Major Celebration... PLEASE JOIN US!

AECST

Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Celebration of the THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES and 231ST PARISH ANNIVERSARY

The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church ~Preacher~

The Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez Bishop - Diocese of Pennsylvania ~Celebrant~

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw 17th Rector

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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY HEALTH MINISTRY AND NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY February 5, 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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany / Celebration of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Absalom Jones / and the Parish's 231st Anniversary. Today, we are blessed to have worshiping with us our Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry; and our bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the Right Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez.

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 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.



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.



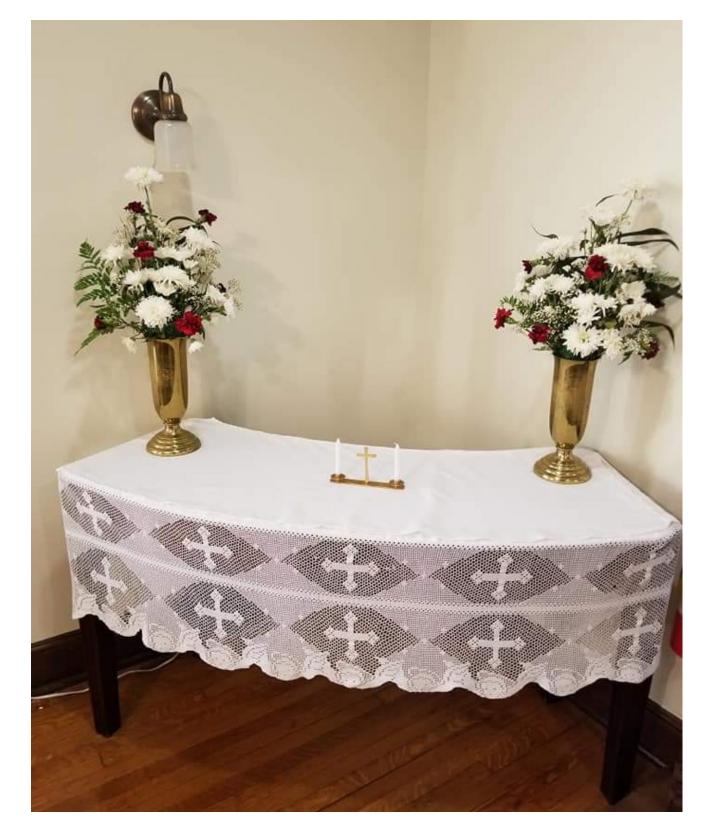
Founded 1792

The Reverend Absalom Jones First Rector of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas



Blessed Absalom's Final Resting Place: Please reverence the remains of Blessed Absalom found in the large Absalom Jones Altar near the columbarium.

> Please click on the <u>link</u> for information on St. Thomas History.

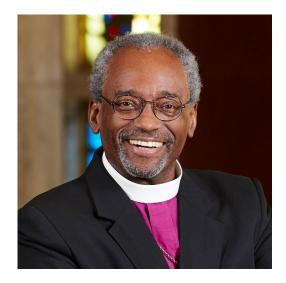


The table (altar) used by Blessed Absalom to celebrate the Holy Eucharist is on display in front of the church.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5th

Celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones and 231st Parish Anniversary Visit by Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, **THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY** and **The Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez**



Sunday, February 12th

"Love Sunday" In celebration of St. Valentine's Day Installation of Officers - Men's Ministry and Fellowship

Sunday, February 19th

Mardi Gras Mass Parish Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 26th

Scout Sunday Youth Sunday





Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has encouraged all Episcopalians to honor Absalom Jones by giving to The Episcopal Church Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs.

According to Bishop Curry, "Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are essential engines of justice, equity, and social mobility They provide high-quality education to students whose backgrounds and experiences may not have prepared them well for college success. They nurture talent that may have otherwise been discouraged by obstacles."

For information on giving to TEC's Absalom Jones Fund, as well as resources for children and youth, go to <u>https://www.</u> <u>episcopalchurch.org/development/hbcu/.</u>

Donations to the Episcopal HBCUs (divided equally between the two) help support scholarships and financial aid for students in need as well as funding for quality facilities, faculty recruitment and retention, and the development of religious life on campus.

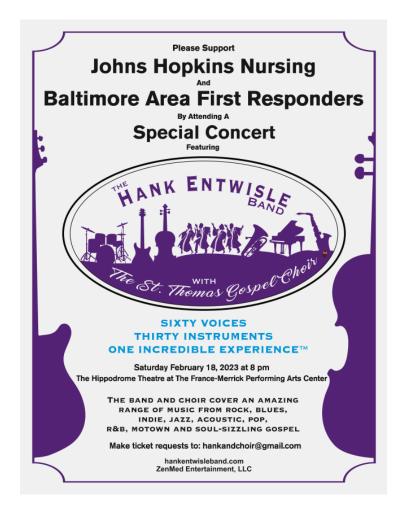
For more information on giving directly to Voorhees College (Denmark, SC), go to <u>https://www.voorhees.edu/alumni/give-</u> <u>to-voorhees.</u>

For more information on giving directly to Saint Augustine's University (Raleigh, NC), go to <u>https://saintaugustinesuniversity.</u> formstack.com/forms/giving_form.

PICTURES FROM THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, JANUARY 29, 2023









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



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 will be singing at the Opening of the James Forten Exhibit at the American Revolution Museum on **February 8, 2023**.

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 <u>website</u>, the <u>Live</u> <u>Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch <u>Past Services</u> and <u>Highlights</u> from past services.

ALTAR FLOWERS (Please Print All Names)

Flowers on the High Altar are In Loving Memory of the **Rev. Jesse F. Anderson, Jr.** given by Constance Anderson.

Flowers on the front of the High Altar are in Honor and Thanksgiving for the **Rev. Father Jesse F. Anderson, Jr.**, given with love from his friends at St. Wilford Episcopal Church, Sarasota, Florida.

Flowers on the Absalom Jones altar are in Memory of **Rev.** Julius W.D. Jackson, priest, given by Clarence Rice.

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar are Honoring the memory of my parents, **Karen & Roger Smith**, given by their daughter Rackell Smith.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of Fredrick W. Burgess, Jesse Berges Johnson and George Johnson. by the Family.

Flowers on the Columbarium are In Thanksgiving for the 31st Birthday of **Courtney Williamson**, given by Gladyce, Ginger and Cheyenne.

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

Envelope #	Amount	
Given by		
B) In Thanksgiving for		
, , ,		
A) In memory of		

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.

ATTENTION ALL GUILDS, MINISTRIES, AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS:

The Parish Annual Meeting, **Sunday, Feb 19, 2023**, following 10:00 AM Service. End-of-Year Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting must be submitted no later than January 25, 2023.

Your 2022 reports should be 1(One) page and include: Your vision, 2023 activities, and 2023 Planned activities and any other information you would like to share. Please send to Gladyce at 1792@aecst.org.

The deadline for reports is Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

If you would like an advance copy of the annual book, please email or call Gladyce before February 10th at 215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org.

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 <u>CDC</u> 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.



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 <u>Dottie Archey</u> 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 <u>Howard Chapman</u> 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 <u>vestryclerk@aecst.org</u> 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, <u>Nikkol Simms</u>

> 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. I, 2022 Ilam-Ipm 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

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 <u>Nikkol Simms.</u>

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 <u>Alfreda</u> <u>Brockman.</u>

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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 5, 2023

The First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9,10

The Second Lesson: <u>1 Corinthians 2:1-12,13-16</u> The Holy Gospel: <u>Matthew 5:13-20</u>

> The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of February 6, 2023

> > Monday - <u>Mark 9:30-41</u> Tuesday - <u>Mark 9:42-50</u> Wednesday - <u>Mark 10:1-16</u> Thursday - <u>Mark 10:17-31</u> Friday - <u>Mark 10:32-45</u> Saturday - <u>Mark 10:46-52</u>

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 - <u>Mark 11:1-11</u> Tuesday - <u>Mark 11:12-26</u> Wednesday - <u>Mark 11:27-12:12</u> Thursday - <u>Mark 12:13-27</u> Friday - <u>Mark 12:28-34</u> Saturday - <u>Mark 12:35-44</u>

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

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.

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Bettie Jones and Family on the death of her sister-inlaw,**May Carol Gause** on Monday, January 30, 2023. She will be memorialized in Hamden, CT next week. Please pray for the family.

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the <u>Newsletter</u> 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 <u>associatepriest@</u> <u>aecst.org</u> 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 <u>Online Giving</u> <u>Donations</u>, 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.
- 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** <u>Online Giving</u> 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 <u>Click></u> or send an email to our <u>Fiscal Administrator</u>. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

Bishop Rector Assistant to the Rector Associate Priest Associate Minister Associate Minister

Executive Asst to the Rector Fiscal Administrator Sexton Asst Sexton Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel Baptism Co-Chairs

Church School Superintendent Ed Muse Photography Ministry Fiscal Assistant to the Rector Girls Friendly Society Jazz Ensemble Director Live Stream Ministry

Memorial Flowers

Parish Vergers

Parish Webmaster Property Chair Special Advisor to the Rector Scout Pack 133

Transportation Ministry Videography Ministry Voices of Comfort William Burke Ushers Ministry

MINISTRY STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins The Rev. Dr. Thomas G Snowden The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach

Gladyce DuBrey Jeannette Jeffrev LaDon Elliott David McGilberry Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. Waltier Blocker Joe Tucker. Esa Gail H Harris Patricia Walker-Ellison Dottie Archev William Edmonds Deborah Camp - Frye Nikkol Simms Joe Stevenson Yaseen Farood Terri Tillman Alfreda Brockman Clare Mae Daniels Stephen Hannum Karen Ragland Lisa Steward-New Gail H Harris **Deborah Harrison Richard Jones** Howard Chapman Arlene Gray

Que ntin Heyward Robert Davenport Arlene Singletary rector@aecst.org

associatepriest@aecst.org dravidian@comcast.net pauljaybach@gmail.com

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recordedvideo@aecst.org robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com 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 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.