

CELEBRATING A FEW OF OUR HEROES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
(IS JUST NOT LONG ENOUGH)



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
LOVE SUNDAY - IN CELEBRATION OF VALENTINE'S DAY
February 12, 2023**

“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 Sixth Sunday after
the Epiphany, Love Sunday - In Celebration of Valentine's Day.**

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

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

AECST BLACK HISTORY NOTE

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is in an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.” Frederick Douglass, Speech on the twenty-first anniversary of Emancipation in the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C. [April 1886]
“In all the relations of life and death, we are met by the color line.” Frederick Douglass, Speech at the Convention of Colored Men, Louisville, Kentucky [September 24, 1883]

“The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.” William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, To the Nations of the World; Address to Pan-African conference, London [1900]

Douglass Day 2023 is Tuesday, February 14th - the day Frederick Douglass chose to celebrate his birthday – and the day we set aside as a celebration of 19th-century Black achievement.*
Frederick Douglass had a “love/hate” relationship with St. Thomas.

Frederick Douglass had an acrimonious relationship with St. Thomas’ second rector, The Rev. William Douglass, who refused to let him lecture about the abolition of slavery in St. Thomas’ sanctuary. Rev. Douglass was trying to protect the church from destruction at the hands of Philadelphia’s large and violent pro-slavery elements. In 1848 the two men had a “war of words” in Douglass’ paper *The North Star*. Frederick Douglass called St. Thomas an “old pro-slavery hag with its organ and carpeted aisles.” He accused the church of being hostile to the anti-slavery movement, of barring its doors against the cause of the slave, and of welcoming Episcopalian slaveholders and slavery defenders to its pulpit.

Conversely, Frederick Douglass had a special friendship with Thomas J. & Louise T. Dorsey. W.E.B. DuBois, in *The Philadelphia Negro*, referred to the caterer triumvirate “[Henry] Jones, [Thomas] Dorsey, and [Henry] Minton” (all members of St. Thomas) as having “ruled the fashionable world.” Thomas Dorsey, who like Douglass had been born enslaved, put his wealth and influence behind the antislavery cause. Douglass likely referred to Dorsey when he wrote “It is truly astonishing that colored men ... who have endured ... the horrors of slavery, can stand in religious fellowship with ... the ... robbers of their fellow-men These men witness the sorrows of the bondman, see his back scarred with the tyrant’s lash, and then hug to their communion and fellowship the guilty wretch who perpetrates the fiendish outrage!”

St. Thomas member and noted artist David Bustill Bowser, who was related to Rev. William Douglass, painted a portrait, now on display at the National Constitution Center, of Frederick Douglass’ volatile friend John Brown while Brown was Bowser’s house guest. Frederick Douglass was staying with the Dorseys when John Brown made his ill-fated raid on Harper’s Ferry. Assisted by a group that included St. Thomas members Douglass managed to escape to New Jersey evading capture by U.S. Marshals seeking to arrest him as a Brown co-conspirator.

*The University of Pennsylvania’s Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts will host a transcription project on 2/14/23 (12PM – 3PM) focusing on transcribing the papers of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, African American teacher, writer, and lawyer. There will also be a display of antislavery primary sources related to Frederick Douglass on display in the Lea Library of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center.

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.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice.

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](#).

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.

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.

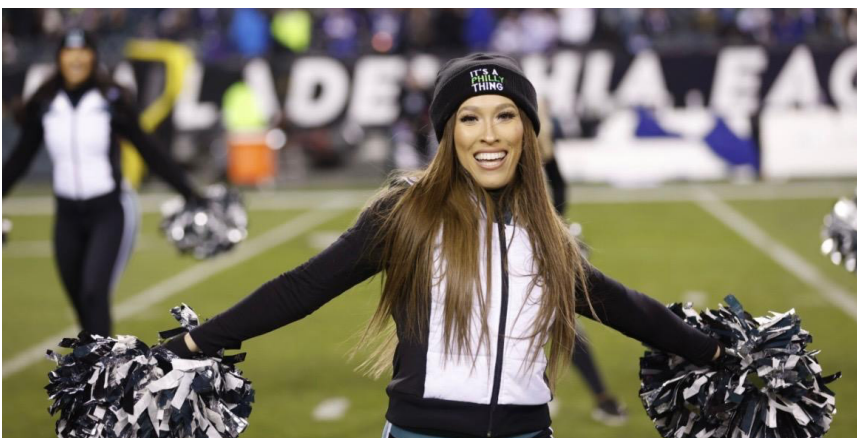
**A big welcome to our new Assistant Sexton,
Mr. David McGilberry.**



**The Parish Annual Meeting, Sunday, Feb 19, 2023
following 10:00 AM Service.**

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Kevin Carter and his family on the death of his mother,
Norma E. Morales. May the soul of Norma rest in peace and
rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



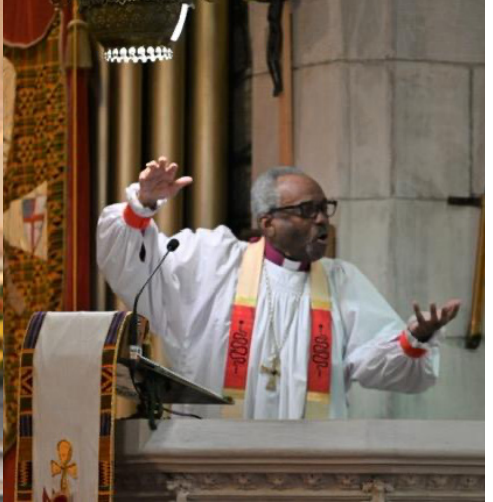
**Congratulations to our own Ariel Hunt, an Eagles
Cheerleader, who will be cheering on the Eagles today at
the Super Bowl in Arizona! Go Birds!**

**PICTURES FROM THE FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY/THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES
CELEBRATION OF THE 231ST PARISH ANNIVERSARY
THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE
AND THE RIGHT REV. DANIEL G.P. GUTIERREZ
BISHOP - DIOCESE OF PA
FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

















We welcome New Members, Eugene, Karina, Amelia, and Celeste Phillips, who joined our church family.



Please Support
Johns Hopkins Nursing
And
Baltimore Area First Responders

By Attending A
Special Concert
Featuring



SIXTY VOICES
THIRTY INSTRUMENTS
ONE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE™

Saturday February 18, 2023 at 8 pm
The Hippodrome Theatre at The France-Merrick Performing Arts Center

**THE BAND AND CHOIR COVER AN AMAZING
RANGE OF MUSIC FROM ROCK, BLUES,
INDIE, JAZZ, ACOUSTIC, POP,
R&B, MOTOWN AND SOUL-SIZZLING GOSPEL**

Make ticket requests to: hankandchoir@gmail.com

hankentwisleband.com
ZenMed Entertainment, LLC



CHOSEN 300

“Have a Heart for the Homeless” Fundraiser

Our 2023 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will begin in “Heart Month” on February 5th. The funds will provide meals to be served at the Chosen 300 Spring Garden St. site and the Lancaster Ave, site. Checks should be made payable to: **AECST Chosen 300**: Put Chosen 300 and your envelope number on the memo line. Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church, 6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151. Attention: Chosen 300 or place your check in the collections plate. Questions: scmci@aol.com



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS!

(AGES 18 YEARS - 99 YEARS)

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO JOIN THE RECTOR FOR A
"BREAKFAST MEET AND GREET"**

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023; 8:30 AM

**Please RSVP ASAP:
Rector@aecst.org
or place the RSVP form
in the Sunday offering plate.**

**THE
LOCATION
WILL BE
ANNOUNCED
THE DAY BEFORE
THE EVENT.**



MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Men's Ministry & Fellowship IN PERSON MEETING
on **Saturday, February 18th.**

Recognition and Installation of New Officers
Sunday, February 19th.

MM&F will be collecting Membership Dues for 2023.
Dues are \$35.00

**ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**

Breakfast with the Rector.
Saturday, March 18, 2023; 8:30 AM.
Please RSVP to 1792@aecst.org

The UBE is still collecting new or gently used suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks to be used for the children in the Philadelphia Foster Care System. They will be collected each Sunday morning from **9:15 AM** until **9:45 AM** in the back entrance of the Thrift Store.

Contact persons: Conchetta Brewer 267.975.7283,
or Wendella Fox 215.880.4936.

WHERE WILL THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR BE?

STGC & the Hank Entwisle Band concert on **February 18, 2023**, at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Hall, 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 at **8:00 PM**.

For more information, please see Daryn Stewart or Waltier Blocker.

STGC presents its Annual Palm Sunday Concert, Sunday, **April 2, 2023, at 3:00 PM**. Free will offering

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.

Please help support our St. Thomas GFS Branch with a love donation. Donations will go to helping them go on their Founders Day trip to Washington D.C. in March and World Council in South Africa August 3-11, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact [Nikkol Simms](#).

ALTAR FLOWERS (Please Print All Names)

Flowers on the Columbarium are In Loving Memory of my wife **Phyllis B. Johnson** given with love by your husband Bobby.

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)

- 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

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount _____

There will be a Network for New Music Concert in
Anderson Hall on Monday, **February 27, 2023**
at 7:30 PM.

Scriptural music guided improvisations,
and premier music
by our own, Dr. JaFluellen.
The concert is free and open to the public.

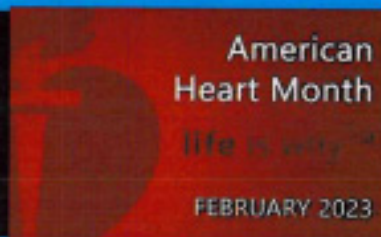
A St. Thomas Health Ministry Note

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](https://www.cdc.gov) 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.

February Health Awareness



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.

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.

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.

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 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 PM.

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 to 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

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

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](#).

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](#).

**Readings for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 12, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)
[Psalm 119:1-8](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 3:1-9](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 5:21-37](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of February 13, 2023**

Monday - [Mark 11:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 11:12-26](#)

Wednesday - [Mark 11:27-12:12](#)

Thursday - [Mark 12:13-27](#)

Friday - [Mark 12:28-34](#)

Saturday - [Mark 12:35-44](#)

**Readings for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany -
February 19, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Exodus 24:12-18](#)
[Psalm 2](#)

The Second Lesson: [2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of February 20, 2023**

Monday - [John 1:1-18](#)

Tuesday - [John 1:19-28](#)

Ash Wednesday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Thursday - [John 1:29-34](#)

Friday - [John 1:35-41](#)

Saturday - [John 1:43-51](#)

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.

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.



AECST BIBLESTUDY WITH FR. JAY

Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.

If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact Fr. Jay via email at associatepriest@aecst.org to be included on our membership list. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare - in advance - for the week's meeting.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

HOSPITALIZED: John Shield - University of PA hospital.

N REHAB:

Ronald Coleman - Promedica Rehab, Exton, PA.
Joe Stevenson- Springfield Rehabilitation.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriquez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates,
Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden,
Shirley Winkfield. Linda Holmes, Dr. Thomas Snowden,
Pearl Henderson.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman,
Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson,
Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart“Butch” Farmer,
Karen Ragland, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut,
Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall,
Sheryl Johnson.

WE PRAY FOR

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

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.

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

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](#).

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	David McGillberry	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	Que ntin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
Voices of Comfort	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo@verizon.net
William Burke Ushers Ministry		

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
Pamela Johnson
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Patricia Akins
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Gregory Lyles
Patricia Lynch

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.