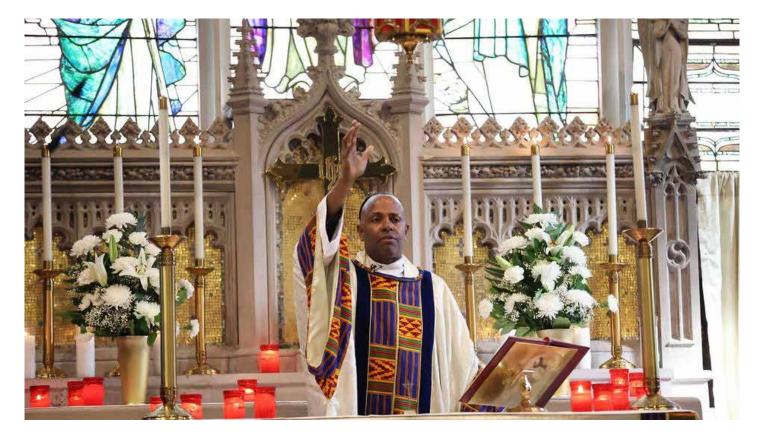


The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

Join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.

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 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065 WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792 The Second Sunday after Christmas Day (The Second Sunday of Christmas) Sunday, January 2, 2022 10:00 AM.

Mass this morning is in Thanksgiving for the Life and Ministry of **Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu.**



FROM THE RECTOR

Whoever you may be and where you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that you are always welcome at St. Thomas Church.



Mass this morning is in Thanksgiving for The Life and Ministry of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu

Join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.

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"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 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. Again, welcome!

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

ST. THOMAS IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE

Due to CDC and Diocesan recommendations, we can only accommodate **150 people in the church.** All others will be directed to Anderson Hall. There will be a **sign-in sheet**. Masks are **MANDATORY** for all in attendance. **Seating** will be spaced. Please check the signs on each pew before you enter. **Hand sanitizer** will be 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**.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

is now being scheduled. If you or someone you know wish to be baptized, please go to our website **www.aecst.org**, go to "About The AECST". Use the drop down to click on **Holy Baptism**. All the information about baptism and the **electronic online Application Form** can be found there.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Have you been confirmed yet? The bishop will be making his visitation to St. Thomas in 2022. We are in the process of forming the Confirmation Class of 2022. Please contact **Gladyce DuBrey** in the Parish Office to add your name.



A Correction and sincere apology to Charlene Wiltshire for the wrong listing of the Christmas Tree adoption The Thanksgiving message should have read: for My Grandchildren; Donovan & Camille given by Charlene Wiltshire.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are In Thanksgiving for the Life and Ministry of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to Alfreda Brockman or Clare Mae Daniels. (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 \$50.00
- __ on the Absalom Jones Altar \$45.00
- __ on the Columbarium \$35.00

(Please PRINT) a) In Memory of _____ b) In Thanksgiving for _____ Given by _____ Envelope # __ Amount \$____

ST. THOMAS CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY

PLEASE JOIN US WEEKLY FOR MONDAY MORNING PRAYER CALL

AT 6:30 AM THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS: (605) 313-6361 Code: 268 105

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER REQUEST TO: CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG

PHYLLIS B. CATER * DAPHNE GILSTRAP FACILITATORS

THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW RECTOR



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS 6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065

THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY

Thank you Seth Williams, Cynthia Muse, Justin Trotman, Judy Tillman, Linda Royal, and Daphne Gilstrap, the members, and all others who participated, contributed, and supported this past Monday morning Circle of Prayer call. The Prayer call ended its weekly Ministry on high note with pride and joy on Monday, December 28, 2021.

In addition to our weekly participants, we want to thank Elizabeth Derr for keeping our Intercessory Prayer Lists current and for recruiting participants as well as Cynthia Muse, and Swanie Goldstein for their recruitment and coordination support.

As our Rector Fr. Martini Shaw reminded us when we started this Ministry on January 4, 2021, "you can never have too much Prayer"! Prayer is the Answer! It will keep us Strong in our Faith and Hope! Thank you St. Thomas for your Love and Support!

SPEARHEAD EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, or have someone else you wish to receive, please visit <u>http://eepurl.com/djyGiD</u> to subscribe. 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.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

WORSHIP LIVE STREAM on the St. Thomas website, on Facebook or Youtube.com every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.



ATTENTION ALL GUILDS, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS: The Annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, **February 27, 2022**. Please have end of the Year Reports submitted for the

Annual Parish Meeting no later than **February 14, 2022.**

Your 2021 reports should be 1 (one) page and include: Officers, Your vision, 2021 activities and meetings, plans for Re-Imagining in 2022 and any other information you would like to share. Please send to Gladyce at: 1792@aecst.org. The deadline for reports is: Monday, **February 14, 2022**.

During the Annual Meeting, selections will be made for Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Schuylkill Deanery and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Nominations will be accepted **December 20, 2021** through **January 23, 2021**. Nominee's bios will be in the Newsletter on January 30, 2022.

Nominees should be available for Vestry Meetings on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month. They must also:

- 1. Be 18 years of age or older.
- 2. Have been a member of St. Thomas a minimum of nine (9) months prior to their nomination and
- 3. Paid their 2021 pledge in full by December 31st, 2021.

For information about nominating someone, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee at the email link below:

<u>Richard Jones, Deborah Camp-Frye</u> or <u>Cynthia Muse.</u>

VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school will meet by ZOOM on Sundays at noon. All parents and church school aged children are encouraged to attend. If you need more information please contact Dottie Archey at: 215-474-2815 or you can send an email to **Dottie Archey** for more information.

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. The Ensemble will offer musical selections for Christmas Eve Mass.

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



AECST BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom. if you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible Study group, contact Fr. Jay via email at: <u>associatepriest@aecst.org</u> to be included on our membership list. You will receive the link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare in advance for the week's meeting.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings For The Second Sunday of Christmas January 2nd First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84:1-8 Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

The First Sunday after the Epiphany January 9th First Reading: <u>Isaiah 43:1-7</u> <u>Psalm 29</u> Second Reading: <u>Acts 8:14-17</u> The Holy Gospel: <u>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</u>

Week of 1/3/2022 Monday: John 6:15-27 Tuesday - John 9:1-12, 35-38 Wednesday - John 11:17-27, 38-44 Epiphany - <u>Matthew 12:14-21</u> Friday - John 6:30-33, 48-51 Saturday - John 7:37-52

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

January 2nd

The First Sunday of the New Year (The Second Sunday of Christmas) A Formal Toast for the 2022 New Year We will lift our glasses in Thanksgiving for the blessings received in 2021.

January 9th

The First Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of our Lord (Renewal of Baptism Vows)

January 16th

Observance of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr Speakers: Jennie Patterson and Brandon Barksdale

> January 23rd Youth / Young Adult Sunday

January 30th

Health Ministry Sunday Welcome New Members of 2021

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL

Alice Bowman-Cropper - Virtua Mt. Holly NJ Leatrice Snowden - Abramson Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME

Inez Turner, Edita Gauthney, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Dow, Leotta Griffith.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Shirley Caldwell, Adinah Edwards, Shirley Winkfield, Robert Brown, Stephanie Williamson, Linda Holmes, Ridart "Butch"Farmer, Georgia Sawyer, Joan Hall, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Isadora "Gwen" Francis, Francina Norris.

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

FROM THE RECTOR

You should have received your Third Quarter Statement of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2021 Pledge is current. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from 9:30 AM-2:00 PM Monday -Thursday. Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

I ask that you, using the chart below to assist you, prayerfully fill out your 2022 Faithful Giving Card. Please place it in the offering plate, postal mail, or electronically use our Faithful Giving<u>. Pledge Form</u> on our website.

Again, thanks so much for your continued support to the ministries of our amazing parish.

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

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE ACCOUNTING WARDEN:

There is still time for you fulfill your 2021 Financial Faithful Giving Pledge. All pledges should be paid by January 9, 2022. When using a check, please indicate **"For 2021"** on the Memo line If you have questions about your statement, please contact Jeannette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office at 215-473-3065. Jeannette is available M-Th from 9:30am -1pm.

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

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**.

THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now ready for you to pick up in Anderson Hall. If you're unable to pick them up on Sundays after church you may do so Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you have a parishioner who lives near you who can't get to church, perhaps you can pick theirs up as well.

You can now complete your pledge card by mail or on our website via the online <u>Pledge Form.</u>

If you have decided to use the Givi App or <u>Online Giving</u> <u>Donations</u>, please email me at <u>stewardship@aecst.org</u> with your name and envelope number.

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.

Thank you very much.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Committee

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.

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.

2022 FAITHFUL GIVING CARDS

If you have not submitted your Faithful Giving Card, please place your card in the offering plate today.

Thank you!

To the following people who have submitted their 2022 Faithful Giving Cards.

Clergy, Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry Leadership

Fr. Martini Shaw Fr. Gerald Collins Walter & Patricia Bantom Judith Simkins Booth **Conchetta Brewer** William Burke Sharon Cotton Bullock **Ronnie Collins** Deadra Cannon Albert Dandridge, Esq. **Clara Mae Daniels** Johanna Daye Barry and Deborah Camp-Frye **Deborah Harrison** Linda Holmes D. Lynn Joell Brenda Johnson Best Frank Johnson Kelvin & Pamela Johnson **Richard Jones Gregory Lyles Cynthia Muse** Jonathan Muse Darryle & Judith Tillman Ingrid Bernadette Wyche

To the following people who have submitted their 2022 Faithful Giving Cards.

Patricia Akins Constance Anderson Michael & Dorothy Archey Jean Armstrong Jeanne Arnold Cedric Babb Paul Bach & Julie Hergenrather Terri Barber Susan Ben Deborah Billups Deborah Booker-Matthews Guy Booth Ricardo Bostic I. Page Bowser Theresa Bramwell Conchetta Brewer Lorita Brockington J.R. & Alfreda Brockman Jean Brogden **Carmen Brown** Julius Brown Marilyn Brown Phyllis S. Brown **Robert and Jayne Brown** William H. Brown, III Sandra Bryant-Miller Carmella Bullock

Joyce Adams Ted Bythewood **Shirley Caldwell Cornelia** Camp **Kevin Carter Phyllis Cater** Suzanne Closson Lynada Coleburn Bryant Tracy Collins, MD **Terry Corson** Ola Bass Gwendolyn Cottman Brenda Battle Andrea Cummings Catherine Bell Carl & Mary Dean **Elizabeth Derr** Dr. Rollo Dilworth Patrick and Musu Doe Dr. Barbara Douglass Andrew & Lisa-Renee Dumas William & Quincina Edmonds **Adinah Edwards** Lynette Edwards **Roy & Patricia Ellison Rashid Faisal** Larry & Deidre Farmby Loretta Fergueson Dr. Marceline Fitzwilliam Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel Isedora (Gwen) Francis Norman & Nikki Franke Edita Gauthnev **Elaine Gillison Barbara** Glenn

To the following people who have submitted their 2022 Faithful Giving Cards.

Swanie Goldsmith Kim Hyde Christopher Golson Diann Jacox Eugene & Marie Golson Simone Jeffers Carole Williams Green Vernetta Johnston Michelle Green Bettie Jones Thomasina Hack Donna Jones Stephen Hannum Sharon Lawrence Harper Roosevelt & Gail Harris Sheila Jones Walter & Nicole Harris Joyce Harrison **Richard & Gwenda Hart** Gregory Hayes Rene Haves Denise McDaniel Henderson Quentin Heyward Angela Holloway Karl Holloway Patricia Holmes Merle Hopson Fleta Howell Robert Hugh Dr. Diana H. Hutchins Winston Lowe Donald & Patricia Hunt Patricia Lynch

Clarice Grant Bobby Johnson Arlene Gray Jenelle Wilson Johnson Linda Greaves Lemont Johnson Austin Green Sheryl Johnson Leotta Griffith Clarence Jones Joan P. Hall Kelly & Tracy Jones Mary Ann Jones **Robert & Joyce Jones Tyrone Keller** J. Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble **Jurdina Koilor** Paula Lamb Maurice Hays Gwendolyn Langford Nancy Conway Lee Louise Lewis Steven & Jameela Lewis **Monica Lewis-Jones** Karen Leys **Kimberly Lloyd** Adrienne Logan C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey James Lowe, Jr.

To the following people who have submitted their 2022 Faithful Giving Cards.

Constance Lyons Sheila McCullough Alexandra McFadden Denise McKinney-Gibson Regina Meacham-Devero William Meek Deidre Milanes Colin Mitchell Donald Moore & Dorothy Deborah Seay B. Mueni Mwanzia Vincent & Lisa Napoleon Francina Norris William Smalls Deborah Otey Anita Smith Samuel & Deidre Patterson Andrea Petrocelli-Fields Kim Phillips Mary Ann Phillips Simone Polland Stephen Pugh Audrey Pyles Karen Ragland **Dolores Redmond Clarence Rice Carvn Rivers** Victoria Rivers **Rosalind Roberts Smalls**

Rosalind Rodriguez Dr. Cassandra Ruffin Yvonne Ruiz Sandra Rushin **Mercedes Sadler** Dr. Barbara Savage Georgia Sawyer Jann Minor Richard & Rebecca Scales Lois Schmidt Roberts Stephanie Seay Elsie Moto Gordon & Gloria Sedziafa Leah Sheppard Arlene Singletary Lisa New Velva Smalls **Catherine Stafford** H. Lynn Starr Irving Stevenson Joseph Stevenson **Joyce Stewart** Shelly & Ann Stewart **Brandon & Rashanda Stiff** Art & Michelle Sudler **Carolyn Summers Yvonne Sydnor** Linda Tapper Smith Wanda Tarawaly **Monica** Taylor

To the following people who have submitted their 2022 Faithful Giving Cards.

Calvin Thompson Dorothy Willis Teri Tillman Harold Townsend III Arnott Trotman Justin & Lee Anne Trotman Louise Trotman Elizabeth Trulear **Gladys Tucker** Howard Tucker Inez Turner Robin Vann-Lynch Karen Vaughn Alverna Wiley Barbara Wiley

Rosita Taylor Michele Wilkinson Teri Taylor Julia Williams Gloria Thomas R. Seth Williams Arleatha Wilson Lorna Wilson **Charlene Wiltshire Denise Wing Diane Wilkfield** Shirley Winkfield Edgar Wise Wanda Wood Lisa Woodley Paula Wright Harold Yates **Elaine Young**

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

Executive Asst to the Rector Fiscal Administrator Sexton Asst Sextons

Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel

Baptism Co-Chairs

Bible Study Church School Superintendent Ed Muse Photography Ministry

Fiscal Assistant to the Rector Girls Friendly Society

Investments Advisor to the Rector Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq IJazz Ensemble Director Joe Stevenson Live Stream Ministry Co-Directors Quentin Heyward - Co-Chair

Memorial Flowers

Parish Vergers

Parish Webmaster Property Chair Reach Out and Touch Ministry Social Media Manager Scout Pack 133

Transportation Ministry 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 Jeffrey LaDon Elliott James Brown Ronald Jones Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. Waltier Blocker Joe Tucker, Esq

Gail H Harris Patricia Walker-Ellison The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins Dottie Archey William Edmonds Dale Williams Deadra Cannon Nikkol Simms Carlia Miller

Joe Stevenson Quentin Heyward - Co-Chair Terri Tillman - Co-Chair Dale Williams - Co-Chair Yaseen Farooq - Co-Chair Alfreda Brockman Clare Mae Daniels Stephen Hannum Karen Ragland Lisa Steward-New Gail H Harris Deborah Harrison Elizabeth Derr

Howard Chapman Arlene Gray J. Reggie Kimble Brenda Johnson Best

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THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye Treasurer - Kelvin Johnson

> Alister Allman Patricia Bantom Brenda Johnson Best Judith Simkins Booth Ronnie Collins Albert S. Dandridge Clare Mae Daniels Deborah Harrison D. Lynn Joell Jonathan Muse Darryl (Bobby) Tillman Judith Tillman

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 taught, lived and spread.