

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
JUNE 8, 2025 10:00 AM



ONE LOVE!

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when God's people dwell
together in unity! Psalm 133:1

Caribbean Festival



THE PENTECOST AND CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEES
OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS HOST
THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND THE 15TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

JOIN US FOR THE SWEET SOUNDS OF STEELPAN MUSIC,
SAMPLINGS OF DELICACIES FROM THE CARIBBEAN, AND LOTS OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

CATHERINE STAFFORD & GILLIAN WILSON, CO-CHAIRS

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 DAY OF PENTECOST
THE BIRTHDAY CHRISTIANITY**

June 8, 2025

**The Historic African Episcopal Church
of St. Thomas**

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA, 19151
(215) 473-3065

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest



The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
About The AECST

www.aecst.org

**Scan the QR code to support our church
and our ministries.**

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

“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
**Day of Pentecost, the Birthday of Christianity,
and the 15th Annual Caribbean Festival.**

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., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend 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 Reverend Canon) Martini Shaw,
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, during the sermon, Father Shaw signed a “Rector’s Executive Order” announcing that St. Thomas Church and individual Vestry members would become financial supporters and members of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The “Order” further encouraged the entire parish membership’s family and friends to become supporters. Become a member or donate NOW! Go to, <https://www.si.edu/museums/african-american-museum> scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Become a Member” or “Make a Donation.” Have You Joined Yet? Please sign up NOW using the [link](#). **Have you joined yet?**



ST. THOMAS CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL TODAY!

Join us outside, after service, for samples of delicacies from the Caribbean. Enjoy the sweet sounds of Steel Pan Music, provided by The Steel Pan All Stars, fellowship and a bounce house for the children! This event is rain or shine!

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR:

This is a reminder that the Mass (Service) ends following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the Service before the conclusion. This request is being made in order to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES



Auldric Herbert Henry Hinds Buschan
Ngozi Bella Rose Onyekere
Regina Diane Culmer
May the Lord bless and keep you.

OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS



to Ricardo Bostic and family on the death of his spouse **LeMont Johnson**. The Memorial Service will be held at St. Thomas Church on Thursday, June 26th at 11:00 AM.

May the soul of LeMont rest in peace and rise in glory.
Please pray for the family.

Thank you to the **St. Thomas Women's Ministry** for a wonderful weekend celebrating women. The Women's Retreat on Saturday, May 31st, Revived, Restored and Renewed our spirits and we found strength in faith on Women's Day Sunday, June 1st.





Photos: Brenda Johnson Best
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Annual Women's Day Celebration**

WOMEN'S DAY 2025!!!

AMAZING & One definitely for the books

June 1, 2025







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



Photos: William Edmonds, Justin Trotman and Stephen Pugh
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)



OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW!

We are immensely thankful for Velma Morris-Nembhard who became a part of our church family this past Sunday. Her shepherd is Mary Sandra Dean. To God be the glory!



Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector with special announcements? Do you know someone who does not receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](#)

Thank you to the St. Thomas Women's Ministry
for a wonderful weekend celebrating women. **The Women's Retreat** on Saturday, May 31st, Revived, Restored and Renewed our spirits and we found strength in faith on **Women's Day** on Sunday, June 1st.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Plans are underway to begin our New Members/ Confirmation Classes soon. Most of these classes will be held via Zoom. Please watch the bulletin and Spearhead for further information. Please speak with Fr. Daren or Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

The New Members Manual has arrived.
Please use the [link](#) to access it.



Sincere gratitude to the Women's Day Committee for the generous recognition of my 90th birthday and the beautiful bouquet of flowers. God has blessed me to have 70 years of the extraordinary church family of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. With Love, Loretta Ferguson

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS/FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members/families of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather

Christopher Burks

Deadra Cannon

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Dr. John Rich

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Howard Tucker

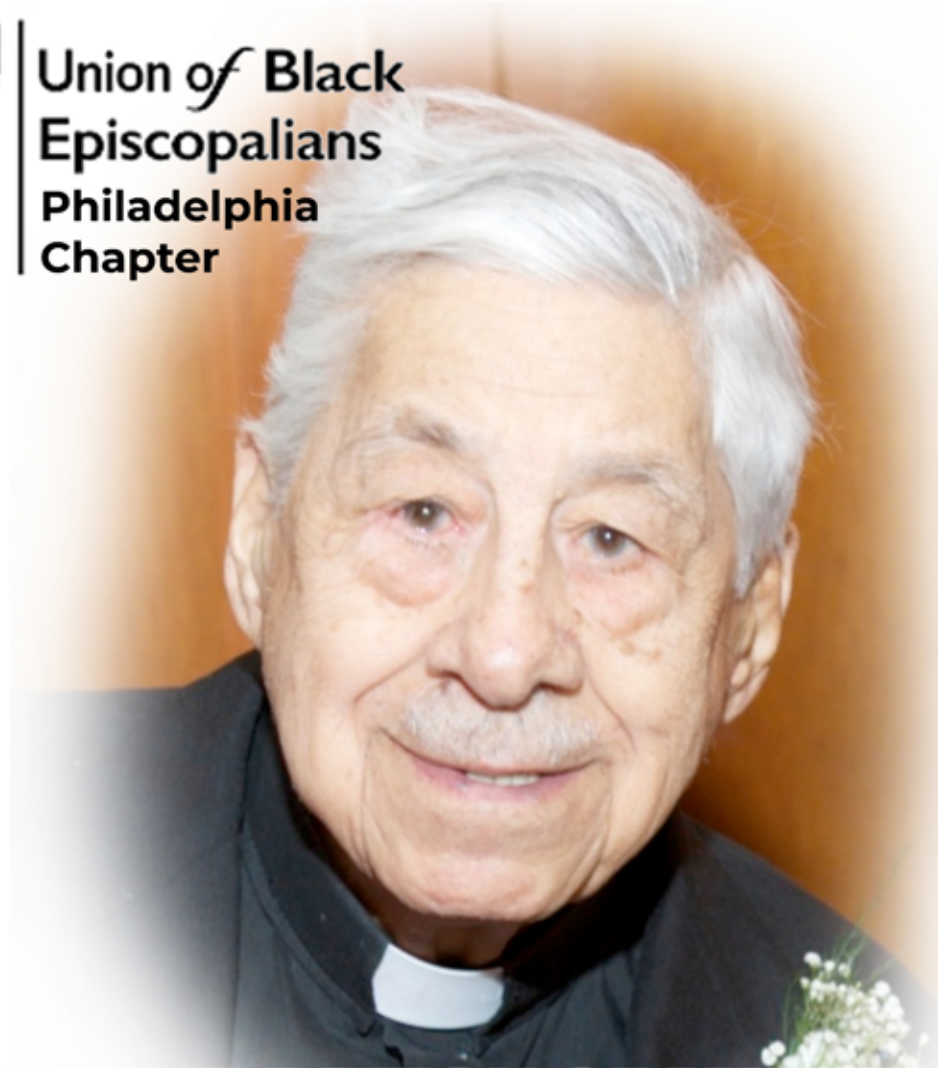
Allison Young

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks for **Rashid, Christie and Gabrielle Faisal**. They said "We've been members since 2021. We are thankful for St. Thomas and the intentional investments the church makes in the lives of its members. We wish the members of the church continued strength and blessings during a time of great uncertainty."





Union of Black
Episcopalians
Philadelphia
Chapter



A CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

Please join us on

Saturday, June 14, 2025; 1:00PM

at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

In Memory and Celebration of the Life of

The Reverend Canon

THOMAS WILSON STEARLY LOGAN SR.

