

I AM THE WAY  
AND THE TRUTH  
AND THE LIFE.  
NO ONE COMES  
TO THE FATHER  
EXCEPT THROUGH ME.  
John 14:6 NIV



THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR



6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY)  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
"PARADE OF HATS"**

**MAY 3, 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



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

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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 Fifth Sunday of Easter, Parade of Hats, the Installation and Blessing of The Sisterhood Guild’s new officers.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcome at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Whomever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

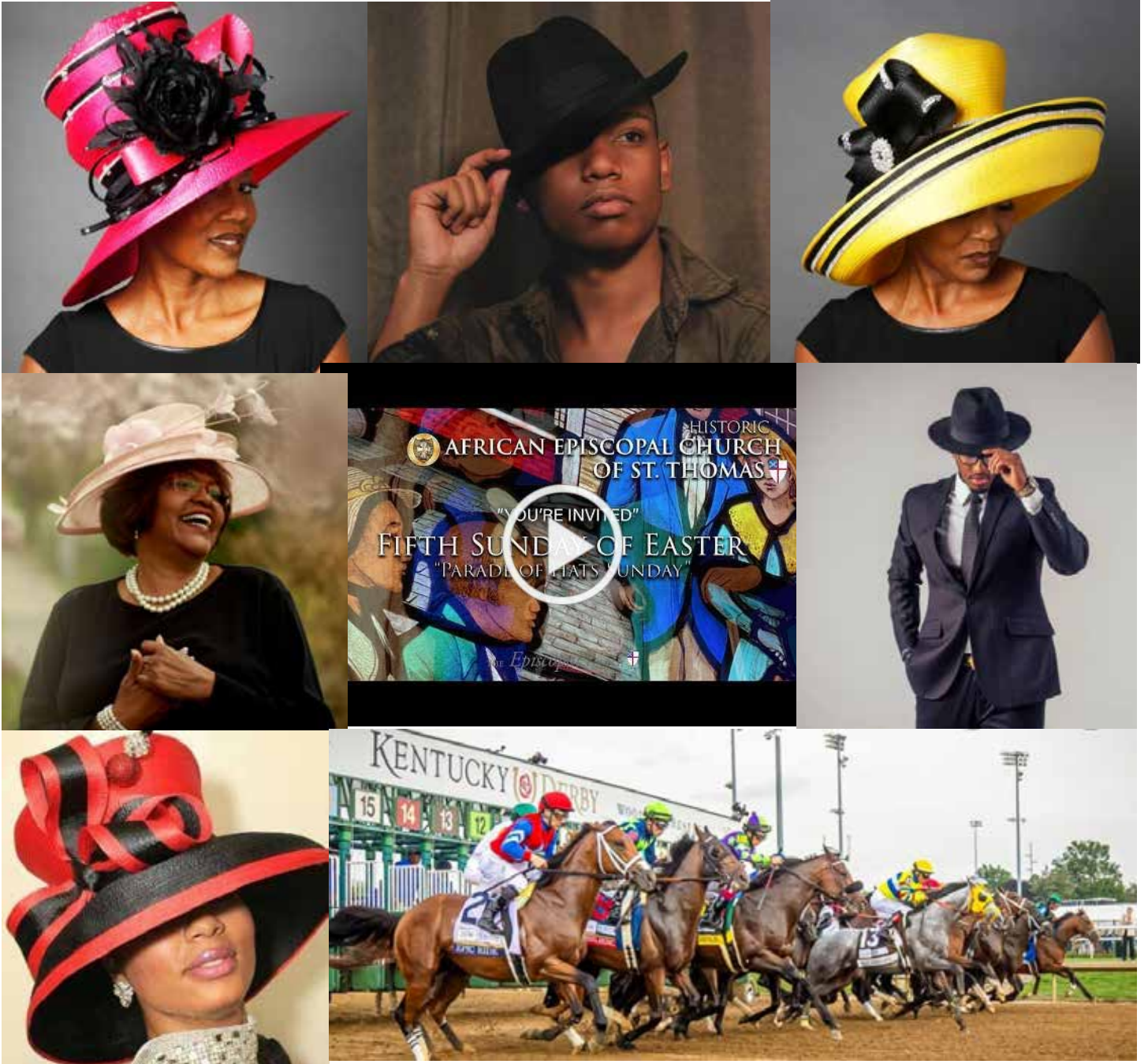
Again, welcome!

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

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

THIS SATURDAY'S KENTUCKY DERBY travels to Philadelphia.

Worship with us this Sunday!  
"The Parade of Hats" - Women, Men and Children are invited to wear their favorite hat, fascinator, bonnet, chapeau, fedora, beret, turban, etc.



Video: Quentin Heyward  
(St. Thomas Videography Ministry)

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

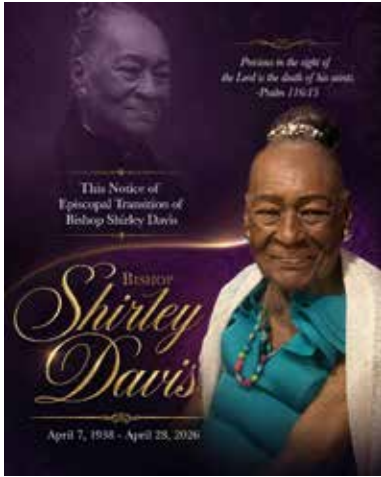
We give thanks and celebrate three years of dedicated ministry and leadership from Fr. Daren; serving as “Associate to the Rector.”

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

We pray that God will continue to order his step. St. Thomas’ congregation will miss you!



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



Our condolences to Bettie Jones and family on the death of her aunt, **Bishop Shirley Davis**. May the soul of Shirley rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

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

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**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.



A PACKED HOUSE!!!!  
(with over 60 St. Thomas men chefs)

ANNNUAL ST. THOMAS MEN ARE COOKING  
Sunday, April 26, 2026



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





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

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

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY  
THE COMMISSIONING/RECOMMISSIONING AND  
BLESSING OF THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY  
APRIL 26, 2026

Photos: Quentin Heyward, Brenda Johnson Best,  
Justin Trotman, and Bill Edmonds  
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)









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

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**Welcome**

OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW!  
We joyfully welcome **Cathryn Irvis** and  
**Donna Mae Fraser**, who joined our church family last  
Sunday. Cathryn's shepherd will be Cynthia Muse, and  
Donna Mae's shepherd will be Ronnie Collins.  
We look forward to getting to know them.



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**THE INSTALLATION AND BLESSING OF THE  
SISTERHOOD GUILD'S NEW OFFICERS:**

President - Kim Hyde  
Vice President - Khalita Wright  
Treasurer - Michelle Lofton  
Financial Secretary - Swanie Goldsmith  
Secretary - Judy Tillman  
Sergeant At Arms - Regina Meacham-Devero  
Parliamentarian - Gloria Thomas  
Chaplain - Elizabeth Derr

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

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

at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum.

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

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

**ST. JAMES SCHOOL**

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

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

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

Visit [StJamesPhila.org/Spark](http://StJamesPhila.org/Spark) to purchase tickets online.  
For more information, contact Gillian Golson at [ggolson@stjamesphila.org](mailto:ggolson@stjamesphila.org) or 484.224.3891.

**HONORING**  
*Two impactful organizations*

**EPIPHANY SCHOOL**  
Which sparked the idea for St. James School

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



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## **THE CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL IS ON JUNE 14TH.**

Please contribute to one of our largest celebrations. Donations can be easily made by using Realm account, checks may be placed in offertory plates (write Caribbean Festival in the memo section) or use one of the envelopes marked "Caribbean Festival," located at the front door of the church.

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## **PENTECOST IS MAY 24, 2026**

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

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## **Dear Members of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas,**

Thanks to all who lifted me in prayer! All who know me can bear witness to the fact that I believe in Corporate Prayer. When you pray, sickness gets healed. When you pray, strength is renewed. When you pray, answers come. When you pray for me, the prayers have been answered daily.

Peace and Blessings, Victoria A. Mosley Rivers

## Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in May

5/2	Diane Barksdale
5/4	Michele Green
5/5	Richard Hart, Kelvin Johnson, Jr.
5/6	Fleta Howell, Amia Hines, Sandra Miller, Cynthia Ray
5/7	Ngozi Onyekere
5/8	D. Lynn Joell, Katrina Marshall
5/10	Carolyn Summers
5/11	Teri Taylor, TajMarie Thornton
5/13	Donald Hunt, Jr., Reginald Royster, Nazir Henry
5/14	Ronnie Collins
5/15	William Burke, Jr., Phyllis Cater
5/16	Camryn Hamlin, Cydney Hamlin
5/17	JoAnn Bradley
5/18	Thomas Clark, Helen Peterson, Daphnie Wright Gilstrap
5/19	Lynn Starr
5/20	Tyler Stafford, Joyce Jackson
5/21	Gwendolyn Langford, Marie Golson
5/23	Nikkol Simms, Lorna Wilson
5/26	Charlene Wilshire, Waltier Blocker
5/27	Lee Anne Trotman, Sheila McCullough, Jeanne Arnold
5/30	Dr. Barbara Savage, Christopher Burks
5/31	Susan Closson, Kareem Ragin



## **PARISH MINISTRY DISCERNMENT**

The following individuals have agreed to prayerfully journey with two of our members during a period of ordained ministry discernment. They will be presented and blessed this Sunday, May 3, 2026. Please keep them and the aspirants in your prayers. You may view the diocesan link below to learn more about the process.

### **“The Parish Discernment Group Refresh” for R. Seth Williams**

Members:

Phyllis B. Cater, Convener

J.R. Brockman

Thomasina Hack

Ashley Hines

Dr. Frank Johnson

Vincent Napoleon

The Rev. John Gardner, Diocesan Representative

Renae Rutherford Lowe, Diocesan Representative

### **“The Parish Discernment Group” for Lisa Sharon Harper**

Members:

Dr. Barbara Savage, Convener

William Burke, Jr.

Tyrone Keller

Deborah Matthews

Dr. H. Lynn Starr

Arthur Sudler

The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wilkel, Diocesan Representative

<https://diopa.org/resources/guide-for-parish-discernment>

## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026**

**May 3rd**

~Parade of Hats~

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

~Installation and Blessing of the Sisterhood Guild's new officers~

~The Blessing of the Members of the Parish Discernment Groups~

**May 10th**

~Mother's Day~

**May 17th**

~Heroes' Sunday~

Guest Speaker-Commissioner Michael Resnick, Esq.,  
Philadelphia Department of Prisons

**May 24th**

~Pentecost Sunday~  
(wear something red)

**May 31st**

~Annual Women's Day Celebration~

Guest Speaker - The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness, 53rd Pastor,  
Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

**June 7th**

~Visitation of Diocesan Bishop of PA-The Right Rev.  
Daniel G.P. Gutierrez~

**June 14th**

~Annual Caribbean Festival~

**June 21st**

Father's Day

**June 28th**

~Youth & Young Adult Sunday/Graduate Sunday~

## **THIS WEEK AT AECST**

### **Monday, May 4th**

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. meeting  
6:00 PM-9:00 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Tuesday, May 5th**

Reach Out and Touch Ministry  
9:45 AM in the AJ House

OPC Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting  
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

Pilgrims on a Journey with Fr. Jay  
via Zoom at 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday, May 6th**

Angels in Motion Dance Ministry  
6:30 PM in the church

St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Friday, May 8th**

Retired Persons Ministry  
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Saturday, May 9th**

CPR Training  
10:00 AM-4:00 PM in Anderson Hall

Girls' Friendly Society  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

Acolyte Rehearsal  
1:30 PM

## **CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATES**

Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison, Co-chairs

**Monday, May 4, 2026**, is the last day to register to vote in the Pennsylvania Primary Election. You can register online at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx> OR use paper applications that can be found on the table, at the back of the sanctuary. If you decide to use paper, it must be mailed or postmarked **May 4, 2026**.

**Satellite Election Offices** are open 7 days/week through Election Day. You can easily register, privately vote, and securely cast your ballot at any satellite office.

**The SAVE America Act** has not been voted upon yet. Please, please call your Senators and express your opinion regarding this bill. If passed, this bill will restrict the right to vote and make it more difficult for women and minorities to register to vote!

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### **CHOSEN 300 MINISTRY**

Judith Simkins Booth, Chair

Are you ready to serve? Join us Monday, May 17, 2026, as we prepare and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will gather at 5:00 PM:

Chosen 300 Ministries, Inc.

3959 Lancaster Avenue, Phila., PA 19104

All are welcome and encouraged to participate; Matthew 14, 16 – "... "Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat...'"

## **ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS**

The AECST Health Ministry will be offering a “Hands Only” CPR/Stop the Bleed Class on May 9th. Please register if you'd like to attend.

In Person Program - Saturday, May 9th  
10:00 AM -1:00 PM (Anderson Hall)

“Hands Only” CPR/Stop the Bleed Class  
(Pre-registration required)  
Limited to 15 participants.

Please scan the QR code or use the link  
below to register:

<https://forms.gle/vx1YfTABdWyBH2Xr6>



## **REALM STATEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

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

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

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## **RECTOR'S WISH LIST**

Our Audio/Visual/Media Systems sorely need upgrading:

Anderson Hall sound system

Livestream system

Sanctuary sound system

Please consider donating towards our goal to raise \$10,000.00. You may contact Father Shaw if you have questions.



# HEROES' SUNDAY

## MAY 17, 2026 10:00 AM

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



**ALL first responders are invited to attend!**

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

\* A catered reception to follow

\* For more information, please contact: Seth Williams at:  
[Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net](mailto:Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net)

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**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

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THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

**2026 ANNUAL**

Women's Day Celebration



**FROM FAITH WE RISE:**  
Walking in Purpose,  
Hope and Love

**SUNDAY**

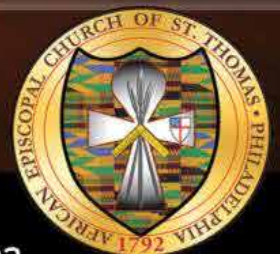
**MAY 31, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**THE REV. CAROLYN C. CAVANESS**  
DISTINGUISHED MINISTER, ACTIVIST AND  
THE FIRST FEMALE PASTOR OF  
MOTHER BETHEL  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Please celebrate  
with us as we rise together  
in faith and walk boldly  
in God's purpose!



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

In-person and Zoom  
classes are as follows:

**In Person (8:45 AM)  
Sunday, 05/03/2026**

**Zoom (6:00 PM)  
Monday, 04/27/2026  
Monday, 05/18/2026**

### **Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!**

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



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

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

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

Naomi Johnson Booker  
Dane Bowrin  
Dominick Bowrin  
Vanessa Bowrin  
Melissa Chatman  
Ryan Chatman  
Diane Regina Culmer  
Robert Newton Davenport  
Karen Davis  
Renard Golden  
Samantha Richardson-  
Ingram  
Evelyn Johns  
Garry Jones

Kayma Sherman Knuckles  
Alonda Lord  
Michelle Mack  
Stephen Mack  
Alliyah Maxwell  
Paula Brown Milbourne  
Mercy Natt  
Ingrid Nembhard  
Velma Morris Nembhard  
Wendy Puryear  
Kareem Ragan  
Cynthia Ray  
Toddrick Ricks  
Charlie Stiff

WOOD FUNERAL HOME  
VINE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

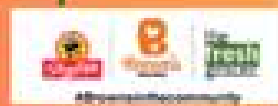
# WOOD/VINE 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY LOVE FEST



## A DAY OF FUN, LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP!

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

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



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

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

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

**Application deadline is May 11, 2026.**

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**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](mailto:1792@aecst.org).
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## Church Pictorial Directory Committee

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

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

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

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

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

**Patron ads** - \$5.00 per name

### **Business or Ministry ads:**

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

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

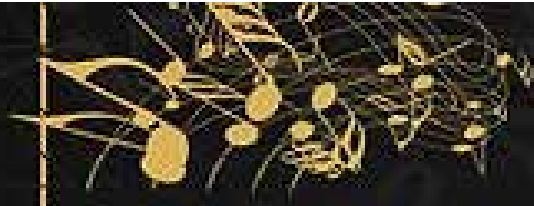
**Email:** Camera ready ads to: [churchdirectory@aecst.org](mailto:churchdirectory@aecst.org)

**Checks** may be mailed and payable to:

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

## DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.



# VOCALISTS & MUSICIANS *Wanted*

**To Join  
A Professional Recording Gospel Choir**

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

**WWW.STTHOMASGC.ORG**

(484) 816-STGC (7842)

## **OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES**

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

**Constance Anderson** - Florida

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

**Deadra Cannon** - Georgia

**Nora Corbin** - Illinois

**Paula Cropper** - North Carolina

**Lee Daniels** - New York

**Stacey Davis** - New York

**Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas** - Portugal

**Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal** - Michigan

**The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney** - Texas

**Richard & Gwenda Hart** - South Carolina

**Yvonne Hyde-Carter** - New York

**Dr. Calvin Johnson** - Florida

**Bettie Jones** - North Carolina

**Richard Jones, Jr.** - Virginia

**Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith** - South Carolina

**Steven & Jameela Lewis** - Colorado/California

**Gregory Lyles** - Switzerland

**Nohjay Nimpson** - Texas

**Zennetta Peters** - North Carolina

**Richard & Rebecca Scales** - Florida

**Shelly and Ann Stewart** - Florida

**Howard Tucker** - Brazil/Philadelphia

**Allison Young** - Maryland

**The Bible Readings For  
the Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2026**

The First Lesson - [Acts 7:55-60](#)  
[Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Peter 2:2-10](#)  
The Holy Gospel - [John 14:1-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
week of May 4, 2026**

Monday - [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 6:7-15](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 6:19-24](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 6:25-34](#)

Friday - [Matthew 7:1-12](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 7:13-21](#)



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**PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY**

**BIBLE STUDY** is on Tuesdays  
at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining  
the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay  
at [associatepriest@aecst.org](mailto:associatepriest@aecst.org).

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## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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

Flowers on the High Altar - \$80.00 each

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$70.00 each

Flowers on the Columbarium - \$60.00

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





## **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 THE HOSPITAL:**

Patricia Walker Ellison - Rydal Place, Jenkintown, PA

### **IN REHAB:**

Francine Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home, Vernetta Dow-The Rittenhouse Rehab

### **IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:**

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

### **AT HOME:**

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

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

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

### **WE PRAY FOR:**

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

## CALLING ALL YOUTH



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

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

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



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

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

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

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

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

Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below:



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

### **1) Sunday Offering Plate**

### **2) Mail in your check or money order to the church.**

Please use the following address:

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

**3) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office** during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

**4) Church Website** - <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm> the button(s) on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e., your pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc.

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

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

**IMPORTANT:** Please make sure your name, envelop number and amount is placed on the offering envelope. This is particularly important for bookkeeping accurate. If you are unsure of your number, please email [stewardship@aecst.org](mailto: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](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	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	Wendella Fox   Elaine Gillison	cattoministry@aecst.org
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Eugene Golson   Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Parish Webmaster	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Property Chair	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
Scout Pack 133	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
	Sharon Bullock	scmci@aol.com
St. Thomas Daughters of the King	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Stewardship Chair	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Edita Gauthney   Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry		

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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

## DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller