



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Thank You Veterans!

**We honor and celebrate
those who served
or are serving in our military.**



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 TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 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
**The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
and Annual Veterans Day Observance**

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

An Expression of Gratitude from the Rector

My Dearest Sisters and Brothers,
Enormous thanks to you for remembering and celebrating my birthday with your many expressions of affection. I am immensely grateful for your many calls, texts, emails, cards, gift certificates, baked goods, soaps, reception, etc. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness and love.

Important Note from the Rector:

Please help us to end the year without a deficit by completing your 2023 financial pledge by **December 31st, 2023**. If you are unsure of your balance, please contact Jeanette in the Fiscal Office.

The Anti-Violence Legislative [Campaign](#) Letter for November, the [QR Code](#) for State Representatives, and a [flyer](#) for a Day of Prayer and Action: Harrisburg Rally Agenda & Hotel Information can be found on the table in the back of the church or please see Phyllis Cater for more information.

Community College of Philadelphia's new Career and Advanced Technology Center at the corner of 48th and Market St. in West Philadelphia will formally dedicate the facility and the Absalom Jones Courtyard named for our founder, Blessed Absalom Jones on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 3:30 pm. Art Sudler, William Carl Bolivar Director, AECST Historical Society & Archives will be a speaker. All Are Welcome to Attend. For more information, please see the [link](#).



ATTENTION ALL VETERANS OF ST. THOMAS

All veterans are asked to come out on Sunday November 12th to take part and observe Veterans Day.

The Men's Ministry and Fellowship will be hosting coffee hour to help celebrate the occasion. In addition, a representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be on available to provide information on benefits to veterans may be eligible to obtain, especially those disabled veterans with a service-connected disability.

***Hey Veteran!!!
Do you have your
DD-214?***

The Defense Department issues to each veteran a DD-214, identifying the condition of your discharge from military service. This report of separation from military service contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations. Information shown on the Report of Separation may include the following:

- *Date and place of entry into active duty*
- *Home address at time of entry*
- *Date and place of release from active duty*
- *Home address after separation*
- *Last duty assignment and rank*
- *Military job specialty*
- *Military education*
- *Decorations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign awards*
- *Total creditable service*
- *Foreign service credited*
- *Separation information (type of separation, character of service, authority and reason for separation, separation and reenlistment eligibility codes)*

If you don't have a copy of your DD-214 or if you have lost or misplaced your copy, information will be provided on how to get your DD-214.



HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France.

However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



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.

ENORMOUS THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR 2024 FAITHFUL GIVING CARD!!!!!!!!!!!!

Is your name listed? If not, submit yours now by using the [link](#).

2024 Faithful Giving Cards

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2024 Faithful Giving cards. Is your name included? Please submit yours today.