All proceeds collected to benefit

The Logan Scholarship sponsored by the Schuylkill Deanery

SPONSORED BY THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

~ LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED FOLLOWING THE SERVICE. ~

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

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SAVE THE DATE



Sisterhood Guild Purse Bingo

June 21, 2025

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Bring Your Own Everything (BYOE)
Cabaret Style

Doors open at 12:30 PM

Tickets \$25.00

Tickets will not be sold at the door

No alcohol allowed

See any member of the Sisterhood for tickets

The African Episcopal Church
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19151

ATTENTION STUDENTS

Applications for the 2025 Rev. Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr. Memorial Prize are now being accepted.

Eligible high school seniors can review the program guidelines and priorities online. Go to

www.schuylkilldeanery.org for scholarship information.

The application deadline is June 30, 2025

(late submissions will not be reviewed).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 15th

The First Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday
~Celebration of Father's Day~

We will honor our Oldest Father and our Newest Fathers

June 22nd

The Second Sunday after Pentecost
~Youth & Young Adult Sunday/Church School~
~Recognition/Members from Mission Philadelphia
will be worshipping with us. ~

June 29th

The Third Sunday after Pentecost
~Graduate/Scholarship Sunday~
Submit your [form](#) today
~Celebration of St. Thomas Monarchs Ministry~

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#),
the [Live Stream Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or
[Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

You can also watch [Past Services](#).

THIS WEEK AT AECST – June 9, 2025

Tuesday, June 10th

Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting
6-9 PM in the Undercroft

Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study
with Fr. Jay via Zoom – 7 PM

Wednesday, June 11th

Wedding rehearsal of Michael Rice
and Carla Lee – 3:00 PM

*Bible Study with Fr. Daren
6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

Angels in Motion
7:00 PM in the church

St. Thomas Gospel Choir
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Thursday, June 12th

Wedding of Michael Rice and Carla Lee – 3:00 PM

Saturday, June 14th

A Celebration of Ministry of The Rev. Canon
Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr.
1:00 PM in the church

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

News for New Jersey Voters

Primary Election June 10, 2025

<https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

June 9th - 3:00 PM

Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications and for Unaffiliated Voters to submit Political Party Affiliation Declaration Forms for Primary Election to be Filed with the County Commissioners of Registration in order to receive a mail-in ballot in person.

June 10th

New Jersey Primary Election Day polls open
6:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots and for In-Person Submission of Primary Election Mail-In Ballots to the County Board of Elections and to Authorized Ballot Drop Boxes.

Join Dr. Jay Fluellen on Saturday, June 21, at 7:00 PM
for Songs of Love and Hope at Trinity Church,
Hatboro, 151 W County Line Rd, Hatboro, PA 19040.
This captivating Vocal and Piano Duo Concert
traverses a rich musical landscape.

Dr. Jay Fluellen, pianist and Perry Brisbon, tenor
will weave together a diverse selection of pieces from
multiple genres, including classical works, heartfelt
African American spirituals, uplifting gospel,
and vibrant jazz.

Audiences will hear compositions by esteemed artists
such as Scott Joplin, Charles Gounod, Hall Johnson,
Richard Smallwood, Undine Smith Moore,
Jay Fluellen and others.

This concert will showcase the profound ways in which
music fosters connection and builds a sense of community.

For tickets and more information, go to [Eventbrite](#)

GRADUATE SUNDAY is June 29, 2025

Have you or your child graduated or been promoted?
Please complete the [Graduate Profile form](#) online.
We want to highlight your achievements and share them
with the congregation. Submit your information to the
office before **Sunday, June 22, 2025, deadline.**

**AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
YOUTH COUNCIL HOSTS:**



FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025

ARRIVE AT CHURCH 4:30PM

BUS LEAVES PROMPTLY AT 5PM

****SHOW BEGINS AT 7PM WITH 2.5 HR RUN TIME****

CHILDREN : \$20

ADULTS (18+) : \$100

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, BOXED LUNCH AND TICKET TO SHOW

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

PAM JOHNSON-267.235.8334 OR PAMELAJOHNSON5620@GMAIL.COM

WENDELLA FOX-215.880.4936 OR WPFOX3008@VERIZON.NET

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO AECST W/ NOAH SHOW IN MEMO
OR GIVI APP**

PLEASE REGISTER BY JUNE 30, 2025

The Jesse F. Anderson (JFA) Scholarship Committee
will sponsor a bus trip to:

The National Museum of African American History and
Culture and National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC on
Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Departs from St. Thomas at 8:30 AM Returns 7:30 PM.

Cost: \$75.00, (cash or check)

Lunch on your own.

Contact Paula Lamb 215-620-7250 or any member of the
committee for more information. The AECST Youth Council
will sponsor a bus trip to see:

Sight and Sound Theatres - Live on Stage production of
"Noah" on Friday, August 22, 2025

Departs from St Thomas promptly at 5:00 PM

Cost: Children \$20.00, Adults (18+) \$100.00
(box dinner included)

Contact: Pam Johnson 267-235-8334 or
Pamelajohnson5620@gmail.com or

Wendella Fox 215-880-4936 or wpfox3008@verizon.net
Deadline is June 30, 2025

The Sound of Liberty Concert

Presented by The Marian Anderson Museum



Dr. Jay Fluellen
Director of Music / Pianist

WHEN: JUNE 28TH 2025

Join us as we celebrate Americas Birthday with an amazing concert filled with extraordinary performances of Patriotic Favorites, beloved Standards and the Great American Songbook highlighting known and unknown composers of the 20th Century.



Jillian Patricia Pirtle Soprano



Carmella Green Soprano



Terrance Hart Tenor



Laurice S. Kennel Soprano

EUBIE BLAKE MARGARET BONDS ★

GEORGE GERSHWIN FLORENCE PRICE

HARRY T BURLEIGH SCOTT JOPLIN



Marcus Simmons Bass



Tanisha Anderson Mezzo Soprano



Fazeed Simpson
Trumpet



Richard Hill Jr.
Bassist



Ann Marie Pocklemba
Violinist



Kynoebi Simpson
Sax / Flute



Robert Henderson
Percussion



Brenton Mattox Bass

WHERE: Historic Mother Bethel AME Church
419 S 6th St, Philadelphia, PA 19147
TIME: 3 PM

TICKET ADMISSION: \$30.00

(Children under 7 are Free and Group Rates are Available)



Confirm Your Tickets at The Marian Anderson Museum
762 S. Martin Street Philadelphia Pa 19146
215-779-4219 www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com



**CONGRATULATIONS to St. Thomas' own -
Dr. Rollo Dilworth.**

Beginning Fall 2025, Vice Dean Rollo Dilworth will take the helm of the Vocal Arts Department as the Elaine Brown Chair! Succeeding the magnificent leadership of Dr. Paul Rardin, Dr. Dilworth will lead the Choral Arts and Voice and Opera areas and conduct the Temple University Concert Choir, as well as continue to direct our Singing Owls Community choir.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJmMSBtAof9/?igsh=MW04OTBhN2x5cm1yNQ==>



Temple University
Boyer College of Music
and Dance

ANNOUNCING
**ROLLO
DILWORTH**
Elaine Brown Chair of Choral Music &
Chair of Vocal Arts
BEGINNING FALL 2025

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the high altar are given in memory of our Loving Husband and Father, **Roy Ellison**, given by Patty, Simone & Samuel Ellison in honor of his heavenly birthday on June 10th.

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

Unfortunately, due to rising costs of goods, the Altar Guild has increased the cost of the flowers.

High Altar - \$70

Absalom Jones Altar - \$60

the Columbarium - \$50

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers or contribute to our church ministries.



DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS
Readings For THE DAY OF PENTECOST
June 8, 2025

[The First Lesson - Acts 2:1-21](#)

[Psalm 104:25-35, 37](#)

[The Second Lesson - Romans 8:14-17](#)

[The Holy Gospel - John 17:20-26](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of June 9, 2025**

Monday - [Matthew 15:21-28](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 15:29-39](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 16:1-12](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Friday - [Matthew 16:21-28](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 17:1-11](#)



**PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY**
with Fr. Jay meet on Tuesdays
7:00 PM via Zoom.
Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with
questions/requests.

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY
with Fr. Daren meets in the AJ House
at 6:00 PM. Our Spring study will be a
"Journey through the Book of Revelation."

ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please [email](#) Fr. Daren your contact information as soon as possible (including cellphone). Our prayers remain with you.

Our new "**TINY TYKES TEMPLE**" is open and available. An area designed to welcome parents, caregivers, and their children aged 3 and under. The area is a soft space that will engage our little ones who may need a break from worship.

Thank you to **Sarah Shaw Thomas** for joining the oversight committee! We need a few more folks to join. Are you and your Tyke willing to serve? Email Father Daren, associaterector@aecst.org and let him know you can assist. You don't have to have a Tiny Tyke to participate; just a heart ready to serve.



CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson.](#)



VERGERS NEEDED!

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or
the Rector for more details.

CHAT AND CHEW

Have you ever considered hosting a Chat and Chew following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office for further details.



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](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

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. 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](#).



ST. THOMAS PODCAST

Stay tuned! Our podcast will soon return. In the meantime, please enjoy the three previous episodes. If you would like to be a guest on any of the podcasts, please speak with Fr. Daren or [email](#) him for more information.



ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Are you willing to serve, at least one Sunday per month, as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please use this [link](#) to register to become a church school teacher.



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW but also as the church of TODAY!!! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

All young adults (20's and 30's) are invited to fellowship the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

All young ladies are invited to join us on Saturdays in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM.

The Girls' Friendly Society does not meet every Saturday.

Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information and the schedule.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen - Simpson House;
Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford -
Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Inez Turner - The Residence at
Bala Cynwyd; Ola Bass - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting;
Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and
Rehabilitation Center; Patricia Holmes - Care Pavilion

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison,
Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock,
Solomon Cropper, Verger Stephen Hannum, Virginia DuBrey,
Alice Bowman Cropper,

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley,
Adinah Edwards, Ann Stewart, Waltier Blocker, Arlene Gray,
Daryn Stewart, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Yvonne Sydnor,
Quincina Edmonds, Sharon Harper, Marie Golson,
Mary Ann Phillips

WE PRAY FOR

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

CALLING FOR YOUTH



You are needed to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for children and youth to be involved in the life of the church.

Acolyte rehearsal is on Sunday immediately after service. For more information, please speak with or email [Fr.Daren.](#)

Scout Troop #133 - Scout Troop #133

Regular Saturday meetings will continue on Saturdays. Scouts 1:00 - 3:00 PM and Cubs 2:00 - 4:00 PM.

Summer camp will be June 22 – June 27, 2025, at Resica Falls, East Stroudsburg, PA

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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”
2 Corinthians 9:7

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God’s children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasure. Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below.



CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select “Building Fund.” If using checks write “Building Fund” on the memo line of your check.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The church has received many “undeliverable” mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by [email](#) or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shut-in parishioners? If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. A list of our sick and shut-in parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, using the QR code below, [website donations](#), downloading the Givi app, U.S. mail, or hand deliver it to the Fiscal office.

IMPORTANT: Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact [Patricia Lynch](#).

RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST

\$100,000.00. Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating toward the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2025.

You'll be able to complete your [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

- 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,
(Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and nor an account, it's easy to obtain. Please 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 10:00 AM-2:00 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) **Faithful Giving Cards (Pledge)** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **www.aecst.org** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much to all who have return them.

MINISTRY STAFF

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Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
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THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller