



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

Fourth Sunday of Advent

May the visitation of  
your Holy Spirit, O God,  
make us ready  
for the coming of  
Jesus, our Hope,  
our Peace, our Joy.

*Christ...  
Brings Love  
and Eternal Life*

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

# **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## **Church School Christmas Presentation**

### **“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 of Advent**  
**Church School Christmas Presentation.**

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. Whomever 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.

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

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Please click for the [Order of Service](#)  
for this Sunday's service.

**From the Rector:** Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

## **AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

My dearest and faithful family members of St. Thomas, Grace and Peace to you.

We have entered the Season of Stewardship, following 2 ½ years of being in the midst of a deep Pandemic. I invite you to now join me as we Re-imagine our ministries for 2023. You are aware that many of our programs and activities have restarted. Our need for an Associate Rector for Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministries is crucial and at the top of my list of priorities.

**PLEASE** prayerfully consider increasing the level of your commitment this year in the offering of your [Faithful Giving Card](#). There is much being planned for 2023, and we will need your support. You may submit your card in four different ways:

- bring it to the altar Sunday morning during the offertory;
- drop it off at the parish office;
- mail it to the parish office;
- [electronically](#)

We celebrate that “We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord”.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Martini Shaw

## A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of  
(10% of our earnings)

Where are you on your spiritual journey?  
Annual Faithful Giving

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

## 2023 Faithful Giving Cards

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

**Thank you to the following persons who have submitted their 2023 Faithful Giving**

The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw  
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach  
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

**Vestry**

Patricia & Walter Bantom  
Ronnie H. Collins  
Deadra Cannon  
Albert Dandrige, III  
Clare Mae Daniels  
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel  
Deborah Harrison  
D. Lynn Joell  
Kelvin Johnson  
Pamela Johnson  
Brenda Johnson-Best  
Jonathan Muse  
Judith Simkins-Booth  
Bobby Tillman  
Judy Tillman  
**Auxiliary Vestry**  
Pat Akins  
Conchetta Brewer  
Sharon Bullock  
William Burke, Jr.  
Dr. Frank Johnson  
Gregory Lyles  
Patricia Lynch

Carmen Alexander  
Constance Anderson  
Michael & Dorothy Archey  
Jeanne J. Arnold  
Cedric Babb  
John Baker  
Steven Ballard  
Dr. Timothy Barksdale  
Brenda Battle  
Jennifer Bell  
Susan Ben  
Deborah Billups  
Waltier Blocker  
Deborah Booker-Mathews  
Guy Booth  
Ricardo Bostic  
I. Page Bowser

Theresa Bramwell  
Lorita Brockington  
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman  
Carmen M. Brown  
Marilyn Brown  
Robert & Jayne Brown  
William H. Brown, III  
Sandra Bryant-Miller  
Theodore Bythewood  
Yvonne Caldwell White  
Cornelia Camp  
Phyllis Cater  
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant  
Ronald Coleman  
Dr. Tracy Collins  
Terry Corson  
Gwendolyn Cottman  
Johanna Daye  
Carl & Mary Dean  
Dr. Rollo Dilworth  
Musu Doe  
Barbara Douglass  
Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas  
William & Quincina Edmonds  
Lynette Edwards  
Roy & Patricia Ellison  
Erika Eten  
Rashid & Christie Faisail  
Larry & Deidre Farmby  
Loretta Ferguson  
Jay Fluellen  
Norman & Nikki Franke  
Barry & Deborah Frye  
Irenda Gates  
Elaine Gillison  
Barbara L. Glenn  
Swanie Goldsmith  
Christopher Golson  
Eugene & Marie Golson  
Chad & Toya Gordon  
Josephine Graham  
Clarice Grant  
Linda Greaves  
Carole W. Green  
Michelle Green  
Thomasina Hack  
Joan Hall  
Stephen Hannum  
William Hanscom

Lisa Sharon Harper  
Sharon Harper  
Eugene & Calais Harris  
Katrina Harris  
Roosevelt & Gail Harris  
Walter & Nicole Harris  
Joyce B. Harrison  
Richard & Gwenda Hart  
Gregory Hayes  
Maurice Hayes  
Rene Hayes  
Quentin Heyward  
Wanda Hill  
Erica Hill-Yates  
Angela Holloway  
Patricia Holmes  
Merle D. Hopson  
Fleta Howell  
Robert Hugh  
Donald & Patricia Hunt  
Diana Hutchins  
Kim Hyde  
Joyce Jackson  
Diann Jacox  
Simone Jeffers  
Bobby Johnson  
Lemont Johnson  
Sheryl L. Johnson  
Bettie Jones  
Donna Jones  
Kelly & Tracy Jones  
Lelo Jones  
Mary Ann Jones  
Monica Jones  
Richard Jones  
Robert & Joyce Jones  
Clarence Jones, Jr.  
Winsome Josephs  
Tyrone R. Keller  
Reginald & Sherilynn Kimble  
Jordina Koiler  
John Kortue  
Kathleen Lacey  
Paula Lamb  
Gwendolyn Langford  
Nancy Lee  
Doris Levin  
Louise Lewis  
Steven & Jameela Lewis

Karen Leys  
Kimberly Lloyd  
Adrienne Logan  
Adjoa Love-Dorsey  
Winston Lowe  
James T. Lowe, Jr.  
Gregory Lyles  
Thomas Lynch  
Constance Lyons  
Geraldine B. Martin  
Katrice Mathurin  
Shelia Sawyer-  
McCullough  
Denise McDaniel -  
Henderson  
Alexandra McFadden  
Denise McKinney - Gibson  
Robert & Dianne McNeal  
Laura McNeill  
Regina Meacham-Devero  
William Meek  
Deirde Milanes  
Colin & Helen Mitchell  
Beverly Moore  
Donald & Dorothy  
Moore/Roberts Cynthia Muse  
Mueni Mwanzia  
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen  
Francina Norris  
Deborah Otey  
Gwendolyn Perryman  
Andrea Petrocelli-Fields  
Kim Phillips  
Mary Ann Phillips  
Simone Pollard  
Stephen Pugh  
Audrey Pyles  
Kevin & Ashley Quetant  
Karen Ragland  
Ella Randall  
Dolores Redmond  
Clarence H. Rice  
Caryn Rivers  
Victoria Rivers  
Rosalind Roberts Smalls  
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin  
Yvonne Ruiz  
Mercedes Sadler  
Dr. Barbara D. Savage  
Georgia Sawyer  
Richard & Rebecca Scales  
Denise Rae Scott-Jones  
Deborah Seay

Leah Sheppard  
Arlene Singletary  
Anita Smith  
Cary Smith  
Dorothy Smith  
Ted Smith  
Catherine Stafford  
H. Lynn Starr  
Irving Stevenson  
Joseph Stevenson  
Daryn Stewart  
Joyce Stewart  
Shelly & Ann Stewart  
Brandon Stiff  
Michele Sudler  
Carolyn Summers  
Lynda Tapper-Smith  
Wanda Tarawaly  
Rosita Taylor  
Monica Taylor  
Gloria Thomas  
Calvin Thompson  
Teri Tillman  
Harold Townsend III  
Arnott Trotman  
Justin & Lee Anne  
Trotman Louise Trotman  
Elizabeth Trulear  
Inez Turner  
Robin Vann-Lynch  
Karen Vaughn  
Clara Watson-Williams  
Joe & Alexia Wells  
Alverna Wiley  
Barbara Wiley  
Michelle Wilkinson  
Julia Williams  
R. Seth Williams  
Dorothy Willis  
Arleatha Wilson  
Gillian Wilson  
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson  
Lorna Wilson  
Charlene Wiltshire  
Diane Winkfield  
Shirley Winkfield  
Edgar Wise  
Wanda Wood  
Lisa Woodley  
Paula Wright  
Ingrid Bernadette Wyche  
M. Elaine Young

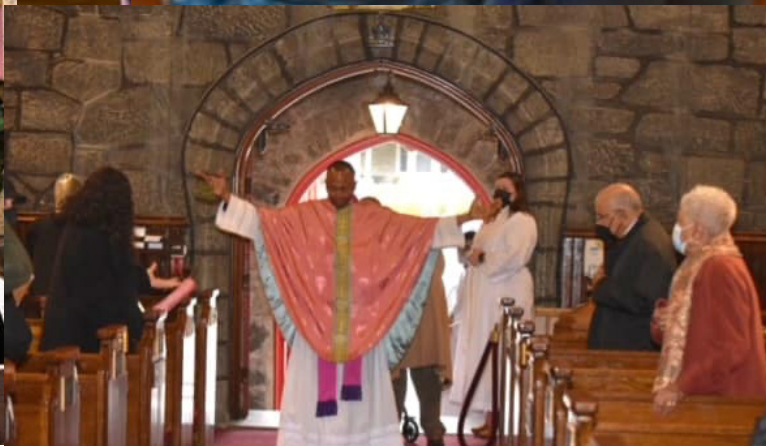
# PICTURES FROM THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2022











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The Star, used in today's presentation, was contributed by our young artist who lives in Michigan and is a virtual student, **Gabrielle Faisal**. Thank you so much, Gabrielle, your St. Thomas family loves you!



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

# “FOLLOW THE STAR”

A JOURNEY TO FIND THE NEW BORN KING!  
A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 10:00AM



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
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THE TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY  
PRESENTS

“A FREE GIVE-A-WAY RAFFLE”  
OF

**BICYCLES**

Sunday, December 18, 2022



All youth are invited to get a free raffle ticket for the drawing prior to and after the church service. The drawing will be held immediately after the church service.




Thanks to the City of Philadelphia Sheriff's Department  
for the donation of the Bicycles and Refreshments

Given by: The HIRAM LODGE #5

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE F.&A.M. OF PA  
Brother Mark P. Wilson, PM

**IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELIZABETH "TOOTIE" STANLEY**

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# The Celebration of the Birth of CHRIST

**Saturday  
December 24, 2022; 7:00 PM**

*You, family and friends  
are invited to join us around  
the Lord's table.*



**AECST**  
FOUNDED 1792



**Reception following the Service. Refreshments will be served.**

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*African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas*

Women's Day Committee Fundraiser



**This holiday season give the  
most useful gift of all.**

**A Women's Day inspired  
*Growing in God's Love*  
Tote Bag**

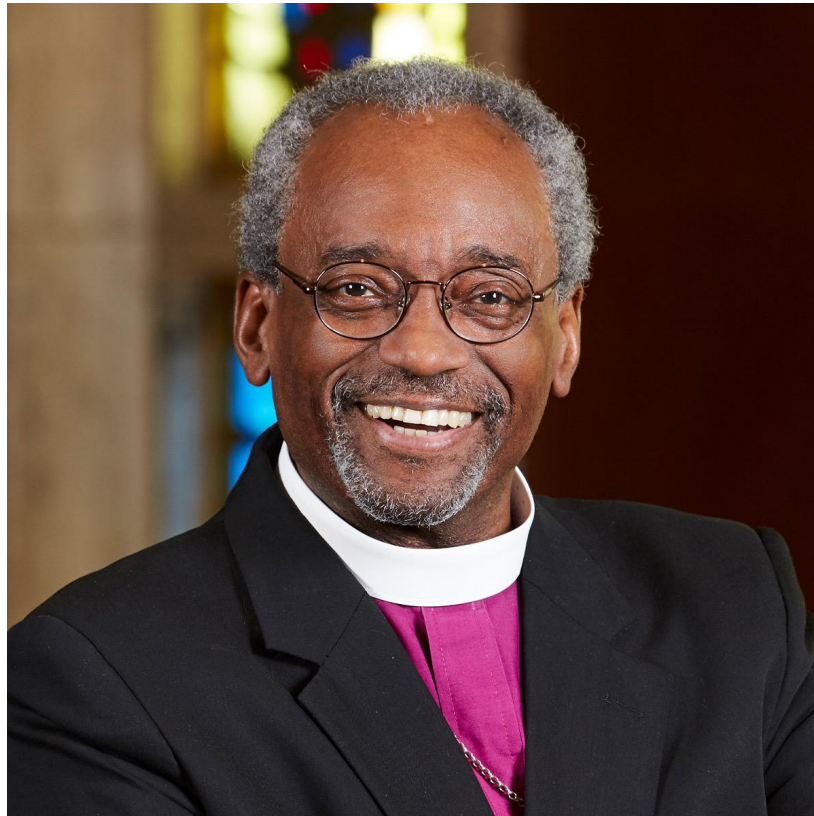
*Carry goods in  
style!  
Limited  
Supplies  
Special Price!*



*Buy 2 for the  
special price of  
\$25.00  
\$15.00 each*

Contact Deborah Matthews at  
[debmadanco@verizon.net](mailto:debmadanco@verizon.net)  
or any member of the Committee

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**



The Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, **The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry** will travel to Philadelphia to celebrate the Feast of Absalom Jones and St. Thomas' 231st Year Anniversary.

Our own bishop, the Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez will also be present. Please join us!

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**AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR  
AND WARDENS**

Please prayerfully complete the balance of your 2022 Faithful Giving Pledge by **December 31, 2022**. If you are unsure of the amount, please contact Jeannette in the Parish Office.

## **UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY**

**Sunday, Dec. 18th - The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Church School Christmas Presentation**

**Saturday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve), 7:00 P.M. - Festive  
Celebration Service**

**Sunday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) - No In-Person Service**

**Sunday, Jan 1st (New Year's Day), 10:00 A.M. - In-Person  
Morning Prayer only (No Holy Eucharist)**

**Sunday, Jan 8th - The First Sunday after the Epiphany  
(Baptism of our Lord) Renewal of Baptism Vows**

**Sunday, Jan. 15th - Observance of the Life and Ministry of  
the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.**

**Sunday, Jan. 22nd - Youth / Young Adult Sunday**

**Sunday, Jan 29th - Health Ministry Sunday**

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The Sisterhood Guild is collecting men's and women's new underwear, T-shirts, socks, gloves, and hats to be given to the homeless.

The collection bin will be placed at the back of the church, by the baptismal area starting **November, 20th** through **December 24th**.

During this holiday season let's not forget those that do not have the essentials of everyday life that you and I enjoy.

Please give so that we can enrich someone else's day with this thoughtful gesture.

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**YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE:** The only doors for entry on Sunday mornings are: the Front doors of the church and the front handicap door of the church. Please refrain from using other doors at this time.

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## **A PHILLY POPS CHRISTMAS: SPECTACULAR SOUNDS OF THE SEASON**

Hamilton star **Mandy Gonzalez** returns for her fourth Christmas with the POPS, joined by Broadway sensation and small-screen heartthrob **Jordan Donica!**

Music Director and Principal Conductor **David Charles Abell** presents his usual dazzling, unique, and all-new program with over 300 performers, including The Philly POPS Festival Chorus, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir (For the 17th Year), and Santa!

Discount tickets are available using the code word: **chorus**  
Box Office: Kimmel Center Box Office 300 South Broad  
Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Tickets:** 215.893.1999

**Subscriptions:** 215.893.1955

**Group Sales:** 215.253.6980

### **2022 Concert Dates and Times**

Friday, Dec. 16th - 3:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 17th -3:00 PM

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice. St. Thomas will follow the recommended guidelines of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Diocese of PA. Let us love our neighbor and worship safely!

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. Hand sanitizer is also available. The ventilation system has been changed to let in outside air. We request that all in attendance be **VACCINATED**. Unvaccinated individuals are requested to watch the Service via [Live Stream](#).

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## **A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON “VIRTUAL WORSHIP”**

“Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion).”

(From Fr. Martini Shaw’s Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

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“Online Masses and Spiritual Communion do not represent the church. The faithful not gathered to receive the Sacraments is not the church. Jesus’ disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord in Community. They gathered, around the sacrament, at the same table, as a sign of community”. (Pope Francis’ message)

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“If you are unable to receive the Sacrament, by reasons of extreme sickness or physical disability; or when being present at a celebration is absolutely impossible, it is possible to open yourself to God’s grace and blessing”. (Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer).

## **YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

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## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 through High School. The theme for this church school year is “ The Lord’s Prayer”.

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or contact [Dottie Archey](#) for more information or 215 837-6941.

Church School Christmas presentation **December 18th,** 2022 “Follow the Star.” Mandatory rehearsal for all children participating will be held Saturday, **December 17th** from **10:00 AM-12:00 PM** followed by pizza and snacks.

If you have any questions, please call Dottie Archey at (215) 837-6941 or (215) 474-2815.

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## **SCOUT TROOP #133 -**

Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

The Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule.

Please contact Scout Master [Howard Chapman](#) for more information.



# SHEPHERDS MINISTRY

*Re-imagined*

## ATTENTION: AECST MEN, WOMEN, COUPLES

This is an opportunity to share your caring and kindness with our AECST flock!



### THE MINISTRY

- **Immediate Goal:** Shepherd our sick and shut-in parishioners
- **Primary/Ultimate Goal:** Shepherd ALL AECST parishioners
- **Number of Households:** No more than 4 sheep households per shepherd

### SHEPHERDS' ROLE

- Set your own schedule to regularly contact sheep via phone or other media
- *Attend Zoom meetings with fellow shepherds (no in-person meetings)*

Please consider joining the 10 Shepherds who have volunteered.

For more information, please contact Charlene M. Wiltshire:  
[cwiltshi@comcast.net](mailto:cwiltshi@comcast.net)



*Note: Vestry members will continue to shepherd all new members until their one-year anniversary.*

**Join the Girls Friendly Society!** Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Girl Talks, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips the Theater, 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 our Branch Advisor, [Nikkol Simms](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)



Nikkol Simms  
Branch Advisor  
[njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)

For more info:  
<http://gfsus.org/>

Find us on Facebook!  
GFS PA African  
Episcopal Church of St.  
Thomas

# GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

**Meetings  
begin  
Oct. 1, 2022  
11am-1pm**

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75 years of legacy at St. Thomas.

Membership Ages:  
Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.  
Junior Members: 5-13 yo.  
Senior Members: 14-21 yo.  
Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:  
Service Projects  
Girl Talks  
Arts & Crafts  
World Day of Prayer  
Founder's Day  
Mission Day  
GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:  
White water rafting  
Theaters  
Museums  
Ice Skating  
Segway/Ziplining  
Mini Golf  
Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

**GFS World Council South Africa 2023**

## **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 **Gladyce** in the office 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](#).

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)

[Psalm 80:1-7,16-18](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 1:1-7](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for  
the Week of December 19, 2022**

Monday - [Luke 1:1-25](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 1:26-38](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 1:39-48](#)

Thursday - [Luke 1:57-66](#)

Friday - [Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Christmas Eve - [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

**Readings for Christmas Day  
December 25, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

[Psalm 96](#)

The Second Lesson: [Titus 2:11-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 2:1-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for  
the Week of December 26, 2022**

Monday - [John 3:31-36](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 2:22-40](#)

Wednesday - [John 2:1-11](#)

Thursday - [John 4:46-54](#)

Friday - [John 5:1-15](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 1:18-25](#)



**Readings for New Year's Day  
January 1, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 35:1-10](#)  
[Psalms 146:4-9](#)

The Second Lesson: [James 5:7-10](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of January 2, 2023**

Monday - [Matthew 24:15-31](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 24:32-44](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 24:45-51](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Friday - [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

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**A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE**

**STAY UP TO DATE** with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](#) or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens). Go on their website to schedule an appointment.

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## **AECST LIVE STREAM**

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch [Past Services](#) and [Highlights](#) from past services.

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## **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.

If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

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## **POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON**

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions.

Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact:

[Deborah Harrison](#).

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## **ACOLYTES NEEDED**

We are in need of Acolytes (Youth and Adults). Please consider serving God in this rewarding ministry. If interested, please contact the Rector ASAP.

## **SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS**

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the [Newsletter](#) sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

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If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a **monthly Vestry meeting** via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to [vestryclerk@aecst.org](mailto:vestryclerk@aecst.org) at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

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## **POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON**

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions.

Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact:

[Deborah Harrison](#).

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## **ATTENTION:**

We are so blessed to be stewards of a beautiful property that God has entrusted to our care. Persons are needed to serve on our Property Committee. If interested, please speak with [Deborah Harrison](#) or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

## **ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH**

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

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### **AECST BIBLESTUDY WITH FR. JAY**

will be on Holiday from December 27th to January 3rd.

We will resume study on January 10th at 7:00 PM.

From the AECST Bible Study Class: "Have a blessed Christmastide and a Happy New Year!"

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Your gift of Christmas poinsettias and altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the holidays, and will be a beautiful tribute to your loved ones, or a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. Please fill out (**Print**) the form below and return to Alfreda Brockman or Clara Mae Daniels at 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Phila., PA 19151

**Please do not place in the collection plate. DEADLINE : TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022**

**Christmas Flower Donations (Please Print All Names)**

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @125.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - @ 85.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - @ 45.00

A) In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

B) In Thanksgiving for

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Poinsettia and Christmas Tree Adoption**

- I would like to purchase a **Poinsettia @ \$25.00 (5 names per plant)**
- I would like to adopt a **Christmas Tree @\$35.00 per tree.**

**Please PRINT names below:**

Please circle one: In memory of / In Thanksgiving for

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**IN REHAB:** Linda Holmes

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Rosalind Rodriquez, Joan Hall, Charles Fleming, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, Leatrice Snowden, William Smalls, Shirley Winkfield, Alletta Parris-Olday, Dr. Walter Bantom.

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

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Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown,  
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson,  
Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer,  
Karen Ragland, Winston Lowe, Georgia Sawyer, Kenneth Dow,  
Edita Gauthney, Justin Trotman, Gwendolyn Langford,  
Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Eleanor Chestnut.

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**WE PRAY FOR**

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

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**ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT**

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last  
year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium  
inurnment, please contact the church office  
at 215-473-3065.

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## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

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## 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](#).

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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.  
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to 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 Parish Office during regular business hours. 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.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link [Click>](#) or send an email to our [Fiscal Administrator](#). Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.



## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Assistant to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
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	Ronald Jones	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
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deborah Camp - Frye	1792@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
	Lisa Steward-New	ljs210@msn.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	dneharrison04@gmail.com
Special Advisor to the Rector	Richard Jones	r724jones1@gmail.com
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
Videography Ministry	Que ntin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo@verizon.net

## **THE VESTRY**

Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon  
Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson  
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels  
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Patricia Bantom  
Brenda Johnson Best  
Judith Simkins Booth  
Ronnie Collins  
Wendella Fox, Esq.  
Deborah Harrison  
D. Lynn Joell  
Jonathan Muse  
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman  
Judith Tillman

## **THE AUXILIARY VESTRY**

Patricia Akins  
Conchetta Brewer  
Sharon Bullock  
Gregory Lyles  
Patricia Lynch

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT 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-determination, 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.

