

# 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

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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
BACK TO SCHOOL / EDUCATION SUNDAY**

**September 17, 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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost and  
Back to School / Education**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

Faithfully,

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw,  
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

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

Please use link [1](#) and [2](#) to view the St. Thomas list of Educators and Administrators.

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## **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.

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## **FAITHFUL GIVING**

As the summer ends now is a good time to think about our faithful giving. Are we up to date on our commitment (pledge)? If not, please make plans to start catching up. It is better to start now rather than wait until the end of the year. The contributions from our congregation enable us to remain strong in ministry and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Velva Smalls, the Smalls and Daniels families on the death of her husband, **William Clifford Smalls**. His memorial service will be held here at St. Thomas on Tuesday, September 19th with Military Honors at 9:30 AM. and service at 10:00 AM.

Our condolences to Kelly Jones and his family on the death of his grandmother, **Doris Watson**. May the soul of Doris rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

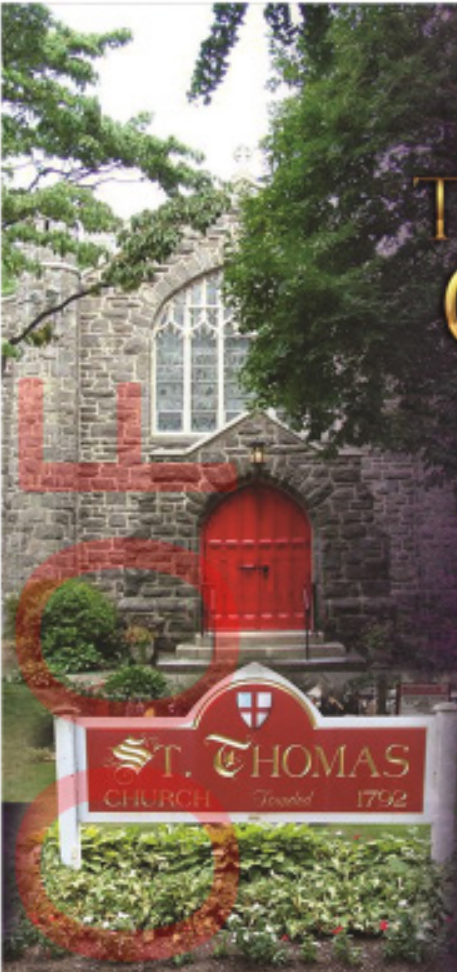
Our condolences to Tim Barksdale, Brandon Barksdale and Elizabeth Derr on the death of their grandmother, great grandmother, and mother, **Lillie Belle Hagin**. May the soul of Lillie Belle rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Our condolences to the family of **Louise Lewis** on her death. May the soul of Louise rest in peace and rise in glory. Services are pending.

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### **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.



# 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



ST. THOMAS  
CHURCH *Founded 1792*

## 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.

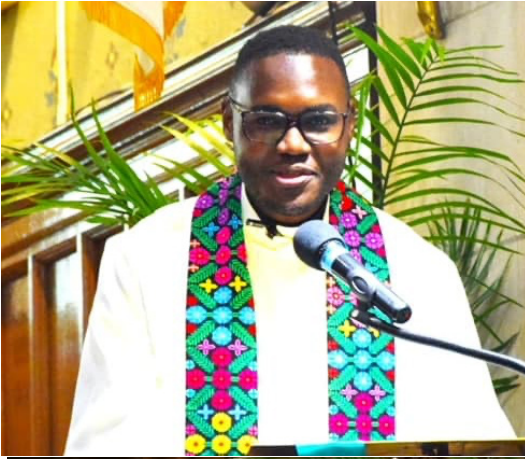
Niches may be reserved by advance purchase, at the time of need, singly, or for family groups. The purchaser gets a Certificate of Ownership, which indicates a choice of niches. The Certificate entitles a person to a bronze nameplate and assurance of perpetual care. Orders and/or deposits are now being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

# Pictures From The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 10, 2023







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





**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.

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**THIS WEEK AT AECST - September 18, 2023**

**Tuesday 9/19**

The Memorial for William Smalls 9:30 AM.  
Bible Study (via Zoom) with Fr. Jay - 7:00 PM.

**Wednesday 9/20**

Gospel Choir rehearsal - 7:30 PM.

**Thursday 9/21**

In person Vestry meeting - 6:00 PM.

**Saturday 9/23**

Council of Guilds - 10:00 AM.  
Chancel Choir - 10:00 AM in the church

## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

### **September 24th**

Youth and Young Adult Sunday

Installment of the Daughters of the King

Inurnment of Wesley & Carolyn Stubbs

Blessing of Expectant Mothers

**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 Sunday, October 29, 2023**

**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 call [Gladyce](#) or email the [church office](#).

## 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](#).

## 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.



### **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”

**Calling all Young Adults of St. Thomas!**

*The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas*

**Young Adults  
Let's Have  
Brunch!**

JOIN FR. DAREN

**Date: Saturday September 23**

**Time: Beginning at 11a.m.**

**Location: Twenty One Pips, Ardmore, PA**



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:**

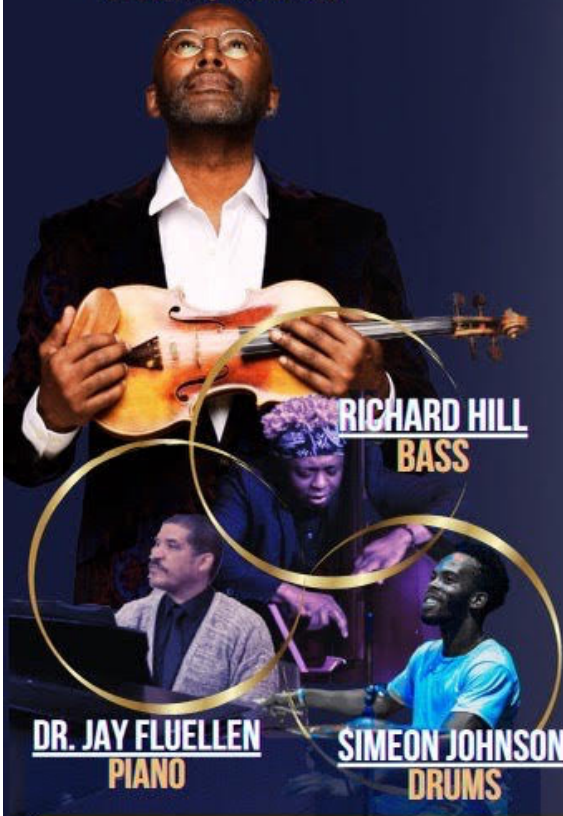
**MONICA LEWIS JONES: MBJ03@GMAIL.COM  
DEBORAH MATTHEWS: DEBMADANCO@VERIZON.NET**

Upcoming Concert 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](http://WWW.COLTRANEINTHEPULPIT.EVENTBRITE.COM)

## **Thank – you St. Thomas, we helped some deserving Teens receive luggage**

St. Thomas provided luggage to the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) Youth and Family Center for its 8/17/2023 Trunk party for teens who had “aged out” of the foster system. Some of these teens were headed to college. As you may recall, St. Thomas participated in the successful UBE luggage drive which ended March 2023.

We had approximately 40 suitcases, duffels and backpacks that were still waiting to be delivered to an agency. On August 16, 2023, St. Thomas learned that PHA was having a trunk party for teens who had “aged out” of the foster system and were headed to college. PHA was in desperate need of suitcases and duffels.

Thanks to your generosity St. Thomas, we provided PHA with 15 suitcases and 21 different size duffels and 8 bags for clothes on hangers for the trunk party. This project was a double Blessing – to those receiving and those providing!!  
Conchetta Brewer & Wendella Fox



## 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 14<sup>th</sup> : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Friday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>: 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

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### 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.



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



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

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.

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If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a monthly Vestry meeting via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to [vestryclerk@aecst.org](mailto:vestryclerk@aecst.org) at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.

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## **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.

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

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH PRESENTS

# St. Thomas Gospel Choir



*In Concert*

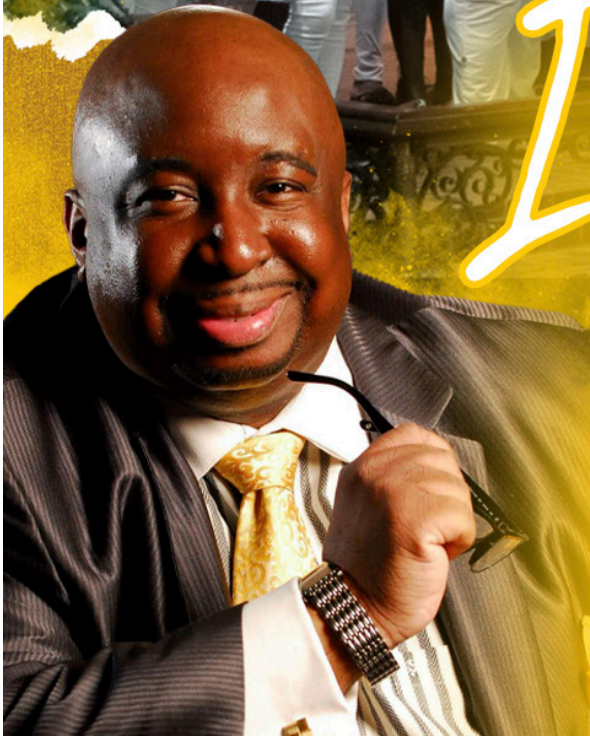
*Under the direction of Walt Blocker*

**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](mailto:luyes@icloud.com)

Deborah Matthews  
[debmadanco@verizon.net](mailto: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 - 17<sup>th</sup> 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)*

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Columbarium are in loving memory of **William and Geneva Thompson** for their birthdays, given by Calvin Thompson.

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### Readings for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023

The First Lesson: [Exodus 14:19-31](#)

[Psalm 114](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 14:1-12](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of September 18, 2023

Monday - [John 11:55-12:8](#)

Tuesday - [John 12:9-19](#)

Wednesday - [John 12:20-26](#)

Thursday - [John 12:27-36a](#)

Friday - [John 12:36b-43](#)

Saturday - [John 12:44-50](#)







**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.

**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.



Bible Study with Fr. Jay resumes on Tuesday evening,  
**September 19th, 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**



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

**IN REHAB:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House.

**HOSPITALIZED:** Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital.

**RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Rosalind Rodriquez, 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, Lisa Woodley, Fr.Darryl James,  
Joe Stevenson, Linda Holmes.

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**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.**

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

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## CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).

## **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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## **THE VESTRY**

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Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye  
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Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Brenda Johnson Best  
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

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS** is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom. St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.