

Lent

**A Season of Reflection,
Renewal, and Preparation**



**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA**



THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

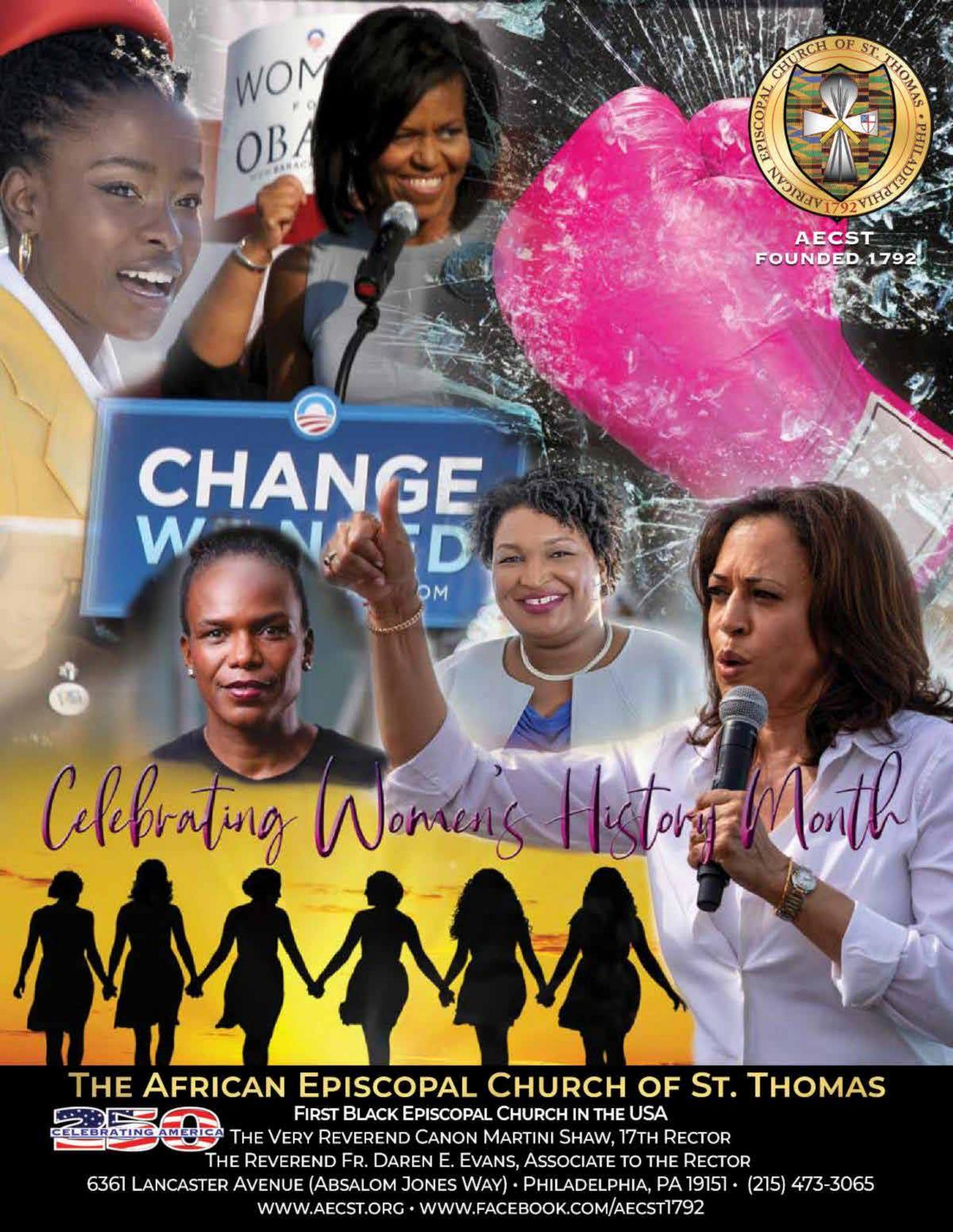
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



CHANGE
WOMEN
COM

Celebrating Women's History Month



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**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 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
Second Sunday in Lent.

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!

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

“RELIGIOUS FREEDOM THEN & NOW”

Sponsored by Interfaith Philadelphia

As historic narratives disappear from public spaces, telling the full story matters more than ever. Join Mother Bethel AME Church and St. Thomas for a powerful conversation on Black religious life in colonial Philadelphia and the legacy that still shapes our city and nation today.

Moderators: The Reverend Carolyn Cavaness, Pastor, Mother Bethel AME Church and The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Facilitators/Panelists: Arthur K. Sudler, Director, Historical Society & Archives, African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas and others.

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Mother Bethel will host St. Thomas members
for lunch at Noon.**

Discover more about the legacies of Richard Allen and Absalom Jones, formerly enslaved men, who became visionary faith leaders and founders of the historic **Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas**. Through courage, conviction, and self-determination, they overcame racial injustice, reshaped American religious life, and built institutions that still impact Philadelphia today.

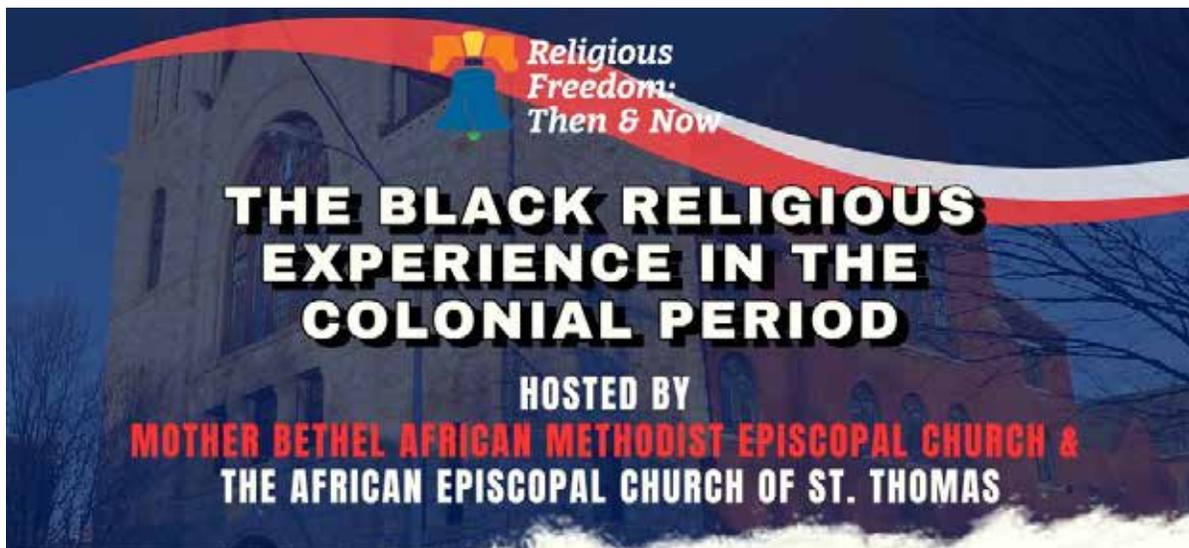
We invite Philadelphia’s interfaith community to join us in preserving, sharing, and learning from the full stories of our shared past.

Register here: https://www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/phila250_motherbethel/

Come learn, reflect, and help keep these stories alive.

Mother Bethel AME Church | The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) | Arch Street Quakers Congregation | Mikveh Israel Community Christ Church | Philadelphia Historic St. George's United Methodist Church & Museum | Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church | Old Pine St. Presbyterian Church | Old Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

**#Semiquincentennial #America250 #history
#Philadelphia #philly #philadelphiahistory
#America250PA #Philly2026 #visitphilly
#PHAmbassadors**



**Due to expected weather conditions,
this event has been **POSTPONED**
to Sunday, March 1, 2026, 1:00-3:00 PM
Mother Bethel AME Church
419 S 6th St, Philadelphia, PA 19147**

**During the Annual Parish Meeting,
held on February 21, 2026,** the following people were
elected to:

Vestry: William Burke, Deborah Camp-Frye, Mary S. Dean,
Richard Jones, and Judith Tillman. Elaine Gillison will
complete the one-year term vacated by Pat Lynch.

Auxiliary Vestry: Ronnie Collins, Gwenda Hart, Kelvin
Johnson, Monica Johnson Taylor, and Darryle Tillman

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:
Albert Dandridge, Cassandra Ruffin

Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery: Phyllis Cater,
Mary S. Dean, Tyrone Keller (Alternate)

**The following were Elected/Appointed
as Vestry Officers:**

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

We extend our sincere gratitude to all Vestry, Auxiliary
Vestry, and Delegates whose terms have concluded and
whose service on the Vestry has been fulfilled. The church
is deeply appreciative of your exceptional leadership.

“Resistance & Resilience While in the Wilderness”

Wednesdays During Lent

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Please note that all sessions will be via Zoom
except the last one.

Week 5 will be In-Person and include the Holy Eucharist

Week 1 February 25th: Moses and the Exodus

Week 2 March 4th: Abram and Sarai

Week 3 March 11th: Birth of Jesus and the flight to Egypt

Week 4 March 18th: Sermon on the Mount

Week 5 March 25th: The Cross

The Zoom link for Wednesday, March 4th is:

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 825 6743 6647 Passcode: 413787

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82567436647?pwd=z7TKQnqenet4f894NvwmlPmf8BhnS.1#success>

One tap mobile +19292056099,,82567436647#,,,,*413787#
US (New York) +13017158592,,82567436647#,,,,*413787# US
(Washington DC) Join instructions

THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR
will present a Palm Sunday concert
Sunday, March 29th at 4:00 PM
More information coming soon!



Our condolences to **Nicole Denson** and family on the death of her brother, Roderick L. Bennett. May the soul of Roderick rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

Our condolences to Dr. Peggy J. Coplin and the family of **Dr. Donald P. Wilson**, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks of the World, Emeritus, on his death. His service will be held at St. Thomas on **Monday, March 2nd**.

Viewing from **8:00 AM – 9:15 AM**;
Fraternal Services from **9:15 AM – 11:00 AM**, and
Requiem Mass at **11:00 AM**.

May the soul of Donald rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our condolences to the family of **Naila Mattison-Jones** on her death. Her service will be held at St. Thomas on **Monday, March 9th**. Viewing from **10:00 AM -11:00 AM**; Requiem Mass at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of Naila rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our condolences to Donna Matthews on the death of her mother, **Doris Matthews**. Her service will be held at St. Thomas on **Thursday, March 12th**. Viewing from **10:00 AM -11:00 AM**; Requiem Mass at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of Doris rest in peace and rise in glory.

A few snapshots from Saturday, February 21st, In-Person and Virtual Parish Meeting.



MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP

Some of our men met for a delicious breakfast,
a presentation
by Art Sudler, and fellowship.



The Palm Sunday Bake Sale is Back! AECST Women's Ministry Committee

Presents

"Delectable Desserts"

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Make your Holiday Dinner table complete! Enjoy mouth-watering Dinner Rolls, Delectable Cake Assortments, Cheesecake, Cookies, Homemade Pies, Delicious Cinnamon Bread, Delightful Mini Pineapple Upside Down Cake, and More!

Place your pre-orders beginning **March 8th!**

GFS IN THE KITCHEN

On Saturday, February 21st, members of the Girls' Friendly Society, led by Chef Gladyce, made chocolate chip cookies.

This is one of the baking lessons they will have once a month. They learned a lot, had fun, and made great tasting cookies.



PROUD OF ST. THOMAS' DEBRA JOELL!

At Overbrook Elementary
the fight against school closure
is intergenerational.

Please use this [link](#) to read the article.

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.

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.



THE CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

HIGH PRIORITY!!

STOP THE SAVE Act-

What is This??

1. The SAVE Act, now renamed the SAVE America Act, is a proof of citizenship voter suppression bill that passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 218-213. The SAVE Act was introduced to fight widespread election fraud despite dozens and dozens of court decisions finding no widespread fraud. The Senate is scheduled to vote on the bill this week.

Senate Republicans have 50 votes for the SAVE Act, but they need 60 to pass due to the filibuster rule. The bill is supported by the current administration.

EVERYONE, contact your Senators NOW! Voice your concerns. You can reach them on 202-224-3121.

Take a look at the facts related to the SAVE America Act:

- It will restrict the forms of photo ID that are acceptable to vote on Election Day to a prescribed list that is more restrictive than those accepted by all but ten states.
- The SAVE America Act **requires proof of citizenship to register to vote**, this poses challenges surname. Changes to the bill would require women with such discrepancies to sign an attestation swearing to their former name.

Proof of citizenship is also required for online and mail registrations, which only 3 states currently require.

- The bill requires frequent purges of state voter rolls, including for “inactive voters,” meaning states can purge voters simply because they didn’t vote.

- The bill increases harassment and intimidation of election officials by adding a “private right of action” allowing individuals to sue those they believe registered non-citizens to vote, with criminal penalties for mistaken registrations.
- It also requires every state to submit their voter lists to the Department of Homeland Security, an agency with questionable handling of sensitive data and potential sharing.

Call your Senators on 202-224-3121 this week. We have work to do!

2. Voter Registration Training

Let’s register everyone to vote! Are you ready?

Indivisible Philadelphia is hosting Virtual Voter Training.

