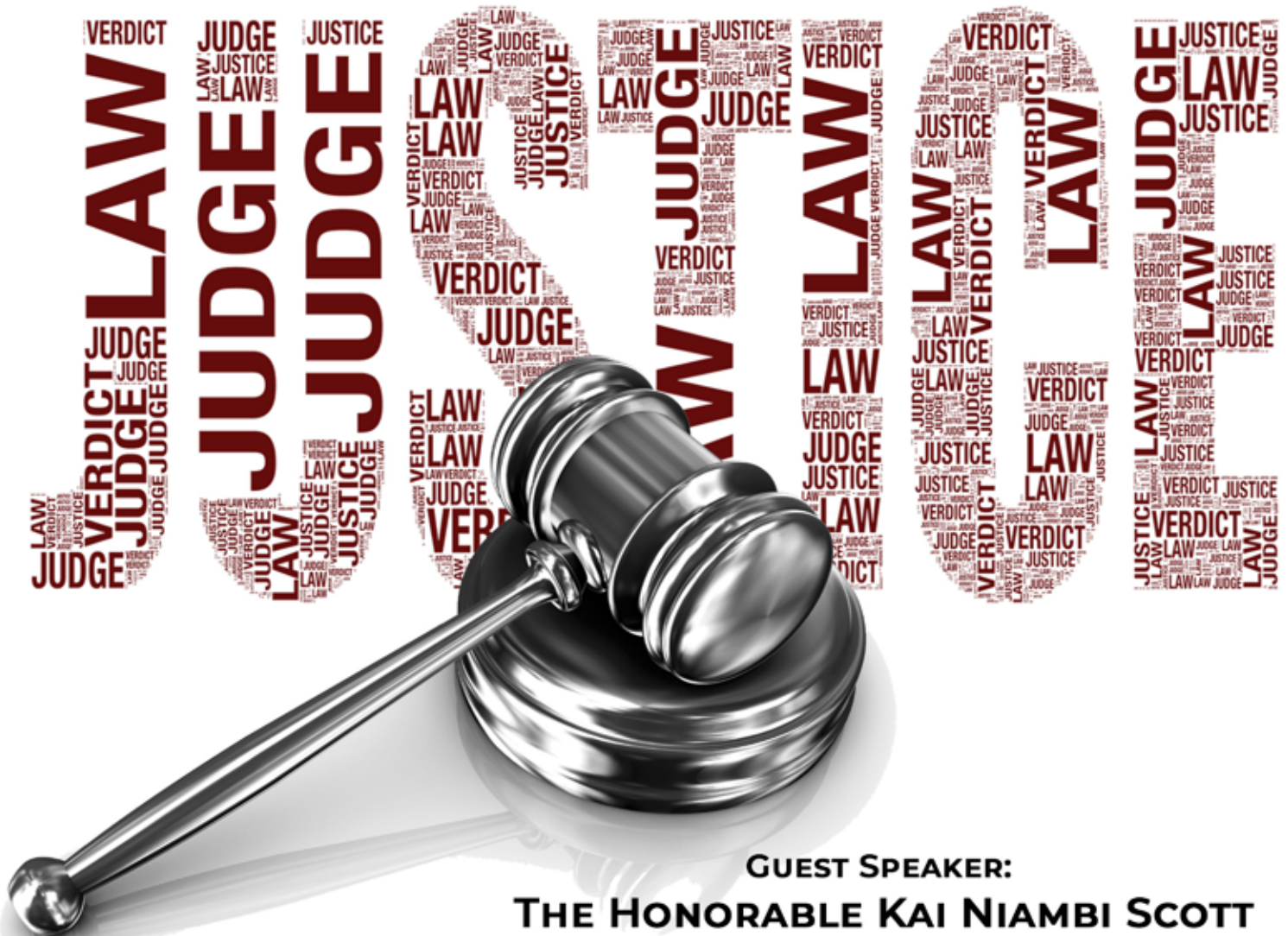


You are invited to join us for

JUDICIAL SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 10AM

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS



GUEST SPEAKER:

THE HONORABLE KAI 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

**THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ANNUAL JUDICIAL SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 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-Third Sunday after Pentecost** and **Annual Judicial Sunday**. We welcome **The Honorable Kai N. Scott, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and other members of the legal community.**

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

You are cordially invited to



JUDICIAL SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025—10:00 A.M.

