



# CONGRATULATIONS

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 • Founded 1792  
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](http://www.aecst.org) • [www.facebook.com/aecst1792](https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792)

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Graduate/Scholarship and  
Monarch Greeters Ministry Sunday  
JUNE 29, 2025**

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

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

[www.aecst.org](http://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



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

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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 Third Sunday after Pentecost, Graduate/Scholarship and Monarch Greeters Ministry Sunday**

We welcome our guest speakers Deacon Kyle Evans; St. Andrews, Yardley and Lindsay Christie; Trinity Solebury; Youth and Adults from Trinity Episcopal Church Solebury, St. David's, Radnor; members of the 29th Mission Philadelphia Project and Michelle Germaine, Minister for Children, Youth and Families from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Ardmore.

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 USA, and proudly a part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. 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 and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

*Martini Shaw* +

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



### **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.

### **A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR:**

The summer months are usually financially challenging for most churches. I am asking that you PLEASE submit HALF of your 2025 pledge by June 30th. I am also asking that you prayerfully consider contributing some extra dollars during July and August. St. Thomas has been tremendously blessed by your generous gifts.

"To whom much is given, much is required."

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. DAREN**





## **July and August Parish Administrative Office Hours**

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

Friday 9:00 AM - Noon

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### **ABOUT THE HOMILIST**

The Rev. Dr. Antonio J. Baxter currently serves as the Agency Fiscal Officer for the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Financial Officer, overseeing financial operations for the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, and the Mayor's Office of the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's in public policy, a Master of Divinity, a Diploma in Anglican Studies, and a Doctor of Ministry focused on the Howard Thurman Prophetic Witness.

A devoted Duke Blue Devils basketball fan, Fr. Baxter was ordained as a Vocational Deacon on November 14, 2022, and as a Priest on January 11, 2025. He is currently serving as the summer supply priest at Church of the Atonement in Washington, D.C. and will transition to the Diocese of Pennsylvania in August.

His favorite scripture is Luke 4:18-19:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives."



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
CLASS OF 2025**

**Pre-K to Kindergarten**

**Anthony Savoury, Jr. (A.J.)** - Children's House Montessori

**Kindergarten to 1st Grade**

**Jaelle Thomas** - Westbrook Park Elementary School

**Addison Trotman** – Germantown Friends School

**Axel Trotman** – Germantown Friends School

**Sarah A. Williams** – Presentation BVM School

**Middle School to High School**

**Chase Miller** – The Christian Academy

**Triniti Nashae Miller** – The Christian Academy to Academy

**Park High School**

**Jace Thomas** – Drexel Hill Middle School to Upper Darby  
High School

**High School**

**Justin Hall** - Boys Latin High School to Gwynedd Mercy  
University for Nursing

**Tyleencia Wilson** – Friends Central to Cheyney  
University; Double Major in Business Administration and  
Communications

## **College**

**Devon Greaves** - Ursinus College with a B.A. Media and Communication

**Howard Tyrone Jackson** - South Carolina State to Emory

## **School of Law**

**Ryan Renee Lynch** - The University of Virginia with a B.S. Behavioral Neuroscience and a B.A. Media Studies

**Rebecca Stubbs** - Park Point University

**Grace T. P. Wetzel** – Temple University to  
Temple University School of Communication  
for Public Relations

**Tyleenda Wilson** - Arcadia University with a B.A. ECE  
(Early Childhood Education)

## **Graduate School**

**Stacey N. Davis** - Dominican University (New York) - M.S. in  
Education, Adolescent Education

**Elena Simone Foster** - Widner University- Doctor of  
Occupational Therapy (OTD)

**Arielle Hunt** - Neuman University-Doctor of Physical  
Therapy (DPT)

**D'Lalah Lynn Joell** - University of Pennsylvania - Master of  
Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP)

## **ST. THOMAS BOOK AWARD**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Graduate School Recipient - **D'Lalah Joell**

### **St. Thomas Community Outreach Awards:**

Boys Latin High School

**RJ Boyd** (Chestnut Hill College)

**Jordan Jones** (Chestnut Hill College)

Motivation High School

**Siriman Singare** (LaSalle University)

**Fatoumata Diallo** (LaSalle University)

West Philadelphia High School

**Nathan Lompo** (Temple University)

**Amiata Sacko** (Lincoln University)

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**Today we give thanks and celebrate our 2025 Graduates,  
Scholarship recipients and Monarch Greeters Ministry.**

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## **ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Classes will begin September 21, 2025,  
every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:00-9:45 AM in person  
and via Zoom on designated days.

Check the bulletin and Spearhead for additional  
information. Please speak with Fr. Daren or Seminarian  
Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

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**The New Members Manual has arrived.**

**Please use the [link](#) to access it.**





## **OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW!!!**

We are immensely thankful for  
ELYSE HARRIS who came forward and became a part of our  
church family this past Sunday. To God be the glory!

Her appointed Shepherd is Judy Tillman.  
Welcome Elyse!!!.



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**Another Glorious Pentecost / Caribbean Sunday  
June 8, 2025 at the AECST!!!**



Video: Quentin Heyward (St.Thomas Videography Ministry)

# The Second Sunday after Pentecost

## Youth and Young Adult Sunday

June 22, 2025



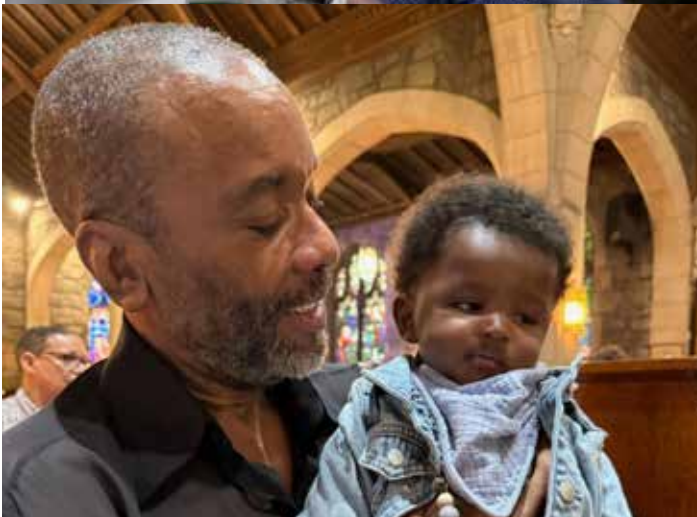
















More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#).

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

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## CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

This is a reminder that the Catto ministry will hold a brief meeting immediately after today's worship service.

All are invited to attend. See you in Anderson Hall!

Wendella and Elaine

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A few of our parishioners (Delaware and New Jersey) recovering after surgical procedures.

They are all looking forward to complete healing and anxious to return to church.



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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](#)



## **New Parish Directory Committee schedules photo appointments of parishioners.**

Schedule your professional photography session every Sunday through July 20th, immediately after service in the Undercroft. The staff at Universal Studios is uniquely qualified, and we are excited to be able to use their services. If we don't see your name on our list, you may receive a call. Photographs of you and your family will be taken on August 6-9 and September 25-27.



## **THE CHURCH DIRECTORY**

“Our directory will not be complete without you!”

Schedule your professional photography session TODAY and every Sunday through July 20th immediately after service in the Undercroft. The staff at Universal Studios is uniquely qualified and we are excited to be able to use their services.. If we don't see your name on our list, you may receive a call.

Photographs of you and your family will be taken on August 6-9 and September 25-27.

Universal will provide a complete professional portrait studio at the church. You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finishes, and framing options. Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait, a directory and can purchase additional portraits.

Unfortunately, there will be a \$15.00 charge for photos submitted but not taken by Universal Studios.

For questions, please see Ashley Hines or Suzanne Clossen. Today we give thanks and celebrate our 2025 Graduates, Scholarship recipients and Monarch Greeters Ministry.

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### **THIS WEEK AT AECST – June 30, 2025**

#### **Tuesday, July 1st**

Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting  
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

#### **Friday, July 4th**

Church and Parish Offices closed for the 4th of July

## **SPECIAL SUMMER HOMILY SERIES:**

### **"Feeding the Spirit"**

During the summer months of July and August, our homilists will include our clergy, seminarians, and music ministers.

**July 6th** - The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Waltier Blocker, Homilist

**July 13th** – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost,  
David King, Homilist

**July 20th** - The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Seminarian Kathryn Brossa, Homilist

**July 27th** – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost,  
Fr. Shaw, Homilist

**August 3rd** – The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Waltier Blocker, Homilist

**August 10th** – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Fr. Evans, Homilist

**August 17th** – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Dr. Rollo Dilworth, Homilist

**August 24th** – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost,  
Fr. Evans, Homilist

**August 31st** – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Homilist



## 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  
Yvonne Hyde-Carter  
Dr. Calvin Johnson  
Bettie Jones  
Rae Scott Jones  
Richard Jones, Jr.  
**Dr. Sheila Jones**  
Steven and Jameela Lewis  
Gregory Lyles  
Nohjay Nimpson  
Dr. John Rich  
Richard & Rebecca Scales  
Shelly and Ann Stewart  
Howard Tucker  
Allison Young

# WE ARE FAMILY

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks to Dr. Sheila Jones, in South Carolina. She says: "I have been a member of St. Thomas for 65 years. I was baptized, confirmed, attended Sunday School, and was a Church

School teacher. I have been away since college and only physically attended when visiting Philadelphia. St. Thomas from afar is still part of our lives".



## **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](http://www.schuylkilldeanery.org) for scholarship information.

**The application deadline is June 30, 2025**

(late submissions will not be reviewed).

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## **GRADUATE SUNDAY is NEXT SUNDAY, 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.**

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## **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](#).



## **Happy Birthday to the members of our parish celebrating in July**

7/1	Sharon Bullock, Bobby Johnson, Patricia Holmes
7/2	Marilyn Brown
7/3	Robert Williams, Conchetta Brewer, Leslie Harris
7/5	Joan Hall, Kelly Jones, Dale Williams
7/7	Mueni Mwanza
7/9	Michael Pyles
7/10	Dorothy Archey, Theresa Carter
7/11	Scott Nichols, Julie Hergenrather, Lynn Harris
7/12	Dorothy Smith
7/13	Gwen Cottman, Nicole Harris, Laura Wilson
7/15	Sharahn Santana
7/16	Deborah Nixon, Allister Allman
7/17	Elizabeth Trulear, Monica Taylor, Shari Bullock, Steven Lewis
7/19	Tom Lynch, Paula Wright, Laurie Dow, Ava Mathurin, Sukona Davis
7/20	Victoria Rivers, Sheree Winkfield
7/21	Andrea Petocelli-Fields
7/22	Chad Gordon
7/23	Louise Trotman
7/24	Richard Jones Sr., Larry Wilshire, Jabari Lewis
7/25	Doris Matthews
7/26	Julian Johnson, Nicole Price, Georgia Sawyer, Taylor Garfield, Samuel Aboah
7/27	LaDon Elliot
7/28	Kaleb Miles
7/29	Deborah Matthews
7/30	Marian Wise, Gwendolyn Perryman
7/31	Tyler Lynch, Candice Hall, Laura McNeil

## **SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT**

During the summer months, while Church School is on break, we are excited to reintroduce **The Children's Corner**, located on the left side of the sanctuary near the sound booth. This space is designed for children ages 4 and up. Kids are invited to enjoy games, activities, and reading materials during the service.

For our littlest ones, the Tiny Tykes Temple in Anderson Hall will remain open throughout the summer.

We encourage families to take advantage of these wonderful ministries!

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**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**

## **PACK YOUR BAGS AND GET READY TO TRAVEL!**

**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.

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**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)

Call or email: Tuesday, July 1st - Advocacy Outreach Group  
Meeting - 6:00-9:00 PM in the Undercroft

Friday, July 4th – Church and Parish Offices closed  
for the 4th of July 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 Pocklembo  
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](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in celebration of the 101st heavenly birthday of our mother, **Ruth Hayes**, given by her sons Gregory and Maurice.

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.



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**DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**  
**Readings For the 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 29, 2025**

The First Lesson – [2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14](#)

[Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20](#)

The Second Lesson - [Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Luke 9:51-62](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
week of June 30, 2025**

Monday - [Matthew 19:13-22](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 19:23-30](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 20:17-28](#)

Friday - [Matthew 20:29-34](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 21:1-11](#)



**PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
is on vacation for the summer. We will resume meeting  
on **Tuesday, September 9th** at our usual time and venue.  
As always, it is an honor to serve as the facilitator  
for this ministry.



**WEDNESDAY'S IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY** with Fr. Daren  
is on vacation for the summer. They will resume on  
**Wednesday, September 17th.**

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**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.

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**TINY TYKES TEMPLE**

Our new **"Tiny Tykes Temple"** needs YOU!

Thank you to **Sarah Shaw Thomas, Julio Rodriguez, Chelsea Selby and Ashley Quetant** for joining the oversight committee! We are going to make a great team that will ensure that the Tiny Tykes Temple is available most Sundays.

You know, there's always room for one, two or three more! Email Father Daren, [associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org) and let him know you are available.

We will gather for a short meeting right after the July 4th holiday. Look for an announcement in the bulletin, digital Spearhead or text for details. 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.

## 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.

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## CALLING FOR YOUTH



What's an Acolyte? Am I old enough? Why do I want to be one? These and other questions can be answered by Father Daren! No prior experience is necessary to serve in the Acolyte Ministry. Rehearsals are on Sundays, immediately after service.

This is an excellent opportunity for children and youth to become involved in the life of the church.

Contact [Fr.Daren](#) for details.

## 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](#).
- **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](#).





**The AECST Podcast**, a series dedicated to tackling tough questions our children may ask, all from a faith-based perspective, will return soon. Each episode offers thoughtful discussions to help families navigate complex topics with wisdom and compassion.

If you or someone you know in our congregation has an expertise in or a passion for any of the following subjects, we'd love to have you as a conversation partner!

This season's topics include:

- Understanding Your School-Age Child
- Building Friendships
- Talking About Suicide, Grief and Loss
- Understanding Cultural Appropriation
- Bullying
- Gun Violence
- Honoring Difference
- Wealth, Poverty, and Income Inequity
- Use of Technology

Join us in creating meaningful conversations that support families in faith and life. Contact [Fr. Daren](#), to get involved. Stay tuned for more details!

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

### **IN THE HOSPITAL:**

Francina Norris - Presbyterian Hospital;  
Solomon Cropper - Cooper Hospital

### **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, Quincina Edmonds, Joyce Stewart,  
Edita Gauthney

### **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,  
Mary Ann Phillips, Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez,  
Sharon Harper

### **WE PRAY FOR**

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

## 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.

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## 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.

## 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.



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## 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](http://www.aecst.org)** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much to all who have return them.



## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
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Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
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	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
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Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
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	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
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Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney   Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
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 - 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