



ST. THOMAS KICKS OFF
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH
CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025
AT 10:00 AM

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 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 2, 2025

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



“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 after the Epiphany, the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, and our Annual Black History Kick-Off.**

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, it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. 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

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



The Episcopal Church



2d · 

Washington National Cathedral will host the ceremonial seating of the Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, the 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, during its Feb. 2 Eucharist service. The 11:15 a.m. ET service will be livestreamed on the cathedral's channels.



episcopalchurch.org

Seating of Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe to be livestreamed Feb. 2



BIG NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

Join us SUPERBOWL SUNDAY morning as we celebrate
the Feast of Absalom Jones!

The “MOTHER CHURCH” (founded by Blessed Absalom Jones)
prepares to welcome the new Presiding Bishop and
Primate of The Episcopal Church
to the City of Philadelphia.

Wear your Eagles gear or something green.

SPREAD THE NEWS & JOIN US!!!



LET'S FLY

BIG NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

The “MOTHER CHURCH” (founded by Blessed Absalom
Jones) prepares to welcome the new Presiding Bishop
and Primate of The Episcopal Church to the city of
Philadelphia. SPREAD THE NEWS & JOIN US!!!





(Photo: Former Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry presents the primatial cross to new Presiding Bishop and Prelate)



From the Desk of the Rector!

We offer our deep gratitude to Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, D.C. for her prophetic and powerful sermon at the recent Inaugural Interfaith Prayer Service hosted by the Washington National Cathedral.

Our continued prayers of grace and protection for Bishop Budde, her family and for the unity of our nation are lifted.



*We're
Celebrating...*

**THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES
Sunday, February 9, 2025; 10:00 AM**

**Please join us in welcoming the new
Presiding Bishop and Primate of
The Episcopal Church
THE MOST REVEREND SEAN W. ROWE**

**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION:
Christ Church, Philadelphia • St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia
Church Farm School, Exton
Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys (Washington, D.C.)
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge**

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
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OUR OUT OF TOWN DEDICATED FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms: Constance Anderson, Dr. Paul Bach, and Dr. Julie Hergerather, Christopher Burks, Deadra Cannon, Nora Corbin, Dr. Ted Corbin, Lee Daniels, Rashid and Christie Faisal, The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, Bradley Hammond, Richard and Gwenda Hart, Dr. Calvin Johnson, Bettie Jones, Rae Scott Jones, Richard Jones, Jr., Dr. Sheila Jones, Steven and Jameela Lewis, Gregory Lyles, Dr. John Rich, Richard and Rebecca Scales, Shelly and Ann Stewart, Howard Tucker, and Allison Young.



Sponsors are needed to cover the donkey rental for Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. Donations can be made in thanksgiving for a blessing or in memory of a loved one.

The cost of the donkey is \$1550.00

Please contact [Gladyce DuBrey](#) in the [church office](#) to make a donation.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Brenda Battle, Diane Winkfield, and family on the death of their mother, **Shirley Winkfield**. Her service will be at St. Thomas on **Thursday, February 6, 2025**. Viewing at 10:00 AM. Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Shirley rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Solomon and Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper on the death of Solomon's brother, **Henry Cropper**. May the soul of Henry rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



Our prayers for the families and loved ones of the 67 persons killed during the midair plane and helicopter collision in Washington D.C. May the souls of those killed rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Amen.



FEBRUARY IS HEALTHY HEART MONTH

JOIN

**The African Episcopal Church
of St. Thomas**

HEALTH MINISTRY

AND

THE LANKENAU MEDICAL CENTER

Thursday, February 6, 2025 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**for An Interactive Zoom Panel Discussion
to raise awareness about the risks of heart disease,
the importance of identifying, and managing
heart-related health conditions.**



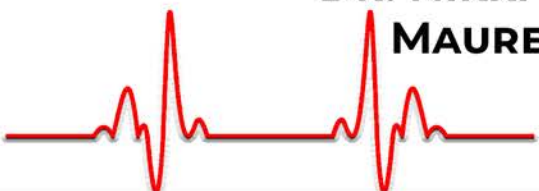
**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART.
RAISE YOUR VOICE.
PROTECT YOUR HEALTH.**

PARTICIPANTS:

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW
DR. NIKKI FRANKE | DR. MICHAEL MCINTOSH
MAUREEN W. KROUSE, MPH, MCHES**

ZOOM LINK:

<https://temple.zoom.us/j/94239590060>



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A RECTOR'S REQUEST FOR DONORS

Our beautiful three banners hanging outside the church are in desperate need of replacement. Are you interested in being one of the donors? The cost for each is \$750.00.

Please contact [Gladyce DuBrey](#) in the [church office](#) to make a donation.

Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector about special upcoming events? Do you know someone who does not receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](#).

The St. Thomas Chapter of The Order of The Daughters of the King

invites interested women to a Chat and Chew
Information Session

Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM

in the Absalom Jones House. If you plan to
attend, please RSVP to [Sharon Bullock](#)
by **February 10, 2025**

Expression of Gratitude!

Dear Church family,

Thank you for the prayers, hugs,
cards, gifts, and love afforded me
as I mourned the passing
of my best friend, the Honorable
Charles H. Cuffeld,
the love of my life. Ronnie Collins

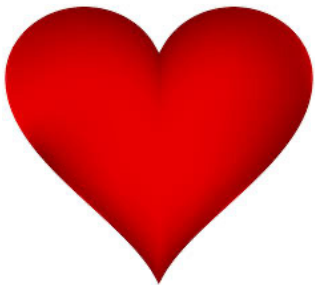


**ATTENTION ALL GUILDS/ORGANIZATIONS
AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

The Parish Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 16, 2025** following 10:00 AM service.

End-of-the-year reports for the Annual Parish meeting must be submitted **no later than February 10, 2025**. Your 2024 reports should be one (1) page to include 2024 objectives and activities and 2025 objectives and planned activities. You may include additional information that you would like to share. Please attach your report via email to [Gladyce](#).

During the Annual Meeting, elections will take place for Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery, Delegates, and an alternate delegate to the 2025 Diocesan Convention positions. You may find the candidate profiles [here](#).



Chosen 300

**“Have a Heart” for the homeless, sheltered,
underserved**

Our 2025 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will begin in “Heart Month” on Sunday, February 2nd.

The funds will provide meals to be served at Chosen 300 sites.

Checks should be made payable to: **AECST Chosen 300**:
Put Chosen 300 and your envelope number on the memo line.

Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church
6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151
Attention: Chosen 300

Place your check in the collections plate.

Donate online at: www.aecst.org select donations Chosen 300

Questions: scmci@aol.com

**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Youth and Young Adult Sunday
Installation of new members to the
Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) St. Thomas Branch
Sunday, January 26, 2025**







Photos credit: Stephen Pugh
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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

2024 New Members!!!!

We give thanks to God for the FORTY new members who joined our church family in 2024. To God be the glory!!!!



Photos: Stephen Pugh
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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

New Member

Cadega Alexander
Thelma Anazan
Jabriyah Brown-Williams
 Daughter - **Zuri Gunby**
Nyszha Brown
Germirah Dailey
Karen Davis
Sukona Davis
 Daughter - **Sakiyah**
Andre Dumetz
Renard Golden
Dr. Derek Griffith
Gayle Johns-Carter
Bobbi Jones
Tammara Lewis
 Son- **Braxton**
Alonda Lord
Alliyah Maxwell
 Daughter -**Allayah**
Comfort Migan
Karl Migan
 Children - **Michael and Nathaniel**
Stacey McCoy-Ndiage
Dr. Jermaine McDonald
Mercy Natt
Audra Noel
Wendy Puryear
Raqual Redd
Tina Soumahoro
Jillian Theorgood
Sarah Snow Thomas
Kellen Thomas
 Daughter - **Naomi Christine Thomas**
Stephanie Watkins
Rev. Joseph Watkins
Kadeja Wexler
 Sons- **August and Leo**

Shepherd

D. Lynn Joell
Conchetta Brewer
Wendella Fox

Conchetta Brewer
Deborah Matthews
Deborah Matthews
Wendella Fox

William Burke, Jr.
Bobby Tillman
Richard Jones
Clare Mae Daniels/Gail Harris
Patricia Akins
Deborah Harrison

Clare Mae Daniels
Marie Golson

Brenda Johnson Best
Kelvin Johnson

Elaine Gillison
Richard Jones
Judy Tillman
Mary Dean
Deborah Matthews
Patricia Akins
Maruie Golson
Judy Simkins-Booth
Judy Simkins-Booth
Bobby Tillman

Deborah Camp-Frye
Richard Jones

"The New Members Manual" has finally arrived!
Please use the [link](#) to access it.

Movie Premiere **AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND**

Upcoming premieres in LA, Philly, NYC and coming to a city near you: “Ain’t No Back to a Merry-Go-Round”, the new film by Emmy-award winner Ilana Trachtman (Praying with Lior, Mariachi High, Black in Latin America) recounts a forgotten watershed moment in Civil Rights Movement history: the first time Black students and an organized white community, largely Jewish, joined forces to protest segregation. At our painfully divided moment, this hopeful film offers an opportunity to explore social justice activism, the powerful promise of partnership, and the potential each of us has to provoke change. “Ain’t No Back” received Best Documentary Feature at the DC.

Black Film Festival, the Audience Award at the Boston Jewish Film Festival, and has been selling out screenings around the country. Filmmaker Ilana Trachtman will attend for talkbacks in Los Angeles on 1/19, NYC on 1/29, and **Philadelphia on 2/6**, and the film has upcoming screenings in Hartford, New Orleans, Mobile, Florissant, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Boca Raton, Albuquerque, and Portland too. Thank you for spreading the word to your friends, colleagues, and organization and/or bringing the film to your community. Contact Phyllis Cater for more informaton.

Music from the Heart

A Concert to Benefit Music Education *Love* February 16, 2025

featuring



The Philadelphia Boys Choir
and Chorale
Jeff Smith, Artistic Director
& Conductor



Minister Eryka Waller & The
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
Dance Ministry



Evelyn Simpson Curenton
Concert Organist



Professor Randy Gibson
Concert Pianist
Gibson School of Music & Arts



Lincoln University
Concert Choir,
Dr. Lloyd Mallory, Director



Philadelphia
Community Mass Choir
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Director



Enon Tabernacle Baptist
Church Mass Choir-
Dr. Cassandra Jones,
Directress



Community Symphonic Orchestra
Jerome H. Lang, Conductor



2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Marian Anderson Hall
The Kimmel Center
300 South Broad St.
(215) 731-3333**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS

<https://www.ensembleartsphilly.org/rent-our-spaces/special-events-and-performances/music-of-the-heart>

OR



Scan me!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY**

February 9th

Celebration of the Life and Ministry of the
Rev. Absalom Jones

The Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe will be in attendance. Wear your Eagles gear or something green. Girls' Friendly Souper Bowl of Caring final donation day after service in Anderson Hall

February 16th

Daughters of the King informational Chat and Chew
9:00 AM in the Absalom Jones House

Celebrating our Ministries
Parish Annual Meeting after service

February 23rd

Scout Sunday/
Youth and Young Adult Sunday/Scout Sunday
HBCU Sunday

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](#).

THIS WEEK AT AECST - FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Monday, February 3rd

Meeting of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
6:00 - 9:00 PM in Anderson Hall

Tuesday, February 4th

Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

Pilgrims On a Journey Adult Bible Study
with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 5th

Bible Study with Fr. Daren
6:00 PM in the A.J. House

Angels in Motion rehearsal
6:00 PM in the Church

St. Thomas Gospel Choir rehearsal
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Thursday, February 6th

Funeral for Shirley Winkfield
Viewing 10:00 AM, Requiem Mass - 11:00 AM

Community Mass Choir Rehearsal
4:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church

St. Thomas Health Ministry and Lankenau Medical
Center hosts a zoom panel discussion about heart disease
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, February 8th

Girls' Friendly Society
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

SAVE THE DATE!



**The Mardi Gras Brunch
Sunday, March 2, 2025**

“Good Food, Music, Silent Auction,
Sports Memorabilia, and Fun”

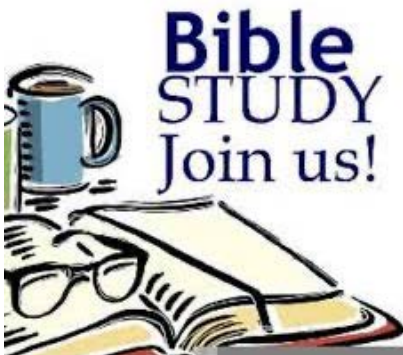
Tickets are available for purchase on 2/9, 2/16, and 2/23
Adults \$25, Youth \$10 (12 & under), Children free (under 5).

For more information contact [Paula Lamb](#),
[Thomasina Hack](#), or any member of the
JFA Scholarship Committee.

Join Dr. Jay Fluellen on **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, at 3:00 PM for a recital featuring students from the voice studio of our new member Renard Golden. The program begins at 3:00 PM. It will be in the church. The Chancel Choir will be sponsoring this event. It will be a free-will offering.

Dr. Jay Fluellen presents the **Marian Anderson Museum Reopening Gala Celebration**, on **Sunday, March 2, 2025** at **4:00 PM**, in The Crystal Tea Ballroom, Wanamaker Building. Individual tickets for the Gala are \$150 and tables are \$1,500. Tickets can be purchased through the website.

Tickets can also be purchased after church, from Dr. Jay on 2/2/2025, 2/9/2025, and 2/16/2025. All proceeds go to helping us maintain the National Marian Anderson House.



Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study

with Fr. Jay meets on Tuesdays at
7:00 PM via Zoom.

Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with
questions/requests.

*THE GOLDEN VOICE STUDIO
PRESENTS:*

STUDENT RECITAL

*SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22ND, 2025
3:00 PM*

*THE HISTORIC
AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS*

*6361 LANCASTER AVE,
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151*

FEATURING THE WORKS OF

BURLEIGH

BONDS

JOHNSON

PRICE



Spirituals! Spirituals! Spirituals!

with **Dr. James Abbington**

Saturday, March 22, 2025

9:30AM-12:45PM

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19151



GIA invites all ages, denominations, and levels of experience to join us as we sing songs of faith and explore the profound history of American sacred music.

Registration Fee includes:

- Participation in an inspiring musical event led by Dr. James Abbington
- Experience the excitement of singing in a large group of enthusiastic people
- You and your choir directors will be exposed a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the traditional, "second generation" spiritual, and some of the most recent arrangements
- Including the covers to "Trying to Get Ready" arr. Clayton White, "Spirits That Dwell in Deep Woods" by Wyatt Tee Walker, and eight selected spirituals

Registration Options:

Preregistration

- \$25.00/person, early registration
- Early registration closes on March 21
- Late registrations are \$30.00/person

Group Preregistration

- \$20.00/person for groups of 10 or more
- Early registration closes on March 14th

Walk-in

- \$30.00/person
- **Does NOT guarantee** an octavo packet

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://giamusic.com/earthandheavensing> or call 1-800-442-1358



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](#).



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 [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or
the Rector for more details.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar are in thanksgiving for the 6th birthday of Addison and Axel Trotman, given by Auntie Jenelle, Uncle Gerald, Grandma Louise, and Grandpa Arnott.

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 [link](#).

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](#) in the church office for further details.



The last day for the GFS “Souper Bowl of Caring” is **Sunday, February 9th** after service. Donations and item collection will be after service in Anderson Hall. **GFS Motto:**

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

GFS Promise

As a GFS Member, I promise...

To share God’s love for all people,

To worship and serve faithfully,

To make my words true, and my actions right,

To grow strong in mind, body, and spirit,

To make the world a better place to live.

Girls Friendly Souper Bowl of Hunger

GFS is hosting Chat and Chew on January 26th after church on GFS Sunday. We will be collecting items for Media Food Bank for Souper Bowl of Caring. Items can also be put in our bin in the Undercroft until Feb. 9th. Soups will be on sale \$10 a quart made by our GFS families with proceeds going to Media Food Bank as well. Stop on by to grab a snack, learn more about GFS Worldwide, Holiday House and to welcome our newest members.

A message from Dakota Mosley-GFS St. Thomas Member

The Girls' Friendly Society is proud to support the work of Tackle Hunger and their annual Super Bowl of Caring event. If 213 million people watch the game, think about how much money we could give if each person donated one dollar to a food bank. The Media Food Bank is helping tons of people who can't afford food. That's why GFS is helping collect food until February 9th. Tackle Hunger to tackle the game!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Media Food Bank @ First Church
Donations Accepted Daily from
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
350 W. State Street Media, PA 19063
Entrance on Baker Street

01

BABY ITEMS

- Baby Food
- Diapers
- Pull Ups
- Wipes

02

BEVERAGES

- Coffee
- Tea
- Juice/Juice Boxes
- Hot Chocolate

03

PANTRY STAPLES

- Broth
- Cooking oil
- Vinegar
- Sugar/Flour

04

CANNED GOODS

- Canned Fish
- Canned Meat
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit

05

CONDIMENTS

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayo
- Salad Dressing

06

SNACKS AND BREAKFAST

- Crackers/Chips
- Cookies
- Cereal
- Shelf-Stable Milk

07

PERSONAL CARE

- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

08

HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent

09

PET SUPPLIES

- Dog Food (Wet or Dry)
- Cat Food (Wet or Dry)



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 [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](#).



St. Thomas Podcast

Stay tuned! Our podcast will soon return. In the meantime, please enjoy the three previous episodes. If you would like to be a guest on any of the podcasts, please speak with Fr. Daren or [email](#) him for more information.



ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with Fr. Daren meets in the AJ House at 6:00 PM.
Our Spring study will be a journey through
the Book of Revelation.

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 use this [link](#) to register to become a church school teacher.



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.

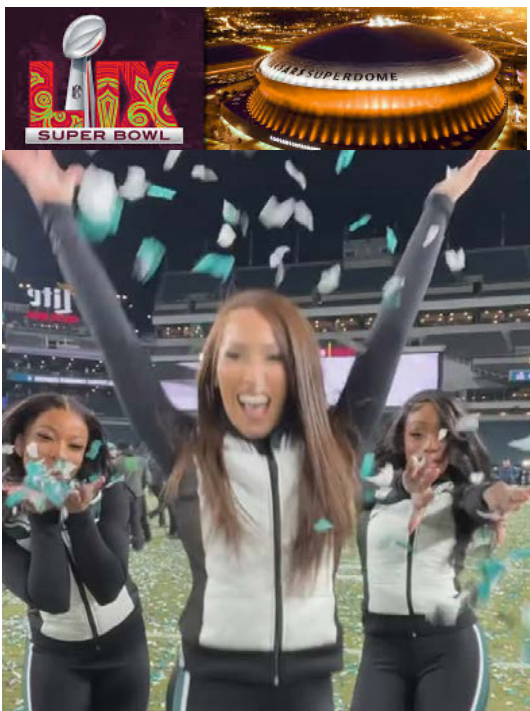
Exciting News!!!!

Plans are underway to create a **Tots area** to be used on Sundays for children who are not yet Church School age. Please speak to [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

St.Thomas' own, **Tynecia Wilson**,
Miss Philadelphia, 2024, crowns Miss Philadelphia, 2025



One of St. Thomas' own,
Philadelphia Eagles
cheerleader, **Arielle Hunt**,
practicing her moves for
the Pro Bowl in Orlando,
and the Superbowl in
New Orleans on Sunday,
February 9th.



Congratulations to our own
Gabrielle Faisal who received
her National Junior Honor
Society pin.
Gabby, your St. Thomas family
is so proud of you.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CHURCH SCHOOL

In honor of Dr. Martin L. King Jr., Church School is organizing a clothing drive. The children have been learning about Micah 6:8 and Luke 3:11, which says, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

We are asking the children to donate gently used clothes, books, or toys to help those in need. We would like to extend this mission to the entire congregation. A donation box will be available at Church School, and we encourage you to drop off your items, **Sunday, February 2nd**.

All donations will benefit the local Belmont Charter Network. Their immediate needs include clothes, boots, shoes, jackets, hats, coats, and scarves. For more details, please contact Tynecia Wilson or Kadeja Wexler at churchschool@aecst.org.

ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please [email](#) Fr. Daren your contact information as soon as possible (including cellphone). Our prayers remain with you.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 2, 2025

The First Lesson - [Malachi 3:1-4](#)

[Psalm 24:7-10](#)

The Second Lesson - [Hebrews 2:14-18](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Luke 2:22-40](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of February 3, 2025

Monday - [Mark 7:24-37](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 8:1-10](#)

Wednesday - [Mark 8:11-26](#)

Thursday - [Mark 8:27-9:1](#)

Friday - [Mark 9:2-13](#)

Saturday - [Mark 9:14-29](#)



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.

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.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

All young ladies are invited to join us on Saturdays in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM. **The Girls' Friendly Society does not meet every Saturday.**

Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information and the schedule.

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.](#)

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Patricia Holmes, Sharon Harper - Presbyterian Hospital

IN REHAB:

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

AT HOME:

Kenneth Dow, Alletta Parris-Olday, Virginia DuBrey,
Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Ola Bass,
Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison,
Barbara Douglas, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell,
Wendell Whitlock, Arlene Gray, Jameela Lewis,
Bill Edmonds, Carole Williams Green

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Terri Taylor, Lisa Woodley,
Adinah Edwards, Carl Dean, Ann Stewart,
Sandra Bryant Miller, Autumn Simmons, Donald Hunt, Jr.,
Daryn Stewart, Waltier Blocker

WE PRAY FOR

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

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 [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), 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 shut-in 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 shut-in 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 [link](#) 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.



**The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
Abou...**

www.aecst.org

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

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 Priest | The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney | wilgafney@gmail.com |
| 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 | Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. | chancelchoir@aecst1792.org |
| Live Stream Ministry | Yaseen Farooq Teri Tillman | livevideo@aecst.org |
| Memorial Flowers | Alfreda Brockmam | fredabee@verizon.net |
| | Clare Mae Daniels | happycmd05@aol.com |
| Monarch Greeters Ministry | Ashley Hines | 1792@aecst.org |
| 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 |
| Visitor's Ministry | Edita Gauthney Michele Green | visitorsministry@aecst.org |
| Voices of Comfort | Robert Davenport | robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com |
| William Burke Ushers Ministry | Arlene Singletary | leaniepo302@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
Deborah Harrison
Pamela Johnson

Wendella Fox
D. Lynn Joell
Patricia Lynch

Marie B. Golson
Kelvin Johnson
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-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.