



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

WE  
WALK  
BY  
FAITH  
NOT  
BY  
SIGHT  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

OUR SERVICE STARTS AT 10:00 AM. 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, 17TH RECTOR  
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

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 23, 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 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.**

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

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

## **From the Rector:**

The mode of receiving holy communion has returned to the sacrament being placed in each person's mouth by the priest or Eucharistic Minister. If only a blessing is desired and not communion, please cross your chest with your arms.

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### **SUMMER PARISH HOURS (July and August)**

Administrative Offices and Church will be open

**Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

The Parish Offices and Church are closed on Fridays and Saturdays. If you have an emergency, please leave a message on the church voicemail which is regularly monitored.

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### **RE-IMAGINING SUMMER WORSHIP**

During July and August we are reimagining our weekly worship by using a combination of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and hymnals in place of bulletins. Together we will become more familiar with the BCP and all its beauty.



**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.

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We welcome, Charlotte Card, who joined our church family last Sunday. Her shepherd is Judy Simkins Booth. We look forward to getting to know her.



## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Madelyn Henderson and family on the death of **Pearl Henderson**. Her remains will be placed in the Columbarium on **July 30th** during the service. Please pray for the family. May the soul of Pearl rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our condolences to Eleanor Chestnut and the Wright family on the death of their family member, **Fred Wright**. May the soul of Fred rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our condolences to Quincina Edmonds and family on the death of her cousin, **Brenda Gibson**. May the soul of Brenda, rest in peace and rise in glory.



On Sunday, July 2, 2023, the Mens Ministry and Fellowship held a surprise 100th birthday party for the Honorable Robert Williams, Jr.

Please click on the highlighted links to read thank you notes to the church from:

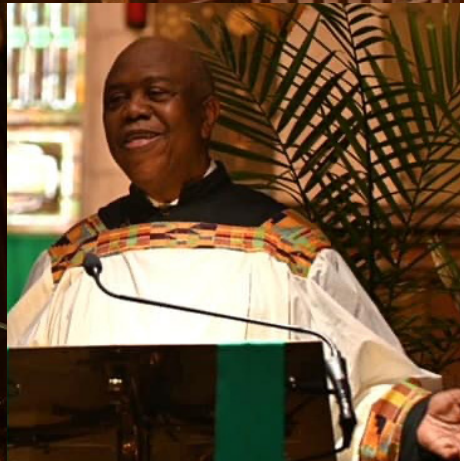
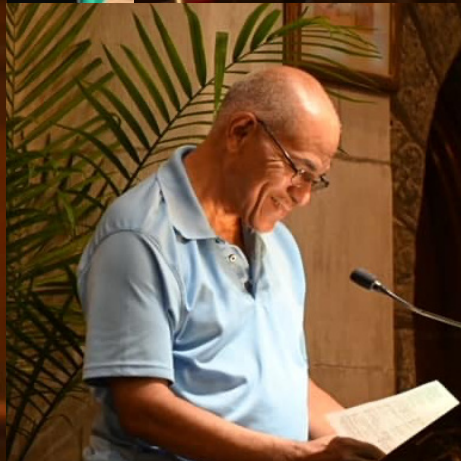
[Judge Williams, Julia Willams](#), and the [Men's Ministry and Fellowship](#).

# Pictures from the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 16, 2023



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







## UPCOMING EVENTS



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!  
**THE WOMEN'S DAY MARKETPLACE**  
(FLEA MARKET)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**  
**[RAIN DATE, 10.7.23]**

Held on the Grounds of St. Thomas Church  
Sign Up Information Forthcoming  
2023 Women's Day Committee -

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Save THE Date

SISTERHOOD GUILD - PURSE BINGO

**09/16/2023**

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19151

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



# School Supplies Drive 2023

**BENEFITTING THE  
ST. BARNABAS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER  
6006 WEST GIRARD AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151**

## **SUPPORT THE DRIVE:**

**ONLINE** (copy link below & paste in your browser)

**CHECK** (made out to AECST with "school supplies" in the memo)

Place your check in the plate on Sunday or mail to:

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6261 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151

**THE DEADLINE FOR GIVING IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023.**

Children will receive supplies, engage in games, face painting etc.

Food will be served. Information about the many programs at the

St. Barnabas Community Resource Center

and tours of the facility will be provided.

*All are welcomed to join the festivities and tours!*

Online Link:

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/1FFM12KSVULJJ>



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SAINT THOMAS CHAPTER

# *A Celebration of God's Love, Grace and Glory!*

## 75 + 1 YEARS!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023  
1 PM - 4 PM**

**ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF  
PRAISE, MUSIC, JOY, REFLECTIONS, AND more...**

**AT THE BEAUTIFUL BELMONT MANSION  
2000 BELMONT MANSION DRIVE  
PHILADELPHIA**

**WEAR YOUR FAVORITE 'CROWN'!**

**DELICIOUS LUNCH BY BROWN'S KITCHENS  
TO ATTEND: \$60 PER PERSON  
-NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR-**

**JOIN US! CONTACT:**

**MONICA LEWIS JONES: [MBJ03@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MBJ03@GMAIL.COM)**

**DEBORAH MATTHEWS: [DEBMADANCO@VERIZON.NET](mailto:DEBMADANCO@VERIZON.NET)**

## LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER (VISITOR)

Do you have a special calling for visiting sick and shut-in members of St. Thomas? Would you be interested in becoming one of our commissioned members to take the sacrament (communion) to those at home? If you feel such a special calling, please speak with the rector or contact him via email to prayerfully discern such a calling.

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## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!

Are you passionate about doing ministry among and with youth and children? Are you a warm, welcoming, and willing person who has a growing relationship with Christ? Then we ask you to prayerfully discern whether God may be calling you to be our next Church School Superintendent. For more information please contact Fr. Daren the Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministry.

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# AECST/CHOSEN 300 Community OUTREACH

## Calling Volunteers to Serve @ Chosen 300 locations

Arrive at 4:30pm – Directions will be given – Completed by 7:30pm, 2023 SERVING DATES :



Friday , July 14<sup>th</sup> : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Friday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>: Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104



For Any Questions, please contact Dr. Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766

**"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 2**

**"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9**

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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](mailto: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.

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.

## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2023

The First Lesson: [Genesis 28:10-19a](#)  
[Psalm 139:1-11,22-23](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 8:12-25](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 13:24-30,36-43](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of July 24, 2023

Monday - [Matthew 26:36-46](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 26:47-56](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 26:57-68](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 26:69-75](#)

Friday - [Matthew 27:1-10](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 27:11-23](#)



**AECST BIBLESTUDY MEETING WITH FR. JAY  
will not meet in July and August.**



## **Attention!! Attention!! Your Vote Matters!! Come Join the Catto Ministry**

We hope that the Summer is going well for you and yours. The Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry is a non-partisan ministry that honors the legacy of Octavius Catto, who was a member of St. Thomas, a civil rights activist who registered Black men to vote, spearheaded the effort to integraterolley cars in Philadelphia and accomplished so much more.

He was murdered after voting on Election Day October 10, 1871, by an angry mob who didn't want Black men to vote.

The objective of the Catto Ministry is to provide Voter Education and to promote civic engagement. You may have heard that during the Spring 2023, we focused our efforts on the Philadelphia Primary – the Road to the Primary VOTING WITH PURPOSE -- by (1) fifteen members of St. Thomas participated in the Mayoral Forum hosted by POWER Interfaith and joined more than 700 members from more than 40 churches [the largest gathering to hear Mayoral candidates]; (2) hosted a forum where we learned about the responsibilities of the City Controller as well as the City Commissioner; (3) hosted a forum where we heard from judicial candidates about the duties of judges; (4) hosted a forum where we learned about the Mayor's responsibilities for a \$6 Billion dollar budget; how to fill out a mail-in ballot correctly; and the opportunity to practice using the new electronic poll book for in-person



voting; discussed the ballot questions; and (5) developed and distributed a voter's guide about which positions were on the ballot and the responsibilities of each office, ballot questions, etc.

Exciting activities are planned and we want you to join us with your ideas, and enthusiasm, bring a friend or two, to be an integral part of this crucial ministry for members of St. Thomas and for our community. Won't you join us?? We are planning to meet in September. In the meantime, if you are interested, if you have questions, please contact [Wendela Fox](mailto:Wendela.Fox@stthomas.org) at 215-880-4936 or [wpfox3008@verizon.net](mailto:wpfox3008@verizon.net). You can find out more about this Ministry in the Spearhead.

Ernestine Johnson, Wendella Fox, Ted Smith  
Catto Ministry Leadership Team

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### **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.

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### **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.

## 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](#).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

**In Hospice Care:** Ruth Moses, Arleatha Wilson.

**IN REHAB:**

Nora Corbin- Little Flower Rehab; Linda Holmes - St. Ignatius Rehab.

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Rosalind Rodriguez, Stephen Hannum.

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Joe Stevenson, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut, Joan Hall, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds, Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson, Cathy Stafford, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Teri Taylor, Tyrone Keller, Seminarian David King, Conchetta Brewer, Joyce Jackson, Helena Allen, Cassandra Ruffin.

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**WE PRAY FOR**

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

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## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

**Please remember to maintain your pledged financial giving during the summer months of travel!**

Parishioners, please remember to include your envelope number as well as your name on your offering envelope. The number is especially important. If you don't have your envelope number please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks so much for your help with this. [Judy Tillman](#)

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or [email](#), **please do so ASAP**. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. Judy Tillman

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

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## 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
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	Dottie Archey	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

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**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.