

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

**THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 21, 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
**The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
and Education Sunday.**

We welcome our speaker, the President of Lincoln University,
Dr. Brenda Allen, and **the Lincoln University Choir**, under the
direction of **Dr. Lloyd Mallory** worshipping
with us this morning.

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
“Education 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.

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.

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) 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



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
or Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net

Refreshments will
be served!

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OUR FAMILY GROWS

We welcome the newest member of our parish family, Tobias Scott Williams. Born Monday, September 16, 2025, 1:39 PM, 7lb 15 oz, 20.5.

Congratulations to his parents, Ashley and Scott Williams, and sisters, Amelia and Vivian.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Last Sunday, we installed **new members of the St. Thomas Order of the Daughters of the King:**

Deborah Camp Frye, Gail Hinton Harris, Eleanor Chestnut, Jenelle Wilson Johnson, Bettie Jones, , Michelle Lofton, Wendy Puryear, and Gladyce DuBrey.

New officers to the St. Thomas Order of the Daughters of the King: Sharon Bullock, President, Brenda B. Johnson, Vice President.

The new officers of the St. Thomas Men's Ministry/ Fellowship

Ed Geiger - President. (R)

R. Seth Williams- Vice President

Steven Pugh - Secretary

Eugene Phillips - Treasurer

Robert (Bobby) Tilman- Chaplain (R)

Chris Davis - Parliamentarian

(R)= re-elected to a 2nd term

Blessed and commissioned the Church School Staff.



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





On Sunday, we place **Dolores Teackle Bliss** and **Elizabeth Hawkins Brooks** in the Columbarium, their final resting place.



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















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

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

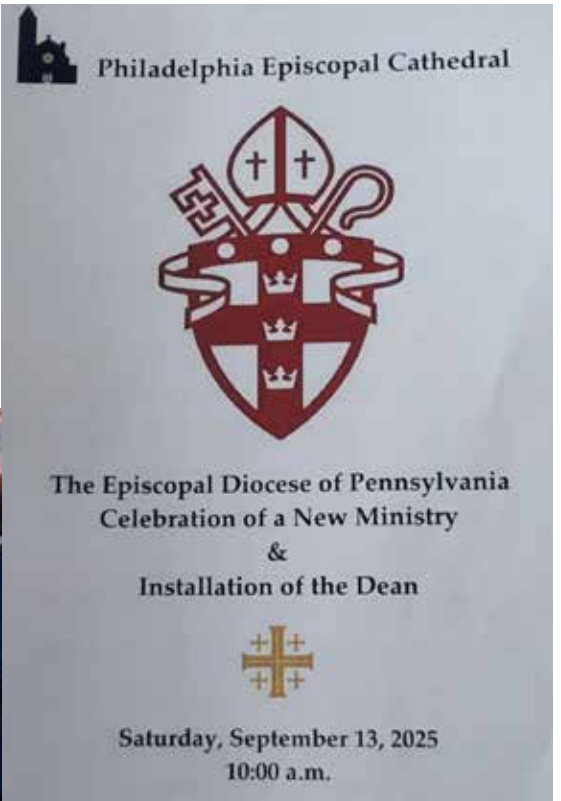
OUR GROWTH CONTINUES!!!

We welcome into our church family new members: Dane, Vanessa and Dominic Bowrin; and Kayla Byrd.

Dane, Vanessa, Dominic and Kayla, members of your new church family look forward to getting to know you.



Members of St. Thomas and the Schuylkill Deanery offer
congratulations and prayers for the
Very Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt,
new Dean of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral





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



**On Thursday, September 18, 2025,
St. Thomas was represented at the
SEPA American Red Cross
Faith-Based Initiative Breakfast**

“An Evening with Harry and Renard”
On Friday, September 12th, Dr. Jay Fluellen and the
St. Thomas Chancel Choir presented an evening of
exceptional music.

AN EVENING WITH
HARRY
&
RENAUD
IN CONCERT

12 SEPTEMBER 2025
7:00 PM

RENAUD GOLDEN, BARITONE
HARRY T. BURLEIGH, COMPOSER
BARBARA BROWNE, PIANO
JAY FLUELLIN, PIANO

THE HISTORIC
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVE,
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151

FREE ADMISSION



**Members of St. Thomas Chosen 300 Outreach Ministry
busy actively serving God's people.**



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.



MEN OF ST. THOMAS (ALL AGES)

You are cordinally 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.



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

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UPCOMING SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 28TH - YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT

- **SUNDAY** Inurnment of **Dr. Thomas Gayle Snowden** and **Leatrice Joy Tompkins Snowden**

OCTOBER 5TH - Stewardship Season Kick-Off

- time to prayerfully submit our 2026 faithful giving promise to God
- Blessing and Commissioning of Eugene Golson, Parish Verger

OCTOBER 12TH - Remembering The Life And Ministry Of Octavius V. Catto

- **The Annual Catto Ministry Resource Fair**
- Our guest speaker: **The Honorable Morgan B. Cephas**, State Representative 192nd District

OCTOBER 19TH – Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday

- Please wear something pink
- New Members Fall Harvest (after service)

OCTOBER 26TH – Family and Friends Sunday/Youth and Young Adult Sunday

- The person with the most family or friends worshipping with us will be awarded a prize

ATTENTION: All Groups/Ministries/ Organizations and Fellowships

Announcements must be in be Wednesday before noon, and flyers please have them to the office no later than Thursday before noon. If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office.

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, September 23rd

- 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 24th

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

Thursday, September 25th

- Directory Pictures 2:00 - 8:30 PM in the Undercroft

Friday, September 26th

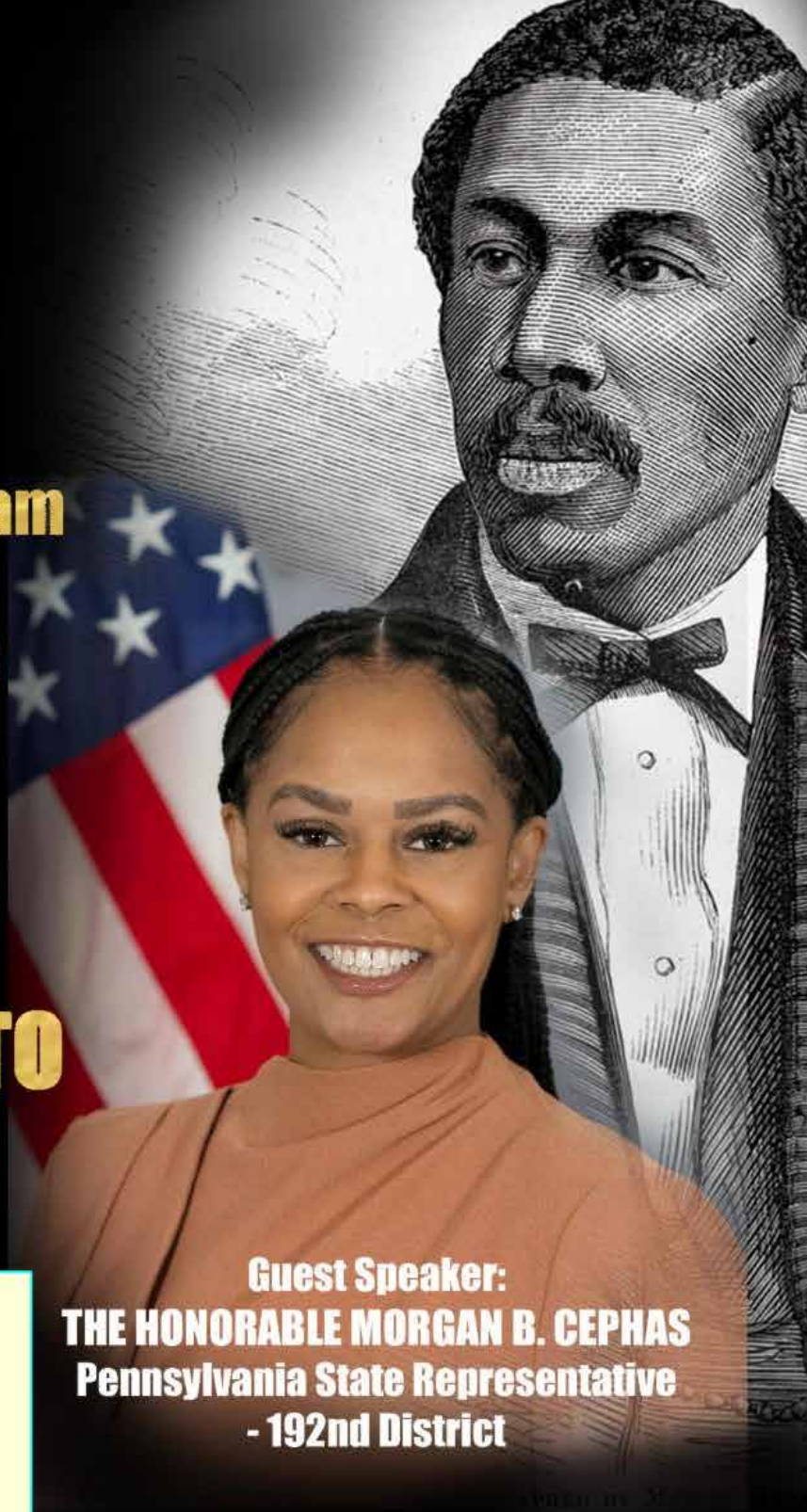
- Directory Pictures 2:00 - 8:30 PM in the Undercroft

Saturday, September 27th

- Men's Ministry and Fellowship Breakfast with Fr. Shaw 8:30 AM in Anderson Hall
- Directory Pictures 2:00 - 8:30 PM in the Undercroft
- Marian Anderson Society Concert dress rehearsal - 11:00 AM
- Marian Anderson Concert in the Church at 3:00 PM, reception to follow
- St. Thomas Scouts - 1:00 - 4:00 PM in the Undercroft



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



PLAN TO ATTEND...
October 12, 2024 after service
Octavius V. Catto Ministry's
RESOURCE FAIR
- voter details
-city/state/federal representatives

Guest Speaker:
THE HONORABLE MORGAN B. CEPHAS
Pennsylvania State Representative
- 192nd District

Guest:
The Honorable Cherelle L. Parker
Mayor of the City of Philadelphia

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- 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

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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.

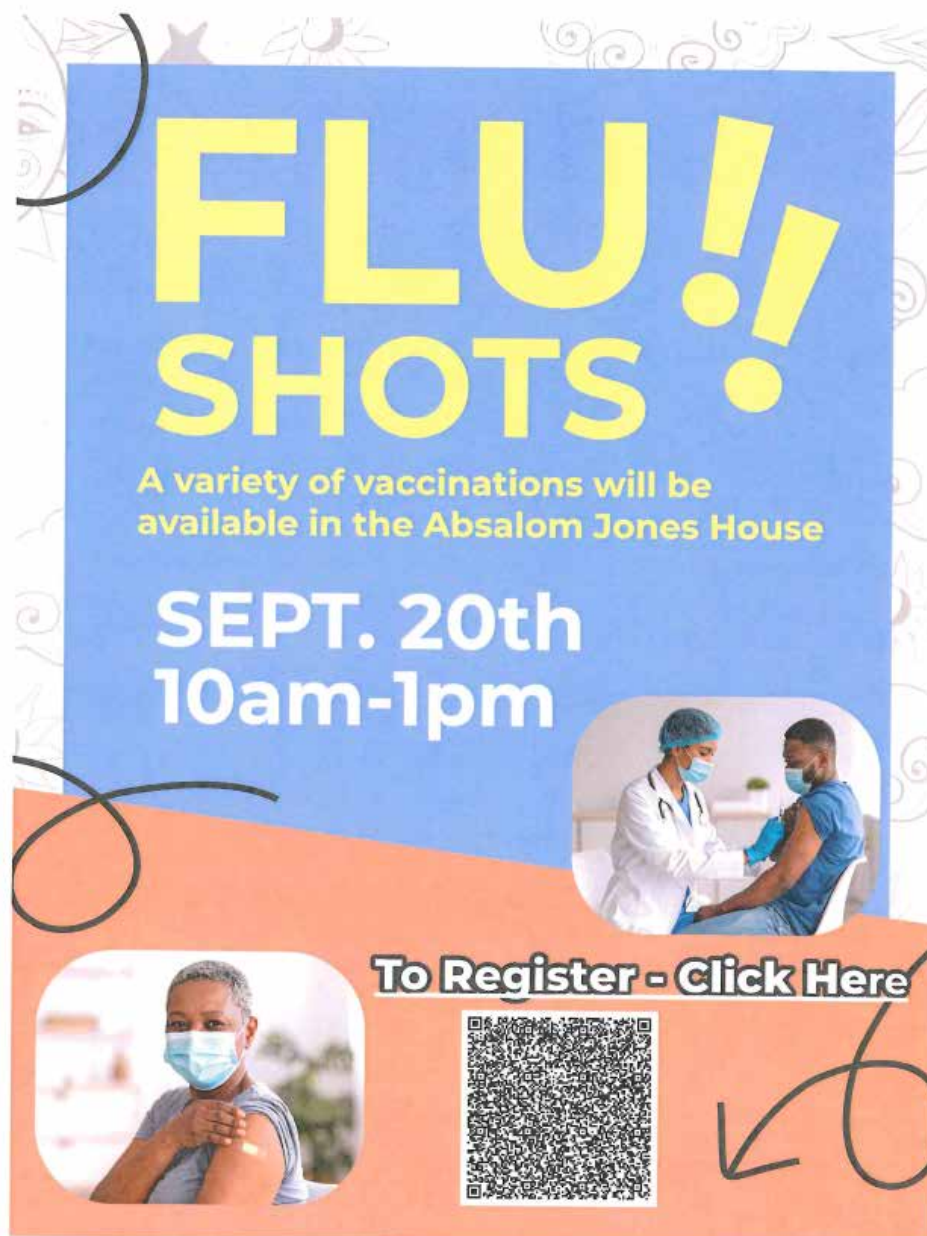
You can also watch [Past Services](#).

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

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 is a vertical rectangular graphic with a blue background for the top half and an orange background for the bottom half. It features large, bold, yellow text for the title 'FLU!! SHOTS!' and white text for the date and time 'SEPT. 20th 10am-1pm'. There are two circular inset photos: one showing a healthcare worker in a white coat and blue mask administering a vaccine to a patient's arm, and another showing a close-up of a person's arm with a yellow bandage, wearing a blue surgical mask. A black QR code is located in the bottom right area, with the text 'To Register - Click Here' above it. A large black arrow points from the QR code towards the bottom right corner. The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of white line art.

Main Line Health will host its **2nd Annual Senior and Caregiver Symposium and Resource Fair** on **Saturday, October 4th.**

The symposium is for individuals caring for a loved one and those seeking resources for navigating advanced care planning, exploring healthcare options, or seeking guidance to make informed choices. This event is free and open to the public/community.

Aging Together: Senior and Caregiver Symposium

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Main Line Health – Radnor, 240 N Radnor Chester Rd,
Radnor, PA 19087

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.

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](#)

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 or call **267-253-2899** and express your desire to obtain information about this Ministry.

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:

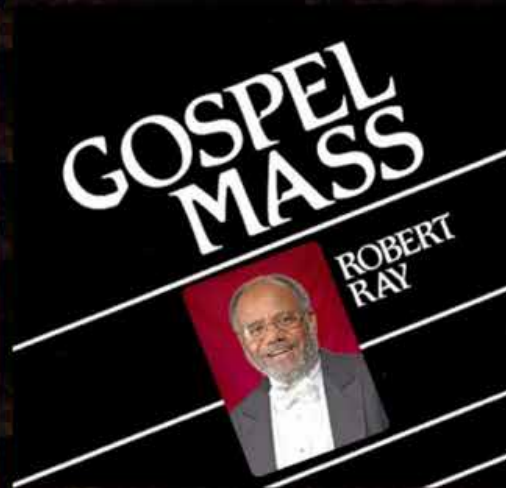
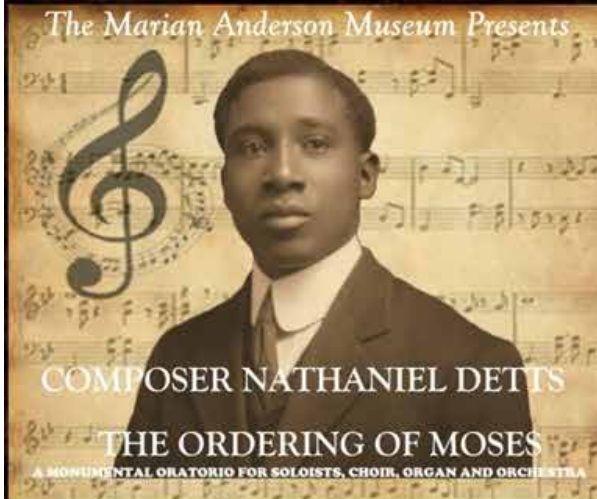
[www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com.](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)

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 27th 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 FUELLEN 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 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 Columbarium are in memory of **Elizabeth Hawkins Brooks**, given by her husband, Glenwood Brooks 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

The First Lesson – [Jeremiah 8:18-9:1](#)

[Psalms 79:1-9](#)

The Second Lesson – [1 Timothy 2:1-7](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 16:1-13](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of September 22, 2025

Monday – [Luke 1:19-27, 3:1-14](#)

Tuesday – [Luke 3:15-22](#)

Wednesday – [Luke 4:1-13](#)

Thursday – [Luke 4:14-30](#)

Friday – [Luke 4:31-37](#)

Saturday – [Luke 4:38-44](#)



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:

Deborah Harrison - Presbyterian Hospital

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, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Joyce Stewart, Eleanor Chestnut, Virginia DuBrey, Teena Watson-Matthews

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.



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 starts **Sunday, September 21st**, at 10:00 AM. 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.



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!

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!

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.

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
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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