



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Breast CANCER

AWARENESS SUNDAY
HEALTH MINISTRY SUNDAY

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 Twenty-First Sunday of Pentecost Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday

“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-First
Sunday After Pentecost and Breast Cancer Awareness 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 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

Last Sunday, we kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Enormous thanks to our Clergy, Vestry and Aux. Vestry who submitted their Faithful Giving Cards as leaders of the parish. 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.

Frank Johnson

Gregory Lyles

Particia Lynch

Michael & Dorothy Archey

Timothy Barksdale

Jennifer Bell

Waltier Blocker

Deborah Booker-Mathews

Ricardo Bostic

I. Page Bowser

Theresa Bramwell

Lorita Brockington

J.R. & Alfreda Brockman

Carmen M. Brown

Marilyn Brown

Theodore Bythewood

Cornelia Camp

Gwendolyn Cottman

Johanna Daye

Carl & Mary Dean

Musu Doe

William & Quincina Edmonds

Loretta Ferguson

Norman & Nikki Franke

Barry & Deborah Frye

Barbara L. Glenn

Swanie Goldsmith

Eugene & Marie Golson

Chad & Toya Gordon

Clarice Grant

Linda Greaves

Carole W. Green

Michelle Green

Thomasina Hack

Joan Hall

Sharon Harper

Roosevelt & Gail Harris

Joyce B. Harrison

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Maurice Hayes

Rene Hayes

Quentin Heyward

Fleta Howell

Robert Hugh

Donald & Patricia Hunt

Simone Jeffers

Bobby Johnson

Sheryl L. Johnson

Lelo Jones

Mary Ann Jones

Richard Jones

Tyronne Keller

Reginald & Sherilynn Kimble

Jordina Koiler

John Kortue

Paula Lamb

Nancy Lee

Karen Leys

James T. Lowe, Jr.

Geraldine B. Martin

Denise McDaniel Henderson

Laura McNeill

Regina Meacham-Devero

Beverly Moore

Cynthia Muse

Francina Norris

Deborah Otey

Kim Phillips

Mary Ann Phillips

Stephen Pugh

Karen Ragland

Dolores Redmond

Clarence H. Rice

Victoria Rivers

Cassandra Ruffin

Yvonne Ruiz

Mercedes Sadler

Barbara D. Savage

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Deborah Seay

Arlene Singletary

Anita Smith

Dorothy Smith

Catherine Stafford

Irving Stevenson

Joseph Stevenson

Daryn Stewart

Michele Sudler

Carolyn Summers

Lynda Tapper-Smith

Wanda Tarawaly

Monica Taylor

Gloria Thomas

Calvin Thompson

Justin & Lee Anne Trotman

Karen Vaughn

Clara Watson-Williams

Barbara Wiley

R. Seth Williams

Jenelle Wilson-Johnson

Charlene Wiltshire

Wanda Wood

Paula Wright

Ingrid Bernadette Wyche

M. Elaine Young

PICTURES FROM THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY October 23, 2022







HAPPY TENTH ANNIVERSARY

to our **St. Thomas Voices of Comfort**. May God continue to bless this ministry as we share God's comfort and hope to those who mourn and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

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.



**ARE YOU
READY TO VOTE
IN 2022?**

★ ★ ★ vote.pa.gov 🗳️ ★ ★ ★

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
on Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

IMPORTANT ELECTION MESSAGE FROM:

Our Rector; Pastor Marshall Mitchell, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church;
Pastor Donald Moore, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church;
Pastor Charles Quann, Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Please open the [link](#) provided.



BE A CHILD CARE VOTER!

As a Child Care Voter, you care about access to high-quality pre-k; you want to invest and expand access to infant and toddler care; you believe that when we support working families and invest in quality child care, all of Pennsylvania benefits.

Join the community and help make access to quality child care part of the conversation around the 2022 elections.



Join our Facebook Group
ChildCareVoter



Follow us on Instagram
ChildCareVoter





**OCTAVIUS
WANTS
YOU
TO
VOTE!**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022
IS THE GENERAL ELECTION.**

**POLLS ARE OPEN ON
ELECTION DAY
FROM 7AM - 8PM**



**AECST
FOUNDED 1792**

**THE OCTAVIUS V. CATTO
VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY**

INSPIRED BY THE LIFE, LEGACY AND MINISTRY OF OCTAVIUS V. CATTO.
THIS IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS (AECST)
TO ENCOURAGE VOTER REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION IN OUR COMMUNITY.
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 | 215-473-3065
1792@AECST.ORG | WWW.AECST.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**[HTTPS://WWW.VOTESPA.COM](https://www.votespa.com)
1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772)**



DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

This year, the St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King will again collect donations for undersourced 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.



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](#).

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).

Health Corner

In 2022, 287,500 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Women, spouses, children, grandchildren, and friends of women encourage them to schedule their mammogram today.



Breast cancer death rates are **40% higher among Black women**.



Health Corner



The American Cancer Society estimates for breast cancer in men in the United States for 2022 are:

- About 2,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed
- About 530 men will die from breast cancer

Breast cancer is about 100 times less common among white men than among white women. It is about 70 times less common among Black men than Black women. As in Black women, Black men with breast cancer tend to have a worse prognosis (outlook). For men, the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is about 1 in 833.

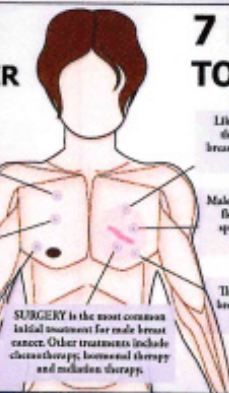
MALE BREAST CANCER

7 FACTS TO KNOW

The main RISK FACTORS for breast cancer in men is elevated ESTROGEN levels, prior RADIATION exposure, and a FAMILY HISTORY of breast cancer.

Male breast cancer is a RARE cancer type and only comprises 1% of all breast cancers.

The most common SYMPTOM of male breast cancer is a LUMP behind the nipple.



Like breast cancer in women, the PROGNOSIS for male breast cancer largely depends on the TUMOR STAGE.

Male breast cancer STAGING (reflecting the degree of cancer spread) is identical to female breast cancer.

The most common type of male breast cancer is INFLTRATING DUCTAL CARCINOMA.

SURGERY is the most common initial treatment for male breast cancer. Other treatments include chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and radiation therapy.

ALWAYS SEE YOUR DOCTOR

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.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Oct. 30th - **Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday**

Wear Something Pink

10th Anniversary Celebration of the St. Thomas
Voices of Comfort.

Oct. 30th - **A.E.C.S.T. Kid Friendly Trunk and Treat**
Immediately after service in the church parking lot.
Bring your little ghosts and goblins, princesses, and
superheros to join in the fun in costume or not
Ages 12 and Under.

Volunteers are needed to decorate your trunk
and pass out candy.

Please contact [Dottie Archey](#) or 215-837-6941 or
Gladyce in the church office.

Nov. 6th - **Observance of the Feast of All Saints/All Souls**

We remembered the departed souls of our loved ones
(please submit your attached form to purchase candles
in their memory)

Observance of Birthdays - 1st Rector (Absalom Jones)
and 17th Rector (Fr. Shaw).

Pew Dedication

Corporate Communion

Daughters of the King (DOK)

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

Nov. 20th - **Chosen 300 Sunday**

Nov. 27th - **First Sunday of Advent**

AECST
FRIENDLY



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



October 30, 2022

Immediately following service...
Bring your little Ghosts and Goblins,
Princesses, and Superheroes
to join in the fun in costume or not.
Ages 12 and Under

Please contact Dottie Archey, Church School Superintendent
email: churchschool@aecst.org or Church Office

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Carrousel of Philadelphia Brief History

In August 1956, Glenna L. Watson and Betty L. Brewer, of Columbus, OH, while taking their infant children for a daily outing, talked of many future dreams and how enjoyable it would be to have a group of special friends with whom they could plan and participate in different social activities. By the end of their walk they decided to bring together some of their friends to discuss the possibility of starting such a group. As the group formed, it was agreed that the club's purpose would be to strengthen friendships and to carry out social activities for the enjoyment of members and friends. Carrousel depicts an atmosphere of happiness and a carefree spirit, which always existed whenever the women were together. The group was hence, named the Carrousel, because of its gaiety and liveliness, symbolizing togetherness, love and happiness. In the late 70's, the scope of the club's purpose was expanded to encompass commitment to community involvement as well.

In April of 1987 Deborah "Binky" Seay attended an Atlanta convention of an organization where her husband, Harry, had been a member. While socializing with the wives, she learned about the national social organization called Carrousel. Binky shared with the ladies, one of whom was her childhood friend and Washington, D.C. chapter Carrousel member, that she had been a 25 year member of a social group called the "Gadabouts" who might be interested in becoming affiliated with this national group. Once Binky shared her exciting news of that possibility with the Gadabouts, the wheels were set in motion to have the Gadabouts transition to becoming the Carrousel of Philadelphia, with the Washington, D.C. chapter sponsoring them.

The Carrousel of Philadelphia were established on January 30, 1988. Of the 14 original members, in addition to Deborah Binky Seay, several were very active members of the African Episcopal Church St. Thomas. They were Jean Armstrong, Jean Hyde, Barbara Rouse, Leontine Scott and Geraldine Wood.

The Carrousel, Incorporated began as two dear friends walked and talked one beautiful day in August 1956. It has grown in size and scope to literally now embrace the length and width of the nation, all in the name of friendship and love.

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.

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

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.

PHILADELPHIA MEN’S FELLOWSHIP CHOIR

Please join the choir on **Saturday, October 29, 2022** at **4:00 PM** for a concert here at St. Thomas.

This concert features men from around Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware representing 35 local churches.

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas
6361 Absalom Jones Way
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19151
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

PEW MEMORIAL PLAQUES



THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS'
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022
DEDICATE A PEW PLAQUE
IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVE ONES
\$500.00

(Payment Deadline: October 20, 2022)

Checks or money orders can be made payable to: AECST.

You may pay also through the "givi" app.

Make certain to indicate your wish to purchase a
Pew Memorial Plaque and include contact information.

Visit the Church's website at <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>
for other Payment options.

For additional questions or information contact:

Victoria A. Mosley Rivers

victoria.rivers@verizon.net or 267-253-2899/215-878-3651



ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS MEMORIAL CANDLES

On **November 6th**, we are celebrating the Feast of All Saints / All Souls, you are encouraged to bring in photographs of your loved ones to place on the Columbarium. In addition you will be able to dedicate a Memorial Candle to your loved one. Candle Memorials will be \$2.00 per single name, married couples would be \$4.00. Please give all forms and money to Clara Mae Daniels, Freda Brockman, or mail to the church office at 6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA. 19151.

The Deadline is Tuesday, **November 2nd**.

Please Print:

_____ I would like to dedicate a Memorial Candle,

Given by _____

Envelop # _____.



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



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

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.

**Meetings
begin
Oct. 1, 2022
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 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.

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

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.

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.](#)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

**READINGS FOR
the Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
October 30, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 1:10-18](#)

[Psalm 32:1-8](#)

The Second Reading: [2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 19:1-10](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of October 31, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 13:36-43](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 13:44-52](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 13:53-58](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 14:1-12](#)

Friday - [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 14:22-36](#)

**the Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
November 6, 2022**

The Feast of All Saints / All Souls

The First Lesson: [Daniel 7:1-3,15-18](#)

[Psalm 149](#)

The Second Lesson: [Ephesians 1:11-23](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 6:20-31](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of November 7, 2022**

The Feast of All Saints / All Souls

Monday - [Matthew 15:1-20](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 15:21-28](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 15:29-39](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 16:1-12](#)

Friday - [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 16:21-28](#)

**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](#)

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.



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 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 _____

OUR CONDOLENCES

to James Brown (JB), our "sometimes" Asst. Sexton, and family on the death of his mother, **Mary Ann Brown**. May the soul of Mary Ann rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

to John, Ted, Nora, and her entire family on the death of **Jessie Rich**. Please keep John, Ted, Nora, and her entire family in your prayers. May the soul of Jessie rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB: Linda Holmes

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Dorothy Smith- Mercy Hospital; Alletta Parris-Olday - Nazareth Hospital.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Alice Bowman-Cropper, Rosalind Rodriquez, Joan Hall, Deborah “Binky” Seay, Daryn Stewart, Charles Fleming, Harold Yates, Leatrice Snowden, William Smalls, Angela Foster, Erica Hill-Yates, Shirley Winkfield.

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.

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.

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

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](#).

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

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.