

WELCOME TO THE
HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

THE COMMISSIONING/RECOMMISSIONING
OF THE ACOLYTES



A M E N

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA | FOUNDED 1792



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)

Philadelphia, PA, 19151

(215) 473-3065

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw

The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans

Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins

Associate Priest



Scan the QR code or text "AECST" to 73256 to support our church and our ministries.

Please click on the link provided for the

[Order of Service](#)

“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 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Youth and Young Adult
Sunday, and the Commissioning/Recommissioning and
Blessing of Acolytes.**

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., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend 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 welcome 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. Whomever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Again, welcome!

Wishing each of you a very holy and blessed fifty days of Easter filled with Joy, Peace and Love.

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

JOIN US SUNDAY

Please see the invitation below.



St. Thomas' "Men Are Cooking"

Today, Sunday, April 26, 2026, following service in Anderson Hall. Tickets will be sold in the hallway outside of Anderson Hall.

\$20.00 adults, \$10 children 4-11 years old, and children under four are free.

The Men's Ministry & Fellowship Presents St. Thomas Men Are Cooking



Highlights

- . Music
- . Multiple Servings
- . Indoor & Outdoor Seating
- . Service by Men of St. Thomas
- . Table Service for those in Need
- . 50/50 Raffle
- . Rector Serving His Special Dish

\$20.00 for ages 12 and up
\$10 for ages 4 to 11 - Free if younger

Date: SUNDAY April 26th, 2026

Time: Immediately After Service

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 Lancaster Ave., Phila., PA 19151
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

Sample Menu Items:

Meat Lovers

Jerk Chicken
Baked Ham
Lamb Meat Stew
Baked Chicken Fried
Chicken Chicken
Wings Curried Stew
Breakfast Casserole
Chicken Parmesan
Chicken Pasta Salad
Jerk Chicken Pasta
Turkey & Beef
Beef Lasagna

Non-Meat Dishes

Pancakes
Home Fries
Green Salad
Cole Slaw
Caesar Salad
Baked Snapper fish
Vegetarian Enchiladas
Shrimp & Rice
Roasted Salmon
Vegetable Lasagna
String Rice & Beans
Baked Beans



ALL MEN INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING / FOR COOKING/FOR TICKETS

Tim Barksdale @ 215-868-6766 (Please text)

Ed Geiger @ 716-207-0405

Farewell... but Not Goodbye

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

We give thanks and celebrate three years of dedicated ministry and leadership from Fr. Daren; serving as “Associate to the Rector.”

He is preparing to serve in campus ministry at Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas.

His last Sunday will be next week, May 3rd.

We pray that God will continue to order his steps.



Photos: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)



Our condolences and prayers to the family of **Anita Reid**, who passed on Sunday, March 22nd. A memorial service will be held at St. Thomas on **Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 11:00 AM.**

May the soul of Anita rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

ST. THOMAS ACOLYTE MINISTRY

On Sunday, we will commission/recommission members of the Acolyte Ministry:

New Acolytes: Jasmine Davis, Ava Mathurin, Nia Mathurin, Chase Miller, and Amelia Phillips

Acolytes: Taylor Garfield, Bianca Gunby, Tyrone Keller, John Kortue, Alliyah Miller, Triniti Miller, Shaine Simms, and Sarah Williams

Wardens: William Burke, Jr., Juanita Miller, Nikkol Simms, Irving Stevenson, Calvin Thompson, Cheyenne Williamson, and Lisa Stevenson Woodley

MEN'S MINISTRY



On Saturday, April 18th, some of the men of Men's Ministry & Fellowship gather to discuss upcoming plans.



More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 19, 2026

Photos: Quentin Heyward and Richard Jones
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)





More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)



More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)



PENTECOST IS MAY 24, 2026

The deadline for submitting the online application for Baptism at the Pentecost Service is **May 1, 2026**. Contact Gail Harris (215) 450-9312 or baptism@aecst.org for further information or assistance.

ST. JAMES DAY

You're invited to celebrate the **Feast of St. James** on **Saturday, May 2, 2026**, from 1:00 -3:00 PM, at the

St. James School,

3217 West Clearfield Street, Phila, PA 19132.

Join them for the blessing of new spaces on campus, outdoor games, tie-dying, and food. Go to <https://stjamesphila.org/st-james-day/> to RSVP and reserve a spot on the St. James bus, which will depart from St. Thomas at 12:30 PM.

May 2nd

1:00-3:00 PM



RSVP HERE

& reserve a spot on
the St. James Bus departing
from AECST @12:30 PM



3217 West Clearfield Street
Philadelphia, PA 19132



Join us on our Saint's Feast Day
for the blessing of new spaces
on campus, outdoor games,
tie-dyeing, and food!

St. James School Annual Dr. Audrey Evans Benefit "Sharing the Spark"

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM

at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum.

Suggested ticket amount is \$150.00 per person or pay what you wish. Visit www.StJamesPhila.org/Spark to purchase tickets online.

We're Invited!
SHARING THE
spark
ANNUAL DR. AUDREY EVANS
BENEFIT

ST. JAMES SCHOOL

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum

6:00 PM MINGLE & DINE | **7:30 PM** PROGRAM | **8:30 PM** DESSERT & COFFEE

PAY WHAT YOU WISH TICKETS
We want this event to be inclusive and affordable for all! **\$150** suggested amount per person. **Or pay what you wish.**

Visit StJamesPhila.org/Spark to purchase tickets online.
For more information, contact Gillian Golson at ggolson@stjamesphila.org or 484.224.3891.

HONORING
Two impactful organizations

EPIPHANY SCHOOL
Which sparked the idea for St. James School

CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
An extraordinary St. James church partner



OUR LIVESTREAM MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Each week, many people who are away are able to worship with us via our amazing Livestream. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. If interested, please communicate with the rector.



ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

National Donate Life Month, April 2026

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) was established by Donate Life America and its partnering organizations in 2003. Observed in April each year, National Donate Life Month helps raise awareness about donation, encourages Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors, and honors those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

Leave a Legacy

During National Donate Life Month in April, we honor the people who have given the gift of life through organ, eye, and tissue donation. We also celebrate the lives that have been saved and healed because of a donor's generosity.

This year's theme uses trees as a symbol of life and connection. Just like trees grow and support each other in a forest, donation connects people – donors, recipients, and their families. Like a tree that grows and stands for generations, a donor's gift leaves a lasting legacy of hope and life. Your decision to be an organ, eye, or tissue donor gives hope to the 100,000 people on the national organ transplant waiting list who are waiting for a second chance at life.

During National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and throughout the year, join us in helping save and heal lives by registering your decision to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor, learning more about living donation, and supporting the Donate Life cause.

Get out in your local community and on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and DonateLife.net to help us honor donors, recipients, and their families and caregivers. During NDLM, we will also be recognizing the clinical teams continuing their dedicated work during this time to honor the gift of donation and save the lives of those waiting for a transplant.

National Donate Life Month Celebrations

National Pediatric Transplant Week was April 19-25, 2026

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, April 28th

- ~OPC Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft
- ~Pilgrims on a Journey with Fr. Jay~
via Zoom at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, 29th

- ~Bible Study with Fr. Daren~
6:00 PM in the A.J. House
- ~St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal~
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Saturday, May 2nd

- ~Chancel Choir Rehearsal~
10:00 AM – 12 Noon in Anderson Hall
- ~Girls' Friendly Society~
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026

April 26th

~The Fourth Sunday of Easter~
~Installation of New Acolytes~
~St. Thomas's Men Are Cooking~
in Anderson Hall

May 3rd

~Parade of Hats~
(Ladies and Gentlemen wear your favorite hat,
fascinator, bonnet, chapeau, fedora, beret, turban, etc.)

May 10th

~Mother's Day~

May 17th

~Heroes' Sunday~
Guest Speaker-Commissioner Michael Resnick, Esq.,
Philadelphia Department of Prisons

May 24th

~Pentecost Sunday~
(wear something red)

May 31st

~Annual Women's Day Celebration~
Guest Speaker - The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness, 53rd Pastor,
Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATES
Voter Education

Important Dates for the Pennsylvania
2026 Primary Election

May 4

Last day to register to vote in the Primary

May 12

Last day to request a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

May 19

Last day for completed mail-in or absentee ballots to be
received by the County Board of Elections (8:00 PM)

May 19

ELECTION DAY! Polls are open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Which Offices are on the Pennsylvania Primary Ballot
for all counties?

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Congressperson for all Districts

State Senator in even-numbered Districts

All State Representatives in the PA General Assembly

Member of the Democratic State Committee

Member of the Republican State Committee

In Philadelphia only

Member of each Ward Executive Committee

REALM STATEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – APRIL 2026

Good morning, Church family. This announcement is to inform you to please check your email later this week for your first quarterly statement. Realm can easily generate your statement. Therefore, paper statements will no longer be mailed from the church office.

Please email stewardship@aecst.com if you do not receive your statement via email (remember to check spam/junk). Thank you in advance, and have a great day. Judy Tillman, Stewardship Chair.

Are you receiving the weekly electronic Spearhead? If not, please email Gladyce DuBrey at 1792@aecst.org with your mobile number and email address.

Join Dr. Rollo Dilworth and Singing City
on **May 3, 2026**, at 3:00 PM for
“With Liberty and Justice for All”
at Temple Performing Arts Center,
1837 N. Broad Street. For ticket information,
please go to singingcity.org.



HEROES' SUNDAY

MAY 17, 2026 10:00 AM

Philadelphia Department of Prisons
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL RESNICK, ESQ., GUEST SPEAKER



ALL first responders are invited to attend!

* Arrival of all First Responders: 9:30 A.M.

* A catered reception to follow

* For more information, please contact: Seth Williams at:
Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net

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CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION / RECEPTION CLASSES

In-person and Zoom
classes are as follows:

In Person (8:45 AM)

Sunday, 05/03/2026

Zoom (6:00 PM)

Monday, 04/27/2026

Monday, 05/18/2026

Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!

Please connect with Fr. Daren, 215-473-3065 or email,
associaterector@aecst.org if you have not received any
information or have questions, ASAP.



CONFIRMATION/REAFFIRMATION/ RECEPTION

The following individuals will be confirmed,
reaffirmed, or received into the church
during the Bishop's visit to
St. Thomas, Sunday, June 7, 2026.

Please keep them in your prayers as they make final
preparations to receive a special sacramental blessing:

Naomi Johnson Booker

Dane Bowrin

Dominick Bowrin

Vanessa Bowrin

Melissa Chatman

Ryan Chatman

Diane Regina Culmer

Robert Newton Davenport

Karen Davis

Renard Golden

Samantha Richardson-

Ingram

Evelyn Johns

Garry Jones

Kayma Sherman Knuckles

Alonda Lord

Michelle Mack

Stephen Mack

Alliyah Maxwell

Paula Brown Milbourne

Mercy Natt

Ingrid Nembhard

Velma Morris Nembhard

Wendy Puryear

Kareem Ragan

Cynthia Ray

Toddrick Ricks

Charlie Stiff

WOOD FUNERAL HOME
VINE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

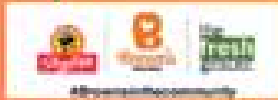
WOOD/VINE 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY LOVE FEST



A DAY OF FUN, LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP!

DATE: SAT. MAY 9, 2026
TIME: 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
PLACE: 56TH & GIRARD AVE AND VICINITY

Live Music & Entertainment
Free Food & Giveaways!
Vendors & Activities for Kids
Motorcycle & Corvette Show!
St. Thomas Gospel Choir



**Attention St. Thomas High School Seniors
and Graduate Students:**

The Jesse F. Anderson, Sr. Book Award and Graduate applications are now available.

Applications are on the table in The Great Hallway. Questions? Contact Paula Lamb, (215) 620-7250, or Dr. Diana Hutchins (610) 525-4322.

Application deadline is May 11, 2026.

**ATTENTION: All Groups/Ministries/Organizations
and Fellowships**

- Announcements and flyers for the Sunday Bulletin and digital Spearhead should be received on **Monday by 12:00 Noon**. If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office, (215) 473-3065.
 - Please submit a "**Request for Meeting Space**" form to the office for all meetings in the Church, Anderson Hall, Absalom Jones House, parking lot and/or the Great Lawn two weeks prior to the event. Please refrain from approaching the sextons. The church office maintains the calendar for all events. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact the church office at (215) 473-3065 or email 1792@aecst.org.
-



Church Pictorial Directory Committee

***All ads and patrons for the Church directory are due by May 31st ***

In addition to our member and family photographs, the new pictorial St. Thomas Church Directory will include:

- our bountiful history
- a special in memorial page (listing members who have transitioned since 2017)
- greetings from the rector
- group photographs of AECST ministries

A new category has been created entitled:
“With Love and Blessings.”

You can add your name to this section with patron, business or ministry ads. It would be wonderful to have your support and expressions of gratitude included in the directory.

Patron ads - \$5.00 per name

Business or Ministry ads:

- Full page \$150.00 - 8”x10” portrait
- 1/2 page \$75.00 - 8”x5” landscape
- 1/4 page \$50.00 - 4”x5” portrait
- 1/8 page \$35.00 - 4”x 2 1/2” landscape

Please see a committee member to place an ad, or you may:

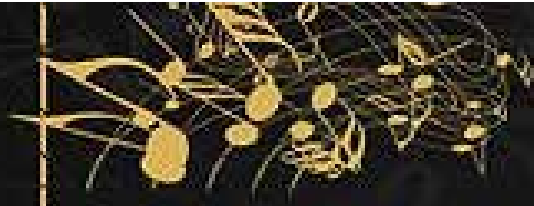
Email: Camera ready ads to: churchdirectory@aecst.org

Checks may be mailed and payable to:

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

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.



VOCALISTS & MUSICIANS *Wanted*

**To Join
A Professional Recording Gospel Choir**

The St Thomas Gospel Choir
Directed By, Walt Blocker
of the
African Episcopal Church of St Thomas
Philadelphia, PA

WWW.STTHOMASGC.ORG

(484) 816-STGC (7842)

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson - Florida

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather - Bloomsburg, PA

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney -Texas

Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina

Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York

Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida

Bettie Jones - North Carolina

Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia

Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina

Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado/California

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson -Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly and Ann Stewart - Florida

Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

Allison Young - Maryland

**The Bible Readings For
the Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026**

The First Lesson - [Acts 2:42-47](#)
[Psalm 23](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Peter 2:19-25](#)
The Holy Gospel - [John 10:1-10](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of April 27, 2026**

Monday - [Matthew 5:1-10](#)
Tuesday - [Matthew 5:11-16](#)
Wednesday - [Matthew 5:17-20](#)
Thursday - [Matthew 5:21-26](#)
Friday - [Matthew 5:27-37](#)
Saturday - [Matthew 5:38-48](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
BIBLE STUDY is on Tuesdays
at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining
the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay
at associatepriest@aecst.org.

WEDNESDAY IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY
with Fr. Daren is on Wednesdays
at 6:00 PM in the A.J. House.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are given in Loving memory of **The Rev. Canon Jesse F. Anderson, Jr.**, on what would have been his **89th birthday** (May 2nd), given by Connie Anderson.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to Alfreda Brockman or Gladyce in the church office.

Flowers on the High Altar - \$80.00 each
Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$70.00 each
Flowers on the Columbarium - \$60.00

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers or contribute to our church ministries.



Our **AECST Podcast Series** returns with an important new episode! Fr. Daren is joined by Licensed Clinical Social Worker **Mrs. Lasheena Riley Duval** for a conversation on **supporting children through medical care.** Tune in!



CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson](#).



VERGERS NEEDED!

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or
the Rector for more details.

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. 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](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Vernette Dow - Presbyterian Medical Center

IN REHAB:

Francine Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home

Patricia Walker Ellison - Rydal Place, Jenkintown, PA

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass - Atria Lafayette Hill; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Shirley Caldwell, Cornelia Camp, Thelma Silvers, Mary Ann Jones, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Joyce Stewart, Virginia DuBrey, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Guy Booth, Alletta Parris Olday, Jurdina Koilor, Victoria Rivers

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Adinah Edwards, Teena Watson-Matthews, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Carl Dean, Arlene Gray, Adrian Gray, Sharon Harper, Quincina Edmonds, D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney, Carmen Brown, Lisa Woodley, Richard Jones, Jr., Regina Meacham Devero, Katrina Harris, Karen Ragland

WE PRAY FOR:

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

CALLING ALL YOUTH



What's an Acolyte? Am I old enough? Why do I want to be one? These and other questions can be answered by Father Daren! No prior experience is necessary to serve in the **Acolyte Ministry**. Rehearsals are on Sundays, immediately after service. This is an excellent opportunity for children and youth to become involved in the life of the church. Contact [Fr. Daren](#) for details.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

We want to highlight the achievements of our youth and young adults! If your child has excelled in academics, sports, the arts, or community service—or you are a young adult working on a significant personal or professional project—we would love to hear about it. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) so we can share your story with the congregation!

THE YOUNG ADULTS (ages 20's and 30's) meet immediately after service every 4th Sunday of the Month in the Absalom Jones House.



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW, but also the church of TODAY! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

Church School begins at **10:00 AM** in the **Undercroft**.

You need to register your child for church school for the 2025-2026 school year. Please use this [link](#) to register your child/children.

Call for Church School Teachers - If you feel the calling by God to volunteer your time in church school, please fill out the registration [link](#). If you were a teacher last year, please fill out this year's registration.



Tiny Tykes Temple is now located in the beautiful library of the Absalom Jones House for infants, children (under 3 years old) and parents. Parents who may find it necessary to step away from mass for a moment are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful space.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. 2 Corinthians 9:7. NIV

The **Stewardship Committee** of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God’s children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasure.

Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below:



OTHER 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 Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

3) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. 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> 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.

5) REALM CONNECT - Members and visitors who use GIVI must use **Realm Connect**. If donate via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new webpage and corresponding QR code.

6) Cellphone: Text "AECST" to 73256 to donate.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, envelop number and amount is placed on the offering envelope. This is particularly important for bookkeeping accurate. If you are unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount is placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

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](#) and select the Building Fund button on our Capital Improvement Donation button on our [website](#).

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 Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	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
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry	Wendela Fox Elaine Gillison	cattoministry@aecst.org
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	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Eugene Golson Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Parish Webmaster	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Property Chair	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
Scout Pack 133	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
	Sharon Bullock	scmci@aol.com
St. Thomas Daughters of the King	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Stewardship Chair	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Edita Gauthney Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry		

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Elaine Gillison	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Eugene Golson	Deborah Matthews
	Marie B. Golson	

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Ronnie Collins	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Mary Sandra Dean	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
	Cynthia Muse	

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller