



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



HOMECOMING SUNDAY

2026

*“Celebrating 234 Years
of relevant and vibrant ministry”*

ALL ABOARD THE AECST EXPRESS!!!!



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 • 10:00 AM

(Reception to follow Service)

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR



6361 LANCASTER AVENUE
(ABSALOM JONES WAY)
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151



(215) 473-3065

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 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](#)

“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,
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost and
Homecoming 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



AECST EXPRESS

ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER



**ALL ABOARD FOR FAITH, FELLOWSHIP,
AND FORWARD MOMENTUM!**

**WE HAVE A SEAT RESERVED FOR YOU!
— GET ON BOARD THE AECST EXPRESS TODAY! —**

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, PHILADELPHIA

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.



RECTOR'S REQUEST

Summer stewardship - During the summer months, churches often face financial difficulties as many parishioners are away on vacation. It is important to maintain your level of giving during this time. Please pray for our church's financial well-being.



Welcome back to all following a summer of restoration, rest, and renewal!

**YOU'RE INVITED: Homecoming Sunday,
September 13, 2026 at the AECST!!!**

This Sunday, will you be aboard the AECST EXPRESS
when it arrives on Absalom Jones Way?

(SEE INVITATION BELOW)

Video: Quentin Heyward
St.Thomas Videography Ministry



CALL TO WORSHIP

Please note, as you arrive at church, the playing of our
beautiful carillon bells. The musical tunes were created by
the late Joseph Stevenson.



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. THOMAS
PHILADELPHIA
1792

25th Anniversary of
SEPTEMBER 11

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

*"God is our refuge
and strength,
a very present
help in trouble."*

PSALM 46:1

A Time to Remember, A Call to Hope

YOU'RE INVITED

TO JOIN THE ST. THOMAS FAMILY
FOR A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE



8:46 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

*Wherever you are — at home, at work,
or on the go — join us.*

***Let us PAUSE, REMEMBER,
and PRAY TOGETHER.***



PAUSE

for one minute
of silence.



REMEMBER

those who died, those who served,
and all whose lives were
forever changed.



THEN PRAY TOGETHER

the Lord's Prayer,
wherever you are.

Though we are apart, we are united in prayer.

THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW
RECTOR

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

- 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.

RECTOR'S WISH LIST

Our Audio/Visual/Media Systems sorely need upgrading.

- Anderson Hall sound system
- Livestream system
- Sanctuary sound system

Please consider donating towards our goal to raise \$10,000.00. You may contact Father Shaw if you have questions.

On Sunday, we will offer blessings upon the **Tree of Life Prison Ministry**, its officers, and Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker, who will be commissioned for the ministry of parish Verger.



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS
PRESENTS

YOUTH FUN DAY



Acolytes **2026** *Church School*



**SATURDAY
SEPT. 12TH
12PM-3PM**

All are
welcome!

**SIGN UP FOR OUR YOUTH GROUPS
PLUS:**

**RAINGUTTER REGATTA
MINUTE TO WIN IT GAMES
READING NOOK
BOUNCE HOUSES
CRAFTS
DOUBLE DUTCH
CORNHOLE AND MORE...**

COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!

**CHALLENGE:
MAKE IT TO
EVERY STATION
FOR A PRIZE!**

Refreshments will
be served!

For more information, contact
Wendella Fox at wpfox3008@verizon.net
or Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net

**THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

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



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.

LAUNCH IS HOMECOMING SUNDAY! SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

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.

✠
IN MEMORY OF
MOTHER LILLIE MAE
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

✠
THE WILLIAMS FAMILY
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE
SERVING TOGETHER

✠
TO GOD BE THE GLORY
THE ANDERSON FAMILY
PSALM 100:4



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

AECST LEGACY PATH CAMPAIGN

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) invites you to leave a lasting legacy by purchasing one or more personalized commemorative bricks to be permanently installed on the church grounds. Each engraved brick represents more than a name—it is a testament to faith, hope, and a shared commitment to the enduring mission of AECST.

As generations gather to worship, serve, and grow in Christ, your brick will stand as a visible reminder of your investment in the life and future of this historic congregation.

Your generous support of this project helps preserve our sacred heritage, strengthen our ministries, and ensure that The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas continues to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come.

Honor a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, celebrate your family, or simply express your commitment to the church's future. Leave your mark. Inspire generations.

Become a permanent part of the living legacy of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Each brick is \$125.00 and sales begin on Homecoming Sunday, September 13, 2026.

JUST IN TIME FOR HOMECOMING!

Our reinstalled and beautifully restored hanging sanctuary lamps are suspended above the High Altar.
To God be the glory!



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 6, 2026

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





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

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

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

The first informational and planning meeting for the Catto
Ministry will be:

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

6:00 - 7:15 PM

AECST-Absalom Jones (AJ) House

Condolences and prayers for Sharon Bullock and family on the death of her husband, **George M. Bullock**. May the soul of George rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Services will be held at St. Thomas on Thursday, September 17, 2026. A viewing will be held from 9:00-9:45 AM. Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM. Please pray for the family.

IN LOVING
MEMORY
OF
A LEGACY OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

George M.
BULLOCK

SUNRISE
SEPTEMBER 1,
1942



SUNSET
AUGUST 27
2026


VIEWING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
9:00 AM- 10:00 AM
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER
AVE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151


HOMEGOING
CELEBRATION SERVICE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
10:00 AM
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST.
THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151


BURIAL
DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL
CEMETARY
2465 CHESAPEAKE CITY ROAD
BEAR, DELAWARE 19701
SERVICE WILL START AT 2:00 PM


REPAST CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, SEPT 17, 2026 – 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
46 PRIMROSE DRIVE, BEAR, DELAWARE 19701


EVAN W. SMITH FUNERAL SERVICES
201 NORTH UNION ST | WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19805
(302) 377-6906 |
WWW.EVANWSMITHFUNERALSERVICES.COM
FORVER LOVED, FOREVER REMEMBERED, FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.



Please join us in Anderson Hall after service for the **Ministries Expo and Showcase** featuring the Guilds, Ministries, and Organizations of St. Thomas. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to learn about these ministries.

All Groups/Ministries/Organizations and Fellowships: St. Thomas Council of Guilds meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19th at 9:00 AM via Zoom. Please prepare your calendar and coffee hour dates before the meeting. Zoom information has been emailed to all leaders and presidents. If you did not receive it, please contact Gladyce in the church office at 1792@aecst.org or 215-473-3065.



— THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL —
CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

— PHILADELPHIA —



EDUCATION SUNDAY



Equipping Minds. Enriching Lives. Empowering Communities.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

10:00 A.M.

GUEST SPEAKER

AARON A. WALTON

President of Cheyney University



**CHEYNEY
UNIVERSITY**

FAITH • KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE

CO-CHAIRS

DEIDRE FARMBRY, Ed.D.

AND MONICA JOHNSON TAYLOR, Ed.D.

SPECIAL MUSIC

**CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY
GLEE CLUB**

*Come and be blessed by an inspiring word
and uplifting music!*



*"Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it."*
PROVERBS 22:6

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY

The annual celebration of education, at the start of the new school year, will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2026. This year's theme is "Equipping Minds. Enriching Lives. Empowering Communities."

The President of Cheyney University, Dr. Aaron A. Walton, will be our featured speaker! Additionally, the Cheyney University Glee Club will be musical guests.

The students of St. Thomas should bring their back packs and school bags to church for a special blessing. Also, educators in our parish will be recognized in the Bulletin and Spearhead on September 20, 2026.

If you are a new member of our congregation and work, or previously worked in the field of education, please send your name and position held to Cynthia Muse at musecyn@aol.com.



AECST HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Saturday, September 19, 2026

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Springfield Pharmacy & Medical Supply will offer a vaccine clinic at AECST.

Current Vaccination Recommendations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cuSFP2yUe5XnrOs_0LVZ3Vj_B1IOA3YL/view?usp=sharing

Leading U.S. medical organizations have issued updated 2026–2027 FLU, COVID-19, and RSV vaccination recommendations to provide clearer, science-based guidance.

Flu: Vaccination is recommended for nearly everyone 6 months and older, with particular importance for adults ages 65 and over, pregnant individuals, young children, people with chronic conditions, and immunocompromised patients. Enhanced flu vaccines are preferred for adults ages 65 and over.

COVID-19: Medical organizations continue to support vaccination, particularly for older adults and people at increased risk. Family physicians recommend vaccination for all adults, while pediatric guidance emphasizes young children and children with high-risk conditions. COVID vaccination during pregnancy is also supported.

Timing: October is considered an ideal time for influenza vaccination. COVID vaccination may be timed based on risk, prior vaccination/infection, and anticipated activities or exposures.

Timing: October is considered an ideal time for influenza vaccination. COVID vaccination may be timed based on risk, prior vaccination/infection, and anticipated activities or exposures.

Effectiveness: Flu and COVID vaccines may not prevent every infection but substantially reduce the risk of severe illness, emergency visits, and hospitalization.

RSV: A one-time RSV vaccine is recommended for adults ages 75 and over and certain adults ages 50–74 at increased risk, as well as during late pregnancy to protect infants. Preventive antibody medication is recommended for certain infants.

Access: Vaccines are available through pharmacies and healthcare practices, with Medicare and most private insurers continuing coverage.

Major U.S. professional medical organizations continue to emphasize vaccination as an important strategy for preventing severe respiratory illness during the upcoming fall and winter season.

Use the link below or take a picture of the QR Code to register and choose a time to receive your vaccination. You will need to provide your Health Insurance information. This form goes directly to the pharmacy. <https://form.jotform.com/262226481081150>



For questions or to register for this free event, please contact Nikki Franke at nikki.franke@temple.edu or Michael McIntosh at michael.mcintosh46@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT AECST – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Monday, September 14th

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. meeting
in Anderson Hall from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Tuesday, September 15th

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, September 16th

~Catto Ministry meeting
in Absalom Jones House from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

~Thomas Gospel Choir rehearsal~
in Anderson Hall at 7:30 PM

Thursday, September 17th

~Funeral service for George Bullock~
Viewing from 9:00 - 9:45 AM
Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM

~Vestry meeting~ via Zoom at 6:00 PM

Saturday, September 19th

~Daughters of the King (DOK) meeting~
in Anderson Hall from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

~Men's Ministry and Fellowship meeting~
in the Undercroft from 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

~Council of Guilds meeting~
via Zoom at 9:00 AM

~St. Thomas Chancel Choir rehearsal~
in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

~St. Thomas Health Ministry Immunizations~
in the Absalom Jones House from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

~Scout Troop #133~ will meet
in the Undercroft from 1:00- 4:00 PM

UPCOMING SUNDAYS
September 20th

~Education & Back to School Sunday~
~The blessing of St. Thomas' Church School teachers,
staff, and all educators~

September 27th

~Youth & Young Adult Sunday~
~Ye Olde Philadelphia Club will worshipn with us~

October 4th

~Stewardship Season Kick-Off~
~Church School begins~
~The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi~

During morning worship, please bring your feathered, furry,
four-legged, no-legged family members to worship with us.

October 11th

~Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto~
Guest Speaker - State Representative Christopher Rabb

October 18th

~Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday~ -
Please wear something pink.

October 25th

~Youth & Young Adults Sunday~
~Church School Trunk or Treat~
in the Church Parking lot after service

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. Anyone who loves to sing, regardless of age or skill level, is welcomed to join. The choir sings a wide variety of musical styles, including anthems, Spirituals, and Gospel, among others.

Our rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Saturday, September 12th, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, September 19th, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, October 17th, 2026 - 10:00 AM

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



CHOSEN 300 INVITATION TO SERVE

Join St. Thomas Chosen 300 Ministries on Monday, September 21st at 5:00 PM to serve our homeless brothers and sisters at 3959 Lancaster Ave., Phila., PA. Please contact Cynthia Muse at musecyn@aol.com for more information.



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.





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.

“You Can Tell The World: Black Composers” in concert at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, **Sunday, October 4, 2026**, at 3:00 PM, an afternoon of art song and sacred repertoire by Black composers and original compositions featuring Chantal Freeman, Soprano; James A. Early, Piano and Dr. Jay Fluellen, Piano. This is a free-will offering event.

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

SISTERHOOD GUILD Purse



BYOE - Cabaret Style

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026 AT 1:00 - 5:00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30PM, COST \$25.00

***NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

ANDERSON HALL

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE

PHILADELPHIA PA 19151

***NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED**





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
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AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. THOMAS
TRUNK
OR
TREAT



A SAFE &
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
HALLOWEEN
EVENT!

FUN • CANDY • COMMUNITY

COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED!
BRING YOUR
SMILE!



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

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.



GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)

Meetings are held on Saturday mornings at 11:00 AM, in the Undercroft. All girls are invited to join. If you would like to become an adult GFS Sponsor and be on the mailing list for future events, please contact Branch Advisor Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net.



ATTENTION: All Groups/Ministries/Organizations and Fellowships

- Announcements and flyers for the Sunday Bulletin and digital Spearhead should be received on **Monday by 12:00 Noon**. If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office, (215)473-3065.
- Please submit a "Request for Meeting Space" form to the office for all meetings in the Church, and on the Church campus two weeks prior to the event. Please refrain from approaching the sextons. The church office maintains the calendar for all events. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact the church office at (215)473-3065 or email 1792@aecst.org.

THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS' DAY 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.

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 - Seattle, 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

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.



Vocalists and Musicians Wanted!

You are invited to join the professional recording St. Thomas Gospel Choir. The Gospel Choir (STGC) is directed by Waltier Blocker and sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, in addition to special services. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:30 PM in Anderson Hall.



**The Bible Readings for
the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026**

The Reading - [Exodus 14:19-31](#)
[Psalm 114](#)

The Second Reading - [Romans 14:1-12](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the week
of September 13, 2026**

Sunday - [Matthew 5:21-26](#)

Monday - [John 11:55-12:8](#)

Tuesday - [John 12:9-19](#)

Wednesday - [John 12:20-26](#)

Thursday - [John 12:27-36](#)

Friday - [John 12:36-43](#)

Saturday - [John 12:44-50](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY

meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. If you are
interested in joining the ministry, please
contact Fr. Jay at

associatepriest@aecst.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Columbarium are in loving memory of **Geneva and William Thompson** for their birthdays this week. Given by Lance and Calvin Thompson.

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

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



REALM ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you to everyone for maintaining your financial pledge and faithful giving. During the summer months please submit your offering through Realm or by mail if you're not going to be in church. That will be appreciated. Also, if there's a need to adjust your pledge, please email me at:

stewardship@aecst.com

Thank you again.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Chair



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.

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:

Francina Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center; 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, Eleanor Chestnut, Regina Meacham Devero, Vernetta Dow, Virginia DuBrey, Patricia Walker-Ellison, Stephen Hannum, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., D. Lynn Joell, Karen Ragland, Joyce Stewart, Gail Harris, The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach, Waltier Blocker

SPECIAL PRAYERS:

Carmen Brown, Edita Gauthney, Joan Hall, Richard Jones, Jr., Cathy Stafford, Carolyn Summers, Daryn Stewart, Justin Trotman, Lisa Woodley, Charlene M. Wiltshire

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.

AECST ACOLYTE MINISTRY



Calling all youth! Join this highly visible and special ministry. No prior experience is needed as training is provided. This is an excellent way for children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information contact Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net.



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.



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:



The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
Abou...

www.aecst.org

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

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