

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

The Fifth Sunday of Easter **April 28, 2024**

"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 Fifth Sunday of Easter and Youth and Young Adult Sunday.

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. 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!

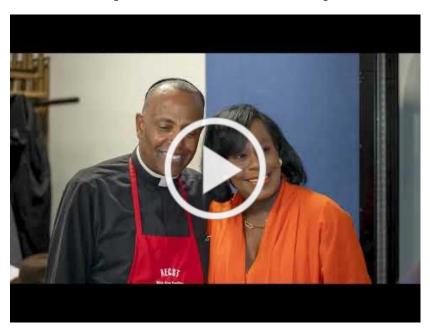
Faithfully,

Martini Shaw +

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

Please click here for the Order of Service.

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 ST. THOMAS MEN ARE COOKING (See video below)



WELCOME!!!

St.Thomas rejoices in welcoming another new member into our church family: **Stacey McCoy-Ndiaye**.

Her Vestry Shepherd is Elaine Gillison.

To God be the glory!!!





A Little bit about our Homilist **Peyton Miller**

Peyton Miller is a dedicated 16-year-old sophomore at The Christian Academy, who balances her academic pursuits with a passion for literature and music. Outside the classroom, Peyton works as an aftercare assistant at Children's House Montessori

School, where she enjoys nurturing and engaging with the young students.

A voracious reader, Peyton loves to expand her personal library and immerse herself in different worlds through the pages of her books. Her love for storytelling doesn't stop there; she is also an avid writer of short stories, honing her craft with each narrative she creates.

In addition to her literary interests, Peyton is learning to play the piano, appreciating the discipline and joy it brings to her life. Family time is especially dear to her, as it offers her moments of relaxation and bonding.

Looking ahead, Peyton is driven by a deep interest in the sciences. She plans to attend college to study biomedicine, aspiring to contribute to advancements in medical research and patient care.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO

the family of **Joyce Harrison.** Her memorial service will be held at St. Thomas on **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**. The Links Incorporated and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated services will begin at 10:00 AM with the Memorial Service Mass beginning at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Joyce rest in peace and rise in heaven. Please pray for the family.



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 or call (215-473-3065) and NOT the SEXTON beforehand. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Heroes' Sunday (Celebrating our First Responders) with Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel and Philadelphia Fire Commissioner Craig Murphy.

April 21, 2024







More pictures may be found on our <u>Facebook</u> page.

An Afternoon of Dining and Fellowship!

The Retired Persons Ministries of Overbrook Presbyterian and St. Thomas Churches.



Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew)

Have you ever considered hosting a Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew) following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact Gladyce for further details.

ONE OF OUR OWN!!! Dr. Barbara Savage



On Sunday, May 5th, please join us after Service for a Chat N Chew sponsored by Barbara Savage, in gratitude for the Church's support during her work on her recently released book entitled: "Merze Tate: The Global Odyssey of a Black Woman Scholar (Yale, 2023)". She will give a brief discussion about the book.

All are welcome. (Books will NOT be on sale but she is happy to sign any copy you own.)

Come Sunday

A Concert Celebrating the Music of Marian Anderson & Duke Ellington

Spirituals & Jazz



The National Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society invites you to join us for this glorious music event as we honor the iconic Marian Anderson and Duke Ellington in Anderson and the beloved jazz standards of June 2, 2024 song with the sacred spirituals of Marian Duke Ellington for which they are celebrated.

TINDLEY TEMPLE

750 S. BROAD STREET, PHILA., PA 19146

FEATURING



Music Director Dr. J. Fluellen



Soprano Laurice S. Kennel





Lily Kass









Terrance Hart Marcus Simmons Brenton Mattox Instrumental Ensemble

FOR TICKETS: WWW.MARIANANDERSONHISTORICALSOCIETY.WEEBLY.COM

Donation: \$30



Team Up Philly will be honoring Nikki Franke for her outstanding achievement in fencing and her dedication to empowering young girls through sports for over 50 years.

On Thursday, May 2nd, join us for a night to benefit Team Up Philly! We will gather at Merion Tribute House (625 Hazelhurst Ave., Marion Station) to honor Dr. Nikki Franke as our Jay Barry Harris Hero of the Year.

Cocktails, Dinner, & Dessert! Silent Auction & Raffle

Bidding will take place via the Auctria app download it today! Apple or Android.

Purchase your ticket today! Click the

CHCK THE Be A Hero icon.



Contact Elaine Gillison for additional details, 267-971-6503.

JAY BARRY HARRIS HERO OF THE YEAR

Nikki Franke was a member of the 1976 and 1980 U.S. Olympic Fencing teams, and was the USA Fencing National Foil Champion in 1975 and 1980. Coach Franke launched Temple's women's fencing team from scratch, building a club team into an NCAA Division I powerhouse.

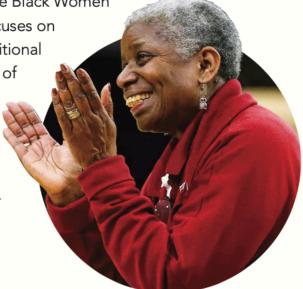
During her 50 years of coaching, she amassed 898 victories, making her one of the winningest collegiate coaches in fencing history. She was the first and only Black female Head Coach of an NCAA Division I fencing program when she retired in 2022.

Franke is a graduate of Brooklyn College, and received her Master's and Doctorate Degrees from Temple University. She is an Associate Professor Emerita in Temple University's College of Public Health, where she taught for more than forty years.

Dr. Franke also co-founded the Black Women in Sport Foundation which focuses on introducing youth to non-traditional sports and mentoring women of color involved in all aspects

of sport.

She has been inducted into five Halls of Fame and has received numerous honors for her trailblazing and successful career.



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter. Dr. Barbara Savage - Book Talk

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter Mother's Day

May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday Wear Something Red

May 26, 2024

Memorial Day Observance / Youth and Young Adult Sunday.

Attention AECST Students

The Jesse F. Anderson Sr. Scholarship Fund applications for St. Thomas Book Awards are available for graduating high school seniors who are members of AECST and plan to attend a school of higher learning Fall 2024.

Applications are also available for AECST members who are enrolled in a full-time Graduate Program. For more information contact Paula Lamb (high school seniors) Diana Hutchins (Graduate Students) or Thomasina Hack.

Application deadline May, 20, 2024

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS READINGS FOR

The Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 28, 2024

The First Lesson - <u>Acts 8:26-40</u>
Psalm 22:24-30

The Second Lesson - 1 John 4:7-21
The Holy Gospel - John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of April 29, 2024

Monday - <u>Luke 7:36-50</u>

Tuesday - <u>Luke 8:1-15</u>

Wednesday - Luke 8:16-25

Thursday - <u>Luke 8:26-39</u>

Friday - Luke 8:40-56

Saturday - Luke 9:1-17

Calling ALL WOMEN of St. Thomas!
Save the Date!

AECST Women's Ministry
Annual Celebration of Women
Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM

"Walking in the Spirit of God's Love"

Guest Homilist

The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, Ph.D.

Ordained Episcopal Priest, Author and Interim President of the Episcopal Divinity School

SAVE THE DATE: The 11th Annual Caribbean Festival will be held on Sunday, June 9, rain or shine!

The festival committee is already hard at work planning for this year's event - any and all are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Gillian Wilson or **email** the committee. Like or follow us on Facebook by searching for our page: Caribbean Festival Committee.

Once again Jamaican patties will be for sale on May 5th, May 19th, and May 26th. See any member of the Caribbean Committee for more information.

Stay tuned for more updates, including when we'll once again have Jamaican patties for sale as a fundraiser. **One Love!**

Looking for a nice quiet getaway? Come to Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey

GFS PA HOLIDAY HOUSE

OPENING FOR THE 2024 SEASON! JUNE 1ST- SEPTEMBER 30TH

2024 Season Donation Rates

\$125/night: single occupancy \$225/night: double occupancy \$250/night: triple occupancy

*Family and Group rates available

No meals \$90/night: single occupancy. Must be indicated at

the time of reservation.

JUNE/SEPT Bed and Breakfast Rate \$100/night: single



Ask for details about our SPECIALS! \$250/person (Children 12 and under ½ price.)

Out of School- Two weeks!

- Mon., 6/17- Fri., 6/21
- Mon., 6/24- Fri., 6/28
- 4th of July Special- Choose Mon., 7/1- Fri., 7/5
 OR Wed., 7/3 Sun., 7/7
- Labor Day Weekend Fri., 8/30- Mon., 9/2

For reservations e-mail gfsholiday@yahoo.com or call *609-846-6097 *New phone number!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Columbarium are in memory of my wife, **Phyllis K. Johnson.** Given by Bobby Johnson.

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

I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00.				
_I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00. _ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00.				
(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of paper for more names.)				
a) In Memory of				
b) In Thanksgiving fo	or			
		Envelope #		
	Amount \$			

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 who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. 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.

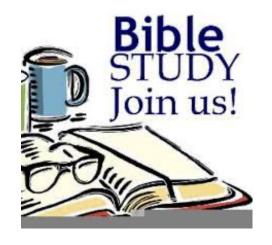
The Shepherds Ministry is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. 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?

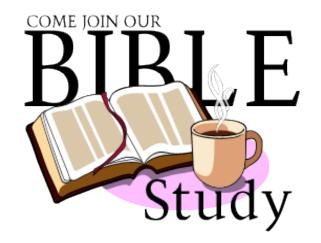
Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas <u>website</u>, the <u>Live Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch <u>Past</u> <u>Services</u>.



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact Fr. Jay.



Young Adult Bible Study

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House. During the Spring, we will explore the Acts of the Apostles. Join our exciting journey with the Apostles of Jesus. All are welcome!

Podcast Series

Stay tuned for an upcoming parish podcast series for parents with young children, and those who are responsible for the care of children. The series will explore the text: When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faithfilled Responses for Tough Topics edited by Bromleigh McCleneghan and Karen Ware Jackson.

Church School begins at 10:00 AM.

The theme this year is :"Exciting Stories of the Bible."
Registration forms may be found on the tables in the
Undercroft Sunday School room or the registration <u>link.</u>

Youth Council

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact <u>Fr. Daren</u> for more details.

Young Adult Gathering

All young adults are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in the parish hall immediately following worship.

Vacation Bible School

If you would like to be part of a team to help with the planning of a Vacation Bible School, please speak with <u>Fr. Daren.</u>

Join the Girls Friendly Society!

Meetings are on Saturdays from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. All girls aged 3-30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Girl Talk, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day, along with trips to the Theatre, Museums, Ice Skating, Mini Golf, trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape May, NJ.

If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact the Branch Advisor, Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net

Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with **Fr. Daren.**

Scout Troop #133 - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM. on Saturdays. Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays.

Please contact Scout <u>Master Howard Chapman</u> for more information.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Waltier Blocker - Jefferson Hospital Roy Ellison - University of Pennsylvania

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House Fr. Darryl James -Stapeley Rehab Leotta Griffin - Saunders House Ola Bass - Saunders House

AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Shirley Winkfield, Lemont Johnson, Ronald Coleman, Thelma Silvers, Linda Holmes, Alletta Parris-Olday, Kenneth Dow, Patricia Ellison, Carl Dean, Laverne Hudson, Mary Ann Jones, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Karina Phillips, Terry Corson, Norman Franke, Dr. Cassandra Ruffin.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Irving Stevenson, Sandra Bryant Miller, Cedric Babb.

WE PRAY FOR

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

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 or Capital Improvement **Donation Button** on our **website**.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We need strong support for our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card or go on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this <u>link</u> to complete your Faithful Giving Card. You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

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 up 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 are 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**Judy Tillman. We appreciate your help with this.

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or **email**, **please do so ASAP**. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the Givi App or Online Giving
Donations, please email your name and envelope number.
Thank you very much. Judy Tillman

A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. Thank you.

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

"To whom much is given, much is required." Luke 12:48

- 1) Sunday Offering Plate.
- 2) Mail in your check or money order to the church. Please use the following address: The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas c/o Fiscal Administrator. 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) Use the Givi app. If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Download the Givi app, (givi IOS App) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (givi Android App) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with Deadra Cannon, 215-844-6115.
- 4) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 10 am-2 pm) After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) Church website Online Giving
 Simply select the button/s on the page that represents
 where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your
 pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc. NOTE: Please remember
 to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if
 you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your
 online giving information.)
- 6) **Pledge Cards** Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **electronically** through the **www.aecst.org** website or send an email to our **Fiscal Administrator**.

Thank you so much to all who have return them.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop Rector Associate to the Rector Associate Priest Associate Minister Associate Minister Executive Asst to Rector Fiscal Administor Sexton Asst Sexton Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach Gladyce DuBrey Jeannette Jeffrey LaDon Elliott David McGilberry Jay Fluellen, DMA Waltier Blocker Joe Tucker, Esq	rector@aecst.org associaterector@aecst.org associatepriest@aecst.org dravidian@comcast.net pauljaybach@gmail.com 1792@aecst.org fiscal@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org chancelchoir@aecst.org gospelchoir@aecst.org jtucker@tigattorneys.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
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photogrphy 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		jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.royellison@gmail.com
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	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

VESTRY OFFICERS

Richard Jones (Rector's Warden)
Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. (Treasurer)
Deborah Camp-Frye (Accounting Warden)
Judy Tillman (Stewardship Chair)
William Burke (Property Chair)
Clare Mae Daniels (Vestry Clerk)

VESTRY

Deadra Cannon
Wendella Fox
Marie B. Golson
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Pamela Johnson
Patricia Lynch
Judith Simkins-Booth

AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best
Deborah Booker Matthews
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Mary S. Dean
Elaine Gillson
Eugene Golson
Cynthia Muse
Dr. Monica Taylor

Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determanation, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.