



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



Homecoming Sunday

2023

"Celebrating 231 Years
of relevant and vibrant ministry"

All onboard the AECST EXPRESS!!!!

September 10, 2023 - 10:00 AM
(Reception to follow Service)

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA

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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 10, 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

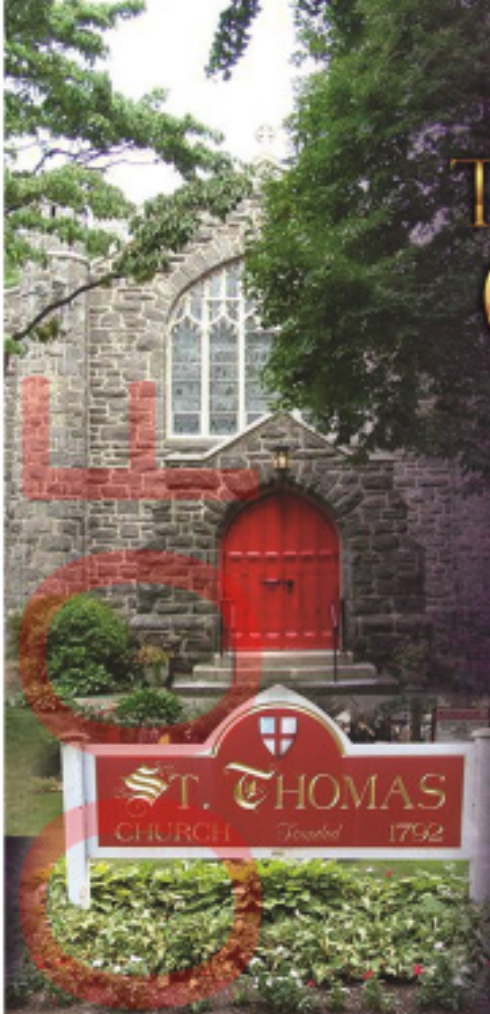
Grace and Peace to you from God on this
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
and Homecoming Sunday

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.



THE GERALDINE B. WOOD COLUMBARIUM

"AN HONORED TRADITION"

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19151
215.473.3065 | WWW.AECST.ORG



THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, RECTOR

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

CREMATION AND BURIAL TRADITIONS

From earliest times, people have been concerned about their final earthly resting place, often with concern that it be near the gathering place of their families. In Christian times, preferred burial space was within the Church itself where the faithful gathered for celebrating a liturgy or for a prayer service. The dual tradition of burial and of cremation was preserved in both ancient and in Christian times. More recently, consideration of the spiritual and the practical aspects of cremation and inurnment within the Church itself has led to a revival of this aspect of the tradition. When space within the Church was no longer available, the churchyard cemetery developed. Only in recent times have burial grounds, far removed from the community centers of life and prayer, (Laurel Hill Cemetery, Historic Eden Cemetery) been used.

THE COLUMBARIUM

A Columbarium is a vault with recessed metal compartments of niches for placing earthly remains after cremation. The cremated earthly remains are preserved in niches in a Columbarium fittingly designed and prepared. Each metal niche is enclosed with a protective front of wood, to which is attached a bronze identification plate for the appropriate name and date of death. The dual tradition of burial and cremation was preserved in ancient and Christian times.

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas has constructed three structures consisting of 220 niches that can accommodate 440 urns along the Southeast wall in the Absalom Jones Chapel area. Eligible persons and active members of the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas and their families can purchase a niche. The opening date for the Columbarium was November 1996. A Columbarium Committee composed of four persons and the Parish Rector will govern and administer the affairs of the Columbarium. The Committee has established and will administer the policies and regulations governing sales, maintenance and expansions as was initially established by an 11-member task force.

Niches may be reserved by advance purchase, at the time of need, singly, or for family groups. The purchaser gets a Certificate of Ownership, which indicates a choice of niches. The Certificate entitles a person to a bronze nameplate and assurance of perpetual care. Orders and/or deposits are now being received. Selection of a niche will only occur upon receipt of final payment.

If you are interested in receiving more information on the Columbarium, please contact the Church Office at 215-473-3065 or the Columbarium committee c/o Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at 215-878-3651 or 267-253-2899.



**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.

**Attention all Guilds / Organizations /
Ministries and Fellowships:**

A **MANDATORY** Council of Guilds meeting will be held on Saturday, **September 23, 2023, at 10:00 AM** in Anderson Hall. Please come with your events to be placed on the calendar. If the president cannot be present, please send a representative.

CONDOLENCES

Our prayers and condolences to the Mitchell, Stafford, Smith, Smalls, and Daniels families on the death of their son and nephew **Anthony “Tony” Mitchell**. May the soul of Anthony rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Our prayers and condolences to Gladyce DuBrey on the death of her cousin **Edward Mark DuBrey**. May the soul of Edward rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the DuBrey family.

Condolences and Prayers for the Camp family on the death of their family member, **Beula (Biddle) Camp**. May the soul of Beula rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Pictures from the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 2023



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



WELCOME BACK!

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 everyone in your family. Thanks so much for your help with this.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

September 17th - Back to School Sunday. All students from all grade levels are invited to receive a blessing for the School Year.

September 24th - Youth and Young Adult Sunday

October 1st - Stewardship Kick Off

October 8th - Chosen 300 Sunday with our guest preacher, The Rev. Brian Jenkins.

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Blessing of the Animals)

This year, the animals of our family will be blessed by placing their photo, their ashes, or anything that belongs to your pet to be blessed.

October 15th - Octavius V. Catto Observance

October 22nd - Youth and Young Adult Sunday

October 29th - Judicial Sunday

A.E.C.S.T. Kid Friendly Trunk and Treat

12:00 Noon - in the 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 needed to decorate your trunk and pass out candy.

Please [email](#) Gladyce in the church office.

THIS WEEK AT AECST - September 11, 2023

Tuesday 9/12 - Bible Study (via Zoom) with Fr. Jay

Wednesday 9/13 - O. V. Catto Ministry

6:00-8:00 PM - Anderson Hall.

Saturday 9/16 - Men's Ministry Breakfast with the Rector and all men and a Conversation with Dr. Jonathan Wilson.
8:30 AM - in the Undercroft.

B.Y.O.E. Sisterhood Purse Bingo

12:00-4:00 PM - in Anderson Hall.

Upcoming Events

Join us for Back to School Sunday as we pray God's blessings on our students and staff as they return to their places of teaching and learning. This year all students (Elementary to College) will receive a special gift!

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY

Our annual celebration of education at the start of the new school year will be held on **Sunday, September 17, 2023**. The students of St. Thomas should bring their backpacks and school bags to church for a special blessing. Additionally, we plan to recognize the educators in our parish in The Spearhead on September 17, 2023. If you are a new member of our congregation and work, or previously worked, in the field of education, please send your name and position held to [Cynthia Muse](#).

EDUCATION SUNDAY

"KEEPING WISE EYES ON THE PRIZE:
ADVOCATING
FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN"

ANNUAL
BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, 10:00 A.M.



Speaker:
Deidre R. Farmbry, Ed.D.
Former Interim Superintendent of
The School District of Philadelphia

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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](#).

SISTERHOOD GUILD

Purse



BYOE - Cabaret Style

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 AT 1:00 - 4:00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30PM, COST \$25.00

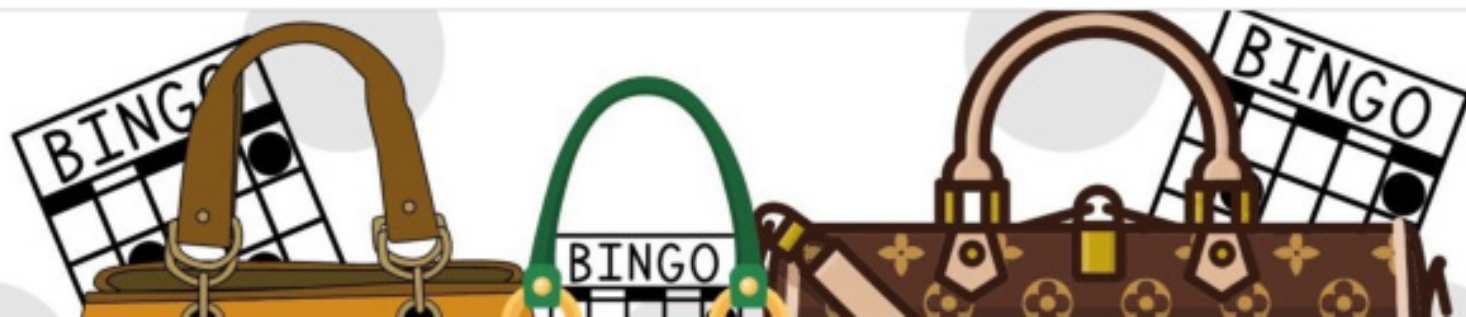
*** NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

ANDERSON HALL

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA PA 19151

*** NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED**





SAINT THOMAS CHAPTER

A Celebration of God's Love, Grace and Glory!

75 + 1 YEARS!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
1 PM - 4 PM**

**ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF
PRAISE, MUSIC, JOY, REFLECTIONS, AND more...**

**AT THE BEAUTIFUL BELMONT MANSION
2000 BELMONT MANSION DRIVE
PHILADELPHIA**

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE 'CROWN'!

**DELICIOUS LUNCH BY BROWN'S KITCHENS
TO ATTEND: \$60 PER PERSON
-NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR-**

JOIN US! CONTACT:

MONICA LEWIS JONES: MBJ03@GMAIL.COM

DEBORAH MATTHEWS: DEBMADANCO@VERIZON.NET

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AECST/CHOSEN 300 Community OUTREACH

Calling Volunteers to Serve @ Chosen 300 locations

Arrive at 4:30pm – Directions will be given – Completed by 7:30pm, 2023 SERVING DATES :



Friday , July 14th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17th : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Friday, Nov. 17th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20th: Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104



For Any Questions, please contact Dr. Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766

“Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.” Proverbs 21:13

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.



EXCITING NEWS!!!! Introducing our newly appointed Superintendent of Church School - Tynecia Wilson. We look forward to supporting her exciting vision for our children.



Calling all Young Adults of St. Thomas!
Fr. Daren is inviting you to brunch on
Saturday, September 23rd at 11:00 AM.
Save the date, more details to come! [R.S.V.P.](#) here.



Young Adult Bible Study
Fr. Daren will be offering a Bible Study series.
for Young Adults beginning,
Wednesday, September 27th
at 6:00 PM. Fall Topic:
“If It’s Not About Love, It’s Not About God”

MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP



ATTENTION ALL MEN!!!! (Ages 18-102)

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH THE RECTOR

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 8:30 AM

a Conversation with our own
Dr. Jonathan Wilson,
Executive Director
of The Fatherhood Foundation.

“Education, manhood and
fatherhood”

Please use this link to [RSVP](#) today.

Free will offering will be collected.



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

ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

A Covid and Flu Vaccination Clinic
Session: hosted in collaboration
with the Division of Community
Health Department of Family
Medicine and Community Health,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania.
Date: Late September / Early
October TBA



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.](#)

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

CHURCH SCHOOL RETURNS!

OCTOBER 1st, 2023

CALLING ALL AECST
YOUTH AGES 4 THRU HIGH SCHOOL
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL THEME FOR 2023

“EXCITING STORIES OF THE BIBLE”



REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 13, 2023
IN PERSON OR USING OUR REGISTRATION LINK
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/44FHDmXzFK6ATNUFA](https://forms.gle/44FHDmXzFK6ATNUFA)

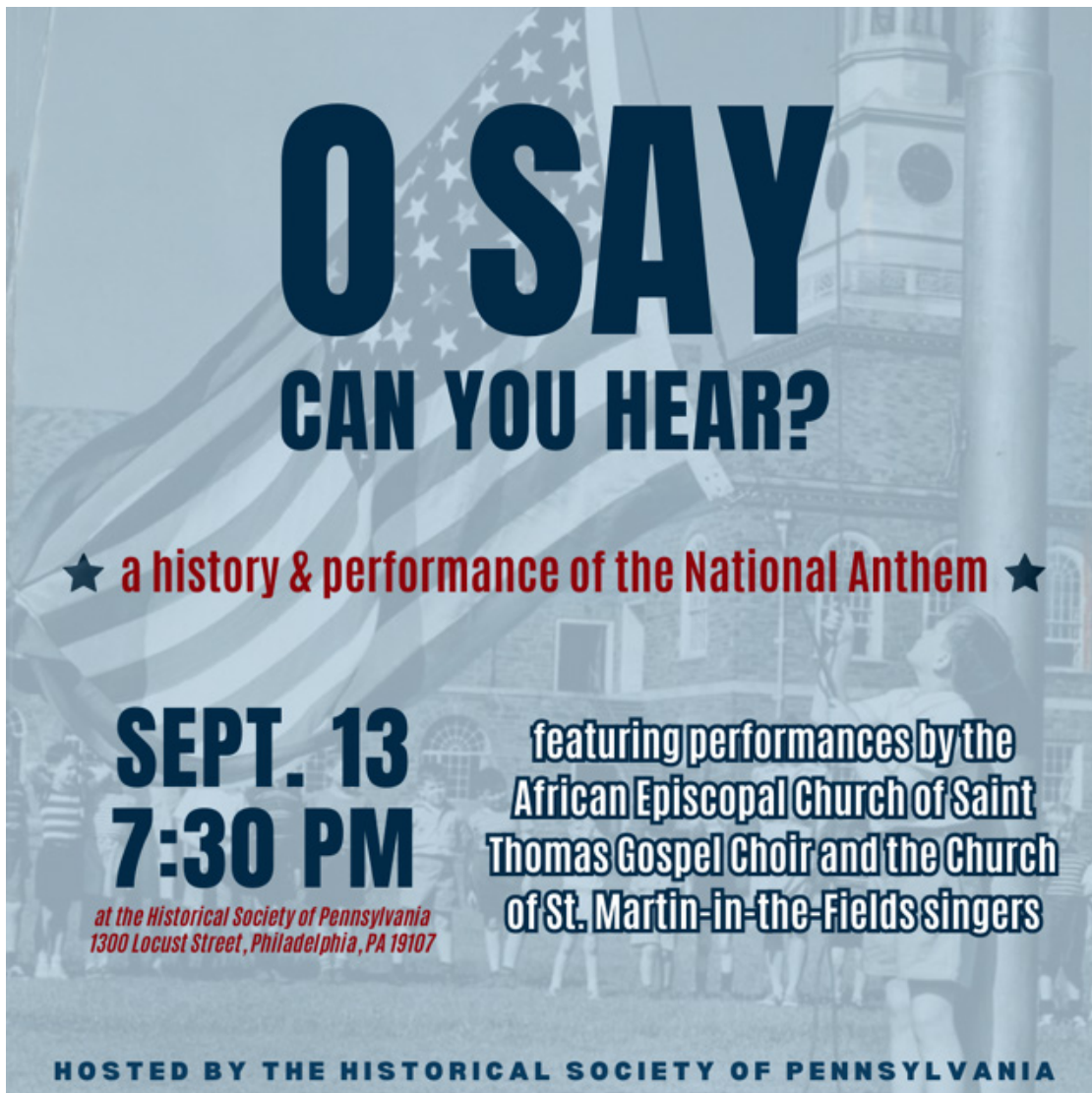
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The registration form may be found [here](#)

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Do you have a special calling for visiting sick and shut-in members of St.Thomas? Would you be interested in becoming one of our commissioned members, like Karen Ragland, Karen Vaughn, Thomasina Hack, and Kathryn Brossa, to take the sacrament (communion) to those at home? If you feel such a special calling, please speak with the rector or contact him via email to prayerfully discern such a calling.

WHERE IS THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR?????



**O SAY
CAN YOU HEAR?**

★ a history & performance of the National Anthem ★

**SEPT. 13
7:30 PM**

featuring performances by the
African Episcopal Church of Saint
Thomas Gospel Choir and the Church
of St. Martin-in-the-Fields singers

*at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107*

HOSTED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH PRESENTS

St. Thomas Gospel Choir



In Concert

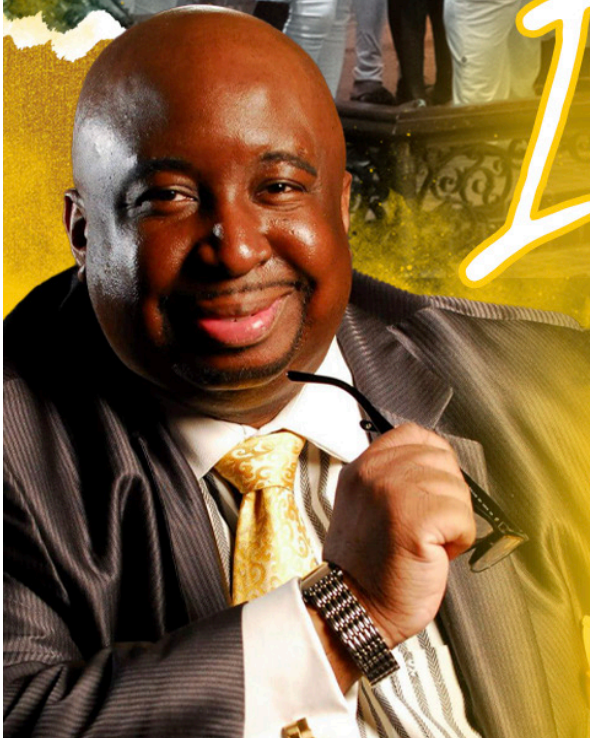
Under the direction of Walt Blocker

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2023 - 6:30PM

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

35 William St | Pittston, PA 18640

REV. JOSEPH ELSTON, RECTOR



FLEA Market

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE WOMEN'S DAY MARKETPLACE

New DATE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

[RAIN DATE: 10.21.23]

9am-4pm

*Held on the Grounds of The Historic
African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Church
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151*

**Showcase your unique Crafts,
Collectibles, Vintage
and Gift items...
and turn them into cash!**

**Reserve your
Space Today!**
(before 10.11.23)

To receive your reservation form

Contact:

Yvonne Caldwell White
luyes@icloud.com

Deborah Matthews
debmadanco@verizon.net

*Hosted by the
2023 AECST Women's Day Committee*

*The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw – 17th Rector
Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans – Associate Rector*

*Bring your
unwanted
Gold, Silver &
Diamond
Jewelry
And
a certified
jeweler will
appraise it and
you'll get
CASH on the
spot!*

**\$30.00
BYOT**
*(Space & bring
your own Table)*

\$35.00
**Reserve space
+ Table**
*(Table will be
provided for you)*

Upcoming Concerts at St. Thomas

OWEN VALENTINE PRESENTS

COLTRANE IN THE PULPIT

OWEN VALENTINE
VIOLIN | VOCALS



RICHARD HILL
BASS



DR. JAY FLUELLEN
PIANO

SIMEON JOHNSON
DRUMS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 | 4:00 PM

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVE, PHILADELPHIA

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$15 | SENIORS/STUDENTS: \$10

WWW.COLTRANEINTHEPULPIT.EVENTBRITE.COM

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Free Standing Altar are for **Blessings and to Welcome Back All to the Mother Church**, given by Clare Mae Daniels.

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 \$ _____

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - September 3, 2023

The First Lesson: [Exodus 12:1-14](#)

[Psalm 149](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 13:8-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of September 11, 2023

Monday - [John 10:19-30](#)

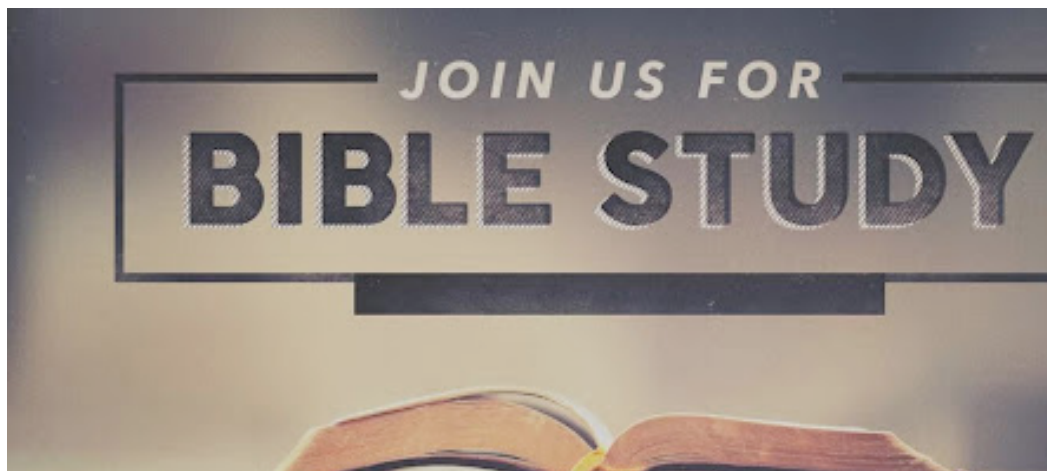
Tuesday - [John 10:31-42](#)

Wednesday - [John 11:1-16](#)

Thursday - [John 11:17-29](#)

Friday - [John 11:30-44](#)

Saturday - [John 11:45-54](#)



Bible Study with Fr. Jay resumes on Tuesday evening, **September 12th, at 7:00 PM.** If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#).

Our St. Thomas Catto Ministry Leadership Team

Ernestine Johnson



Wendella Fox



Ted Smith





**Attention!! Attention!! Your Vote Matters!!
Come join the Catto Ministry**

My VOTE will Count!! My VOTE Will Count!!

With a focus on the Philadelphia elections.

Save these three dates –

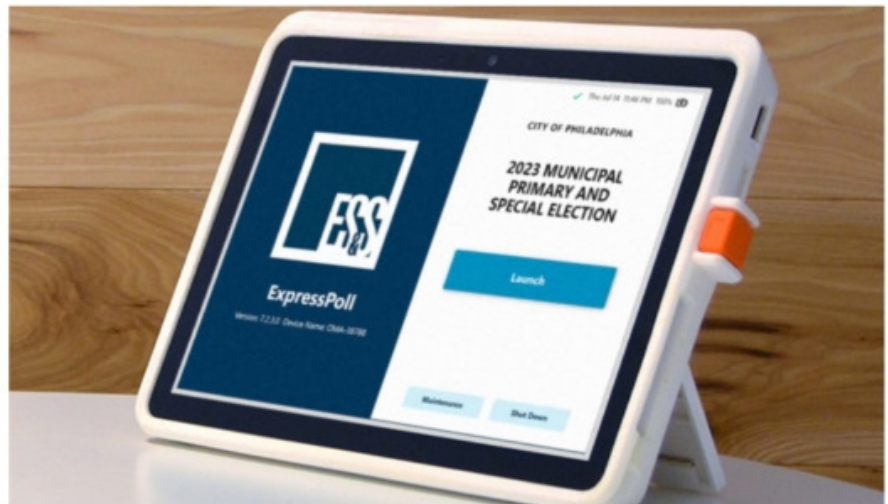
August 28, 2023, Monday at 7:00 PM –

zoom meeting for the ministry. All are welcome to join the Ministry and attend the meeting. Bring your ideas and your enthusiasm. The Zoom link will be provided to All who contact us with your interest and availability.

September 13, 2023, Wednesday 6 :00– 8:00 PM in Anderson Hall – come out and bring a friend or two to hear from City Commissioners and their Staff --- practice voting in – person in Philadelphia using the new electronic poll book and the electronic voting booth. Thinking about Voting by Mail-in ballot – Learn how to make sure that your Vote Will Count. Did you know that in the May 2023 Primary, several hundred Folks who voted by mail-in ballot in Philadelphia thought their vote counted? It did not count because their ballot was filled out incorrectly. Make sure that your Vote will Count!!! Want to get paid to be a poll worker?? Come for information and light fare.

October 15, 2023, Octavius V. Catto Sunday -- Come & bring a friend or two for our church service that will hopefully inspire you to Vote and stay afterward to register Folks to Vote, practice using the new electronic poll book, bring your Mail-in Ballot and fill it out correctly and take it to a drop box – Make sure that Your VOTE will Count!!!! Get resources from the city, state & federal Folks. We anticipate activities for teens & young adults around voting and civic engagement. We will serve light fare. If you are interested, if you have questions, please contact Wendella Fox at 215-880-4936.

OCTAVIUS V. CATTO MINISTRY PRESENTS...



“SHOW ME HOW TO VOTE!”

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH 2023
6PM - 8PM DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM**

**Live Demonstration of the
NEW Voting Tablets & Machines**



**PRACTICE VOTING IN PERSON WITH THE NEW ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK AND
MACHINES. LEARN HOW TO FILL OUT A MAIL-IN BALLOT
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED**

**African Episcopal Church of
St. Thomas - Anderson Hall**

**6361 LANCASTER AVE.
PHILA PA 19151**



**The Octavius V Catto Voter Education Ministry of the African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas www.aecst.org & [Facebook.com/AECST1792](https://www.facebook.com/AECST1792)**

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR / THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL: WPFOX3008@VERIZON.NET

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB:

Linda Holmes - St. Ignatius Rehab;
Helena Allen - Simpson House.

HOSPITALIZED: William Smalls

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriguez, R. Seth Williams.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown,
Joe Stevenson, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer,
Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Leotta Griffith,
Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford,
Eleanor Chestnut, Joan Hall, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-
Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield,
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds,
Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson,
Cathy Stafford, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Alletta Parris-
Olday, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Teri Taylor,
Tyrone Keller, Seminarian David King, Conchetta Brewer,
Joyce Jackson, Cassandra Ruffin, Lisa Woodley,
Fr.Darryl James, Joe Stevenson.

WE PRAY FOR

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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please remember to maintain your pledged financial giving during the summer months of travel!

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

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

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

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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.