

# THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS



Welcome 2025 New Members  
"Welcome to  
The Mother Church"



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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY  
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY  
January 25, 2026**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church  
of St. Thomas**

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065  
[www.aecst.org](http://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



Please join me for a Virtual (Zoom) Coffee Hour 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
following Service using this Zoom link:  
[Join Zoom Coffee Hour](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83325865142?pwd=ebwf5cDMzRG8sRauVt3FVAadaTD3gt.1>

## **“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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Youth and Young Adult Sunday, and New Member Recognition Sunday.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., 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



## THIS SUNDAY IS NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Attention all new members who joined  
We will recognize and celebrate you.

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### 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

**SPREAD THE WORD NOW!**

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### **NOTE TO ALL GUILDS/ORGANIZATIONS/MINISTRIES:**

The 2026 Parish Meeting is on

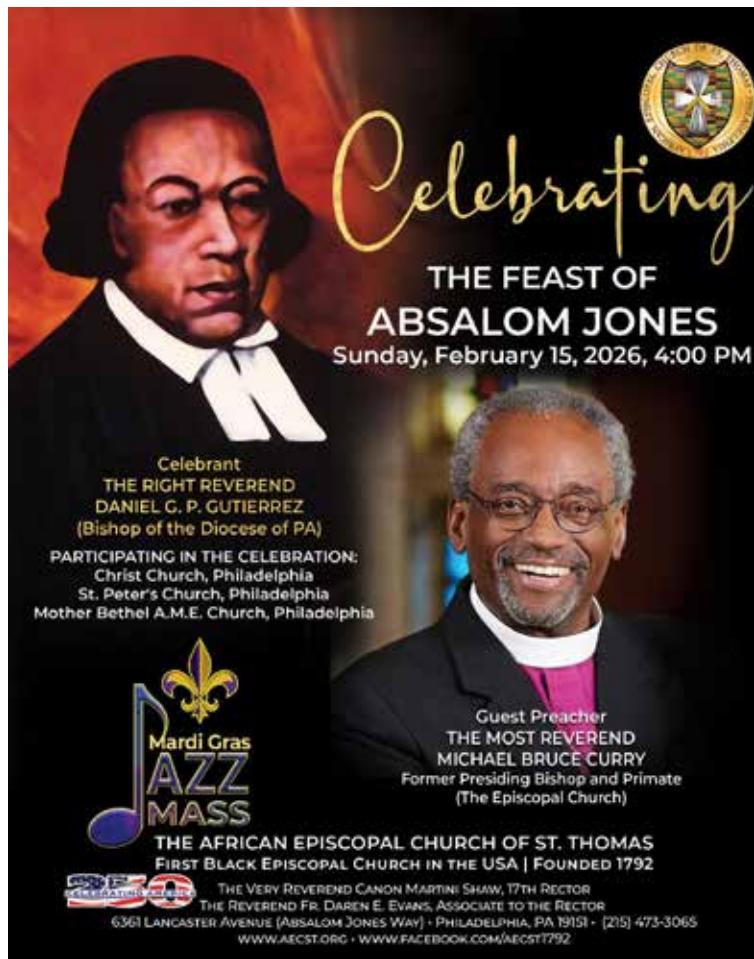
**Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 10:00 AM..**

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

**Friday, February 6, 2026.**



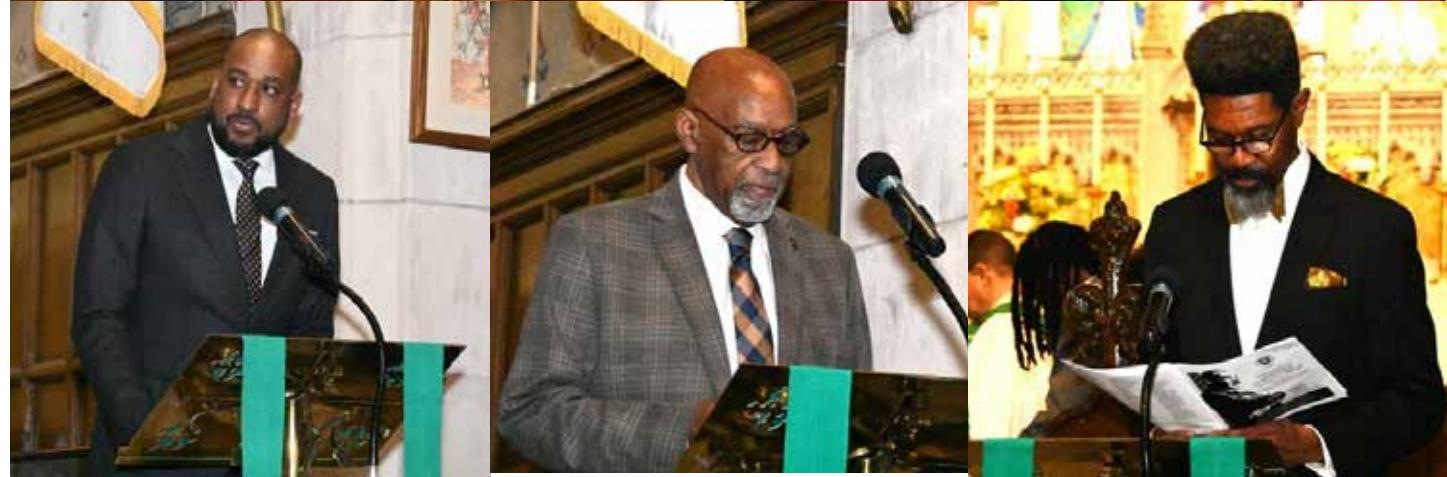
Scan the QR code or text  
"AECST" to 73256 to support  
our church and our ministries.





**The Second Sunday After The Epiphany  
A Celebration Of The Life And Ministry Of  
The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
January 18, 2026**







Photos by: Bill Edmonds and Quentin Heyward  
(The Ed Muse Photography Ministry)





**On Sunday, we remembered and celebrated  
The Reverend Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.**

He spoke at St. Thomas on Tuesday, February 10, 1968.  
May the soul of Blessed Martin continue to rest in peace  
and rise in eternal glory. Amen!



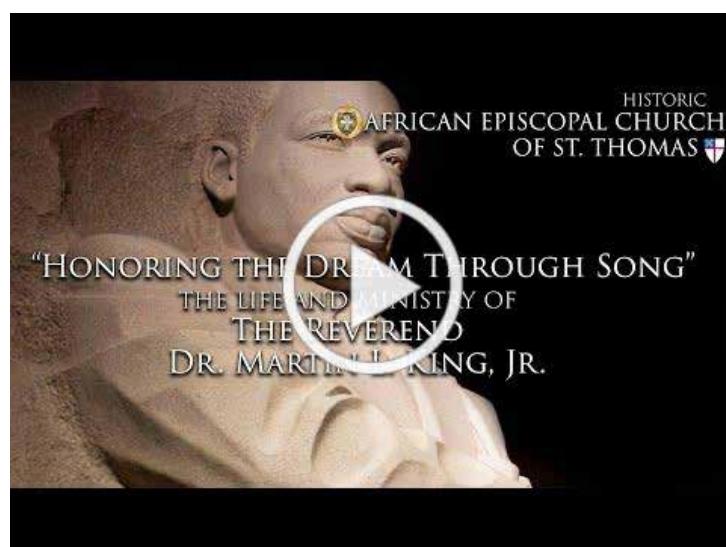
"Martin Luther King at St. Thomas church"



**A Musical Tribute To The Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.**

By St. Thomas' Renard Golden, accompanied by  
Dr. Jay Fluellen and Dr. Rollo Dilworth.  
(One of Dr. King's favorite songs)

Video: Quentin Heyward ( St. Thomas Videography Ministry)



## MLK DAY OF SERVICE

St. Thomas partnered with Chosen 300, serving hundreds of meals to the community.





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

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

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## **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](mailto:churchdirectory@aecst.org)

Checks may be mailed and payable to:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151

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## **HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

Below are some free webinars from the MindSpring Mental Health Alliance that you may find interesting:

### **January 28 | Intergenerational Trauma**

Trauma can be passed down through families, affecting individuals and communities across generations. Explore how trauma moves through generations, its consequences, the link to complex PTSD, and how to recover in this one-hour seminar with a licensed therapist.

Register here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2717661038776/WN\\_uToJUkSzQSe8vAsZMk3ecw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2717661038776/WN_uToJUkSzQSe8vAsZMk3ecw)

### **January 28 | Understanding Hoarding**

Hoarding is a compulsive behavior that involves much more than keeping extra papers around. Explore the reasons people hoard, common symptoms of hoarding, and the impact hoarding has on both the individual and the family in this one-hour seminar with a licensed therapist.

Register here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3617661039699/WN\\_gjaKvu52T7-EqAFiP2tTsw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3617661039699/WN_gjaKvu52T7-EqAFiP2tTsw)

### **January 29 | Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace**

Successfully defusing situations with upset or angry co-workers and customers is a critical skill for modern workforces. Learn the signs, symptoms, and causes of distress in business, and gain expert tips for managing difficult situations with unreasonable people with a licensed therapist.

Register here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4717661041051/WN\\_1KlipbbAQzOeqYwVK81ktg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4717661041051/WN_1KlipbbAQzOeqYwVK81ktg)

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## **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](#).

**The Jesse F. Anderson (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.****



## **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 Gladysce 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](mailto: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](mailto:dhunt37261@aol.com) by February 1, 2026

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Are you receiving the weekly electronic Spearhead? If not, please email Gladysce DuBrey at [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org) with your mobile number and email address.



**CHOSEN 300 “HAVE A HEART” -**  
For the homeless, sheltered,  
and underserved.

The 2026 fundraising campaign for Chosen 300 will begin **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](http://www.aecst.org)

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

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## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS**

**January 25th**

**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

~Liturgical welcome to the new members of 2025~

~Youth and Young Adult Sunday~

**February 1st**

**Black History Month Kick-Off**

~New Member Recognition Sunday~

~AMERICA250~

**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

~Jesse F. Anderson 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~

1:00 PM, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

## THIS WEEK AT AECST

**January 26, 2026**

### **Tuesday, January 27th**

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

### **Wednesday, January 28th**

- ~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, January 31st**

- ~Youth Game Day~  
Noon – 3:00 PM in Anderson Hall

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### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 18, 2026**

Mass and Imposition of Ashes:  
7:00 AM, Noon, and 6:00 PM



**CALLING ALL YOUTH, TEENS, AND YOUNG ADULTS!!!**  
Join us on **Saturday, January 31**, from **Noon - 3:00 PM**  
for some games, fun, and refreshments!! See our flyer  
for more details. We hope to see you there!



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# FAITHFUL GRATITUDE

Please use this link to express and pledge your  
**Faithful Gratitude** to God for 2026.

<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>

# 2026 FAITHFUL GIVING CARDS

Enormous thanks to ALL who have submitted  
Faithful Giving Cards.

Please add your name to the list this week by  
submitting your card today.

# 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.

**Thank you to the following persons who have submitted  
their 2026 Faithful Giving Cards.**

**CLERGY**

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw  
The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans  
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach  
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins  
The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

**VESTRY**

Dr. Tim Barksdale  
Deadra Cannon  
Albert Dandridge, III  
Clare Mae Daniels  
Deborah Camp Frye  
Elaine Gillian  
Eugene Golson & Marie Golson  
Kelvin & Pam Johnson  
Monica Lewis Jones  
Richard Jones  
Deborah Matthews  
Judith Simkins-Booth

**AUXILIARY VESTRY**

Conchetta Brewer  
Sharon Bullock  
Ronnie Collins  
Mary Sandra Dean  
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor  
Cynthia Muse  
Bobby & Judith Tillman

## MEMBERS

Patricia Akins  
Carmen Alexander  
Constance Anderson  
Dorothy Archey  
Jeanne Arnold  
Natasha Bagwell  
Walter & Patricia Bantom  
Brenda Battle  
Jennifer Bell  
Susan Ben  
Deborah Billups  
Waltier Blocker  
Dr. Naomi Booker  
Guy Booth  
Ricardo Bostic  
Alice Bowman-Cropper  
I. Page Bowser  
Michelanne Bradwell  
Theresa Bramwell  
Lorita Brockington  
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman  
Carmen Brown  
Jayne Brown  
Marilyn Brown  
Julia Bryant  
Kenneth Bundy  
Cornelia Camp  
Charlotte Card  
Phyllis Cater  
Eleanor Chestnut  
Suzanne Clossen  
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant  
Terry Corson  
Gwendolyn Cottman  
Zenobia Dancy  
Elaine Davis  
Jasmine Davis  
Karen Davis  
Stacey Davis  
Johanna Daye  
Carl Dean  
Dr. Rollo Dilworth  
Muso Karmi Doe  
Ginger DuBrey  
Andrew & Lisa Renee  
Dumas  
William & Quincina  
Edmonds  
Jonathan Edwards  
Lynette Edwards  
Carol Etlen  
Erika Etlen  
Rashid & Christie Faisal  
Larry & Diedre Farmbry  
Yaseen & Alaina Farooq  
Loretta Ferguson  
Marceline Fitzwilliam  
Dr. Jay Fluellen  
Marcia Forde  
Stephen & Donna Foster  
Wendella Fox & Herb  
Wetzel  
Norman & Nikki Franke  
Barry Frye

Irenda Gates  
Edita Gauthney  
Edward & Kathryn Geiger  
Barbara Glenn  
Renard Golden  
Swanie Goldsmith  
Josephine Graham  
Clarice Grant  
Arlene Gray  
Linda Greaves  
Michele Green  
Presko (PJ) Grier  
Dr. Derek Griffith  
Thomasina Hack  
Joan Hall  
Lisa Harper  
Sharon Harper  
Katrina Harris  
Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris  
Thomas & Lynn Harris  
Walter & Nicole Harris  
Deborah Harrison  
Richard & Gwenda Hart  
Gregory Hayes  
Maurice Hayes  
Rene' Hayes  
Denise Henderson  
Julie Hergenrather  
Quentin Heyward  
Synethia Hill  
Erica Hill-Yates  
Ashley & Lena Hines  
Merle Hopson  
Fleta Howell  
Robert Hugh  
Donald & Patricia Hunt  
Diana Hutchins  
Kim Hyde  
Yvonne Hyde-Carter  
Diann Jacox  
Thomas & Mayla Jackson  
Simone Jeffers  
Debra Joell  
Evelyn Johns  
Bobby Johnson  
Dr. Calvin Johnson  
Dr. Frank Johnson  
Vernetta Johnston  
Bettie Jones  
Clarence Jones  
Donna Jones  
Eric Jones  
Eric & Tracy Jones  
Kelly & Tracy Jones  
Robert & Joyce Jones  
Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith  
Tyrone Keller  
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble  
Jurdina Koilor  
John Kortue, Sr.  
Paula Lamb  
Nancy Lee  
Doris Levin  
Joyce Levin  
Steven & Jamella Lewis  
Karen Leys  
Landon Leys  
Kimberly Lloyd

Michele Lofton  
Adrienne Logan  
Alonda Lord  
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey  
James Lowe  
Winston Lowe  
Gregory Lyles  
Thomas Lynch, IV  
Constance Lyons  
Stephen & Michelle Mack  
Stacey McCoy-Ndiaye  
Michael McIntosh  
Denise McKinney  
Denise McKinney-Gibson  
Laura McNeil  
Regina Meacham Devero  
Deidre Milanes  
Colin & Helen Mitchell  
Domald Moore & Dorothy E.  
Roberts  
Elsie Moto  
Velma Morris-Nembhard  
Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia  
Vincent & Lisa Napoleon  
Mercy Natt  
Ingrid Nembhard  
Chinwe Onyekere  
Debbie Otey  
Carolyn Paige  
Samuel & Deidre Patterson  
Charles & Zennetta Peters  
Eugene & Karina Phillips  
Kim Phillips  
Mary Ann Phillips  
Simone Pollard  
Stephen Pugh  
Wendy Puryear  
Audrey Pyles  
Karem Ragin  
Karen Ragland  
Ella Randall  
Cynthia Ray  
Dolores Redmond  
Clarence Rice  
Caryn Rivers  
Victoria Rivers  
Julio & Alexandra  
McFadden Rodriguez  
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin  
Yvonne Ruiz  
Sandra Rushin  
Edwin & Sharahn Santana  
Barbara Savage  
Samira Savoury  
Georgia Sawyer  
Sheila Sawyer McCullough  
Richard & Rebecca Scales  
Leah Sheppard  
Kayma Sherman Knuckles  
Nikkol Simms  
Shaine Simms  
Arlene Singletary  
Anita Smith  
Dorothy Smith  
Rackell Smith  
Catherine Stafford  
H. Lynn Starr  
Daryn Stewart  
Joyce Ann Stewart  
Shelly & Ann Stewart

Brandon & Rashanda Perryman Stiff	Sheila Stubbs	Barbara Wiley
Arthur & Michele Sudler	Carolyn Summers	Michele Wilkinson
Lynda Tapper Smith	Wanda Tarawaly	R. Seth Williams
	Rosita Taylor	Scott & Ashley Williams
	Jillian Theorgood	Stephanie Williamson
Kellen & Sarah Shaw-Thomas	Calvin Thompson	Gillian Wilson
	Gloria Thomas	Jenelle Wilson Johnson
	Teri Tillman	Laura Wilson
	Harold Townsend	Lorna Wilson
Carole Townsend Harrell	Arnott Trotman	Tynecia Wilson
	Louise Trotman	Carole Williams Green
	Howard Tucker	Charlene Wiltshire
Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn	Robin Vann-Lynch	Denise Wing
	Karen Vaughn	Diane Winkfield
		Edgar Wise
		Wanda Wood
		Khalita Wright
		Paula Wright
		Daphnie Wright-Gilstrap
		Alice Young
		M. Elaine Young

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### 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**

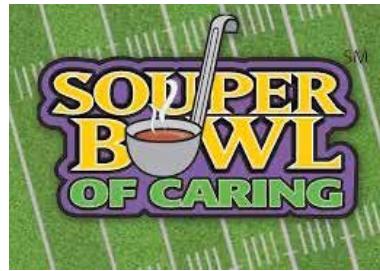
Peyton Miller is an 18-year-old lifetime member of the Girls Friendly Society and of St. Thomas Church.

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.

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



## 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. That's why GFS is helping collect food until **February 1st**. Tackle Hunger to tackle the game!

GFS will collect items for Media Food Bank for Souper Bowl of Caring. Items can also be placed in the marked bin, located in the Undercroft.

Next Sunday, February 1st, soup, made by our GFS families will be on sale for \$10 a quart.

Proceeds will support 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](http://WWW.STTHOMASGC.ORG)**

(484) 816-STGC (7842)

## **CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION / RECEPTION CLASSES**

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

<b>In Person</b>	<b>By Zoom</b>
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](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org) if you have not received any  
information or have questions, ASAP.

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## **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  
January 25, 2026**

**The First Lesson – Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 5-13**

**The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
The Holy Gospel – Matthew 4:12-23**

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
week of January 26, 2025**

Monday - John 4:43-54  
Tuesday - John 5:1-18  
Wednesday - John 5:19-29  
Thursday - John 5:30-47  
Friday - John 6:1-15  
Saturday - John 6:16-27

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**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](mailto:associatepriest@aecst.org).

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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 to order flowers or contribute to our church ministries.



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## **WEDNESDAY IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY**

with Fr. Daren will resume on Wednesday, **January 14** - 6:00 PM. See you then!

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

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## **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

### **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, Rae Scott Jones

### **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.

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## 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!

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

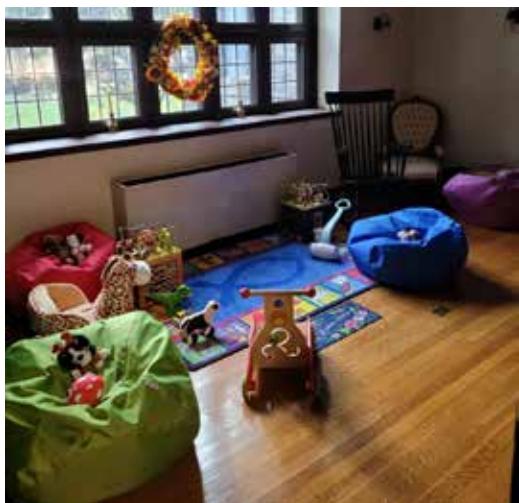


## **IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

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** - Our members and visitors who use GIVI to donate online will be switching away from GIVI to REALM Connect. If you give via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new

**webpage link** on our website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new page

### **6) Cellphone:** Text “AECST” to 73256 to donate,

**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](mailto:stewardship@aecst.org). We appreciate your assistance.

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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

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## DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller