

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY



AMEN

THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 26, 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



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

www.aecst.org

**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
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Youth and
Young Adult Sunday.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Faithfully,

Martini Shaw+

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



**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.

THIS SUNDAY!

Calling all ghosts, ghouls, superheroes, princes,
and princesses, meet us in the parking lot
after service for Trunk or Treat.

Spread the word to all families with children!!!

The poster features a central illustration of a car trunk with various Halloween-themed items like pumpkins and candy scattered around it. The background is decorated with spider webs. Text is arranged in a circular fashion around the central image, with key details in white boxes. At the bottom, there are cartoon illustrations of four children in costumes: a pirate, a ghoul, a ghost, and a skeleton. The footer contains the church's name, address, and contact information in a black box.

Kid Friendly!
Ages 12 & Under

AECST
4th Annual
TRUNK OR TREAT

Come and Join Us!

October 26th

Time: After service

Location: AECST Parking Lot

Volunteers needed to decorate your trunk and hand out candy!

Costumes optional but encouraged!

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

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

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

IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Annual Stewardship Drive has begun.

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

Are you working toward that spiritual goal?

Please use the Giving Chart to assist you with your Faithful Giving Pledge for 2026.

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



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

2026 FAITHFUL GIVING CARDS

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

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

Clergy

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

Vestry

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

Auxiliary Vestry

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

Patricia Akins	Clarice Grant
Constance Anderson	Arlene Gray
Dorothy Archey	Presko (PJ) Grier
Jennifer Bell	Thomasina Hack
Susan Ben	Lisa Harper
Deborah Billups	Sharon Harper
Waltier Blocker	Katrina Harris
Dr. Naomi Booker	Walter & Nicole Harris
Guy Booth	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris
Ricardo Bostic	Thomas & Lynn Harris
Lorita Brockington	Maurice Hayes
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Rene Hayes
Marilyn Brown	Julie Hergenrather
Kenneth Bundy	Quentin Heyward
Cornelia Camp	Erica Hill-Yates
Charlotte Card	Fleta Howell
Phyllis Cater	Rober Hugh
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Donald & Patricia Hunt
Terry Corson	Yvonne Hyde-Carter
Karen Davis	Evelyn Johns
Johanna Daye	Frank Johnson
Carl Dean	Eric Jones
William & Quincina Edmonds	Sheils Jones-Smith
Marcia Forde	Paula Lamb
Stephen & Donna Foster	Nancy Lee
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel	Steven & Jamella Lewis
Norman & Nikki Franke	Karen Leys
Barry Frye	Alonda Lord
Irenda Gates	C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
Edward & Kathryn Geiger	James Lowe
Barbara Glenn	Winston Lowe
Swanie Goldsmith	Gregory Lyles
	Stephen & Michelle Mack

Stacye McCoy-Ndiaye	Cassandra Ruffin
Sheila McCullough	Yvonne Ruiz
Michael McIntosh	Leah Sheppard
Laura McNeil	Arlene Singletary
Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia	Catherine Stafford
Vincent Lisa Napoloen	Daryn Stewart
Mercy Natt	Shelly & Ann Stewart
Bebbie Otey	Arthur & Michele Sudler
Carolyn Paige	Carolyn Summers
Samuel & Deidre Patterson	Lynda Tapper Smith
Zennetta Peters	Justin & Lee Anne Trotman
Eugene & Karina Phillips	Joe Tucker & Alicia Horn
Kim Phillips	Barbara Wiley
Mary Ann Phillips	R. Seth Williams
Stephen Pugh	Gillian Wilson
Karem Ragin	Jenelle Wilson Johnson
Karen Ragland	Lorna Wilson
Dolores Redmond	Charlene Wiltshire
Clarence Rice	Khalita Wright
Caryn Rivers	Paula Wright
Victoria Rivers	Wanda Wood
	Alice Young

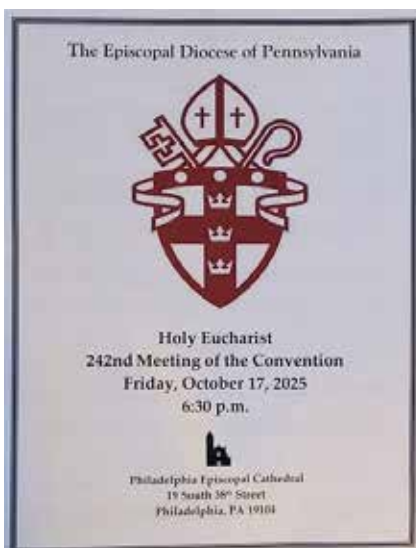
On Saturday, October 18th, the Men's Ministry and Fellowship held their **Old School Cabaret**.
A great time was had by all!!!





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

On Saturday, October 17th and 18th, St. Thomas members played an active role in the **Holy Eucharist & 242nd Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania**





St. Thomas and Mother Bethel will join other faith communities in celebrating our nation's 250th Anniversary.

Fr. Shaw joins the Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness (Pastor, Mother Bethel A.M.E Church) and the Rev. Judy Sullivan (Interfaith Coalition) in planning discussions.

**THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2025**







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

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

SUNDAY'S SERVICE featured two of our dedicated members, **Ann Stewart** and **Deadra Cannon**, reading from Massachusetts and from Georgia (listen to two links below).



Ann:

<https://youtu.be/AbXIldvw55c>



Deadra:

<https://youtu.be/F5PJzNuG5N8>

On Sunday, October 19th, the new **AECST Memorial Tribute Ministry** members were commissioned.



HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS

Listen to **State Representative Morgan Cephas** and
Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker
during a visit to St. Thomas.

Video: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Videography Ministry)



One of St. Thomas' own, Dr. Derek Griffith in the news.
View the article using this [link](#).



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 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.

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.

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.

Also beginning **Monday, October 13, 2025**, ALL Groups, Ministries, and Fellowships **MUST** submit a "Request for Meeting Space" form to the office for ALL meetings in the **Church, Anderson Hall, Absalom Jones House, parking lot, and or Great Lawn at least 2 weeks before the meeting**. Nothing should be said or given to LaDon or David. Everything should come through the church office. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact Gladyce in the church office at 215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org.

ROBO CALLS

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

**MAZZONI CENTER
HONORS**
Melba Moore

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



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

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

Hosted by Peabody Award-winning journalist
SOLEDAD O'BRIEN

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

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

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

REALM IS HERE!

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

Church Online Giving

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

Communication

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

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

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

Training

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

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



Powered By



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

Hi [REDACTED]

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

Create an account: <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

“Our directory will not be complete without you!”

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

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

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

Thank you.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING THANKSGIVING GIFT OF JOY 2025

Each year the Daughters of the King collect donations for 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.

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS MEMORIAL CANDLES

On November 3rd, we will celebrate the **Feast of All Saints/All Souls.**

If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one, please use the [form](#) and return it to the church office.



St. Thomas, can we be St. James School's Sweet Potato Church Again?

The Sisterhood Guild is collecting cans of sweet potatoes to help the families of the St. James School.

They are requesting 250 cans to be distributed to the families.

There will be a box at the back of the church for the cans.

We will be collecting them from today,

Sunday, October 26th, until Sunday, November 16th.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, October 28th

- 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 29th

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

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

October 26th

- **Youth and Young Adult Sunday**
- Trunk or Treat – 12:00 PM in the AECST Parking Lot

November 2nd

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

November 9th

- **Observance of Veterans Day**

November 16th

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

November 23rd

- **Family and Friends Sunday**
The person with the most family or friends worshipping with us will be awarded a prize.

November 30th

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

CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION / RECEPTION CLASSES

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

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

Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!

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

CHAT AND CHEW

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

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

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY

October 2025 is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

How to find local breast cancer support groups?

Talking to a patient navigator or social worker is a good first step in finding a support group.

Support Groups provide a safe, supportive space to connect with one another and share experiences navigating life with breast cancer and learning about available resources. These support services are available to cancer patients and/or their loved ones.

Below is information about several Support Groups in the area.

Komen Breast Care Helpline at 1-877-GO-KOMEN

(1-877-465-6636) or email helpline@komen.org for help finding a local, online, or telephone support groups.

Fox Chase Cancer Center - Jennifer Keller, MSS, LSW at 215-728-2670 or Jennifer.Keller@fccc.edu

Breast Cancer Virtual Meetings – Second Wednesday of the month, Noon – 1:00 PM

Jefferson Health – Virtual and In-Person Groups Available.
Contact: Jefferson Cancer Support and Welcome Center at 215-955-1800 or CancerSupportCenter@Jefferson.edu.

Living Beyond Breast Cancer Help Line- (888) 753-5222

Penn Medicine Breast Cancer Care – (800) 789-7366

Cancer Support Community – (888) 793-9355

Live web chat option for those who prefer not to call: <https://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/> - support-helpline

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES

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

Constance Anderson - Florida

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

Christopher Burks - Rhode Island/New York

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Dr. Ted Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney -Texas

Bradley Hammond - Mississippi

Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina

Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York

Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida

Bettie Jones - North Carolina

Rae Scott Jones - Florida

Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia

Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina

Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson -Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Dr. John Rich - Illinois

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly and Ann Stewart - Florida

Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

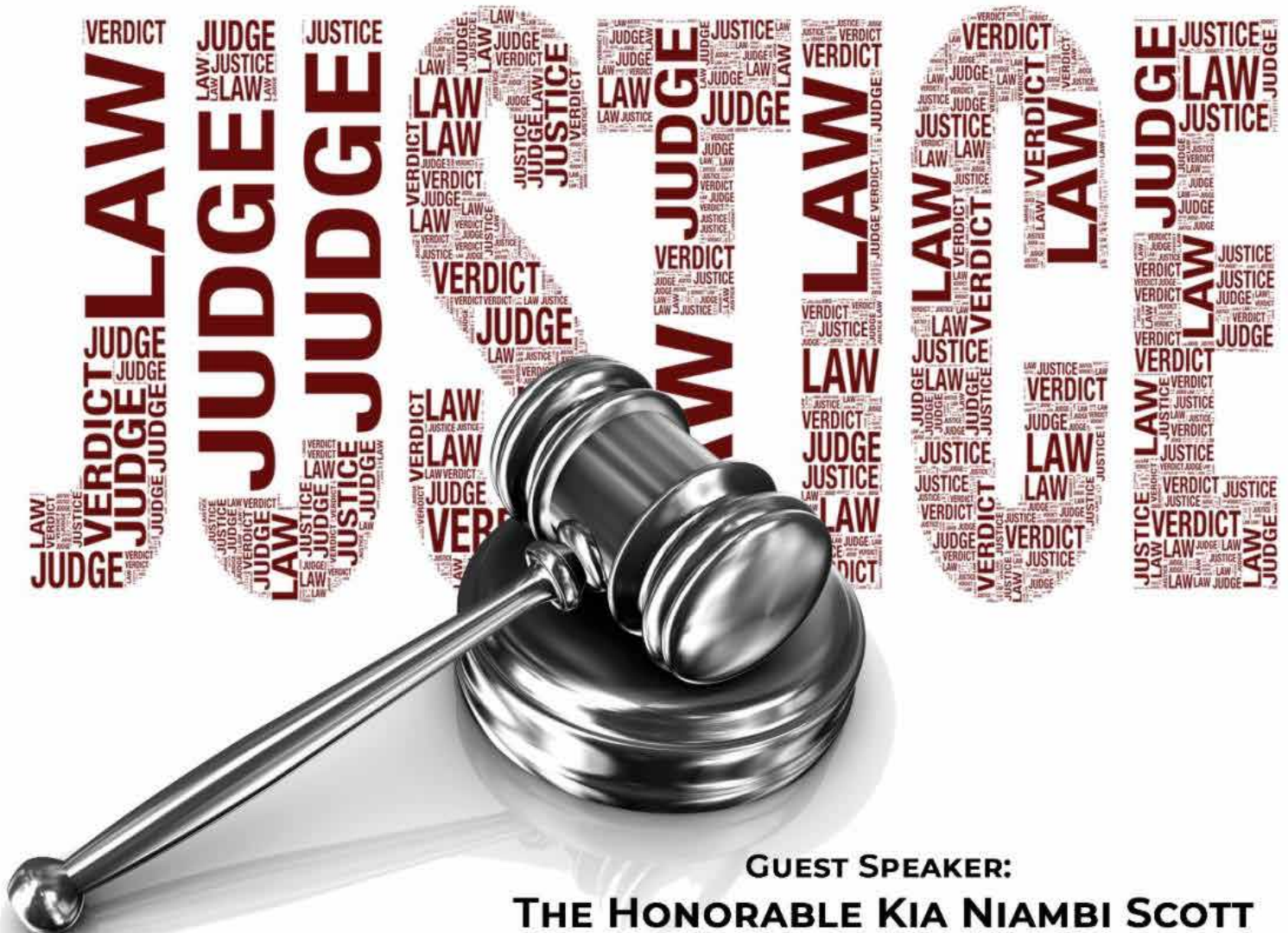
Allison Young - Maryland

You are invited to join us for

JUDICIAL SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 10AM

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS



GUEST SPEAKER:

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



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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

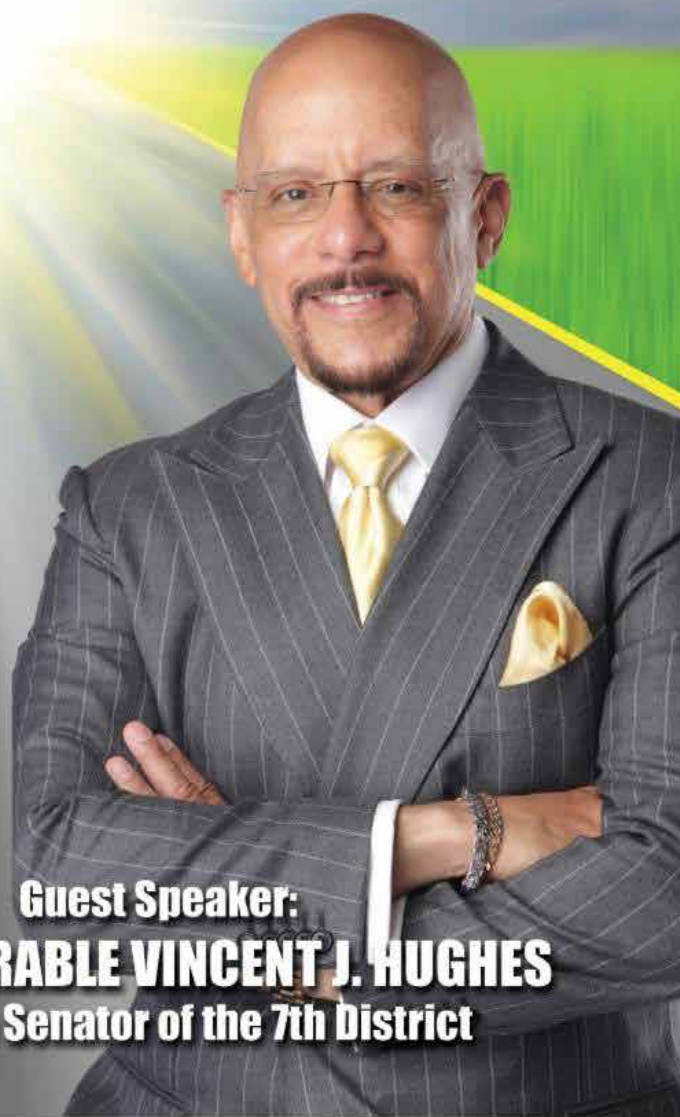
Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), [the Live Stream Service](#), on our [Facebook](#) page or [Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

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

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

PREPARE A WAY:
SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING!
MATTHEW 3:1-12

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



Guest Speaker:

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



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ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of **Matilda “Tillie”** and **Bernard Smith**, given by Paula and Wayne Wright.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to **Clare Mae Daniels** or **Alfreda Brockman**.

(Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office). Thank you.

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

High Altar - \$70

Absalom Jones Altar - \$60

the Columbarium - \$50

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



DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS
Readings for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 26, 2025

The First Lesson – [Joel 2:23-32](#)
[Psalm 65](#)

The Second Lesson – [2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 18:9-14](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of October 27, 2025

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](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY
with [Fr. Daren](#) meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
in Absalom Jones House.



CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson.](#)



VERGERS NEEDED!

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or
the Rector for more details.

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.



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

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

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez - University of Pennsylvania

IN REHAB:

Francina Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

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

AT HOME:

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

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, 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.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

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



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW, but also the church of TODAY! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

Church School begins at **10:00 AM** in the Undercroft. You **must** register your child for church school for the 2025-2026 school year. Please use this [link](#) to register your child/children.

Call for Church School Teachers - If you feel the calling by God to volunteer your time in church school, please fill out the registration [link](#) (if you were a teacher last year, please fill out this year's registration)



Tiny Tykes Temple is now located in the beautiful library of the Absalom Jones House for infants, children (under 3 years old) and parents. Parents who may find it necessary to step away from mass for a moment are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful space.

AECST PODCAST



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HEALING GARDEN!

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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. 2 Corinthians 9:7. NIV

The **Stewardship Committee** of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasure. Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below.



OTHER WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP:

1) Sunday Offering Plate

2) Mail in your check or money order to the church.

Please use the following address:

The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

3) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

4) Church website - <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>
the button(s) on the page that represent where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e., your pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc

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

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

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount is placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please don't hesitate to contact Pat Lynch at stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund.

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

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry	Wendella Fox Elaine Gillison	cattoministry@aecst.org
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

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

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

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

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

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller