



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

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 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HEROES' SUNDAY
MAY 17, 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. 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 **Seventh Sunday of Easter and our third Annual Heroes’ Sunday honoring first responders.** We welcome

Michael R. Resnick, Esq., Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, guest speaker, and all first responders worshiping us today.

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.

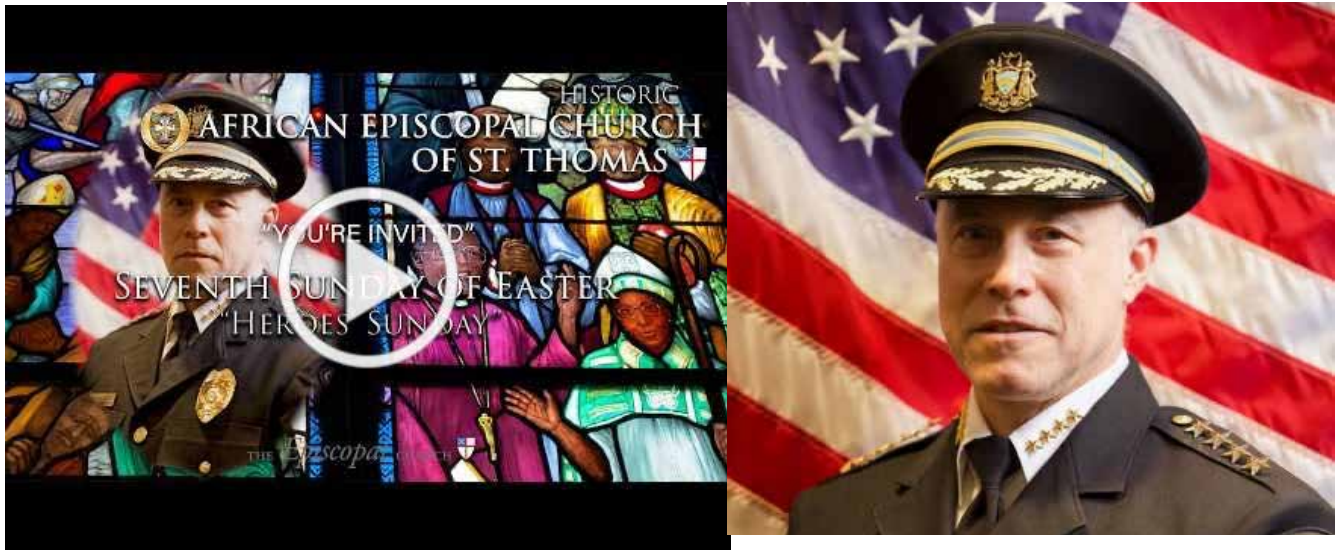
Again, welcome!

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

YOU'RE INVITED: "Heroes' Sunday" at the AECST!!

Video: Quentin Heyward
St.Thomas Videography Ministry



Speaker bio: **Commissioner Michael R. Resnick, Esq.**

On April 8, 2024, Mayor Cherelle L. Parker appointed Michael R. Resnick, Esquire, as Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons- an agency of approximately 2,000 staff responsible for the care and custody of roughly 3,300 incarcerated individuals.

Since assuming leadership, Commissioner Resnick has advanced meaningful operational improvements across the Department, including the establishment of a Reentry Center to support successful community reintegration, continued reductions in the incarcerated population, expanded staff recruitment and hiring, and the deployment of Narcan by correctional officers to address overdose risks. The Department has also made substantial progress under federal oversight, with a majority of monitored provisions now in compliance.

Commissioner Resnick brings more than two decades of public safety and criminal justice experience to this role. He has previously served as Acting Philadelphia Prisons Commissioner, Director of Public Safety, and Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services for the State of Maryland. He is admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and multiple federal courts, and has served as an adjunct professor at Drexel University. Commissioner Resnick holds degrees from Drexel University. He holds degrees from Drexel University and Widener University School of Law.

- In Memoriam -
St. Thomas remembers & celebrates.



MOTHER'S DAY GRATITUDE

Enormous thanks to one of our dedicated out of town members, **Constance Anderson**, who offered a reading during Mass from Florida.

We were very blessed last Sunday to hear Mother's Day Tributes from Caryn Rivers to her mom, Victoria Rivers, and Eugene Phillips to his wife, Karina Phillips.



Mother's Day - 2026

We recognized and celebrated our newest mothers:
Carlia Wallace, mother of Rayne Josephine Wallace,
born March 5, 2026.

Ashley Williams, mother of Tobias Scott Williams,
born September 16, 2025





Photos: Brenda Johnson Best
St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

Mother's Day - 2026

On Sunday, we recognized and celebrated
our oldest mothers:

Helena Allen, born Jan 16, 1921 - 105 years old
Mother of one son, Anthony Allen.



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

Ola S. Bass, born Nov. 23, 1926 - 100 on her next birthday.
Mother of two daughters, Lenez Ward and Jill Samuels.



Photos: Brenda Johnson Best
St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry



OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH FAMILY
CONTINUES TO GROW!!!!

We joyfully welcome **Stephenie Smith** and
Hossein Gharavi into our church family.

Stephenie and Hossein, we look forward to
getting to know you.

Their Shepherds are Dr. Tim Barksdale and Judy Tillman.

**WE
ARE
FAMILY**





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

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
OBSERVANCE OF MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 10, 2026**



Photos: Quentin Heyward and Brenda Johnson Best
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry











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

Photos: Quentin Heyward, Brenda Johnson Best,
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)



CATTO MINISTRY CORNER

Voting is your Superpower! Use it. Don't lose it!

Tuesday, May 19th is ELECTION DAY in Pennsylvania.
Got questions??? Go to: www.vote.pa OR www.pa.gov

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! My church family,
I would like to thank you for the many expressions of love, support and reflections of my son, Stephen, during this difficult time in my life. I am ever grateful and ask for your prayers as I start my journey without my "Sonshine."
With much gratitude, Edita Gauthney



DO YOU SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH?

If you speak a language other than English, i.e., German, Swahili, Spanish, etc., and would like to participate in the Pentecost service, please contact the church office ASAP.

CHOSEN 300 MINISTRY

Judith Simkins Booth, Chair

Are you ready to serve?

Join us Monday, May 18, 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...’”

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Mainline Health’s Community Health and Outreach Spring Newsletter is now available with lots of good information and a list of several programs they are offering.

Use the link or scan the QR code below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kpFAXlasv_gT4lycqtBFaSgxRMbpnRJ0/view?usp=sharing



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

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

at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum.

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

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

ST. JAMES SCHOOL

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

6:00 PM | **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 to purchase tickets online.
For more information, contact Gillian Golson at ggolson@stjamesphila.org or 484.224.3891.

HONORING
Two impactful organizations

EPIPHANY SCHOOL
Which sparked the idea for St. James School

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





THE DAY OF
PENTECOST

**THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WHIT SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026**



THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792
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UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026

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~

Worshiping with us will be members of St. Augustine's
Church, Brooklyn, NY

June 21st

~Father's Day~

June 28th

~Youth & Young Adult Sunda and Graduate Sunday~

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

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, May 12th

~OPC Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~

6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

~Discernment Group Meeting~

6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

~Pilgrims on a Journey with Fr. Jay~

via Zoom at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 13th

~Angels in Motion Dance Ministry Rehearsal~

6:30 PM in the church

~St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal~

7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Thursday, May 21st

Vestry Meeting

6:00 PM via Zoom

Saturday, May 23rd

~ Daughters of the King

9:30 AM -12:30 PM ~

~Scouts~

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM in the Undercroft

**ANNOUNCING – “A BIBLICAL FORMATION SERIES
OPPORTUNITY AT ST. THOMAS”**

A FIVE WEEK SERIES - All are welcome!

Facilitator: R. Seth Williams

Beginning Wednesday, May 27th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 PM.

“Praying the Rosary: A Scriptural Journey with Christ”

Join us for a 5-week introduction to the Rosary as a deeply biblical, Christ centered devotion within the Episcopal tradition. Each week explores one set of Mysteries—Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous—through Scripture, reflection, and guided prayer.

Sessions begin Wednesday, May 27, and continue each Wednesday in June, concluding with a communal Rosary meditation.

Week 1: Introduction to the Rosary - The Gospel on a String

Week 2: The Joyful Mysteries - The Incarnation and the Hidden Life of Christ

Week 3: The Sorrowful Mysteries - Walking the Way of the Cross

Week 4: The Glorious Mysteries - Resurrection Hope

Week 5: The Luminous Mysteries - The Public Ministry of Jesus

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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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.

REALM STATEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

NEW MEMBER AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES are ongoing.
The schedule for the remaining Zoom class is **Monday 5/18/2026 at 6:00 PM - Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!**

THE CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL IS ON JUNE 14TH.

We invite you to contribute to one of our most significant celebrations. Donations can be conveniently made using your Realm account. Alternatively, you can place checks 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.

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.
-

NEW MEMBER AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

are ongoing. The schedule for the remaining **Zoom class is Monday 5/18/2026 at 6:00 PM and Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!**



CONFIRMATION/REAFFIRMATION/ RECEPTION

The following individuals will be confirmed, reaffirmed, or received during the upcoming 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:

Cadega Alexander	Alonda Lord
Dane Bowrin	Michelle J.P. Mack
Dominic Bowrin	Dr. Stephen Mack
Vanessa Bowrin	John Maxwell
Melissa Chatman	Derrick McBride
Ryan Chatman	The Rev. Jermaine
Regina Diane Barksdale	McDonald
Robert Newton Davenport	Paula Milbourne
Karen Davis	Mercy Natt
Donna Mae Fraser	Ingrid Nembhard
Hossein Gharavi	Velma Morris Nembhard
Renard Golden	Chinwe Onyekere
Dr. Derek Griffith	Wendy Puryear
Nazir Henry	Kareem Ragin
Samantha Richardson-	Todrick Ricks
Ingram	Charlie Stiff
Cathryn Irvis	Stephenie Smith
Evelyn Johns	TajMarie Thornton
Garry Jones	Marie Wallace
Kayma Sherman Knuckles	The Rev. Joseph Watkins
	Stephanie Watkins

DEANERY NEWS

The 2026 Reverend Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan Memorial Scholarship application is now available for all eligible high school seniors that worship in an Episcopal church or are a part of a program sponsored by an Episcopal church. This scholarship supports graduating high school students entering their first year at accredited colleges, universities, or trade programs.

The application deadline is June 30, 2026. Please email Phyllis Cater, pbccater@comcast.net or Mary Dean, dean602ms@gmail.com for application information



GRADUATE SUNDAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026!

Have you or your child graduated or been promoted? Please complete the Graduate Profile form included in the bulletin or complete the online form. We want to highlight your achievements and share them with the congregation. The deadline to submit your information to the office is **Sunday, June 21, 2026.**

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

A "Friendly" Fact

Bohlale Mphahlele, is a 22-year-old from Limpopo, South Africa. At age 16, she built a life-saving device. The idea for the device, called the "Alerting Earpiece," was a small device shaped like an earring. The goal was to help individuals in dangerous situations.

Ms. Mphahlele got the idea because of the high crime rates and gender-based violence within her community in South Africa. She wanted to design something small, simple, and easy to use. The design includes a small camera, a GPS tracker, and an alert button. The idea is that the user can press a hidden button. The device would then take a photo of the attacker. It would also send the user's location to trusted contacts and emergency services.

Five years later, there continues to be a fight to reach the world. Unfortunately, innovation without access goes nowhere. Ms. Mphahlele's story isn't just about one invention. It's about how many brilliant ideas from underserved communities never make it past the prototype stage, not because they aren't good enough, but because the systems around them aren't built to support them.

Talent is everywhere. Access is not. How can we change that?



Church Pictorial Directory Committee

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

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

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

A new category has been created entitled:

“With Love and Blessings.”

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

Patron ads - \$5.00 per name

Business or Ministry ads:

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

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

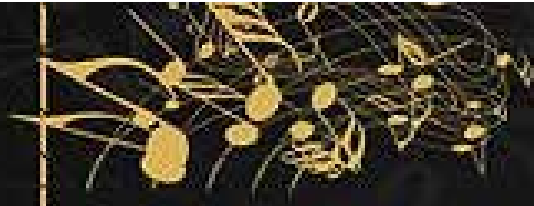
Email: Camera ready ads to: churchdirectory@aecst.org

Checks may be mailed and payable to:

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

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

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



VOCALISTS & MUSICIANS *Wanted*

**To Join
A Professional Recording Gospel Choir**

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

WWW.STTHOMASGC.ORG

(484) 816-STGC (7842)

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES

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

Constance Anderson - Florida

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

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney -Texas

Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina

Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York

Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida

Bettie Jones - North Carolina

Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia

Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina

Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado/California

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson -Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly and Ann Stewart - Florida

Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

Allison Young - Maryland

**The Bible Readings For
the Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026**

The First Lesson - [Acts 1:6-14](#)
[Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)
The Holy Gospel - [John 17:1-11](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of May 18, 2026**

Monday - [Matthew 8:5-17](#)
Tuesday - [Matthew 8:18-27](#)
Wednesday - [Matthew 8:28-34](#)
Thursday - [Matthew 9:1-8](#)
Friday - [Matthew 9:9-17](#)
Saturday - [Matthew 9:18-26](#)



**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.

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](#).



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.
- 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:

Karen Ragland-Abington Hospital, Abington, PA
Francina Norris- St. Francis Nursing Home; Vernetta Dow-
The Rittenhouse Rehab; Patricia Walker Ellison-Rosewood
Gardens Rehab, Broomall, PA

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen-Simpson 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,
Virginia DuBrey, Verger Stephen Hannum, Roosevelt Harris,
Sr., Mary Ann Jones, Alletta Parris Olday, Joyce Stewart,
Thelma Silvers, Calvin Thompson, Wendell Whitlock

KEEP IN PRAYER:

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

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. Shaw](#) 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. Shaw](#) so we can share your story with the congregation!

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



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

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

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

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

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



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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

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

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

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

Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below:



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

1) Sunday Offering Plate

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

Please use the following address:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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](#).

MINISTRY STAFF

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THE VESTRY

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Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William J. Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Eugene Golson
Judith Simkins Booth	Mary Sandra Dean	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Elaine Gillison	Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Johnson Best	Gwenda Hart	Cynthia Muse
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Ronnie Collins	Kelvin Johnson	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Sandra Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller