

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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

JUNE 1, 2026

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

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)

Philadelphia, PA, 19151

(215) 473-3065

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw

The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins

Associate Priest

The Reverend Patricia Downing

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 First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday and Annual Women’s Day Celebration. We welcome The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness, 53rd Pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church, and members of Mother Bethel worshipping with us today.

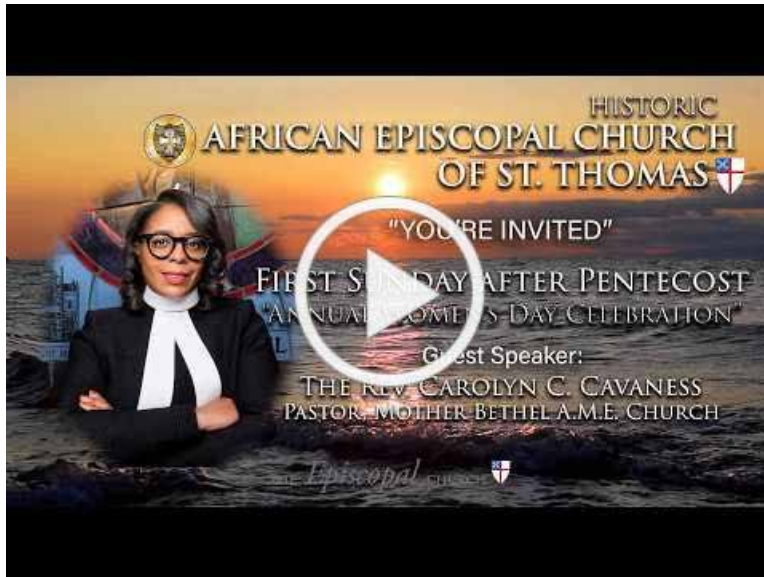
On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend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

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

YOU'RE INVITED: "Women's Day Celebration" this Sunday.

Please share the video Invitation below.



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St.Thomas Videography Ministry)

Please read The Reverend Carolyn C. Cavaness's
Biography [here](#).

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



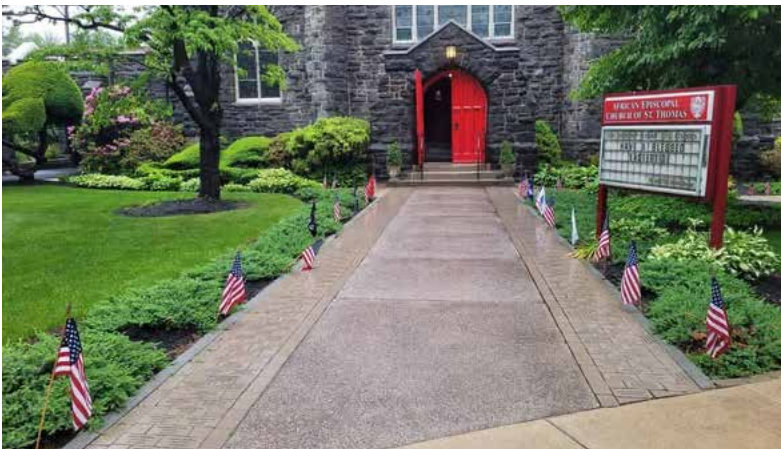
A SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN!

The St. Thomas Women's Chorus will rehearse this Sunday (May 31st) at 9:00 A.M. in preparation for the Annual Women's Day Celebration.