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas



The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
Rector



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



GUEST SPEAKER
The Honorable Kai N. Scott
*United States District Court for
the Eastern District of Pennsylvania*



Judicial Sunday invites Philadelphia's legal community and public service officials to seek guidance and reflect on their responsibilities in the pursuit of justice. All faiths are welcome to share in this meaningful time of prayer and reflection.

RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA 19151
Street parking is available but limited.

The Pennsylvania Judiciary and legal community will join us this Sunday.

See the short video invitation below



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Videography Ministry)



The Honorable Kai N. Scott was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. She was educated in the Philadelphia public school system, attending the Julia R. Masterman School and the Philadelphia High School for Girls. Subsequently, she enrolled at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She then furthered her education at the West Virginia University College of Law and graduated from that same institution.

After graduating from law school, Judge Scott began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Donald Poorman. In 1998, she embarked on her path as a criminal defense attorney when she began working as an Assistant Defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. During her tenure as an Assistant Defender, Judge Scott tried over one hundred misdemeanor and serious felony trials to verdict, handling both bench and jury trials.

To expand her knowledge and experience in defending complex criminal cases, in 2004, Judge Scott accepted a position as an Assistant Federal Defender at the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 2010, Judge Scott was named as Chief of the Trial Unit at the Federal Community Defender Office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She served in that position for four years.

In 2015, Judge Scott campaigned and ran for election as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia. She was elected to a ten-year term in November 2015 and began her term in January 2016.

In July 2022, President Joseph Biden nominated Judge Scott for a position as a district court judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. On December 7, 2022, she was confirmed by the United States Senate. Along with her commitment to the legal profession and her many social and community activities, Judge Scott is a dedicated mother of a sixteen-year-old daughter.



We welcome back **Elizabeth Derr**, who recently returned to Philadelphia. Elizabeth, your St. Thomas family welcomes you back home.



FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

JAMAICA HURRICANE RELIEF

In response to the recent devastating Hurricane Melissa hitting Jamaica, please join us in collecting funds to provide food for many of our affected brothers and sisters. We are working in partnership with the Diocese of Jamaica. You may make a donation, designating “Jamaica Relief” using:

- a) a check made payable to St. Thomas Church
- b) Our website - www.aecst.org; (donations)
- c) “Giving” QR Code
- d) Telephone Text “AECST” to 73256

Please keep our siblings of the Caribbean in prayer.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS - Deadline

The Sisterhood Guild of St. Thomas partners with St. James School in providing cans of sweet potatoes/yams to families. This Sunday is the final collection day.

PLEASE BRING YOUR CANS THIS SUNDAY.



IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Annual Stewardship Drive has begun.

Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2026 Faithful Giving Pledge towards the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas. Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither (10% of one's earnings).

Are you working toward that spiritual goal?
Please use the Giving Chart to assist you with your Faithful Giving Pledge for 2026.

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

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



**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.



<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>



Our condolences to Maurice and Gregory Hayes and their families on the death of their brother **Roger Moore**. May the soul of Roger rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

**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

MEMBERS

Patricia Akins	Wendella Fox & Herb
Carmen Alexander	Wetzel
Constance Anderson	Norman & Nikki Franke
Dorothy Archey	Barry Frye
Jeanne Arnold	Irenda Gates
Brenda Battle	Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Jennifer Bell	Barbara Glenn
Susan Ben	Swanie Goldsmith
Deborah Billups	Clarice Grant
Waltier Blocker	Arlene Gray
Dr. Naomi Booker	Linda Greaves
Guy Booth	Michele Green
Ricardo Bostic	Presko (PJ) Grier
Lorita Brockington	Dr. Derek Griffith
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Richard & Gwenda Hart
Marilyn Brown	Thomasina Hack
Julia Bryant	Lisa Harper
Kenneth Bundy	Sharon Harper
Cornelia Camp	Katrina Harris
Charlotte Card	Walter & Nicole Harris
Phyllis Cater	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris
Eleanor Chestnut	Thomas & Lynn Harris
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Gregory Hayes
Terry Corson	Maurice Hayes
Gwendolyn Cottman	Rene' Hayes
Karen Davis	Denise Hergenrather
Johanna Daye	Julie Hergenrather
Carl Dean	Quentin Heyward
Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Erica Hill-Yates
William & Quincina Edmonds	Fleta Howell
Rashid & Christie Faisal	Diana Hutchins
Marcia Forde	Robert Hugh

Stephen & Donna Foster	Mercy Natt
Donald & Patricia Hunt	Ingrid Nembhard
Kim Hyde	Chinwe Onyekere
Yvonne Hyde-Carter	Debbie Otey
Diann Jacox	Carolyn Paige
Simone Jeffers	Samuel & Deidre Patterson
Evelyn Johns	Zennetta Peters
Bobby Johnson	Eugene & Karina Phillips
Dr. Frank Johnson	Kim Phillips
Vernetta Johnston	Mary Ann Phillips
Bettie Jones	Stephen Pugh
Eric Jones	Wendy Puryear
Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith	Karem Ragin
Tyrone Keller	Karen Ragland
Paula Lamb	Cynthia Ray
Nancy Lee	Dolores Redmond
Steven & Jamella Lewis	Clarence Rice
Karen Leys	Caryn Rivers
Michele Lofton	Victoria Rivers
Alonda Lord	Cassandra Ruffin
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey	Yvonne Ruiz
James Lowe	Barbara Savage
Winston Lowe	Georgia Sawyer
Gregory Lyles	Leah Sheppard
Constance Lyons	Arlene Singletary
Stephen & Michelle Mack	Anita Smith
Stacye McCoy-Ndiaye	Catherine Stafford
Sheila Sawyer McCullough	H. Lynn Starr
Michael McIntosh	Daryn Stewart
Laura McNeil	Shelly & Ann Stewart
Velma Morris-Nembhard	Arthur & Michele Sudler
Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia	Carolyn Summers
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen	Lynda Tapper Smith

Kellen & Sarah Shaw-Thomas
Teri Tilman
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Anne Trotman
Louise Trottman
Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen Vaughn
Barbara Wiley
R. Seth Williams
Gillian Wilson
Jenelle Wilson Johnson
Laura Wilson
Lorna Wilson
Charlene Wiltshire
Khalita Wright
Paula Wright
Wanda Wood
Alice Young
M. Elaine Young

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

TODAY is the last day to donate to the
Daughters of The King Thanksgiving Gift Of Joy 2025.

Each year the Daughters of the King collect donations for our Thanksgiving Project. The monies collected will help individuals in need. We are asking you to prayerfully consider donating. Members of the Daughters of the King will be at the church front door and Absalom Jones entrance. Thank you.

On Sunday, November 9th, the St. Thomas Gospel Choir participated in a Black Catholic History Month celebration with guest presider Father Brown at the Madonna Della Strada Chapel on the University of Scranton's campus.





**A Celebration of Love, Commitment, and Faith.
Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. Cannon**



PLANNING FOR AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION!

St. Thomas in conversation with the Museum of the Bible
(Washington, D.C.) regarding a partnership.





**THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2025**









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

Photos: Bill Edmonds, Stephen Pugh, and Justin Trotman
(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.

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.

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.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

November 16th

- **Annual Judicial Sunday**

Our guest speaker is the **Honorable Kai 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**

- **Health Ministry Sunday**

- **December 7th – Annual Men’s Day Celebration**

Guest speaker is the Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, PA State
Senator of the 7th District.

- **Annual Men’s Day Celebration**

Our guest speaker is the Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, PA
State Senator of the 7th District

December 14th

- **Third Sunday of Advent (Rose/Gaudete Sunday)**

December 21st

- **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- **Church School Christmas Presentation**

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, November 18th

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

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

Wednesday, November 19th

Bible Study with Fr. Daren – 6:00 PM in the
Absalom Jones House

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

Thursday, November 20th – Vestry Meeting,
6:00 PM via Zoom

Friday, November 21st

Retired Peoples Ministry (RPM) 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
in Anderson Hall

Saturday, November 22nd

St. Thomas Order of the Daughters of the King Meeting
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM



Please join AECST CHOSEN 300 volunteers on
Monday, November 17, at 3959 Lancaster Ave.
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM to serve meals to the homeless.
Questions? Please see Judy Simkins Booth
or Judy Tillman.

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](#).

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=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWwQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

“Our directory will not be complete without you!”

If you have not taken your pictures for the directory, please sign up in Anderson Hall following service today for December 12th and 13th.

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

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.

ATTENTION:

Group pictures that were scheduled for Sunday, November 16th, have been postponed.

The following groups are taking their group pictures on Sunday, November 23rd:

The Acolytes

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Reach out and Touch Ministry

The Willam J. Burke Sr., Ushers

The Visitors Ministry

The Chancel Choir

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.



