

A Season of Reflection, Renewal, and Preparation



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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 3, 2024

"WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH"

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name". Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this **The Third Sunday in Lent.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation. Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you. Again, welcome!

Faithfully, *Martini Shaw* +

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



OUR CONDOLENCES

to Sharon Johnson and her family on the death of her sister, **Sheryl Johnson**. A Memorial will be held here at St. Thomas on **March 12, 2024**, at **10:30 AM**. Please keep the family in prayer. May the soul of Sheryl rest in peace and rise in glory.



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: <u>Gladyce DuBrey</u> 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.

Please click on the link provided for the Order of Service for this Sunday

The Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024





More pictures may be found on our **Facebook** page.

Any Group, Guild, Ministry, or Fellowship wishing to have a flyer placed in the bulletin will have to provide the copies to the office no later than Wednesday for insertion in the Sunday bulletin.



Chosen 300 "Have a Heart" sheltered, underserved

Our 2024 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will begin in "Heart Month" on Sunday, February 18th. The funds will provide meals to be served at the Chosen 300 Spring Garden St. site and the Lancaster Ave, site.

Checks should be made payable to: AECST Chosen 300: Put Chosen 300 and your envelope number on the memo line. Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church for the homeless, 6361 Lancaster Ave., Phila. PA 19151 Attention: Chosen 300 or Place your check in the collections plate. Questions: **Cynthia Muse**

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesdays in Lent Lenten Theme: "From Gaza to Calvary" 6:00 PM - Holy Eucharist

6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Presentation / Discussion

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

March 3, 2024

Installation and Commissioning of Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry and others.

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday - 9:30 AM

Bishop Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez's Visitation.

March 31, 2024 Resurrection Sunday

6:00 AM – Early Sunrise Service (Low Mass with no music) 10:00 AM – Festive Eucharistic Celebration with special music and dance.

*Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew)

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

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.

FROM GAZA TO CALVARY!

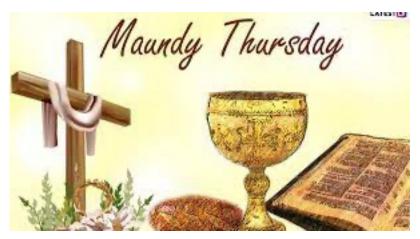
Wednesday Lenten Series continues with a session on February 28, 2024. Did you miss the first and second ones? There are three more to come.





Listen in and take the Lenten journey with AECST from "Gaza to Calvary." This year the AECST Lenten Series is partnering with Freedom Road Podcast host and AECST member, Lisa Sharon Harper, during weeks two and three of the Series. Through podcast excerpts and lively reflection, Harper helps us understand what is happening in Gaza and why it matters to Jesus. This week we asked the question "What's Going On?" in conversation with noted Palestinian historian, Dr. Rashid Khalidi, author of The Hundred Years' War on Palestine. <u>Click here to listen to the full Freedom Road Podcast episode with</u> <u>Dr. Khalidi.</u> Then join us in person next Wednesday to consider deeper implications on our faith.

Confirmation Classes are on Sundays at 8:30 AM and Zoom on Mondays. Please speak with <u>Fr. Daren</u> or <u>Seminarian Kathryn Brossa</u> for further details.



The Vestry and Clergy invite you to join us MAUNDY THURSDAY March 28, 2024 Dinner 6:00 PM.

Limited tickets for dinner are \$20.00 per person and will be on sale March 10th, 17th and 24th.

7:00 PM. Foot Washing, The Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, Beginning of the All Night Vigil. Sponsored by DOK



Join our Deanery Churches and The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez as we celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter on **Saturday, March 30, 2024**, at **7:00 PM** at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 23 S 38th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.



MAUNDY THURSDAY SILENT NIGHT WATCH

Then HE returned to HIS disciples and found them sleeping. Simon, HE said to Peter, are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?" Mark 14:37

The St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King invites you to pray with us on this year's **Maundy Thursday Night Watch Vigil** on **March 28, 2024**, from 8:00 PM until 12:00 noon on **March 29, 2024**, Good Friday.

This year we invite you to join us in a silent vigil where you can pray in your own space, in your own way, and share a deeper connection with God. In keeping with scripture and ensuring that we have continuous prayer throughout the night, we ask that you sign up prior to Maundy Thursday indicating which hour you and your family will be in prayer with us.

As a note, this year there will be no in-person vigil. When you sign up, we will forward additional information to you along with several suggested prayers and meditations you may use.

You may sign up by email to <u>Sharon Bullock</u> or by using the sign-up sheet, which will be at the rear of the church on Sunday.

SCHEDULE OF HOLY WEEK - 2024

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), March 24, 2024, 9:30 AM

We welcome our bishop - The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez and students and staff from St. James School. Blessing and Distribution of Palms / Outdoor procession / Confirmations, Receptions, and Re-Affirmations / Holy Eucharist.

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), March 28, 2024 6:00 PM - Dinner hosted by the Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry (Tickets on sale March 10th -\$20.00 per person - limited seating)

7:00 PM - Service of Foot Washing; Holy Eucharist; Stripping of the altar; and All Night "Re-Imagined" Virtual Vigil sponsored by the DOK (please sign up for an hour of prayer).

Good Friday, March 29, 2024, 12:00 Noon

We welcome the pastor and members of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Special Good Friday liturgy includes Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024, 7:00 PM

We join our sisters and brothers from the Schuylkill Deanery at the Cathedral for the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday), March 31, 2024 6:00 AM - Early Sunrise Service (Low Mass with no music) 10:00 AM - Festive Eucharistic Celebration with special music and dance.



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating a Birthday in March

- 3/1 Nancy Jean Sewell
- 3/2 Cynthia Muse
- 3/3 Tyrone Keller, Victor Stoute
- 3/5 Carol Lowe
- 3/6 Rosita Taylor, Christopher Golson
- 3/7 Valerie Hutton Labdone
- 3/8 Sam Patterson, Elaine Gillison, Dorothy Roberts, Scott Williams
- 3/9 Paula Lamb
- 3/10 Natalye Wiltshire
- 3/11 Sylvia deKnight
- 3/12 Karen Singleton
- 3/13 Patricia Walker Ellison
- 3/14 Deborah Seay
- 3/17 Simone Ellison, Eleanor Chestnut
- 3/18 Stephanie Williamson, Ryan Lynch
- 3/19 Clarissa Pyles, Solomon Cropper
- 3/21 Deidre Patterson, Deborah Billups, Cheryl Stiles
- 3/22 Helen Foster
- 3/23 George Parris, Robert Hugh, Jonathan Wilson
- 3/24 Kathleen Lacy
- 3/25 Joe Wells, Lauren Patterson, Shirlynn Kimble, Tracy Collins
- 3/26 Dylan Coleburn, Norman Franke
- 3/28 Lisa Napoleon
- 3/29 Stephen Foster
- 3/30 Elaine Walden
- 3/31 Patricia Lynch, Nikki Franke, Faith Odniamloo

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PHILADELPHIA ORGAN FESTIVAL

MARCH 15-23, 2024

Presented by Partners for Sacred Places

IN COLLABORATION WITH The Philadelphia Orchestra • The Marian Anderson Historical Society Artcinia • The Crossing • Opera Philadelphia

PhillyOrganFestival.org



There's history in every note.

"Friends of the Festival" discount! Use code **PSPFRIENDS** when ordering.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 7 PM

Ravel's Boléro for Organ and Brass Chelsea Chen, organist Brass Ensemble

ORGAN: 1931 E.M. Skinner Girard College Chapel

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 3 PM

Gothic Drama from Screen and Keyboard: The Passion of Joan of Arc Matthew Glandorf, organist

Improvised score to the silent film classic

ORGAN: Originally Carlton C. Mitchell 1894; revised Casavant Frères Ltée. (1955) et al St. Luke's Germantown

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 7 PM

The Organ's Modern Touch: Minimalism and Contemporary Works Amanda Mole, organist

Music of Nico Muhly and Steve Reich featuring percussion ensemble and singers from The Crossing

ORGAN: 1919 Austin The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 7 PM

Celebrating the Memory and Art of Marian Anderson

Alan Morrison, organist Marian Anderson Historical Society Scholars, vocalists

ORGAN: 1927 Möller Tindley Temple

PhillyOrganFestival.org

Check the website for updates on performers and additional events!

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 7 PM

Reimagining the Sound of Revolution: Garras de Oro, U.S. Premiere of New score by Juan Pablo Carreño

Parker Kitterman, organist

Austin Chanu, conductor Ensemble including Musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra Vocalists from Opera Philadelphia: Jessica Beebe, soprano; Sam Higgins, countertenor

Live electronics

ORGAN: 1928 Austin Rodeph Shalom

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 7 PM

J. S. Bach Cantata BWV 146: Wir müssen durch viel Trübsol

John Walthausen, organist Baroque orchestra and vocalists

ORGAN: 1964 Rieger Unitarian Society of Germantown

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 7 PM

Holst's The Planets and Premiere

Daryl Robinson, organist Percussion Ensemble including Musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra

ORGAN: 2021 Emery Brothers, incorporating 1906 Austin and 1936 Möller Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 7 PM

Romance in the Garden: Franck and Rachmaninoff at Longwood

Alcée Chriss, organist String and Woodwind Ensemble including Musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra

ORGAN: 1930 Aeolian Longwood Gardens

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

READINGS FOR The Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 The First Lesson - <u>Exodus 20:1-17</u> <u>Psalm 19</u>

The Second Lesson - <u>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</u> The Holy Gospel - <u>John 2:13-22</u>

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of March 4, 2024 Monday - Luke 4:23–30 Tuesday - Matthew 18:21–35 Wednesday - Matthew 5:17–19 Thursday - Luke 11:14–23 Friday - Matthew 12:28–34 Saturday - Luke 18:9–14

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 <u>Alfreda Brockman</u>.

-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 **<u>Fr. Daren</u>** 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 <u>Bill</u>
 <u>Edmonds</u> or <u>Dale Williams.</u>

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.**



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact <u>Fr. Jay</u>.

Join the Girls Friendly Society!

Meetings are on Saturdays from 11am -1pm. All girls aged 3-30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Gir Talk, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day, along with trips to the Theatre, Museums, Ice Skating, Mini Golf, trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape May, NJ. **If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact the Branch Advisor, Nikkol Simms at <u>njsimms@verizon.net</u>**



Young Adult Bible Study

Fr. Daren is offering a Bible Study series for Young Adults on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Fall Topic: "If It's Not About Love, It's Not About God"

Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with **Fr. Daren.**

Scout Troop #133 - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM. on Saturdays. Our Boy Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at
3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule.
Please contact Scout Master Howard Chapman for more information.

Church School begins at 10:00 AM.

The theme this year is :"Exciting Stories of the Bible." Registration forms may be found on the tables in the Undercroft Sunday School room or the registration <u>link.</u>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Thomas Snowden - University of Pennsylvania;

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House Fr. Darryl James -Stapeley Rehab Leotta Griffin - Saunders House Terry Corson - Deer Meadows

AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Shirley Winkfield, Lemont Johnson, Ronald Coleman, Thelma Silvers, Linda Holmes, Alletta Parris-Olday, Kenneth Dow, Cedric Babb, Joyce Harrison, Patricia Ellison, Carl Dean, Laverne Hudson.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Irving Stevenson, Sandra Bryant Miller, Gladyce DuBrey.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are not placed on the altar in Lent except for Rose Sunday, March 10, 2024.

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 \$	

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement **Donation Button** on our **website**.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We need strong support for our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card or go on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this <u>link</u> to complete your Faithful Giving Card. You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

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

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas <u>website</u>, the <u>Live Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch <u>Past</u> <u>Services</u>.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount are placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please don't hesitate to <u>contact</u> me. We appreciate your help with this.

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

If you have decided to use the Givi App or <u>Online Giving</u> <u>Donations</u>, please <u>email</u> your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. Judy Tillman

A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you could slot their envelopes. Thank you

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

"To whom much is given, much is required." Luke 12:48

1) Sunday Offering Plate.

 Mail in your check or money order to the church. Please use the following address: The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas c/o Fiscal Administrator.
 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

- 3) Use the Givi app. If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the givi app (givi IOS App) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (givi Android App) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with Deadra Cannon, 215-844-6115.
- 4) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 10 am-2 pm) After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

5) Church website - Online Giving Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc. **NOTE**: Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St. Thomas when filling out your online giving information.)

 Pledge Cards - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form <u>electronically</u> through the website or send an email to our <u>Fiscal Administrator</u>.
 Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop Rector Associate to the Rector Associate Priest Associate Minister Associate Minister Executive Asst to Rector **Fiscal Administor** Sexton Asst Sexton **Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel**

Altar Guild **Baptism Co-Chairs**

Church School Superintendent Tynecia Wilson Ed Muse Photogrphy Ministry William Edmonds Fiscal Advisor to the Rector

Girls Friendly Society Jazz Ensemble Director Live Stream Ministry

Memorial Flowers

Monarch Greeters Ministry **Parish Vergers**

Parish Webmaster **Property Chair** Scout Pack 133

Stewardship Chair Transportation Ministry Videography Ministry Voices of Comfort William Burke Ushers Ministry Arlene Singletary

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach Gladyce DuBrey Jeannette Jeffrev LaDon Elliott David McGilberry Jay Fluellen, DMA Waltier Blocker Joe Tucker, Esq

Alfreda Brockman **Gail Hinton Harris** Patricia Walker-Ellison Deadra Cannon

Nikkol Simms

Yaseen Farooq Terri Tillman Alfreda Brockmam Clare Mae Daniels Roy Ellison Stephen Hannum Karen Ragland **Gail Hinton Harris** William Burke Howard Chapman Arlene Gray Judy Tillman

Quentin Heyward **Robert Davenport**

rector@aecst.org associaterector@aecst.org associatepriest@aecst.org dravidian@comcast.net pauljaybach@gmail.com 1792@aecst.org fiscal@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org chancelchoir@aecst.org gospelchoir@aecst.org jtucker@tigattorneys.com

fredabee@verizon.net thegail@hotmail.com p.walker.ellison@gmail.com churchschool@aecst.org edmon57@comcast.net assistantfiscal@aecst.org

njsimms@verizon.net jobopss@aol.com livevideo@aecst.org

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recordedvideo@aecst.org robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com leaniepo302@gmail.com

VESTRY OFFICERS

Richard Jones (Rector's Warden) Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. (Treasurer) Deborah Camp-Frye (Accounting Warden) Judy Tillman (Stewardship Chair) William Burke (Property Chair) Clare Mae Daniels (Vestry Clerk)

VESTRY

Deadra Cannon Wendella Fox Marie B. Golson Deborah Harrison D. Lynn Joell Kelvin Johnson Pamela Johnson Patricia Lynch Judith Simkins-Booth

AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best Deborah Booker Matthews Conchetta Brewer Sharon Bullock Ronnie Collins Mary S. Dean Elaine Gillson Eugene Golson Cynthia Muse Dr. Monica Taylor Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. 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-determanation, 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.