

# HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!

*The*  
**Good News**  
**HE LIVES!**



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](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

**Easter Sunday: Resurrection Sunday**  
**March 31, 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 **Easter Sunday:**  
**Resurrection Sunday**

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!

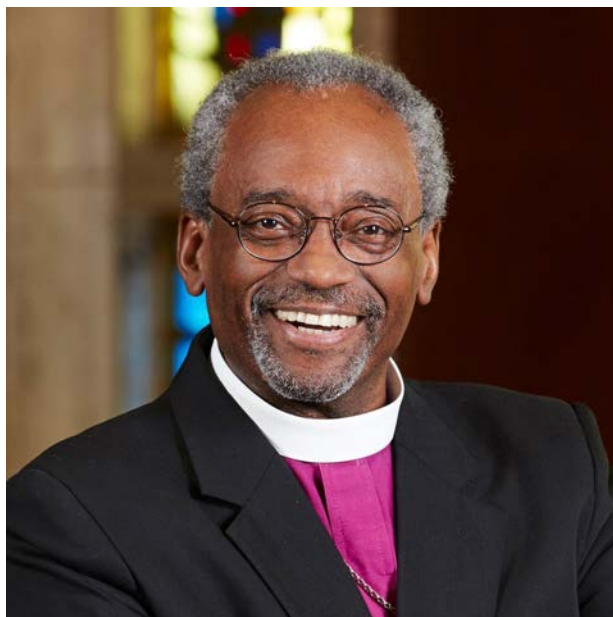
Faithfully,  
*Martini Shaw* +

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

## A LITURGICAL REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR

The Service (mass) is not over during the singing of the Closing Hymn. We ask that you please be respectful of others in worship and refrain from departing from your pew until after the Dismissal.

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Please use this [link](#) to watch a Special Easter Message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

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## The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Please use this [link](#) to watch a Diocesan video featuring St. Thomas.

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

**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.**

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**Here comes the Easter Bunny!**

**Ready for the Church School Easter Egg Hunt?**

On Easter Sunday, **March 31, 2024** - Bring your young ones to be a part of our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! This year we will have prizes in exchange for your eggs.

Immediately after the **10:00 AM** service, please meet our Superintendent, Tynecia Wilson, and Church Volunteers in Anderson Hall to receive an Easter Egg Hunt Basket before going outside to hunt for your eggs; and maybe even find the **GOLDEN EGG!** The more eggs you find, the bigger the prize you can get!





## OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The family of **LaVern Hudson**, who recently died. Her funeral will be held here at St. Thomas, on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**. Her viewing will begin at 10:00 AM and a Requiem Mass will be said at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of LaVern rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.

The family of **Mercedes Sadler**, who recently died. Her Memorial Service will be held at St. Thomas Church on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**, at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of Mercedes rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.

The sister of Mrs. Inez Turner, **Ms. Gloria Jackson**, passed away in October of 2023. Her memorial service will be held as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday, **April 17, 2024**

**Church:** St. Simon the Cyrenian Episcopal Church

**Location:** 1401 S. 22nd St. (22nd & Reed), Philadelphia, PA  
19146

**Visitation:** 10:00 AM

**Service:** 11:00 AM

**Burial:** Private

Contact for Questions: [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#)

# Palm Sunday: The Passion of Our Lord March 24, 2024

Hundreds gathered to celebrate a glorious Palm Sunday:  
A Welcome home to our Bishop, Bishop  
Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez;  
A Welcome to our dear friends of St. James School;  
A festive Blessing of Palms and Community Procession;  
A class of 25 being Confirmed/Received/Reaffirmed;  
A day of beautiful worship, music, and fellowship.

















**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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**Our Journey from Gaza to Calvary**

**Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday:**

Members of St. Thomas participate in the Philadelphia Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage.

Clergy of St. Thomas join others at the Cathedral to renew their Ordination Vows.





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**MAUNDY THURSDAY/HOLY THURSDAY**  
A delicious meal;  
Foot washing;  
Holy Eucharist;  
Stripping of the altar  
Beginning of “The Watch” at the Altar of Repose







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

## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS**

**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.

**April 7, 2024**

Second Sunday of Easter

**April 14, 2024**

Third Sunday of Easter

Gift of Life Sunday

**April 21, 2024**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Heroes' Sunday / Honoring First Responders

Philadelphia Police Commissioner

Kevin Bethel, Guest Speaker

**April 28, 2024**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Annual Men Are Cooking Event

More information coming soon.



### **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.





# HEROES' SUNDAY

APRIL 21, 2024 10:00 AM

**Philadelphia Police Commissioner  
KEVIN BETHEL, GUEST SPEAKER**



**ALL first responders are invited to attend!**  
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**A Very Solemn, Blessed, and Holy  
Good Friday Observance with:  
Stations of the Cross;  
Veneration of the cross;  
Distribution of the Holy Eucharist;  
Pastor Adam Hearlson and members  
from the Overbrook Presbyterian Church,  
who recently suffered a devastating church fire.**





## Calling ALL WOMEN of St. Thomas!

**YOU ARE INVITED** to participate with the **St. Thomas Women's Ministry** as planning gears up for our annual Women's Day Celebration!

This year's Women's Day will be held on **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am.** Join us to share your ideas, time and talents to help make this year's celebration another amazing and memorable event.

The meetings will be held virtually and the zoom link will be provided upon your response.

Meetings will be held on Mondays at 7pm beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Please email:*

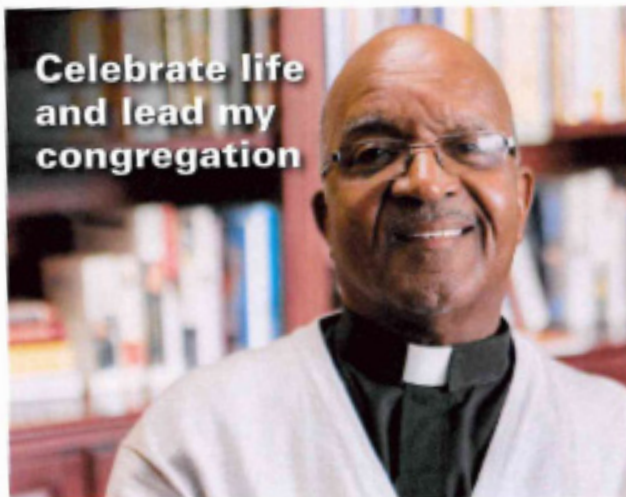
[mblj03@gmail.com](mailto:mblj03@gmail.com) - no later than  
Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – 5pm to confirm your interest.

We look forward to your participation.  
Until then spread the word!

*Peace and abundant Blessings!*

GIFT OF LIFE SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

Because someone said  
**YES** to organ  
donation,  
I'm alive to:



*CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Anna, liver recipient;  
Sebastian, kidney recipient; Christina, kidney recipient;  
Reverend James, liver recipient.*

Register as an organ and tissue donor at [donors1.org](https://donors1.org)



# 10 REASONS to SAY YES

95%

of people support organ donation.

Transplants give people a **second chance at life**, so they can work, travel, play sports, graduate, marry, have children, raise families and more.



Over **46,000 Americans** receive a **life-saving transplant** each year, but many more are waiting and 17 die each day.



Diabetes and hypertension damage organs, **increasing** the need **in multicultural communities**.



Being a donor **does not affect** medical care or funeral arrangements.



If everyone registered, it is estimated that an additional **17,000 people** would receive a **life-saving transplant** each year.



One organ donor can **save up to 8 lives** and a tissue donor can **help about 100 others**.



**Everyone can register**, regardless of their age or health history.



Donation is **supported by all major religions** for its humanity, love and compassion.

**What if you or a loved one** needed a transplant?



Register as an organ and tissue donor at [donors1.org](http://donors1.org)



**GIFT of LIFE**  
DONOR PROGRAM



## **DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**

### **READINGS FOR**

**Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024**

The First Lesson - [Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Psalm 118:1-2,14-24](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#)

The Holy Gospel - [John 20:1-18](#)

### **The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of April 1, 2024**

Monday - [Matthew 28:9-15](#)

Tuesday - [John 20:11-18](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

Friday - [John 21:1-14](#)

Saturday - [Mark 16:9-15,20](#)

## 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](#).

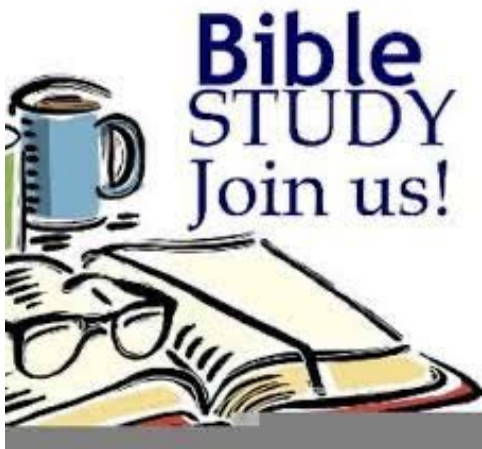
-to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

-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 [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](#).



**Bible Study** with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#). **Bible Study will NOT meet on April 2, 2024, for Easter Break.**

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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, 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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**Young Adult Bible Study**  
**Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House. During the Spring, we will explore the Acts of the Apostles. Join our exciting journey with the Apostles of Jesus. All are welcome!



## **Podcast Series**

Stay tuned for an upcoming parish podcast series for parents with young children, and those who are responsible for the care of children. The series will explore the text: *When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-filled Responses for Tough Topics* edited by Bromleigh McCleneghan and Karen Ware Jackson.

## **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 are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in the parish hall immediately following worship.

## **Vacation Bible School**

If you would like to be part of a team to help with the planning of a Vacation Bible School, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

## **Join the Girls Friendly Society!**

Meetings are on Saturdays from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. All girls aged 3-30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Girl 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**

**[njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)**

## 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](#).

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**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.

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### **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 [link](#).

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

**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, Joyce Harrison,  
Patricia Ellison, Carl Dean, Laverne Hudson, Mary Ann Jones,  
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper.

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

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

**WE PRAY FOR**

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



To order flowers, please return the form with payment to  
Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman

\_\_ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @60.00

\_\_ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar -  
@ 50.00

\_\_ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00

**(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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### **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 10:00 AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).

## **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 [link](#) 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

**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 [contact](#) 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 [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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## 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. 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.)
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - 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 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	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	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		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



## **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

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**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-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.