WELCOME TO THE

HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
Matt. 22:37-39 NIV




AMEN

**FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA | FOUNDED 1792**

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/aecst1792

# THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY
# October 25, 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.

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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-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Youth and Young Adults Sunday. We welcome the members of the South Jersey (NJ) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, worshiping with us.**

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.







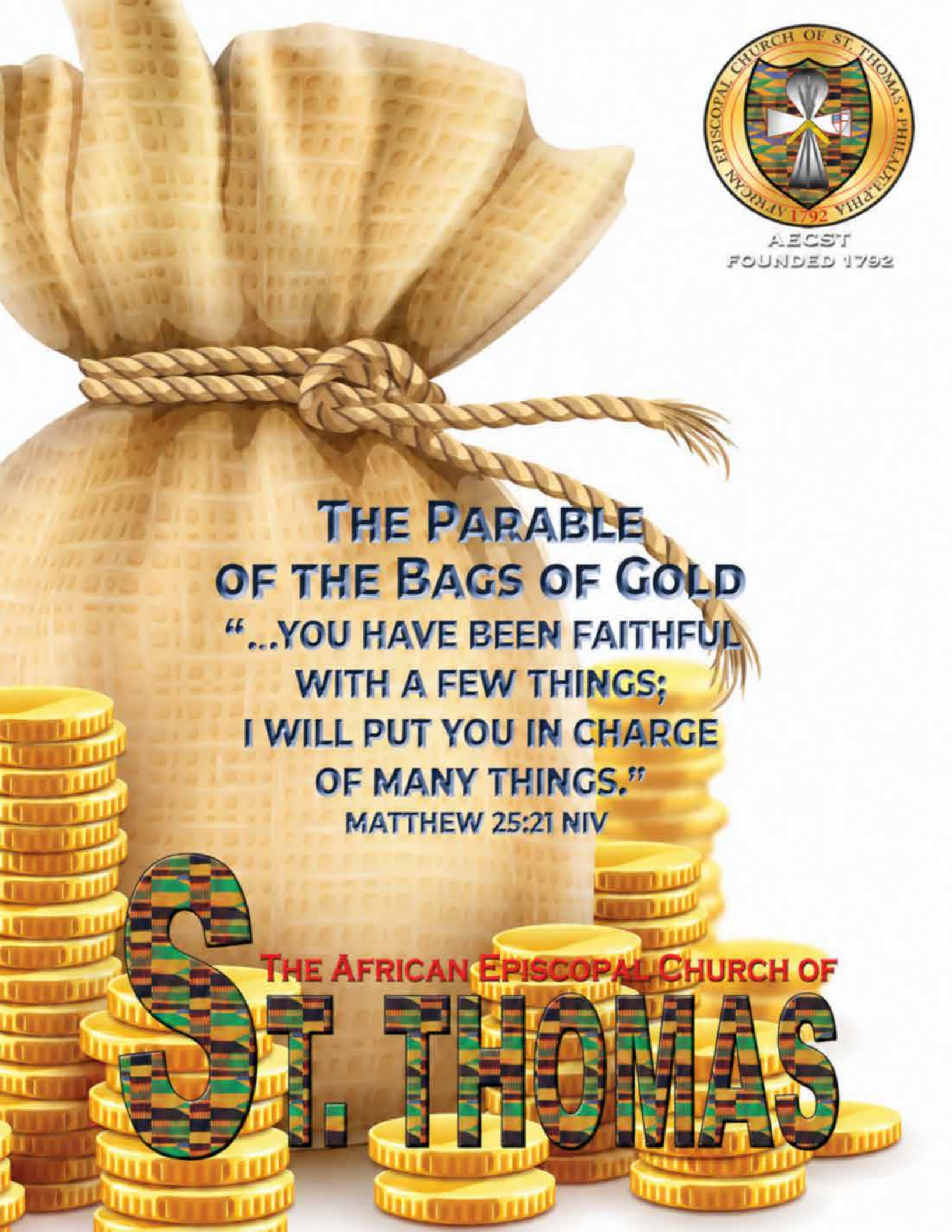



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**“HOMILY HEADLINE”**
**Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday**
**October 18, 2026**




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

## A STEWARDSHIP 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 |

# 2027 Faithful Giving Cards

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2027 Faithful Giving Pledge.
Is your name included yet? Please submit yours today by using the QR Code below.

**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
Clara Mae Daniels
Mary Dean
Elaine C. Gillison
Eugene Golson
Pamela Johnson
Richard Jones
Monica Lewis-Jones
Judith Simkins-Booth
Judy Tillman

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

**Membership**
Michael & Dorothy Archey
Brenda Battle
Susan Ben
Ricardo Bostic
I. Page Bowser, Jr.
Theresa Bramwell
Conchetta Brewer
Lorita Brockington
J. R & Alfreda. Brockman
Robert & Jane Brown
Phyllis Brown
Eleanor Chestnut
Suzanne Closson
Gwendolyn Cottman
Karen M. Davis
Carl Dean
William & Quincina Edmonds
Loretta Ferguson
Barry Frye
Irenda Gates
Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Barbara L. Glenn
Marie Golson
Clarice Grant
Tyrone & Teleia Gunby
Thomasina Hack
Roosevelt & Gail Harris
Richard Hart
Maurice Hayes
Rene Hayes
Synethia Hill
Fleta Howell
Robert Hugh
Kim Hyde
Simone Jeffers
Bobby Johnson
Frank Johnson
Naomi Johnson Booker
Evelyn C. Jones
Sheila B Jones
Tyrone Keller
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Nancy C. Lee
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Karen Leys
Adriene Logan
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
James Lowe
Winston Lowe
Pat Lynch
Constance Lyons
Derrick McBride
Michael McIntosh
Laura McNeill
Chinwe Onyekere
Deborah Otey
Carolyne Page
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips
Michael Pyles
Kareem Ragin
Cassandra A. Ruffin
Barbara Savage
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Arthur & Michele Sudler
Arnott Trotman
Louise Trotman
Karen J. Vaughn
Herb Wetzel & Wendella Fox
Rufus Seth Williams
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Charlene M. Wiltshire
Paula Wright
Alice Young




## STRICTLY PROHIBITED- FIRE LANE PARKING

Parking in the fire lanes located in the church parking lot is **ILLEGAL AND STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Fire lanes are NOT temporary parking spaces for any reason. They must remain clear and unobstructed at all times to ensure emergency vehicles have immediate access when needed.

## DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE LANE-NOT EVEN TEMPORARILY!

This is a matter of safety, not convenience. **No exceptions. Please comply with this rule at all times.**

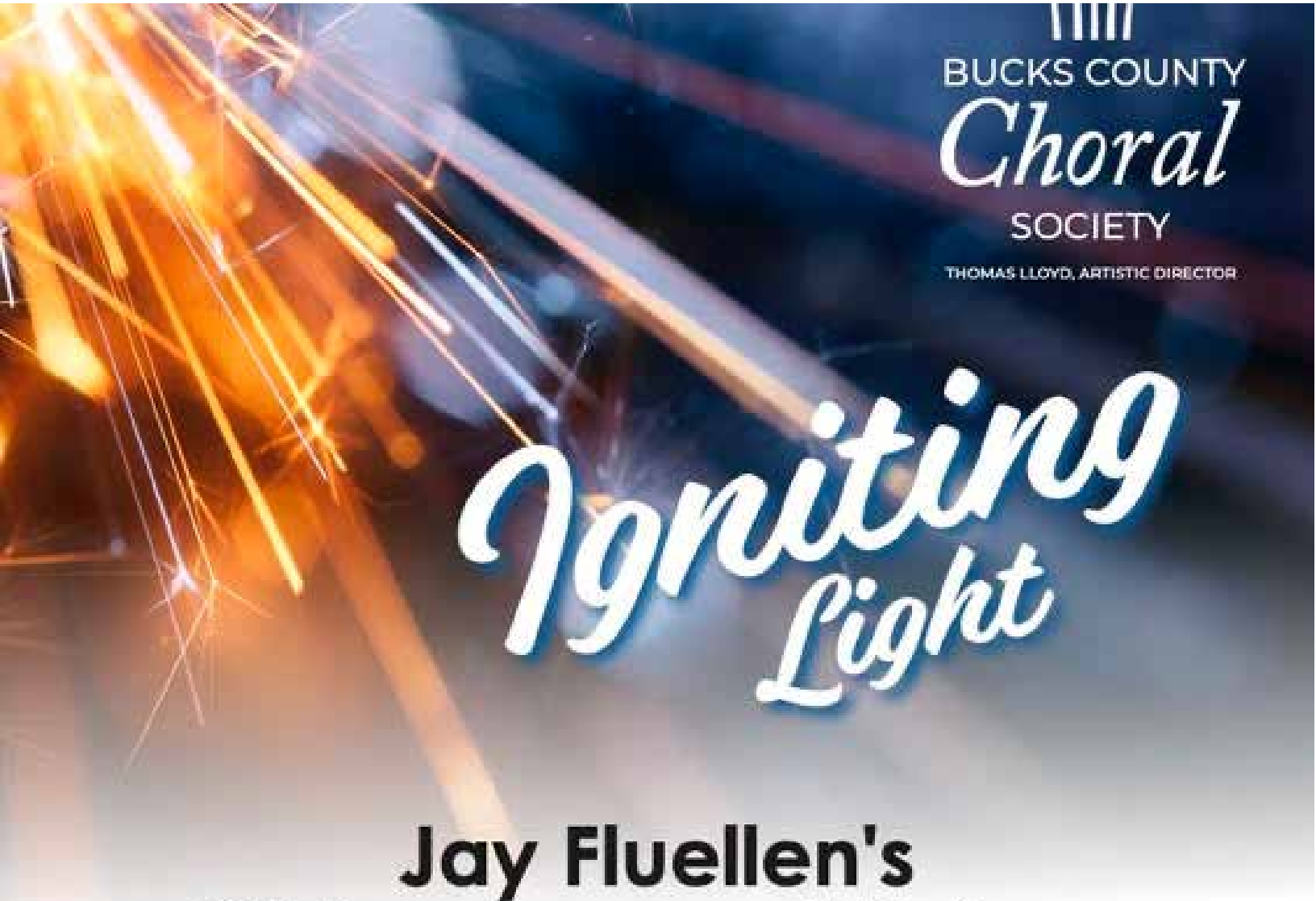
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## THE SISTERHOOD GUILD




**Can we bring back the tradition of being St. James School's Sweet Potato Church?**

The Sisterhood Guild is collecting cans of sweet potatoes for St. James School. This year's goal is 300 cans. St. James is trying to provide 300 meals for families in the community. The guild will have a tote bin at the rear of the church beginning **Sunday, October 25th**. The deadline to donate is **Sunday, November 8th.**

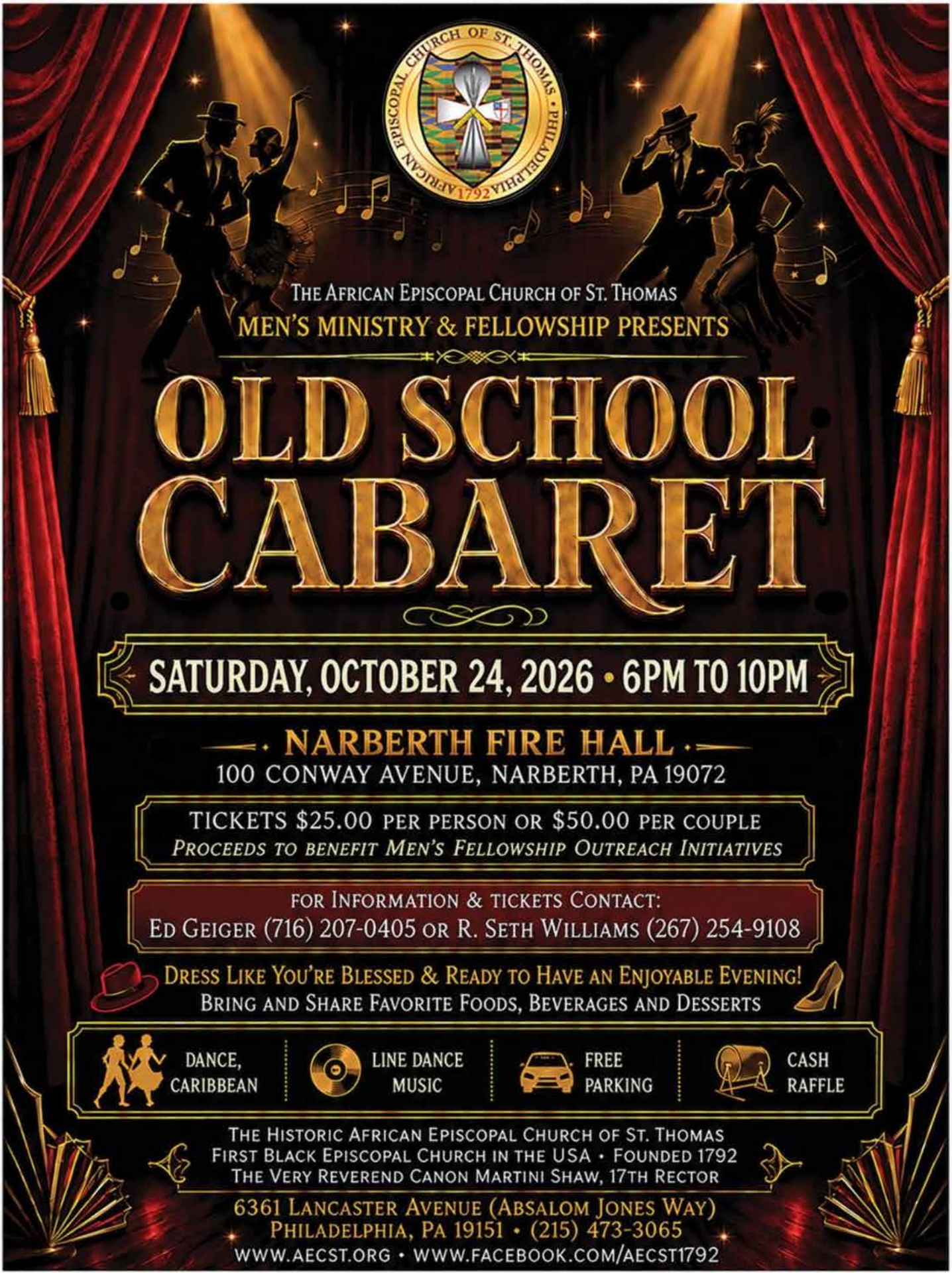



# Jay Fluellen's
# *Of Journeys and Refuge*
# Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*

*with the Jay Fluellen Jazz Quartet*
*The Intermezzo Choir Ministry, Carrie Lessene, director*
*and soloists Susan Ben and Shango Jamal Lewis*

## Sunday, October 25 @ 4:00pm

Join us Saturday night!
Tickets may be purchased at the door!



# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY
## October 18, 2026










































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

Photos: Bill Edmonds, Quentin Heyward,
Brenda Johnson-Best
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

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

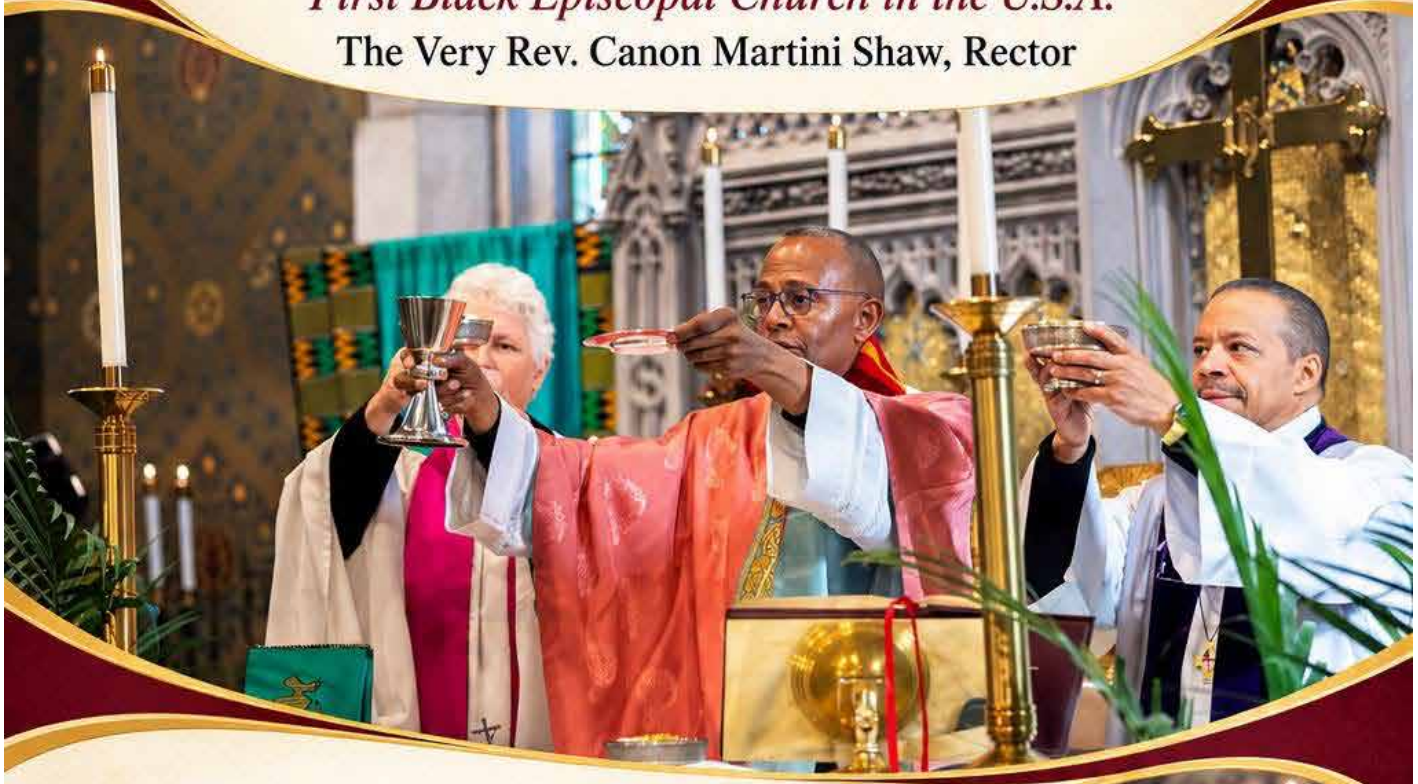
Social Equity and Community
University of Pennsylvania

# African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (1792)

*Philadelphia*

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

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector



## You Are Invited

# Gather Around The Lord's Table

## *Each Sunday*



Visitors, friends, and neighbors—
join us for worship, prayer, and fellowship
as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

***Come worship with us.***
***Find a welcoming church family.***
***There is a place for you at St. Thomas.***

Calling all ghosts, ghouls, superheroes, princes, and princesses: meet in the parking lot Sunday after service. Spread the word to other families, friends, and neighbors.

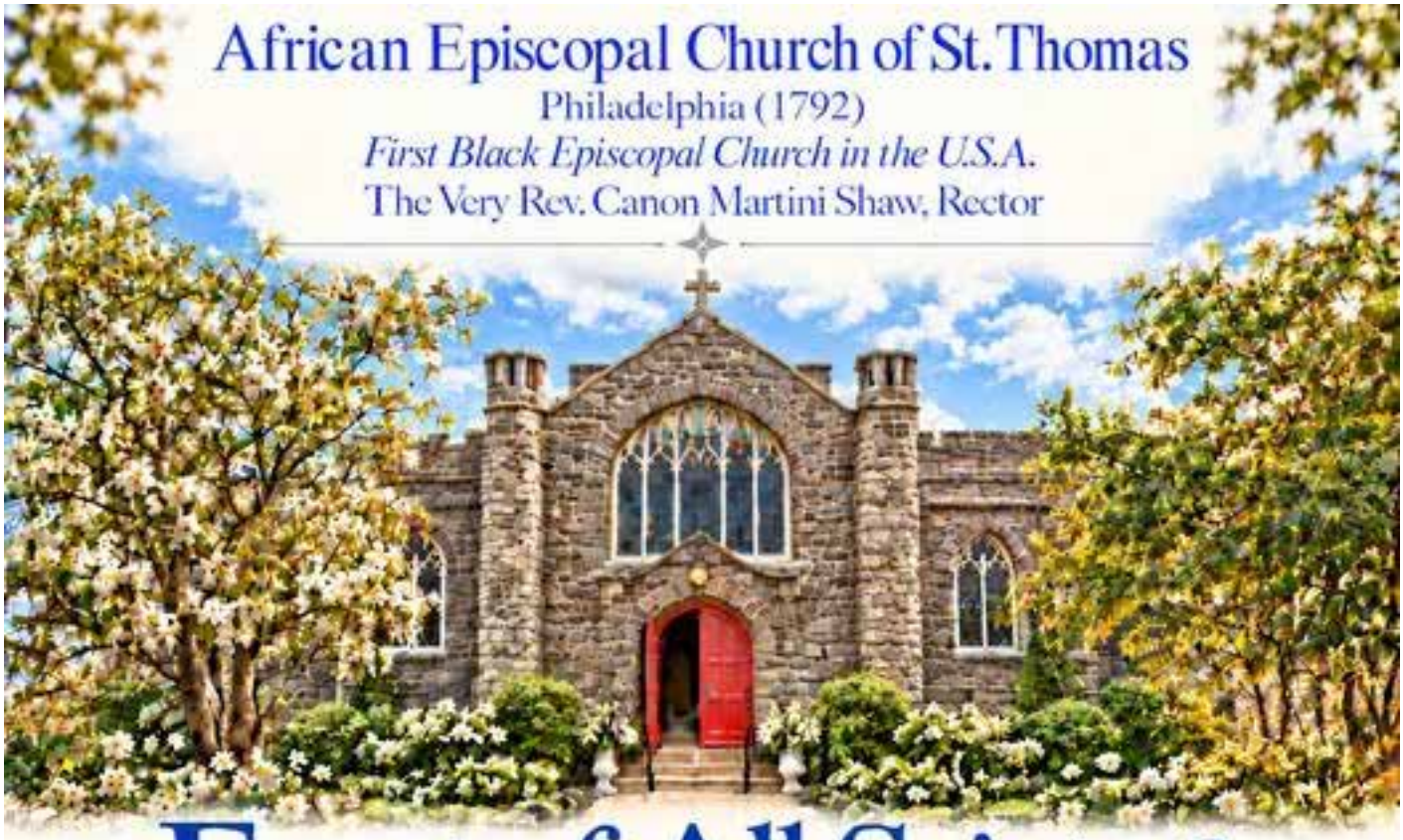


African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

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.*

## 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.

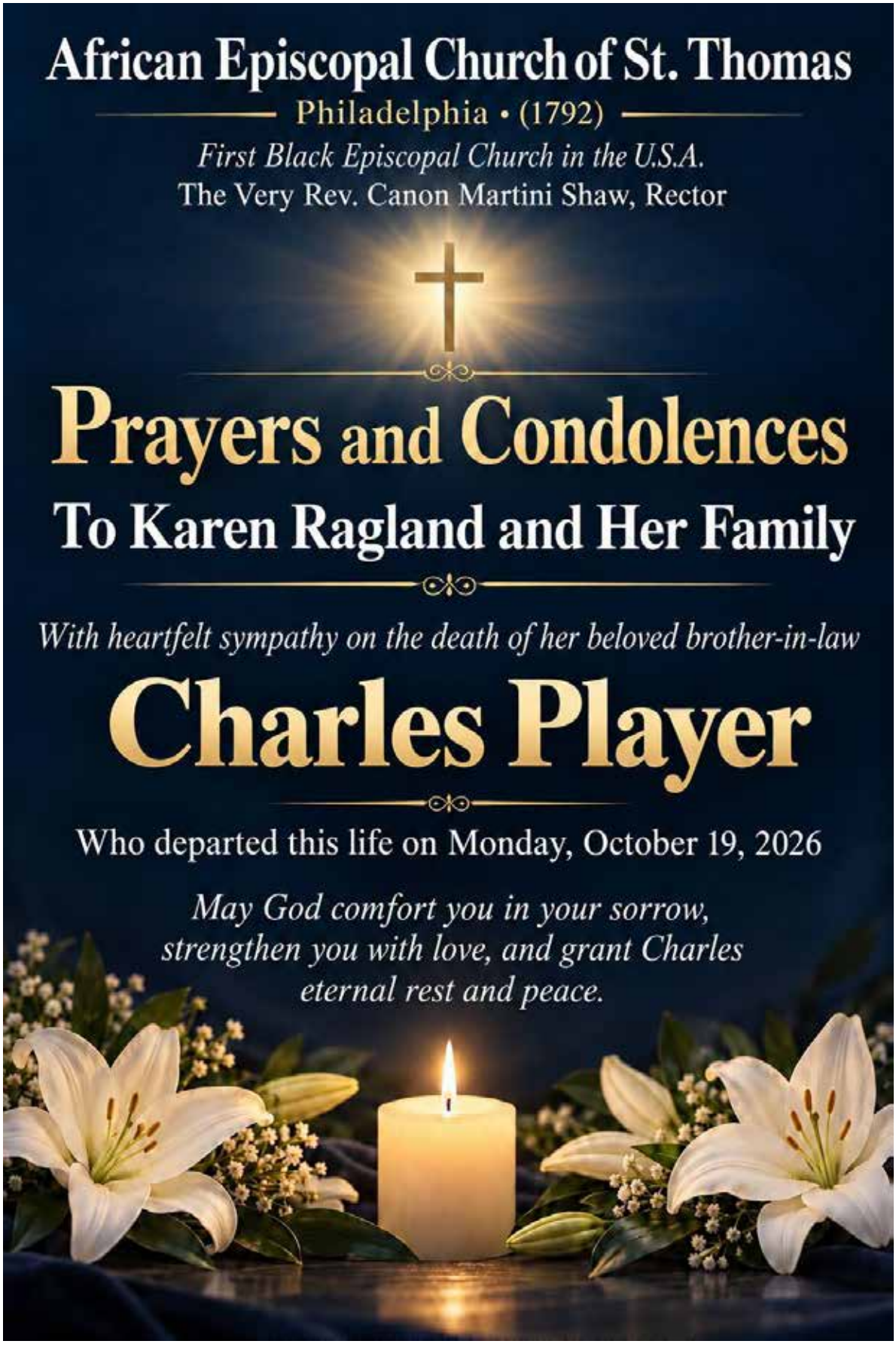
- **Thank you** to everyone that purchased a pew memorial plaque that will memorialize your loved one. The Memorial Tribute Ministry will notify you once the plaques are ready for installation.

- **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.