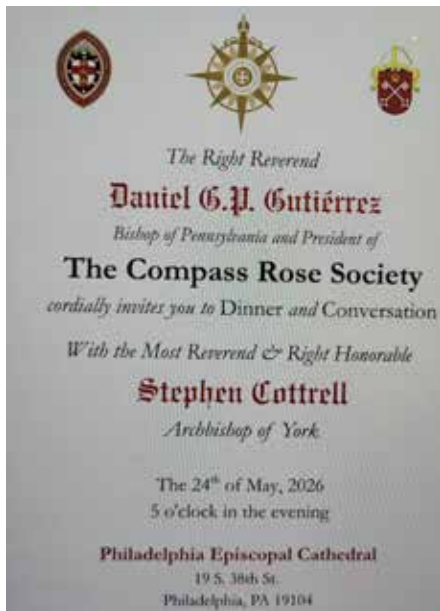


MEMORIAL DAY - 2026

St. Thomas memorializes and honors those who sacrificed their lives while serving their country.



St. Thomas joined our Bishop and The Compass Rose Society in welcoming the Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend & Honorable Stephen Cottrell, to the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Some members of our St. Thomas Gospel Choir were invited to provide musical selections.





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

We give thanks and are pleased to welcome two new acolytes to serve on God's altar:
Lisa Sharon Harper and R. Seth Williams.



**THE DAY OF PENTECOST
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY
MAY 24, 2026**







Photos: Justin Trotman and Bill Edmonds
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry



CONDOLENCES



We are very sad to announce the death of **Lynn Fields Harris**. Please keep her dear husband, Thomas, and the entire family in prayer. The Memorial Requiem Mass will be held on **Tuesday, June 9, 2026**, at **10:00 AM**. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Omega Omega service begins at **9:30 AM**. May the soul of Lynn rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. AMEN



Thoughts and prayers are offered for Kelvin Johnson and family on the death of his uncle, **Arnold Johnson**. May the soul of Arnold rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. AMEN

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

**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

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE Attention! June 2, 2026, is Election Day in New Jersey For more information: <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>.
Make sure your voice is heard – VOTE!

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! The Pentecost Committee expresses gratitude to our St. Thomas family for making Pentecost Sunday a wonderful celebration. The committee is especially grateful for the donations received from the congregation and the wonderful food prepared by Dennis Hall and his team. We are also thankful for the support from Gladyce, Monica Lewis-Jones, Rollo Dillworth, David, Matthew, and all who helped make this Pentecost Sunday a success. We are truly a blessed church. Gratefully, Cathy Stafford, Chairperson

Our Co-Minister of Music, Waltier Blocker, is competing in Favorite Chef 2026!


Walt is an amazing cook, musician, church music director, and all-around wonderful person. He has a real gift for bringing people together through food, fellowship, and love. Voting begins at 12:00 AM on June 1. Please take a moment to vote for him and share with others! You may vote every day.


Please vote for Waltier here: <https://favechef.com/2026/walt.blocker>
Go Team Blocker!!!!


Vote for


WALT BLOCKER

Favorite Chef 2026

 **Voting begins June 1**
right after midnight

 Many of you know me through music ministry, but cooking is another way I serve with love.

 Please vote daily and ask your family and friends to vote too.

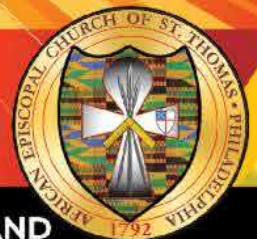
 **Vote at:**
favchef.com/2026/walt-blocker

Thank you for your love, prayers, and support. — Walt

16th Annual Caribbean Festival

**SUNDAY
JUNE 14, 2026 10:00 AM**

**One Love
One Faith
One Family**



**SPECIAL GUESTS: THE REVEREND FR. LAWRENCE WOMACK AND
MEMBERS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

**THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
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**GILLIAN WILSON, CHAIRPERSON
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR**



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The Caribbean Festival is on June 14th.

Please contribute to one of the most significant celebrations in the church. 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.



CONFIRMATION DAY IS SUNDAY

JUNE 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Has Father Shaw received your answers to the Bishops' questions? If not, please submit your replies as soon as possible. Also, make sure that your name is spelled correctly on the list below. Any corrections should be emailed to the church office at 1792@aecst.org.

CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION/REAFFIRMATION

The following individuals will be confirmed, received or reaffirmed during the Bishop's Visit 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

MUSIC MINISTRY CORNER

The internationally acclaimed St. Thomas Gospel Choir will be the featured background choir, for Grammy-nominated vocalist, **Josh Groban** during his upcoming concerts:

Xfinity Center, Philadelphia, PA
Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 8:00 PM

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA
Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 8:00 PM.

The concert program will also feature Academy Award-winning artist **Jennifer Hudson** as a special guest performer. Known for their powerful vocals, rich harmonies, and dynamic presentation of Gospel music within the Episcopal tradition, the St. Thomas Gospel Choir continues to carry the musical legacy of The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas onto major stages throughout the region and beyond.

Waltier Blocker, Co-Minister of Music and Director of the St. Thomas Gospel will be a featured speaker at the Justice, Mercy and Music Symposium during the Association of Anglican Musicians conference, June 7th -11t in Atlanta, Georgia.



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**.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026

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~
~Observance of Juneteenth~

June 28th

~Youth & Young Adults Sunday~
~Graduate Sunday~

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Monday, June 1st

~Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated meeting~
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM in Anderson Hall

~Directory Committee meeting~
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

Tuesday, June 2nd

~Reach Out and Touch Ministry~
9:45 AM in the Absalom Jones 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, June 3rd

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

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

THE TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY

is looking for volunteers. Anyone that is interested is asked to email Conchetta Brewer, ms.cbrewer074@gmail.com.

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 or Mary Dean, dean602ms@gmail.com for application information.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

If you missed the Zoom presentation on “The ABCs of a Good Night’s Sleep,” use the QR Code below to view it. The presentation on sleep health was led by Dr. Dara Tolshin, who discussed the importance of sleep for overall health and well-being. Dr. Tolshin covered topics including recommended sleep durations (7-9 hours for adults), common sleep disorders, insomnia and sleep apnea, and practical tips for improving sleep quality, such as avoiding computer screens before bed, maintaining consistent sleep schedules, and creating relaxing bedtime routines.



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.

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



Happy Birthday to the members of our parish celebrating in June

- 6/1 Marceline Fitzwilliam
- 6/2 Laverne Hudson, Diedre Milanes, Jonathan Muse
- 6/4 Sylvia Simkins, Julian Smith
- 6/5 Edita Gauthney
- 6/6 Barbara Glenn, Autumn Simmons
- 6/10 Jean Brogden
- 6/11 Geraldine Martin, Harold Yates, Sylvia Gomes-Knight
- 6/12 Patricia Akins
- 6/13 J. Maurice Pearsall, Teena Watson Mathews
- 6/14 Yaseen Farooq
- 6/15 Renee Perna
- 6/17 Herb Wetzel, Adjioa Love-Dorsey
- 6/20 Ivan Juzang, Monica Jones, Nora Corbin
- 6/21 Michelanne Bradwell
- 6/22 Elaine Alvarez
- 6/23 Devon Tucker, Cheyenne Williamson, Claude Waterford, Toya Gordon
- 6/25 Kim Hyde, Justin Trotman, Erin Napoleon
- 6/26 Jessica Brunet
- 6/27 Merle Hopson
- 6/28 Alexis Benton
- 6/30 Michael McIntosh



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 First Sunday of Pentecost
May 31, 2026**

The First Lesson- [Genesis 1:1-2:4](#)

[Psalm 8](#)

The Second Lesson - [2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of June 1, 2026**

Monday - [Matthew 13:44-52](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 13:53-58](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 14:1-12](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Friday - [Matthew 14:22-36](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 15:1-20](#)



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

Flowers on the High Altar are in honor of and celebration of the **Women of the Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.**

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 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, Loretta Ferguson

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. We appreciate your assistance.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount is placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the [Donation Button](#) and select the Building Fund button on our Capital Improvement Donation button on our [website](#).

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector		
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