

ST. THOMAS KICKS OFF
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH
CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026
AT 10:00 AM**

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 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND AMERICA250 KICK-OFF**

February 1, 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 After The Epiphany, New Member Sunday Black History Month and America250 Kick-Off.**

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.

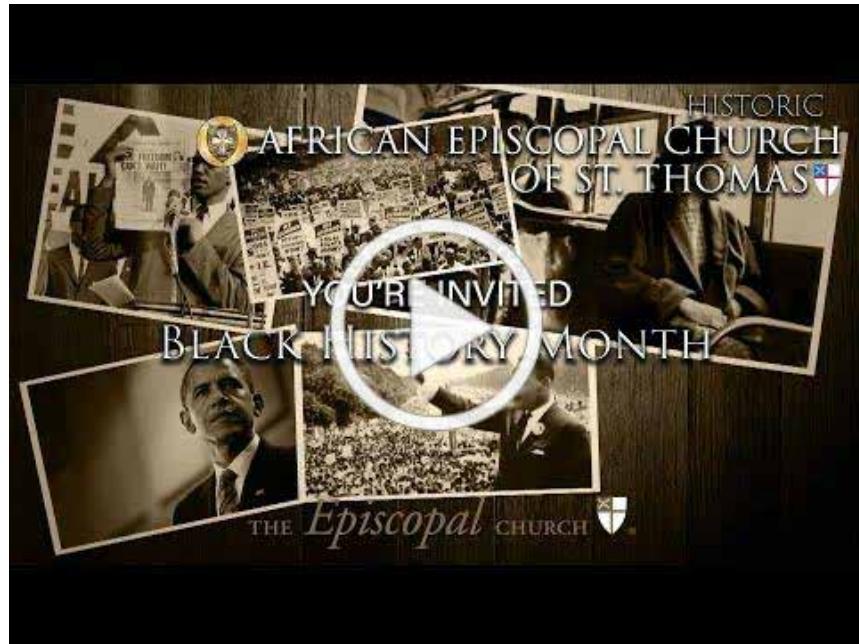
Today, we welcome and recognize members of our church who joined in 2025.

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 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. Again, welcome!

Wishing you a very Happy and Blessed New Year.

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

Please watch the video below and join us



**Video: Quentin Heyward
St. Thomas Videography Ministry)**



"Martin Luther King at St. Thomas church"



BLACK HISTORY MONTH NOTE - FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Founders of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas were there as events that formed the genesis for America 250 unfolded. Prominent vestryman and prosperous sailmaker, James Forten, remembered that as a nine-year-old boy he was there that hot July 8th in 1776 when the Sheriff of Philadelphia, John Nixon, read the Declaration of Independence in the State House yard publicly for the first time.

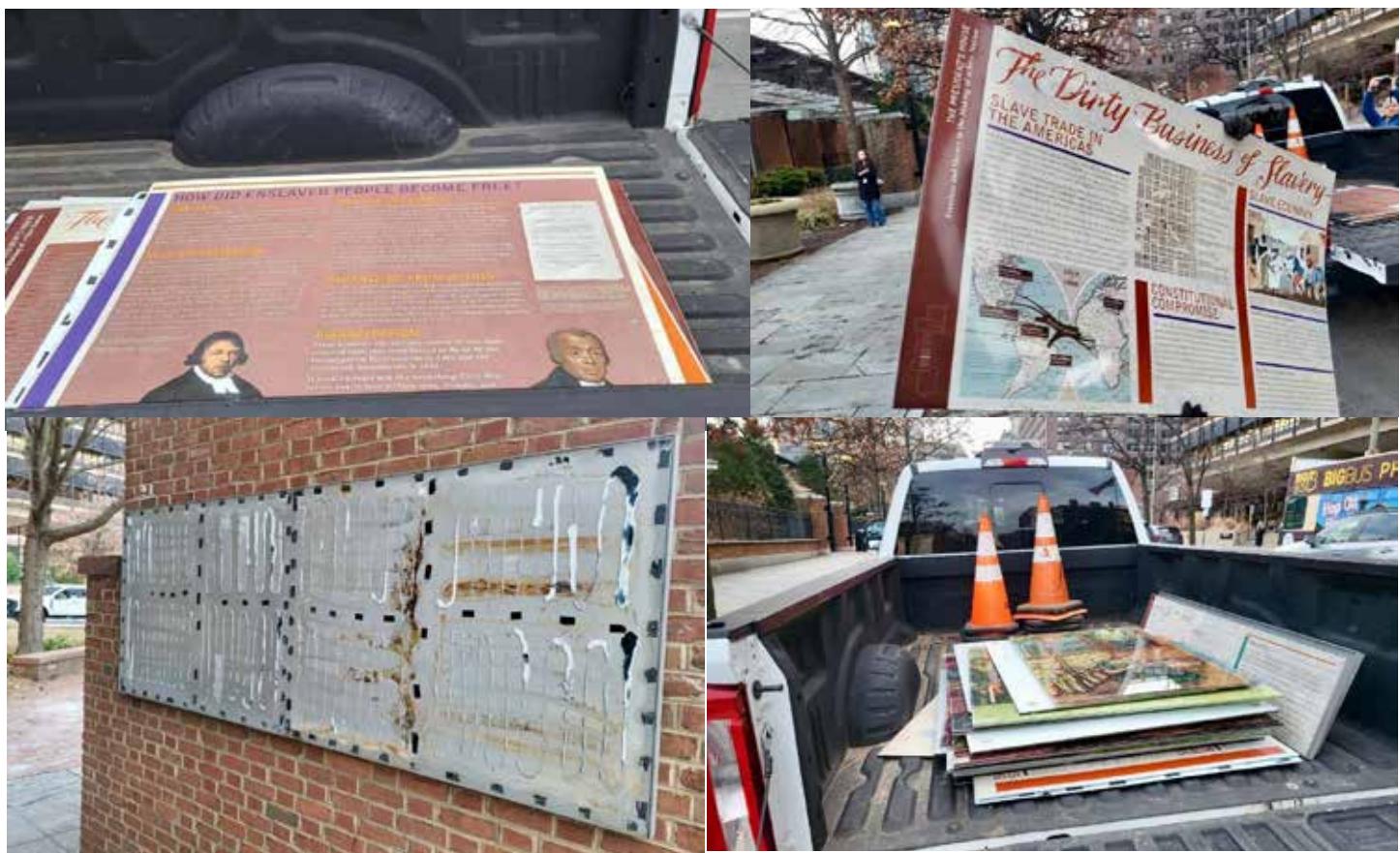
This historical event is re-enacted annually at Independence Hall. Historian and Forten biographer, Julie Winch, wrote that not only had James Forten heard the new nation's first founding document read but he believed in the principles espoused therein as set forth by Thomas Jefferson and others. Young Forten considered himself a patriot and perhaps inspired by the sight of Black and indigenous soldiers in uniform marching through Philadelphia with the New England Regiment, he enlisted to fight in the American Revolution aboard a privateer. As demonstrated by his pursuit of the elusive goal of citizenship for African Americans, and his unwavering commitment to the abolition of slavery, James Forten was an American founding father. But the place he earned in the annals of American history will only be safe and secure from erasure by revisionist theorists if we know, and can tell, his story.

History Note by Arthur Sudler, Director, St. Thomas Historical Society & Archives

ANNOUNCEMENT!

As you are probably aware, on Friday, January 23rd, history at The President's House/Slavery Memorial (Independence National Historical Park) was dismantled by the federal government.

Sadly, this Memorial included important historical information about our esteemed leaders: Absalom Jones and St. Thomas Church; and Richard Allen and Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church.



FROM THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA

“You have this juxtaposition of the bell, which connotes freedom and independence, with the house where there were enslaved people. So, you had this correlation between slavery and freedom, which of course has always run through Philadelphia since its inception because we know even William Penn had enslaved people up through the Civil War...”

Art Sudler, The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas - AECST

The full article may be found [here](#).



Today, we welcome new members of our church family during 2025.

Nicole Bennett-Denson
Dane Bowrin
Isaac Nembhard
Dominic Bowrin
Vanessa Bowrin
Jessica Brunt
Melisse Brunt
Christopher Burks
Kayla Byrd
Reginald Carter
Diane Culmer
Chris Davis
Daine Decoursey
Melissa Gray
Elyse Harris
Synethia Hill
Evelyn John
Michelle Mack

Dr. Stephen Mack
Velma Morris-Nembhard
Jacob Nembhard
Robert Newton Davenport
Doris Ohliger
Chinwe Omyekere
Nzogi Onyekere
Kareem Ragin
Cynthia Ray
Smanha Richardson-Ingram
Samaya Ingram
Zacharia Ingram
Zavier Ingram
Fatima Sultan
Maddox Sultan Robinson
Toddrick Ricks
Christin Veney
Hamaas Veney
Lorenzo Whitacker

We give thanks to individuals who joined our church family during 2025.

**SAVE THE DATE / MARK YOUR CALENDARS -
A BIG CELEBRATION!!**

**“Celebrating the Feast of Absalom Jones” -
Celebrant: The Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutierrez,
Bishop of the Diocese of PA;**

**Guest Preacher: The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry,
former Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.**

**Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 4:00 PM
(This is the ONLY Service this day)**

Guest participants: Christ Church, Philadelphia, PA;
St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, PA; and Mother Bethel African
Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA; St. James
School, Philadelphia and Bishop John T. Walker School for
Boys, Washington, DC; VocalEssence Singers of This Age,
Minneapolis, MN

SPREAD THE WORD NOW!



In prayerful support of the people of Minnesota and all our immigrant siblings, we invite you to keep vigil with us at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 31st, at The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

Public prayers are offered at intervals throughout the day

At 4:00 PM, Bishop Gutierrez will lead a service for peace, justice, humanity, and courage.

All are welcome. Always.

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

25 January 2026

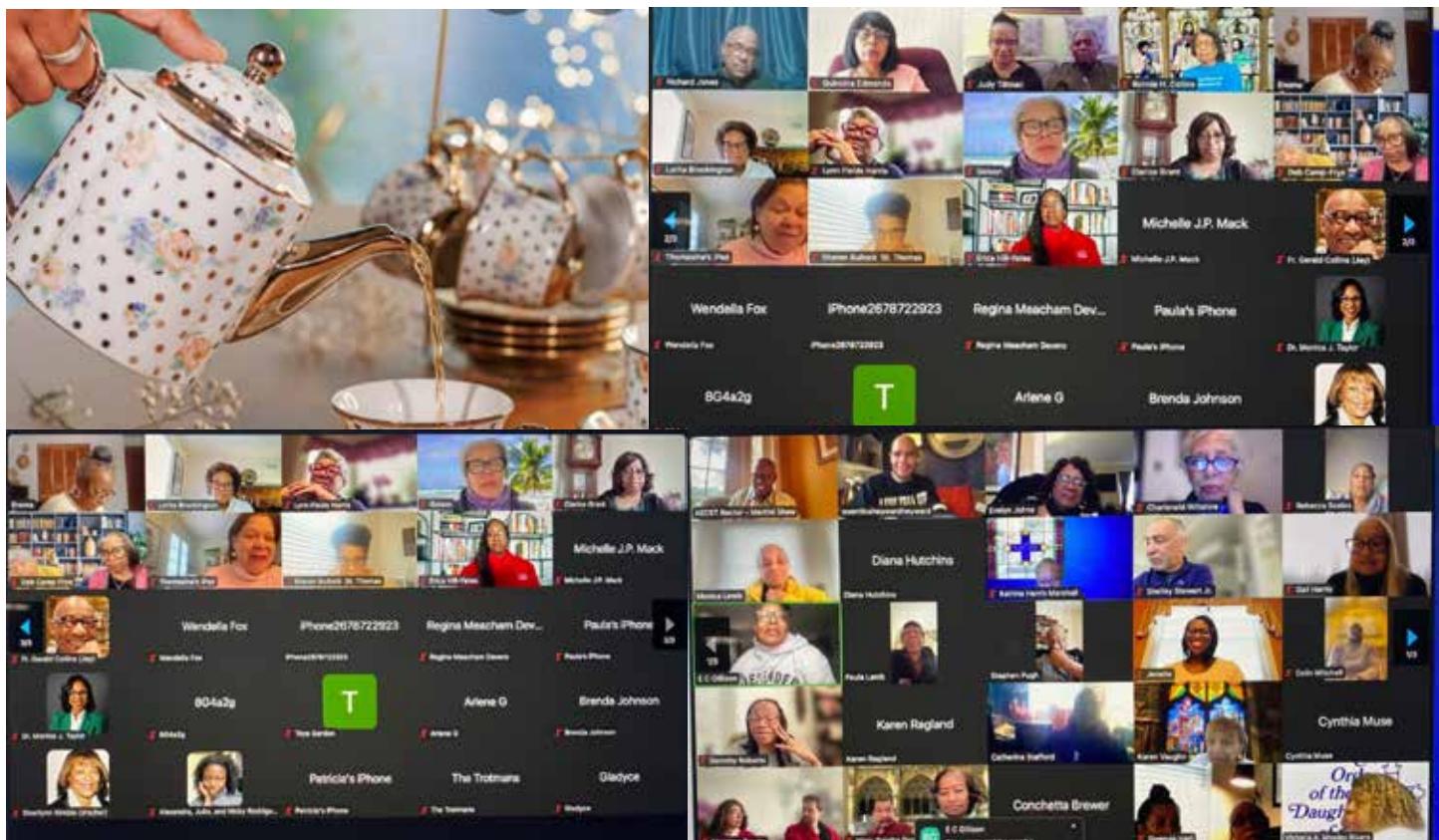
Due to inclement weather, Sunday service was a morning of Virtual Meditation and Prayers. Please see the video below.

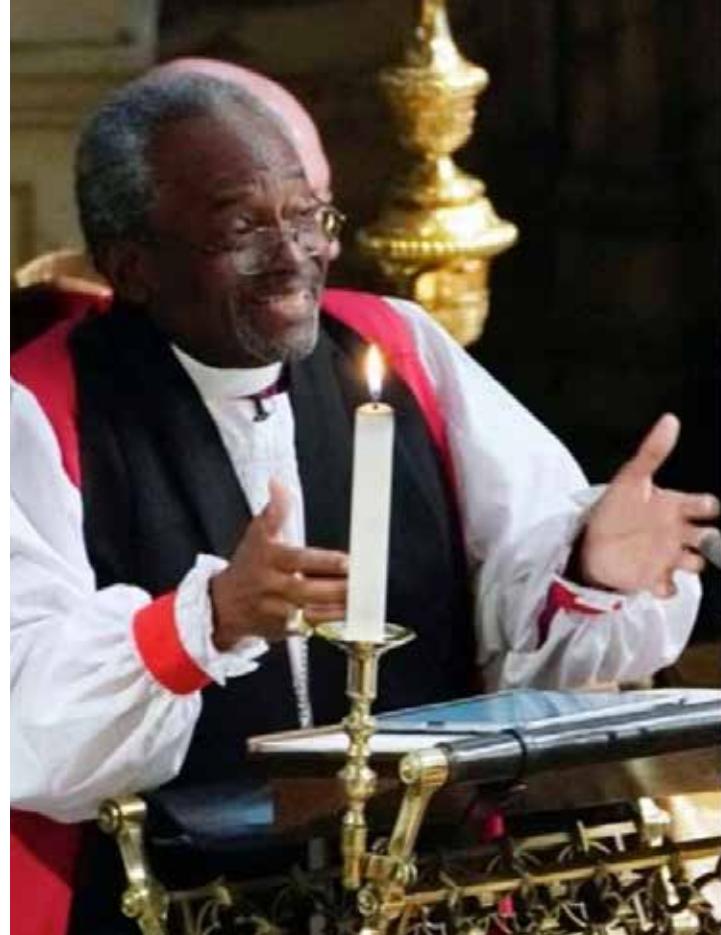
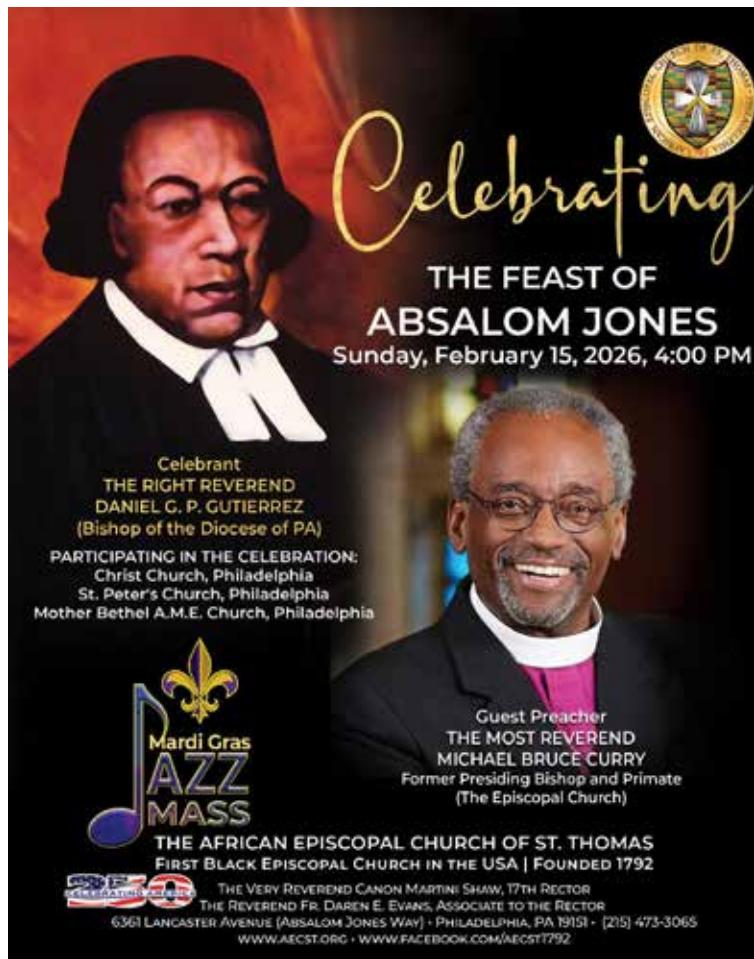
Guest soloist: The Rev. Cassius L. Rudolph - a musical tribute in memory of musical artist Richard Smallwood.



Video by Quentin Heyward: (St. Thomas Videography Ministry)

We give thanks to the approximately 100 parishioners who joined the Rector for a "Virtual Coffee Hour" on a snowy Sunday morning.





The Jesse F. Anderson, Sr (JFA) Scholarship Committee

invites you to Mardi Gras Lunch, Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00 - 3:30 PM in Anderson Hall. Join us for an afternoon of celebration, good food, music, silent auction, prizes and fun! Adults \$25.00, Youth \$10.00, Children under 6 are free. Contact Thomasina Hack (215) 901-2773, Paula Lamb (215) 620-7250 or any JFA Member for tickets. Come enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship before attending the BIG CELEBRATION AT 4:00 PM.

Don't forget your Mardi Gras beads!

**THE JESSE F. ANDERSON SR. (JFA)
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
PRESENTS A**



**Mardi Gras
JAZZ
LUNCH**

**CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
SILENT AUCTION & SPORTS MEMORABILIA**

**ADULTS \$25.00, YOUTH \$10.00,
CHILDREN UNDER 6 ARE FREE.
CONTACT THOMASINA HACK (215) 901-2773
PAULA LAMB (215) 620-7250
OR ANY JFA MEMBER FOR TICKETS.**



**ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL
AND FELLOWSHIP
BEFORE ATTENDING
THE BIG CELEBRATION
AT 4:00 PM.**



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DEANERY SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA!!!

The Schuylkill Deanery of the Diocese of Pennsylvania raised and presented a check in the amount of \$6,000.00 to the Bishop of Jamaica and Cayman Islands (The Right Rev. Leon Golding) and Dean of the Kingston Deanery (The Rev. Fr. Sean Major Campbell) following their recent Hurricane Melissa. The check was presented by our own Fr. Daren Evans and Karen Leys.



We remember and celebrate the life of **Alex Pretti**,
37 years old, ICU nurse, killed today in Minneapolis,
MN by an ICE agent.

We pray for his family who mourns his death.
May the soul of Alex rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.
Amen.



Our prayers and condolences to the family of
Denise Rae Scott Jones, following her recent death. May
the soul of Rae rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray
for the family. More information to follow.

**SISTERS OF ST. THOMAS JOIN US
MONDAY, February 9, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

You are warmly invited to join the Women's Ministry; a space for connection, encouragement, and spiritual growth as we begin planning for this year's Women's Ministry celebration. The Women's Ministry draws breath from bringing women together across generations to serve and use our gifts in service to God. Together we will work to strengthen one another, uplift our church in faith, and walk boldly in the purpose God has called us to do. To receive meeting information, contact: Monica Lewis Jones,

mblj03@gmail.com

In Peace and Anticipation

NOTE TO ALL GUILDS/ORGANIZATIONS/MINISTRIES:

The 2026 Parish Meeting is on
Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

Please submit a one-page, year-end report (formatted in Word) to the church office, on or before

Friday, February 6, 2026.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

During the Annual Parish Meeting, votes will be cast for candidates for Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Delegates to the Diocesan Convention, and a Representative to the Diocesan Convention.

Candidate Profiles can be found [here](#).

PLEASE SUPPORT ME!

Acolyte Sarah is a Daisy in Girl Scout Troop 71487. She will be selling Girl Scout cookies in Anderson Hall after service. Cookies are \$6 per box. Please stop by and show support by purchasing a box or two. Thank you!



THE HISTORIC
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS
2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - 10:00 AM

*"Celebrating 234 Years
of Active Ministry & Service"*

HIGHLIGHTING AND CELEBRATING
OUR 2025 MINISTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND EXCITING PLANS FOR 2026



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CHOSEN 300 “HAVE A HEART” -

For the homeless, sheltered,
and underserved.

The 2026 fundraising campaign for Chosen 300 will begin **TODAY, February 1st**, “Heart Month.” The funds will provide meals that are served at Chosen 300’s west Philadelphia location.

Checks should be made payable to: **AECST Chosen 300**. Please include Chosen 300 and your envelope number on the memo line.

Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church
6361 Lancaster Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19151
Attention: Chosen 300

You may also place your check in the collection plate or
donate online: www.aecst.org

Click on “donations,” and then select “Chosen 300.”
If you have any questions, please email: scmci@aol.com

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMMITTEE

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

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



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 Gladys 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.
- **Presidents of Guilds/Ministries and Organizations:** Please submit the names of the people in your guild or organization, to the Directory Committee, in alphabetical order in a horizontal format, using Word, document to: Patricia Hunt, dhunt37261@aol.com by February 1, 2026

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

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

February 1st
Black History Month Kick-Off
~AMERICA250~
~Welcome New Members of 2025~

February 8th
Love Sunday
(Observance of Valentine's Day)
wear something red

February 15th
Celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones
4:00 PM service
(You are invited to wear your Mardi Gras beads
for this celebration)

~Jesse F. Anderson, Sr. Annual Scholarship Fund
Mardi Gras Lunch~
1:00 - 3:00 PM in Anderson Hall

February 22nd
Youth and Young Adult Sunday/Scout Sunday
~Lunch at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church 12:00 PM~
~Philly250/AMERICA250 special Interfaith Program~
at 1:00 PM, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Monday, February 2nd

Church and Administrative Office closed for Groundhog Day

Tuesday, February 3rd

~Reach Out and Touch Ministry~

9:45 AM in the Absalom Jones House

~OPC Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~

6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

~Community meeting about Illegal Dumping~

6:15 PM

~Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study~

with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 4th

~Bible Study with Fr. Daren~

6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

~Angels in Motion~ 6:30 PM in the church

~St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal~

7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Saturday, February 7th

~Chancel Choir Rehearsal~

10:00 AM in Anderson Hall

~Girls' Friendly Society~

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

~Absalom Jones Choir~ 12:00 PM in Anderson Hall

~Scouts~ 1:00 – 4:00 PM in Anderson Hall

“Resistance & Resilience While in the Wilderness”



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Eucharist:

7:00 AM, 12 Noon and 6:00 PM

Wednesdays During Lent

6:00 - Holy Eucharist

6:30 - 7:15 - Presentation/
Discussion followed by
soup and fellowship

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.

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#),
[the Live Stream Service](#), on our [Facebook](#) page or
[Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.
You can also watch [Past Services](#).



GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

FRIENDLY FACT:

GFS Senior Peyton Miller

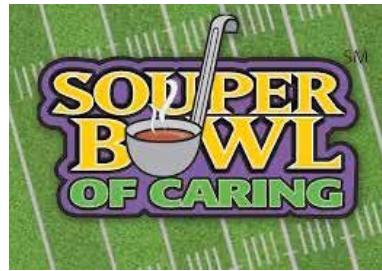
Peyton Miller is an 18-year-old lifetime member of the Girls' Friendly Society and of St. Thomas Church.

She's a high school senior at The Christian Academy and student body president. She enjoys reading lots of books and drinking good coffee.

At the age of 10 years old, Peyton wrote a book for a school assignment and at age 16, her book, "The Easter Tree," was published and released. It is a book about faith and what living for Christ can mean for youth.

Peyton Miller is also GFS junior delegate and will represent USA/St. Thomas members in Sri Lanka this summer.

Peyton was invited by Bishop Sean W. Rowe and his senior leadership team to participate as a delegate of the Episcopal Church to the 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. They have welcomed her perspective as a young adult delegate connected to the Girls' Friendly Society. She's achieved a lot at a young age and is only just getting started. She sets an amazing example for all young girls around the world.



A MESSAGE FROM DAKOTA MOSLEY - GIRLS' FRIENDLY ST. THOMAS MEMBER

The Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) is proud to support the work of Tackle Hunger and their annual Souper Bowl of Caring event.

If 213 million people watch “*the big game*,” think about how much money we could give if each person donated one dollar to a food bank.

The Media Food Bank is helping tons of people who can't afford food. GFS has extended collecting donations until **February 8th.**

The collection bin is located in the Undercroft.
Tackle hunger to tackle game!

The Girls' Friendly will be selling homemade soup **NEXT Sunday, February 8th, \$10 a quart.**
Proceeds will go to the Media Food Bank.

Media Food Bank's Most Needed Items

Newborn diapers
Size 5 Diapers
4T/5T Pull Ups

Community Choice Room

Bottles juices
Corned beef
Honey
Vegetable cooking oil
White sugar
Canned beets
Sardines
Shelf-stable dairy milk

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 Gladysce 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)

CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION / RECEPTION CLASSES

have started for in-person and Zoom
classes are as follows:

| In Person | By Zoom |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday, 11/02/2025 | Monday, 11/17/2025 |
| Sunday, 12/07/2025 | Monday, 12/02/2025 |
| Sunday, 01/04/2026 | Monday, 01/19/2026 |
| Sunday, 02/01/2026 | Monday, 02/16/2026 |
| Sunday, 03/01/2026 | Monday, 03/16/2026 |
| Sunday, 04/05/2026 | Monday, 04/20/2026 |
| Sunday, 05/03/2026 | 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.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Here is the link for Mainline Health's Community Health
and Outreach quarterly newsletter - Winter 2026.
Lots of good information.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pv9CmKgmFTDRkMQOEcacH8dPuV6JM3p9/view?usp=drivesdk>

Urgent Care vs Emergency Room... Where should I go?
Here are some helpful guidelines to help you decide.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mz4uWq60DULYL10WGpUpeUr8s1LDXUd6/view?usp=drivesdk>

REALM CONNECT CONVERSION COMPLETE

As a reminder St. Thomas went through a system conversion this year. Realm Connect is an updated solution for the management of our ministries, stewardship, media, communications and church events calendar. The staff will use Realm Connect to perform administrative and accounting tasks.

Church Online Giving

GIVI is no longer available for online contributions. Realm Connect has taken its place. Realm Connect is not just a tool for electronic giving; it affords one the opportunity to access their giving records and offers congregants the ability to interact and communicate directly with each other. If you give directly via the church website, or by using the QR code, you will see a new webpage link on the website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new webpage. Please note that we offer online electronic giving which provides an easy, secure method to contribute weekly, monthly, yearly or simply whenever you desire. Donations can be made at [**https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/give/now**](https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/give/now) or through the Realm Connect App. (If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's safe and easy to obtain. Download the app Realm Connect from the app store.

AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas ([**notifications@onrealmmail.org**](mailto:notifications@onrealmmail.org)) titled, "African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas: Join our online community!", which will enable you to register on the site and view many of the available functions. Please request a **Membership Information Form** from the Stewardship Ministry ([**Stewardship@aecst.org**](mailto:Stewardship@aecst.org)) and one will be sent to you. Please complete and return the form so that your profile can be updated accordingly. Once the form is returned corrections can be made and you will be sent a Realm Connect invite.

IMPORTANT, for your contributions in Realm Connect to be successful, YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND CELL PHONE NUMBER MUST MATCH EXACTLY WITH REALM CONNECT RECORDS. Envelope numbers serve as an additional layer of security, especially in cases where members may have similar names (soon those people without an envelope number will be issued one). We want to make sure contributions are properly credited to your account.

Powered By



**African Episcopal Church Of
St. Thomas: Join our online
community!**

Hi [REDACTED]

We at African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas have an online community where we can connect with each other outside our Sunday gatherings. We'd love for you to take part!

Create an account: <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopal/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QtODBhZS00NDJhLTg5MWQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

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

Christopher Burks - Rhode Island/New York

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Dr. Ted Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, & Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney - Texas

Bradley Hammond - Mississippi

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

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson - Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Dr. John Rich - Illinois

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly & Ann Stewart - Florida

Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

Allison Young - Maryland

The Bible Readings For The THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026

The First Lesson- [Micah 6:1-8](#)

[Psalm 15](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of February 2, 2026

Monday - [John 6:27-40](#)

Tuesday - [John 6:41-51](#)

Wednesday - [John 6:52-59](#)

Thursday - [John 6:60-71](#)

Friday - [John 7:1-13](#)

Saturday - [John 7:14-36](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
BIBLE STUDY is held on Tuesdays
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 held on Wednesdays - 6:00 PM.
See you then!

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to Alfreda Brockman or Gladysce 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.



AECST PODCAST



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 REHAB:

Francine Norris and Lisa Woodley - St. Francis Nursing Home
Alletta Parris Olday - Saunders House

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, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Joyce Stewart, Virginia DuBrey, Alice Young, Deborah Harrison, D. Lynn Joell, Regina Meacham Devero, Elaine Young, Erica Hill Yates, Alice Bowman - Cropper, Katrina Harris, Gloria Moses, Carolyn Summers, Karen Ragland

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Arlene Gray, Adinah Edwards, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Adrian Gray, Sharon Harper, Quincina Edmonds, D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney, Carmen Brown, Stephen Pugh

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.

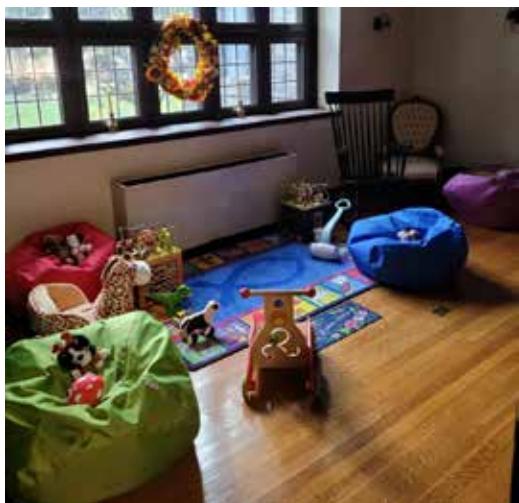


IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

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 **must** 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@aecst.org |
| Rector | The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw | associatelector@aecst.org |
| Associate to the Rector | The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans | associatepriest@aecst.org |
| Associate Priest | The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins | wilgafney@gmail.com |
| Associate Priest | The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney | pauljaybach@gmail.com |
| Associate Minister | The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach | 1792@aecst.org |
| Executive Asst to the Rector | Gladys 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 |
| O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry | Patricia Walker-Ellison | p.walker.ellison@gmail.com |
| Church School Superintendent | Wendella Fox Elaine Gillison | cattoministry@aecst.org |
| Ed Muse Photography Ministry | Tynecia Wilson | churchschool@aecst.org |
| Fiscal Advisor to the Rector | William Edmonds | edmon57@comcast.net |
| Girls Friendly Society | Deadra Cannon | assistantfiscal@aecst.org |
| Jazz Ensemble Director | Nikkol Simms | njsimms@verizon.net |
| Live Stream Ministry | Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. | chancelchoir@aecst1792.org |
| Memorial Flowers | Yaseen Farooq Teri Tillman | livevideo@aecst.org |
| Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters | Alfreda Brockman | fredabee@verizon.net |
| Parish Vergers | Clare Mae Daniels | happycmd05@aol.com |
| Parish Webmaster | Ashley Hines | 1792@aecst.org |
| Property Chair | Eugene Golson Karen Ragland | Kdrags415@gmail.com |
| Scout Pack 133 | Gail Hinton Harris | webmanager@aecst.org |
| St. Thomas Daughters of the King | William Burke | property@aecst.org |
| Stewardship Chair | Howard Chapman | howchapman@gmail.com |
| Videography Ministry | Arlene Gray | bsapack0133@gmail.com |
| Visitor's Ministry | Sharon Bullock | scmci@aol.com |
| Voices of Comfort | Judy Tillman | stewardship@aecst.org |
| William Burke Ushers Ministry | Quentin Heyward | recordedvideo@aecst.org |
| | Edita Gauthney Michele Green | visitorsministry@aecst.org |
| | Robert Davenport | 1792@aecst.org |
| | Arlene Singletary | leaniepo302@gmail.com |

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