



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

# THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS

## IN CELEBRATION OF The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



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 Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost  
October 9, 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  
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost and the  
Observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.**

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

## **AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

My dearest and faithful family members of St. Thomas,  
Grace and Peace to you.

We have entered the Season of Stewardship, following 2 ½ years of being in the midst of a deep Pandemic. I invite you to now join me as we Re-imagine our ministries for 2023. You are aware that many of our programs and activities have restarted. Our need for an Associate Rector for Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministries is crucial and at the top of my list of priorities.

**PLEASE** prayerfully consider increasing the level of your commitment this year in the offering of your [Faithful Giving Card](#). There is much being planned for 2023, and we will need your support. You may submit your card in four different ways:

- bring it to the altar Sunday morning during the offertory;
- drop it off at the parish office;
- mail it to the parish office;
- [electronically](#)

We celebrate that “We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord”.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Martini Shaw

**HIGHLIGHTS: “Homecoming Sunday 2022”.  
Amazing.....Epic!!!**



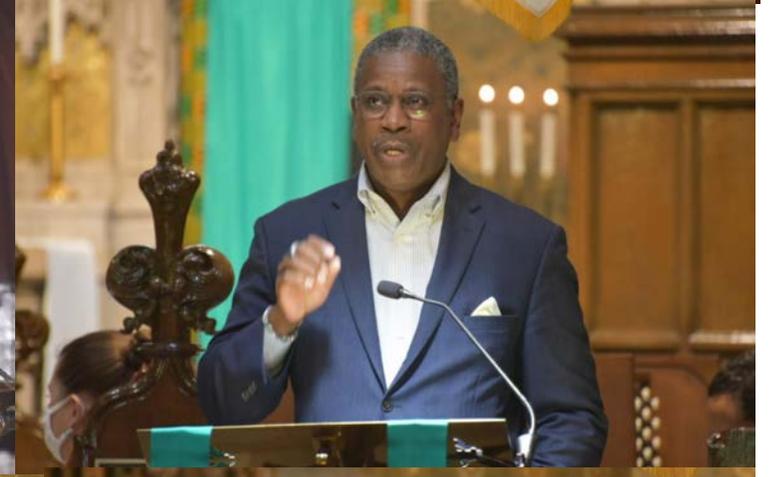
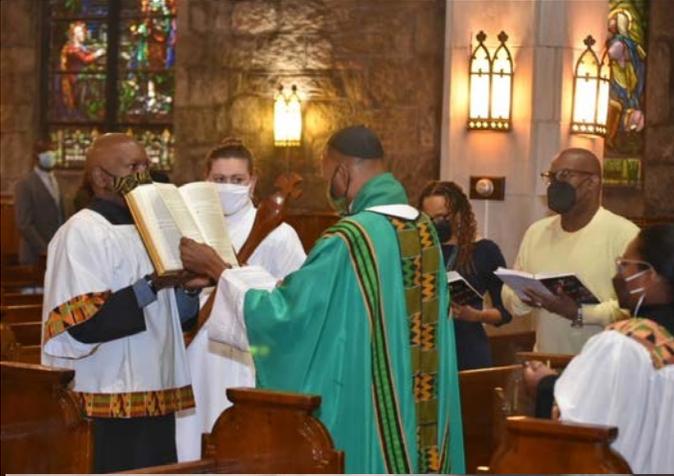
**From the Rector:** Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

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**The Parish Offices and Church are closed  
in observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day,  
Monday, October 10, 2022.**

**PICTURES FROM THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF  
OCTOBER 2, 2022**









## **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](#).

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## **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).”

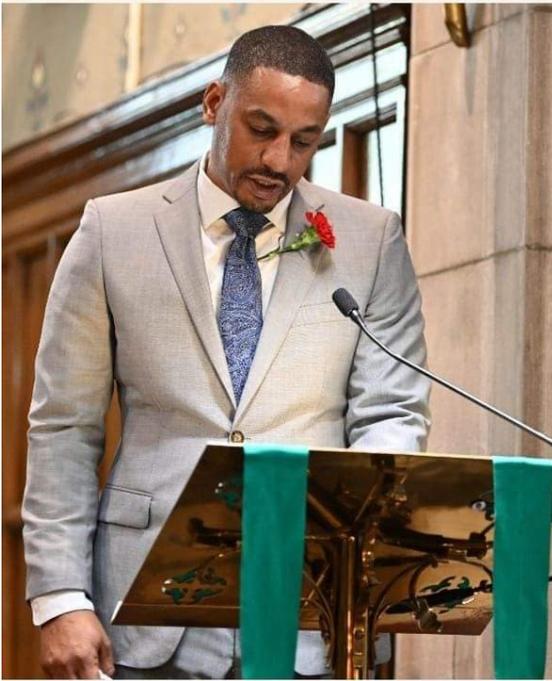
(From Fr. Martini Shaw’s Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

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“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)

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“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).



St. Thomas' own, **Edwin Santana**, has been appointed to serve as the Director of Community Relations of the Philadelphia School District.

Edwin, your St. Thomas family is very proud of you and shall keep you in our prayers.

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## A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE

**STAY UP TO DATE** with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens). Go on their website to schedule an appointment.

A graphic for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It features a pink ribbon icon in the top left corner. The text "Health Corner" is written in a light purple font. In the center, it says "October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Women, spouses, children grandchildren and friends of women encourage them to scheduled their mammogram today!". There are three informational boxes: one in the top right stating "In 2022, an estimated 287,500 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S.", one in the bottom left stating "Breast cancer death rates are 40% higher among Black women than white women.", and one in the bottom right showing silhouettes of women and stating "1 IN 8 WOMEN in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime." The background is dark grey with purple and white geometric shapes.

## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN OCTOBER



**Oct 9th - Observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**  
(Blessing of the Animals) This year, the animals of our family will be blessed by us placing on the altar their possessions. Please bring a photo, a collar, a leash, or anything that belongs to your pet to be blessed.



*The City Commissioners & The O.V.Catto Voter Empowerment Initiative Invites You To Commemorate The 151st Anniversary Of*

# **OCTAVIUS CATTO**

*The 2022 commemoration of O.V Catto will be a public tribute to his ongoing legacy over the last 151 years. It will also be a thank you to Mayor James Kenney and the City of Philadelphia for honoring Catto with a statue in the 21st century.*

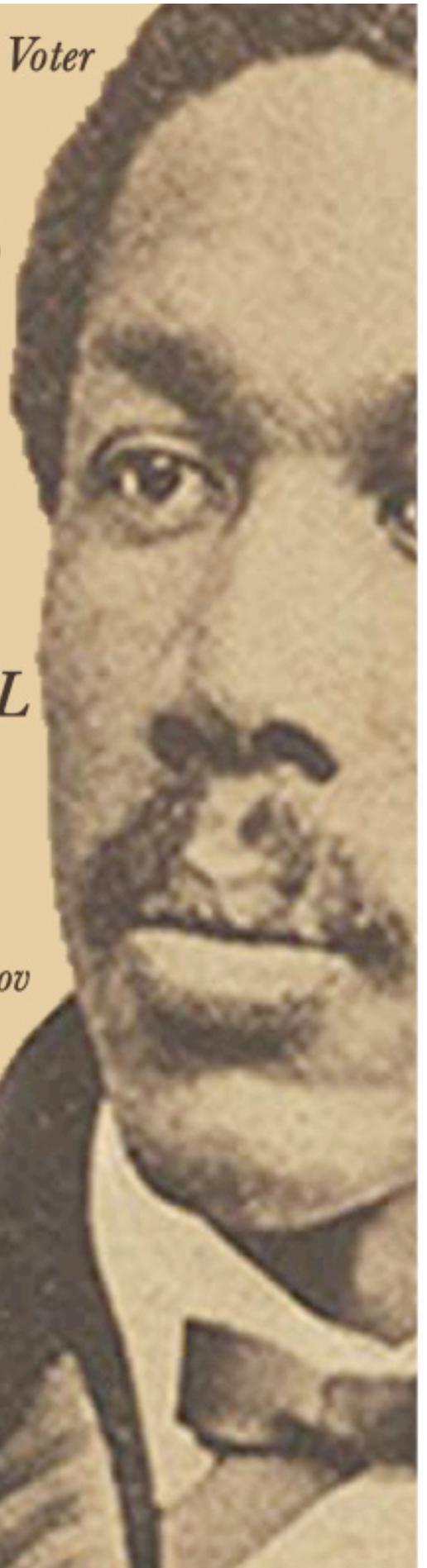
**OCTOBER 10TH, 2022  
OCTAVIS CATTO STATUE  
SOUTHSIDE OF CITY HALL  
10:00AM - 1:00PM**

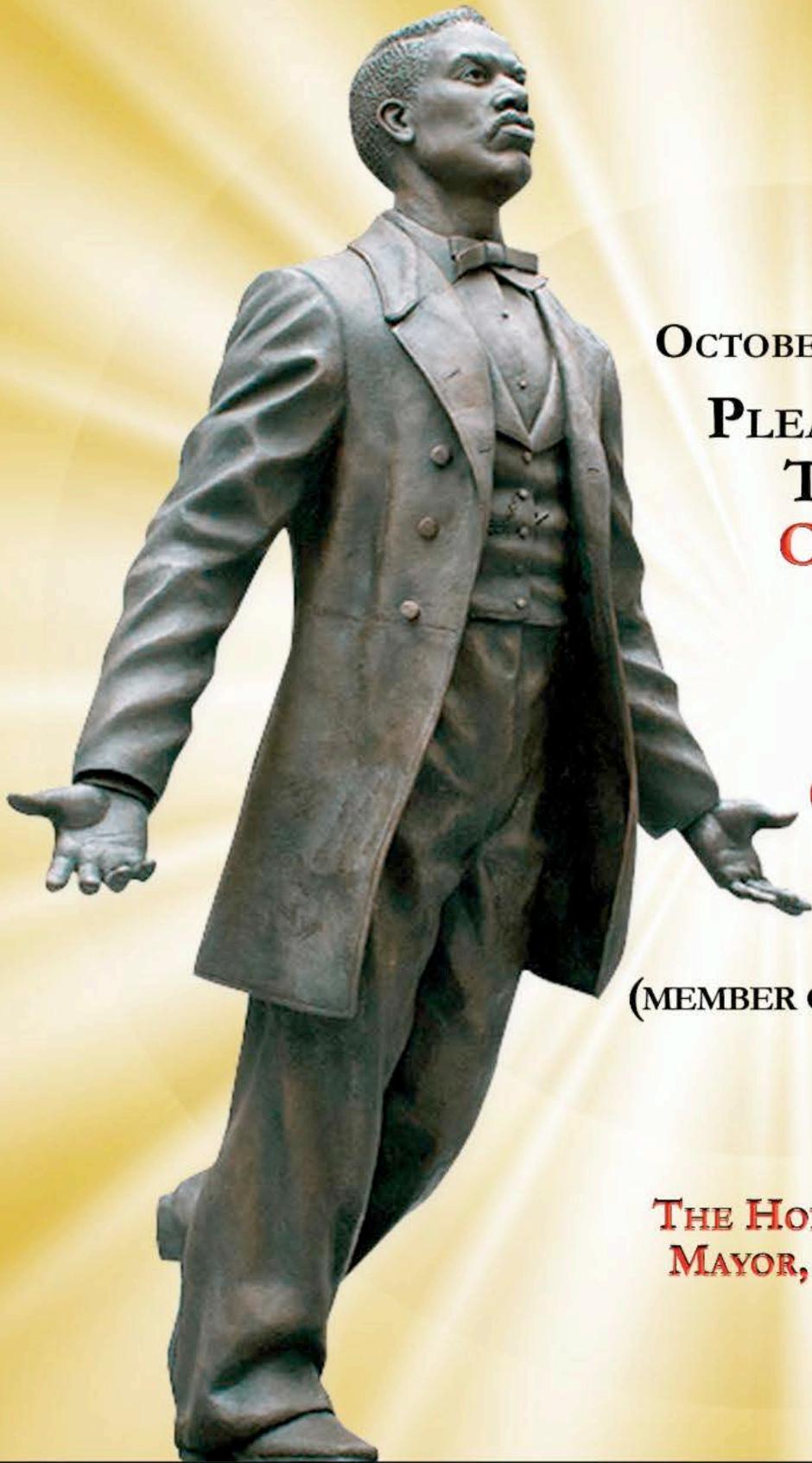
*for more info,  
O.V.C Initiative Chair, Joe Certaine  
215-510-9928 or [sumaiyah.bynum@phila.gov](mailto:sumaiyah.bynum@phila.gov)*



**Philadelphia  
City Commissioners**

**VOTE.PHILA.GOV**





AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

**SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 16, 2022, 10:00 AM**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
THE ANNUAL  
CELEBRATION**

**OF THE  
LIFE  
OF  
OCTAVIUS  
V.  
CATTO**

**(MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH)**

**GUEST:**

**THE HONORABLE JAMES KENNEY  
MAYOR, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Live Stream link found on our website, Facebook, or YouTube.**

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## BE A CHILD CARE VOTER!

As a Child Care Voter, you care about access to high-quality pre-k; you want to invest and expand access to infant and toddler care; you believe that when we support working families and invest in quality child care, all of Pennsylvania benefits.

Join the community and help make access to quality child care part of the conversation around the 2022 elections.



Join our Facebook Group  
**ChildCareVoter**



Follow us on Instagram  
**ChildCareVoter**



## **YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

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

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## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 thru 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

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**SCOUT TROOP #133** - Meetings begin October 1st and are outside for right now. Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

Our 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.

## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER**

**Sunday, October. 16th - Octavius V. Catto Observance.**

Please see flyer for more details.

**Oct. 23rd - Youth and Young Adult Sunday (YAYA)**

**Oct. 30th - Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday  
Wear Something Pink**

**Oct. 30th - A.E.C.S.T. Kid Friendly Trunk and Treat**  
12:00 Noon in the parking lot.

Bring your little ghosts and goblins, Princesses, and Superheros to join in the fun in costume or not.

Ages 12 and Under.

Volunteers are needed to decorate your trunk and pass out candy.

Please contact [Dottie Archey](#) or 215-837-6941 or Gladyce in the church office.



**A.E.C.S.T. FRIENDLY TRUNK AND TREAT**  
October 30th 12:00 Noon in the parking lot.

Volunteers Needed to decorate your trunk and pass out candy. Please contact: [Dottie Archey](#) at 215-837-6941 or Gladyce in the church office.

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

# CHURCH SCHOOL RETURNS!

IN PERSON / VIRTUAL  
SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2022

CALLING ALL AECST  
YOUTH AGES 4 THRU HIGH SCHOOL  
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL THEME FOR 2022  
“THE LORD’S PRAYER”

JOIN US AS WE RE-IMAGE OUR  
CHURCH SCHOOL ADVENTURES  
WITH PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP,  
PROGRAMS AND FUN!

REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 21, 2022  
IN PERSON OR USING OUR REGISTRATION LINK

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXhN0yZ\\_eX0HaNZXtK0nIXMEwZjcp\\_LwmOBcRrCy7T-Uwvb\\_w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXhN0yZ_eX0HaNZXtK0nIXMEwZjcp_LwmOBcRrCy7T-Uwvb_w/viewform)



QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
DOTTIE ARCHY AT  
CHURCHSCHOOL@AECST.ORG  
OR (215) 837-6941

START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO,  
AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT. PROVERBS 22:6 NIV  
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The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas

6361 Absalom Jones Way

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19151

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

## PEW MEMORIAL PLAQUES



*THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS'*  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022  
DEDICATE A PEW PLAQUE  
IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVE ONES  
**\$500.00**

**(Payment Deadline: October 20, 2022)**

Checks or money orders can be made payable to: AECST.

You may pay also through the "givi" app.

Make certain to indicate your wish to purchase a  
Pew Memorial Plaque and include contact information.

Visit the Church's website at <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>  
for other Payment options.

For additional questions or information contact:

**Victoria A. Mosley Rivers**

[victoria.rivers@verizon.net](mailto:victoria.rivers@verizon.net) or 267-253-2899/215-878-3651





# SHEPHERDS MINISTRY

*Re-imagined*

## ATTENTION: AECST MEN, WOMEN, COUPLES

This is an opportunity to share your caring and kindness with our AECST flock!



### THE MINISTRY

- Immediate Goal: Shepherd our sick and shut-in parishioners
- Primary/Ultimate Goal: Shepherd ALL AECST parishioners
- Number of Households: No more than 4 sheep households per shepherd

### SHEPHERDS' ROLE

- Set your own schedule to regularly contact sheep via phone or other media
- *Attend Zoom meetings with fellow shepherds (no in-person meetings)*

Please consider joining the 10 Shepherds who have volunteered.

For more information, please contact Charlene M. Wiltshire:  
cwiltshi@comcast.net



*Note: Vestry members will continue to shepherd all new members until their one-year anniversary.*

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



Nikkol Simms  
Branch Advisor  
[njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)

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

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

# GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

**Meetings  
begin  
Oct. 1, 2022  
11am-1pm**

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.

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 South Africa 2023**

## **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.

**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. Thank you!

## **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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## **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](#).

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## **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.

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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 p.m.

## **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.

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**ATTENTION RISING COLLEGE FRESHMEN: FENCE** (Families of Episcopalians Nurturing within the College Environment) is a ministry created for the AECST's college students who will be living away from home. An Episcopal parish closest to your campus and a family or individual that is a member of that parish will help to facilitate your assimilation into your new community.

If interested, for more information, please send an email to Ms. Charlene M. Wiltshire at [cwiltshi@comcast.net](mailto:cwiltshi@comcast.net) providing your name, telephone number, college name & address. You may also speak with her before or after Sunday services.

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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.

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## **ATTENTION ALL MEN**

Every Sunday, ALL men are invited to briefly stop and greet other men of the parish outside under the carport after service each week.

## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### Readings for the Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10/9/22

The First Reading: [2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c](#)  
[Psalm 111](#)

The Second Reading: [2 Timothy 2:8-15](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 17:11-19](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of 10/10/22

Monday - [Matthew 10:5-15](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 10:16-23](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 10:24-33](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 10:34-42](#)

Friday - [Matthew 11:1-6](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 11:7-15](#)

### Readings for the Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10/16/22

The First Reading: [Genesis 32:22-31](#)  
[Psalm 121](#)

The Second Reading: [2 Timothy 3:14-4:5](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 18:1-8](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of 10/17/22

Monday - [Matthew 11:16-24](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 11:25-30](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 12:1-14](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 12:15-21](#)

Friday - [Matthew 12:22-32](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 12:33-42](#)

**Readings for the Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost  
10/23/22**

The First Lesson: [Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22](#)

[Psalm 84:1-6](#)

The Second Reading: [2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 18:9-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of 10/24/222**

Monday - [Matthew 12:43-50](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 13:1-9](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 13:10-17](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 13:18-23](#)

Friday - [Matthew 13:24-30](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 13:31-35](#)

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**THANK YOU! GRACIAS!! MERCI BEAUCOUP!!!**

**to our St. Thomas Family**

For All who participated, All who Volunteered, All Who took the lead for refreshments, set- up & break down, the Reading Nook, registration, arts & crafts, All who invited someone, the awesome flyer, All who supported & gave encouragement for Youth Fun Day at St. Thomas. There were approximately 50 children through age 18 years old; and counting all participants & volunteers, we had close to 80 Folks who had Fun!! It was for the young and young at heart!!

The Planning Committee – Nikki Simms, Howard Chapman, Deadra Cannon, Pam Johnson, Wendella Fox

## **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.

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## **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.

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## **AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY via Zoom Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.**

If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible Study Group, contact Fr. Jay via email at:

[associatepriest@aecst.org](mailto:associatepriest@aecst.org) to be included on our membership list serve. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare, in advance, for the week's meeting.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in Loving Memory of **Gail Lowe**, given by James T. Lowe, Jr.

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Flowers on the Columbarium are In Loving Memory of my wife **Phyllis B. Johnson**, given with love by your husband Bobby.

To order flowers for the Sunday, please return the form with payment 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

Please PRINT  
In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### **WHERE IS THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR?**

They will be traveling to Christ Episcopal Church  
1412 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC 28207 on  
Saturday, October 8th.

Here is their schedule for **Sunday, October 9th**

**8:45 AM** - Contemporary Morning Service

**10:00 AM** - Concert

**11:15 AM** - Children's Discovery Service

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

**IN REHAB:** Linda Holmes

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Alice Bowman-Cropper, Rosalind Rodriquez,  
Deborah “Binky” Seay, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall,  
Charles Fleming, Harold Yates, Leatrice Snowden,  
William Smalls, Angela Foster, Erica Hill-Yates.

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Louise Lewis, Terri Barber, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown,  
Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden,  
Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris,  
Leotta Griffith, Ridart “Butch” Farmer, Karen Ragland,  
Winston Lowe, Kenneth Dow, Edita Gauthney, Justin Trotman.

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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

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## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

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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](#).

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

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

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.  
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.

# **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

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

## **2023 Faithful Giving Cards**

Last Sunday, we kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Enormous thanks to our Clergy, Vestry and Aux. Vestry who submitted their Faithful Giving Cards as leaders of the parish. Please add your name to the list this week by submitting your card today.

**Thank you!**

**To the following who have submitted their  
2023 Faithful Giving Cards:  
Clergy, Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry Leadership**

### **Clergy:**

Fr. Martini Shaw  
Rev. Dr. Paul Bach  
Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

### **Vestry:**

Deadra Connon  
Clare Mae Daniels  
Wendella Fox, Esq.  
Kelvin Johnson  
Pamela Johnson  
Brenda Johnson-Best  
Jonathan Muse  
Bobby Tillman  
Jusy Tillman

### **Auxiliary Vestry:**

Pat Akins  
Conchetta Brewer  
Sharon Bullock  
William Burke, Jr.  
Patricia Lynch

## 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	davidian@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
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	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

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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.