



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

**NOVEMBER 2, 2025
10:00 AM**

**OBSERVANCE
OF
THE FEAST OF
ALL SAINTS'/ALL SOULS'**

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW HONORING
BLACK SAINTS AND BISHOPS
WAS INSTALLED NOVEMBER 5, 2000.
BEHOLD ITS BRILLIANCE ON YOUR NEXT VISIT.

BLACK SAINTS FEATURED:
ST. MAURICE; ST. PERPETUA;
ST. AUGUSTINE; ST. MONICA;
ST. SIMON; THE REV. ALEXANDER CRUMMELL;
THE RT. REV. JAMES THEODORE HOLLY;
THE RT. REV. JOHN BURGESS;
THE RT. REV. FRANKLIN D. TURNER;
ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU;
AND THE RT. REV. BARBARA HARRIS.

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REV. EREND 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 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FEAST OF ALL SAINTS'/ALL SOULS'
NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church
of St. Thomas**
6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA, 19151
(215) 473-3065
www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest



**Scan the QR code 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

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost,

All Saints’/All Souls’ 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.

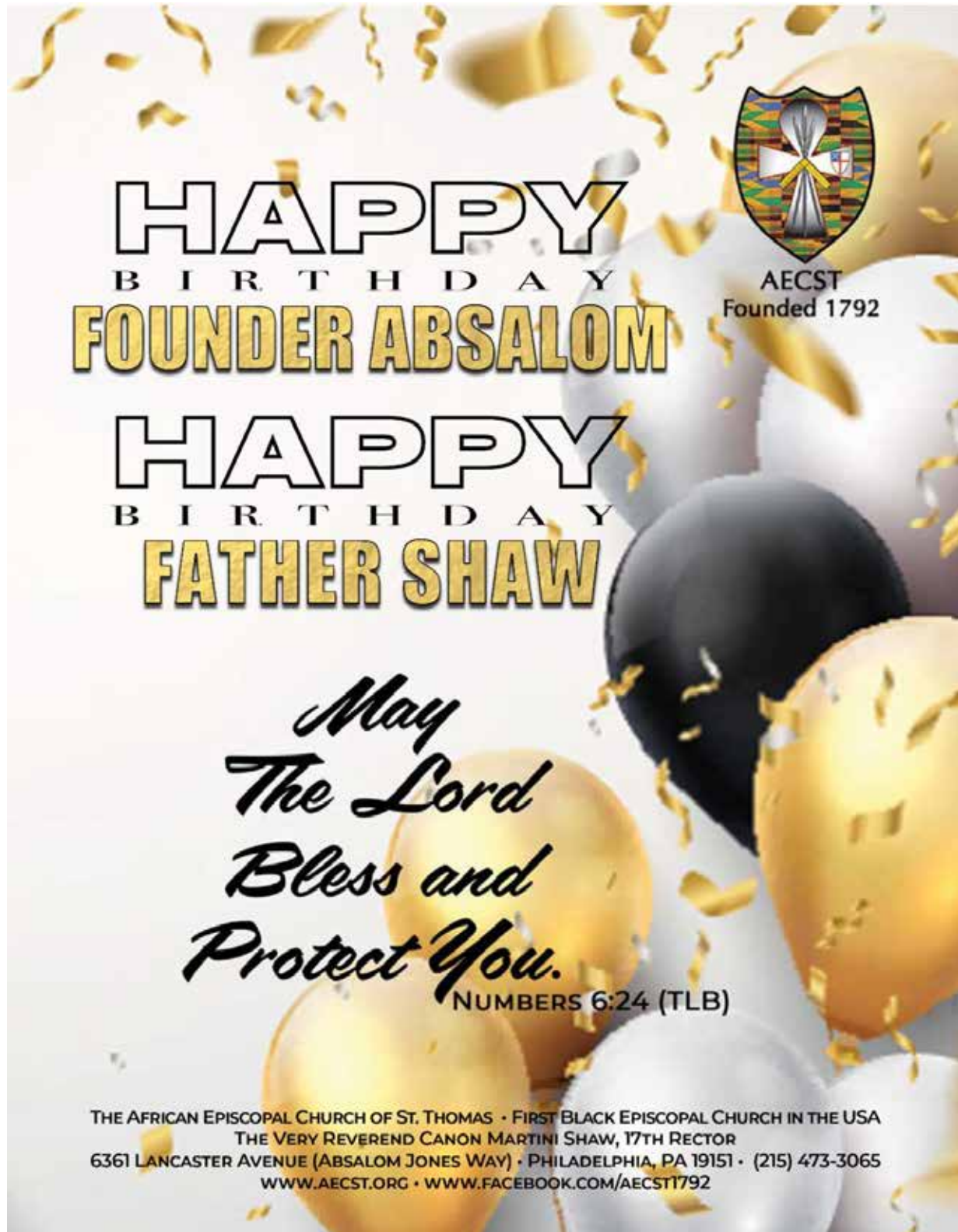
Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically 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. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Faithfully,

Martini Shaw✝

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

On Sunday, we celebrate the **Observance of the Birthday of Blessed Absalom Jones (first rector, born Nov. 6th) and Fr. Shaw (17th rector, born Nov. 6th)**. There will be a Chat and Chew sponsored by the Pentecost Committee held in Anderson Hall after service.





