

*Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with  
Joyful Songs...*  
*Psalm 100:2*



**AECST**  
FOUNDED 1792

**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 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 18, 2024**

**“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 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost.**

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. Whoever 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. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,+  
*Martini Shaw*

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

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Please click here  
for the [Order of Service](#).



## RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST

**Replacement of Air Conditioning units - \$100,000.00.** Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating towards

the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

The rector is on holiday. If you need pastoral guidance please contact [Father Daren](#).

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**In July and August, the  
Parish Administrative Offices and Church  
hours are Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

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## SUMMER GIVING

PLEASE remember to maintain your weekly/monthly giving during the summer months when traveling and on vacation.

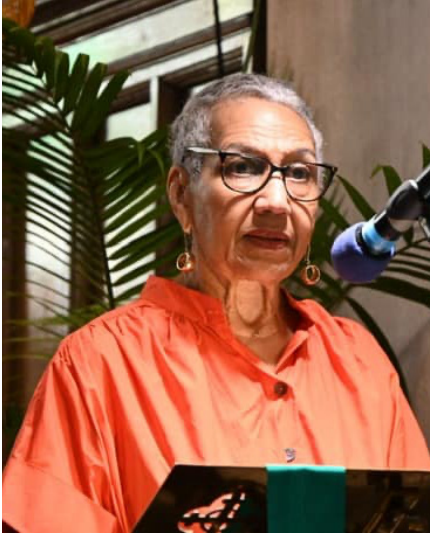


**CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS**  
for Kelvin Johnson and family on the  
death of his mother,  
**Martha B. Johnson.**  
May the soul of Martha rest in peace  
and rise in eternal glory. Amen

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**THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**August 11, 2024**





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



## **SUMMER INTERACTIVE HOMILY SERIES “Living the Gospel Today Through Service and Song”**

The series will be led by the clergy, seminarian  
and Ministers of Music of St. Thomas.

Stay tuned for more details.

# WELCOME

## WELCOME AND GROWTH!!!

We are very pleased to welcome into our church family Germirah Dailey. Her shepherd will be Wendella Fox. Germirah, we are looking forward to getting to know you.



## **ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY**

Our annual celebration at the start of the new school year will be held on **Sunday, September 8, 2024.**

This year's theme is "Education Concepts in a Digital World" and our very own **Kimberly A. Lloyd** will be the speaker! She is the current President of Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and former Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Lincoln University.

**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 bulletin on **September 8, 2024.**

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 to [Cynthia Muse](#)

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### **ATTENTION: ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN**

During the summer months (**July and August**), there will be a reserved area in the front of the church for our children to gather. There will be fun things for the children to enjoy during the Service. There will be a reserved area for parents nearby. Please speak with [Fr. Daren](#) for more specific details.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

# EDUCATION SUNDAY

"EDUCATION CONCEPTS  
IN A DIGITAL WORLD"

ANNUAL  
BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.



**Keynote Speaker:**  
St Thomas' very own  
**KIMBERLY A. LLOYD**  
President

Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

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AECST  
FOUNDED 1792



# Homecoming Sunday

# 2024

"Celebrating 232 Years  
of relevant and vibrant ministry"

**All onboard the AECST EXPRESS!!!**

**September 15, 2024 - 10:00 AM**  
(Reception to follow Service)

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

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## CHAT AND CHEW

Have you ever considered hosting a Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew) following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received, or in memory of a departed loved one?

Please contact [Gladyce](#) for further details.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, September 8th** - Back to School / Education Sunday Blessing of Church School staff and students

**Saturday, September 14th** - St. Thomas Homecoming Celebration Weekend - A Musical Tribute to Marian Anderson

Join us as we present a tribute concert of Brahms Schubert and Negro Spirituals dedicated to Marian Anderson, featuring the Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, led by our own Dr. Jay Fluellen. The concert will begin at **3:00 PM** at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Avenue. Admission is \$40.00.

**Sunday, September 15th** - All Aboard the AECST Express Homecoming Sunday Celebration - 10:00 AM "Celebrating 232 Years of **Relevant** and **Vibrant Ministry!**" Bring your family, friends and neighbors to this exciting celebration. A reception will follow the service.

**Sunday, September 22nd** - Youth and Young Adult Sunday

**Sunday, September 29th** - Health Ministry Sunday

# Singsation

A Musical Tribute To Marian Anderson

Presented by The Marian Anderson Museum



JOIN US AS WE PRESENT A TRIBUTE CONCERT OF BRAHMS SCHUBERT AND NEGRO SPIRITUALS DEDICATED TO MARIAN ANDERSON. FEATURING THE MARIAN ANDERSON SCHOLAR ARTISTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAHS MUSIC DIRECTOR DR. JAY FLUELLEN

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2024

LOCATION: AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS  
6361 LANCASTER AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151

3PM

FEATURING

CONCERT TICKET ADMISSION: \$40.00



LAURICE S KENNEL  
SOPRANO



JILLIAN PIRTLE  
SOPRANO



LILY KASS  
SOPRANO



DR. JAY FLUELLEN  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR



TERRANCE HART  
TENOR



MARCUS SIMMONS  
BASS



BRENTON MATTOX  
BASS

FOR TICKETS PLEASE VISIT THE LINK : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/singsation-a-musical-tribute-to-marian-anderson-presented-by-the-marian-anderson-museum-tickets-942985824987?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

OR CALL OUR OFFICE @ 215-779-4219





## **CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE**

**Are you registered to vote? Did you change your name, your address, or your political party?** If you have answered yes to any of these questions, you **MUST** re-register to vote.

Pennsylvanians, New Jerseyans, and Delawareans you can request a mail-in ballot for the November 5, 2024, General Election even if you will be in town. However, you must act now and adhere to the deadlines for your state. Check out one of the sites below and follow the directions to request mail-in and absentee ballots:

PA residents -- [www.vote.pa.gov](http://www.vote.pa.gov)

NJ residents -- [www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml)

DE residents -- <https://elections.delaware.gov>

**VOTE – It is your Superpower!!**

## 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](#).



## **EXCITING NEWS!!! SPREAD IT!!!**

Our new and exciting Family Podcast Series is ALIVE!!  
Two series are now available for your listening enjoyment.

#1 - Fr. Daren introduces the Series with Fr. Shaw as his guest. "Creating a Culture of Conversation". The podcast can be found using this [link](#)

#2 - Fr. Daren welcomes Pamela Johnson as his guest. "Body Image: Good Enough for Jesus". The podcast can be found using this [link](#).



## **CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Are you willing to serve for at least one Sunday per month as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please speak with [Fr. Daren](#) ASAP if you are interested.

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

**ANY** and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (i.e., 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.

**ST. THOMAS YOUTH AND FAMILY FUN DAY**  
**September 21, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

Calling all Youth, Teens, Families, and those Young at Heart...

You are welcome to join us on Fun Day! Fun,  
Fellowship, and Food

2 bounce houses & slide, jump rope workshop, corn hole,  
arts & crafts, games, storytime for the little ones.

Learn to bake yummy cookies outdoors. Try your hand  
at different sports, food, learn about all the Youth & Teen  
groups and much more.

Want to volunteer? Need more information??

Contact [Nikki Simms](#) or [Pam Johnson](#)

All are welcome!

Invite a friend to come and join us!! It will be fun!!

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**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Flowers on the High Altar are in Loving Memory of  
**Harry and Jacqueline Starr**, given by Lynn Starr.

Flowers on the High Altar are in Thanksgiving for the  
**Birthday of Karen Leys** given by Karen Leys.

To order flowers for the High Altar, Absalom Jones Altar, or  
Columbarium, please use this [link](#).



## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### READINGS FOR

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 18, 2024**

The First Lesson - [Proverbs 9:1-6](#)

[Psalm 34:9-14](#)

The Second Lesson - [Ephesians 5:10-20](#)

The Holy Gospel - [John 6:51-58](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the**

**Week of August 19, 2024**

Monday - [Mark 11:12-26](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 11:27-12:12](#)

Wednesday - [Mark 12:13-27](#)

Thursday - [Mark 12:28-34](#)

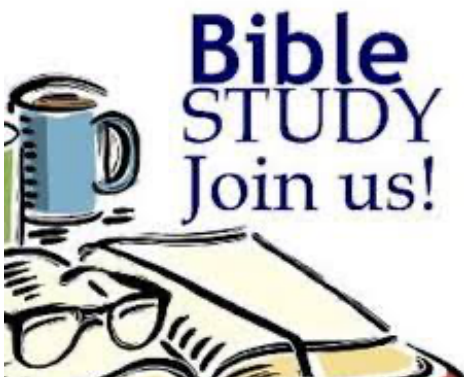
Friday - [Mark 12:35-44](#)

Saturday - [Mark 13:1-13-](#)



### **The Adult Bible Study Group Meetings**

resume on Tuesday, September 10th  
at 7:00 PM via Zoom. New members  
are invited to join our weekly meetings  
and can contact [Fr. Jay](#)



# Looking for a nice quiet getaway? Come to Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey

## GFS PA HOLIDAY HOUSE

OPENING FOR THE 2024 SEASON! JUNE 1ST- SEPTEMBER 30TH

### 2024 Season Donation Rates

\$125/night: single occupancy

\$225/night: double occupancy

\$250/night: triple occupancy

\*Family and Group rates available

No meals \$90/night: single occupancy. Must be indicated at the time of reservation.

JUNE/SEPT Bed and Breakfast Rate \$100/night: single



[Ask for details about our SPECIALS! \\$250/person \(Children 12 and under ½ price.\)](#)

Out of School- Two weeks!

- Mon., 6/17- Fri., 6/21
- Mon., 6/24- Fri., 6/28

- [4th of July Special-](#) Choose Mon., 7/1- Fri., 7/5  
OR Wed., 7/3 - Sun., 7/7
- [Labor Day Weekend](#) Fri., 8/30- Mon., 9/2

For reservations e-mail [gfsholiday@yahoo.com](mailto:gfsholiday@yahoo.com) or call \*609-846-6097 \*New phone number!

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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 10:00 AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).

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

**IN THE HOSPITAL**

Leotta Griffith- Lankenau

**IN REHAB:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Fr. Darryl James - Stapley Rehab; Leotta Griffith, Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - St. Francis Rehab

**AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ola Bass; Ronald Coleman, Shirley Winkfield, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Terry Corson, Barbara Douglas, Verger Stephen Hannum, Wendell Whitlock, Cornelia Camp, Kenneth Dow, Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Waltier Blocker, Adinah Edwards, Carl Dean, Patricia Holmes, Loretta Ferguson, Sandra Bryant Miller, Ann Stewart

**WE PRAY FOR**

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



## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

## **YOUNG ADULT GATHERING**

All young adults (those in their 20's and 30's) are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

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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.

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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.](#)

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

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program meets at 3:00 PM on Saturdays. Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

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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](#).

## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

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

**The Building Fund Envelopes** have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. If you've already picked your offering envelopes up, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering [online](#). Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month.

Thank you.

**IMPORTANT:** Please make sure your name, number, and amount are placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) Judy Tillman. We appreciate your help with this.

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 would bring their envelopes to them. Thank you.

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

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

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, (Absalom Jones Way).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 download the Givi app, (**givi IOS App**) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (**givi Android App**) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours ( Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM) **After business hours**, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**  
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your online giving information.)
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**.  
Thank you so much to all who have return them.



## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
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 Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administor	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tigattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photogrphy Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director		
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry		
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

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## VESTRY OFFICERS

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, iii Esq.  
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William Burke

## THE VESTRY

Deadra Cannon	Wendella Fox	Marie B. Golson
Deborah Harrison	D. Lynn Joell	Kelvin Johnson
Pamela Johnson	Patricia Lynch	Judith Simkins-Booth

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. 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.