

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 Historic African Episcopal Church Of

## St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA, 19151 (215) 473-3065

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw The 17th Rector

> The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans Associate to the Rector

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR:

This is a reminder that the Mass ends following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from leaving the Service before the conclusion. This request is being made in order to respect others gathered for worship.

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Please click on the link provided for the **Order of Service** for this Sunday.

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 22, 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 the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Youth and Young Adult Sunday,
Church School Christmas Presentation

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 USA. 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

# THE CHRIST-MASS

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 7:00 PM
Festive Music and Dance;
Inspiring preaching;
Distribution of Holy Communion.

Hot Cider served following service



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Join us this **Sunday, December 22, 2024** as our church school students present their annual message of Christmas during the 10:00 AM Mass.

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#### THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!

Please join us for Christmas Eve service. Invite family, friends, and arrive early to secure preferred seating.

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## IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR:

Please help us end the year without a deficit by completing your 2024 financial pledge by **December 31, 2024**. If you are unsure of your balance, please contact Jeannette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office Monday-Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

#### **IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP NEWS - From the Rector**

Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2025 Faithful Giving toward the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas.

Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither (10% of one's earnings).

Are you working toward that spiritual goal? A chart to assist with Faithful Giving may be found <a href="here.">here.</a>

The Faithful Giving Form may be found using the following <a href="link">link</a> or when you come to church on Sunday please place your Faithful Giving card on the Altar of God.

Thank you to the individuals who have submitted their 2025 Faithful Giving cards. The list of names may be found <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a>

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# Please assist the Vestry

in planning and providing for making the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the best it can be in response to your Christian journey, by completing this **questionnaire** by **January 12th**. You can respond online or use a paper questionnaire provided on a table at the back of the church. (We love online responses!)

# A CALL TO LEADERSHIP Share your leadership ability.

Nominations for Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry Positions,
Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery, Delegates, and an
alternate delegate to the 2025 Diocesan Convention will
be accepted from January 12, 2025, until January 19, 2025.
Election information can be found <a href="here">here</a> and nomination
information may be found <a href="here">here</a>.

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This Sunday, December 22, 2024, **Edita Gauthney** and **Michele Green** will be installed as Co-Chairs of the St. Thomas Visitor's Ministry.

If you are interested in being a part of this important and rewarding ministry, please speak with either of them.

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Happy Holidays from the Clergy and Staff of St. Thomas.

May God Bless you and yours.







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# The Tree of Life Prison Ministry (TOLPM)

would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the wonderful congregants of the best church in the country who chose Angels, gave donations, and just supported our Ministry. We would also like to THANK the following: Fr. Shaw, Fr. Daren,

Gail "Webmaster" Harris, Gladyce DuBrey, LaDon Elliott, David McGilberry, The Lovely Girls Friendly Society, Fleta Howell, Robin Vann-Lynch, Irving Stevenson, Arlene Gray, Simone Jeffers, Alonda Lord, Germirah Dailey. Special Thanks to: Our wonderful "MC" Stacey McCoy-Ndiaye, Candice Hall for the creative Candy Land display, and Bobby Tillman the Best Storyteller ever! And Jenelle Wilson-Johnson, that Girl Sang!

Love and God bless, Ricardo Bostic and Cathy Stafford/ TOLPM Co-Chairs





More pictures may be found on our <u>Facebook page.</u>



Condolences to the family of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden.

His service will be held on Friday, December 27th, with a Fraternity ceremony from 9:00 to 10:00 AM followed by visitation and refreshments from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

The Requiem Mass will be held at 11:00 AM. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.

We are saddened to announce the death of **Deborah "Binky" Seay**.

Her memorial service will be held at St. Thomas on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Please pray for the family. May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.



We welcome, **Jillian Theorgood**, who joined our church family last Sunday. Her shepherd is Judy Simkins Booth. We look forward to getting to know her.

We welcome **Karen David**, who joined our church family last Sunday. Her shepherd is Deborah Matthews.

We look forward to getting to know her.

We welcome **Mercy Natt**, who joined our church family last Sunday. Her shepherd is Judy Tillman.

We look forward to getting to know her.





On Tuesday, December 17th, the mail team put the final and finishing touches on the Christmas mailing.



# The Third Sunday of Advent Rose Sunday/Gaudete Sunday December 15, 2024



# Clergy, Vestry, and Staff Annual Holiday Dinner. A wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and caroling.





More pictures may be found on our Facebook page.

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# WHERE IS THE ST. THOMAS MUSIC MINISTRY? GOSPEL CHOIR

The Gospel Choir will be featured on "The Sounds of the Season Christmas Special" on CBS 3, along with the Philadelphia Boys Choir, and the Philadelphia Girls Choir. The special can be seen on Christmas Eve (9:00 AM) and Christmas Day (6:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM)

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"The New Members Manual" has finally arrived!

Please use the **link** to access it.

#### THIS WEEK AT AECST

# Monday, December 23rd

Church and Parish Offices open 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

# **Tuesday, December 24th**

Christmas Eve Festive Service - 7:00 PM
Parish Office closed at noon

# Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day
Church and Parish offices closed

# Thursday, December 26th

Church and Parish offices closed

# Friday, December 27th

Funeral of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden 9:00 - 10:00 AM Fraternity Ceremony 10:00 - 11:00 AM Visitation and Refreshments 11:00 AM - Requiem Mass

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

#### **December 29th**

First Sunday of Christmas Health Ministry Sunday

# **January 5th**

Eve of the Feast of the Epiphany Congregational Toast to the New Year - 2025

# **January 12th**

The Baptism of our Lord

## January 19th

Observance and Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

# **January 26th**

Welcome and Fellowship to new members of 2024
Girls Friendly Induction with a Chat & Chew
following service



# An Advent Theological Series "Re-imagining Advent: Journeying with the Prophets." Facilitated by David King

Join facilitator David King, as we explore the season of Advent as both a past and present reality for the church, applying the prophetic texts of the liturgical season to the present day.

The prophets spoke in the past about God's reign, but what do they have to say to us today? Using the prophets as our guides, we will re-engage Advent in all its political, social, and theological importance.

The series will be part lecture, part discussion so that folks can listen and engage with the material themselves. Each session will be immediately after service in the nave of the church for 1 hour.

Sunday, December 22nd - Advent 4: Micah



## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Flowers on the High Altar -\$60.00 Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00 each Flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.00 each

To order flowers for the High Altar, Absalom Jones Altar, or Columbarium, please use this <u>link</u>.

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#### **CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!**

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The "Angels in Motion" dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, Pamela Johnson.

#### **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. 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 <a href="Bill">Bill</a> 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 <u>link.</u>

#2 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Pamela Johnson** as his guest. "Body Image: Good Enough for Jesus". The podcast can be found using this <u>link</u>.

#3 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Tynecia Wilson** as his guest. Conversation: "The Adultification of Black Girls". The podcast can be found using this **link**:





## **CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Are you willing to serve, 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 <a href="Fr. Daren">Fr. Daren</a> ASAP if you are interested.



At St. Thomas, we embrace and celebrate our youth. If you have children in your family or neighborhood, please invite or bring them to be a part of our amazing Church School program. When was the last time you invited someone to church?



Church School begins at 10:00 AM on Sundays in the Undercroft. Please see Church School Superintendent Tynecia Wilson for details.



## **ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES**

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with Fr. Daren.

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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.

#### DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

# READINGS FOR the Fourth Sunday of Advent -December 22, 2024

The First Lesson-Micah 5:2-5

Canticle 15 (Luke 1:45-55)

The Second Lesson-Hebrews 10:5-10

The Holy Gospel- Luke 1:39-55

# The Gospel Readings for the Week of December 23, 2024

Monday-<u>Luke 1:1-25</u>
Tuesday-Christmas Eve-<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>
Wednesday-Christmas Day-<u>Luke 1:26-38</u>
Thursday-<u>Luke 1:39-48</u>
Friday-<u>Luke 1:57-66</u>
Saturday-<u>Luke 1:67-80</u>

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#### **AECST LIVE STREAM**

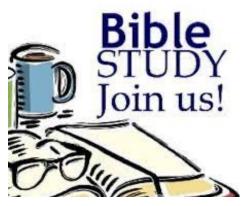
Please join us for worship on the <u>St. Thomas website</u>, the <u>Live Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>Youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch <u>Past</u> <u>Services</u>.



## **VERGERS NEEDED!**

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?
Want to know more about what a Verger does?
The Verger Guide may be found <a href="here">here</a>
Please speak with Karen Ragland or the Rector for more details.

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The Adult Bible Study Group will be on CHRISTMAS BREAK on Tuesday, December 24 and 31, 2024. We will resume on January 7, 2025, at 7 pm via Zoom. Please contact Fr. Jay with questions/requests.

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

#### IN THE HOSPITAL:

Kenneth Dow, Alletta Parris-Olday - Presbyterian; Carole Williams Green- PA Hospital; Arlene Gray-Lankenau

#### IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Leotta Griffith, Linda Holmes, Virginia DuBrey - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford-Arden Courts of Cherry Hil; Inez Turner - The Residence; Veger Stephen Hannum - St. Francis Rehab

#### AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Ola Bass, Ronald Coleman, Shirley Winkfield, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Terry Corson, Barbara Douglas, Wendell Whitlock, Yvonne Syndor, Rene Hayes

## **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Adinah Edwards, Carl Dean, Patricia Holmes, Ann Stewart, Sandra Bryant Miller, Autumn Simmons, Donald Hunt, Jr.

## **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 <a href="#">Fr. Daren</a> 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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#### **GIRLS FRIENDLY**

Girls Friendly will begin on **Saturday, October 5th**. Please contact **Nikkol Simms** for more information.

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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.

# **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 <u>Master Howard Chapman</u> for more information.

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# **Our Wednesday in-person Bible Study**

is on break for the Christmas holidays. We will resume on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**, in the AJ House at 6:00 PM. Our Spring study will be a journey through the Book of Revelation.

# HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?

"To whom much is given, much is required." -Luke 12:48

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways, your time, your talent or your treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasures. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all of the special requests below.

# **FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)**

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2024 and 2025. You'll be able to complete your <u>Faithful Giving Card</u> on the <u>church website</u>, or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

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.

#### CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select "Building Fund." If using checks write "Building Fund" on the memo line of your check.

#### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The church has received many "undeliverable" mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by **email** or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shutin parishioners? 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. A list of our sick and shutin parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

IMPORTANT: Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact Judy Tillman.

#### **RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST**

\$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 toward the replacement and use the <u>link</u> provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



# 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** website or send an email to our **Fiscal Administrator**.

Thank you so much to all who have return them.

#### MINISTRY STAFF

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	6	1700
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
B : 1 W 1	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
Charles Charles	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry	Quantin Hayayard	recorded video @ a cest or =
Videography Ministry Voices of Comfort	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leanie po 302@gmail.com

#### **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

**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-determanation, 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.