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.

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.

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

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

What are the warning signs of Diabetes?

Know the warning signs and symptoms of diabetes and diabetes complications so you can take action to improve your health.

The following symptoms of diabetes are typical. However, some people with diabetes have symptoms so mild that they go unnoticed.

Common Symptoms of Diabetes:

Urinating often

Feeling very thirsty

Feeling very hungry – even though you're eating

Extreme fatigue

Blurry vision

Cuts/bruises that are slow to heal

Weight loss – even though you are eating more (Type 1)

Tingling, pain, or numbness in the hands/feet (Type 2)

Early detection and treatment of diabetes can decrease the risk of developing the complications of diabetes.

(<https://diabetes.org/about-diabetes/complications>)

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

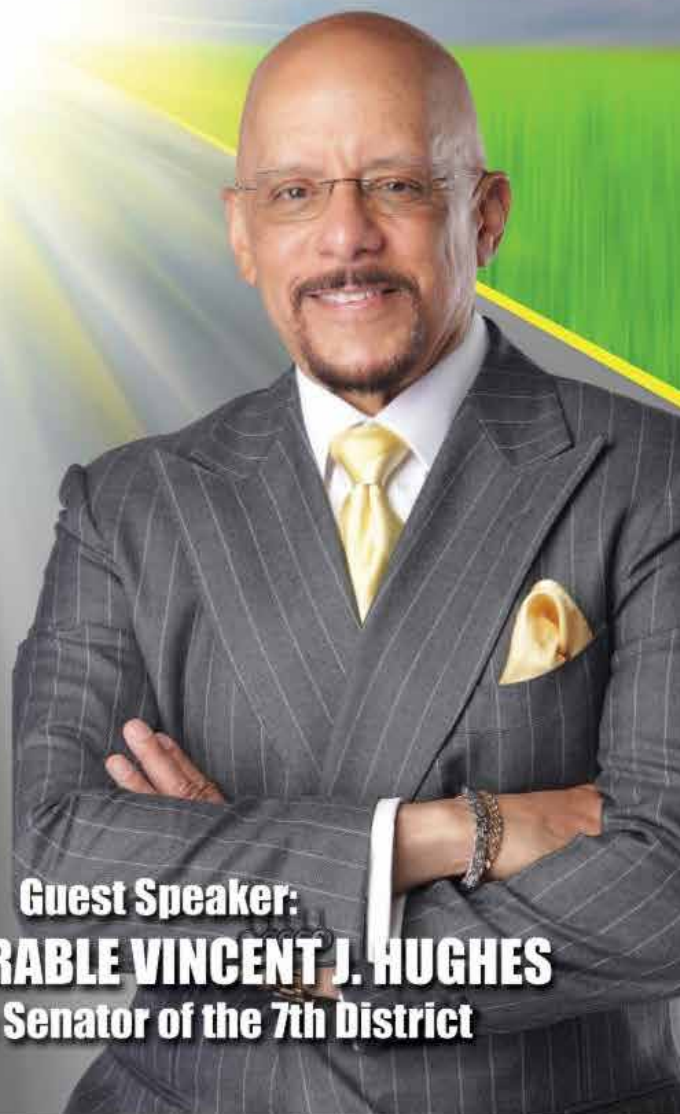
Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

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 this [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](#).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in thanksgiving for **Lynn** and **Thomas Harris' 20th Anniversary of Holy Matrimony**, given by Lynn & Thomas Harris.

Please remember that flowers are not placed on the High Altar during Advent, which begins on November 30th. The only Sunday in Advent flowers are placed on the High Altar is Rose/Gaudete Sunday, December 14th.

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-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025

The First Lesson – [Isaiah 65:17-25](#)
[Psalm 98](#)

The Second Lesson – [2 Thessalonians 3:6-13](#)
The Holy Gospel – [Luke 21:5-19](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of November 17, 2025

Monday - [Luke 16:19-31](#)
Tuesday - [Luke 17:1-10](#)
Wednesday - [Luke 17:11-19](#)
Thursday - [Luke 17:20-37](#)
Friday - [Luke 18:1-8](#)
Saturday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)



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.

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).

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 THE HOSPITAL:

Gloria Moses-Lankenau Heart Pavilion

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, Alice Young, Alletta Parris-Olday, Deborah Harrison, Regina Meacham Devero, Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez

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.

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