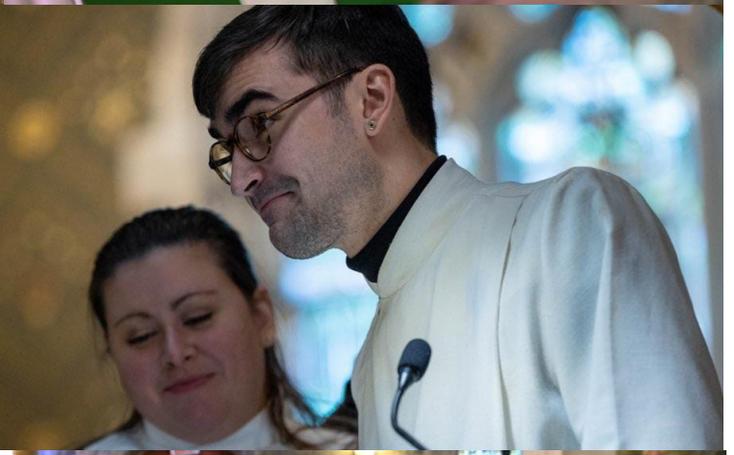


OUR CONDOLENCES

to Sheryl Johnson and family, on the death of her father **A. Benjamin Johnson, Jr.** His services will be held here at St. Thomas on **Thursday, January 26, 2023** at 9:45 AM. May the soul of A. Benjamin rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

PICTURES FROM THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
JANUARY 15, 2023





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

The Parish Annual Meeting, **Sunday, Feb 19, 2023**, following 10:00 AM Service. End-of-Year Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting must be submitted no later than January 25, 2023.

Your 2022 reports should be 1(One) page and include: Your vision, 2023 activities, and 2023 Planned activities and any other information you would like to share. Please send to Gladyce at 1792@aecst.org.

The deadline for reports is Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

If you would like an advance copy of the annual book, please email or call Gladyce before February 10th at 215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS (Please Print All Names)

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 \$ _____

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.

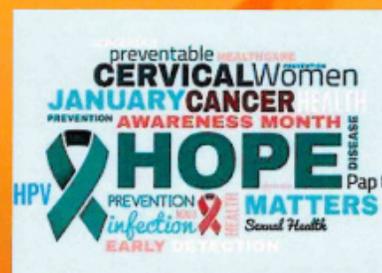
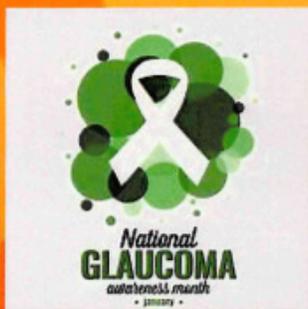
Please contact Scout Master [Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

A St. Thomas Health Ministry Note

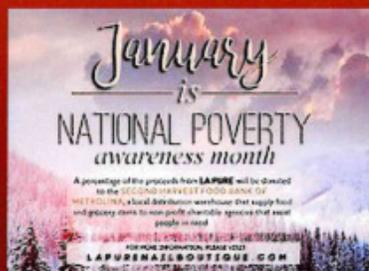
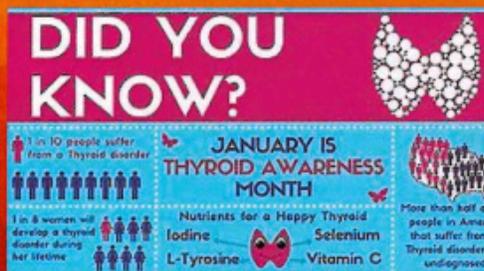
STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

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.



January Health Awareness



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
---	--	---

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](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net).

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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 22, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 9:1-4](#)

[Psalm 27:1,5-13](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 4:12-23](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of January 23, 2023**

Monday - [Mark 5:21-43](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 6:1-13](#)

Wednesday - [Mark 6:13-29](#)

Thursday - [Mark 6:30-46](#)

Friday - [Mark 6:47-56](#)

Saturday - [Mark 7:1-23](#)

**Readings for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 5, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 58:1-9a](#)

[Psalm 112:1-9,10](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 2:1-12,13-16](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 5:13-20](#)

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

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](#)

ATTENTION:

We are so blessed to be stewards of a beautiful property that God has entrusted to our care. Persons are needed to serve on our Property Committee. If interested, please speak with [Deborah Harrison](#) or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

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.

POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions.

Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact:

[Deborah Harrison](#).

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.

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

Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Ronald Coleman - Promedica Rehab, Exton, PA

RECOVERING AT HOME:

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

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.

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	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
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
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	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
Videography Ministry	Que ntin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
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
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.