



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



THE PARABLE OF THE BAGS OF GOLD

...“YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL
WITH A FEW THINGS;
I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE
OF MANY THINGS.”
MATTHEW 25:21 NIV

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 5, 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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Stewardship Kick-off.

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.

Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

Martini Shaw+

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



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.

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.

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Beginning **Monday, September 29th**, the Parish Office will be closed from **12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM** for lunch.

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.

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.

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.

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 making a donation.

Members of the Daughters of the King will be at the front door of the church and Absalom Jones entrance, starting **October 12th - November 16th**. Thank you

ANNOUNCING EXCITING NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

Coming Soon... A New Church Management Software Program, REALM

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** in Anderson Hall 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=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas



We welcome **Toddrick Ricks**, who joined our church family last Sunday. His shepherd is **Dr. Tim Barksdale**. We look forward to getting to know him.



OUR CONDOLENCES

to Zenetta Peters and family on the death of her sister,
Jennifer Nottage Martin. Her service will be held at
St. Thomas on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**.

Viewing at 10:00 AM, Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM.
May the soul of Jennifer rest in peace and rise in eternal
glory. Amen. Please pray for the family.



Please

PARDON OUR
MESS
DURING OUR
renovations



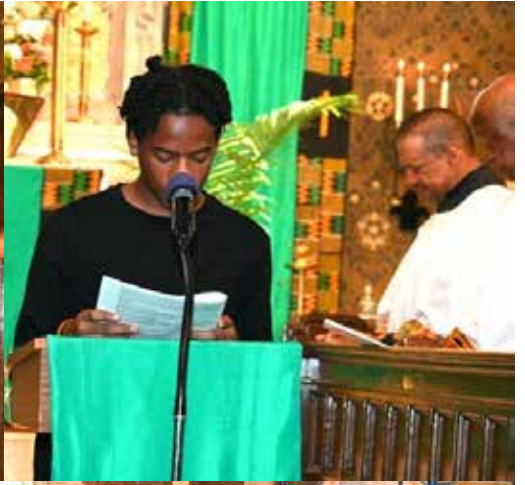
PLEASE PARDON THE TEMPORARY SCAFFOLDING

Our chancel and altar areas are
undergoing beautiful restoration.
We remain very grateful to our
anonymous donor who is
making this possible.



**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**









Photos: William Edmonds
 (St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)
 More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#).

On Saturday, September 27, 2025

Over forty men joined the Rector for breakfast and an engaging/interesting conversation facilitated by our own Dr. Derek Griffith.





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





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

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](#)

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

“Our directory will not be complete without you!”

Sign up in Anderson Hall following service today. We have added **October 24** and **October 25**. Get your appointment for a free photo in our directory before they are gone.

Universal will provide a complete professional portrait studio at the church. You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finishes, and framing options. Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait, a directory and can purchase additional portraits.

For questions, please see Ashley Hines or Suzanne Closson at 215-205-3253.





FAITHFUL GRATITUDE

Please use this link to express and pledge your Faithful Gratitude to God for 2026.

<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>

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	\$1,250.00	\$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

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE
(Wendella Fox and Elanie Gillison, Co-Chairs)

SAVE THE DATE!!

October 12, 2025 – immediately after the service in Anderson Hall – the Catto Ministry Resource Fair

Election Day November 4, 2025, is fast approaching. Mail-in ballots are in the mail. Please complete both sides and return it as soon as possible.

Philadelphia residents go to <https://vote.phila.gov> and for more information about the candidates go to www.seventy.org

Montgomery, PA residents should go to <https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/753/Voter-Services>

DE residents should go to <https://elections.delaware.gov>

NJ residents should go to www.nj.gov/state/elections

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY CORNER

Main Line Health Fall Newsletter:

Below is a link to the Fall edition of the MLH Community Health and Outreach Newsletter. In it, you will find useful information about flu vaccines, breast health awareness, food safety tips for the holidays, and a holiday recipe.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uNSORBVjC0UvEjI7s9xTJGbtq_Yu3Gk5/view?usp=sharing

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Monday, October 6th

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

Tuesday, October 7th

- 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, October 8th

- Bible Study with Fr. Daren –
6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House
- St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Friday, October 10th

- Retired Persons Ministry
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Undercroft

Saturday, October 11th

- “Telling Our Stories” Presented by Playback Theatre
2:00 - 4:30 PM in Anderson Hall

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.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

October 12th

Remembering the Life and Ministry of Octavius V. Catto

- Our guest speaker: The Honorable Morgan Cephas, State Representative – 192nd District, and the Mayor of Philadelphia, the **Honorable Cherelle L. Parker** will join us
- **The Catto Ministry Resource Fair**

October 19th

Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday

- Please wear something pink.
- New Members Fall Harvest (after service)

October 26th

Family and Friends Sunday/Youth and Young Adult Sunday

- The person with the most family or friends worshipping with us will be awarded a prize.
- **Trunk or Treat** – 12:00 PM in the AECST Parking Lot



Please check out the short video below of
"Homecoming Celebration 2025" - USTED ES BIENVENIDO AQUI!



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Videography Ministry)



MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU!

PLAN TO ATTEND...

October 12, 2025 11:30 AM - 1:30PM

Octavius V. Catto Ministry's RESOURCE FAIR

- How to access neighborhood services
- Know your voter options
- Traveling on SEPTA
- Acquire info for REAL ID
- Gather Passport, Social Security/
- Medicare info

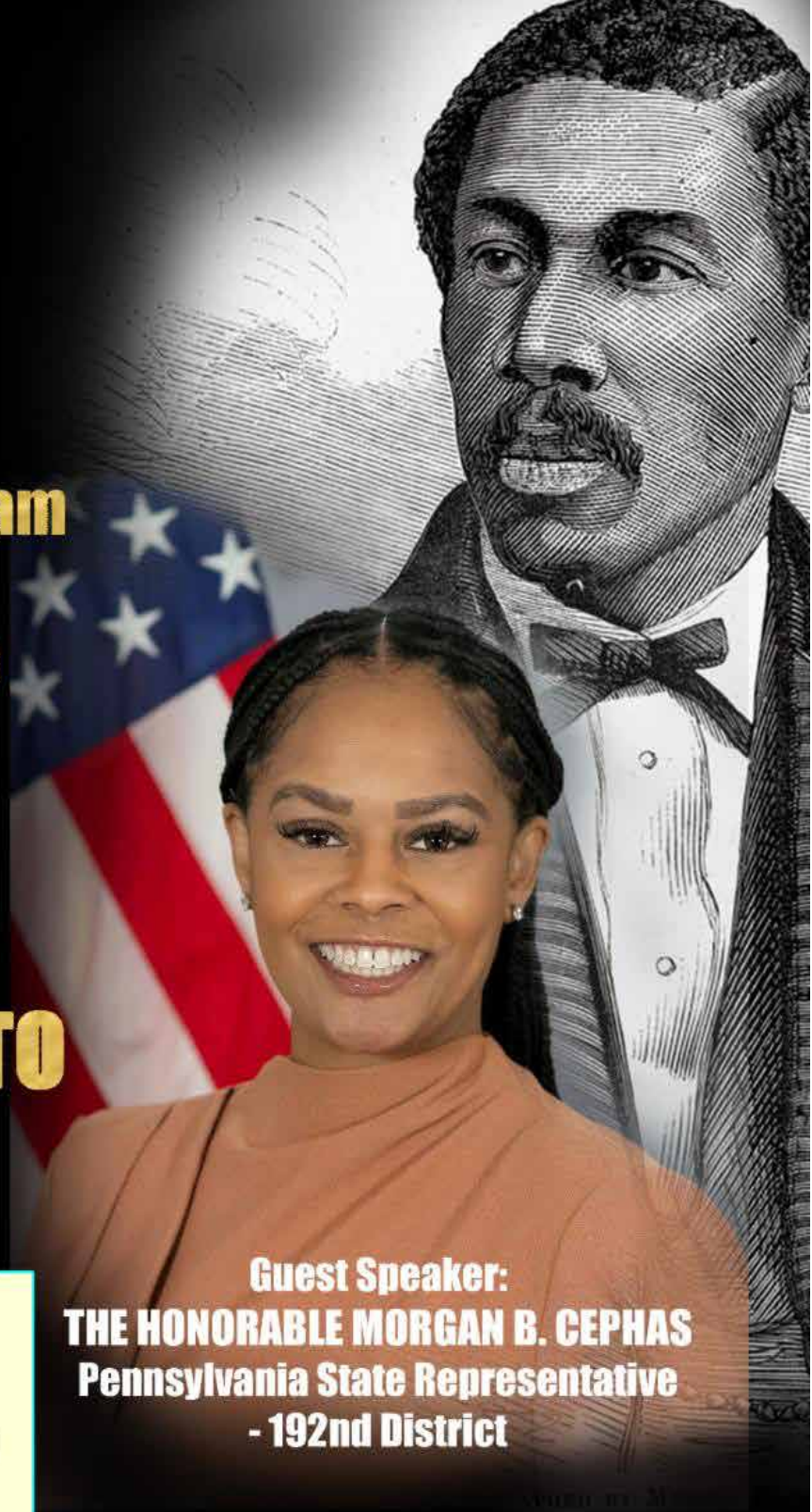
Light Refreshments will be Served

THE OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY
IS A NON-PARTISAN MINISTRY OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL OF ST. THOMAS

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
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Sunday
October 12, 2025, 10:00 am
Please join us for
The Annual Celebration
of the
Life
of
OCTAVIUS V. CATTO



Guest Speaker:

THE HONORABLE MORGAN B. CEPHAS
Pennsylvania State Representative
- 192nd District

Guest:

The Honorable Cherelle L. Parker
Mayor of the City of Philadelphia

PLAN TO ATTEND...

October 12, 2024 after service

Octavius V. Catto Ministry's

RESOURCE FAIR

- voter details

-city/state/federal representatives

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WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



- Dance, Caribbean
- Line Dance Music
- Set-ups Available
- Free Parking
- Cash Raffle

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS

~ Old School Cabaret ~

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 • 6PM TO 10PM

NARBETH FIRE HALL

100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBETH PA 19072

TICKETS \$25.00 PER PERSON OR \$50.00 PER COUPLE

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH INITIATIVES

FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT:

ED GIEGER (716) 207-0405 OR R. SETH WILLIAMS (267) 254-9108

DRESS LIKE YOU'RE BLESSED & READY TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EVENING!

BRING AND SHARE FAVORITE FOODS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS

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
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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.**

NATIONAL ACOLYTE FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025!

Calling all acolytes (current and former), sponsors, and vergers! Join the **Grandest of Processions** at Washington National Cathedral for a day of worship, workshops, and fellowship. Enjoy hands-on activities like **Thurible Training**, LEGO® Cathedral building, and more!

Interested in attending? Contact [Fr. Daren](#) for details and registration. Don't miss this inspiring celebration of sacred service!

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Several of our dedicated scouts pose with the Rector for a photo before departing.



**RETIRED PERSONS MINISTRY (RPM) of St. Thomas
and Overbrook Presbyterian Church**
recently gather for fellowship.



MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY

There are several ways in which we memorialize and cherish our loved ones at the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas:

- Dedicate pew memorial plaques
- Present floral tributes
- Purchase a niche in the Geraldine B. Wood Columbarium
- Dedicate new or restored areas of the Church in memory of loved ones

These examples of dedications are designed to celebrate those whom we loved and remember.

If you are looking for a ministry within the AECST that will allow you to share in the joy of families, friends, and neighbors, please prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Memorial Tribute Ministry.

Please reach out to Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at victoria.rivers@verizon.net or call **267-253-2899** and express your desire to obtain information about this Ministry.

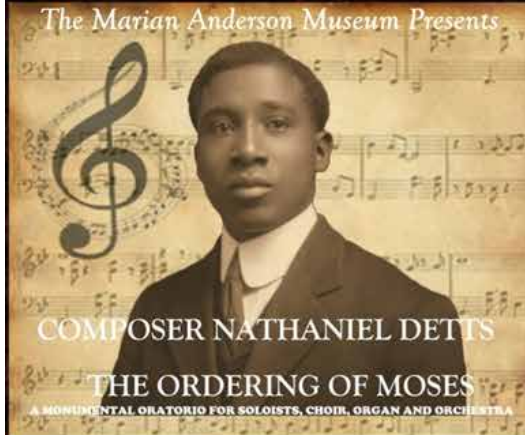
THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY PRESENTS THE PEW MEMORIAL PLAGUES ON ALL SAINTS DAY, Sunday, November 2, 2025.

All Saints' Day, also known as All Souls' Day, is a time to commemorate and share a day of intercessory prayer for those who are deceased. The deadline is **October 20th**. **Donation is \$500.00**. Please reach out to Victoria A. Mosley Rivers of the Memorial Tribute Ministry (victoria.rivers@verizon.net or 267-253-2899) for further information.

Saturday, September 27, 2025

A wonderful Saturday afternoon Musical.

THE MARIAN ANDERSON MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
THE ORDERING OF MOSES & THE GOSPEL MASS IN CONCERT



**GOSPEL
MASS**

**ROBERT
RAY**



We honor our great Marian Anderson and her musical relationship with historic composer Nathaniel Dett in this stellar Tribute Concert event featuring the dramatic and dynamic compositions of composers Nathaniel Dett and his *The Ordering of Moses* and Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*. These exceptional works will feature our outstanding National Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, our Marian Anderson Historical Society Instrumental Ensemble and MAHS Choral Ensemble under the direction of MD and Pianist Dr. Jay Fluellen.

WHEN: Saturday September 27th 2025

WHERE: The African Episcopal Church of St Thomas
6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151

TIME: 3PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00

FEATURING



SOPRANO LAURICE KENNEL



SOPRANO JILLIAN PIRTLE



SOPRANO LILY KASS



TENOR TERRANCE HART



BASS BRENTON MATTOX



DR. JAY FLUELLEN DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
CONDUCTOR - PIANIST

THE MARIAN ANDERSON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE



ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR
DR. WALTER SWAN CHORAL DIRECTOR



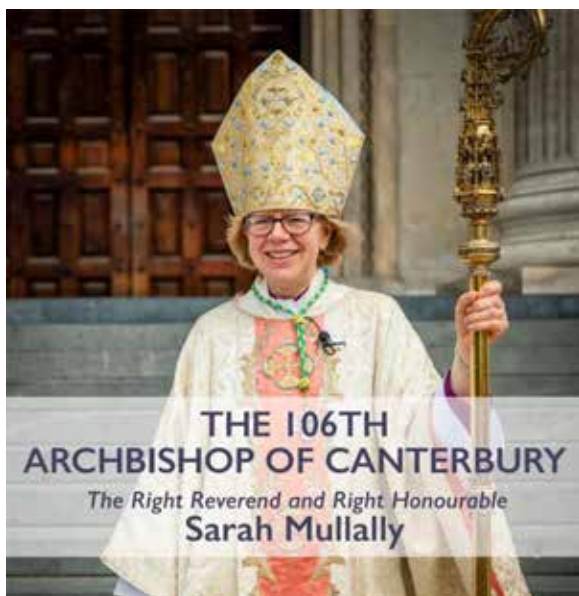
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS

Please register on our Website www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com OR
CALL OUR OFFICE @ 215-779-4219 OR SEND IT IN TO OUR OFFICE @ 762 s. Martin
Street Philadelphia Pa 19146 TO CONFIRM YOUR TICKETS





St. Thomas offers prayers and congratulations for our first female Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion, **Sarah Mullally**.



THE **CLEAR**
PROJECT

CHILDREN
LITURGY
ECOLOGY
& RENEWAL

Singing with Creation



Tuesday, Oct. 7 | 6:30 PM

The Mullen Center for the Performing Arts

Join us for a free concert of original hymns and gospel songs that honor God's creation. Bring family and friends! All songs have been written for group singing, with children's needs and gifts in mind.



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

Reserve your
ticket!



**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! AECST KID FRIENDLY TRUNK
OR TREAT! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
12:00 Noon in the AECST Parking lot.**

Ages 12 and under

Volunteers are needed to decorate your trunk
and hand out candy.

Please contact Gladyce in the church office
at 215-473-3065 to reserve a space for that day.

Costumes optional but encouraged!



The Episcopal Diocese
of Pennsylvania
Anti-Racism Commission

TELLING OUR STORIES

HEALING WOUNDS OF RACISM, BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Performed and facilitated by **Playback For Change**

In 4 interactive sessions of theater and discussion, participants see themselves in one another's stories of race and racism as they are brought to life on stage

Sep 20 *Embracing Diversity* **Trinity, Swarthmore 2-4:30 pm**

An introductory experience of Playback Theatre that affirms the power of diversity and our common humanity and gives a taste of the rest of the sessions. Open to all.

Oct 11 *Telling the Whole Story* **African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia 2-4:30 pm**

A session for People of Color to face racism and affirm resilience through healing and community building. Open to those who are Black, Indigenous or identify as Non-Black People of Color.

Nov 15 *Exploring Our Whiteness* **Incarnation Holy Sacrament, Drexel Hill 3-5:30 pm**

A session to explore the experience of ingesting, upholding and resisting beliefs and behaviors that shape White supremacy. Open to those who identify as White.

Jan 17 *Creating Common Cause* **St. Alban's, Newtown Square 2-4:30 pm**

A session for everyone to share their stories and experiences of resisting and healing from racism, and how to continue the work together. Open to all.

What is Playback Theatre?

Audience members' real stories become the source material. The performance is spontaneous - it is theater created through a unique collaboration between performers and audience. Someone from the audience tells a story or moment from their life, chooses actors to play the different roles, then watches as their story is immediately recreated on "stage."

Learn More + Register



ALTAR FLOWERS

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.



**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

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025

The First Lesson – [Lamentations 1:1-6](#)

[Psalm 137](#)

The Second Lesson – [2 Timothy 1:1-14](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 17:5-10](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of October 6, 2025

Monday - [Luke 6:39-49](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 7:1-17](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 7:18-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 7:36-50](#)

Friday - [Luke 8:1-15](#)

Saturday - [Luke 8:16-25](#)



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.



Happy Birthday to our members born in October

- 10/4 Paula Stanley Cropper
- 10/6 Kemil Dawkins, David Rivers, Andrew Dumas
- 10/7 Loretta Brockington, Susan Taylor
- 10/8 John Kortue, Ashley Hines
- 10/11 Dorothea Bell
- 10/12 Angela Holloway
- 10/13 Jeannette Jeffrey
- 10/14 Roosevelt Harris, Sr., William Hanscom
- 10/15 Clarice Grant, Telena Gunby
- 10/16 Frank Abbott, Yvonne Hyde-Carter, Dominic Bowrin
- 10/17 Jordina Koilor, Kayma Sherman-Knickles
- 10/18 Kalif Williams
- 10/19 Quentin Harris
- 10/21 Hilda Zack, Vince Napoleon
- 10/22 Sandra Rushin, Kedeja Wexler
- 10/23 Cornelia Camp, Jacquelyn Wallace, Lorenzo Whitaker
- 10/25 Butch Farmer, Gladys DuBrey
- 10/27 Diane Abbott
- 10/28 Velva Smalls
- 10/30 Michael Grizzle, Eugene Golson
- 10/31 Arleatha Wilson, Lisa Woodley, Alice Cropper, Melisse Brunet

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 - St. Francis Nursing Home; Deborah Harrison
- Presbyterian Hospital

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

KEEP IN PRAYER:

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

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.



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!



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!

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 Parish 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	wpfox3008@verizon.net
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	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	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