The next session is on **March 12, 2026**, from **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**.

Sign up online at www.mobilize.us/indivisiblephiladelphia/event. Get involved and make a difference from home. Remember, voting is your superpower!

3. Did you know...

The USPS made significant changes in mail processing effective January 2, 2026. These changes can affect individuals sending time-sensitive documents or those requiring a “postmark by...” date.

The new postmarking rules impact mail-in and absentee ballots, tax forms, and other time-sensitive mail. They are based on the processing time, which differs from the time mail is dropped of or received.

As the May Primary Election approaches, we’ll investigate suggestions from the Secretary for the Commonwealth of PA and the Phila. County Board of Elections regarding ballot mailing. We’ll keep you informed.

If you need to meet a mailing deadline or “postmark by” date, go to a retail postal location, speak with a postal clerk, and:

Request a “manual postmark”;

Use certified mail; or

Use registered mail.

These options will satisfy a postmark date.

SAVE THE DATES!

St. Thomas Church School presents:

“PORTRAITS OF POWER”

A Black History Month Art Showcase

First Look - Today, **Sunday, March 1st**, Noon - 2:00 PM

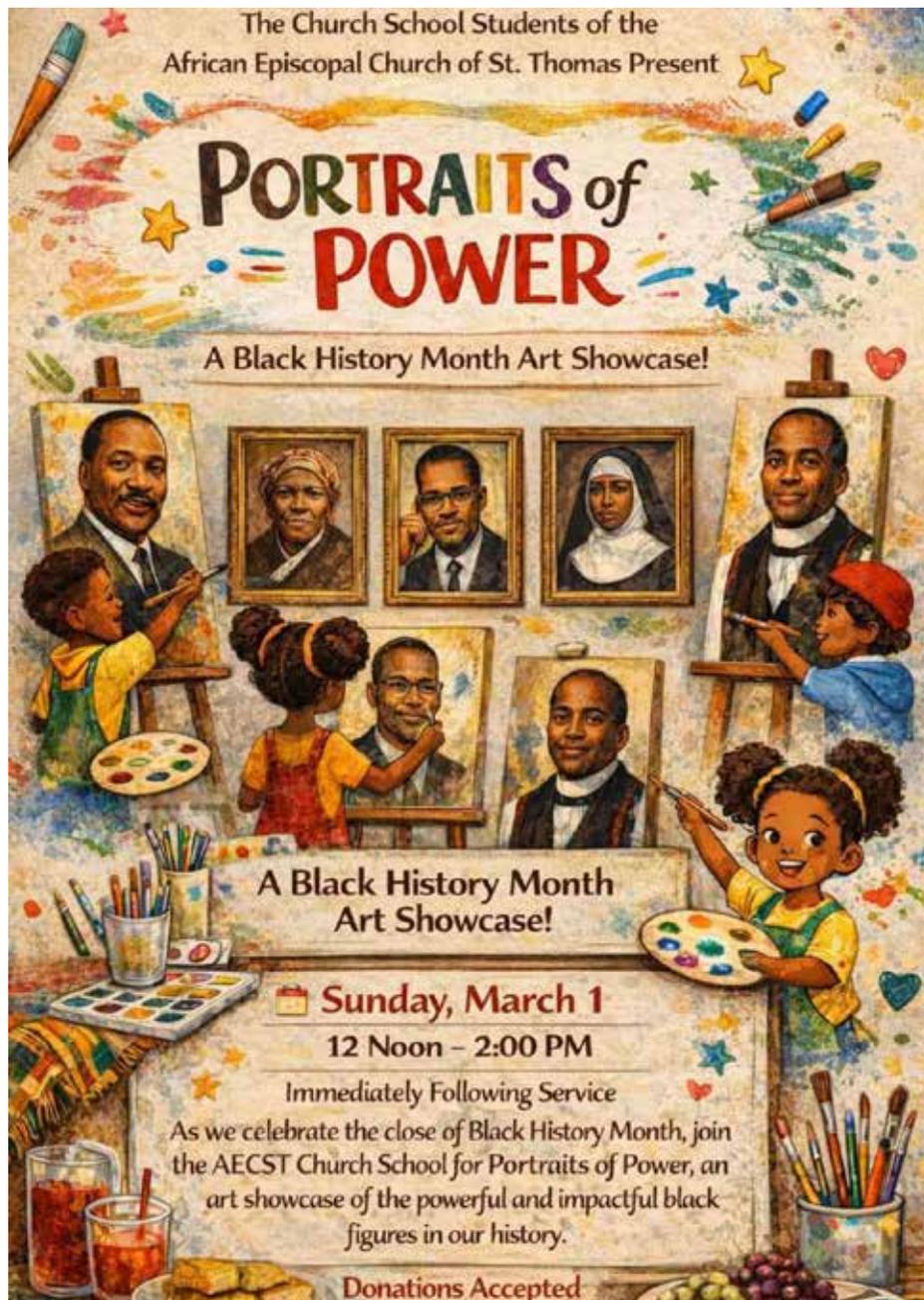
with lite refreshments in Anderson Hall.

Main Showcase - **Sunday, March 8th**, Noon- 2:00 PM with special guests, food, and music.

Immediately following service, please come and view portraits created by young students.

Celebrate Black history through the eyes of our youth.

Contributions are appreciated.



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

March 1st

~Second Sunday in Lent~

~Lunch at Mother Bethel AME Church 12:00 PM~

~Philly250/AMERICA250 Special Interfaith Program~
at 1:00 PM, Mother Bethel AME Church

March 8th

~Third Sunday in Lent~

March 15th

~Fourth Sunday in Lent~

March 22nd

~Fifth Sunday in Lent~

~Girls' Friendly Society Sunday~

~Induction and Chat and Chew~



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](#).

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Monday, March 2nd

~Funeral for **Dr. Donald P. Wilson**~

Viewing 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

~Fraternal Services~

9:15 AM -11:00 AM, Service at 11:00 AM

~Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Meeting~

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM in Anderson Hall

Tuesday, March 3rd

~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, March 4th

~Lenten Series~

via Zoom - 6:00 PM

~Angels in Motion~ 6:30 PM

~St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal~

7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Saturday, March 7th

~Girls' Friendly Society~

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

~Scouts~

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM in the Undercroft

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
SCOUT SUNDAY
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

The blizzard forecast did not keep these faithful away from In-Person worship!





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



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 - 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

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: The Directory Committee is offering another day of FREE photos for the Church Directory. If you have not had your photo taken, please sign up for **Saturday, March 21st**. Photos will be taken from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House. Sign up today, **Sunday, March 1st, 8th, and 15th**. Or you may email Charlene Wiltshire for more information to cwiltshire@comcast.net.

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



GFS Friendly Fact
Bernadine M. Anderson (Born 1942)

- An American makeup artist, known for her determination and perseverance in the film industry.
- Broke racial and gender barriers by being the first black woman to be a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE local 706) union in 1970.
- In 1973, Bernadine Anderson was the only woman and Black person working as a makeup artist in the Hollywood film industry.
- In 1975, she became the personal makeup artist for Jane Fonda and Eddie Murphy's personal makeup artist throughout the 1980s and 1990s.
- She retired in 1994. Her makeup kit is on display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC.

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)

**CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION /
RECEPTION CLASSES**

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

In Person (8:45 AM)

Sunday, 03/01/2026

Sunday, 04/05/2026

Sunday, 05/03/2026

Zoom (6:00 PM)

Monday, 03/16/2026

Monday, 04/20/2026

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.

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 <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/-/form/give/now> 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> 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) 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) 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/AfricanEpiscopa/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWQYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

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.



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The St Thomas Gospel Choir
Directed By, Walt Blocker
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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

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
THE SECOOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 1, 2026**

The First Lesson – [Genesis 12: 1-4](#)
[Psalm 121](#)

The Second Lesson – [Romans 4:1-5, 13-17](#)
The Holy Gospel – [John 3:1-](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of March 2, 2026**

Monday - [Luke 6:27-38](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 23:1-12](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 20:17-28](#)

Thursday - [Luke 16:19-31](#)

Friday - [Matthew 21:33-43](#)

Saturday - [Luke 15:11-32](#)



**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

Bible Study with Fr. Daren will be on break beginning
Wednesday, February 11, and throughout the season of Lent.
All are encouraged to attend the Lenten series held each
Wednesday during Lent.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are not placed on the High Altar in Lent except for
Rose Sunday, March 15, 2026.

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

Flowers on the High Altar - \$125.00 each

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$90.00 each

Flowers on the Columbarium - \$70.00

EASTER FLOWERS AND LILIES

Your gift of an Easter Lily will help beautify the church and
will be a beautiful tribute to your loved ones, or a token
of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. Use the QR Code
below to order and pay for flowers.

Deadline: Monday, **March 23, 2026**



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

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, Carl Dean, 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 should 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
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Eugene Golson Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
St. Thomas Daughters of the King	Sharon Bullock	scmci@aol.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	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