Patricia Akins	Fr. Daren Evans	Richard Jones	Georgia Sawyer
Alistair Allman	Loretta Ferguson	Robert & Joyce Jones	Deborah Seay
Constance Anderson	Marcia Forde	Sheila Jones-Smith	Stephanie Seay Wood
Dorothy Archey	Angela Foster	Tyrone Keller	The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw
Jeanne J. Arnold	Stephen & Donna Foster	Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble	Leah Sheppard
Rev. Paul Bach	Wendella Fox	Jurdina Koiler	Kayma Sherman-Knuckles
Dr. Timothy Barksdale	Barry & Deborah Frye	John Kortue	Judith Simkins
Brenda Battle	Irenda Gates	Nancy Lee	Arlene Singletary
Jennifer Bell	Edita Gauthney	Steven & Jameela Lewis	Velva Daniels Smalls
Susan Ben	Edward & Kathryn Geiger	Karen Leys	Anita Smith
Deborah Billups	Elaine Gillison	Landon Leys	Cary Smith
Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker	Barbara L. Glenn	Adrienne Logan	Catherine Stafford
Deborah Booker-Mathews	Swanie Goldsmith	C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey	H. Lyn Starr
Guy Booth	Eugene & Marie Golson	James Lowe	Joyce Ann Stewart
Ricardo Bostic	Jessica Golson	Patricia Lynch	Shelly & Ann Stewart
I. Page Bowser	Chad & Toya Gordon	Constance Lyons	Brandon Stiff
Michelanne Bradwell	Josephine Graham	Katrice Mathurin	Arthur & Michele Sudler
Theresa Bramwell	Clarice Grant	Sheila Sawyer McCullough	Carolyn Summers
Conchetta Brewer	Linda Greaves Street	Denise McDaniel-Henderson	Lynda Tapper-Smith
Lorita Brockington	Michelle Green	Cheryl McIntosh	Dr. Monica Taylor
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	PJ Grier	Michael McIntosh	Rosita Taylor
Carmen Brown	Thomasina Hack	Denise McKinney-Gibson	Cheryl Taylor Stiles
Marilyn Brown	Lisa Sharon Harper	William Meek	Gloria Thomas
Robert & Jayne Brown	Sharon Harper	Deidre Milanes	Calvin Thompson
William H. Brown, III	Lynn Harris	Colin Mitchell	Darryle & Judy Tilman
Sharon Bullock	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris	Cynthia Muse	Teri Tillman
William Burke, Jr.	Walter & Nicole Harris	Jonathan Muse	Arnott Trotman
Yvonne Caldwell White	Katrina Harris Marshall	Mueni Mwanzia	Justin & Lee Ann Trotman
Cornelia Camp	Deborah Harrison	Vincent & Lisa Napoleon	Louise Trotman
Deadra Cannon	Joyce B. Harrison	Francina Norris	Elizabeth Trulear
Charlotte Card	Richard & Gwenda Hart	Deborah Otey	Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Phyllis B. Cater	Gregory Hayes	Carolyn Paige	Robin Vann-Lynch
Eleanor Chestnut	Maurice Hayes	Samuel & Deidre Patterson	Karen Vaughn
Suzanne Closson	Rene Hayes	Andrea Petrocelli-Fields	Joe & Alexcia Wells
Ronald Coleman	Quentin Heyward	Eugene Phillips	Barbara Wiley
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	Erica Hill-Yates	Kim Phillips	Michelle Wilkinson
Ronnie H. Collins	Angela Holloway	Mary Ann Phillips	Julia Williams
Tracy Collins, M.D.	Fleta Howell	Simone Pollard	R. Seth Williams
Gwendolyn Cottman	Robert Hugh	Stephen Pugh	Stephanie Williamson
Albert Dandridge, III	Donald & Patricia Hunt	Karen Ragland	Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Clare Mae Daniels	Kim Hyde	Ella Randall	Charlene Wiltshire
Car & Mary Dean	D. Lynn Joell	Dolores Redmond	Denise Wing
Dr. Rollo Dillworth	Bobby Johnson	Clarence Rice	Diane Winkfield
Musu Doe	Dr. Frank Johnson	Caryn Rivers	Edgar Wise
Barbara Douglass	Kelvin & Pamela Johnson	Victoria Rivers	Wanda Wood
Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Lemont Johnson	Shonalie Roberts	Lisa Woodley
William & Quincina Edmonds	Brenda Johnson-Best	Rosalind Roberts Smalls	Khalita Wright
Carol Eten	Bettie Jones	Yvonne Ruiz	Paula Wright
Erkia Eten	Monica Lewis Jones	Mercedes Sadler	I. Bernadette Wyche
			Alice Young
			M. Elaine Young

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

<u>Yearly Income</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>10%</u>
\$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

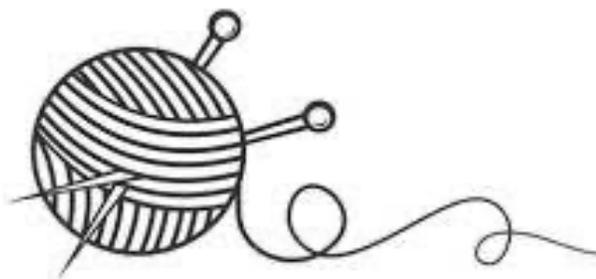
There will be a Coffee Hour sponsored by the Men's Ministry and Fellowship in Anderson Hall.



Also after service in Anderson Hall, there will be a representative from the **PA Department of Military and Veteran Affairs** with information on benefits that veterans may qualify for. Veterans are encouraged to come and speak with the representative.

St. Thomas would also like to welcome representatives of the **Greater Philadelphia Chapter Tuskegee Airmen** who are worshipping with us today.

2023 Veterans Day [Retail discounts, free meals, and other offers.](#)



KNITTING CLUB:

Coming back to the Absalom Jones House on

Wednesday, October 25th

from **10:00 AM - Noon.**

Bring your yarn, and patterns and join in on the fun!

MEMBER INFORMATION FORMS

In an effort to get correct member information, we are asking **EVERY** parishioner to fill out a Member form. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Please fill out the [form](#) and return it to the [church office email](#). Please fill out 1 form for each adult member of your family, children may go on one of the forms. Thanks so much for your help with this.



A NOTE OF THANKSGIVING FROM THE RECTOR

God has truly been good and is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. In an expression of your gratitude, please prayerfully consider your gift of Thanksgiving by using the [link](#) provided.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUNDAY



Next Sunday: November 19th

Invite your friends and family to join us for worship and fellowship.

The person with the most guests in attendance will be given a Dinner Gift Certificate from the Rector.

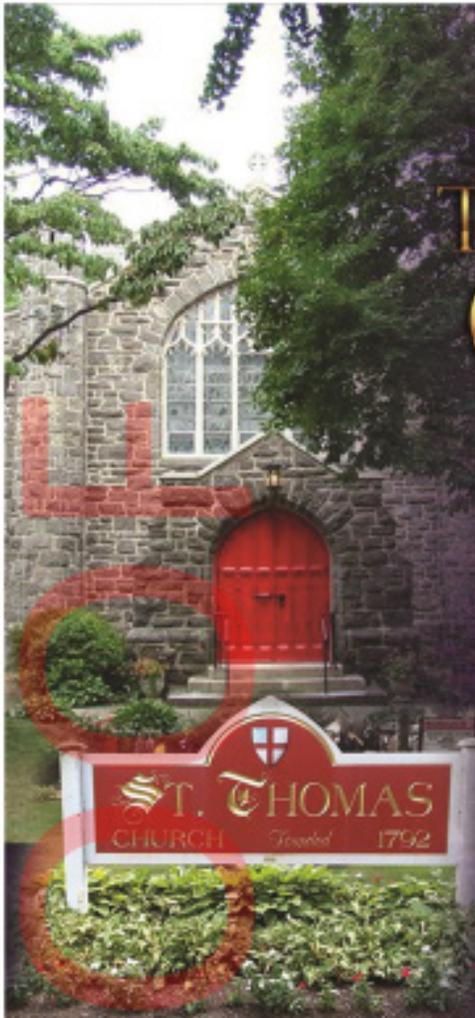
STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF:

During Stewardship Month 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 by going on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#). You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

Sunday there will be a blessing of our two Discernment Groups who during the upcoming months, the following persons will be on a ministry discernment journey with both David King and R. Seth Williams Let us pray for these groups of persons as they discern ministry calls of David King and R. Seth Williams. Let us also keep in prayer David and Seth during this period of discernment.

The PDG King: Eugene Golson, Jonathan Muse, Karen Ragland, Mary Dean, Arthur Sudler, and Charlene Wiltshire.

The PDG R. Seth Williams: Dorothy Archey, Phyllis Cater, Albert Dandridge, Esq., Thomasina Hack, Ashley Hines, Sherilyn Kimble, and Donald Moore.



THE GERALDINE B. WOOD COLUMBARIUM

"AN HONORED TRADITION"

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19151
215.473.3065 | WWW.AECST.ORG



THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, RECTOR



ST. THOMAS
CHURCH *Founded* 1792

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.



CREMATION AND BURIAL TRADITIONS

From earliest times, people have been concerned about their final earthly resting place, often with concern that it be near the gathering place of their families. In Christian times, preferred burial space was within the Church itself where the faithful gathered for celebrating a liturgy or for a prayer service. The dual tradition of burial and of cremation was preserved in both ancient and in Christian times. More recently, consideration of the spiritual and the practical aspects of cremation and inurnment within the Church itself has led to a revival of this aspect of the tradition. When space within the Church was no longer available, the churchyard cemetery developed. Only in recent times have burial grounds, far removed from the community centers of life and prayer, (Laurel Hill Cemetery, Historic Eden Cemetery) been used.

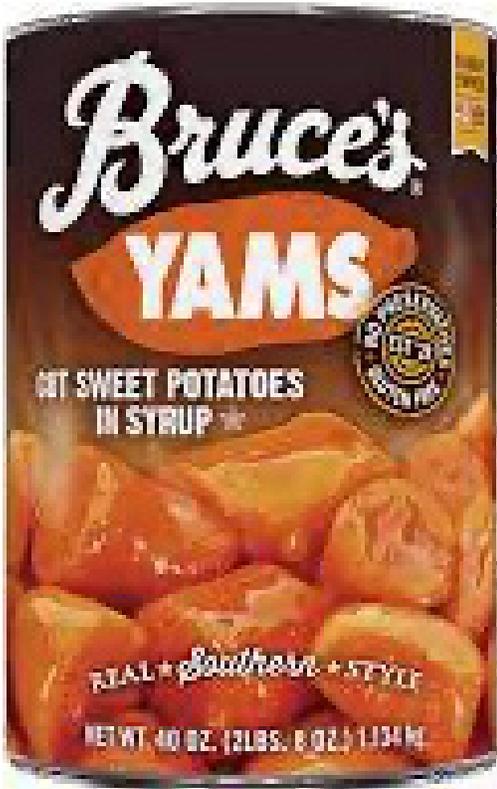
THE COLUMBARIUM

A Columbarium is a vault with recessed metal compartments of niches for placing earthly remains after cremation. The cremated earthly remains are preserved in niches in a Columbarium fittingly designed and prepared. Each metal niche is enclosed with a protective front of wood, to which is attached a bronze identification plate for the appropriate name and date of death. The dual tradition of burial and cremation was preserved in ancient and Christian times.

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas has constructed three structures consisting of 220 niches that can accommodate 440 urns along the Southeast wall in the Absalom Jones Chapel area. Eligible persons and active members of the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas and their families can purchase a niche. The opening date for the Columbarium was November 1996. A Columbarium Committee composed of four persons and the Parish Rector will govern and administer the affairs of the Columbarium. The Committee has established and will administer the policies and regulations governing sales, maintenance and expansions as was initially established by an 11-member task force.

Niches may be reserved by advance purchase, at the time of need, singly, or for family groups. The purchaser gets a Certificate of Ownership, which indicates a choice of niches. The Certificate entitles a person to a bronze nameplate and assurance of perpetual care. Orders and/or deposits are now being received. Selection of a niche will only occur upon receipt of final payment.

If you are interested in receiving more information on the Columbarium, please contact the Church Office at 215-473-3065 or the Columbarium committee c/o Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at 215-878-3651 or 267-253-2899.



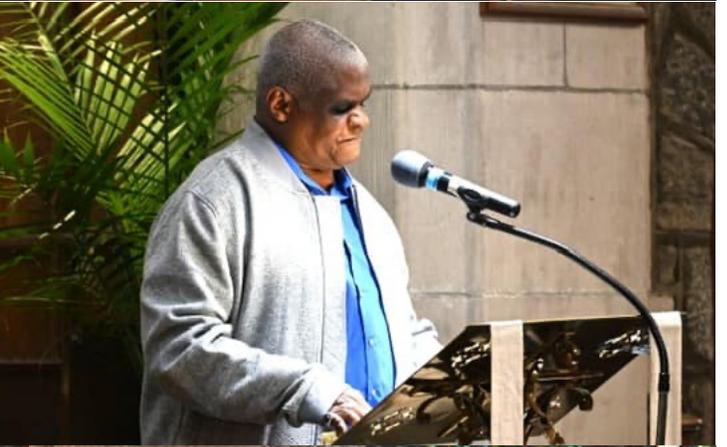
OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking donations of canned sweet potatoes!!! St. Thomas has been designated this year as the “Sweet Potato Church”. Our aim is to collect 225 cans of sweet potatoes between now and **November 12th** as we assist St. James’ Episcopal School to provide St. James Families and Neighbors with some of the fixings needed for a Thanksgiving meal. For more information, please contact [Fr. Daren.](#)

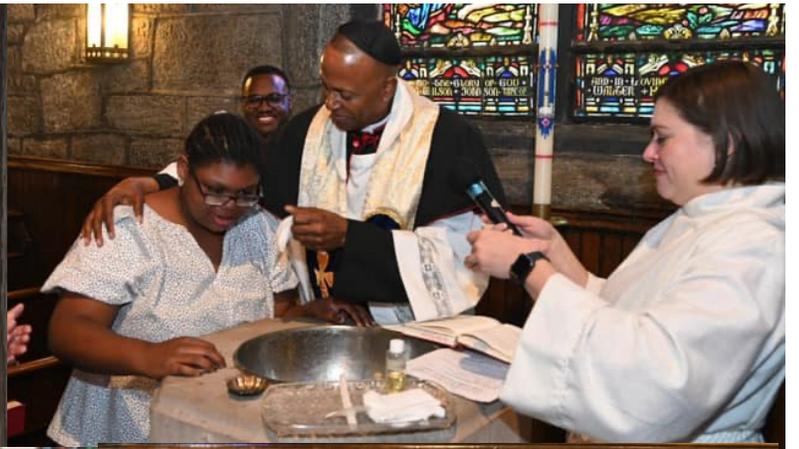
Pictures from the Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost, November 5, 2023

**Observance of the Feast of All Saints / All Souls and
Celebrating the Birthdays of Absalom Jones (1st Rector)
and Fr. Shaw (17th Rector) both born on November 6th.**





HONORING THE BEAUTIFUL, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
AND ENDURING LEGACY
OF
DONALD A. YOUNG
FOREVER IN MY HEART.
ALICE R. YOUNG







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



Dear Church family,

This year, the **St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King** will again collect donations for undersourced families through our Annual Thanksgiving Service project. The Daughters will be collecting outside of the Church or near the front doors after Sunday service beginning Sunday, October 8th through Sunday, November 19th.

If you wish to donate via check, please make the check out to AECST; in the memo, please note **ThksProjDOK**. You may also mail your donation to The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas 6361 Lancaster Ave (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA. 19151 attention: Fiscal Secretary.

Additionally, if you are aware of household(s) within the St. Thomas Church family who are in need of a Thanksgiving contribution, please contact [Ms. Sharon Bullock](#), [Ms. Thomasina Hack](#) or any of our St Thomas Chapter Daughters of the King.

The deadline to submit names of families is Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and together, let us bring Thanksgiving Joy to all!

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

**November 12th - Observance of Veterans Day
Commissioning of Discernment Groups**

November 19th - Family and Friends Sunday
(Invite your family and friends to worship with us. The person with the most guests will receive a dinner gift certificate from the Rector.)

November 26th - Youth and Young Adult Sunday (YAYA)

**December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent
Annual Men's Day Celebration**

Guest Speaker: **Minister Solomon Jones**, Newspaper Columnist and Radio Host.

AECST/CHOSEN 300 Community OUTREACH

Calling Volunteers to Serve @ Chosen 300 locations

Arrive at 4:30pm – Directions will be given – Completed by 7:30pm, 2023 SERVING DATES :



Friday, July 14th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17th : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Friday, Nov. 17th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20th: Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104



For Any Questions, please contact Dr. Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766

"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 21:13



**A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES,
AND INDIVIDUALS:**

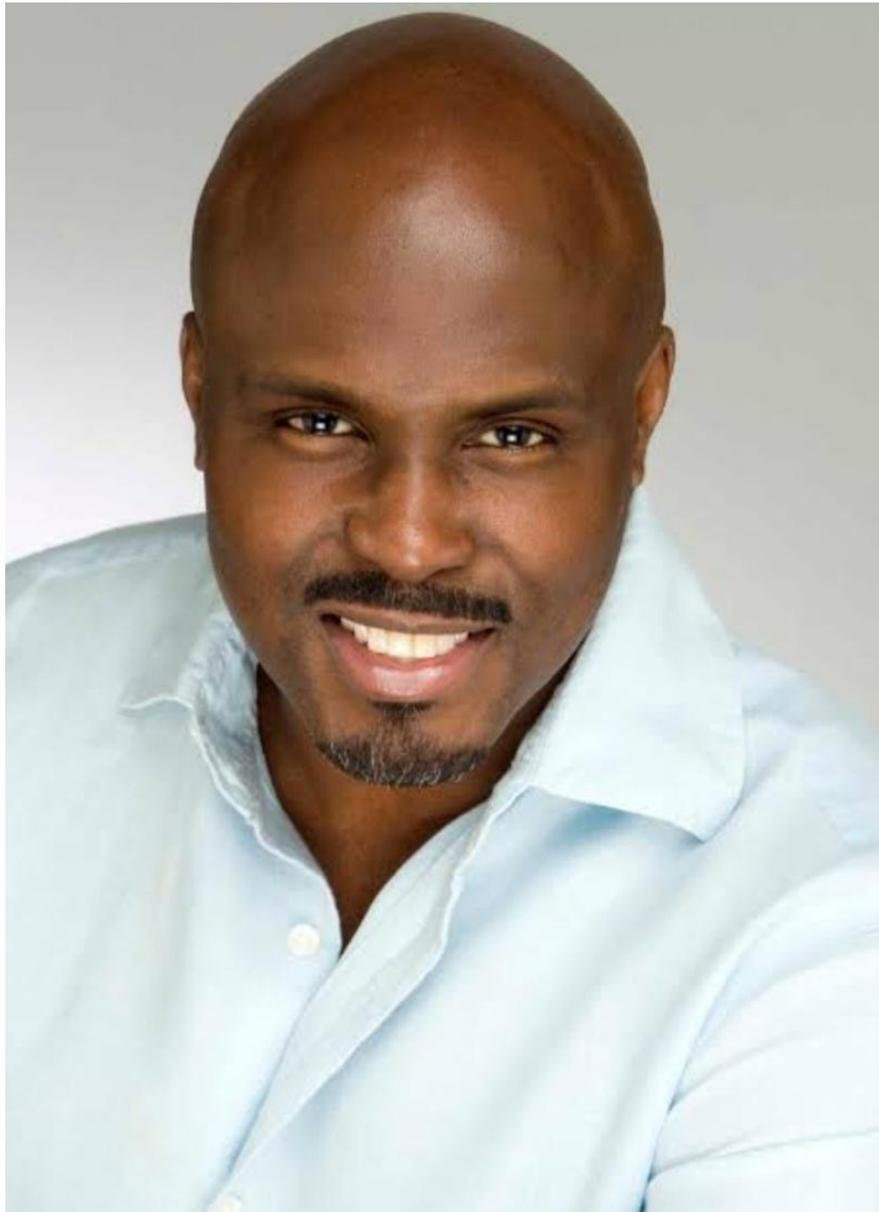
ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS!!!!!!
Annual Men's Day Celebration is Sunday,
December 3, 2023

Rehearsal for the Men's Chorus will be
Saturday, December 2nd at 12:00 Noon.
Please join us!

Annual Men's Day Celebration

Guest Speaker: Minister Solomon Jones, Newspaper
Columnist and Radio Host.



THIS WEEK AT AECST - November 13, 2023

Tuesday 11/14 - Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 6:00 PM.

Wednesday 11/15 - Young Adult Bible Study
with Fr. Daren 6:00 PM.

Angels in Motion - 6:30 PM

Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 PM

Thursday 11/16 - Vestry Meeting - via Zoom - 6:00 PM

Friday 11/17 - D.O.K. distributing Thanksgiving gifts,
12:00-3:00 PM

Chosen 300 - 4:30 PM

Saturday 11/18 - Men's Ministry & Fellowship -8:00 -11:00AM

D.O.K. - meeting 9:00 AM-12 PM

Community Mass Choir - 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

D.O.K. distributing Thanksgiving gifts - 12:00 -3:00 PM

Scouts - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

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](#).

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](#).

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.

BE INSPIRED AND UPLIFTED!

Join us for a joyful evening of music and unity as we come together to celebrate the life-saving power of organ and tissue donation.

GIFT^{of} LIFE **DONOR SABBATH** CONCERT

featuring the acclaimed

ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 • 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia

CLICK HERE TO RESERVE FREE TICKETS

Seating is limited! Light refreshments and fellowship to follow.

DON'T MISS THIS SOULFUL CELEBRATION OF HOPE AND FAITH!

For more information, contact Naja Killebrew at nkillebrew@donors1.org.

donors1.org



GIFT^{of} LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM
THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK

The St. Thomas Gospel Choir will join the “No Name Pops” and guest conductor, Enrico Lopez-Yanez for “A Very Philly Christmas” at the Kimmel Center.

THE DATES FOR THE CONCERTS:

Friday, Dec. 1st 7:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 15th 2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 2nd 3:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 16th 3:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 9th 3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 17th 2:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10th 6:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 22nd 2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 23rd 7:30 PM

Ticket information coming soon.



Boyer College of Music and Dance - Singing Owls -
presents “Illuminations” Conducted by our own Dr. Rollo
Dillworth. When: Monday, **November 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM.**
Where: Temple Performing Arts Center, 1837 N. Broad
Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122 Admission is FREE. For more
information

Boyer College of Music and Dance

SINGING OWLS

ROLLO DILWORTH, CONDUCTOR



“Illuminations”

Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

1837 N Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Admission is FREE

Featuring the music of Elaine Hagenberg,
Jake Runestad, Reginal Wright and a newly
commissioned work by Ajibola Rivers, BYR '16

BOYER.TEMPLE.EDU

Arreon Harley-Emerson, Daniel Jackson
and Alexander Nguyen, graduate
conducting assistants

Kim Barroso, collaborative pianist

 **Temple
University**

Center for the Performing
and Cinematic Arts

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for:
the Twenty-Third Fourth after Pentecost
November 12, 2023

The First Lesson: [Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25](#)
[Psalm 78:1-7](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)
The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of November 13, 2023

Monday - [Luke 14:12-24](#)
Tuesday - [Luke 14: 25-35](#)
Wednesday - [Luke 15:1-10](#)
Thursday - [Luke 15:1-2,11-32](#)
Friday - [Luke 16:1-9](#)
Saturday - [Luke 16:10-17\(18\)](#)



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 [here](#).



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.

We meet Saturday mornings

First meeting:

September 30, 2023

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

GFS World Council Sri Lanka 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital

Joe Stevenson - Temple Hospital

Dr. Thomas Snowden - University of Penn Hospital.

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House

Thelma Silvers - Rosemont Care Center

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Joe Stevenson,
Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Joan
Hall, Stephanie Williamson, Leotta Griffith, Kenneth Dow,
Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Teri Taylor,
Eleanor Chestnut, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper,
Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield,
Bill Edmonds, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, ,
Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson,
Cathy Stafford, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Alletta Parris-
Olday, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Tyrone Keller,
Seminarian David King, Conchetta Brewer, Joyce Jackson,
Lisa Woodley, Fr.Darryl James.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar are in Loving Memory of **Barton & Violet Fields, Shirley Z. Lumm, Henry & Edna Harris**, given by Lynn & Thomas Harris.

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 remember to maintain your pledged financial giving.

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.

FROM STEWARSHIP: 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
**Ways to continue to be Faithful to God and the Church
through Stewardship:**

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator.
6361 Lancaster Avenue, 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.
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the 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	thegail@hotmail.com
	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	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

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.