

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY



WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.

AECST
FOUNDED 1792
2 COR 5:7 NKJV

AMEN

THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 26, 2023

“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 Last Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King)

Youth and Young Adult 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

Please click on the link provided
for the [Order of Service](#) for this Sunday.

ENORMOUS THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR 2024 FAITHFUL GIVING CARD!!!!!!!!!!!!

Is your name listed? If not, submit yours now by using the [link](#).

2024 Faithful Giving Cards

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2024 Faithful Giving cards. Is your name included? Please submit yours today.

Patricia Akins	Fr. Daren Evans	Dr. Frank Johnson
Alister Allman	Larry & Deidre Farmby	Kelvin & Pamela Johnson
Constance Anderson	Loretta Ferguson	Lemont Johnson
Dorothy Archey	Marcia Forde	Brenda Johnson-Best
Jeanne J. Arnold	Angela Foster	Bettie Jones
Rev. Paul Bach	Stephen & Donna Foster	Donna Jones
Dr. Timothy Barksdale	Wendella Fox	Monica Lewis Jones
Brenda Battle	Norman & Nikki Franke	Richard Jones
Jennifer Bell	Barry & Deborah Frye	Robert & Joyce Jones
Susan Ben	Irenda Gates	Sheila Jones-Smith
Deborah Billups	Edita Gauthney	Tyrone Keller
Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker	Edward & Kathryn Geiger	Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Deborah Booker-Mathews	Elaine Gillison	Jurdina Koiler
Guy Booth	Barbara L. Glenn	John Kortue
Ricardo Bostic	Swanie Goldsmith	Nancy Lee
I. Page Bowser	Eugene & Marie Golson	Steven & Jameela Lewis
Michellanne Bradwell	Jessica Golson	Karen Leys
Theresa Bramwell	Chad & Toya Gordon	Landon Leys
Conchetta Brewer	Josephine Graham	Adrienne Logan
Lorita Brockington	Clarice Grant	C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Arlene Gray	James Lowe
Carmen Brown	Linda Greaves Street	Patricia Lynch
Marilyn Brown	Michelle Green	Constance Lyons
Robert & Jayne Brown	PJ Grier	Katrice Mathurin
William H. Brown, III	Thomasina Hack	Sheila Sawyer McCullough
Sharon Bullock	Joan Perry Hall	Denise McDaniel-Henderson
William Burke, Jr.	Lisa Sharon Harper	Cheryl McIntosh
Yvonne Caldwell White	Sharon Harper	Michael McIntosh
Cornelia Camp	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris	Denise McKinney-Gibson
Deadra Cannon	Thomas & Lynn Harris	William Meek
Charlotte Card	Walter & Nicole Harris	Deidre Milanese
Phyllis B. Cater	Katrina Harris Marshall	Colin Mitchell
Eleanor Chestnut	Deborah Harrison	Donald & Dorothy Roberts Moore
Suzanne Closson	Joyce B. Harrison	Cynthia Muse
Ronald Coleman	Richard & Gwenda Hart	Jonathan Muse
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	Gregory Hayes	Mueni Mwanzia
Ronnie H. Collins	Maurice Hayes	Vincent & Lisa Napoleon
Tracy Collins, M.D.	Rene Hayes	Francina Norris
Gwendolyn Cottman	Quentin Heyward	Deborah Otey
Albert Dandridge, III	Erica Hill-Yates	Carolyn Paige
Clare Mae Daniels	Ashley & Lena Hines	Samuel & Deidre Patterson
Carl & Mary Dean	Angela Holloway	Andrea Petrocelli-Fields
Dr. Rollo Dillworth	Fleta Howell	Eugene Phillips
Musu Doe	Robert Hugh	Kim Phillips
Barbara Douglass	Donald & Patricia Hunt	Mary Ann Phillips
Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Diana Hutchins	Simone Pollard
William & Quincina Edmonds	Kim Hyde	Stephen Pugh
Carol Etlén	D. Lynn Joell	Karen Ragland
Erkia Etlén	Bobby Johnson	Ella Randall

Dolores Redmond
Clarence Rice
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Shonalie Roberts
Rosalind Roberts Smalls
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin
Yvonne Ruiz
Mercedes Sadler
Georgia Sawyer
Deborah Seay
Stephanie Seay Wood
The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman-Knuckels
Judith Simkins
Arlene Singletary
Velva Daniels Smalls
Anita Smith
Cary Smith
Ted Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lyn Starr
Joyce Ann Stewart
Shelly & Ann Stewart
Brandon Stiff
Arthur & Michele Sudler
Carolyn Summers
Lynda Tapper-Smith
Dr. Monica Taylor
Rosita Taylor

Cheryl Taylor Stiles
Gloria Thomas
Calvin Thompson
Darryle & Judy Tilman
Teri Tillman
Harold Townsend, III
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Ann Trotman
Louise Trotman
Elizabeth Trulear
Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen Vaughn
Joe & Alexcia Wells
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Julia Williams
R. Seth Williams
Stephanie Williamson
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Charlene Wiltshire
Denise Wing
Diane Winkfield
Edgar Wise
Wanda Wood
Lisa Woodley
Khalita Wright
Paula Wright
I. Bernadette Wyche
Alice Young
M. Elaine Young

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

<u>Yearly Income</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>10%</u>
\$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



Congratulations to **Eugene** and **Marie Golson** for having the most guests in church for Family and Friends Sunday. They were awarded a Dinner Gift Certificate from the Rector.

Important Note from the Rector:

Please help us to end the year without a deficit by completing your 2023 financial pledge by **December 31st, 2023**. If you are unsure of your balance, please contact Jeanette in the Fiscal Office.

Any Group, Guild, Ministry, or Fellowship wishing to have a flyer placed in the bulletin will have to provide the copies to the office no later than Wednesday for insertion in the Sunday bulletin.



Our condolences to Dr. Thomas Snowden and his family on the death of his wife, our own, **Leatrice Snowden**. Her service will be at St. Thomas on **Tuesday, November 28th**. There will be a continental breakfast from **9:00-10:00 AM**. The viewing will start at 10:00 AM, and the Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Leatrice rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



A NOTE OF THANKSGIVING FROM THE RECTOR

God has truly been good and is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. In an expression of your gratitude, please prayerfully consider your gift of Thanksgiving by using the [link](#) provided. Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 23rd.

MEMBER INFORMATION FORMS

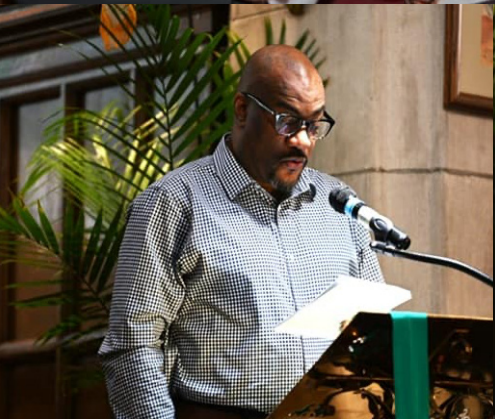
In an effort to get correct member information, we are asking **EVERY** parishioner to fill out a Member form. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Please fill out the [form](#) and return it to the [church office email](#). Please fill out 1 form for each adult member of your family, children may go on one of the forms. Thanks so much for your help with this.

STEWARDSHIP:

During Stewardship Month please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We need strong support for our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card by going on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#). You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

The Anti-Violence Legislative [Campaign](#) Letter for November, the [QR Code](#) for State Representatives, and a [flyer](#) for a Day of Prayer and Action: Harrisburg Rally Agenda & Hotel Information can be found on the table in the back of the church or please see Phyllis Cater for more information.

**Pictures from the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost,
November 19, 2023
Friends and Family Sunday**





More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

A St. Thomas Health Ministry Awareness Note for November National Diabetes Month

More than 1 in 3 adults in the United States have pre-diabetes - and many of them don't know it. National Diabetes Month is a time to raise awareness about diabetes as an important public health issue and encourage people to take charge of their health. This year, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is focused on taking action to prevent diabetes-related health problems. Explore NIDDK's tips to manage diabetes and its National Diabetes Month toolkit. You can also take a look at our MyHealthfinder diabetes page, which has resources you can share to learn more about preventing diabetes. Finally, check out Healthy People 2030's list of evidence-based resources related to diabetes that you can use in your work.

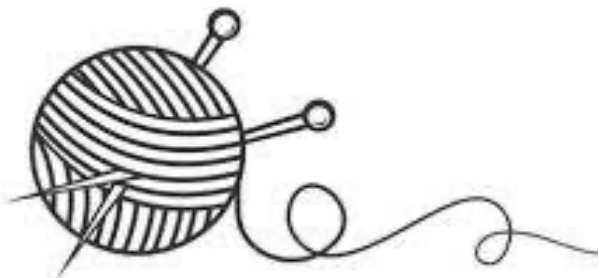
AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).



**A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES,
AND INDIVIDUALS:**

ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.



KNITTING CLUB:
Is back in the Absalom Jones House on Tuesdays from **10:00 AM - Noon**. Bring your yarn, and patterns and join in on the fun!

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

November 26th - Youth and Young Adult Sunday (YAYA)

December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

Annual Men's Day Celebration

Guest Speaker: Minister Solomon Jones

Dec. 10th - Second Sunday of Advent.

Dec. 17th - Third Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday)

Church School Christmas Presentation.

Dec. 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent- 10:00 AM,
Virtual prayer.

Christmas Eve Christ-Mass - 7:00 PM

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS!!!!
Annual Men's Day Celebration is Sunday,

December 3, 2023

Rehearsal for the Men's Chorus will be
on Saturday, December 2nd at 12 Noon.

Please join us!



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP
MEN'S DAY 
CELEBRATION



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023, 10 AM
“BUILDING A PATH FOR OUR YOUTH”
MINISTER SOLOMON JONES, AUTHOR & RADIO HOST
SPEAKER

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

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
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Minister Solomon Jones

Biography



Minister Solomon Jones accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior as a pre-teen at Peniel United Methodist Church. He was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church, and was licensed to preach the Gospel on April 2, 2017 at Great Commission Church. He now serves as Minister of Evangelism at Great Commission Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Larry L. Anderson, Jr.

Minister Jones has since delivered messages at numerous churches, including Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Calvary Christian Church, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Tabor A.M.E, and more.

Professionally, he is an Essence bestselling author and award-winning journalist who appears frequently on CNN. He has also appeared on Nightline, NPR, HLN, TV One, the BBC and Al Jazeera. His story was featured in a Verizon advertising campaign called Realize, which spotlighted entrepreneurs who overcame adversity to succeed.

Jones is the host of *Wake Up With WURD*, which airs weekday mornings on WURD Radio from 7am to 10am. He is also Community Affairs Director for Radio One Philadelphia, and hosts *Your Voice*, a weekly show on Classix 107.9 FM. He holds a B.A. in journalism from Temple University, and pens a column on race and social justice for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Jones is the author of 11 books, including his latest, *Ten Lives Ten Demands: Life and Death Stories and a Black Activist's Blueprint for Racial Justice* (Beacon Press, 2021).

Jones created ManUpPHL, a non-profit that partners with the Philadelphia School District and criminal justice agencies to reach those most likely to be impacted by gun violence. ManUpPHL pays stipends to participants, provides them with mentoring, and assists them in finding employment.

Jones began his professional writing career in 1993 while living at the Ridge Avenue Homeless Shelter, and went on to serve on the boards of the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness and The Doe Fund—an organization that helps homeless men reclaim their lives.

Jones is a national voice on race and politics. He is a recipient of Temple University's "Lew Klein" award, the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists "Online Journalist of the Year" award, the Father's Day Rally Committee's "Father of the Year" award, the Knight Foundation's "Black Male Leadership" award, and Community College of Philadelphia's "Distinguished Leadership" award.

Jones is a married father of three and lives in Philadelphia. Most importantly, he is a born-again believer.

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 [Fr. Daren](#) 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](#).

The Shepherds Ministry is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).

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, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#).

THIS WEEK AT AECST - November 27, 2023

Tuesday 11/28 - Funeral of Leatrice Snowden - 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast, - Viewing 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

Requiem Mass 11:00 AM

Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 6:00 PM

Wednesday 11/29 - Young Adult Bible Study

with Fr. Daren 7:00 PM

Angels in Motion - 6:30 PM

Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 PM

Saturday 11/25 - Chancel Choir - 10:00 AM

Men's Chorus - 12:00 Noon

Scouts - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Boyer College of Music and Dance - Singing Owls -
presents "Illuminations" Conducted by our own Dr. Rollo
Dillworth. When: Monday, **November 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM.**
Where: Temple Performing Arts Center, 1837 N. Broad
Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122. Admission is FREE. For more
[information](#)

The St. Thomas Gospel Choir will join the “No Name Pops” and guest conductor, Enrico Lopez-Yanez for “A Very Philly Christmas” at the Kimmel Center.

THE DATES FOR THE CONCERTS:

Friday, Dec. 1st	7:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 2nd	3:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 9th	3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10th	6:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 15th	2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 16th	3:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 17th	2:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 22nd	2:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 23rd	7:30 PM



[The Box Office link](#) at the Academy of Music is open daily from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

To purchase discount tickets: You may purchase discount tickets either at the Academy Box Office or online. The 20% off Discount Ticket Code for online purchases:
PHILLYSPECIAL

Boyer College of Music and Dance

SINGING OWLS

ROLLO DILWORTH, CONDUCTOR



“Illuminations”

Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

1837 N Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Admission is FREE

Featuring the music of Elaine Hagenberg,
Jake Runestad, Reginal Wright and a newly
commissioned work by Ajibola Rivers, BYR '16

BOYER.TEMPLE.EDU

Arreon Harley-Emerson, Daniel Jackson
and Alexander Nguyen, graduate
conducting assistants

Kim Barroso, collaborative pianist

 **Temple
University**

Center for the Performing
and Cinematic Arts

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for:
the Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 26, 2023

The First Lesson: [Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24](#)
[Psalm 100](#)

The Second Lesson: [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)
The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of November 27, 2023

Monday - [Luke 18:15-30](#)
Tuesday - [Luke 18:31-43](#)
Wednesday - [Luke 19:1-10](#)
Thursday - [Luke 19:11-27](#)
Friday - [Luke 19:28-40](#)
Saturday - [Luke 19:41-48](#)



Young Adult Bible Study

Fr. Daren is offering a
Bible Study series
for Young Adults on
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

Fall Topic:

“If It’s Not About Love, It’s Not
About God”

Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

Scout Troop #133 - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM. on Saturdays. Our Boy 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.

Church School

begins at **10:00 AM**. The theme this year is: "Exciting Stories of the Bible" Registration forms may be found on the tables in the Undercroft Sunday school room or [here](#).



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

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.

We meet Saturday mornings

**First meeting:
September 30, 2023
11am-1pm**

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 Sri Lanka 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House

Thelma Silvers - Rosemont Care Center

Dr. Thomas Snowden - Kearsley Rehab

Fr. Darryl James - Stapeley Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Joe Stevenson,

Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford,

Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Laverne Hudson,

Leotta Griffin, Shirley Winkfield, Lemont Johnson,

Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall, Cathy Stafford,

Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

As we enter the Season of Advent, flowers are only placed on the Altar for Rose Sunday, December 17, 2023. Please see below for **Poinsettia** and **Christmas Tree** information.

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

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of paper for more names.)

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$ _____

Your gift of Christmas poinsettias and altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the holidays and will be a beautiful tribute to your loved ones, or a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. Please fill out (Print) the form below and return it to Alfreda Brockman or Clare Mae Daniels at 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Phila., PA 19151

Please do not place it in the collection plate. **DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023**

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @125.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar @ 85.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium @ 45.00

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount\$_____

Poinsettia and Christmas Tree Adoption

I would like to purchase a Poinsettia @ \$25.00 (5 names per plant)

I would like to adopt a Christmas Tree @\$35.00 per tree.

Please PRINT the names below:

Please circle one: In memory of / In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$_____

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](#).

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Parishioners, please remember to include your envelope number as well as your name on your offering envelope. The number is especially important. If you don't have your envelope number please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks so much for your help with this. [Judy Tillman](#)

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.

FROM STEWARSHIP: A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you could slot their envelopes. Thank you.

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

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

Ways to continue to be Faithful to God and the Church through Stewardship:

- 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 Fiscal Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 10 am-2 pm)
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** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the 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

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THE VESTRY

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Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

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Judith Simkins Booth
William Burke
Deadra Cannon
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Marie Golson
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Jonathan Muse
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Conchetta Brewer
Ronnie Collins
Eugene Golson
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Pamela Johnson
Patricia Lynch
Cynthia Muse
Darryle "Bobby" 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 re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.