



**AECST**  
FOUNDED 1792



**THE DAY OF  
PENTECOST**

**THE DESCENT OF  
THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**(The Birthday of the Church)**

**WHIT SUNDAY**

OUR SERVICE STARTS AT 10:00 AM. IF YOU ARE PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO ATTEND,  
PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY VIA OUR WEBSITE, YOUTUBE, OR FACEBOOK PAGES.  
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
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 of the Church) WHIT SUNDAY  
MAY 28, 2023**

**“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”**

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”.

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this  
**Day of Pentecost**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

Faithfully,

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

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



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# **Memorial Day Observance**

**We remember those who died in war.  
We thank the men and women  
who gave their lives for our freedom.**



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**From the Rector:** Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

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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](#) or call (215-473-3065) beforehand. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

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The Church and Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe holiday.



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

The wearing of masks **is now optional**.

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. **Hand sanitizer** is also available.

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**Following Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the fifty days of Easter, we are now ready for Pentecost Sunday.**



## **A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!**

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. Please wear something red and invite others.

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We are very pleased to announce the call of: **the Rev. Fr. Daren Evans** to the position of: Associate to the Rector for Parish Life and Youth Ministries. His appointment comes at a time when we are “Re-imagining” our ministry to young families and Spanish-speaking members. Fr. Daren is a native of the Island of Jamaica, and a priest from the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. He most recently served in the Spanish-speaking Diocese of Costa Rica, in the role of Dean of La Catedral El Buen Pastor and Diocesan Youth Coordinator. To relax, Fr. Daren “enjoys traveling, playing the piano, engaging in community involvement, farming, and plotting how to live off the grid”.

We look forward to welcoming Fr. Daren Evans to the City of Philadelphia and St. Thomas Church. He will officially join us on June 1, 2023. To God be the glory!

### **A WARM ST. THOMAS WELCOME**

Our new Assistant, Fr. Daren Evans has arrived in Philadelphia and will join us for worship next **Sunday, June 4th**. One way to show our love and welcome is to provide him with a gift card as he transitions to a new city (i.e. Target, bank cards, etc.)

*Good News! Free CPR Training is Coming to AECST!*



Are you interested in learning this important skill.

The First class will be held Saturday June 3, 2023 at 10 am and will run until about 11:30 in Anderson Hall

If interested, please place the form below in the box at the back of church so we can plan for the number of people who would like the course.

**OR**

You can fill out a Registration Form by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/GrDz8entxwA8h1if8>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pictures from the Seventh Sunday of Easter Graduate Sunday, May 21, 2023







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

# The Church School Closed out the Season and Celebrated Dorothy "Dr. Dottie" Archey, Church School Superintendent





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**Calling All Toddlers, Children, Teens, and Families of St Thomas June 10th** from 1:00– 4:00 pm – the Youth Leadership of the Diocese of Pennsylvania is hosting its Summer Youth Jam at St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley, 2475 St. Peter’s Rd. Malvern, PA.

All Toddlers, Children, Teens, and Families are invited for fun, food & fellowship, Rain or Shine. Bring clothes & towel for the water slides. Parents, please stick around – there will be fellowship activities for you too. The Caterer needs to know by TODAY, SUNDAY, **May 28th**, how many children and how many adults to expect. Sign up sheet on the table between the Sanctuary and Anderson Hall or email Wendella Fox The St. Thomas Youth Leaders Thank you.

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**June 25th** - We will celebrate the **Youth Ministries** of our Parish: Church School, The Girls Friendly, and The Scouts.

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MAY/JUNE

**May 21st** - Graduate Sunday

**May 28th** - Pentecost Sunday

Wear something red.

