



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Medicine & Faith

Health Ministry 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 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Health Ministry Sunday
May 29, 2022, 10:00 AM

“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 **Seventh Sunday of Easter and Health Ministry 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. 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

Please click for the [Order of Service](#)
for this Sunday's service.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION - MAY 15, 2022



THE CHURCH AND PARISH OFFICE
will be closed on Monday, May 30th,
in observance of Memorial Day.
Have a safe and blessed day.

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.

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.

A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON "VIRTUAL WORSHIP"

"Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion)." (From Fr. Martini Shaw's Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

"Online Masses and Spiritual Communion do not represent the church. The faithful not gathered to receive the Sacraments is not the church. Jesus' disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord in Community. They gathered, around the sacrament, at the same table, as a sign of community". (Pope Francis' message)

"If you are unable to receive the Sacrament, by reasons of extreme sickness or physical disability; or when being present at a celebration is absolutely impossible, it is possible to open yourself to God's grace and blessing". (Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer).



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice. St. Thomas will follow the recommended guidelines of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Diocese of PA. Let us love our neighbor and worship safely!

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. Hand sanitizer is also available. The ventilation system has been changed to let in outside air. We request that all in attendance be **VACCINATED**. Unvaccinated individuals are requested to watch the Service via [Live Stream](#).

HAPPENING:

Next Sunday, June 5th - Pentecost Sunday

Wear something **RED** and come prepared to celebrate the ending of the Season of Easter and the birthday of the Christian community - the church.

ATTENTION ALL MEN

Starting next **Sunday, June 5th**, ALL men are invited to briefly stop and Greet other men of the parish outside under the carport after service each week.



**GRADUATES / PARENTS
OF GRADUATES:**

Have you graduated? Please fill out the [Graduate Profile](#) with information on your graduation. Graduate Sunday is

June 12th. Information should be in the office by **June 6th.**

Sunday, June 5, 2022, the men of Rho Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc will be holding the O. Wilson Winters Scholarship Program at St. Thomas at 4:00 PM.

SAVE THE DATE NOW!

Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 11:00 AM.

A portion of Lancaster Avenue will be Renamed
Absalom Jones Way

Come join us for part of this Homecoming Weekend
Celebrating our 230th Parish Anniversary

Co-Chairs - Albert Dandridge, Esq., Monica Lewis Jones,
Catherine Stafford



The 1926 Foundation, Incorporated

Brenda Johnson, President

&

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated[®]

Omega Omega Chapter

Chartered in 1926

Charlene M. Collins, President



Now Accepting Scholarship Applications!!!

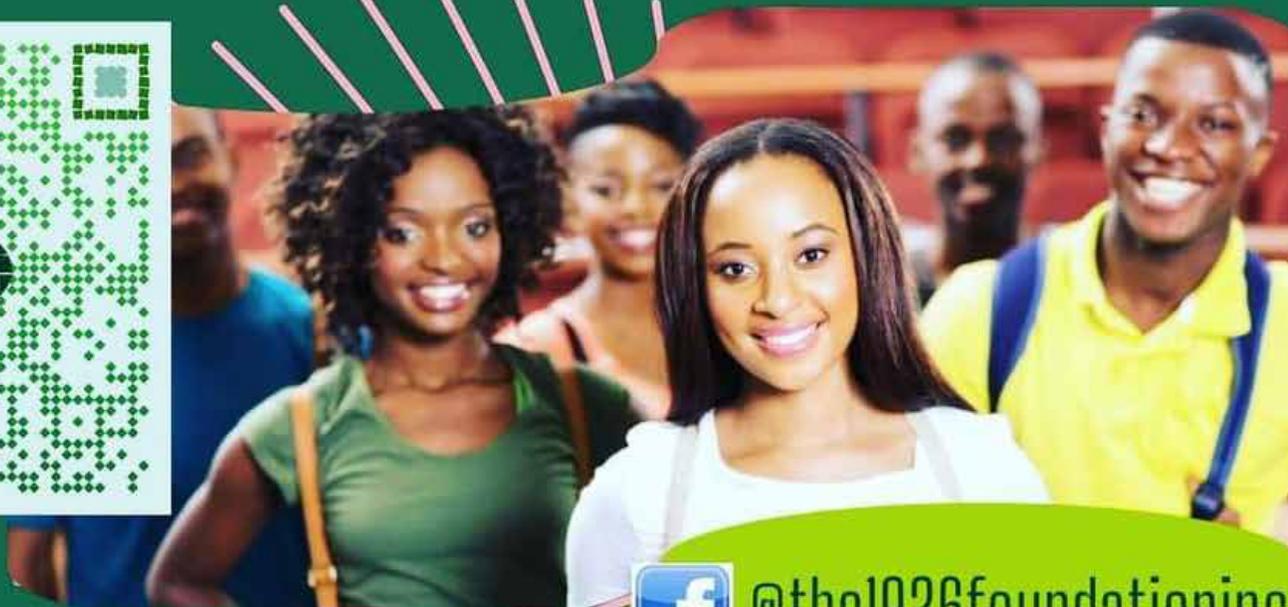
CLASS OF 2022

To Apply, Scan the QR Code or Copy the Link Below:

<https://www.the1926foundationinc.com/scholarship>

For additional information, email:

AKA0mega0megaScholarships@gmail.com



@the1926foundationinc



CONGRATULATIONS

to the Newly Baptized /Confirmed / Received
Members of our church family.

To God Be The Glory!

Newly Baptized

Gabrielle Reine Faisal
Kevin Carter

Sponsor

Dorothy Archey
Dorothy Archey

Confirmed Youth

Gabrielle Reine Faisal
Savannah Fitzpatrick
Thomas Lynch, V

Sponsor

Dorothy Archey
Dorothy Archey
Dorothy Archey

Adults Confirmed

Joyce Adams
Kevin Carter
Christine Faisal
Rashid Faisal
Joseph Gobern
Josephine Graham
Dennis Hall
Bradley Hammond
Patricia Holmes
Rene Hayes
Angela Kelly
David King
Derede McAlpin
Beverly Moore
Rosalind Roberts Smalls

Sponsor

Brenda Best Johnson
Frank Johnson
Darryl & Judith Tillman
Darryl & Judith Tillman
Frank Johnson
Cynthia Muse
Richard Jones
Jumba Mugwabya
Judith Simkins Booth
Conchetta Brewer
Conchetta Brewer
Arthur Sudler
Sheryl Johnson
D. Lynn Joell
D. Lynn Joell

Adults Received

Mary Ann Jones
Alexandra McFadden
R. Seth Williams

Judith Simkins Booth
Judith Simkins Booth
Al Dandridge, Esq.

Adults Reaffirmed

Sharon Harper

Cynthia Muse

ATTENTION:

We are so blessed to be stewards of a beautiful property that God has entrusted to our care. Persons are needed to serve on our Property Committee. If interested, please speak with [Deborah Harrison](#) or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

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.

VESTRY MEETING

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 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 p.m.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed to serve on the Altar Guild. This amazing group of individuals prepare our beautiful altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact Alfreda Brockman at fredabee@verizon.net.

We are in need of Readers and Intercessors, Youth and Adult. If you are interested in helping spread the Word of God through a reading, Psalm, or Intercessory prayers, please contact Gladyce in the parish office. Thank you.

We are looking for a few individuals 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.

CALLING ALL FUTURE SHEPHERDS OF THE AECST

Plans are in the works for resurrecting and re-imagining the **SHEEP & SHEPHERDS MINISTRY** created many years ago by parishioner Mrs. Vernetta Dow. As a telephone ministry, the goal is that every AECST family of parishioners (sheep) will have a shepherd that keeps in touch with them on a regular basis. We are now calling for parishioners to volunteer as shepherds. Before this ministry can be rolled-out, a sufficient number of volunteers is needed in order to minimize the number of families that each will shepherd. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd new members. For more information and to volunteer, please either see Charlene M. Wiltshire before or after Sunday church services or send an email to her at cwiltshi@comcast.net. Thank you!

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MAY / JUNE

May 29th

Health Awareness Sunday

June 5th

Pentecost Sunday (Wear Something Red)

Alpha Phi Alpha (Rho Chapter)

Scholarship Program at **4:00 PM**

June 12th

Graduation Recognition Sunday

Please submit all names of graduates
to the church office by **June 6th.**

The St. Thomas Family is invited
to the wedding of

Ariel Brockman and Shabazz Kelson
at **3:00 PM**

June 19th

Father's Day / Juneteenth Observance

June 26th

Youth Sunday

Acolyte Commissioning Sunday

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS
READINGS FOR

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

The First Reading: [Acts 16:16-34](#)

[Psalm 97](#)

The Second Reading: [Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#)

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

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of May 30, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 8:5-17](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 8:18-27](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 8:28-34](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 9:1-8](#)

Friday - [Matthew 9:9-17](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 9:18-26](#)

Readings for the Day of Pentecost
June 5, 2022

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

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

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

The Holy Gospel: [John 14:8-17](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of June 6, 2022**

Monday- [Luke 17:1-10](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 17:11-19](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 17:20-37](#)

Thursday - [Luke 18:1-8](#)

Friday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Saturday - [Luke 18:15-30](#)



Our church family is invited
to attend the Celebration
of Marriage for Ariel Brockman
and Shabazz Kelson on Sunday,
June 12, 2022, at 3:00 PM
at
The African Episcopal Church
of St. Thomas

ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are in need of Acolytes (Youth and Adults). Please consider serving God in this rewarding ministry. If interested, please contact the Rector ASAP.



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY

Bible Study with Fr. Jay concludes the liturgical year with our meeting on **Tuesday, May 31st**. We will resume on **Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 PM**.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

- __ flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00
- __ flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00
- __ flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00
- __An Easter Lily @\$25.00 each (5 names per plant)

Please PRINT

In Memory of _____, In Thanksgiving for _____,

Name _____, Envelope# _____, Amount _____.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions. Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact [Deborah Harrison](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

RECOVERING AT HOME

Justin Trotman, Alice Bowman-Cropper,
Teena Watson Matthews, Grace Wetzel,
Linda Holmes, Rosalind Rodriguez, Gwenda Hart.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Terri Barber, Adinah Edwards, Joan Hall, Robert Brown,
Georgia Sawyer, Isedora "Gwen" Francis, Shirley Winkfield,
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson,
Francina Norris, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Leatrice Snowden,
Leotta Griffith, Karen Ragland, Lisa Woodley, Winston Lowe,
Kenneth Dow, Linda Holmes.

WE PRAY FOR

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

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.



A Memorial Service for **William "Fish" Thompson** will be held at St. Thomas on Thursday, **June 2, 2022 at 10:00 AM.**

A Memorial Service for **Lucinda Harper** will be held at St. Thomas on Saturday, **June 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM.**

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

FROM THE RECTOR

You should have received your Third Quarter Statement of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2021 Pledge is current. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from **9:30 AM-2:00 PM Monday -Thursday**. Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

I ask that you, using the chart below to assist you, prayerfully fill out your 2022 Faithful Giving Card. Please place it in the offering plate, postal mail, or electronically use our Faithful Giving. [Pledge Form](#) on our website.

Again, thanks so much for your continued support to the ministries of our amazing parish.

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

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

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](#).

A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of
(10% of our earnings)

Where are you on your spiritual journey?
Annual Faithful Giving

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now ready for you to pick up in Anderson Hall. If you're unable to pick them up on Sundays after church you may do so Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you have a parishioner who lives near you who can't get to church, perhaps you can pick theirs up as well.

You can now complete your pledge card by mail or on our website.

If you have decided to use the Givi App or Online Giving Donations, please email me at stewardship@aecst.org with your name and envelope number.

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.

Thank you very much.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Committee

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 still be sent for 2022. Please send them via the US mail to the church or **electronically** through the 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
Assistant to the Rector		
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 the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	Ronald Jones	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deborah Camp - Frye	1792@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
	Lisa Steward-New	ljs210@msn.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	dneharrison04@gmail.com
Special Advisor to the Rector	Richard Jones	r724jones1@gmail.com
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
Videography Ministry	Que ntin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon
Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Patricia Bantom
Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Patricia Akins
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Gregory Lyles
Patricia Lynch

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.