**On Sunday, November 2nd,
we celebrate**

The Feast of All Saints' /All Souls'.

Candles are lit in memory of our departed loved ones.

All Saints' / All Souls' Memorial Candles

The Candle Memorials on the Columbarium are lit in Memory of the following loved ones:

Adjahoe, Alfred & Naomi. Rudolph J. & Alberta Brockman, Edgar Adjahoe, Agnes Gasu,
Learline Wallace, Calvin Brichhouse, Elaine Brickhouse, Stacy Alexander

J. R. & Alfreda Brockman

Bailey, Albert & Ethel, Jack & Eline Francis, Sydney & Nora Brown, Iedlyn Irons & Margaret Skeen,
Carlota Madhoo & Merula Moore, Pauline Paskinson & Ettie May Scott, Cecil Elliott & Matthew Fung

Karen Leys

Best, Gerard W., Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ross, Allen Gillespie, Jr., Adele Woodside

Brenda Johnson

Bramwell, Geraldine & Ted, Randall (Buddy) Moore Jr., Hattie McDonald, Sandy McCrac, Vivian Motley,
Jackie DeKnight, Grace Moore, Rendall Moore Sr., Lydia Ravernell

Theresa Bramwell

Burke, Sr., William J., Louise Young Burke

William Burke, Jr.

Daniels, Otis, Grace Daniels, William "Bo" Daniels, Lydia R. Daniels, Otis "Reggie" Daniels, Julius
"Cleveland" Daniels, Elizabeth "Tootie" Stanley, Stanley L. Pankey Jr., Otis R. Daniels, Jr., Dorothy "Dottie"
Wilson, Langston Smith, John Anthony "Tony" Mitchell, William "Bill" Smalls, Lydia Ruth "Girly" Rooks

Catherine Stafford & Family

Dean, Sara, Stanley Dean, Docia Cunningham, Gertrude Dean, Mohammed Dean, Elick Regan,
Thelma Ruffin, Santee Ruffin, Sr

Cassandra & Santee Dean

Edwards, Jonathan Jr. & Adia, Lynn & Nettie Dickson, Estella Shan Edwards

Lynnette Edwards

Fields, Barton & Violet, Henry & Edna, Howard & Marie Brooks, Henry Harris, Jr., Lennon E. Harris,
Leo B. Coleman, Cedric Babb, Shirley Z. Lumm

Thomas & Lynn Harris

Gauthney, Matthew & Ruth, Don & Phoebe Pugh Stevens

Stephen Pugh

Jackson, Sr., Dr. & Mrs. Arthur F., Carl Jones Jackson, Rev. & Mrs. Luther T. Hughes,
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Jones

Karen Jackson Vaughn

Marshall, Ralph David, Rosella Satchell, Ray Anthony Harris, Ronald Jeffrey Harris, Willie Mae Ladson,
Vanessa S. Williamson, Mildred Fisher, A. Janet Harris, Raymond P. Harris, Eunice F. Morris

Katrina Harris Marshall

Mitchell, Pastor Sadie S. & Charles T. Mitchell, Jr., Roland & Lucinda G. Harper, The Gordon Family,
The Stridiron Family

Charlene M. Wiltshire

Sudler, Cordelia K., Harvey J. Sudler, Sr., Harvey J. Sudler, Jr., Ruth V. Tucker, William Tucker, Jr.

The Sudler Family

Tapper, Nellie Bridges, Leonard W. Tapper, Jr., Leonard W. Tapper, III, Dolly Cumber, Dr.
Charles Bridges, Sr.

Lynda Tapper Smith

Watson, Edward & Clara, Mattie Pressley, William Leecan, Edward Jr & Lovenia Watson, Lydia Daniels
Rooks, Ilean Harris

Clare M. Daniels

Wilson, Edgar & Eileen, Debra Wilson Greaves, Curtis Wilson, Melville Wilson, Carl Wilson, Cynthia Stewart,
Vernon Cyrus, Cyril Alexander, Eugenia Simon, Vernon Glean, Gerald Johnson, Sr.

Jenelle Wilson Johnson

Wilson, DuBrey and Tucker ancestors, Mercedes Stapleton, Cedric Babb, Joseph Brown, III, Courtland Hines

Gladyce & Virginia DuBrey

Young, Donald A.

Alice R. Young



A BIG DAY OF PRAYERFUL CELEBRATION - THIS SUNDAY **Observance of the Feast of All Saints' and All Souls'**

Baptisms

The faithful departed remembered
An Inurnment of the deceased
The Dedication of pew plaques
A Birthday Reception in honor of
Blessed Absalom Jones and
Fr. Martini Shaw (both born Nov. 6th)



**The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
About The AECST**

www.aecst.org



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

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

Attention! It's time to VOTE!!

November 4, 2025 General Election

The retention of three Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices is critical. **All three Justices have been recommended VOTE YES by the independent and nonpartisan PA Bar Judicial Evaluation Commission.**

Voting in person – you will see their names on the back of the ballot

Voting with mail-in ballot – you will find them on the back of the ballot.

Please take the time to vote for every position – Judges on every level, and District Attorney and City Controller [in Philadelphia].

New Jersey – Governor's race is critical as well as other races.

Delaware – there are a number of races.

VOTE – it is your Superpower!!!

Prayers for our sisters and brothers of Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean following the onset of Hurricane Melissa.





<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>

The Annual Stewardship Drive has begun.

Are you working toward that spiritual goal?

Please place your completed Faithful Giving card on the altar of God during offertory.

THE ST. THOMAS ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
will have Corporate Communion on
Sunday, November 2nd.

**STEWARDSHIP THEME:
FAITHFUL GRATITUDE DURING 2026**

A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of
(10% of our earnings)

Where are you on your spiritual journey?
Annual Faithful Giving

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

2026 FAITHFUL GIVING CARDS

We have kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Enormous thanks to ALL who have submitted their Faithful Giving Cards. Please add your name to the list this week by submitting your card today.

Thank you to the following persons who have submitted their 2026 Faithful Giving Cards

Clergy

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Vestry

Dr. Tim Barksdale
Deadra Cannon
Albert Dandridge, III
Clare Mae Daniels
Deborah Camp Frye
Eugene Golson & Marie Golson
Kelvin & Pam Johnson
Monica Lewis Jones
Richard Jones
Patricia Lynch
Deborah Matthews
Judith Simkins-Booth

Auxiliary Vestry

Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Elaine Gillison
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Cynthia Muse
Bobby & Judith Tillman

Patricia Akins	Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Constance Anderson	Barbara Glenn
Dorothy Archey	Swanie Goldsmith
Jeanne Arnold	Clarice Grant
Brenda Battle	Arlene Gray
Jennifer Bell	Linda Greaves
Susan Ben	Michele Green
Deborah Billups	Presko (PJ) Grier
Waltier Blocker	Derek Griffith
Dr. Naomi Booker	Richard & Gwenda Hart
Guy Booth	Thomasina Hack
Ricardo Bostic	Lisa Harper
Lorita Brockington	Sharon Harper
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Katrina Harris
Marilyn Brown	Walter & Nicole Harris
Julia Bryant	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris
Kenneth Bundy	Thomas & Lynn Harris
Cornelia Camp	Gregory Hayes
Charlotte Card	Maurice Hayes
Phyllis Cater	Rene' Hayes
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Julie Hergenrather
Terry Corson	Quentin Heyward
Gwendolyn Cottman	Erica Hill-Yates
Karen Davis	Fleta Howell
Johanna Daye	Rober Hugh
Carl Dean	Donald & Patricia Hunt
William & Quincina Edmonds	Kim Hyde
Marcia Forde	Yvonne Hyde-Carter
Stephen & Donna Foster	Diann Jacox
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel	Simone Jeffers
Norman & Nikki Franke	Evelyn Johns
Barry Frye	Bobby Johnson
Irenda Gates	Frank Johnson

