



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

**GRATEFUL
THANKFUL
BLESSED**

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-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 19, 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-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
and Family and Friends 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 on the link provided
for the [Order of Service](#) for this Sunday.

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	Dr. Frank Johnson
Alister Allman	Larry & Deidre Farmby	Kelvin & Pamela Johnson
Constance Anderson	Loretta Ferguson	Lemont Johnson
Dorothy Archey	Marcia Forde	Brenda Johnson-Best
Jeanne J. Arnold	Angela Foster	Bettie Jones
Rev. Paul Bach	Stephen & Donna Foster	Donna Jones
Dr. Timothy Barksdale	Wendella Fox	Monica Lewis Jones
Brenda Battle	Norman & Nikki Franke	Richard Jones
Jennifer Bell	Barry & Deborah Frye	Robert & Joyce Jones
Susan Ben	Irenda Gates	Sheila Jones-Smith
Deborah Billups	Edita Gauthney	Tyrone Keller
Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker	Edward & Kathryn Geiger	Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Deborah Booker-Mathews	Elaine Gillison	Jurdina Koiler
Guy Booth	Barbara L. Glenn	John Kortue
Ricardo Bostic	Swanie Goldsmith	Nancy Lee
I. Page Bowser	Eugene & Marie Golson	Steven & Jameela Lewis
Michelanne Bradwell	Jessica Golson	Karen Leys
Theresa Bramwell	Chad & Toya Gordon	Landon Leys
Conchetta Brewer	Josephine Graham	Adrienne Logan
Lorita Brockington	Clarice Grant	C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Arlene Gray	James Lowe
Carmen Brown	Linda Greaves Street	Patricia Lynch
Marilyn Brown	Michelle Green	Constance Lyons
Robert & Jayne Brown	PJ Grier	Katrice Mathurin
William H. Brown, III	Thomasina Hack	Sheila Sawyer McCullough
Sharon Bullock	Joan Perry Hall	Denise McDaniel-Henderson
William Burke, Jr.	Lisa Sharon Harper	Cheryl McIntosh
Yvonne Caldwell White	Sharon Harper	Michael McIntosh
Cornelia Camp	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris	Denise McKinney-Gibson
Deadra Cannon	Thomas & Lynn Harris	William Meek
Charlotte Card	Walter & Nicole Harris	Deidre Milanes
Phyllis B. Cater	Katrina Harris Marshall	Colin Mitchell
Eleanor Chestnut	Deborah Harrison	Donald & Dorothy Roberts Moore
Suzanne Closson	Joyce B. Harrison	Cynthia Muse
Ronald Coleman	Richard & Gwenda Hart	Jonathan Muse
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	Gregory Hayes	Mueni Mwanzia
Ronnie H. Collins	Maurice Hayes	Vincent & Lisa Napoleon
Tracy Collins, M.D.	Rene Hayes	Francina Norris
Gwendolyn Cottman	Quentin Heyward	Deborah Otey
Albert Dandrige, III	Erica Hill-Yates	Carolyn Paige
Clare Mae Daniels	Ashley & Lena Hines	Samuel & Deidre Patterson
Carl & Mary Dean	Angela Holloway	Andrea Petrocelli-Fields
Dr. Rollo Dillworth	Fleta Howell	Eugene Phillips
Musu Doe	Robert Hugh	Kim Phillips
Barbara Douglass	Donald & Patricia Hunt	Mary Ann Phillips
Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Diana Hutchins	Simone Pollard
William & Quincina Edmonds	Kim Hyde	Stephen Pugh
Carol Etlen	D. Lynn Joell	Karen Ragland
Erkia Etlen	Bobby Johnson	Ella Randall

Dolores Redmond
Clarence Rice
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Shonalie Roberts
Rosalind Roberts Smalls
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin
Yvonne Ruiz
Mercedes Sadler
Georgia Sawyer
Deborah Seay
Stephanie Seay Wood
The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman-Knuckels
Judith Simkins
Arlene Singletary
Velva Daniels Smalls
Anita Smith
Cary Smith
Ted Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lyn Starr
Joyce Ann Stewart
Shelly & Ann Stewart
Brandon Stiff
Arthur & Michele Sudler
Carolyn Summers
Lynda Tapper-Smith
Dr. Monica Taylor
Rosita Taylor

Cheryl Taylor Stiles
Gloria Thomas
Calvin Thompson
Darryle & Judy Tilman
Teri Tillman
Harold Townsend, III
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Ann Trotman
Louise Trotman
Elizabeth Trulear
Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen Vaughn
Joe & Alexcia Wells
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Julia Williams
R. Seth Williams
Stephanie Williamson
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Charlene Wiltshire
Denise Wing
Diane Winkfield
Edgar Wise
Wanda Wood
Lisa Woodley
Khalita Wright
Paula Wright
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



FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUNDAY
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.

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.



Our condolences to Dr. Thomas Snowden and his family on the death of his wife, our own, **Leatrice Snowden**. Her service will be at St. Thomas on **Tuesday, November 28th**. There will be a continental breakfast from **9:00-10:00 AM**. The viewing will start at 10:00 AM, and the Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Leatrice rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



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.

THANK YOU SWEET POTATO CHURCH!!



During the last two weeks, we appealed for 225 cans of sweet potatoes to assist needy families and friends of the St. James' Episcopal School. Thanks to your cheerful spirit of giving, we were able to collect exactly 225 cans of sweet potatoes! We are thankful to each of you who took the time to pick up an extra can or two of sweet potatoes. Special thanks to: **The Sisterhood Guild** who gave 15 gift cards (for Aldi and Shoprite) in the amount of \$25 each. **The Scouts** who rose to the occasion and donated 40 cans of sweet potatoes. We are blessing so that we can bless and no doubt these gifts will bless the lives of hundreds of people this Thanksgiving. Let us never grow weary in the work of love!





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. Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 23rd.

Cornucopia (Horn of Plenty) on the High altar



With the coming of Thanksgiving this Thursday, we have placed on the High Altar a cornucopia (horn of plenty) that is overflowing with fruits and vegetables. At the conclusion of the service, you are welcome to come to the altar and take something to add to your Thanksgiving meal. Please wait until the acolytes have extinguished the candles on the altar, and follow the directions given at the altar for collecting your items.



We will have Chat and Chew following Sunday Service. It is sponsored by the Sisterhood Guild and the Health Ministry in Anderson Hall.

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 St. Thomas Health Ministry Awareness Note for November National Diabetes Month

More than 1 in 3 adults in the United States have pre-diabetes - and many of them don't know it. National Diabetes Month is a time to raise awareness about diabetes as an important public health issue and encourage people to take charge of their health. This year, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is focused on taking action to prevent diabetes-related health problems. Explore NIDDK's tips to manage diabetes and its National Diabetes Month toolkit. You can also take a look at our MyHealthfinder diabetes page, which has resources you can share to learn more about preventing diabetes. Finally, check out Healthy People 2030's list of evidence-based resources related to diabetes that you can use in your work.

STEWARDSHIP:

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.

St. Thomas was well represented at the recent formal dedication and naming ceremony of the Absalom Jones Courtyard at the new Career and Advanced Technology Center of the Community College of Philadelphia.



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.

**Pictures from the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023
Annual Veterans Day Observance**

Chat and Chew was sponsored by the Men's Ministry and Fellowship







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



Dear Church family,

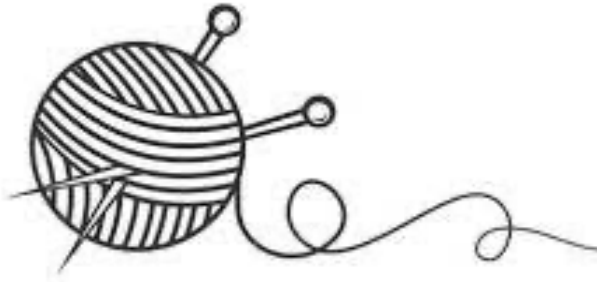
This year, the **St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King** will again collect donations for undersourced families through our Annual Thanksgiving Service project. The Daughters will be collecting outside of the Church or near the front doors after Sunday service beginning Sunday, October 8th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



KNITTING CLUB:

Is back in the Absalom
Jones House on
Tuesdays from **10:00 AM - Noon.**
Bring your yarn, and patterns
and join in on the fun!

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.

Minister Solomon Jones

Biography



Minister Solomon Jones accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior as a pre-teen at Peniel United Methodist Church. He was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church, and was licensed to preach the Gospel on April 2, 2017 at Great Commission Church. He now serves as Minister of Evangelism at Great Commission Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Larry L. Anderson, Jr.

Minister Jones has since delivered messages at numerous churches, including Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Calvary Christian Church, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Tabor A.M.E, and more.

Professionally, he is an Essence bestselling author and award-winning journalist who appears frequently on CNN. He has also appeared on Nightline, NPR, HLN, TV One, the BBC and Al Jazeera. His story was featured in a Verizon advertising campaign called Realize, which spotlighted entrepreneurs who overcame adversity to succeed.

Jones is the host of *Wake Up With WURD*, which airs weekday mornings on WURD Radio from 7am to 10am. He is also Community Affairs Director for Radio One Philadelphia, and hosts *Your Voice*, a weekly show on Classix 107.9 FM. He holds a B.A. in journalism from Temple University, and pens a column on race and social justice for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Jones is the author of 11 books, including his latest, *Ten Lives Ten Demands: Life and Death Stories and a Black Activist's Blueprint for Racial Justice* (Beacon Press, 2021).

Jones created ManUpPHL, a non-profit that partners with the Philadelphia School District and criminal justice agencies to reach those most likely to be impacted by gun violence. ManUpPHL pays stipends to participants, provides them with mentoring, and assists them in finding employment.

Jones began his professional writing career in 1993 while living at the Ridge Avenue Homeless Shelter, and went on to serve on the boards of the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness and The Doe Fund—an organization that helps homeless men reclaim their lives.

Jones is a national voice on race and politics. He is a recipient of Temple University's "Lew Klein" award, the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists "Online Journalist of the Year" award, the Father's Day Rally Committee's "Father of the Year" award, the Knight Foundation's "Black Male Leadership" award, and Community College of Philadelphia's "Distinguished Leadership" award.

Jones is a married father of three and lives in Philadelphia. Most importantly, he is a born-again believer.



**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.

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

THIS WEEK AT AECST - November 20, 2023

Tuesday 11/21 -Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 6:00 PM

Wednesday 11/22 - Young Adult Bible Study with Fr. Daren
7:00 PM

Angels in Motion - 6:30 PM

Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 PM

Thursday 11/23 -Happy Thanksgiving
Church and Parish Offices Closed

Friday 11/24 - Church and Parish Offices Closed

Saturday 11/25 - 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.

Music Ministry for a worthy cause!

On Saturday, November 11, 2023 the St. Thomas Gospel Choir had the privilege to participate in the Gift of Life Donor Sabbath Concert.





CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS!!!!
Annual Men's Day Celebration is Sunday,
December 3, 2023
Rehearsal for the Men's Chorus will be
on Saturday, December 2nd at 12 noon.
Please join us!

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
Saturday, Dec. 2nd	3:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 9th	3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10th	6:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 15th	2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 16th	3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 17th	2:00 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-Fifth after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

The First Lesson: [Judges 4:1-7](#)
[Psalm 123](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of November 20, 2023**

Monday - [Luke 16:19-31](#)

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

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

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

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

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



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

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, Kenneth Dow,
Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Teri Taylor,
Eleanor Chestnut, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper,
Leotta Griffin, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson,
Shirley Winkfield, Bill Edmonds, Dr. Walter Bantom,
Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson, Cathy Stafford,
Harold Yates, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman,
Fr. Jay Collins, Tyrone Keller, Conchetta Brewer,
Joyce Jackson, Lisa Woodley, Fr. Darryl James, Joe Stevenson.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High altar are in Thanksgiving for 46 years of Marriage for **Dorothy and Michael Archey**, given by their children Chad, Derrick, Michael Jr., and, Gina.

Flowers on the Absalom Jones altar are in Loving memory of **Benes Lawrence**, given by his cousin Sylvia Bethea

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

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THE VESTRY

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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.