**June 4th** - Annual Women's Day Celebration

**June 11th** - Annual Caribbean Festival

**June 18th** - Father's Day Observance

**June 25th** - Annual Youth Recognition Celebration

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**ATTENTION ALL MEN!!!!!!**  
**MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING**  
(Ages 18 - 99 years old)  
Saturday, June 17, 2023,  
at 8:30 AM  
**SPREAD THE WORD AND  
INVITE OTHERS.**



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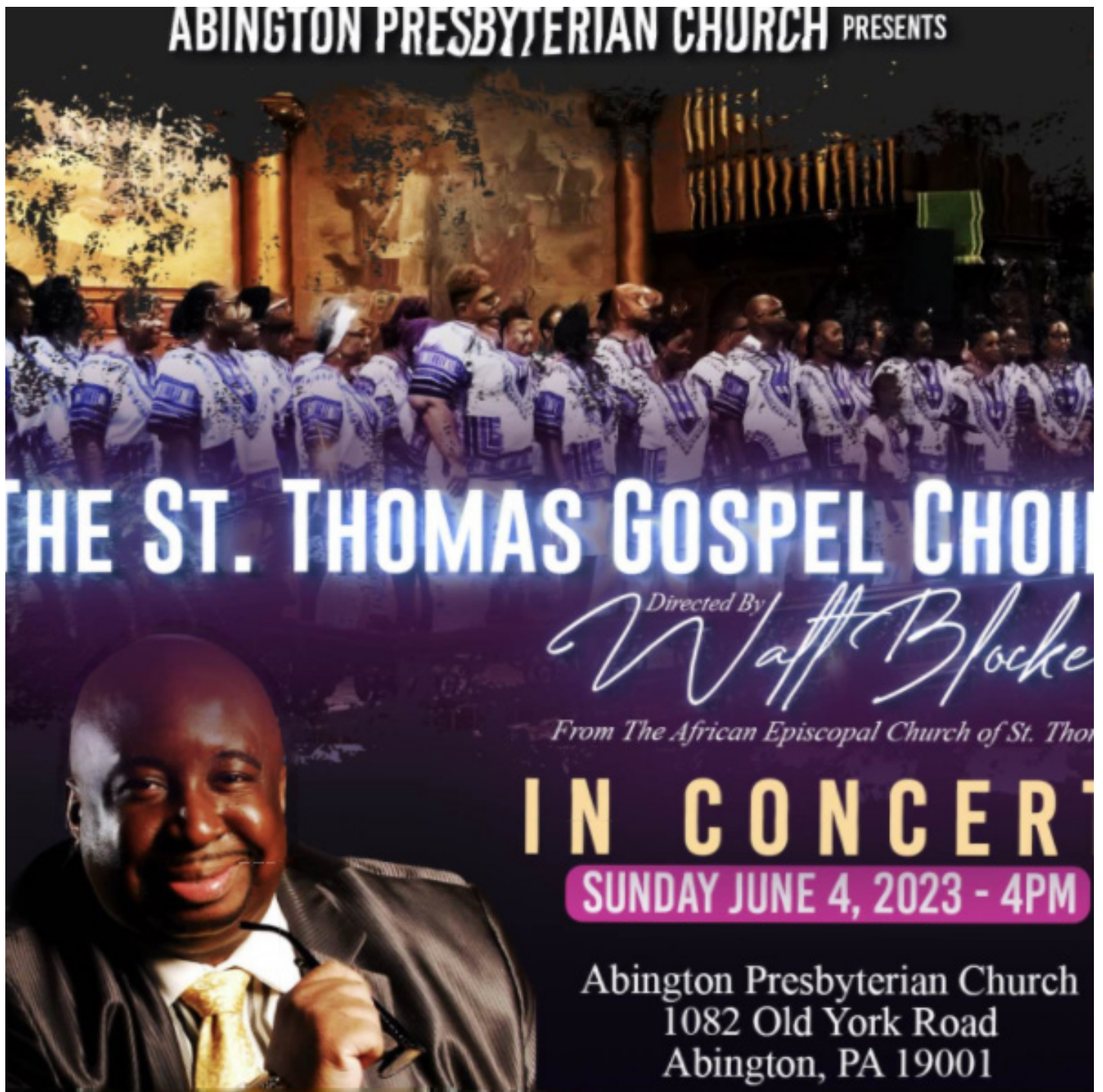
## SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the [Newsletter](#) sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

## GOSPEL CHOIR NEWS

Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 3:00 PM -7:00 PM the Gospel Choir will have a mini-concert at Trinity Episcopal Church, 6587 Upper York Rd, Solebury, PA 18938 at their 2023 Lobsterfest.

For more information please go to [trinitysolebury.org/lobsterfest](https://trinitysolebury.org/lobsterfest).



ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR

Directed By  
*Walf Blocke*

From The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

**IN CONCERT**

SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2023 - 4PM

Abington Presbyterian Church  
1082 Old York Road  
Abington, PA 19001

The Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr.  
Memorial Scholarship  
The Schuylkill Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Review Committee

Jean Fowler

Marcia L. Hinton, Chair

Meredith Wiggins

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The Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr.

March 19, 1912—May 2, 2012



Education and achievement were very important to, and stressed by the Logan family. Throughout his life, he was surrounded by accomplished men and women and he was encouraged to make his own significant contributions to society.

He graduated from Central High School and attended Johnson C. Smith University and Lincoln University graduating in 1935. He earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from General Theological Seminary (GTS) in New York City, and a Masters of Sacred Theology from Philadelphia Divinity School in 1941. Father Logan also received five honorary doctorates, including Lincoln University, Hampton University and St. Augustine's College.

Father Logan selflessly devoted over seventy-three years of his life to the Episcopal Church. At the time of his death, he was the oldest serving African American priest in the Episcopal Church, USA.



[More information](#) and an application can be found at the link provided.

**The Caribbean Festival Committee** is pleased to host the 11th Annual Caribbean Festival on **Sunday, June 11th**. Join us for the sweet sounds of steelpan music, samplings of delicacies from the Caribbean, and lots of fellowship and fun!

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If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a **monthly Vestry meeting** via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to [vestryclerk@aecst.org](mailto:vestryclerk@aecst.org) at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.

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### **DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

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### **AECST LIVE STREAM**

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch [Past Services](#) and [Highlights](#) from past services.

# Save the Date

## 2023 ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

### "Celebrating 40 Years"



**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**THE HONORABLE**  
**JOANNA MCCLINTON**  
FIRST WOMAN ELECTED  
PA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



**AECST**  
FOUNDED 1792

**Sunday**  
**June 4, 2023 - 10:00 AM**

**Theme:**  
**"And now these three remain:**  
**faith, hope and love.**

**But the greatest of these**  
**is LOVE"**  
**1 Corinthians 13:13**

**CO-CHAIRS:**  
**MONICA LEWIS JONES**  
**YVONNE CALDWELL WHITE**

If you are physically unable to attend,  
please join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.  
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## ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to:  
Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman. (Please do not place it in the  
collection plate or give to the church office.) Thank you.

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of  
paper for more names.)

A) In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

B) In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHURCH SCHOOL

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 through  
High School. The theme for this church school year is "The  
Lord's Prayer".

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with  
Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or  
contact [Dottie Archey](#) for more information or 215 837-6941.



Nikkol Simms  
Branch Advisor  
njsimms@verizon.net

For more info:  
<http://gfsus.org/>

Find us on Facebook!  
GFS PA African  
Episcopal Church of St.  
Thomas

# GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75 years of legacy at St. Thomas.

**Meetings  
begin**

**Oct. 1, 2022**

**11am-1pm**

Membership Ages:

Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.

Junior Members: 5-13 yo.

Senior Members: 14-21 yo.

Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:

Service Projects

Girl Talks

Arts & Crafts

World Day of Prayer

Founder's Day

Mission Day

GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:

White water rafting

Theaters

Museums

Ice Skating

Segway/Ziplining

Mini Golf

Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

## **JOIN THE GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY!**

Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: service projects, girl talks, arts & crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips to the theater, 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 our Branch Advisor, [Nikkol Simms](#).

**Please help support our St. Thomas GFS Branch** with a love donation. Donations will go to helping them go on their Founders' Day trip to Washington D.C. in March and World Council in South Africa August 3-11, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact [Nikkol Simms](#).

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## **SCOUT TROOP #133 -**

Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

The 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.

## RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

-to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.

-to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

-to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).

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

-to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

-as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

-**Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).

-**The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).

## Readings for the Day of Pentecost

May 28, 2023

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

[Psalm 104:25-35](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 12:3B-13](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 20:19-23](#)

## The Holy Gospel Readings for the

Week of May 29, 2023

Monday - [Luke 11:24-36](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 11:37-52](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 11:53-12:12](#)

Thursday - [Luke 12:13-31](#)

Friday - [Luke 12:32-48](#)

Saturday - [Luke 12:49-59](#)



**AECST BIBLESTUDY MEETING WITH FR. JAY** is held on Tuesdays evening by Zoom at **7:00 PM**. If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact [Fr. Jay](#) via email to be included on our list. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare in advance for the week's meeting.

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

**In the Hospital:** Conchetta Brewer - Penn Presbyterian Rehab Center.

**IN REHAB:**

Nora Corbin- Little Flower Rehab; Linda Holmes - St. Ignatius Rehab; Fr. Darryl James - Ambler Care Center.

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Rosalind Rodriguez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Pearl Henderson, Fr. Jay Collins, Teri Taylor, Tyrone Keller.

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut, Joan Hall, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds, Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson.

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**WE PRAY FOR**

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

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**ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT**

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium inurnment, please contact the church office at 215-473-3065.



**Happy Birthday to the members of our parish celebrating in  
June**

- 6/1 Marceline Fitzwilliam  
6/2 Laverne Hudson, Diedre Milanese, Jonathan Muse  
6/4 Sylvia Simkins, Julian Smith  
6/5 Edita Dauthney, Yvonne Smith, Jennifer Caviness  
6/6 Barbara Glenn, Autumn Simmons  
6/10 Jean Brogden, Roy Ellison  
6/11 Geraldine Martin, Harold Yates, Micaiya Camera,  
Sylvia Gomes-Knight  
6/12 William Shepherd, Patricia Akins  
6/13 Mercedes Sadler, J. Maurice Pearsall,  
Teena Watson Mathews  
6/14 Yaseen Farooq  
6/15 Renee Perna  
6/17 Herb Wetzel, Adjioa Love-Dorsey, Troy Miles  
6/20 Ivan Juzang, Monica Jones, Nora Corbin  
6/22 Elaine Alvarez  
6/23 Leotta Griffin, Louise Lewis, Devon Tucker,  
Cheyenne Williamson, Claude Waterford  
6/25 Kim Hyde, Justin Trotman, Erin Napoleon  
6/27 Merle Hopson  
6/28 Alexis Benton

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

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

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

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

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## CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

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



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

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

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.  
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**  
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link [Click>](#) or send an email to our [Fiscal Administrator](#). Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administor	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tigattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photogrphy Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevens	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.royellison@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

## **THE VESTRY**

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones  
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels  
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Brenda Johnson Best  
Judith Simkins Booth  
William Burke  
Deadra Cannon  
Wendella Fox, Esq.  
Marie Golson  
Deborah Harrison  
D. Lynn Joell  
Kelvin Johnson  
Jonathan Muse  
Judith Tillman

## **THE AUXILIARY VESTRY**

Conchetta Brewer  
Ronnie Collins  
Eugene Golson  
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor  
Pamela Johnson  
Patricia Lynch  
Cynthia Muse  
Darryle "Bobby" Tillman

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS** is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom. St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.