



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

# Thank You Veterans!

**We honor and celebrate  
those who served  
or are serving in our military.**



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](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

# **THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

## **The Observance of Veterans Day**

### **“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 Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost and The Annual Veterans Day Observance**

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.

**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.

## **AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

My dearest and faithful family members of St. Thomas, Grace and Peace to you.

We have entered the Season of Stewardship, following 2 ½ years of being in the midst of a deep Pandemic. I invite you to now join me as we Re-imagine our ministries for 2023. You are aware that many of our programs and activities have restarted. Our need for an Associate Rector for Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministries is crucial and at the top of my list of priorities.

**PLEASE** prayerfully consider increasing the level of your commitment this year in the offering of your [Faithful Giving Card](#). There is much being planned for 2023, and we will need your support. You may submit your card in four different ways:

- bring it to the altar Sunday morning during the offertory;
- drop it off at the parish office;
- mail it to the parish office;
- [electronically](#)

We celebrate that “We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord”.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Martini Shaw

## 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

## 2023 Faithful Giving Cards

We have kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Enormous thanks ALL who have submitted their Faithful Giving Cards. Please add your name to the list this week by submitting your card today.

### Thank you to the following persons who have submitted their 2023 Faithful Giving

The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw  
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach  
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

#### Vestry

Patricia & Walter Bantom  
Ronnie H. Collins  
Deadra Cannon  
Albert Dandrige, III  
Clare Mae Daniels  
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel  
Deborah Harrison.  
D. Lynn Joell  
Kelvin Johnson  
Pamela Johnson  
Brenda Johnson-Best  
Jonathan Muse  
Judith Simkins-Booth  
Bobby Tillman  
Judy Tillman

#### Auxiliary Vestry

Pat Akins  
Conchetta Brewer  
Sharon Bullock  
William Burke, Jr.  
Dr. Frank Johnson  
Gregory Lyles  
Patricia Lynch

Constance Anderson  
Michael & Dorothy Archey  
Dr. Timothy Barksdale  
Jennifer Bell  
Deborah Billups  
Waltier Blocker  
Deborah Booker-Mathews  
Guy Booth  
Ricardo Bostic  
I. Page Bowser  
Theresa Bramwell  
Lorita Brockington  
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman  
Carmen M. Brown  
Marilyn Brown  
Robert & Jayne Brown  
William Brown, III

Theodore Bythewood  
Yvonne Caldwell White  
Cornelia Camp  
Phyllis Cater  
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant  
Ronald Coleman  
Dr. Tracy Collins  
Terry Corson  
Gwendolyn Cottman  
Johanna Daye  
Carl & Mary Dean  
Dr. Rollo Dilworth  
Musu Doe  
Barbara Douglass  
Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas  
William & Quincina Edmonds  
Lynette Edwards  
Roy & Patricia Ellison  
Erica Etlén  
Rashid & Christie Faisail  
Larry & Deidre Farmby  
Loretta Ferguson  
Norman & Nikki Franke  
Barry & Deborah Frye  
Irenda Gates  
Barbara L. Glenn  
Swanie Goldsmith  
Christopher Golson  
Eugene & Marie Golson  
Chad & Toya Gordon  
Clarice Grant  
Linda Greaves  
Carole W. Green  
Michelle Green  
Thomasina Hack  
Joan Hall  
Stephen Hannum  
William Hanscom  
Sharon Harper  
Eugene & Calais Harris  
Katrina Harris  
Roosevelt & Gail Harris  
Walter & Nicole Harris  
Joyce B. Harrison  
Richard & Gwenda Hart  
Gregory Hayes  
Maurice Hayes  
Rene Hayes  
Quentin Heyward

Angela Holloway  
Merle D. Hopson  
Fleta Howell  
Robert Hugh  
Donald & Patricia Hunt  
Diana Hutchins  
Simone Jeffers  
Bobby Johnson  
Lemont Johnson  
Sheryl L. Johnson  
Bettie Jones  
Clarence Jones, Jr.  
Donna Jones  
Kelly & Tracy Jones  
Lelo Jones  
Mary Ann Jones  
Richard Jones  
Robert Jones  
Tyrone Keller  
Reginald & Sheryl Lynn Kimble  
Jordina Koiler  
John Kortue  
Kathleen Lacey  
Paula Lamb  
Gwendolyn Langford  
Nancy Lee  
Louise Lewis  
Steven & Jameela Lewis  
Karen Leys  
Adrienne Logan  
James T. Lowe, Jr.  
Winston Lowe  
Geraldine B. Martin  
Katrice Mathurin  
Denise McDaniel - Henderson  
Denise McKinney - Gibson  
Robert & Dianne McNeal  
Laura McNeill  
Regina Meacham-Devero  
Colin & Helen Mitchell  
Beverly Moore  
Cynthia Muse  
Mueni Mwanzia  
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen  
Francina Norris  
Deborah Otey  
Gwendolyn Perryman  
Kim Phillips  
Mary Ann Phillips

Stephen Pugh  
Audrey Pyles  
Karen Ragland  
Ella Randall  
Dolores Redmond  
Clarence H. Rice  
Caryn Rivers  
Victoria Rivers  
Rosalind Roberts-Small  
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin  
Yvonne Ruiz  
Mercedes Sadler  
Barbara D. Savage  
Richard & Rebecca Scales  
Deborah Seay  
Leah Sheppard  
Arlene Singletary  
Anita Smith  
Dorothy Smith  
Ted Smith  
Catherine Stafford  
H. Lynn Starr  
Irving Stevenson  
Joseph Stevenson  
Daryn Stewart  
Shelly & Ann Stewart  
Michele Sudler  
Carolyn Summers  
Lynda Tapper-Smith  
Wanda Tarawaly  
Monica Taylor  
Gloria Thomas  
Calvin Thompson  
Teri Tillman  
Arnott Trotman  
Justin & Lee Anne Trotman  
Louise Trotman  
Inez Turner  
Robin Vann-Lynch  
Karen Vaughn  
Clara Watson-Williams  
Joe & Alexia Wells  
Barbara Wiley  
Michelle Wilkinson  
Julia Williams  
R. Seth Williams  
Arleatha Wilson  
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson

Lorna Wilson  
Charlene Wiltshire  
Wanda Wood  
Lisa Woodley  
Paula Wright  
Ingrid Bernadette Wyche  
M. Elaine Young



**Today, we observe Veterans Day**  
which is a Federal holiday in which we recognize  
and honor all military men and women, who have  
served and are serving, in the US Armed Forces.

We especially recognize the Honorable  
**Robert Williams**  
as our last surviving WWII Veteran and member of  
the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

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We apologize for omitting the following names  
from the All Saints / All Souls Candle Memorials:  
**Mr. & Mrs. Wesley and Vera Walker; Mr. Ernest Ellison;**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Gloria Moore; Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Flora Ellison**  
given by Roy & Patricia Ellison

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This morning, the Committal of our own, **Jessie Rich**, will  
occur at the Columbarium. Please continue to keep her family  
in your prayers. May the soul of Jessie rest in heavenly peace  
and rise in eternal glory. Amen



## THANK YOU!

I would like to thank our church family for the sympathy cards and kind words of concern they have given me for the loss of my Mother **Delores Brown**.

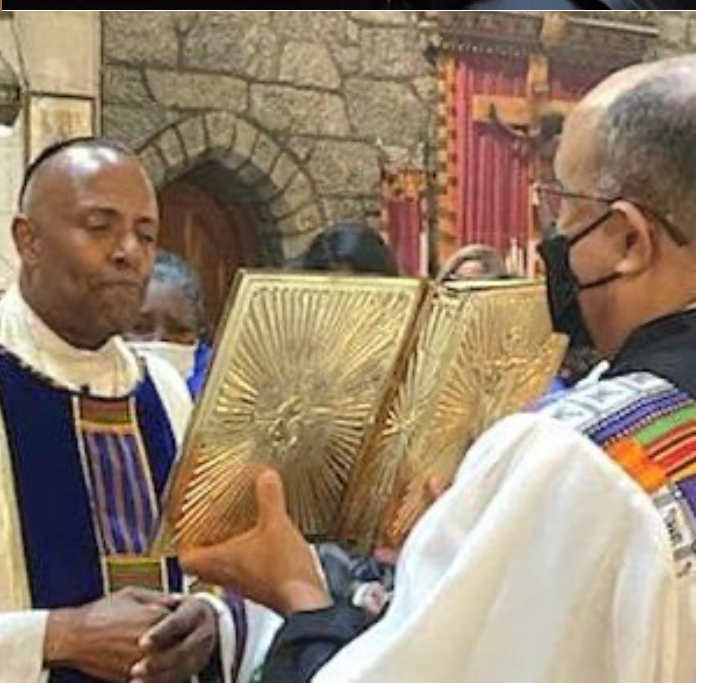
Patricia Hunt & Family

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## PICTURES FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS NOVEMBER 6, 2022



























*African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas*

Women's Day Committee Fundraiser



**This holiday season give the  
most useful gift of all.**

**A Women's Day inspired  
*Growing in God's Love*  
Tote Bag**

*Carry goods in  
style!  
Limited  
Supplies  
Special Price!*

*Buy 2 for the  
special price of  
**\$25.00**  
**\$15.00 each***



**Contact Deborah Matthews at  
[debmadanco@verizon.net](mailto:debmadanco@verizon.net)  
or any member of the Committee**

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**DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,**

This year, the St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King will again collect donations for under sourced families through our Annual Thanksgiving Service project.

The Daughters will be collecting outside of the Church or near the front doors after Sunday service until

**Sunday, November 20th.**

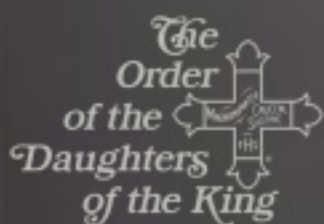
If you wish to donate via check, please make the check out to AECST; in the memo, please note: ThksProjDOK. You may also mail your donation to The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Phila. PA 19151, attention: Fiscal Administrator.

And if you are aware of household(s) within the St. Thomas Church family/community who are in need of a Thanksgiving contribution, please contact:

**[Ms. Sharon Bullock](#) or [Ms. Thomasina Hack](#)**

215-901-2773 or any of our  
St. Thomas Chapter Daughters of the King.

The deadline to submit names is **Sunday, November 20, 2022.**  
Thank you in advance for your generosity.



*The St. Thomas Chapter of  
The Order of the Daughters of the King  
Invites All Women to join us for*

*Prayer, Scripture & Reflections*

*Saturday, December 3, 2022  
9am -10:30am*

*Join us for this  
virtual gathering as  
we discern  
ADVENT  
in Preparation for  
the COMING  
of Jesus into the  
world*

*'Proclaiming God's  
Goodness, Grace &  
Glory'*

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who  
bring news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim Salvation, who say to Zion,  
"Your God reigns!"  
Isaiah 52:7*

*For Questions and Zoom Link – Contact:  
Monica Lewis Jones | [mblj03@gmail.com](mailto:mblj03@gmail.com)*

## **UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN NOVEMBER / DECEMBER**

**Nov. 13th** - Annual Veterans Day Observance  
Columbarium Inurnment

**Nov. 20th** - Chosen 300 Sunday  
Guest - The Rev. Brian Jenkins

**Nov. 27th** - First Sunday of Advent  
Youth and Young Adult Sunday  
Thanksgiving Testimonies

**Dec. 4th** - Annual Men's Day Celebration

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### **UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES**

The **Omega/Omega Memorial** for **Edith B. Jones** will be held on **November 20th, 2:00 PM** at the church.

All are invited to attend.

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There will be a Memorial Service for **Robert Warren Joell**, will be here at St. Thomas on Thursday, **December 1, 2022**, at the church at **10:00 AM**. Please continue to pray for the family.





## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY BORN IN NOVEMBER**

- 11/1 Tyrone Gunby  
11/2 Elsie Moto  
11/3 Nohjay Nimpson  
11/4 Steve Berg, Gregory Lyles, Ladene Kershaw  
11/5 Michele Sudler  
11/6 Absalom Jones, Canon Martini Shaw, Shawn Clark,  
Roger Peebles, Jr., Melvin Seegars, Sr.  
11/7 Jonathan Edwards, Thomas Snowden,  
Joseph Stevenson, Rashid Faisal, Allan Grizzle  
11/9 Gregory Allen, Cathy Seay  
11/10 Teri Tillman, Maria McWilliams Zayzay  
11/11 Betty Myers, Melvin Seegars  
11/12 Thomasina Hack  
11/13 Brenda Johnson, Tiffany Harding  
11/14 Pauline Bantom, Catherine Stafford,  
Regina Meecham Devero  
11/15 Sheila Stubbs, Jeremiah Scales  
11/17 Rashid Faisal  
11/18 Alexandra McFadden  
11/22 Grace Wetzel, Cassandra Ruffin  
11/23 Ola Bass, Gail Harris  
11/24 Richard Hart  
11/25 Lara Falusi  
11/26 Brenda Battle, Rebecca Scales, Tyleencia Wilson  
11/27 Ronovan Bundy, Roslind Rodriguez, Keita Carr,  
Ruth Mugwanya, Thomas Rolland  
11/30 Loretta Ferguson, Grace Lincoln



**YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE:** The only doors for entry on Sunday mornings are: the Front doors of the church and the front handicap door of the church. Please refrain from using other doors at this time.

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### **THE SISTERHOOD GUILD**

is having an in person meeting after church on Sunday, **November 13, 2022** in Anderson Hall. Anyone interested in finding out what the guild is about, are also invited to join us. All are welcome to attend.

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### **THANK YOU!**

I would like to thank our church family for the sympathy cards and kind words of concern they have given me for the loss of my Mother **Delores Brown**.

Patricia Hunt & Family

# **A PHILLY POPS CHRISTMAS: SPECTACULAR SOUNDS OF THE SEASON**

Hamilton star **Mandy Gonzalez** returns for her fourth Christmas with the POPS, joined by Broadway sensation and small-screen heartthrob **Jordan Donica!**

Music Director and Principal Conductor **David Charles Abell** presents his usual dazzling, unique, and all-new program with over 300 performers, including The Philly POPS Festival Chorus, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir (For the 17th Year), and Santa!

Discount tickets are available using the code word: chorus  
Box Office: Kimmel Center Box Office 300 South Broad  
Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Tickets:** 215.893.1999

**Subscriptions:** 215.893.1955

**Group Sales:** 215.253.6980

## **2022 Concert Dates and Times**

Friday, Dec. 2nd - 8:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 3rd - 3:00 PM

Sunday, December 4th - 3:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 7th -8:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 9th -8:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 10th -3:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 11th - 3:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 14th - 8:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 16th - 3:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 17th -3:00 PM



## The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue

(Absalom Jones Way)

Philadelphia, PA 19151

Ph: (215) 473-3065

Email: [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org) ~ Website: [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> the **Men's Ministry & Fellowship** will hold our annual **Men's Day Celebration**. Men's Day is set aside as a special day for our church to reflect, acknowledge and celebrate the roles men play in our community of Faith. Men are actively engaged in virtually all ministries and areas of the church with responsibilities both large and small.

As we continue our spiritual journey through our "*New Normal*" and continue to strengthen our faith in a divided community, the task we have before us and our theme is to *Reimagine Men's Ministry*. Our continued goal is to be activate leaders in the church and the community in a quest for Social Justice and Moral Leadership and build a path for our youth. We are pleased and excited to be actively engaged in helping to make St. Thomas an exceptional place to worship, fellowship and share in the joy, comfort and salvation of our Faith.

**We ask our St Thomas' Community to strongly consider taking a more active role in our church** and share your **time, talents and treasure** to do the good work to which we are called. It does not necessarily call for a great deal of time and effort, but it does require a commitment to do your part. We are confident that our collective renewed commitment will realize immediate benefits and blessings, as we move forward, building on our unique and distinct legacy.

**I invite you to view Men's Day Sunday Service on December 4<sup>th</sup>**, and invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help us celebrate our special day.

**Given the current environment we are asking all church members to make a special Men's Day donation based on your comfort level of \$25.00, \$50.00, \$75.00 or \$100.00+ and identify the donation as a Men's Day Program.**

All funds collected will be used to advance AECST's ministries.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and generous consideration

Yours in faith,

Gregory Lyles, President  
Men's Ministry & Fellowship  
[gregorylyles@hotmail.com](mailto:gregorylyles@hotmail.com)  
205-541-9776



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

**MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP**

**MEN'S DAY**



**CELEBRATION**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022, 10 AM**

**"REIMAGINING MEN'S MINISTRY"**

**R. SETH WILLIAMS AND JUSTIN TROTMAN  
SPEAKERS**

\*PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL MEN'S DAY DONATION  
BASED ON YOUR COMFORT LEVEL OF \$25, \$50, \$75, OR \$100

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THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
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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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## **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).



# CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS!!!!

Annual Men's Day Celebration is Sunday,  
December 4, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

Rehearsal for the Men's Day Chorus will be  
on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 PM.

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## A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE

STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens). Go on their website to schedule an appointment.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

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

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## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 thru High School. The theme for this church school year is “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or contact [Dottie Archey](#) for more information or 215 837-6941

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**SCOUT TROOP #133** - Meetings begin October 1st and are outside for right now. Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule.

Please contact Scout Master [Howard Chapman](#) for more information.



# SHEPHERDS MINISTRY

*Re-imagined*

## ATTENTION: AECST MEN, WOMEN, COUPLES

This is an opportunity to share your caring and kindness with our AECST flock!



### THE MINISTRY

- **Immediate Goal:** Shepherd our sick and shut-in parishioners
- **Primary/Ultimate Goal:** Shepherd ALL AECST parishioners
- **Number of Households:** No more than 4 sheep households per shepherd

### SHEPHERDS' ROLE

- Set your own schedule to regularly contact sheep via phone or other media
- *Attend Zoom meetings with fellow shepherds (no in-person meetings)*

Please consider joining the 10 Shepherds who have volunteered.

For more information, please contact Charlene M. Wiltshire:  
[cwiltshi@comcast.net](mailto:cwiltshi@comcast.net)



*Note: Vestry members will continue to shepherd all new members until their one-year anniversary.*



**Join the Girls Friendly Society!** Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Girl Talks, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips the Theater, Museums, Ice Skating, Mini Golf, Trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape, May, NJ. If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact our Branch Advisor, [Nikkol Simms](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)



Nikkol Simms  
Branch Advisor  
njsimms@verizon.net

For more info:  
<http://gfsus.org/>

Find us on Facebook!  
GFS PA African  
Episcopal Church of St.  
Thomas

# GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

**Meetings  
begin  
Oct. 1, 2022  
11am-1pm**

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75 years of legacy at St. Thomas.

Membership Ages:  
Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.  
Junior Members: 5-13 yo.  
Senior Members: 14-21 yo.  
Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:  
Service Projects  
Girl Talks  
Arts & Crafts  
World Day of Prayer  
Founder's Day  
Mission Day  
GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:  
White water rafting  
Theaters  
Museums  
Ice Skating  
Segway/Ziplining  
Mini Golf  
Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

**GFS World Council South Africa 2023**

## **RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES**

Persons are needed:

to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.

to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).

to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact Gladyce in the office if you are interested.

as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact Gladyce in the office if you are interested.

Photography Ministry is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).





Below you will find the next **Letter to Stop Gun Violence**. It is to State Senators and is about reporting lost and stolen guns. This issue is timely because the court struck down a city lost and stolen gun ordinance this year due to the state Uniform Firearms Act that keeps local cities from enacting firearm legislation. If you need to look up your senator please use the [link](#).

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a resident of your district and am writing to you to request that you do everything in your power to pass lost and stolen gun reporting legislation. In Pennsylvania, people can own guns and fail to report them lost or stolen.

As a Christian and a member of the Schuylkill Deanery of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, a group of Episcopal churches in West Philadelphia, this issue is a matter of faith for me, of loving my neighbor as myself. West Philly is facing an epidemic of gun violence and hope you can tell the PA Senate this is a matter of life and death in our neighborhoods.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer in Oct. 2021, "Reports of stolen guns reached a new peak this year, with 1,388 to date, police records show. That is 11% higher than last year, 38% higher than in 2019, and the highest tally since 2011, the first year figures were available." In 2021, car thefts including theft of a firearm were up 37%. Most guns are stolen from individuals and not gun shops or other businesses and thus legally can go unreported, which leads the Philadelphia Police Department to believe the number of stolen guns actually is much higher. Unreported stolen guns often enter the underground gun market without a trace and no chance of recovery by police.

Mandatory reporting of stolen firearms, as in the Philadelphia's lost and stolen gun ordinance struck down in Feb. 2022, help law enforcement police this underground market. They are especially effective in exposing straw purchases, where someone legally entitled to buy guns purchases them for someone unable to pass standard checks (and then frequently fraudulently claims the gun was stolen from them if it turns up at a crime scene).

Daniel Semenza, a Rutgers-Camden University criminal justice professor, coauthored a study this year that examined how the availability of guns impacted the homicide rates in 226 cities for years 2017 to 2019. The study found that greater availability of stolen firearms in U.S. cities is linked to higher firearm homicide rates.

The thing that really correlates with gun homicide rates is the access to stolen guns," he said. "It trumps any kind of effect that the number of firearm dealers and general legal access has in a city, and it's particularly important in cities that have poorer socioeconomic status."

In West Philly and surrounding neighborhoods, we lose loved ones and neighbors to illegal guns flooding our city every month. I believe passage of a bill to enforce the reporting of lost and stolen guns is part of what will help solve this terrible, unacceptable situation.

When earlier this year Judge Leadbetter (who ran as a Republican) struck down the Philadelphia lost and stolen gun ordinance, she urged the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reconsider that 1996 legal standard known as the state Uniform Firearms Act and to allow local restrictions "narrowly tailored to local necessities." She added that it violates the fundamental right to life and liberty when children can't walk on a street near their homes without the risk of being shot. "It is neither just to impose unnecessarily harsh limits in communities where they are not required nor consistent with simple humanity to deny basic safety regulations to citizens who desperately need them,"

Help us protect our children and maintain our strong and vital neighborhoods by strongly urging passage of a lost and stolen firearms bill in Pennsylvania.

## **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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## **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](#).

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## **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.

## **AECST LIVE STREAM**

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch [Past Services](#) and [Highlights](#) from past services.

## **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.



## **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.



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.

**READINGS FOR  
the Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost  
November 13**

The First Lesson: [Malachi 4:1-2a](#)  
[Psalm 98](#)

The Second Lesson: [2 Thessalonians 3:6-13](#)  
The Holy Gospel: [Luke 21:5-19](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of November 14, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 17:1-13](#)  
Tuesday - [Matthew 17:14-21](#)  
Wednesday - [Matthew 17:22-27](#)  
Thursday - [Matthew 18:1-9](#)  
Friday - [Matthew 18:10-20](#)  
Saturday - [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

**The Last Sunday After Pentecost  
November 20th**

The First Lesson: [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)  
[Psalm 46](#)  
The Second Lesson: [Colossians 1:11-20](#)  
The Holy Gospel: [Luke 23:33-43](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of November 21, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 19:1-2](#)  
Tuesday - [Matthew 19:13-22](#)  
Wednesday - [Matthew 13:23-30](#)  
Thursday - [Matthew 20:1-16](#)  
Friday - [Matthew 20:17-28](#)  
Saturday - [Matthew 20:29-34](#)

**Readings from the First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 2:1-5](#)  
[Psalm 122](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 13:11-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 24:36-44](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of November 28, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 21:12-22](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 21:23-32](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

Friday - [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

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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.



## **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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### **AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY via Zoom Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.**

If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible Study Group, contact Fr. Jay via email at:

[associatepriest@aecst.org](mailto:associatepriest@aecst.org) 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.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

To order flowers for the Sunday, 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

Please PRINT

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

**IN REHAB:** Linda Holmes, Shirley Winkfield - Bryn Mawr Village.

**IN THE HOSPITAL:**

Alletta Parris-Olday - Nazareth Hospital.

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Rosalind Rodriguez, Joan Hall, Charles Fleming, Harold Yates, Leatrice Snowden, William Smalls, Dorothy Smith. Walter Bantom.

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Karen Ragland, Winston Lowe, Georgia Sawyer, Kenneth Dow, Edita Gauthney, Justin Trotman, Gwendolyn Langford, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Eleanor Chestnut.

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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.

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or email, please do so ASAP. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. -Judy Tillman

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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](#).

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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 now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link [Click>](#) 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.