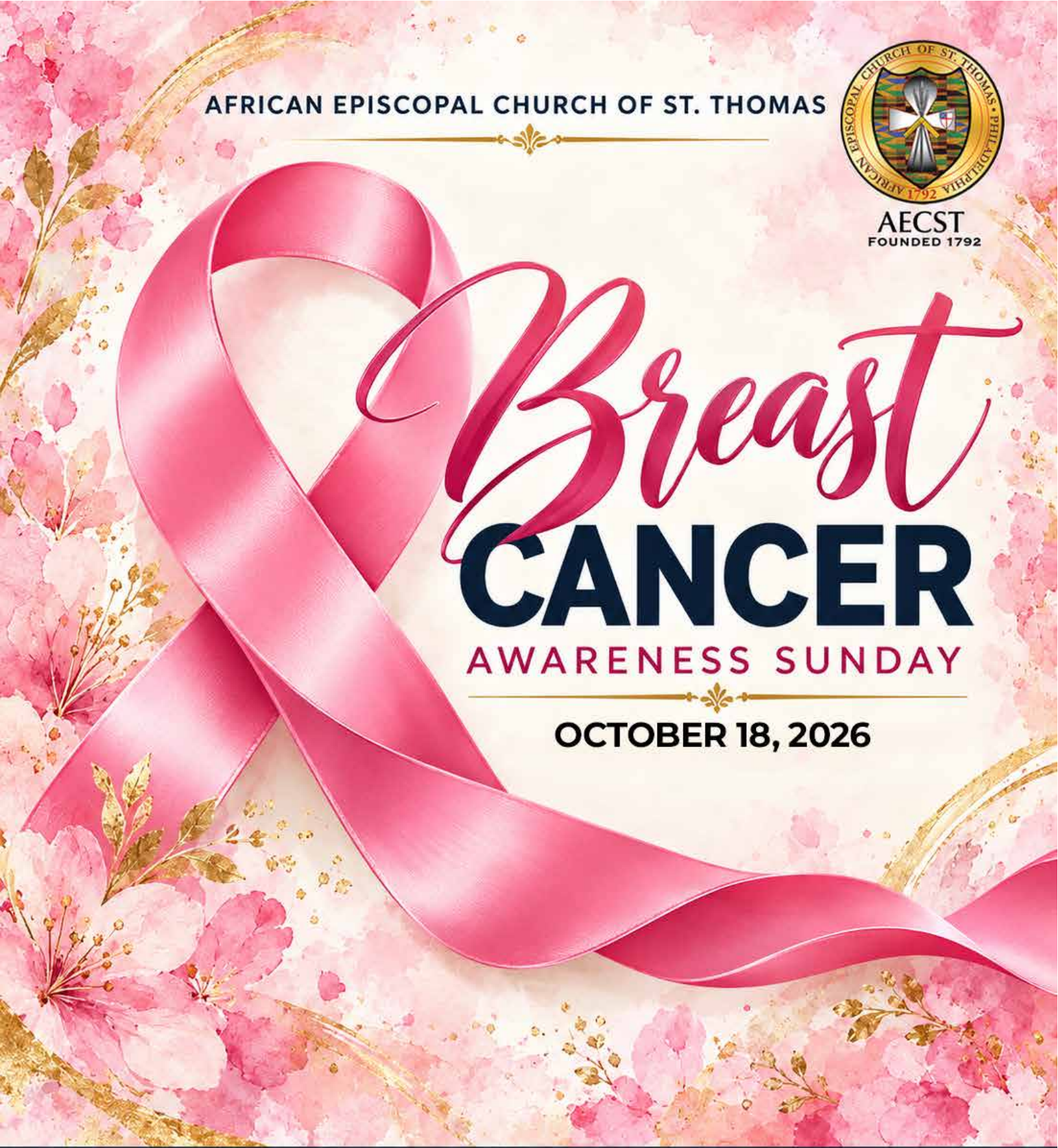
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Breast CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY

OCTOBER 18, 2026



CELEBRATING AECST

First Black Episcopal Church in the USA
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector

CELEBRATING AMERICA

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
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY
October 18, 2026

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

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest

The Reverend Patricia Downing
Associate Priest





Please scan the QR code or text "AECST" to 73256 to contribute to the church ministries.

Please click on the link provided for the
Order of Service and the Bulletin

“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 and Breast Cancer Awareness 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 USA, and 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 welcome at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Again, welcome!

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

A NEW WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT!!!

You are invited and encouraged to now use our new Order of Service/Spearhead QR code to download to your phone each Sunday. You may find it at both entrances to the nave of the church.



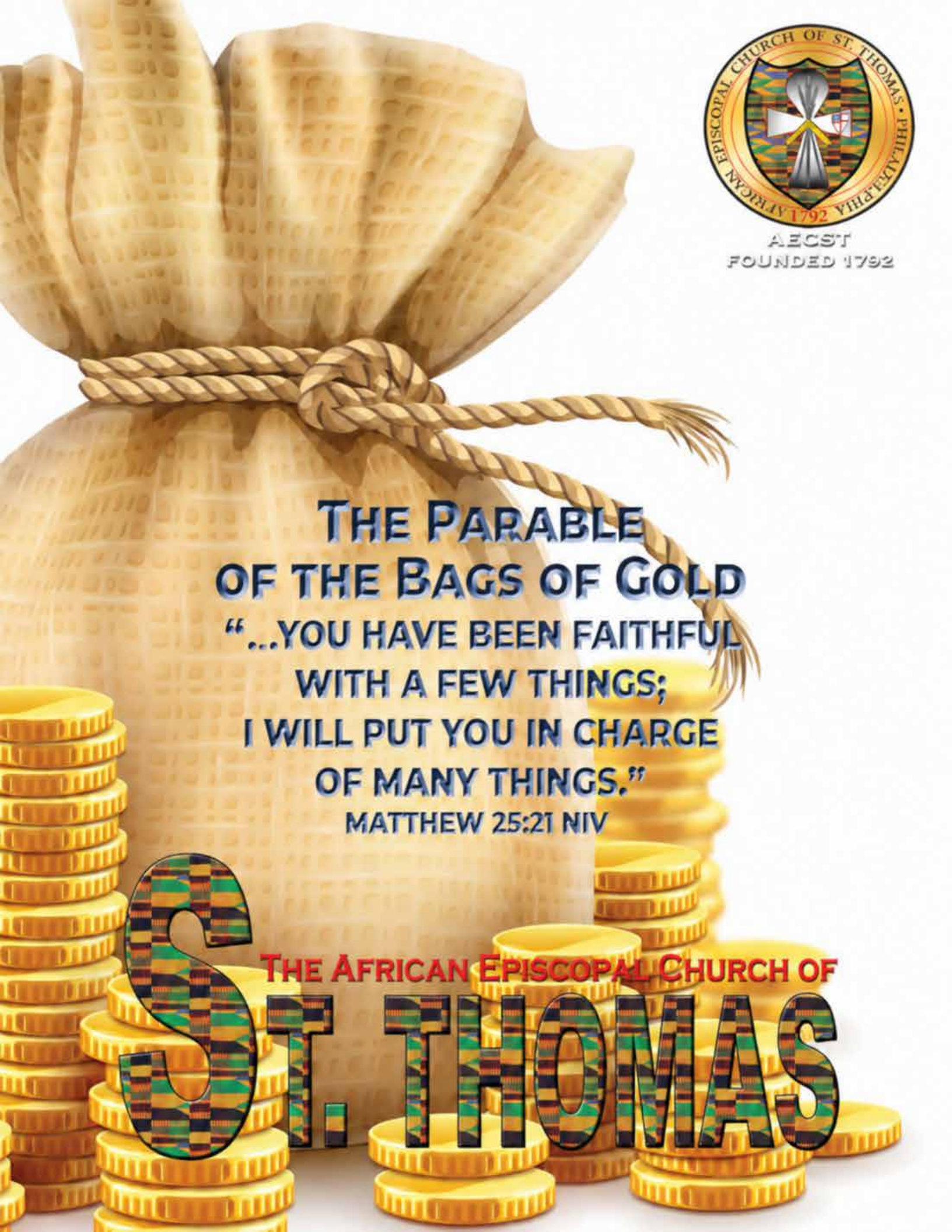




“HOMILY HEADLINE”
The Annual Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto
Guest Speaker: The Honorable Chris Rabb,
200th Legislative District, PA State Representative and
Presumptive 3rd Congressional District
Representative for US Congress
October 11, 2026



Video: Quentin Heyward
St. Thomas Videography Ministry


AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • PHILADELPHIA 1792
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

NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

The 2027 Annual Stewardship Drive has begun. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2027 Faithful Giving Pledge towards the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas. Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither, 10% of our time, talents and treasures. Are you working toward that spiritual goal?

Please use the Giving Chart below to assist you with your Faithful Giving Pledge for 2027. If you are in church and have the physical Faithful Giving Card, please bring it to the altar during the offertory, or directly submit it online using the link below or scan the QR Code

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDERUxYZeOi_K4tSTrqKh6JVVnGNhwaTEd_4ndPNLYpM08tw/viewform.

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

The Clergy Leadership
The Rev. Fr. Martini
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
The Rev. Patricia Downing

Vestry
Tim Barksdale
Deborah Booker-Matthews
William Burke
Deborah Camp-Frye
Deadra Cannon
Albert Dandridge
Mary Dean
Elaine C. Gillison
Eugene Golson
Pamela Johnson
Richard Jones
Monica Lewis-Jones
Judith Simkins-Booth
Judith Tillman

Auxiliary Vestry
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Gwenda Hart
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Monica Johnson Taylor
Brenda Johnson-Best
Cynthia Muse
Darryle Tillman

Membership
Michael & Dorothy Archey
Susan Ben
Ricardo Bostic
Theresa Bramwell
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman
Eleanor Chestnut
Gwendolyn Cottman
Carl Dean
William & Quincina Edmonds
Lorretta Ferguson
Barry Frye
Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Barbara L. Glenn
Marie Golson
Richard Hart
Fleta Howell
Simone Jeffers
Bobby Johnson
Naomi Johnson Booker
Sheila B Jones
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Winston Lowe
Pat Lynch
Derick McBride
Michael McIntosh
Laura McNeill
Deborah Otey
Cassandra A. Ruffin
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Arthur & Michele Sudler
Karen J. Vaughn
Rufus Seth Williams
Paula Wright

The Annual Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto
October 11, 2026





More pictures may be found on our **Facebook** page.

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

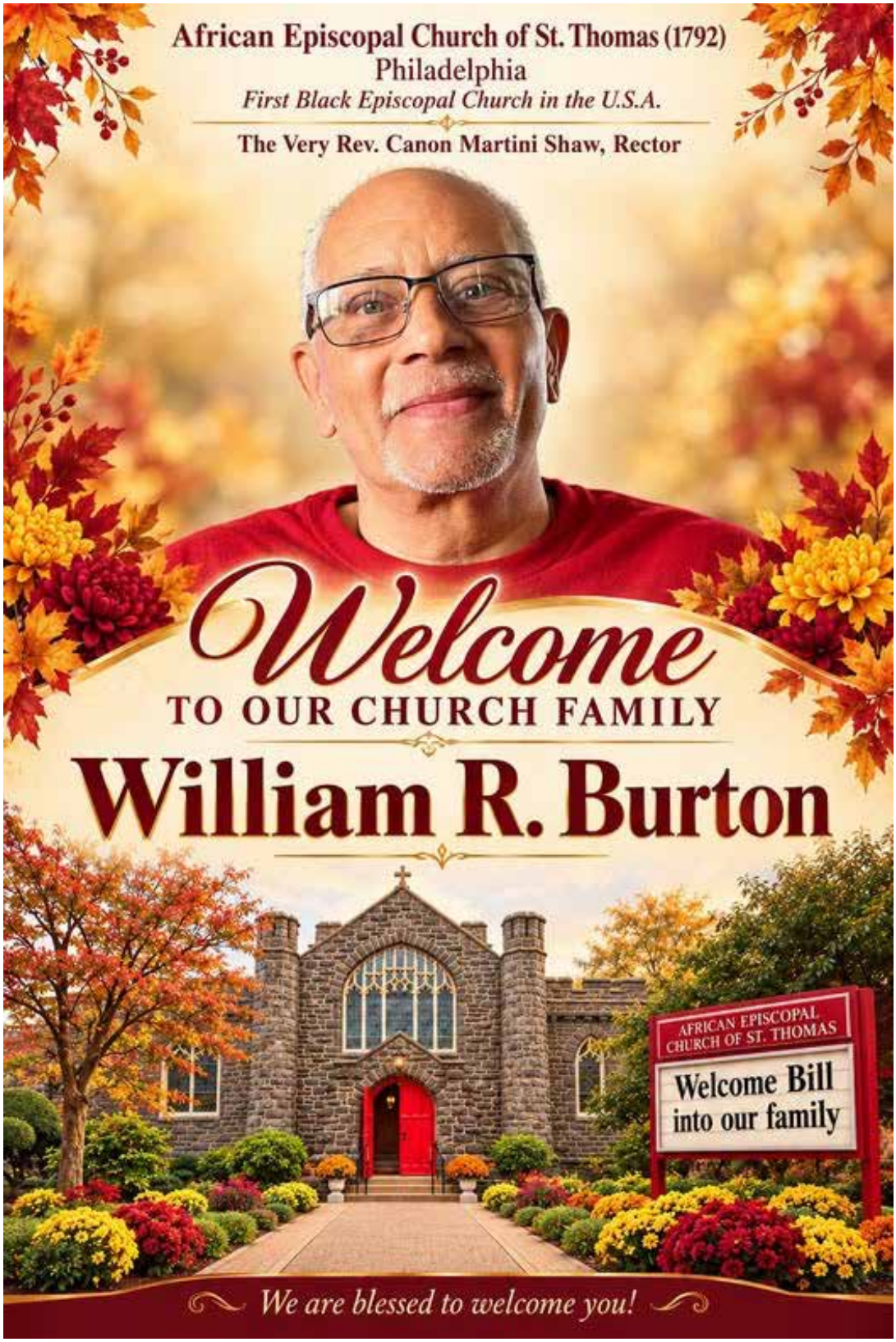
The Eagle's Watch Party following the service was sponsored by St. Thomas Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry and Men's Ministry and Fellowship.

Besides watching the game, some parishioners completed reminder postcards to vote on November 3rd. One lucky voter will receive a postcard completed and signed by Sunday's guest speaker, "RepRabb!".

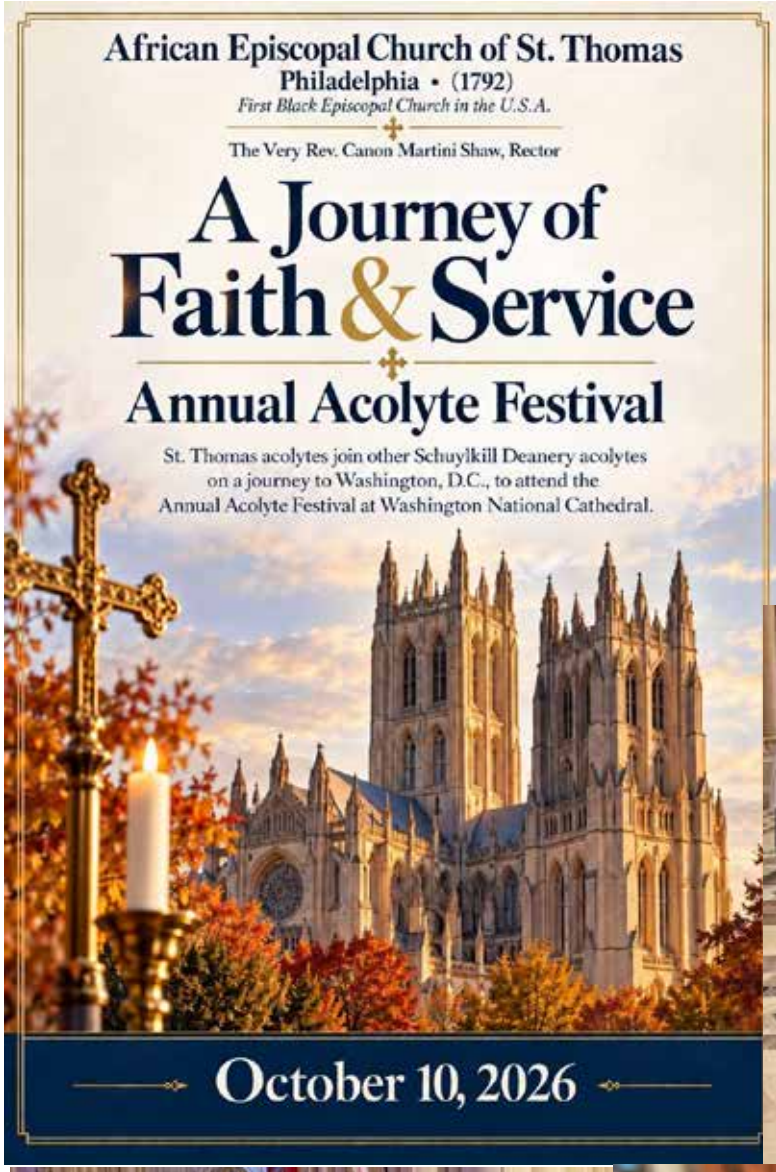


CHURCH GROWTH!

Our wonderful church family continues to grow!
We joyfully welcome **William (Bill) Burton** into our church family. Bill, we look forward to getting to know you. Bill's shepherd is Dr. Tim Barksdale.



On Sunday, October 10, 2026, the Diocese of Pennsylvania was represented at the Annual Acolyte Festival in Washington, D.C., at the Washington National Cathedral.


























On Saturday, October 10th, Fr. Shaw and Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Dr. Cassandra Ruffin and Albert Dandridge, Esq., represented St. Thomas at the 243rd Annual Convention.







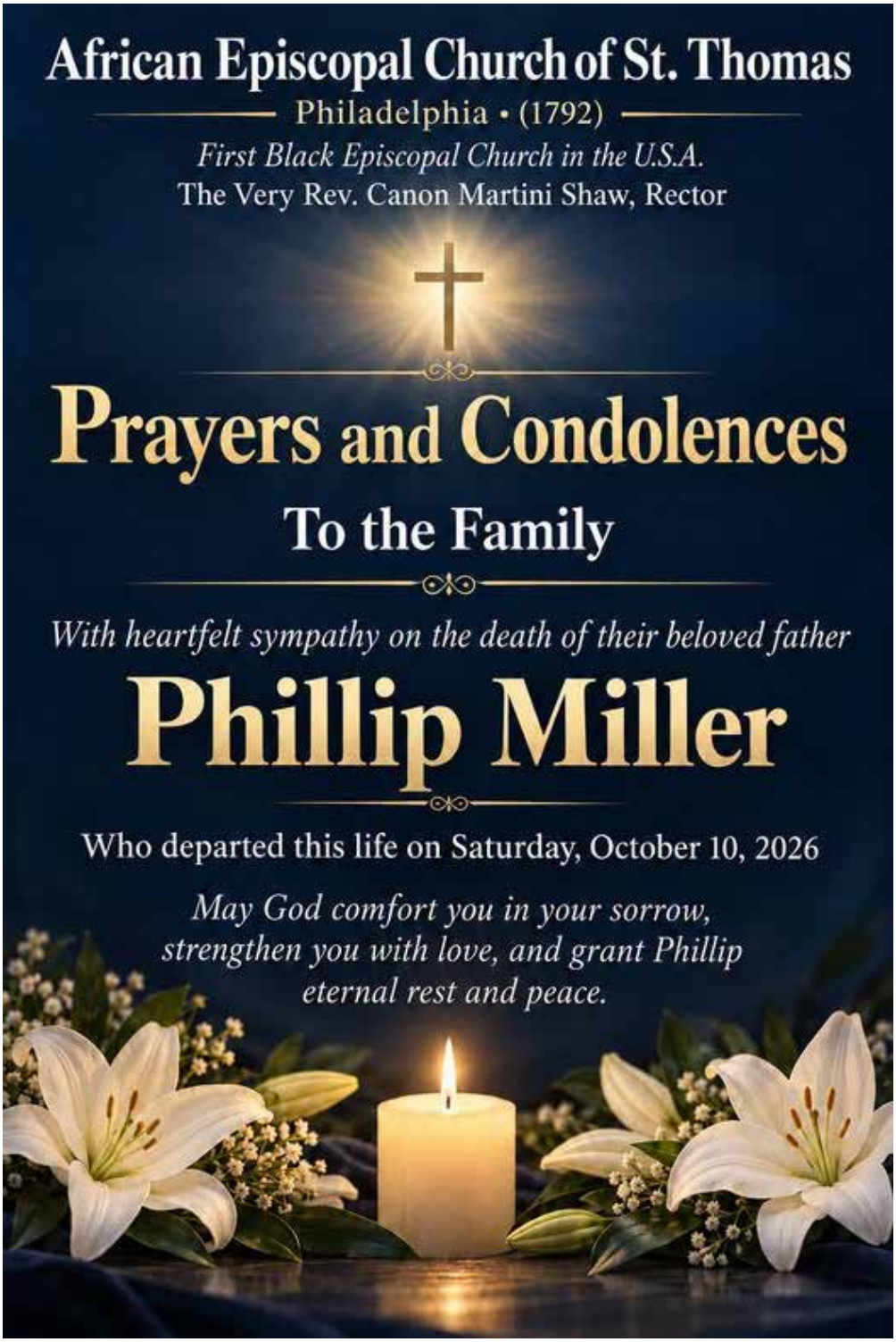






OUR CONDOLENCES

to Nikkol Simms, Carlia Wallace, Demetrius Miller, Juanita Miller, Alliyah Miller, and Triniti Miller; Grandson Shaine Simms, Granddaughter Rayne Wallace, and family on the death of their father and grandfather, **Phillip H. Miller**. May the soul of Phillip rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Philadelphia • (1792)

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.



PHILADELPHIA POLICE

HONOR SERVICE INTEGRITY

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS

In Loving Memory of

Officer Shane Seiber

October 10, 2026

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, his two young children, his family, and the Philadelphia Police family as they mourn this tragic loss. We honor his ten years of service and his sacrifice for our city.

NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

- Our exciting ministry plans and activities for the remaining three months of this year are in place. I am urging each parishioner to please ensure that your financial pledge for 2026 is current and up to date. We are hopeful that all pledges will be fulfilled by December 31, 2026. If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Judy Tillman, stewardship chair, as soon as possible at **stewardship@aecst.org.** Enormous thanks for your continued support and generous contributions.

- **Thank you** to everyone that purchased a pew memorial plaque that will memorialize your loved one. The Memorial Tribute Ministry will notify you once the plaques are ready for installation.

- **REMINDER: Do not park** in the Overbrook Presbyterian Church parking lot on Sundays! Their office has told us this rule is still being violated! Thank you.

- Following the call to worship the Verger, or designated person, requests that the congregation maintain a spirit of reverence and silence as we prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God. Please refrain from conversation.

- As a sign of reverence and respect for the worship of God and others, kindly remain in the church for the entirety of the liturgy, unless you have an unavoidable reason to leave early. Please refrain from exiting the church until after the closing hymn and the dismissal, as our worship is not complete until we are sent forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

On Saturday, October 10th, the Sisterhood Guild sponsored a Purse Bingo.















AECST DIRECTORY

Suzanne Closson and Ashley Hines, Co-chairs

This project is in its final stages. If you did not take a picture and would like to have your contact information listed in the Church Directory please send your name, home address, telephone number and email address to Suzanne Closson at **msclosson@live.com**. The deadline is **October 30, 2026**. Thank you.

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE
MARK YOUR CALENDARS! MAKE A PLAN!
MOVE YOUR FEET!

PA deadlines are fast approaching for the upcoming election.

Oct. 19th - Voter registration deadline

Oct. 27th - Mail ballot application deadline

Nov. 3rd - Election Day

Voting is your SUPERPOWER!

The St. Thomas Chancel Choir is a dynamic music ministry that sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, in addition to special services. We welcome anyone who loves to sing, regardless of age or skill level. The choir sings a wide variety of musical styles, including anthems, Spirituals, and Gospel, among others.

Our rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Saturday, November 7th, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Saturday, November 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Saturday, December 5th, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Saturday, December 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM

THE SISTERHOOD GUILD

- Will hold a meeting in the Absalom Jones House Sunday after service.
- Thanks to all who attended and supported the Purse Bingo event on Saturday, October 10th. It was a day of fun and fellowship. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry.

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS MEMORIAL CANDLES

All Saints/All Souls Observance: November 1st

On Sunday, November 1st, we will observe the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. You are invited to bring photographs of your loved ones to place on the Columbarium.

You may also dedicate a Memorial Candle
in honor of a loved one:
$2.00 per single name
$4.00 per married couple

To participate, please email your names to the church office and send payment to Alfreda Brockman at St. Thomas Church, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19151. The deadline is Wednesday, October 28th.

Equity in Action
VISITING SCHOLARS

LISA SHARON HARPER

BOOK TALK, Q&A, AND BOOK SIGNING

Join us for a powerful event, Q&A, and book signing featuring author of the acclaimed book Fortune: How Race Broke My Family And The World - And How To Repair It All! We will dive deep into the power of micro-histories and explore how storytelling gives us the strength to overcome erasure.



Wednesday,
October 28th 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Houston Hall - Hall of Flags
3417 Spruce Street

Light Dinner Provided . Registration Required
Scan QR Code or visit tinyurl.com/Lisa-Penn

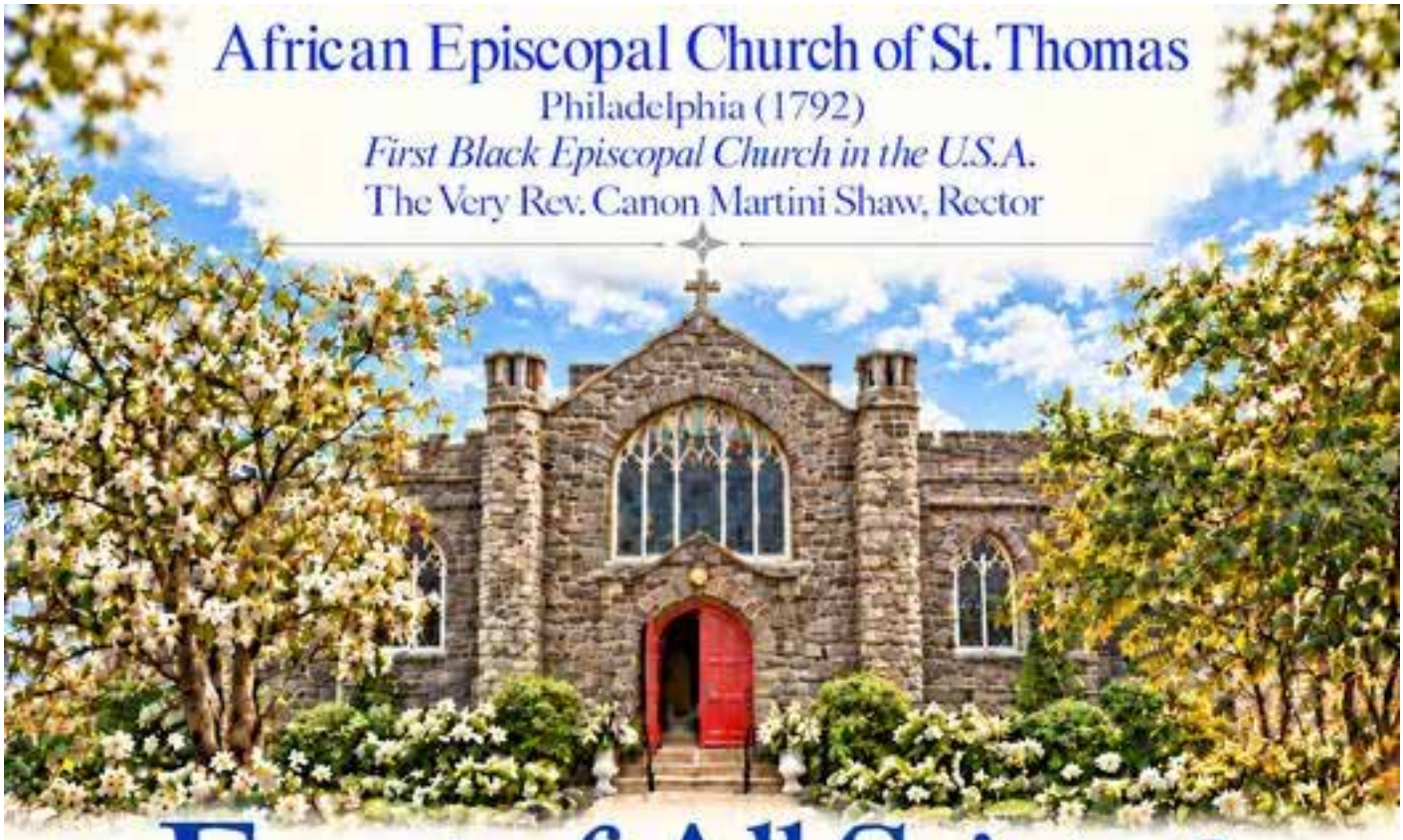
Social Equity and Community
University of Pennsylvania

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Philadelphia (1792)

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector



Feast of All Saints & All Souls

Remembering with Love • Giving Thanks with Faith

Sunday, November 1, 2026

We gather to honor the faithful departed and give thanks for the lives of those we love but see no longer.

You are invited to submit the names of departed family members, friends, and loved ones for our All Saints & All Souls remembrance.

A **votive candle will burn for each person remembered.**

During the mass, we will also remember members of St. Thomas who died since November 1, 2025.

Submit Names by Monday, October 27, 2026

Please email the names of the departed, along with the donor's name, to 1792@aecst.org or contact the parish office.

May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Philadelphia • (1792)

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The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

A Sunday of Remembrance & Celebration

Veterans Day Observance

Honoring all who have served

Celebrating the Birthdays of



Blessed Absalom Jones

Our 1st Rector



The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Our 17th and Present Rector

Both born on November 6

A Reception to Follow

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Philadelphia • (1792)

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

Fall Beauty at St. Thomas

Celebrating Our Beautiful Grounds & New Fall Plantings









With Grateful Thanks

Our Landscaper, Vincent Tulli & St. Thomas Gardeners

Thank you for your care, creativity, and faithful work in making our church grounds a beautiful and welcoming place for all.

THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY
All Saints/All Souls Pew Memorial Plaques

All Saints/All Souls Day will be acknowledged on Sunday, November 1, 2026. This is a time to commemorate and share a day of Intercessory Prayer for those who are deceased.

Please contact the Memorial Tribute Ministry at **memorialtribute@aecst.org** if you are interested in purchasing a pew plaque to memorialize a loved one. Pew plaques can be purchased through this ministry and are $500.00 each. **The deadline to purchase plaques is October 16, 2026.**

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.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

October 18th
~Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday~
please wear something pink

October 25th
~Youth & Young Adults Sunday~
~ Members of the South Jersey Chapter of Links, Incorporated worshipping with us~
~Church School Trunk or Treat~
in the parking lot after service

November 1st
~Celebration of the Feast of All Saints'/All Souls'~

November 8th
~Observance of the Birthdays of Blessed Absalom Jones, 1st rector and Fr. Shaw, 17th rector~
both born on Nov. 6th
~Observance of Veterans Day~

November 15th
~Members of the Links, Incorporated worshiping with us in celebration of their 80th Anniversary~

November 22nd
~Annual Judicial Sunday~
~Youth and Young Adults Sunday~

November 29th
~The First Sunday of Advent~
~Health Ministry Sunday~

THIS WEEK AT AECST – OCTOBER 18, 2026

Tuesday, October 20th
Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay
via Zoom 7:00 PM

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

Wednesday, October 21st
~St. Thomas Gospel Choir rehearsal~
in Anderson Hall 7:30 PM

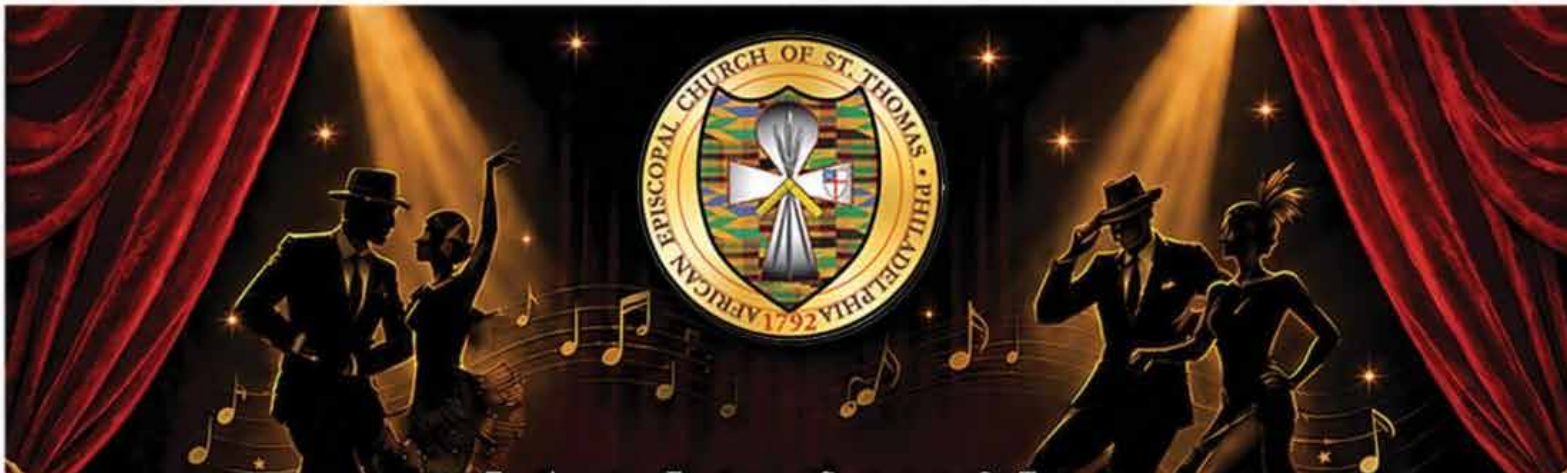
Friday, October 23rd
~Retired Persons' Ministry meeting~
in Anderson Hall 11:30 - 1:00 PM

Saturday, October 24th
~Daughters of the King meeting~
in Anderson Hall 8:30 - 12:30 PM

~GFS meeting`
in the Undercroft
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

~Acolyte rehearsal~
in the Church 1:30 PM

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



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS

OLD SCHOOL CABARET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 • 6PM TO 10PM

NARBERTH FIRE HALL

100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBERTH, 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 GEIGER (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

DANCE, CARIBBEAN | LINE DANCE MUSIC | FREE PARKING | CASH RAFFLE

THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY)

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

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



OUR LIVESTREAM MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Each week, many people who are away can worship with us via our amazing Livestream. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. If interested, please communicate with Father Shaw.

AECST LEGACY PATH CAMPAIGN

Leave a lasting legacy at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

Personalized commemorative bricks are now available for purchase and will be permanently installed on the church grounds. Each engraved brick honors a loved one, marks a special occasion, or reflects your commitment to the future of AECST.

Your support strengthens our ministries, preserves our heritage, and helps ensure that St. Thomas continues to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come. Each brick is $125. Please contact Victoria Rivers at **memorialtribute@aecst.org** for information.

Design and Personalize Your Brick at: **https://share.google/OwnV8VD0cvLfbPcQQ**

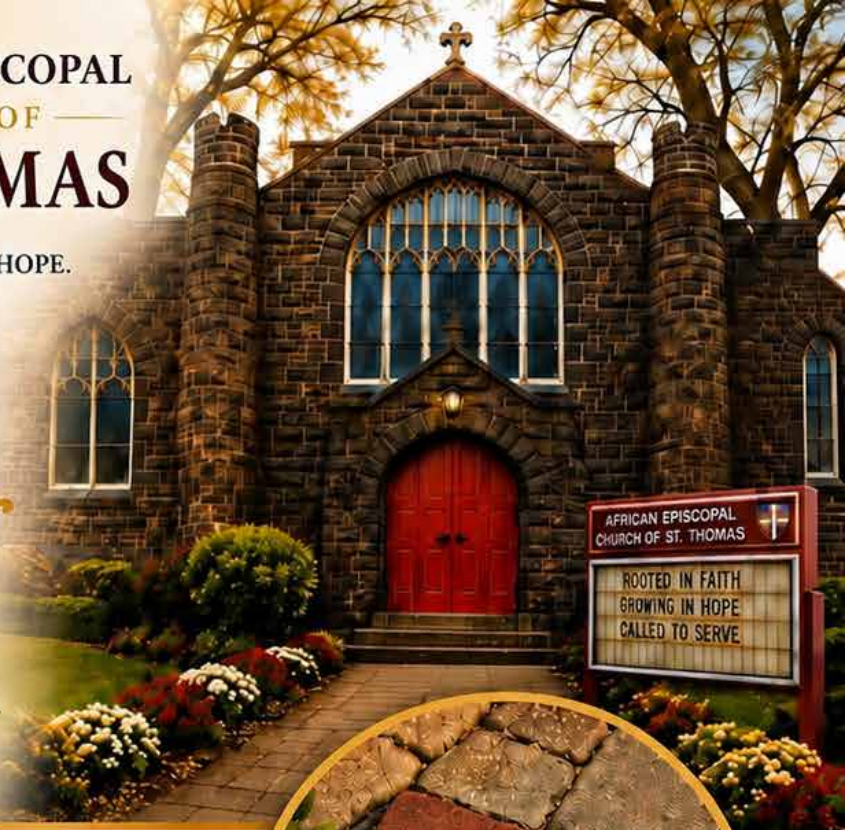
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

ROOTED IN FAITH. GROWING IN HOPE.
CALLED TO SERVE.

LEAVE A *Legacy.*

INSPIRE GENERATIONS.

Honor your faith. Celebrate your loved ones. Support the future. Purchase a personalized brick on the AECST Legacy Path.





PURCHASE A PERSONALIZED BRICK ON THE AECST LEGACY PATH

YOUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE. GOD'S GLORY.

Your personalized brick will be a permanent tribute on the AECST Legacy Path—a visible reminder of your faith, your love, and your commitment to the future of our church family.

Every brick supports our ministries and helps sustain the mission, heritage, and hope that continue to impact lives for generations to come.

HONOR
Loved one, celebrate a milestone, or give thanks.

SUPPORT
the mission and ministries of AECST for years to come.

LEAVE A LEGACY
that future generations will see, remember, and be inspired by.

> *"Rooted in Faith. Growing in Hope. Called to Serve."*

Your brick is more than a gift—it's a lasting legacy of faith, hope, and love.



Be a permanent part of the AECST Legacy Path.
LEAVE YOUR MARK. BUILD OUR LEGACY. GLORIFY GOD.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- Early detection remains one of the most effective tools in the fight against breast cancer.
- Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women.
- Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat. Mammograms can find cancer before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms.
- 1 in 8 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. But there is hope. When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate is over 99%.
- Advances in early detection and treatment methods have significantly increased breast cancer survival rates in recent years.
- Men also get breast cancer, but it is not as common. The lifetime risk of male breast cancer is about 1 in 755 men.
- Learn more about the importance of routine screenings and mammograms, understand when to begin screening based on age and risk factors, and discover ways to take charge of your breast health. Talk to your healthcare provider about screening or schedule a screening by calling Mainline Health at 484.580.1800.
- Go to **www.komen.org** for more information.

Welcome to Week 3 of your 4-Week Fall Walking Challenge!

We hope you enjoy walking while the weather is good.

- Be sure to check with your physician if you have any questions/concerns.
- Pick any 5 days this week to walk and use the other 2 days for rest.

Week 3: Building Stamina

- **Goal:** Walk 20 minutes per day, 5 days this week.
- **Pace:** Moderate. You should feel your heart rate pumping, but you shouldn't be gasping for air.
- **Fall Tip**: Make it social. Invite a friend or family member to join you on a weekend walk to catch up and look at the changing leaves.
- **Scan the QR Code** for the full 4 Week Program:



Curious When Church School Begins?

Great question! Church School begins on October 4, 2026. All Students must be registered to attend. Please scan the QR Code to register your child for this year.

If you are interested in helping children grow in their faith and understanding of God's love, become a **Church School Teacher.** No teaching experience required. Please scan the QR Code below to apply.

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

ST. THOMAS

TRUNK OR TREAT

A SAFE & FAMILY-FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN EVENT!

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED! BRING YOUR SMILE!

FUN • CANDY • COMMUNITY



EVERYONE WELCOME!

LOCATION: PARKING LOT

TIME: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE

DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

CANDY & TREATS

MUSIC & FUN

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

COME FOR THE TREATS, STAY FOR THE FUN!

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

(The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)

The Very Canon Reverend Martini Shaw, 17th Rector

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151

www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/AECST1792

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)

GFS is in full swing. Our next meeting is October 17th in the Undercroft. at 11:00 AM. All girls are invited to join. If you would like to join GFS as an adult Sponsor or be on the mailing list for future events, please contact our Branch Advisor Nikkol Simms at **njsimms@verizon.net**.

SCOUT TROOP #133

The Cub Scout Program is open to children in grades 1-5. Meetings are held on Saturdays from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM.

The Scout Program is open to children 11-17 years old. Meetings are held on Saturdays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in the Undercroft. For more information, please contact Scout Master Howard Chapman at **howchapman@gmail.com.**



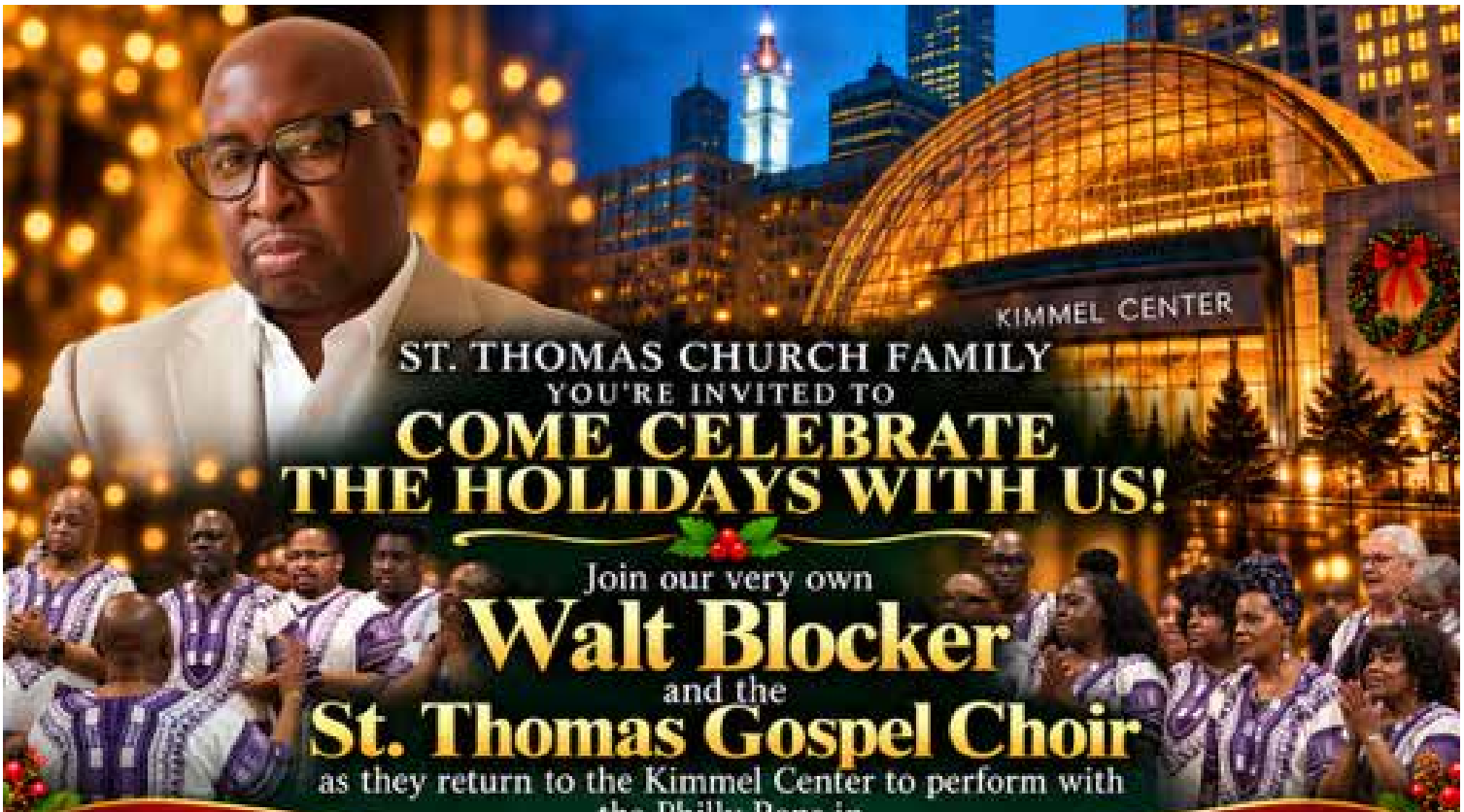
ALL MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- NOTE: All ministries and organizations, effective **November 1st**, the Church office is no longer able to provide printing services for flyers or notices for distribution to the congregation, including inserts to the Sunday Bulletin. Your organization must provide copies of the document and bring them to the church before Tuesday at 3:00 PM. A digital copy may be submitted for the Digital Spearhead.
- Announcements for Sunday Bulletin and Digital Spearhead are to be submitted to the church office by Monday, 12 Noon (emailing 1792@aecst.org is preferred). If there are any questions please contact Gladyce, **215-473- 3065**.
- To request meeting space usage in the church or church campus, please submit the “request for meeting space” document two weeks prior to the event. If you have questions or need the document, contact the church office at (215)473-3065 or email **1792@aecst.org.**

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 - Washington
Deadra Cannon - Georgia
Dr. Tracy Collins - North Carolina
Nora Corbin - Illinois
Paula Cropper - North Carolina
Lee Daniels - New York
Stacey Davis - New York
Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal
The Rev. Fr. Daren Evans - Texas
Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan
The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney -Texas
Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina
Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York
Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida
Bettie Jones - North Carolina
Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia
Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina
Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado/California
Gregory Lyles - Switzerland
Nohjay Nimpson -Texas
Zennetta Peters - North Carolina
Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida
Shelly and Ann Stewart - Florida/Massachusetts
Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia
Allison Young - Maryland



ST. THOMAS CHURCH FAMILY

YOU'RE INVITED TO

COME CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!

Join our very own

Walt Blocker

and the

St. Thomas Gospel Choir

as they return to the Kimmel Center to perform with the Philly Pops in

THE PHILLY POPS

A PHILLY HOLIDAY *Spectacular*

FEATURING



VOCALIST
RYAN SHAW



VOCALIST
MORGAN JAMES



THE PHILADELPHIA
BOYS CHOIR



A SPECIAL
VISIT FROM SANTA!

PLUS THE PHILLY POPS CHORUS AND THE PHILLY POPS ORCHESTRA

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2026	DECEMBER 12, 2026	DECEMBER 13, 2026
7:30 PM	2:00 PM	7:00 PM

MARIAN ANDERSON HALL AT THE KIMMEL CENTER

300 South Broad Street • Philadelphia, PA

TICKETS:
phillypops.org

BOX OFFICE:
215-893-1999

Bring your family and friends — we would love to see our St. Thomas family fill the hall!

THE BIBLE READINGS FOR
the Twent-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

The First Reading - **Exodus 33:12-23**
Psalm 99
The Second Reading - **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**
The Holy Gospel - **Matthew 22:15-22**

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of October 18, 2026

Monday - **Luke 9: 51-62**
Tuesday - **Luke 10:1-16**
Wednesday - **Luke 10:17-24**
Thursday - **Luke 10:25-37**
Friday - **Luke 10:38-42**
Saturday-**Luke 11:1-13**



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY
will hold an Election Day Prayer meeting on November 3rd at 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, via Zoom. Anyone can participate and join the call. The Zoom credentials are:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83742158811?pwd=QU84aktrVWE2NE00a1Y0c0NacjVMdz09
Meeting ID: 837 4215 8811
Passcode: 225298
If you are interested in joining the ministry, please email contact Fr. Jay at **associatepriest@aecst.org.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar - $80.00 each
Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - $70.00 each
Flowers on the Columbarium - $60.00

Please use the church website or scan the QR code below to order and pay for flowers.

REALM ANNOUNCEMENT
"...BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE REALM"

Some of you have this thought in the back of your mind, but your church data is already there! Church administrators and financial managers are reconciling your donations, email addresses, and phone numbers by using REALM Connect. New methods and changes can be challenging for all of us.

The REALM and Stewardship teams are here to assist you through the process. Download the Realm Connect app today. It's available to Apple iOS and Android users. If you have questions, please email **realm@aecst.com** or **stewardship@aecst.com** we will get you connected!



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 ACOLYTE MINISTRY



Attention Young Adults: Becoming an Acolyte is a meaningful way to deepen participation in worship and connect to the liturgy. It's not just for the kids.

Email Nikkol Simms at **njsimms@verizon.net** or call, 267-934-3016. You can also email Juanita Miller at **juanitamiller91@gmail.com** or call, 267-283-8011 to discuss any questions and interest in this ministry.

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.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

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



SICK AND SHUT-IN/THOSE REQUESTING SPECIAL PRAYERS

IN REHAB:
Verger Stephen Hannum - St. Francis Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:
Helena Allen-Simpson House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass - Atria Lafayette Hill

AT HOME:
Robert Brown, Cornelia Camp, Regina Meacham Devero, Vernette Dow, Virginia DuBrey, Patricia Walker-Ellison, D. Lynn Joell, Karen Ragland, Joyce Stewart

SPECIAL PRAYERS:
Carmen Brown, Edita Gauthney, Joan Hall, Richard Jones Jr., Dr. Santee Ruffin, Cathy Stafford, Carolyn Summers, Daryn Stewart, Justin Trotman, Lisa Woodley,Garry Jones, Charlene M. Wiltshire, Bettie Jones, Thomas Harris, The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach, Gail Harris, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., Garry Jones, Bill Burton

WE PRAY FOR: those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

If you have prayer requests and wish to be added to this list, please call Gladyce in the church office or email **1792@aecst.org.**



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.



TINY TYKES TEMPLE is 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) Church Website - **http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm** the button(s) on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e., pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc.

3) Members and visitors who previously donated through GIVI will use **Realm Connect.** If you donate via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will see a new webpage and a corresponding QR code.

4) Cellphone: Text "AECST" to 73256 to donate.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

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

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald (Jay) Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Patricia Downing	psdowning@verizon.net
Executive Asst. to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator		
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst. Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry	Wendella Fox | Elaine Gillison	cattoministry@aecst.org
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls' Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Health Ministry	Nikki Franke | Dr. Michael McIntosh	1792@aecst.org
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq | Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman | Clare Mae Daniels	fredabee@verizon.net
Memorial Tribute Ministry	Victoria Rivers	memorialtribute@aecst.org
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Eugene Golson | Karen Ragland	1792@aecst.org
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William J. Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
St. Thomas Daughters of the King	Sharon Bullock	scmci@aol.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney | Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

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THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William J. Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Eugene Golson
Judith Simkins Booth	Mary Sandra Dean	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Elaine Gillison	Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Johnson Best	Gwenda Hart	Cynthia Muse
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Ronnie Collins	Kelvin Johnson	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Sandra Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller