

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Church School and Youth Sunday Sunday, January 23, 2022 10:00 AM.



#### 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.

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#### SAINT THOMAS IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE

Masks are MANDATORY for all in attendance. Hand sanitizer is 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.

Please click on the link provided for the <u>Order of Service</u> for today's service.

#### "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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany: Church School / Youth Sunday

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. Again, welcome! May Jesus reveal himself to you during the Season of Epiphany.

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

## 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)." (Fr. Martini Shaw's recent Homily)

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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' recent 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).

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#### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

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

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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 - \$60.00
on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00
on the Columbarium - \$40.00
(Please PRINT)
a) In Memory of b) In Thanksgiving for
Given by Envelope # Amount \$

#### **SPEARHEAD EMAILS**

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, or have someone else you wish to receive, please visit: <a href="https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/uKQiY6t/spearheadsignup">https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/uKQiY6t/spearheadsignup</a> 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.

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#### **AECST LIVE STREAM**

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

#### **OUR CONDOLENCES**

to Dr. Tracy Collins (and family) on the death of her brother-in- law **Alonzo "Franky" Smith**. May the soul of Alonzo rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

to John Richardson, Sr (husband), John Richardson, Jr. (Son) JoAnn (daughter) and Jeffrey Chapman (son-in-law) and their sons, Nicholas and Noah, on the death of **Marlene Richardson.** Her service will be here at St. Thomas, Thursday, January 27, 2022, Visitation - 10:00 AM.; Requiem Mass - 11:00 AM. May the soul of Marlene rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

Please pray for the families of Alonzo and Marlene.



#### **AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY**

Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume via Zoom at 7:00PM. If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact Fr. Jay via email/ <a href="mailto:associate-priest@aecst.org">associate-priest@aecst.org</a> to be included on our membership list serve. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare – in advance - for the week's meeting.



#### ATTENTION ALL GUILDS, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS:

The Annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, **February 27, 2022, 11:30 AM. (In-Person and via Zoom)**. 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.

During the Annual Meeting, elections 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:

Richard Jones, Deborah Camp-Frye or Cynthia Muse.

#### 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.

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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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#### **NEW MEMBERS/ CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Attention All New Members Adults and Youth: Have you been confirmed yet? The bishop will be making his Visitation to St. Thomas on Sunday, May 1st, 2022. Classes will begin Monday, February 14th at 7:00PM. They will be Zoom classes facilitated by Fr. Shaw and Fr. Jay. There are eight(8) meetings before the Bishop's visit We are in the process of forming a New Member / Confirmation Class of 2022. Please contact Gladyce DuBrey in the Parish Office to add your name.

#### DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings For
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 23rd

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19

Second Reading: <u>1 Corinthians 12:12-31a</u>
The Holy Gospel: <u>Luke 4:14-21</u>

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany **January 30th** 

First Reading: <u>Jeremiah 1:4-10</u>
Psalm 71:1-6

Second Reading: <u>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</u>
The Holy Gospel: <u>Luke 4:21-30</u>

Week of 1/24/2022

Monday - <u>Mark 5:21-43</u>

Tuesday - Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday - Mark 6:13-29

Thursday - Mark 6:30-46

Friday - Mark 6:47-56

Saturday - Mark 7:1-23

#### **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

#### January 23rd

Church School / Youth Adult Sunday

#### **January 30th**

Health Ministry Sunday
First Sunday Morning Ministry and appearance
of our St. Thomas Voices of Comfort Choir.

#### **February 6th**

Black History Month Kick-Off

#### **February 13th**

Annual Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Absalom Jones Special Guest: The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field, Rector St. Peter's Church

#### **February 20th**

The Episcopal HBCUs Sunday (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

#### February 27th

Youth Sunday / Mardi Gras Jazz Mass (Before the start of Lent) Annual Parish Meeting

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

#### IN THE HOSPITAL

Leatrice Snowden - Abramson Rehab.

#### **RECOVERING AT HOME**

Inez Turner, Edita Gauthney, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Dow, Leotta Griffith. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Joseph Stevenson.

#### 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.

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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.

#### 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. Pledge Form 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

#### 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**.

# 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

#### **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 **Online Giving Donations**, please email me at **stewardship@aecst.org**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.

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#### 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.

Joyce Adams Carmella Bullock

Patricia Akins Ted Bythewood

Constance Anderson Shirley Caldwell

Michael & Dorothy Archey Cornelia Camp

Jean Armstrong Kevin Carter

Jeanne Arnold Phyllis Cater

Cedric Babb Suzanne Closson

Paul Bach & Julie Hergenrather Lynada Coleburn Bryant

Natasha Bagwell Tracy Collins, MD

Terri Barber Terry Corson

Tim Barksdale Gwendolyn Cottman

Ola Bass Andrea Cummings

Brenda Battle Carl & Mary Dean

Catherine Bell Elizabeth Derr

Susan Ben Dr. Rollo Dilworth

Deborah Billups Patrick and Musu Doe

Deborah Booker-Matthews Dr. Barbara Douglass

Guy Booth Andrew & Lisa-Renee Dumas

Ricardo Bostic William & Quincina Edmonds

I. Page Bowser Adinah Edwards

Theresa Bramwell Lynette Edwards

Lorita Brockington Roy & Patricia Ellison

J.R. & Alfreda Brockman Rashid Faisal

Jean Brogden Larry & Deidre Farmby

Carmen Brown Loretta Fergueson

Julius Brown Dr. Marceline Fitzwilliam

Marilyn Brown Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel

Phyllis S. Brown Isedora (Gwen) Francis Norman

Robert and Jayne Brown & Nikki Franke

William H. Brown, III Edita Gauthney

Sandra Bryant-Miller Elaine Gillison

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

Barbara Glenn Fleta Howell

Swanie Goldsmith Robert Hugh

Christopher Golson Dr. Diana H. Hutchins

Eugene & Marie Golson Kim Hyde

Clarice Grant Donald & Patricia Hunt

Arlene Gray Diann Jacox

Linda Greaves Simone Jeffers

Austin Green Bobby Johnson

Carole Williams Green Jenelle Wilson Johnson

Michelle Green Lemont Johnson

Leotta Griffith Sheryl Johnson

Tyrone & Teleia Gunby Vernetta Johnston

Thomasina Hack Bettie Jones

Joan P. Hall Clarence Jones

Stephen Hannum Donna Jones

Sharon Lawrence Harper Kelly & Tracy Jones

Leslie Harris Mary Ann Jones

Roosevelt & Gail Harris Robert & Joyce Jones

Walter & Nicole Harris Sheila Jones

Joyce Harrison Tyrone Keller

Richard & Gwenda Hart J. Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble

Gregory Hayes Jurdina Koilor

Maurice Hays Kathleen Lacey

Rene Hayes Paula Lamb

Denise McDaniel Henderson Gwendolyn Langford

Quentin Heyward Nancy Conway Lee

Erica Hill-Yates Louise Lewis

Angela Holloway Steven & Jameela Lewis

Karl Holloway Monica Lewis-Jones

Patricia Holmes Karen Leys

Merle Hopson Adrienne Logan

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

Kimberly Lloyd Karen Ragland

C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey Dolores Redmond

James Lowe, Jr. Clarence Rice

Winston Lowe Caryn Rivers

Patricia Lynch Victoria Rivers

Constance Lyons Rosalind Roberts Smalls

Sheila McCullough Rosalind Rodriguez

Alexandra McFadden Dr. Cassandra Ruffin

Maria McWilliams-Zayzay Yvonne Ruiz

Denise McKinney-Gibson Sandra Rushin

Regina Meacham-Devero Mercedes Sadler

William Meek Dr. Barbara Savage

Deidre Milanes Georgia Sawyer

Jann Minor Richard & Rebecca Scales

Colin Mitchell Lois Schmidt

Donald Moore & Dorothy Deborah Seay

Roberts Stephanie Seay

Elsie Moto Gordon & Gloria Sedziafa

B. Mueni Mwanzia Leah Sheppard

Vincent & Lisa Napoleon Arlene Singletary

Lisa New Velva Smalls

Francina Norris William Smalls

Deborah Otey Anita Smith

Samuel & Deidre Patterson Catherine Stafford

Andrea Petrocelli-Fields H. Lynn Starr

Kim Phillips Irving Stevenson

Mary Ann Phillips Joseph Stevenson

Simone Polland Joyce Stewart

Stephen Pugh Shelly & Ann Stewart

Audrey Pyles Brandon & Rashanda Stiff

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

Robin Vann-Lynch Art & Michelle Sudler Carolyn Summers Karen Vaughn Yvonne Sydnor Alverna Wiley Barbara Wiley Linda Tapper Smith Michele Wilkinson Wanda Tarawaly Monica Taylor Julia Williams R. Seth Williams Rosita Taylor Teri Taylor Dorothy Willis Gloria Thomas Arleatha Wilson Calvin Thompson Lorna Wilson Teri Tillman Charlene Wiltshire Harold Townsend III **Denise Wing Arnott Trotman** Diane Wilkfield Justin & Lee Anne Trotman Shirley Winkfield Louise Trotman **Edgar Wise** Elizabeth Trulear Wanda Wood Lisa Woodley Gladys Tucker **Howard Tucker** Paula Wright Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn Harold Yates

Inez Turner Elaine Young

#### MINISTRY STAFF

	MINISTRISTALI			
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 Snowde	n 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		
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	Ronald Jones	1792@aecst.org		
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	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com		
Bible Study	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org		
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org		
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net		
	Dale Williams	thebeamermator@gmail.com		
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Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net		
	Carlia Miller	trublu265@aim.com		
Investments Advisor to the Recto	r Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	aldandridge@schnader.com		
IJazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com		
Live Stream Ministry Co-Directors	Quentin Heyward - Co-Chair	livevideo@aecst.org		
	Terri Tillman - Co-Chair	teritill@yahoo.com		
	Dale Williams - Co-Chair	thebeamermator@gmail.com		
	Yaseen Farooq - Co-Chair	yifarooq@gmail.com		
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net		
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com		
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	Lisa Steward-New	ljs210@msn.com		
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Property Chair	Deborah Harrison			
Reach Out and Touch Ministry	Elizabeth Derr	hmomlizt@,aol.com		
Social Media Manager		communications@aecst.org		
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com		
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com		
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com		
VA /: Illiance Dund on Litale and A disciption	Duan de Jalances Dest	المسالم		

brjb46@gmail.com

William Burke Ushers Ministry Brenda Johnson Best

#### **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.

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