Bettie Jones	Clarence Rice
Eric Jones	Caryn Rivers
Sheila Jones-Smith	Victoria Rivers
Paula Lamb	Cassandra Ruffin
Nancy Lee	Yvonne Ruiz
Steven & Jamella Lewis	Barbara Savage
Karen Leys	Georgia Sawyer
Michele Lofton	Leah Sheppard
Alonda Lord	Arlene Singletary
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey	Anita Smith
James Lowe	Catherine Stafford
Winston Lowe	H. Lynn Starr
Gregory Lyles	Daryn Stewart
Constance Lyons	Shelly & Ann Stewart
Stephen & Michelle Mack	Arthur & Michele Sudler
Stacye McCoy-Ndiaye	Carolyn Summers
Sheila Sawyer McCullough	Lynda Tapper Smith
Michael McIntosh	Arnott Trotman
Laura McNeil	Justin & Lee Anne Trotman
Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia	Louise Trottman
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen	Joe Tucker & Alicia Horn
Mercy Natt	Karen Vaughn
Chinwe Onyekere	Barbara Wiley
Debbie Otey	R. Seth Williams
Carolyn Paige	Gillian Wilson
Samuel & Deidre Patterson	Jenelle Wilson Johnson
Zennetta Peters	Laura Wilson
Eugene & Karina Phillips	Lorna Wilson
Kim Phillips	Charlene Wiltshire
Mary Ann Phillips	Khalita Wright
Stephen Pugh	Paula Wright
Karem Ragin	Wanda Wood
Karen Ragland	Alice Young
Cynthia Ray	M. Elaine Young
Dolores Redmond	

THE END OF MASS:

This is a reminder that the Mass (service) ends following the closing hymn and dismissal.

Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the service before its conclusion.

This request is being made to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

ALL GROUPS, MINISTRIES, AND FELLOWSHIPS

MUST 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 Great Lawn at least 2 weeks before the meeting.** Nothing should be said or given to LaDon or David. Everything should come through the church office. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact Gladyce in the church office at 215-473-3065 or email: 1792@aecst.org.

On Saturday, October 25th, our own Fr. Shaw and Dr. Jay participated in the installation of the new Head of Schools at Church Farm School, Dr. Troy Baker.



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

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN! (Trimming of the trees)



On Saturday, October 25th, St. Thomas Chapter members of the GFS (Girls Friendly Society) participated in the L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Program - Archery. If you know of young girls who would benefit from this wonderful girls ministry, please let us know.





A good time was had by all attending the RPM
 (Retired Persons' Ministry) **"Jack O' Lantern Jamboree"** at
 St. Thomas. It was a Trick or Treat Lunch Buffet. All retired
 persons are invited to join our next activity.





A DEEPLY SPIRITUAL DEVOTION!

The Devotions Committee of the St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK) presented **"Women of the Bible Series"** (Book of Ruth, Chapters 1 & 2) at their recent monthly meeting.



More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

On Sunday, October 26th, after service, the St. Thomas Sisterhood Guild met to discuss exciting upcoming outreach activities and opportunities.



**THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2025**









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

Photos: Bill Edmonds and Stephen Pugh
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

FROM THE DESK OF RECTOR:

Our exciting ministry plans and activities for the remaining three months of the year are in place. I am urging each parishioner to please ensure that their financial pledge for 2025 is current and up to date.

We are hopeful that all pledges will be fulfilled by December 31, 2025.

If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Jeannette in the fiscal office as soon as possible.

Enormous thanks for your continued support and gracious contributions.

During service, St. Thomas Roy Ellison Memorial Monarch Greeters Ministry made a presentation to our Girls Friendly Society (GFS).



**ATTENTION: ALL GROUPS/MINISTRIES/
ORGANIZATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Announcements and flyers for the Sunday Bulletin and digital Spearhead **must be received on Mondays, by 12:00 Noon.** If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office, 215-473-3065.

A NEEDED REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR

Our amazing **Livestream Ministry** continues to be an enormous blessing to many of us who are not able to physically be present for worship on any given Sunday, but able to tune in. We are very grateful to those who serve as operators in this ministry each week.

Our live stream equipment is in desperate need of upgrading. We are establishing a fund to support this need.

Please prayerfully make a donation toward this initiative and indicate the purpose of your contribution.

Enormous thanks in advance.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Peyton Miller has been nominated as Junior Delegate for GFS/USA and will be representing the country as part of our delegation in Sri Lanka!

If you see her, please congratulate her!

GREAT NEWS TO REPORT ABOUT OUR CHURCH!!!

A Report from the Rector's Wish List and the Capital Improvement Fund:

RECTOR'S WISH LIST

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

a) New air conditioning units in Anderson Hall

- **Completed**

b) Restoration of walls (altar and choir areas)

- **Work has begun**

(An anonymous parishioner donor has made this possible.)

c) New air conditioning units needed for the church nave.

- **Donors are needed.**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

- **Donors are needed.**

a) Ceiling structural work - **Completed**

b) Roofing work - **In the final stages of completion**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

Please speak with William Burke, Property Chair, if you have any questions. You may also email him at property@aecst.org.

ROBO CALLS

Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector with special announcements? Do you know someone who does not receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](#)

A fun time was had by all who attended Trunk or Treat, on Sunday, October 26th.

The poster features a central illustration of a car trunk with a white sheet draped over it, serving as a backdrop for the event details. The background is decorated with faint spider webs. At the bottom, four cartoon characters are depicted: a pirate, a grimacing figure in a dark hood, a ghost holding a lollipop, and a skeleton holding a jack-o'-lantern. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event title and date prominently displayed in the center. Contact information and location details are provided in white boxes for readability against the dark background.

Kid Friendly!
Ages 12 & Under

AECST
4th Annual
TRUNK OR TREAT

Come and Join Us!

October 26th

Time: After service

Location: AECST Parking Lot

Volunteers needed to decorate your trunk and hand out candy!

Costumes optional but encouraged!

Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses, and superheros to join in the fun!

Please contact Gladycce in the church office at
215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)
The Very Reverend Cannon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector
6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151
www.AECST.org www.Facebook.com/AECST1792



**MAZZONI CENTER
HONORS**
Melba Moore

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 3**
MARIAN ANDERSON HALL
KIMMEL CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

**SAVION GLOVER • LISA FISCHER • LOW CUT CONNIE • J HARRISON GHEE
JOY WOODS • MYKAL KILGORE • VICKI PETERSON • RICHARD BARONE
NIKKI RENEE DANIELS • BRITTANY LYNN • JOHN COWSILL • VANCE GILBERT
LAUREN HART • THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR • AND MORE TO COME!**

Hosted by Peabody Award-winning journalist
SOLEDAD O'BRIEN

With special appearances by local radio legends
**PATTY JACKSON
AND DYANA WILLIAMS**

Tickets start at \$35 and go on sale
FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

For full details and ticket information visit
MAZZONICENTER.ORG/HONORS

REALM IS HERE!

We have been converting our church management system to REALM. It's a solution for the management of our ministries, stewardship, media, communications, and church events calendar. Our staff will use REALM to perform administrative and accounting tasks.

Church Online Giving

Our members and visitors who use GIVI to give online currently will be switching away from GIVI to REALM Connect. If you give via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new webpage link on our website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new webpage.

Communication

REALM will help our staff reach you in multiple ways to keep you informed. Ministry and group leaders will be able to communicate with their members outside of their meeting times and stay in touch. And congregants can interact and communicate directly with each other through REALM.

You can get a jump on learning about REALM by going to the App Store, if you have an iPhone or to the Google Play store if you use a Samsung cell phone, to download the REALM Connect app.

Also, AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (notifications@onrealmmail.org) titled, "African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas: Join our online community!" which will enable you to register on the site and view many of the available functions.

Training

Don't fret! **training sessions** will be made available and announced soon.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: In order for your enrollment in REALM Connect to go through successfully, all of your personal information must be correct. Please see **Patricia Lynch** after service to fill out a member information form.



Powered By



African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas: Join our online community!

Hi [REDACTED]

We at African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas have an online community where we can connect with each other outside our Sunday gatherings. We'd love for you to take part!

Create an account: <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWVQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

“Our directory will not be complete without you!”

Attention: All guilds, ministries and groups are invited to get your group photo for the church directory.

Pictures will be taken by Bill Edmonds on the following Sundays, immediately after service. The dates will begin on **Sunday, October 19th and every Sunday until the end of November.**

Please contact Church Directory committee members, **Lynda Tapper Smith** 215-880-2998 or **Thomasina Hack** 215-901-2773 to schedule your photo appointment.
Thank you.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING THANKSGIVING GIFT OF JOY 2025

Each year the Daughters of the King collect donations for their Thanksgiving Project.

The monies collected will help individuals in need.

We are asking you to prayerfully consider making a donation.

Members of the Daughters of the King will be at the church front door and Absalom Jones entrance through **November 16th.** Thank you.



ST. THOMAS, CAN WE BE ST. JAMES SCHOOL'S SWEET POTATO CHURCH AGAIN?

The Sisterhood Guild is collecting cans of sweet potatoes to help the families of the St. James School. Their goal is to collect 250 cans that will be distributed to families. There will be a box at the back of the church for the cans.

We will be collecting them from today until

Sunday, November 16th.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Please help us reach our goal of 300 cans this year.

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, November 4th – Election Day

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

Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay, 7:00 PM
via Zoom

Wednesday, November 5th – Bible Study with Fr. Daren,
6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

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

Saturday, November 8th – GFS Meeting – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
in the undercroft

Scouts Meeting, 1:00 - 4:00 PM in Anderson Hall

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

November 2nd

- **Celebration of the Feast of All Saints/All Souls**
- Observance of the Birthday of Blessed Absalom Jones (first rector, born Nov. 6th) and Fr. Shaw (17th rector, born Nov. 6th)
- Daughters of the King Corporate Communion

November 9th

- **Observance of Veterans Day**

November 16th

- **Annual Judicial Sunday**

Our guest speaker is the **Honorable Kia Niambi Scott**,
United States District Judge of the United States
District Court for the Eastern District of PA

November 23rd

- **Family and Friends Sunday**

The person with the most family or friends worshipping with us will be awarded a prize.

November 30th

- **First Sunday of Advent**
- **Health Ministry Sunday**



CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS

for Patricia Garfield and family as they mourn the death
of her son, **Trent T. Garfield, Jr.**, who died in an
automobile accident.

May the soul of Trent rest in peace and
rise in eternal glory. Amen.

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Chancel Choir



Presents



Dr. Jay Fluellen
Pianist and Composer
In Recital



**Musical Explorations:
Spirituals, Hymns, Gospel and Jazz**

**Sunday, November 16th, 2025
at 3:00 pm**

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVE. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151

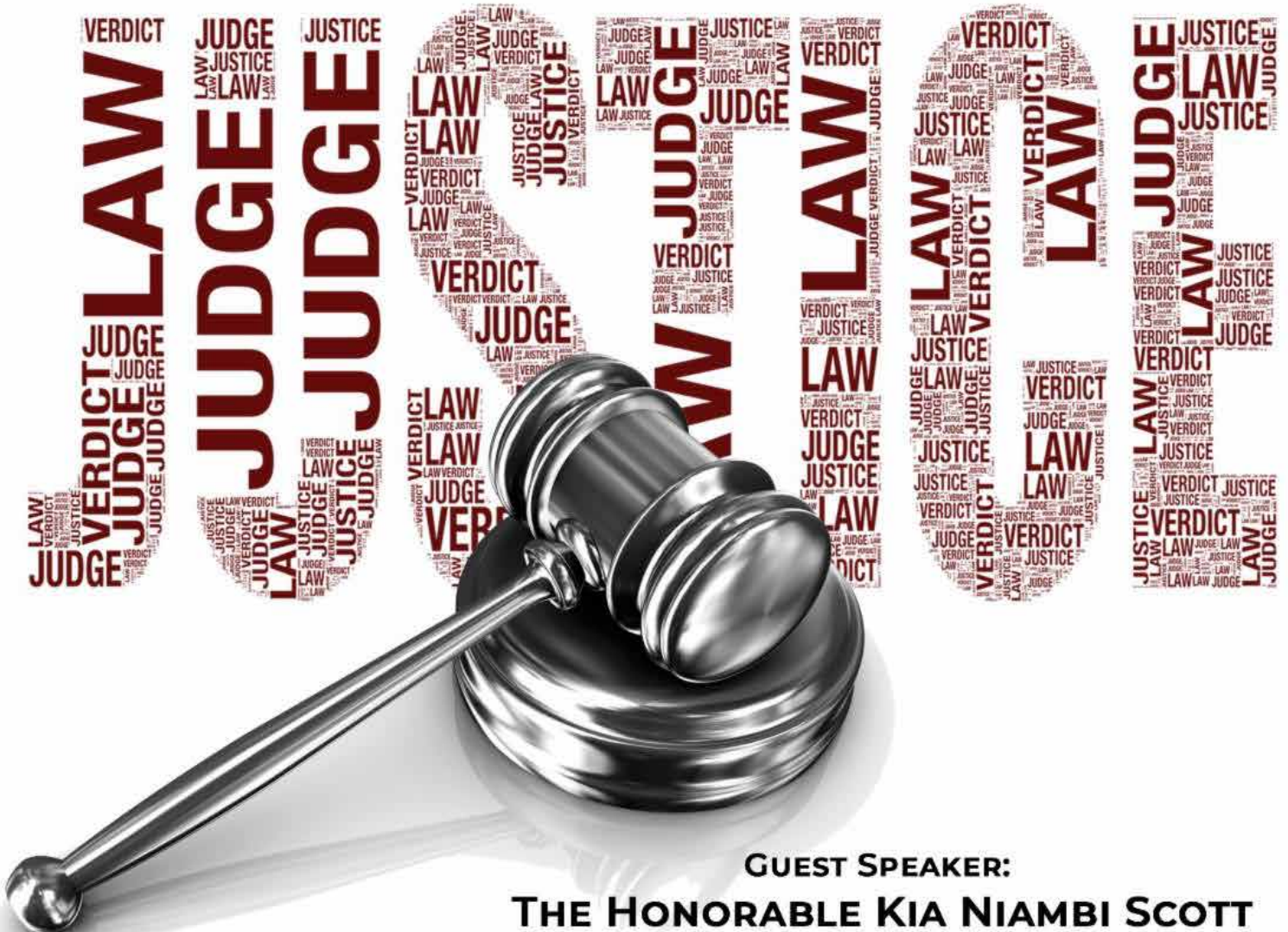
FREEWILL OFFERING

You are invited to join us for

JUDICIAL SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 10AM

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS



GUEST SPEAKER:

THE HONORABLE KIA NIAMBI SCOTT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PA

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
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

CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION / RECEPTION CLASSES

have started. The schedule for in-person and Zoom
and in-person classes is as follows:

In Person	By Zoom
Sunday, 11/02/2025	Monday, 11/17/2025
Sunday, 12/07/2025	Monday, 12/02/2025
Sunday 01/04/2026	Monday, 01/19/2026
Sunday, 02/01/2026	Monday, 02/16/2026
Sunday, 03/01/2026	Monday, 03/16/2026
Sunday, 04/05/2026	Monday, 04/20/2026
Sunday, 05/03/2026	Monday, 05/18/2026

Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!

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

CHAT AND CHEW

Have you ever considered hosting a Chat and Chew
following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or
in memory of a departed loved one?

Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office
for further details.

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY

What is the average American woman's risk of developing breast cancer during her lifetime?

Based on current incidence rates, 12.9% of women born in the United States today will develop breast cancer at some time during their lives. This estimate, from the most recent SEER Cancer Statistics Review (a report published annually by the National Cancer Institute's [NCI] Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results [SEER] Program) is based on breast cancer statistics for the years 2015 through 2017.

This estimate means that, if the current incidence rate stays the same, a woman born today has about a 1 in 8 chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer at some time during her life. On the other hand, the chance that she will never have breast cancer is 87.1%, or about 7 in 8. For men born in the United States today, the lifetime risk of breast cancer is 0.13%, based on breast cancer statistics for the years 2015 through 2017. This means that a man born today has about a 1 in 800 chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer at some time during his life.

Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool: Online Calculator (The Gail Model)
The Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool (BCRAT), also known as The Gail Model, allows health professionals to estimate a woman's risk of developing invasive breast cancer over the next five years and up to age 90 (lifetime risk). The results are meant to be discussed with your health care provider.

The tool uses a woman's personal medical and reproductive history and the history of breast cancer among her first-degree relatives (mother, sisters, daughters) to estimate absolute breast cancer risk-her chance or probability of developing invasive breast cancer in a defined age interval.

The Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool can't predict whether or not you'll get breast cancer. It doesn't calculate an individual woman's breast cancer risk. Instead, the tool gives the average risk of breast cancer for a group of women with similar risk factors. It's not clear what this risk means for any one woman. This calculator takes about five minutes to complete. To access the Calculator to assess risk, click on this [link](#).

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES

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

Constance Anderson - Florida

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

Christopher Burks - Rhode Island/New York

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Dr. Ted Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney -Texas

Bradley Hammond - Mississippi

Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina

Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York

Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida

Bettie Jones - North Carolina

Rae Scott Jones - Florida

Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia

Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina

Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson -Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Dr. John Rich - Illinois

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly and Ann Stewart - Florida

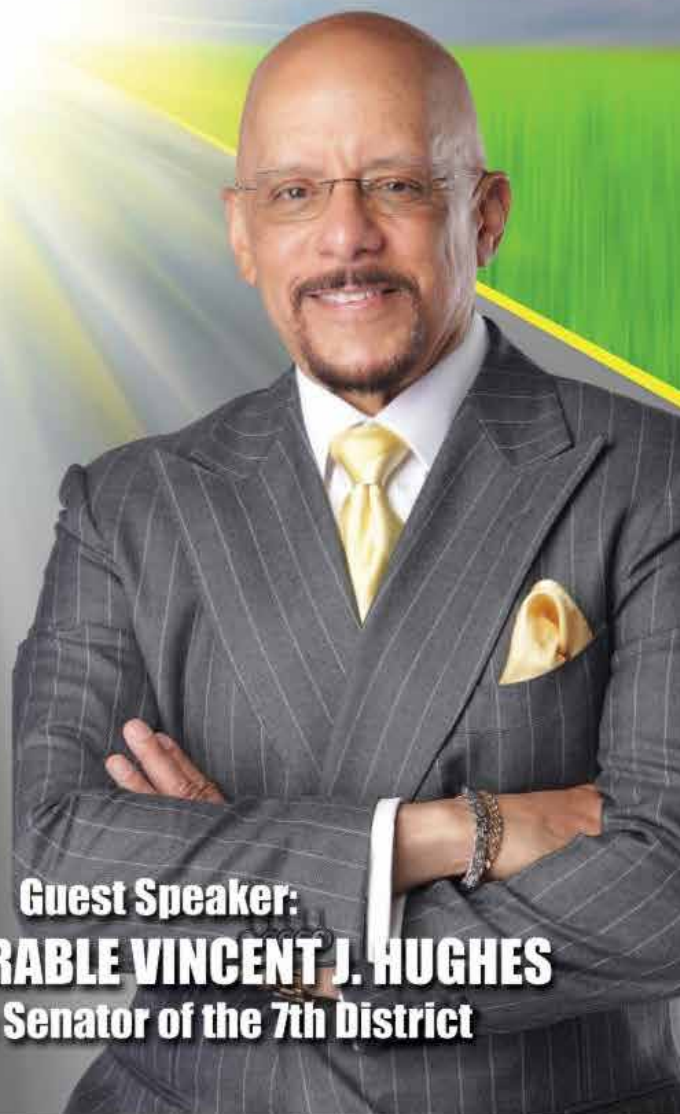
Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

Allison Young - Maryland

PREPARE A WAY: SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING!

MATTHEW 3: 1-12

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:00 AM
Please join us for
THE ANNUAL MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION



Guest Speaker:

THE HONORABLE VINCENT J. HUGHES
PA State Senator of the 7th District



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
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

HAVE YOU JOINED THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. YET?

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, during his sermon, the Rector signed a "**RECTOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER**" announcing that St. Thomas Church and the individual Vestry members would become financial supporters and members of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The "Order" further encouraged the entire parish membership and family/friends to become supporters. Please sign up NOW using the [link](#)



AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), [the Live Stream Service](#), on our [Facebook](#) page or [Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

You can also watch [Past Services](#).

The New Members Manual has arrived.
Please use the [link](#) to access it.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of
Gail W. Lowe, given by James T. Lowe.

Flowers on the Altar are in loving memory of
Dennis E., Margaret Robinson, and **Kevin Michael Davis**,
given by Patricia Akins

To order flowers, please return the form with payment
to **Clare Mae Daniels** or **Alfreda Brockman**.
(Please do not place in the collection plate
or give to the church office). Thank you.

*Unfortunately, due to rising costs of goods, the Altar Guild
has increased the cost of the flowers.*

High Altar - \$70
Absalom Jones Altar - \$60
the Columbarium - \$50

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



DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost November 2, 2025

The First Lesson – [Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18](#)
[Psalm 149](#)

The Second Lesson – [Ephesians 1:11-23](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 6:20-31](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of November 3, 2025

Monday - [Luke 12:49-59](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 13:1-9](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 13:10-17](#)

Thursday - [Luke 13:18-30](#)

Friday - [Luke 13:31-35](#)

Saturday - [Luke 14:1-11](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom. If you are interested in joining the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay at associatepriest@aecst.org

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with [Fr. Daren](#) meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in Absalom Jones House.



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.

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.



A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:

ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

- to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.
- to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office.
- to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).
- to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office to sign up.
- to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service. Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the office if you are interested.
- as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you are interested.
- **Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).
- **The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB:

Francina Norris and Lisa Woodley - St. Francis Nursing Home

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

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

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Joyce Stewart, Eleanor Chestnut, Virginia DuBrey, Teena Watson-Matthews, Alletta Parris-Olday, Deborah Harrison

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Arlene Gray, Adinah Edwards, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Adrian Gray, Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez, Sharon Harper, Alice-Bowman Cropper, Quincina Edmonds, Dr. Jay Fluellen, D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney

WE PRAY FOR

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

CALLING ALL YOUTH



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

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

We want to highlight the achievements of our youth and young adults! If your child has excelled in academics, sports, the arts, or community service—or you are a young adult working on a significant personal or professional project—we would love to hear about it. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) so we can share your story with the congregation!



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 **must** 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.

AECST PODCAST



Our **AECST Podcast Series** returns with an important new episode! Fr. Daren is joined by Licensed Clinical Social Worker **Mrs. Lasheena Riley Duval** for a conversation on **supporting children through medical care**. Tune in!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HEALING GARDEN!

Get your hands dirty for a great cause! The CLEAR Project (Children, Liturgy, Ecology, and Renewal) is creating a healing garden right here on our church campus. This is a hands-on way to live out our Christian calling to care for God's creation.

We need volunteers of all skill levels—from expert gardeners to those who just want to help.

If you're interested, please contact Fr. Daren (associaterector@aecst.org) or Tynecia Wilson (churchschool@aecst.org).

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 represent where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e., your pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc

5) REALM CONNECT - Our members and visitors who use GIVI to give online will be switching away from GIVI to REALM Connect. If you give via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new [webpage link](#) on our website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new webpage.

6) Cell Phone: Text "**AECST**" to **73256** to make a donation.

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 don't hesitate to contact Pat Lynch at stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund.

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

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@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
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	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 - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller