



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

# Homecoming Sunday 2025

"Celebrating 233 Years  
of relevant and vibrant ministry"

**All onboard the AECST EXPRESS!!!!**

**September 14, 2025 - 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  
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](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

**THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church  
of St. Thomas**

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans  
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins  
Associate Priest



**Scan the QR code to support our church  
and our ministries.**

---

Please click on the link provided for the  
[Order of Service.](#)

## **“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”**

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.  
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this  
**The Fourth 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 U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

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

Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

*Martini Shaw*+

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



**YOU'RE INVITED - THIS SUNDAY**

**"Homecoming Sunday at Historic St. Thomas Church"**

(See video below)

Video: Quentin Heyward (St.Thomas Videography Ministry)



Scan the QR code or text "AECST" to 73256 to support our church and our ministries.

On Sunday, we install new members of the **St. Thomas Order of the Daughters of the King**, the new officers of the **St. Thomas Men's Ministry/Fellowship**, and bless and commission the **Church School Staff**.

## **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.

-----

### **FROM THE DESK OF RECTOR:**

Our year thus far has been filled with many exciting ministry activities and opportunities. Plans are now underway for the remaining four months of ministry.

The summer months were, as usual, financially challenging. I am asking you to please ensure that you are current with your 2025 yearly pledge. If you are not sure of yours, please contact Jeannette in the Fiscal Office.

If you can contribute additional funds, please prayerfully consider.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of our amazing church.

## **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 to begin in the Fall.**

(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](mailto:property@aecst.org).

## **ANNOUNCING EXCITING NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM**

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

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

#### **Church Online Giving**

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

#### **Communication**

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

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

Also, AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas ([notifications@onrealmmail.org](mailto: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.

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=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWVQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,  
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas



## 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](#)

---



### **PLEASE PARDON THE TEMPORARY SCAFFOLDING**

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



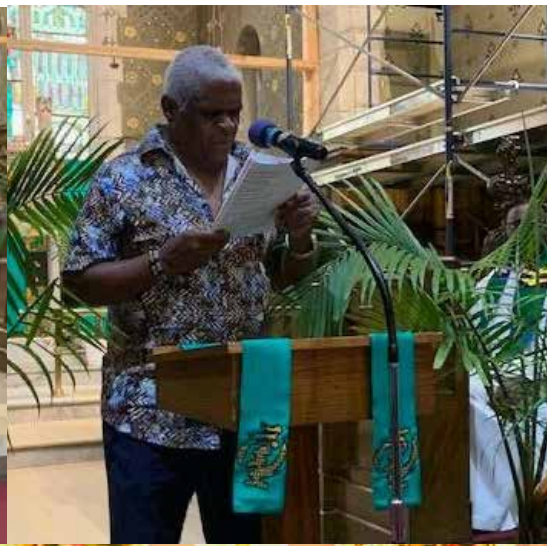


# THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## SEPTEMBER 7, 2025















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

Photos: William Edmonds, Stephen Pugh, and  
Justin Trotman  
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)



**IN CELEBRATION!**  
"The Blessing of a New Home"  
for St. Thomas' own Lee Daniels.





## SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE TRIP

During the month of August, youth and members of St. Thomas journeyed to Lancaster, PA, for the Sight & Sound production of NOAH. It was a powerful and fun evening for all.



## **CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATES**

### **SAVE the DATE**

#### **UPDATE #1**

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**

Annual Catto Ministry Resource Fair  
Immediately after Morning Service\*  
(No Eagles game)

#### **UPDATE #2**

The November election holds significant importance for Pennsylvania, as numerous judgeships are up for election and retention. It is imperative that we comprehend the significance of these elections and exercise our right to vote for our judges.

To gain a better understanding of judicial retention, we encourage you to allocate less than one hour to learn about the upcoming elections and the judges who are eligible for retention. If you missed the informative presentation on judicial retention, it is available on YouTube. You can access the presentation by searching “lunch and learn: understanding retention with Debbie Gross.” In less than an hour, you can acquire accurate and reliable facts about the upcoming election.

---





# MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU!

**PLAN TO ATTEND...**

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

## **Octavius V. Catto Ministry's RESOURCE FAIR**

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


**Light Refreshments will be Served**

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

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




On **Education Sunday**, we will recognize our present and retired Educators. If you joined St. Thomas within the past year and are a new or retired educator, please send your name and position by September 15 to [musecyn@aol.com](mailto:musecyn@aol.com). Thank you.



**EDUCATION SUNDAY**  
"BUILT ON FAITH, BOUND FOR GREATNESS"  
GOD'S ROLE IN THE LEGACY & FUTURE OF HBCUs  
-SHAPING STUDENTS TO IMPACT THE WORLD  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025, 10:00 AM

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**DR. BRENDA A. ALLEN**  
PRESIDENT OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

CHORAL SELECTIONS BY  
THE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY CHOIR  
DR. LLOYD MALLORY, CHOIR DIRECTOR

  
Co-CHAIRS  
DEIDRE R. FARMBRY, Ed.D. • MONICA J. TAYLOR, Ed.D.  
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

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

### SEPTEMBER 21st - ANNUAL EDUCATION SUNDAY

- Guest speaker will be **Dr. Brenda Allen**, President of Lincoln University, and the Lincoln University Choir.
- **New Member and Confirmation classes** - will begin at 8:45 AM
- **Inurnment of Deloris Bliss and Elizabeth Hawkins Brooks**
- Commissioning and Blessing of **Eugene Golson** to the ministry of Parish Verger

### SEPTEMBER 28TH - YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

### OCTOBER 5TH - STEWARDSHIP SEASON KICK-OFF

- A time to prayerfully submit our 2026 faithful giving promise to God

### October 12th - Remembering the Life and Ministry of Octavius V. Catto

- Our guest speaker: **The Honorable Morgan B. Cephas**, State Representative – 192nd District

-----

## THIS WEEK AT AECST

**Tuesday, September 16th** – 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, September 17th** – Bible Study with Fr. Daren 6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

**Thursday, September 18th** – Vestry Meeting 6:00 PM. It is open to anyone wishing to attend. Please contact the Vestry Clerk, Pamela Johnson, at [vestryclerk@aecst.org](mailto:vestryclerk@aecst.org) to receive more information

**Saturday, September 20th** – Health Ministry Vaccination Clinic 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

Chancel Choir rehearsal in the church -

Youth Fun Day 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



### **MEN OF ST. THOMAS (ALL AGES)**

You are cordially Invited to join the Rector for **Breakfast and Lively Conversation** on **Saturday, September 27, 2025;**  
**8:30 AM**

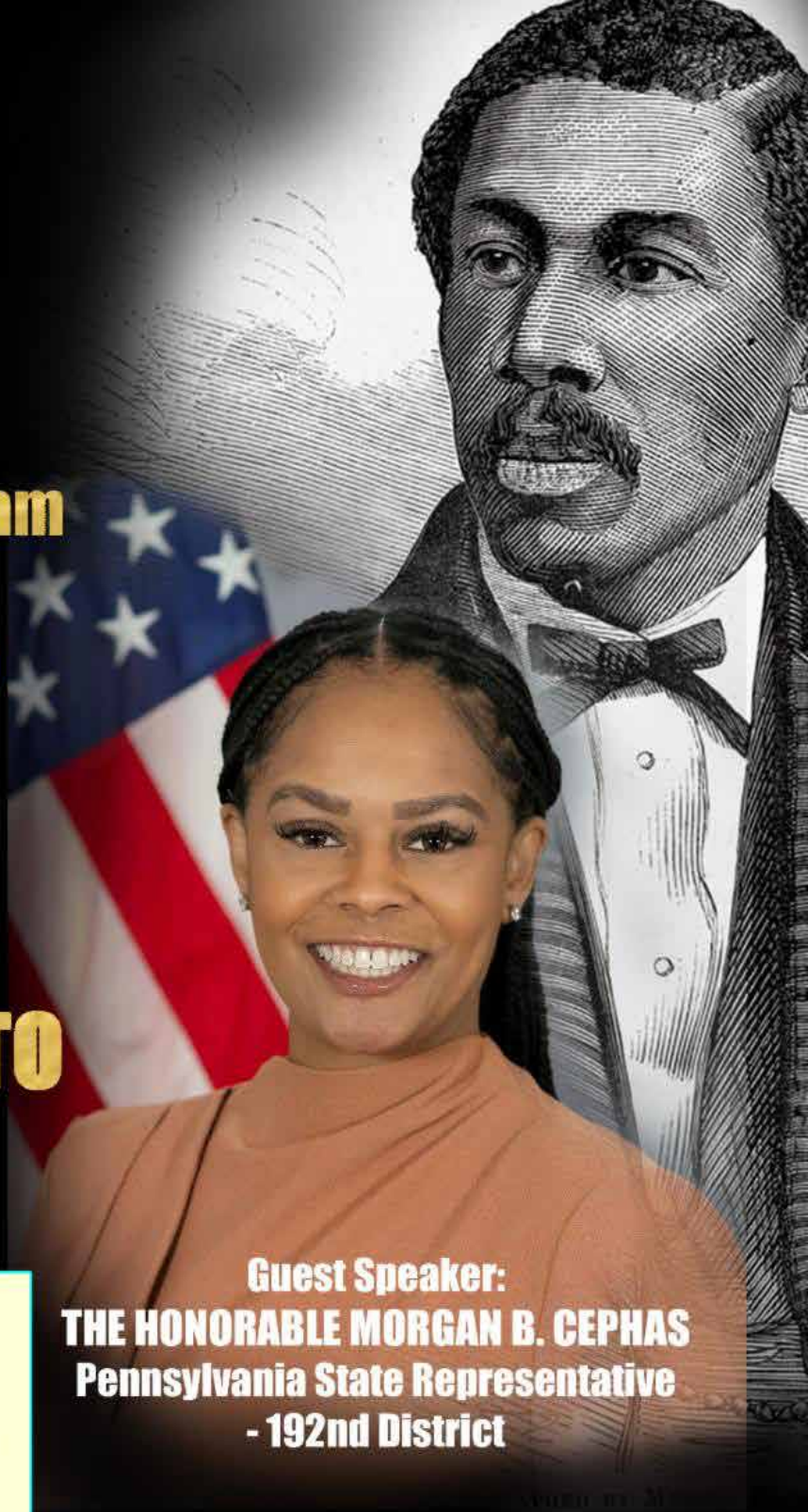
in Anderson Hall

You must RSVP by **Monday, September 22nd** to: [rector@aecst.org](mailto:rector@aecst.org).





**Sunday**  
**October 12, 2025, 10:00 am**  
**Please join us for**  
**The Annual Celebration**  
**of the**  
**Life**  
**of**  
**OCTAVIUS V. CATTO**



**Guest Speaker:**

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

**Guest:**

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

**PLAN TO ATTEND...**

**October 12, 2024 after service**

**Octavius V. Catto Ministry's**

**RESOURCE FAIR**

**- voter details**

**-city/state/federal representatives**

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

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

[WWW.AECST.ORG](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)



## **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.**

## **AECST HEALTH MINISTRY CORNER**

### **Vaccines and the Diseases They Prevent**

Over the years, vaccines have prevented countless cases of disease and saved lives. Research shows that routine vaccinations for children born during 1994–2023 will have prevented about 508 million illnesses and 32 million hospitalizations and saved over 1.1 million lives. Infants, children, adolescents, teens, and adults need different vaccinations, depending on their age, location, job, lifestyle, travel schedule, health conditions, or previous vaccinations.

Click on the QR Code below to learn about the diseases and the vaccines that prevent these diseases.



### **GET YOUR FLU SHOT!**

The Health Ministry of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151, will offer flu shots and other vaccinations to our parishioners, on September 20, 2025, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Absolom Jones House.

## **ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Classes will begin **September 21, 2025**,  
every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45 AM  
in person and via Zoom on designated days.

Check the bulletin and Spearhead  
for additional information.

Please speak with Fr. Daren if you have questions.



**Chosen 300:** Volunteers are invited to serve at  
3939 Lancaster Avenue, 5:30 PM on Monday, September 15.

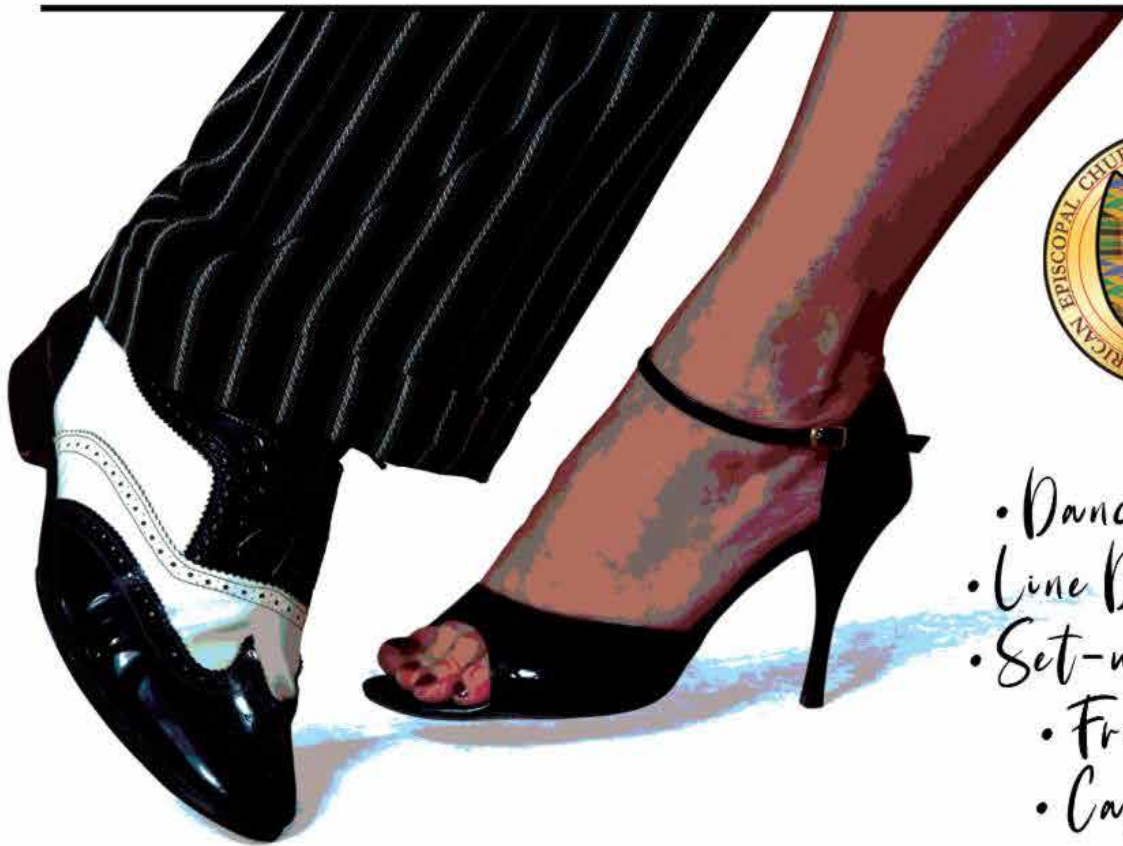
---

### **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.





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

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

# *~ Old School Cabaret ~*

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

**NARBETH FIRE HALL**

**100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBETH PA 19072**

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

*PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH INITIATIVES*

**FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT:**

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

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

**BRING AND SHARE FAVORITE FOODS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS**

---

THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
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](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)



## **NATIONAL ACOLYTE FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025!**

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

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



### **MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY**

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

- 1) dedicate pew memorial plaques
- 2) present floral tributes
- 3) purchase a niche in the Geraldine B. Wood Columbarium
- 4) dedicate new or restored areas of the Church  
in memory of loved ones

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

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

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



Urban Theological Institute

United Lutheran Seminary

# URBAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 16-17, 2025

Events take place at: United Lutheran Seminary, 7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119 (Free Parking)

## Tuesday, September 16

### 11:45AM Lecture

The Rev. Dr. Marsha Brown Woodard  
*President, Baptist Pastors and Ministers  
Conference of Philadelphia*  
Benbow Hall, Brossman Center



In support of the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah  
A. Wright, Sr. Endowed Chair in  
African American Studies at  
United Lutheran Seminary

## Wednesday, September 17

### 11:45AM Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson  
*President & CEO of the Children's Defense Fund*  
Schaeffer-Ashmead Chapel

### 6:45PM Concert

The St. Thomas Gospel Choir of Philadelphia  
Walter Blocker, *Director*  
Schaeffer-Ashmead Chapel



Rev. Dr. Marsha Brown Woodard



Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson



St. Thomas Gospel Choir of Philadelphia



United  
Lutheran  
Seminary

All events will be live streamed on the ULS YouTube  
channel [@unitedlutheranseminary](#)

More information and full bio on our online calendar at:  
[uls.edu](#)



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF ST. THOMAS  
PRESENTS

# YOUTH FUN DAY



Acolytes

*Church  
School*



**SATURDAY  
SEPT. 20TH  
10 AM TO 2 PM**

All are  
welcome!

**LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP FOR OUR YOUTH  
GROUPS**

**PLUS:**

**READING NOOK  
BOUNCE HOUSES  
GAMES & CRAFTS**

**CORNHOLE AND MORE...  
COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!**

For more information, contact  
Wendella Fox at [wpfox3008@verizon.net](mailto:wpfox3008@verizon.net)  
or Nikkol Simms at [njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)

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





### **CATTO OUT & ABOUT!**

On September 5, 2025, the Catto Ministry Co-Chairs attended the unveiling of the "A Legacy of Leadership" mural by the Mural Arts Program. A St. Thomas member, John Baxter Taylor, Jr., the first African American Olympian (track) is depicted in the mural. Taylor, like others in the mural, are honored as visionary leaders who have enhanced the quality of life in West Philadelphia. (The mural is located at 110 N. 63rd St

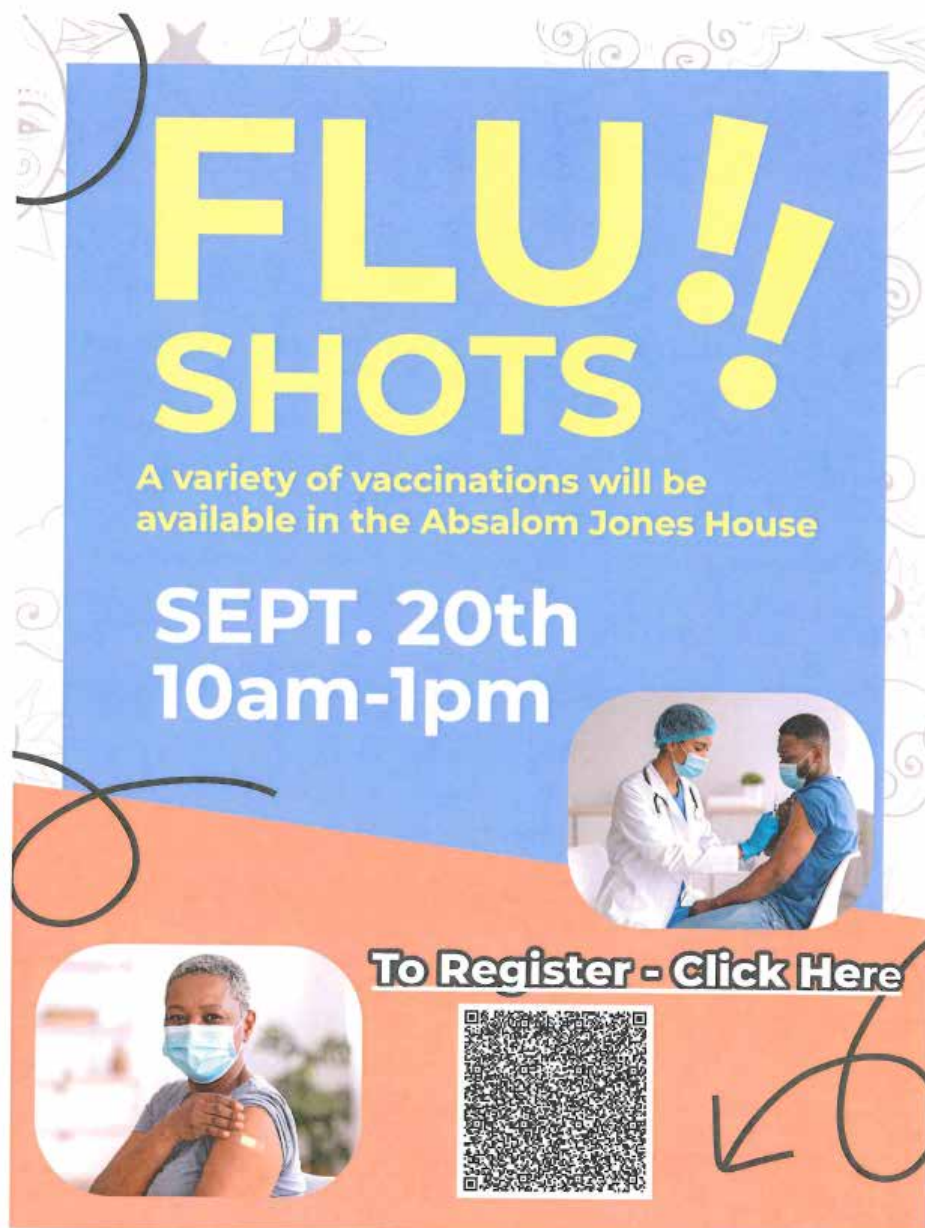
---

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](#)

## AECST HEALTH MINISTRY CORNER

Flu shots, COVID shots, and other vaccinations will be available on **September 20th from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM** in the Absalom Jones House.

You **MUST** pre-register to reserve an appointment time and indicate which vaccinations you want to receive. You will enter your insurance information into the form, and the pharmacist will check that your insurance covers the cost of your vaccination. If they do not, the pharmacist will contact you by email. Please use the [link](#) to register by September 18th.






**FLU!!  
SHOTS!**

A variety of vaccinations will be available in the Absalom Jones House

**SEPT. 20th  
10am-1pm**

**To Register - Click Here**



The poster features a blue background with yellow text for the title and date, and an orange background for the bottom section. It includes two circular images: one of a healthcare worker administering a vaccine and another of a person's arm with a vaccine site. A QR code is provided for registration, and a large black arrow points towards it.

## **MARIAN ANDERSON TRIBUTE CONCERT**

We honor our great Marian Anderson and her musical relationship with historic composer Nathaniel Dett in this stellar Tribute Concert event featuring the dramatic and dynamic compositions of composers, **Nathaniel Dett and his “The Ordering of Moses” & Robert Ray's Gospel Mass.”**

These exceptional works will feature our outstanding National Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, our Marian Anderson Historical Society Instrumental Ensemble, the Elizabeth City University Choir, and Choral Director Dr. Walter Swan, all under the direction of Marian Anderson Historical Society Director of Music and Pianist Dr. Jay Fluellen on

**Saturday, September 27th, 2025**

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151  
at 3:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00

Please register on our website:

[www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com.](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)

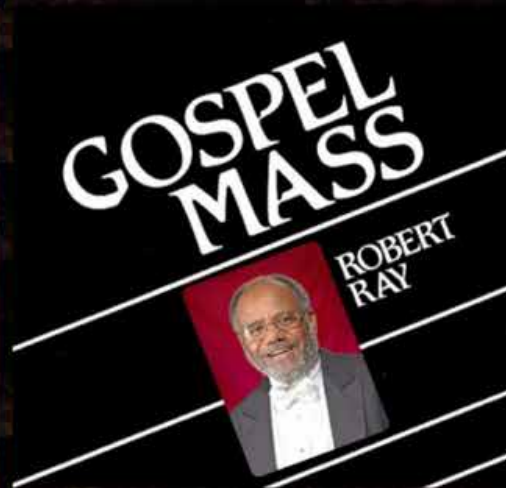
You may call the office: 215-779-4219

or send the registration to:

762 S. Martin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146  
RSVP TODAY!



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



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

WHEN: Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

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

TIME: 3PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00

### FEATURING



SOPRANO LAURICE KENNEL



SOPRANO JILLIAN PIRTLE



SOPRANO LILY KASS



TENOR TERRANCE HART



BASS BRENTON MATTOX



DR. JAY FLUELLEN DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
CONDUCTOR - PIANIST

THE MARIAN ANDERSON HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE



ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR  
DR. WALTER SWAN CHORAL DIRECTOR



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS

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



## ALTAR FLOWERS

. Flowers on the High Altar are in memory of Roy Ellison, given by the **Roy Ellison** Monarch Greeters.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in loving memory of **Gerry Bowser Wood, in thanksgiving for the Columbarium plaque**, given by Page Bowser and family.

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

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

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

High Altar - \$70

Absalom Jones Altar - \$60

the Columbarium - \$50

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



**MAZZONI CENTER  
HONORS**  
*Melba Moore*

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



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

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

Hosted by Peabody Award-winning journalist  
**SOLEDAD O'BRIEN**

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

Tickets start at \$35 and go on sale

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1**

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



## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### Readings for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

The First Lesson – [Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28](#)

[Psalms 14](#)

The Second Lesson – [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 15:1-10](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of September 15, 2025

Monday – [John 11:55-12:8](#)

Tuesday – [John 12:9-19](#)

Wednesday – [John 12:20-26](#)

Thursday – [John 12:27-36](#)

Friday – [John 12:37-43](#)

Saturday – [John 12:44-50](#)



---

### PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

resumed on

**Tuesday, September 9th**

at our usual time and venue.

As always, it is an honor to serve  
as the facilitator for this ministry,

Fr. Jay

---

### WEDNESDAY IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with Fr. Daren will resume on

**Wednesday, September 17th.**



## **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.





## **THE AECST PODCAST**

A series dedicated to tackling tough questions our children may ask, all from a faith-based perspective, will return soon. Each episode offers thoughtful discussions to help families navigate complex topics with wisdom and compassion.

If you or someone you know in our congregation has an expertise in or a passion for any of the following subjects, we'd love to have you as a conversation partner!

This season's topics include:

Understanding Your School-Age Child  
Building Friendships  
Talking About Suicide, Grief, and Loss  
Understanding Cultural Appropriation  
Bullying  
Gun Violence  
Honoring Difference  
Wealth, Poverty, and Income Inequity  
Use of Technology

Join us in creating meaningful conversations that support families in faith and life. Contact [Fr. Daren](#), to get involved.  
Stay tuned 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 **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](#).



## 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.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

### **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 - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

### **AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Joyce Stewart, Edita Gauthney, Dr. Jay Fluellen, Patricia Holmes, Ken Bundy, Eleanor Chestnut, Lisa Woodley, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., Robert Williams

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

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

### **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.

---

**ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS**  
Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies.  
Please provide Fr. Daren with your contact information as soon as possible, including your cell phone.  
Our prayers remain with you.



## 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

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.



### 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](#).

**“To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48**  
**Ways to continue to be Faithful to God and the Church**  
**through Stewardship:**

**1) Sunday Offering Plate**

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

Please use the following address:

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

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

**4) Church website - <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>** (Simply select 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. The Building Fund Envelopes have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. And if you've already picked your offering envelopes, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering online once a month. Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month. Thank you.

**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 me at [stewardship@aecst.org](mailto:stewardship@aecst.org).

We appreciate your help with this.





## 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	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
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
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
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