

The Absalom Jones Memorial Stained Glass Window designed by lifetime AECST member Robert C. Moore ©1996.

The design of this window attempts to give recognition to Absalom Jones' strength of character, his unwavering servitude to God, and his towering leadership among associates and followers.

Within the shapes and spaces available in the window's Gothic structure, the above theme has been carried out utilizing two large vertical sections which are side by side, and four small vertical sections across the top. The large panel on the left portrays The Reverend Absalom Jones as priest standing in front of the altar of the first St. Thomas Church. He is facing the congregation and preparing to bestow the Blessing of Peace upon all present. The large panel on the right side uses a setting outside the church. Members of the congregation are shown greeting each other after leaving the building. Clothing styles reflect the period around 1810.

The upper sections afford an opportunity to reflect on Absalom Jones' struggle to gain his freedom which was assisted by his thirst for knowledge through reading. Two open scrolls permit us to read quotations from his own writings. To the right of these scrolls is a grouping of symbols and forms -which refer to the proud cultural heritage of African Americans like Absalorn Jones whose ancestors in Africa built great cities, created timeless monuments and art forms, and developed a high level of communal living.

Also included in the upper sections are the shield of The Episcopal Church, the shield of St. Thomas Church, and symbols which indicate Reverend Jones' pioneering achievements in the Order of Masonry. The forms in the upper sections are superimposed over a Kente cloth design entitled Adwinasa. This is a cloth that was viewed as one of top quality and considered the most prestigious of Kente cloths beside those woven especially for Asante Kings. other Kente cloth designs have been incorporated in the borders which surround the two major sections of the window.

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Youth Sunday / Acolyte Commissioning / Rededication June 26, 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 Third Sunday of PentecostYouth Sunday /

Acolyte Commissioning / Rededication.

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 <u>Order of Service</u> for this Sunday's service.

OUR HOMILISTS TODAY CARLIA MILLER AND TRINITI MILLER







WE WELCOME
Lisa Sharon Harper
to our St. Thomas family.
Her shepherd is
Sharon Bullock.

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.

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.

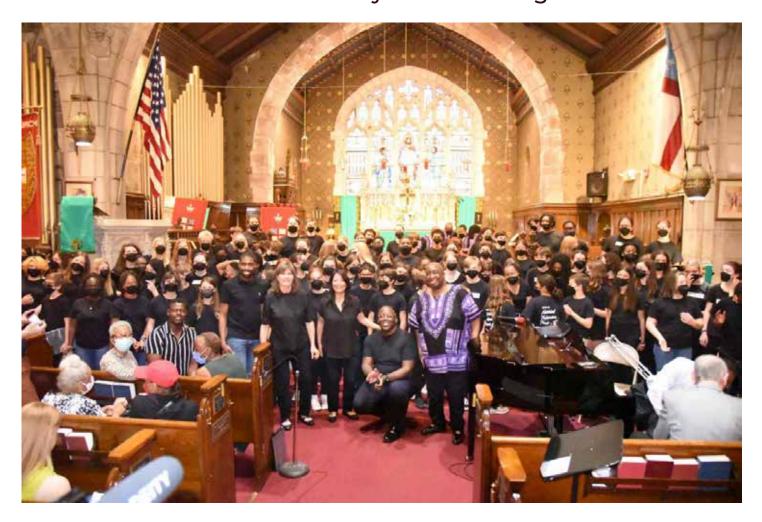
ATTENTION RISING COLLEGE FRESHMEN: FENCE (Families of Episcopalians Nurturing within the College Environment) is a ministry created for the AECST's college students who will be living away from home. An Episcopal parish closest to your campus and a family or individual that is a member of that parish will help to facilitate your assimilation into your new community.

If interested, for more information, please send an email to Ms. Charlene M. Wiltshire at cwiltshi@comcast.net providing your name, telephone number, college name & address. You may also speak with her before or after Sunday services.



CHURCH AND PARISH
OFFICE HOURS
JULY - AUGUST,
Monday - Thursday,
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
CLOSED FRIDAYS

Photo from the Juneteeth musical celebration (6/20/2022) which featured four choirs focused on telling the story of Harriet Tubman and the history of the underground railroad.





GHOST GUNS FACT SHEET

What is a Ghost Gun?
Ghost guns — untraceable
firearms without serial
numbers, assembled from
components bought online —
are increasingly becoming the
lethal weapon of easy access

for those legally barred from buying or owning guns around the country. The criminal underground has long relied on stolen weapons with filed-off serial numbers, but ghost guns represent a digital-age upgrade.

Ghost guns have flourished because of a loophole in federal regulation: The parts used to build "privately made firearms" are classified as components, not actual guns, which means that online buyers are not required to undergo background checks or register the weapons.that makes them a powerful magnet for those banned from gun ownership, including convicted felons, domestic abusers subject to orders of protection, the mentally ill and children.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)'s current interpretation of federal law allows people who can't legally own a firearm to easily buy the parts for a ghost gun. In less than one hour, these self-made weapons become fully functioning, untraceable firearms. A person can buy the parts and assemble a ghost gun from a kit on the Internet.

The Scope of the Problem

In 2021 NBC News in Philadelphia reported that 1 out of every 10 of all firearms confiscated at crime scenes in Philadelphia were ghost guns. That number is rapidly expanding year by year. Ghost guns are the fastest-growing gun safety problem facing our country.

"The number of "ghost guns" recovered by Philadelphia police during criminal investigations has skyrocketed to 436 through Oct. 4 of this year, more than all the homemade guns seized in the city in 2019 and 2020 combined."

This epidemic is hitting young people hard. "People aren't buying regular guns anymore," said Antoine Towers [quoted in the New York Times], who works for an anti-violence program in Oakland. "Almost all the youngsters are using ghosts."

Needed Legislation

Closing the ghost gun loophole is vital for Pennsylvania. What we need is a law that would treat ghost guns as traditional firearms

- requiring core components to be engraved with serial numbers,
- imposing background checks, and
- -requiring online purchasers to pick up their orders at federally licensed gun shops.

A Deadly Loophole – Specs on a Ghost

Gun Ghost guns pose an elemental question: What makes a gun a gun?

Every semiautomatic weapon consists of two main parts: the movable upper "slide," which sits on the barrel of a pistol, and the "receiver" or "frame" — the lower part to which almost everything else, including the trigger and magazine, can be attached and made functional after drilling a few holes and filing a groove into an unfinished, factory-produced frame.

Under federal law, any frame or receiver considered 80 percent finished is a functional firearm subject to the same regulations as a fully assembled gun. If it is less than 80 percent finished, it is not subject to the same federal safeguards. Even so, an amateur can make the minor modifications needed to turn it into a working firearm in less than an hour.

CALL TO ACTION - THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY'S LETTERS TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE - TAKE UP YOUR PENS!

St Thomas, you are reminded to take a copy of the letter home today. YOU are asked to address the letter with your state legislature's name and address. Mail your letter this week! (Don't forget your return address). There will be additional mailings in July, August, and September. The Schuylkill Deanery will provide us with copies of letters each month as we attempt to be a consistent and constant voice addressing gun violence in Philadelphia. Here are links to the Letter and Script.

If you have any specifics you would like to see added to future letters, please contact <u>Mary Dean</u> or <u>Phyllis Cater</u>. Your voices need to be heard!

How to Find Your Representative: Need to find your local, state, or federal elected representatives so that you can mail our letter? https://myreps.datamade.us/

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
(Homecoming Sunday is September 18, 2022)

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

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).

"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)

"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).



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.

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.

JUNE IS MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

The St. Thomas Health Ministry presents a <u>Blog on</u> <u>Men's Health.</u> Authored by Dr. Frank Johnson, Ph.D.

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 <u>Deborah Harrison</u> or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

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.

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 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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African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Women's Day Committee Fundraiser

'Pretzels & A Bag'

Enjoy a Delicious Philly Pretzel

\$1.00 each



Carry your goods in Style

with a

Limited Edition Custom Tote Bag



Women's Day Special

2 for \$25.00

Proceeds benefit the AECST
General Fund



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.

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.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JUNE/JULY

June 26th

Youth Sunday
Acolyte Commissioning Sunday

July 3rd

Celebration of Independence Day

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS READINGS FOR

The Third Sunday of Pentecost Youth Sunday / Acolyte Commissioning Sunday June 26, 2022

The First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-31
Psalm 16

The Second Reading: <u>Galatians 5:1,13-15</u>
The Holy Gospel: <u>Luke 9:51-62</u>

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of June 27, 2022

Monday<u>- Luke 22: 52-62</u>
Tuesday-<u>Luke 22:63-71</u>
Wednesday <u>- Luke 23:1-12</u>
Thursday-<u>Luke 23:13-25</u>
Friday -<u>Luke 23:26-31</u>

Saturday - <u>Luke 23:32-43</u>

the Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

July 3, 2022

The First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-8

The Second Reading: Galatians 6:(1-6),7-16
The Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-11,16-20

The Holy Gospel Readings for

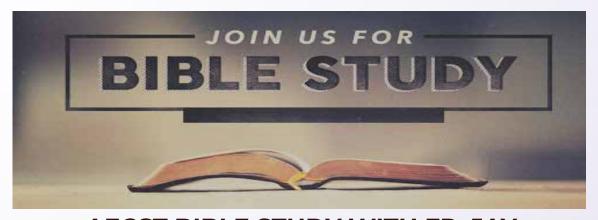
the Week of July 4, 2022
Monday-Luke 23:44-56a
Tuesday-Luke 23:56b-24:11
Wednesday - Luke 24:13-35
Thursday-Luke 24:36-53
Friday - Mark 1:1-13
Saturday - Mark 1:14-28

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.

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.



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY
Bible Study with Fr. Jay will resume on Tuesday,
September 13th at 7:00 PM.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of: **Glenn** and **Deborah Kent**, given by Paula Kent Boone.

To order flowers for the Sundays after Easter, 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.

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

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

Alice Bowman-Cropper, Grace Wetzel, Gwenda Hart, Rosalind Rodriquez.

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, Justin Trotman, Teena Watson Matthews.

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.

WE OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO

Wayne and Maureen Francis and Fleta Howell on the death of **Gwendolyn Isedora Francis**. Her service will be here at St. Thomas on **Tuesday**, **June 28**, **2022**. Visitation at **10:00 AM**. Requiem Mass at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of **Gwen** rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

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

2%	5%	10%
\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
	\$200.00 \$300.00 \$400.00 \$500.00 \$600.00 \$800.00 \$1,000.00 \$1,200.00 \$1,400.00 \$1,600.00 \$1,800.00 \$2,000.00 \$2,200.00 \$2,400.00 \$3,000.00 \$3,500.00	\$200.00 \$500.00 \$300.00 \$750.00 \$400.00 \$1,000.00 \$500.00 \$1,250.00 \$600.00 \$1,500.00 \$800.00 \$2,000.00 \$1,000.00 \$2,500.00 \$1,200.00 \$3,000.00 \$1,400.00 \$3,500.00 \$1,600.00 \$4,000.00 \$1,800.00 \$5,000.00 \$2,200.00 \$5,500.00 \$2,400.00 \$6,000.00 \$3,500.00 \$7,000.00 \$3,500.00 \$8,750.00

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 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.
- 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 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

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez **Bishop** 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 pauljaybach@gmail.com Associate Minister The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach Executive Asst to the Rector Gladyce DuBrey 1792@aecst.org Fiscal Administrator Jeannette Jeffrey fiscal@aecst.org Sexton LaDon Elliott 1792@aecst.org Ronald Jones **Asst Sexton** 1792@aecstorg Chancel Choirmaster Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. chancelchoir@aecst.org Gospel Choirmaster Waltier Blocker gospelchoir@aecst.org Rector's General Counsel Joe Tucker, Esq. itucker@tlgattorneys.com Gail H Harris **Baptism Co-Chairs** thegail@hotmail.com Patricia Walker-Ellison p.walker.ellison@gmail.com Church School Superintendent **Dottie Archev** churchschool@aecst.org Ed Muse Photography Ministry William Edmonds edmon57@comcast.net Fiscal Assistant to the Rector Deborah Camp - Frve 1792@aecst.org njsimms@verizon.net Nikkol Simms Girls Friendly Society Jazz Ensemble Director jobopss@aol.com Joe Stevenson Live Stream Ministry livevideo@aecst.org Yaseen Faroog 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 dneharrison04@gmail.com Deborah Harrison **Property Chair** Richard Jones Special Advisor to the Rector r724jones1@gmail.com Scout Pack 133 Howard Chapman howchapman@gmail.com Arlene Grav 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

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.