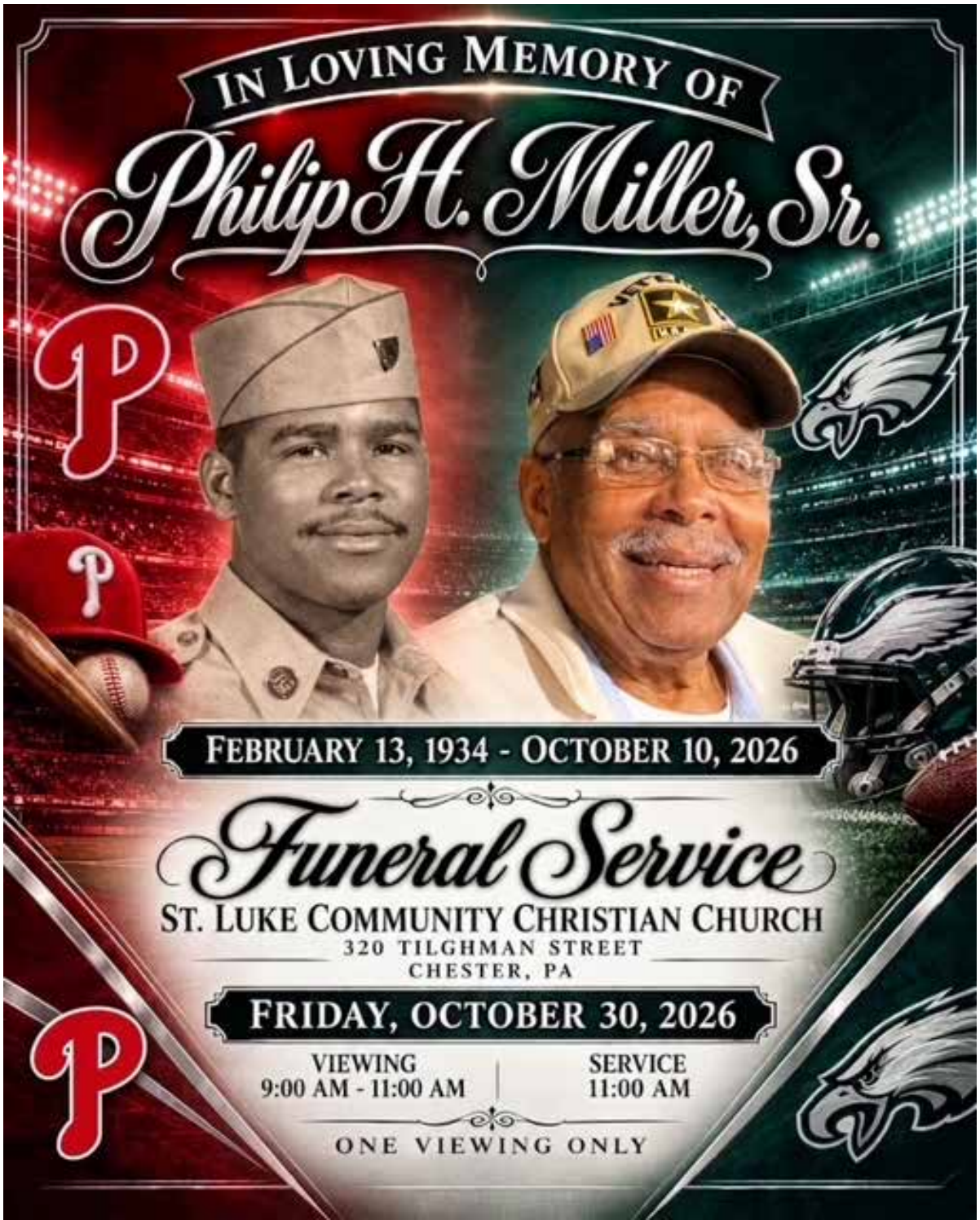
- Following the call to worship the Verger, or designated person, requests that the congregation maintain a spirit of reverence and silence as we prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God. Please refrain from conversation.

- 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.

**Condolences** to Verger Karen Ragland and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, **Charles Player**. May the soul of Charles rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



**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**. His service will be held on **Friday, October 30, 2026,** at St. Luke Community Christian Church, 320 Tilghman Street, Chester, PA. Viewing from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Service at 11:00 AM. 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)**

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.

# African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

**Philadelphia • 1792**

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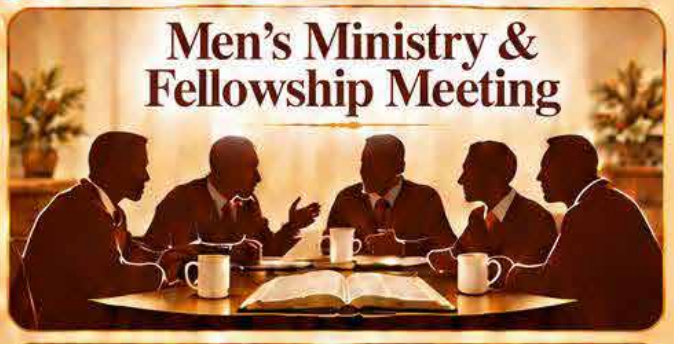
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

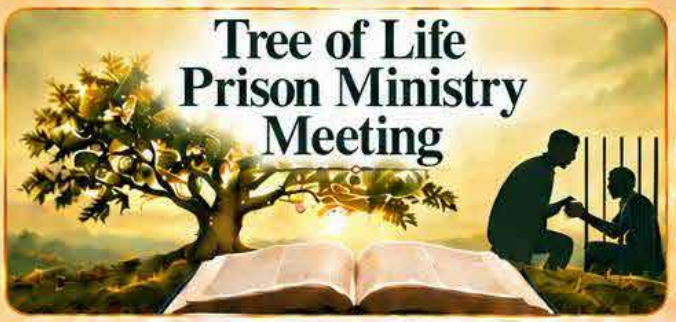
# A BUSY DAY AT ST. THOMAS!

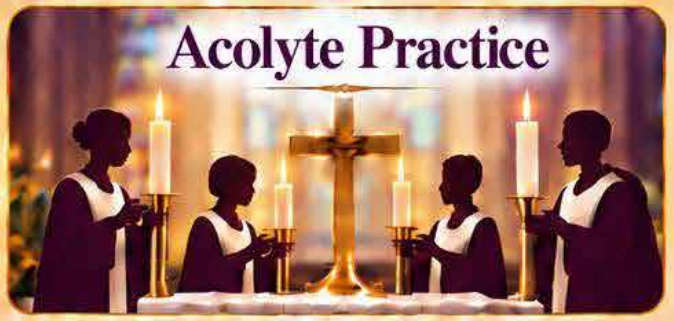
## Faith • Fellowship • Service • Dedication

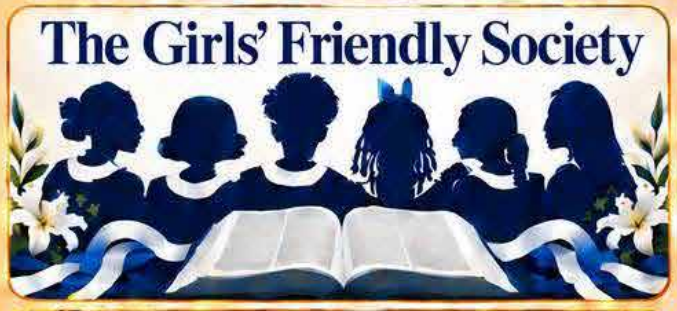
## Saturday, October 17, 2026



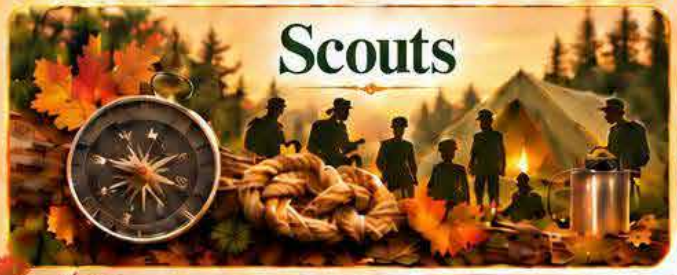













*Many ministries. One church family.*

## Vestry Retreat








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

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## Tree of Life Prison Ministry







## Girls' Friendly Society



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## 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.

## Acolyte Practice





## Scout Troop #133






## Men's Ministry and Fellowship



**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!**

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**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

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## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
## Thanksgiving project – bring joy to families during the Thanksgiving season

- Daughters of The King will be collecting donations until November 15, 2026. The funds collected will be used to assist families with purchasing food for Thanksgiving dinner. No donation is too small, please prayerfully consider donating. Daughters will be collecting before and after church. Thank you in advance for your support.

- Sunday November 1, 2026, the St. Thomas Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King will celebrate the Feast of All Saints and All Souls Day. On this special day, we will join Daughters of the King chapters throughout the United States and beyond in observing this day through the sacrament of Holy Communion, received together as a chapter. We kindly ask all Daughters to be present for this meaningful occasion, if possible, as we gather in worship, fellowship and remembrance.

---

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY THANK YOU

With heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, the Women's Ministry expresses sincere thanks for your generous support of the 2026 popcorn fundraiser. Your kindness, generosity and willingness to support are truly appreciated. We are grateful to be part of such a loving and supportive church family. May God continue to strengthen our fellowship and bless each of you abundantly!

## 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.

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## VETERANS DAY OBSERVATION

Veterans Day will be observed on **Sunday, November 8th.** Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniform and/or medals. All Veterans are asked to email J.R. Brockman, **brock.man@verizon.net,** the following information:

- Name
- Date of Birth (optional)
- Branch of Service
- Rank
- Combat Service, if any (i.e., Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.)
- Purple Heart (Y/N)
- Other awards

# African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Philadelphia • (1792)

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

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*

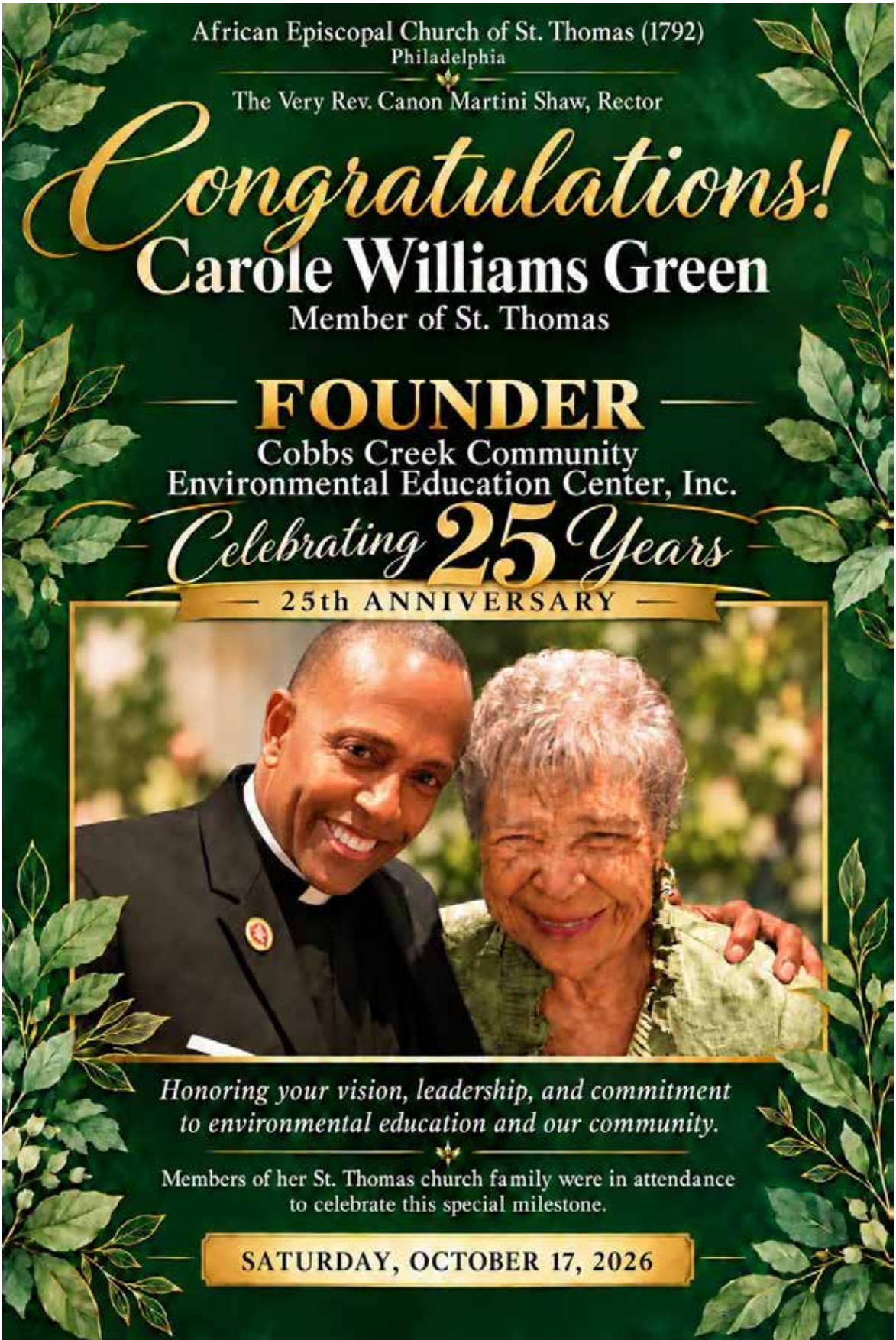
**The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw**

*Our 17th and Present Rector*

**Both born on November 6**

***A Reception to Follow***

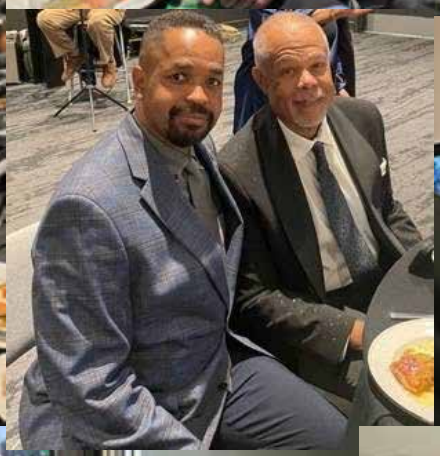
Carole Williams Green was honored for 25 years of vision, leadership, and commitment to environmental education and the community with the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center, Incorporated.













**TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY (TOLPM)**

Donations are being requested to help support the following initiatives:

**Angel Tree Christmas Party:** This is the annual Christmas party for children who have an incarcerated parent. The party will be held Sunday, December 20th after morning worship. There are two (2) ways you can support this project; a financial donation, any amount, to offset the cost of preparing the meal for the families at the party; or during the month of November, we are asking you to support at least one child by purchasing a holiday gift that will be distributed at the Christmas party.

**Family Support Assistance:** Often children who have an incarcerated parent are being cared for by a relative. The TOLPM will query families and determine what is most needed: food, clothing, children's books, etc. Funds will be used to help these families, including providing support to travel to St. Thomas for the Christmas party.

**Tidy Whites Projeect**: Often incarcerated men are not provided with a sufficient number of undergarments. The TOLPM is asking for donations of men's WHITE ONLY underwear including: Hanes (brand)Tag less T-Shirts, Briefs Tag-less and Crew Length Socks. ALL SIZES ARE NEEDED.

If you have questions, contact J.R. Brockman at **brock.man@verizon.net** or call 609-381-9981

## 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.**

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## 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.

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## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**October 25th**

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

**November 1st**

~Celebration of the Feast of All Saints/All Souls~
~Daughters of the King Corporate Communion~

**November 8th**

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

**November 15th**

~Members of The Links, Incorporated~ will be worshiping with us in celebration of their 80th Anniversary.
Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, Executive Director, The Links Foundation, Incorporated, will be the guest homilist.

**November 22nd**

~Annual Judicial Sunday~
The Honorable Natasha Taylor Smith, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County,
will be the guest speaker.

~Youth and Young Adults Sunday~

**November 29th**

~The First Sunday of Advent~
~Health Ministry Sunday~

**THIS WEEK AT AECST – OCTOBER 25, 2026**

**Tuesday, October 27th**
~Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay~
via Zoom at 7:00 PM

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

**Wednesday, October 28th**
~St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal~
in Anderson Hall at 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 31st**
~GFS Meeting~
in the Undercroft from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

`~Acolyte Rehearsal~
in the Sanctuary at 1:30 PM

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



# Singing the
# African American Spirituals
## with Integrity

A workshop for clergy, musicians, and congregants

**Saturday, November 7, 2026**
**2-5 pm**
**at Calvary St. Augustine Church**
814 N 41 St, Philadelphia, PA 19104
Open to all

**Tickets: $20**
Scholarships are available.
Email diopaarc@gmail.com.

This workshop is offered for church musicians, clergy, and lay people who seek to learn more about how to introduce the repertoire of the African American Spirituals to their choirs and congregations.

FEATURED CLINICIANS:
**Ruth Naomi Floyd**
**Dr. Jay Fluellen**
**Carrie Lessene**
**Dr. Thomas Lloyd**

GUEST CHOIR:
**Intermezzo Choir Ministry**
Carrie Lessene, Director

LEARN MORE + GET TICKETS:

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Anti-Racism Commission




## 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.

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## 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**

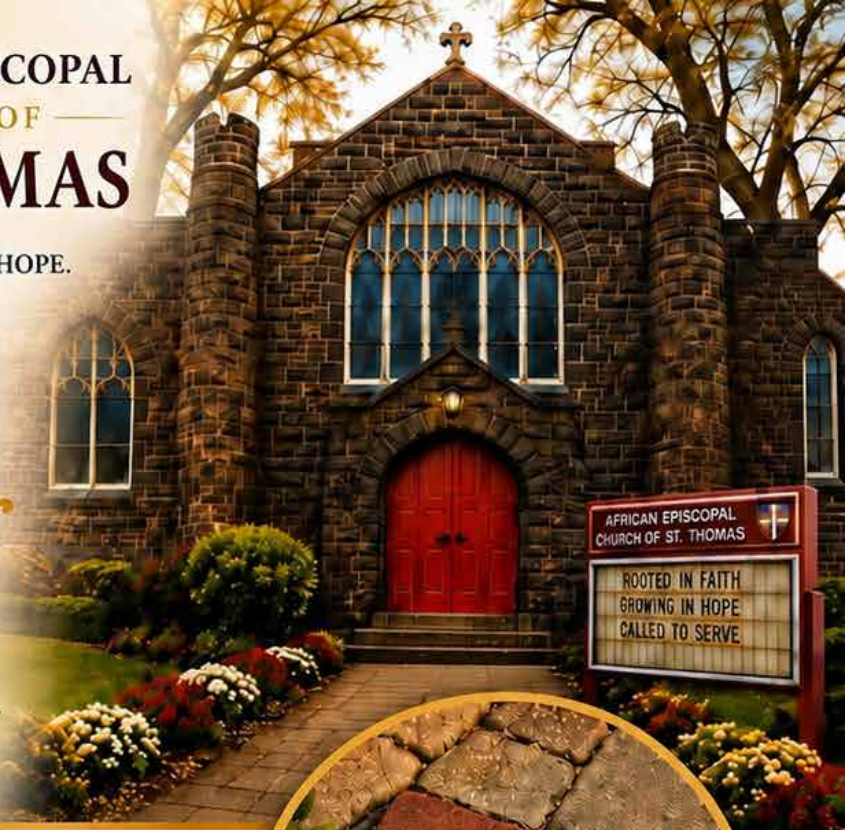
# AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

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.

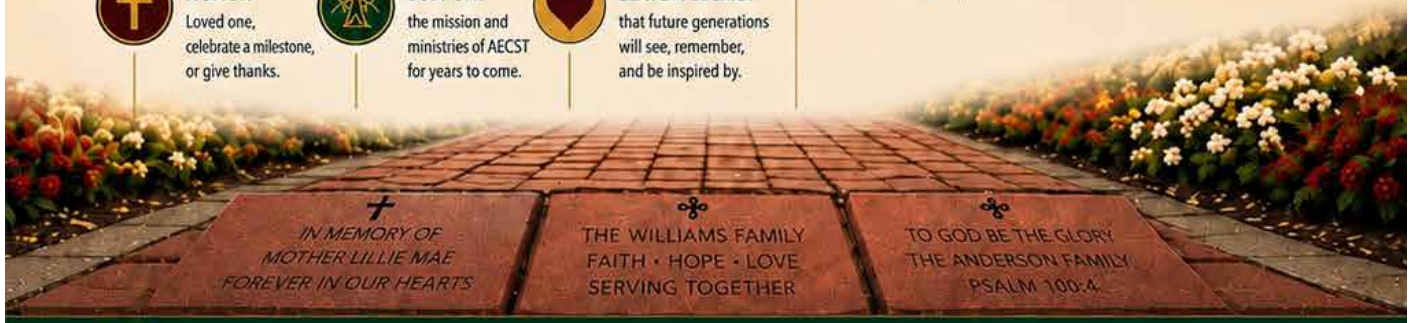
**HONOR**
Loved one, celebrate a milestone, or give thanks.

**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.

## INTERMEZZO CHOIR MINISTRY

# PRE-THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF PRAISE!!

Carrie Lessene, Director

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026 • 4:00 PM**

**FREE WILL OFFERING**

**AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS (1792)**

6361 Lancaster Ave (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA

**(215) 473-3065**

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

**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 4 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 4: Building Stamina**

- **Goal:** Walk 25 minutes per day, 5 days this week.
- **Pace:** Mix it up. Try 15 minutes of moderate walking and 10 minutes of a brisk, purposeful pace.
- **Fall Tip**: Celebrate the end of your challenge by checking out a local nature trail, a local pumpkin patch, or a corn maze to get your final steps in.
- **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.

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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.

**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

## 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**.

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## SCOUT TROOP #133

The Scout program has resumed! All children are welcome to participate. If you know of a child interested in exploring, learning new skills and developing confidence, the Scout Program might be for them.

The Cub Scout Program is open to children in grades 1-5 and meet from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturdays.
The Scout Program is open to children 11-17 years old and meet are on Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM in the Undercroft. For more information 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.**

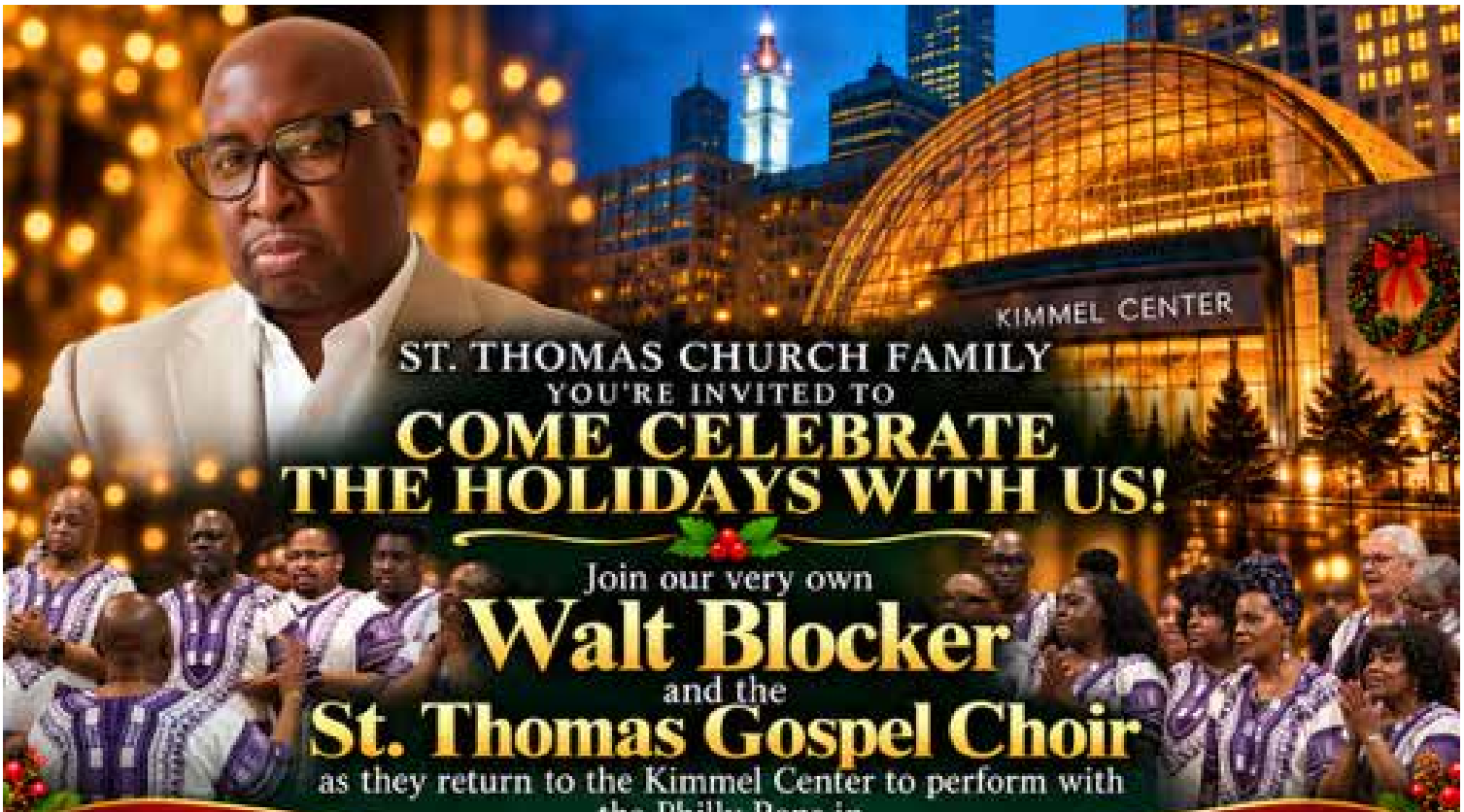
## REALM ANNOUNCEMENT
## "...BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE REALM"

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!

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Come celebrate the Holidays with Waltier Blocker and the St. Thomas Gospel Choir as they return to the Kimmel Center for "A Philly Holiday Spectacular." In addition to STGC, the concert will feature vocalists Ryan Shaw and Morgan James, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, The Philly Pops Chorus, The Philly Pops Orchestra and a special visit from Santa Clause! Concerts dates are as follows:
Friday, December 11th - 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 12th - 2:00 PM
Sunday, December 13th - 7:00 PM
Tickets may be purchased through phillypops.org or by calling the Kimmel Center box office at 215-893-1999




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-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 25, 2026**

The First Reading - **Deuteronomy 34:1-12**
**Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17**
The Second Reading - **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**
The Holy Gospel - **Matthew 22:34-46**

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of October 25, 2026**

Monday - **Luke 11:14-26**
Tuesday - **Luke 11:27-36**
Wednesday - **Luke 11:37-52**
Thursday - **Luke 11:53-12:12**
Friday - **Luke 12:13-31**
Saturday - **Luke 12:32-48**

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**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 are in celebration of the birthday of **Gladyce DuBrey**, given by Virginia DuBrey, Courtney, and Cheyenne Williamson.

Flowers on the High Altar are given in memory of **Matilda "Tillie," Bernard**, and **Keith Smith**, given by Paula and Wayne Wright

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.

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**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.**

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**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.

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## 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, Marilyn Brown

**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, Dorothy Smith

**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.

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**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.

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## 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 |

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## 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 |

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## 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