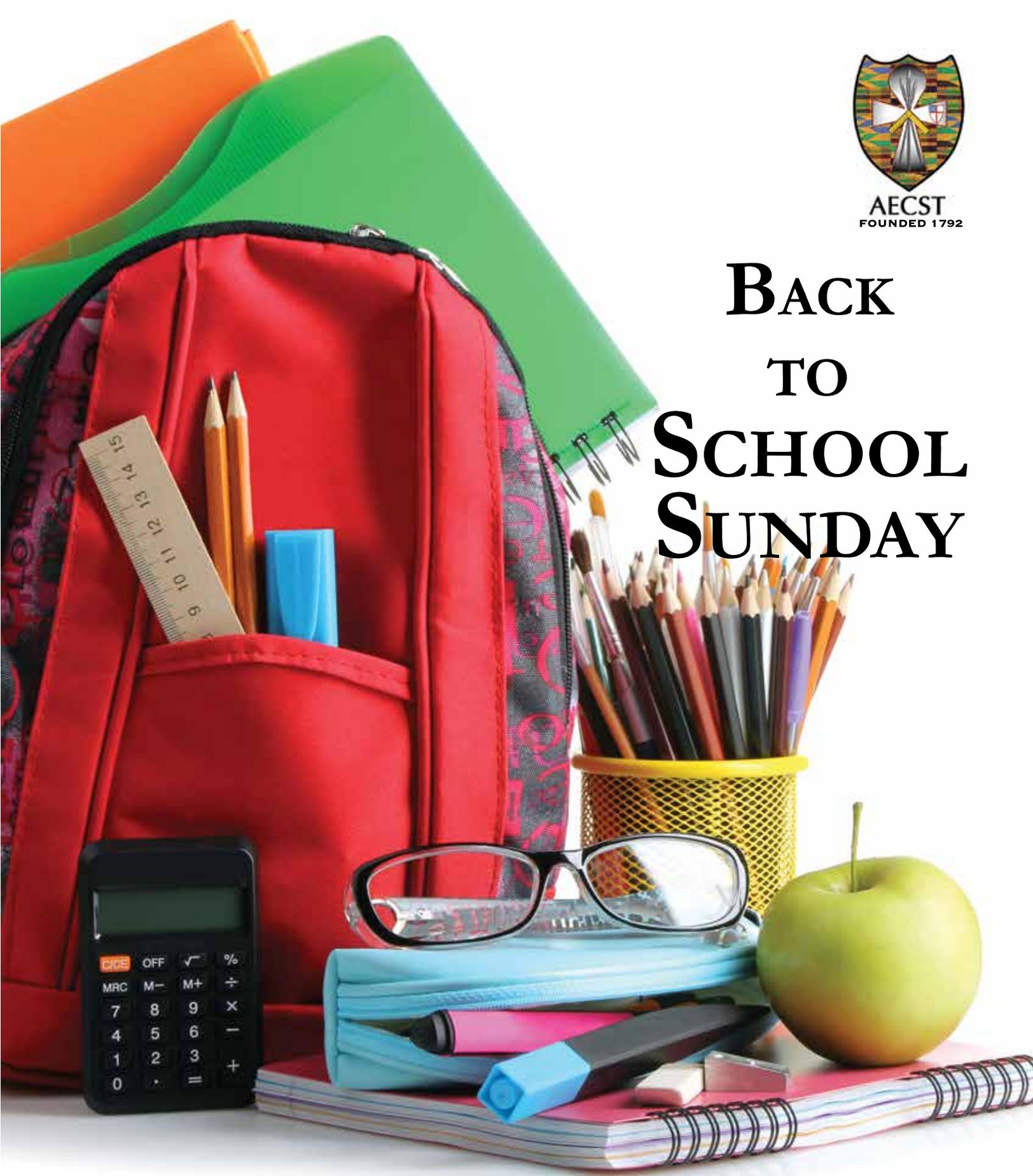




AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

# BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Annual Education / Back to School Sunday**

**Sunday, September 26, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**

Guest Speaker: Wendella P. Fox,  
Director of the Philadelphia office of the  
US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

**FROM THE RECTOR**

Whoever you may be and where you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that you are always welcome at St. Thomas Church.

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**ST. THOMAS IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE**

Due to CDC and Diocesan recommendations, we can only accommodate **150** people in the church. All others will be directed to Anderson Hall. There will be a **sign-in sheet**. Masks are **MANDATORY** for all in attendance. Seating will be spaced. Please check the signs on each pew before you enter. **Hand sanitizer** will be 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 our Live Stream service via the website, Youtube or Facebook. A link for the live stream service can be found on the [aecst.org](http://aecst.org) homepage.

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## **A PASTORAL NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

Grace and Peace to you.

I pray that this communication finds you well. Recent news reporting re: COVID19 has caused me great concern, especially for our dear brothers and sisters who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID19. If you are unvaccinated, I ask you to prayerfully consider being vaccinated ASAP. Please spread the word regarding the importance of being fully vaccinated.

Please receive this note as a symbol of my deep concern and love. And let us continue to pray for those infected with and affected by the virus.

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### **THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY**

Please join us for the return of the  
Circle of Prayer Ministry  
Call on Monday,  
**September 27, 2021 at 6:30 AM!**

Thank you Fr. Martini Shaw, Cynthia Muse.  
Elizabeth Derr, Wanda Tarawaly, Carolyn Summers.  
Binky Seay, the members and all others who continue to  
participate and support our weekly Circle of Prayer call.

We encourage you to reach out to us at  
[circleofprayer@aecst.org](mailto:circleofprayer@aecst.org) to submit  
prayer requests or if you are interested  
in leading the Intercessory Prayer,  
Offer a Prayer(s) or provide a Meditation in Song.  
The Teleconference call number is: **605-313-6361**  
Access Code is: **268105** Prayer is the Answer!

## **The Office of Government Relations and the Office of Black Ministries**

**Topic:**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing: A New National Hymn**

### **Union of Black Episcopalians**

invite you to join us for a live virtual event to celebrate the history and legacy of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and urge the passage of H.R. 301 to make this uplifting, unifying anthem our new national hymn. Over the course of the hour, you’ll hear from faith and government leaders including:

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry
- Congressman James E. Clyburn
- Rev. Canon C.K. Robertson
- The Hon. Byron Rushing, Vice President, House of Deputies
- Dr. Carl MaultsBy, UBE representative
- And more!

The event will also feature a special musical performance of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by **The St Thomas Gospel Choir, Philadelphia, PA.**

Waltier Blocker, Music Director.

Time

**Sep 30, 2021 11:30 AM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

[Click Here To Register](#)

**ST. THOMAS  
CIRCLE  
OF  
PRAYER MINISTRY**

**PLEASE JOIN  
US WEEKLY FOR  
MONDAY MORNING  
PRAYER CALL**

**AT 6:30 AM**

**THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS:  
(605) 313-6361 CODE: 268 105**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND  
AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER  
REQUEST TO:**

**[CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG](mailto:CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG)**

**PHYLLIS B. CATER \* DAPHNE GILSTRAP  
FACILITATORS**

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW  
RECTOR**



**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**  
**6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065**

## **THE PANDEMIC HAS EMPOWERED THE CHURCH TO RE-IMAGINE**

Please join our rector in RE-IMAGINING.

We will Re-imagine new ways to view our relationship  
with Jesus Christ.

We will Re-imagine new ways to proclaim the Gospel.

We will Re-imagine new ways to feed and nurture others.

We will Re-imagine new ways to evangelize  
and grow the church.

We will Re-imagine new ways to serve  
our seniors and youth.

We will Re-imagine new ways of community  
outreach and service.

We will Re-Imagine new ways to engage in  
social justice and politics.

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### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

is now being scheduled. If you or someone you wish to be baptized, please go to our website [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org), go to "About The AECST". Use the drop down to click on [Holy Baptism](#). All the information about baptism and the [electronic application form](#) can be found there.

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### **WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

who joined our village on Sunday, September 19, 2021:  
**Sharon Harper** whose Shepherd is Cynthia Muse and  
**Dennis Hall** whose Shepherd is Gregory Lyles.



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

The African Episcopal Church  
of  
St. Thomas  
Church School  
is

**BACK!**



Calling ALL AECST  
Students K-12, Parents and Teachers

WELCOME TO A NEW AND EXCITING YEAR  
OF ADVENTURE IN OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY  
- LEARNING AND LIVING THROUGH CHRIST

**KNOW JESUS.**

**CHANGE THE WORLD!**

**JOIN US**

**THE AECST CHURCH SCHOOL  
EVERY SUNDAY AT NOON**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please register using our AECST Church School Registration Link  
<https://forms.gle/nat7CGEYd7WNcS6X8>

Once you register, you will receive the Zoom link to attend.

All parents and church school aged children  
are encouraged to attend.

If you need more information please contact  
Dottie Archey at 215-474-2815

or you can send an email to  
[churchschool@aecst.org](mailto:churchschool@aecst.org) for more information.

## **WELCOME BACK VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL!**

Church school will meet by ZOOM Sundays at noon. You can still register your child using AECST Church School Registration Link <https://forms.gle/nat7CGEYd7WNcS6X8> Once you register, you will receive the Zoom link to attend Church School. All parents and church school aged children are encouraged to attend. If you need more information please contact Dottie Archey at 215-474-2815 or you can send an email to [churchschool@aecst.org](mailto:churchschool@aecst.org) for more information.

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The Church School would like to apologize for omitting the name of a dedicated teacher, **Regina Maecham Devero**. We thank you for your dedication to the Sunday School.

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR [WORSHIP LIVE STREAM](#)** on the St. Thomas website homepage [aecst.org](http://aecst.org), on Facebook or Youtube.com every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

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## **SPEARHEAD EMAILS**

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, or have someone else you wish to receive, please visit <http://eepurl.com/djyGiD> to subscribe. 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.



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 10, 2021, 10:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
THE ANNUAL  
CELEBRATION

OF THE  
LIFE

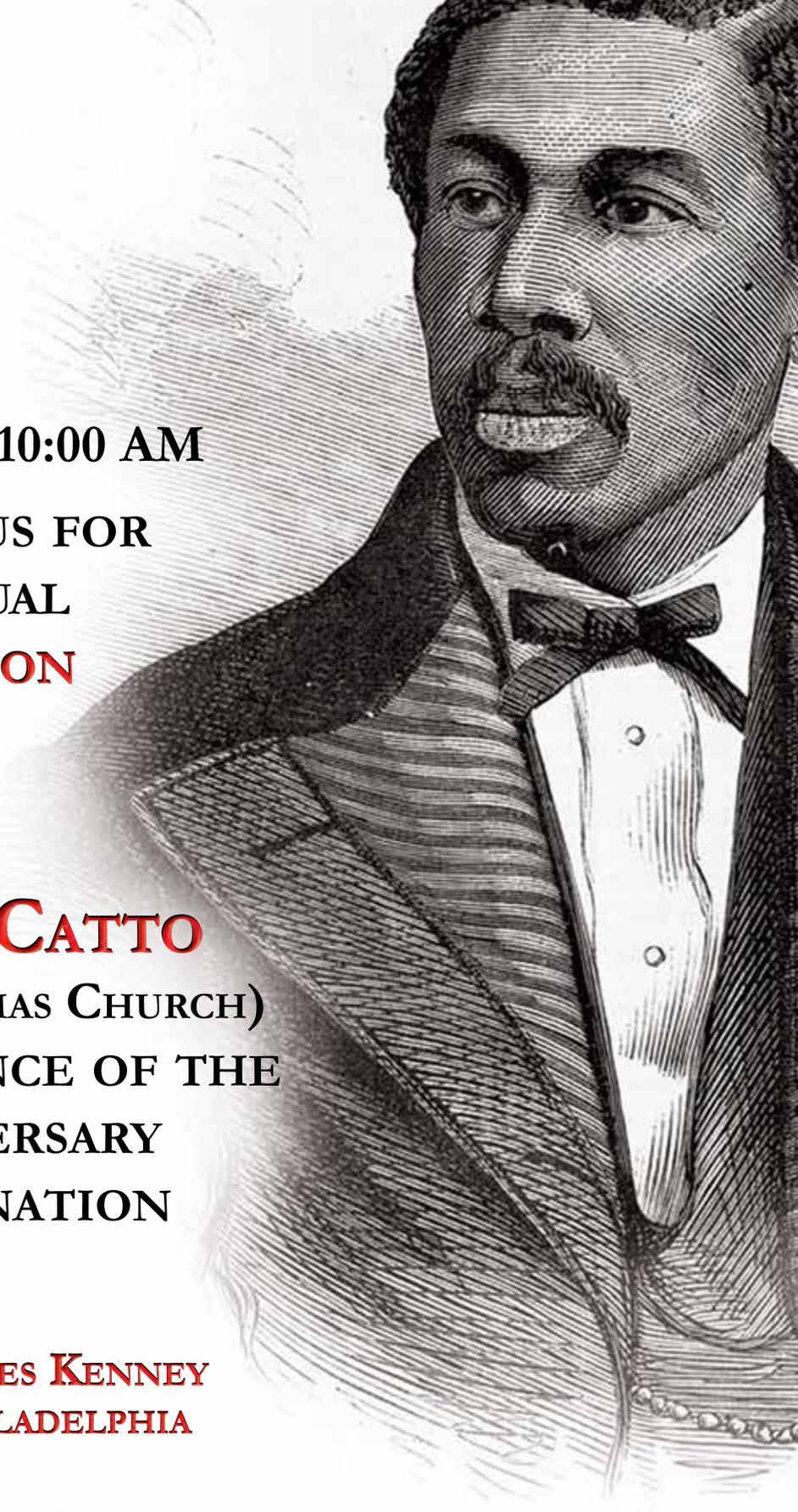
OF  
OCTAVIUS V. CATTO

(MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH)

AND THE OBSERVANCE OF THE  
150TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF HIS ASSASSINATION

GUEST:

THE HONORABLE JAMES KENNEY  
MAYOR, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



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

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## **DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**

### **Readings For The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost September 26th**

First Reading: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 19: 7-14

Second Reading: James 5: 13-20

The Holy Gospel: Mark 9: 38-50

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### **Week of 9/27/2021**

Monday - Luke 5: 1-11

Tuesday - Luke Luke 5: 12-26

Wednesday - Luke 5: 27-39

Thursday Luke 6: 1-11

Friday - Luke 6: 12-26

Saturday - Luke 6: 27-38

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### **Readings For The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 3rd**

First Reading: Genesis 2: 18-24

Psalm 8

Second Reading: 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12

The Holy Gospel: Mark 10: 2-16

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## **TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY CLASSES**

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Please contact Fr. Jay by email to be added to the list and receive the Zoom link at:

[jcoll1906@gmail.com](mailto:jcoll1906@gmail.com)

## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

**September 26th**

**Annual Education/ Back to School/  
Youth Sunday**



**Guest Speaker: Wendella P. Fox,**  
Director of the Philadelphia office of  
the US Department of Education,  
Office for Civil Rights

Theme: "I Believe that I am Blessed and I am  
a Blessing. I Believe that I live to make a difference".

**October 3rd**

**Stewardship Kick-Off Sunday**

**The Annual Blessing of Animals  
In Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi  
at 2:00 PM on the Great Lawn.**

**October 10th**

**Annual Observance and Celebration of  
The Life of Octavius V. Catto and  
the 150th Anniversary of his assassination.**

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**GFS FUN DAY  
CHERRY CREST FARM'S  
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL!**



150 CHERRY HILL ROAD, RONKS, PA 17572

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SAVE THE DATE:

**11.6.21**

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ANIMALS, RIDES, GAMES, CORN MAZE, AND FOOD!

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Calling all GFSers AND girls ages 3+ interested in joining GFS!  
Parents, tag-a-longs, and GFS leaders are all welcome.

Please contact Nikkol Simms at [njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net) if interested.

For their COVID policies:

<https://www.cherrycrestfarm.com/covid>

\*Varying discounts are available on regular ticket price.\*

**RECOVERING AT HOME**

Linda Holmes, Joseph Stevenson,  
Lisa Woodley, Rosalind Roberts Smalls.

**PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER**

Suzanne Closson, Shirley Caldwell, Carl Dean,  
Adinah Edwards, Francina Norris, Isedora "Gwen" Francis,  
Kenneth Dow, Shirley Winkfield, Robert Brown,  
Judith Simpkins-Booth, Stephanie Williamson,  
Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Georgia Sawyer, Joan Hall,  
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Leatrice Snowden.

**WE PRAY FOR**

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

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**OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO**

the family of Philadelphia City Councilman  
Curtis Jones, Jr., Jazelle Jones and family on the death of  
their son, **Gary David Green**. May Gary's soul rest in peace  
and rise in glory.

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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.

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19151  
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

## PEW MEMORIAL PLAQUES



*THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS*  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021  
DEDICATE A PEW PLAQUE  
IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVE ONES

**\$500.00**

(Payment Deadline: October 10, 2021)

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 215-878-3651



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

- 1) Mail in your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 2) 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**.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Church website <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>  
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, Church School, Chosen 300, Easter, etc.

NOTE: Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St. Thomas, when filling out your online giving information.

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

## **FINANCE OFFICE**

Mid-year Financial Reports have been mailed. If you have not received yours, please contact Jeannette in the Fiscal office ASAP. We ask that you please continue your financial support of our Parish ministries. Thanks for all your contributions to date.

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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.

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## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP**

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office 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. Please send your changes to me at: [stewardship@aecst.org](mailto:stewardship@aecst.org). Thank you, Judy Tillman

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## **PROPERTY UPDATE - GOOD NEWS!**

Major work has started on our entire roof, pointing of all exterior and interior stones, and ultimately the cleaning of the interior stones. If you have questions, please speak with our Vestry Property Chair, Ms. Deborah Harrison.

# **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

## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Assistant to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
	Lisa Steward-New	ljs210@msn.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	auntdd48@aol.com
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sextons	James Brown	1792@aecst.org
	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
Acolyte Ministry	Lisa Woodley	
Altar Guild /Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clara Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Bible Study	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
	Carlia Miller	trublu265@aim.com
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Video Ministry Co-Directors	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Quentin Heyward	
	Terri Tillman	
	Dale Williams	
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Brenda Johnson Best	brjb46@gmail.com

## **THE VESTRY**

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones  
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye  
Treasurer - Kelvin Johnson

Alister Allman	Albert S. Dandridge	Jonathan Muse
Patricia Bantom	Deborah Harrison	Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Ronnie Collins	D. Lynn Joell	Judith Tillman
	Brenda Johnson Best	

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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 taught, lived and spread.

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