



**AECST**  
FOUNDED 1792



# CONGRATULATIONS

OUR SERVICE STARTS AT 10:00 AM. IF YOU ARE PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO ATTEND,  
PLEASE 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 FIRST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**  
**Trinity Sunday, Graduate Sunday**  
**June 12, 2022, 10:00 AM**

**“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 **First Sunday after Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and Graduate 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. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

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

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

Our Homilist for today along with **Fr. Shaw** is **Theresa Bramwell**. She has been an educator for 32 years and is currently a teacher at Northeast High School in Philadelphia, where she has taught English and Theatre for 28 years. Theresa is also a Debate and Mock Trial Coach.

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**THANK YOU**  
to the Pentecost  
Committee for a  
wonderful outdoor  
Pentecost reception.

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A Memorial Service for  
**Lucinda Harper**  
will be held at St. Thomas  
on Saturday,  
**June 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM.**

# PICTURES FROM OUR GLORIOUS PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION AND BAPTISM

























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**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.

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## **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.



2022  
*class of*  
CONGRATULATIONS!



Gabrielle Alston  
graduated from  
Smith College with a  
BA in Anthropology



Alexandra Dumas  
graduated from  
Howard University with a  
BA in Psychology



Janae Clarice Grier  
graduated from  
Saint Joseph's University - Haub  
School of Business - MBA



Laila Halton  
graduated from  
Chester Community Charter  
Middle School



Amia Hines  
graduated from Chestnut Hill  
College with a Masters in Clinical and  
Counseling Psychology - M. Psych



Alonzo J. Johnson  
graduated from  
Montgomery County Community  
College to Temple University





Tyler Genet Lynch graduated from Sarah Lawrence College to UCLA's MFA Program in Screenwriting



Taylor R. Johnson graduated from University of Southern California with a BS in Business Administration



Erin Napoleon graduated from University of Pittsburgh School of Law - Juris Doctor



Tynecia Taylor Wilson graduated from Temple University's College of Education and Human Development with a M. Ed. Miss Liberty Bell 2022/Future Miss Penna

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

“Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion).”  
(From Fr. Martini Shaw’s Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

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

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

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### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

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

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

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### **ATTENTION ALL MEN**

Every Sunday, ALL men are invited to briefly stop and Greet other men of the parish outside under the carport after service each week.

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### **SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

**Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 11:00 AM.**

A portion of Lancaster Avenue will be Renamed  
**Absalom Jones Way**

Come join us for part of this Homecoming Weekend  
Celebrating our 230th Parish Anniversary

Co-Chairs - Albert Dandridge, Esq., Monica Lewis Jones,  
Catherine Stafford



The 1926 Foundation, Incorporated

Brenda Johnson, President

&

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated<sup>®</sup>

Omega Omega Chapter

Chartered in 1926

Charlene M. Collins, President



*Now Accepting Scholarship Applications!!!*

**CLASS OF 2022**

*To Apply, Scan the QR Code or Copy the Link Below:*

<https://www.the1926foundationinc.com/scholarship>

For additional information, email:

[AKA0mega0megaScholarships@gmail.com](mailto:AKA0mega0megaScholarships@gmail.com)



@the1926foundationinc



## **ATTENTION:**

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

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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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## **VESTRY MEETING**

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

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## **RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES**

Persons are needed to serve on the Altar Guild. This amazing group of individuals prepare our beautiful altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact Alfreda Brockman at [fredabee@verizon.net](mailto:fredabee@verizon.net).

We are in need of Readers and Intercessors, Youth and Adult. If you are interested in helping spread the Word of God through a reading, Psalm, or Intercessory prayers, please contact Gladyce in the parish office. Thank you.

We are looking for a few individuals 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.

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## **CALLING ALL FUTURE SHEPHERDS OF THE AECST**

Plans are in the works for resurrecting and re-imagining the **SHEEP & SHEPHERDS MINISTRY** created many years ago by parishioner Mrs. Vernetta Dow. As a telephone ministry, the goal is that every AECST family of parishioners (sheep) will have a shepherd that keeps in touch with them on a regular basis. We are now calling for parishioners to volunteer as shepherds. Before this ministry can be rolled-out, a sufficient number of volunteers is needed in order to minimize the number of families that each will shepherd. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd new members. For more information and to volunteer, please either see Charlene M. Wiltshire before or after Sunday church services or send an email to her at [cwiltshi@comcast.net](mailto:cwiltshi@comcast.net). Thank you!



## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JUNE**

### **June 12th**

Graduation Recognition Sunday  
Please submit all names of graduates  
to the church office by **June 6th**.

The St. Thomas Family is invited  
to the wedding of  
**Ariel Brockman and Shabazz Kelson**  
at **3:00 PM**

### **June 19th**

Father's Day / Juneteenth Observance

### **June 26th**

Youth Sunday  
Acolyte Commissioning Sunday

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The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the calling of a new Rector's Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

**DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**  
**READINGS FOR**

**Readings for the Day of Pentecost**  
**June 5, 2022**

The First Reading: [Acts 2:1-21](#)  
[Psalm 104:25-35, 37](#)

The Second Reading: [Romans 8:14-17](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 14:8-17](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for**  
**the Week of June 6, 2022**

Monday- [Luke 17:1-10](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 17:11-19](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 17:20-37](#)

Thursday - [Luke 18:1-8](#)

Friday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Saturday - [Luke 18:15-30](#)

**The First Sunday of Pentecost/ Trinity Sunday**  
**June 12, 2022**

The First Reading: [Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31](#)  
[Psalm 8](#)

The Second Reading: [Romans 5:1-5](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 16:12-15](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for**  
**the Week of June 13, 2022**

Monday- [Luke 18:31-43](#)

Tuesday- [Luke 19:1-10](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 19:11-27](#)

Thursday- [Luke 19:28-40](#)

Friday - [Luke 19:41-48](#)

Saturday - [Luke 20:1-8](#)





Our church family is invited  
to attend the Celebration  
of Marriage for Ariel Brockman  
and Shabazz Kelson on Sunday,  
**June 12, 2022, at 3:00 PM**  
at  
The African Episcopal Church  
of St. Thomas.

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### **ACOLYTES NEEDED**

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

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

Bible Study with Fr. Jay concludes the liturgical year with our meeting on **Tuesday, May 31st**. We will resume on **Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 PM**.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

To order flowers for the Sundays after Easter, please return the form with payment ment to **Clare Mae Daniels** or **Alfreda Brockman**. (Please **do not** place in the collection plate or give to the church office) Thank you.

- \_\_ flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00
- \_\_ flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00
- \_\_ flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00
- \_\_An Easter Lily @\$25.00 each (5 names per plant)

Please PRINT

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_, In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_,

Name \_\_\_\_\_, Envelope# \_\_\_\_\_, Amount \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH**

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

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

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions. Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact [Deborah Harrison](#).



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

**RECOVERING AT HOME**

Justin Trotman, Alice Bowman-Cropper,  
Teena Watson Matthews, Grace Wetzel,  
Linda Holmes, Rosalind Rodriguez, Gwenda Hart.

**PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER**

Terri Barber, Adinah Edwards, Joan Hall, Robert Brown,  
Georgia Sawyer, Isedora "Gwen" Francis, Shirley Winkfield,  
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson,  
Francina Norris, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Leatrice Snowden,  
Leotta Griffith, Karen Ragland, Lisa Woodley, Winston Lowe,  
Kenneth Dow, Linda Holmes, Edita Gauthney.

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**WE PRAY FOR**

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

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**ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT**

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

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## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

### 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

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### CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).



# 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.

If you have decided to use the Givi App or Online Giving Donations, please email me at [stewardship@aecst.org](mailto: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

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## WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

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

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.  
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**  
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can still be sent for 2022. Please send them via the US mail to the church or **electronically** through the [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org) website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

## MINISTRY STAFF

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



## **THE VESTRY**

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

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

## **THE AUXILIARY VESTRY**

Patricia Akins  
Conchetta Brewer  
Sharon Bullock  
Gregory Lyles  
Patricia Lynch

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS** is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.