



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  
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 DAY OF PENTECOST,  
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY  
MAY 24, 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. 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  
**THE DAY OF PENTECOST YOUTH AND  
YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY.**

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

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



## MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, originated after the Civil War to honor fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers. Three years following the conclusion of the war, which ended in 1865, General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the veterans' group the Grand Army of the Republic, issued General Order 11 designated the Thirtieth of May 1868, as the day to place flowers and wreaths on the graves of those who died in defense of the nation. However, many such occurrences took place some years before General Logan's proclamation. One of the earliest observations took place on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina, where the bombardment of Fort Sumter started the war.

According to reports from the New York Tribune and The Charleston Courier on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina, the recently freed Black population held a parade of 10,000 people to honor 257 dead Union soldiers. The soldiers had been buried in a mass grave at the Washington Race Course, having died at the Confederate prison camp located there. After the city fell, the freed Black population unearthed and properly buried the soldiers, placing flowers at their graves.

Several other locations held similar celebrations after the Civil War and there is no consensus when the first celebration took place. But it was after General Logan's issue of General Order 11 that more states developed the tradition, and it eventually spread across the country. After World War I, the observance became one to recognize the dead from all wars. The name "Memorial Day" was first used in 1882. It gradually became more common than "Decoration Day" after World War II. In 1967, Memorial Day became the official name by federal law.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act, passed by Congress in 1968, moved the date of Memorial Day from the May 30th to the last Monday in May. Recognized as a sacred solemn day, it is a day Americans remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. As written in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

### **In Memory this Memorial Day**

This Memorial Day is dedicated to the "Edison 64." The Edison 64 were sixty-four young men from Thomas Alva Edison High School, in Philadelphia, who died during the Vietnam War. Edison High School, at the time located in North Philadelphia, experienced the highest casualty rate from the Vietnam War of any single high school within the United States. The group was predominately Black and Hispanic. The heavy toll on the school, particularly the Class of 1965, has been the subject of multiple documentaries and movies.

# St. Thomas' members, Wendella Fox and Arthur Sudler, were in attendance at The President's House Slavery Memorial on Thursday, May 22nd.



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



Our First Lesson this Sunday will be read by one of our out of town members, **Gabrielle Faisal**, who resides in Detroit, Michigan.



St. Thomas supports and celebrates the continued success of our partner, St. James School at its Annual Benefit.



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

Thou shalt  
**LOVE**  
thy neighbour as  
*thyself.*  
Mark 12:31 KJV  
Top-BibleVerses.com



## A SPECIAL HEALING GARDEN PROJECT

Fr. Daren and Church School Superintendent Tynecia Wilson presented the Church School Healing Garden Project at the final session of the Children Liturgy Ecology and Renewal (CLEAR) project at Villanova University. Our students are planting medicinal herbs at the church.



---

Several men of St. Thomas Men's Ministry & Fellowship  
monthly gathering



Some of the St. Thomas Chapter members of the Daughters of the King gather at the Claggett Retreat Center in Maryland for Province III Annual Retreat.





**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Cameron Jolie Grace Chatman**, who will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. May the Lord continue to bless and keep her.

---

**On Sunday**, we welcome **Kristal Brown, Simone Pollard, Alicia Smith, Barbara Williams, and Pamela Johnson** from The Philadelphia Alumnae Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Praise Dancers, and thank them for their wonderful ministry of dance.

---

**On Sunday**, we commission and bless the AECST Pentecost Committee officers:

Chair- **Catherine Stafford**

Chaplain - **Denise McKinney-Gibson**

Floral Designer - **Lynada Coleburn-Bryant**

Secretary - **Mueni Mwanzia**

Treasurer - **Anita Smith**

---

### **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!** I am so deeply grateful for your outpouring of support and many acts of love through phone calls, cards, and prayers following the passing of my aunt, Shirley Davis. She was a very special person who touched many lives, and she will be sorely missed.

I ask that you continue to pray for me and my family as we navigate this new normal without her.

Peace and blessings, Bettie Jones



**CONGRATULATIONS!** We offer our prayers and congratulations to David Michael King and Emma Marie Livingston, who will be joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, May 30, 2026. May God bless your union.



**Women's Day, Sunday, May 31st.**

All women are invited to join the Women's Day choir. The next rehearsal will be on Thursday, May 28th, at 7:00 PM in Anderson Hall.

**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 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 in your bulletin.

---

**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.

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!



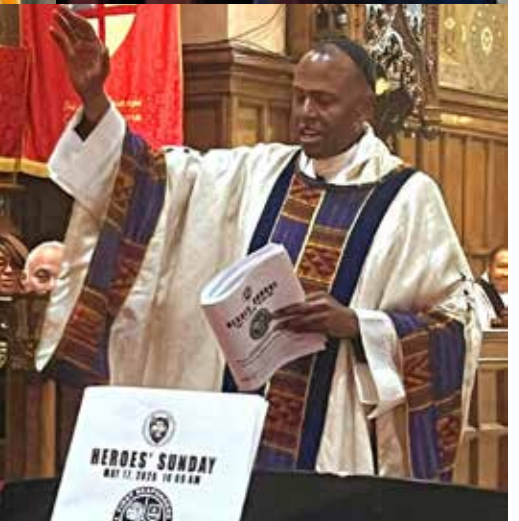
THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR



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

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
HEROES' SUNDAY  
MAY 17, 2026**











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

Photos: Quentin Heyward, Colin Mitchell, Richard Jones,  
and R. Seth Williams

St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

---

## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026**

**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 AME 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 Adults Sunday and Graduate Sunday~



## **THIS WEEK AT AECST**

### **Monday, May 25th**

~Church and Parish Offices closed~  
for the Observance of Memorial Day

### **Tuesday, May 26th**

~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 27th**

~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 28th**

~Discernment Group Meeting~  
6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

~Women's Day Choir Rehearsal~  
7:00 PM in Anderson Hall

---

## **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).

---

## **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](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

## **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.**

---

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.

---

## **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, [pbcater@comcast.net](mailto:pbcater@comcast.net) or Mary Dean, [dean602ms@gmail.com](mailto:dean602ms@gmail.com) for application information.



**CONFIRMATION DAY IS SUNDAY  
JUNE 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM**

If you will be confirmed, received or reaffirmed the questionnaire for the Bishop, should be completed and returned to Father Shaw as soon as possible! If you have a question, you can email Father Shaw, [rector@aecst.org](mailto:rector@aecst.org). Please review the spelling of your name as listed below. If it is not correct, please email the church office, [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org), with your preferred spelling.

**CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION/REAFFIRMATION**

The following individuals will be either confirmed, received or reaffirmed during the upcoming Bishop's Visitation to St. Thomas, Sunday, June 7th. Please keep them in your prayers as they make final preparations to receive a special sacramental blessing.

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 McDonald
Regina Diane Barksdale	Paula Milbourne
Robert Newton Davenport	Mercy Natt
Karen Davis	Ingrid Nembhard
Donna Mae Fraser	Velma Morris Nembhard
Hossein Gharavi	Chinwe Onyekere
Renard Golden	Kareem Ragin
Dr. Derek Griffith	Todrick Ricks
Nazir Henry	Charlie Stiff
Samantha Richardson-Ingram	Stephenie Smith
Cathryn Irvis	TajMarie Thornton
Evelyn Johns	Marie Wallace
Garry Jones	The Rev. Joseph Watkins
Kayma Sherman Knuckles	Stephanie Watkins



## 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 Day of Pentecost  
May 24, 2026**

The First Lesson - [Numbers 11:24-30](#)  
[Psalm 104:25-35, 37](#)  
The Second Lesson - [Acts 2:1-21](#)  
The Holy Gospel - [John 20:19-23](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
week of May 25, 2026**

Monday - [Luke 14:25-35](#)  
Tuesday - [Luke 15:1-10](#)  
Wednesday - [Luke 15:1-2, 11-32](#)  
Thursday - [Luke 16:1-9](#)  
Friday - [Luke 16:10-18](#)  
Saturday - [Luke 16:19-31](#)



---

**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).

---

## **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 **Livestream/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. Shaw](#) 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:**

Lynn Fields Harris - Einstein Jefferson, Montgomery County;  
Loretta Ferguson-University of PA Hospital

### **IN REHAB:**

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,  
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. Shaw](#) for details.

---

**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.

---

## **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		
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald (Jay) Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Patricia Downing	psdowning@verizon.net
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, DMA	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
Health Ministry	Nikki Franke   Dr. Michael McIntosh	1792@aecst.org
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman   Clare Mae Daniels	fredabee@verizon.net
Memorial Tribute Ministry	Victoria Rivers	1792@aecst.org
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Eugene Golson   Karen Ragland	1792@aecst.org
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William J. 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 J. Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale  
Judith Simkins Booth  
Deadra Cannon

Clare Mae Daniels  
Mary Sandra Dean  
Elaine Gillison

Eugene Golson  
Monica Lewis Jones  
Deborah Matthews

---

## THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Johnson Best  
Sharon Bullock  
Ronnie Collins

Gwenda Hart  
D. Lynn Joell  
Kelvin Johnson

Cynthia Muse  
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor  
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