



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, PA • St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, PA  
Church Farm School, Exton, PA  
Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys -Washington, DC  
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

**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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

## **The Celebration of the Life and Ministry of The Reverend Absalom Jones**

**February 9, 2025**

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

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)

Philadelphia, PA, 19151

(215) 473-3065

[www.aecst.org](http://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

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

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**We extend a very warm welcome to our new Presiding  
Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church  
The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe.**

Please gather with us around the remains and final resting place  
of Blessed Absalom Jones. Also, on display will be both the altar  
and chair used by Blessed Absalom.

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.



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Presiding Bishop Sean W. Rowe  
The 28th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

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## “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 **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany and the Celebration of the Life and Ministry of The Reverend Absalom Jones.**

Today, we are very happy to welcome our new **Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe.** We welcome, accompanying the Presiding Bishop and Primate, **The Reverend Dr. Molly James, Interim Executive Officer and Secretary of the General Convention.** We are also blessed to have worshipping with us **members of Christ Church, Philadelphia, PA; St. Peter’s Church, Philadelphia, PA; Church Farm School, Exton, PA; St. James School, Philadelphia, PA; Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, Washington, DC, and The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.**

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 Reverend 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*<sup>+</sup>

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



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The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
17th Rector of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

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The Reverend Absalom Jones  
Founder of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

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## **ABOUT OUR FOUNDER...**

The life and legacy of The Reverend Absalom Jones is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, his faith, and his commitment to the causes of freedom, justice and self-determination.

## **ABSALOM JONES**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

By Arthur K. Sudler, William Carl Bolivar Director, Historical Society & Archives, African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (Arthur Sudler's biography of Absalom Jones is the "official" biography in Lesser Feasts and Fasts of the Episcopal Church.)

Absalom Jones was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop a wealthy Anglican planter in 1746 in Delaware. He was working in the fields when Abraham recognized that he was an intelligent child and ordered that he be trained to work in the house. Absalom eagerly accepted instruction in reading. He also saved money he was given and bought books (among them a primer, a spelling book, and a bible). Abraham Wynkoop died in 1753 and by 1755 his younger son Benjamin had inherited the plantation. When Absalom was sixteen Benjamin Wynkoop sold the plantation and Absalom's mother, sister, and five brothers. Wynkoop brought Absalom to Philadelphia where he opened a store and joined St. Peter's Church

In Philadelphia Benjamin Wynkoop permitted Absalom to attend a night school for black people that was operated by Quakers following the tradition established by abolitionist teacher Anthony Benezet. At twenty, with the permission of their masters, Absalom married Mary Thomas who was enslaved to Sarah King who also worshipped at St. Peter's. The Rev. Jacob Duche performed the wedding at Christ Church. Absalom and his father-in-law, John Thomas, used their savings, and sought donations and loans primarily from prominent Quakers, in order to purchase Mary's freedom. Absalom and Mary worked very hard to repay the money borrowed to buy her freedom. They saved enough money to buy property and to buy Absalom's freedom. Although he repeatedly asked Benjamin Wynkoop to allow him to buy his freedom Wynkoop refused. Absalom persisted because as long as he was enslaved Wynkoop could take his property and his money.

Finally, in 1784 Benjamin Wynkoop freed Absalom by granting him a manumission. Absalom continued to work in Wynkoop's store as a paid employee. Absalom left St. Peter's Church and began worshipping at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. He met Richard Allen who had been engaged to preach at St. George's and the two became lifelong friends. Together, in 1787, they founded the Free African Society a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for Black people. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. At St George's, Absalom and Richard served as lay ministers for the black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and Allen, greatly increased black membership at St George's. The Black members worked hard to help raise money to build an upstairs gallery intended to enlarge the church. The church leadership decided to segregate the Black worshippers in the gallery, without notifying them.

During a Sunday morning service a dispute arose over the seats black members had been instructed to take in the gallery and ushers attempted to physically remove them by first accosting Absalom Jones. Most of the Black members present indignantly walked out of St. George's in a body. Prior to the incident at St. George's the Free African Society had initiated religious services. Some of these services were presided over by The Rev. Joseph Pilmore an assistant St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Society established communication with similar Black groups in other cities.

In 1792 the Society began to build the African Church of Philadelphia. The church membership took a denominational vote and decided to affiliate with the Episcopal Church. Richard Allen withdrew from the effort as he favored affiliation with the Methodist Church. Absalom Jones was asked to provide pastoral leadership and after prayer and reflection he accepted the call. The African Church was dedicated on July 17, 1794. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Magaw, rector St. Paul's Church, preached the dedicatory address. Dr. Magaw was assisted at the service by The Rev. James Abercrombie, assistant minister at Christ Church. Soon thereafter the congregation applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1) that they be received as an organized body; 2) that they have control over their own local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was admitted as the African Episcopal Church of St Thomas. The church was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1796.



Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802. Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to “clean their hands of slaves.” To him, God was the Father, who always acted on “behalf of the oppressed and distressed.” But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his congregation and by the community. St Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. The congregants formed a day school and were active in moral uplift, self-empowerment, and anti-slavery activities. Known as “the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church,” Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God’s instrument. Jones died on this day in 1818.

### **THE ABSALOM JONES MEMORIAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW**

Designed by lifetime AECST member Robert C. Moore ©1996 The design of this window attempts to give recognition to Absalom Jones’ strength of character, his unwavering servitude to God, and his towering leadership among associates and followers.

Within the shapes and spaces available in the window’s Gothic structure, the above theme has been carried out utilizing two large vertical sections which are side by side, and four small vertical sections across the top. The large panel on the left portrays The Reverend Absalom Jones as priest standing in front of the altar of the first St. Thomas Church. He is facing the congregation and preparing to bestow the Blessing of Peace upon all present. The large panel on the right side uses a setting outside the church. Members of the congregation are shown greeting each other after leaving the building. Clothing styles reflect the period around 1810.

The upper sections afford an opportunity to reflect on Absalom Jones’ struggle to gain his freedom which was assisted by his thirst for knowledge through reading. Two open scrolls permit us to read quotations from his own writings. To the right of these scrolls is a grouping of symbols and forms -which refer to the proud cultural heritage of African Americans like Absalom Jones whose ancestors in Africa built great cities, created timeless monuments and art forms, and developed a high level of communal living.

Also included in the upper sections are the shield of The Episcopal Church, the shield of St. Thomas Church, and symbols which indicate Reverend Jones’ pioneering achievements in the Order of Masonry. The forms in the upper sections are superimposed over a Kente cloth design entitled Adwinasa. This is a cloth that was viewed as one of top quality and considered the most prestigious of Kente cloths beside those woven especially for Asante Kings. Other Kente cloth designs have been incorporated in the borders which surround the two major sections of the window.



# The Absalom Jones Stained Glass Window

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

## **ABOUT HISTORIC ST. THOMAS...**

Originally established as the African Church, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas was founded in 1792 by and for persons of African descent to foster personal and religious freedoms and self-determination. The original African Church was an outgrowth of the Free African Society, a mutual aid organization established in 1787 by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others, to assist the Black population in Philadelphia. The early religious services were held in private homes and in a school. Within the congregation were many who, because of growing racial tension and insults, had followed the lay preachers, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, in an historic walkout from St. George's Methodist Church. Affiliation with the Episcopal Church was ratified in 1794. The Reverend Absalom Jones became the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first rector of St. Thomas' Church.

The original church house was constructed at 5th and Adelphi Streets in Philadelphia, now St. James Place, and dedicated on July 17, 1794. Subsequent locations of the church included: 12th Street below Walnut; 57th and Pearl Streets, (uniting with the Church of the Beloved Disciple); 52nd and Parrish Streets; and the current location, 6361 Absalom Jones Way (formerly St. Paul's Overbrook) in Philadelphia's historic Overbrook Farms neighborhood. The congregation has continued to be predominately African American.

The parish's Eucharist-centered liturgy has evolved over the years from a traditional Anglican/Episcopal high church worship experience to one that is enriched with an evangelical Afrocentric focus.

St. Thomas has been in the vanguard of action to sustain the legacy of humanitarianism and community outreach passed down from its founders. St. Thomas' clergy and parishioners have played key roles in the abolition/anti-slavery/underground railroad movements and the early equal rights movement of the 1800's. Over the past years, St. Thomas has figured prominently in the civil rights movement, The NAACP, Union of Black Episcopalians, Opportunities Industrialization Center, Philadelphia Interfaith Action and The Episcopal Church Women. Paramount, however, has been the movement to uphold the knowledge and value of the Black presence in the Episcopal Church. Today, that tradition continues with an ever-growing membership and through a host of ministries such as Christian Formation, the Chancel Choir, Gospel Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Men's Fellowship, Young Adult and Youth Ministries, a Church School, Health Ministry, Caring Ministry, a Shepherding Program, and The Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry.







**THE VIDEO BELOW IS FOR THE YOUNG AND  
YOUNG AT HEART!!!**

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.



Video: Quentin Heyward (St.Thomas Videography Ministry)

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**LET'S FLY**

## 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.

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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.



## 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.

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### OUR CONDOLENCES

to Pauline and Walter Bantom on the death of her sister, **Bernice Wilcox**. Her service will be held at St. Thomas on **Thursday, February 13, 2025**. The viewing is at 10:00 AM and the Requiem Mass is at 11:00 AM.

May the soul of Bernice rest in peace and rise in glory.  
Please pray for the family.

to Vernetta Dow and family on the death of her husband, **Kenneth Dow**. May the soul of Kenneth rest in peace and rise in glory. Arrangements are pending. Please pray for the family.

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
The Presentation to the Lord in the Temple  
Black History Month Kick-Off  
Sunday, February 2, 2025**





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

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

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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](#).

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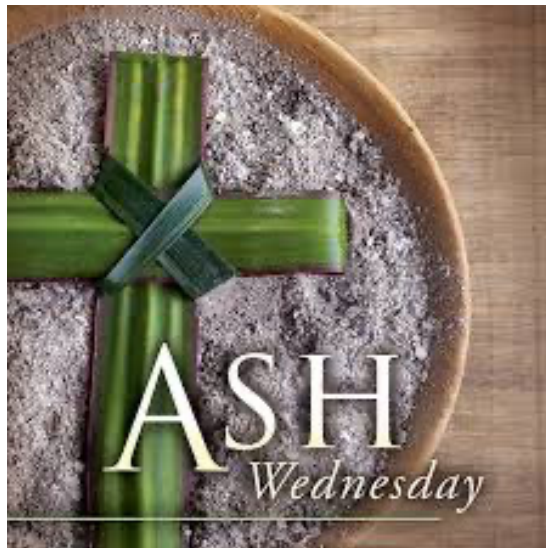
**"The New Members Manual" has arrived.**  
Please use the [link](#) to access it.



**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**



**ASH WEDNESDAY - March 5, 2025**

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist  
7:00 AM - 12:00 Noon - 6:00 PM

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH**

**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**

Celebrating our Ministries  
Parish Annual Meeting after service

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

**February 23rd**

Scout Sunday/ Youth and Young Adult Sunday  
HBCU Sunday

**March 2nd**

Mardi Gras Jazz Mass

**March 9th**

First Sunday in Lent

**THIS WEEK AT AECST  
FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

**Tuesday, February 11th**

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 12th**

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

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

**Thursday, February 13th**

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

Funeral of Bernice Wilcox  
Viewing at 10:00 AM, Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM

**Friday, February 14th**

Retired Peoples' Ministry  
10:00 AM in the Undercroft

**Saturday, February 15th**

Men's Ministry and Fellowship  
8:00 AM in the Undercroft

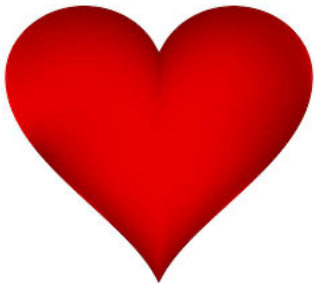
Girls' Friendly Society  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

**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

“Heart Month” began 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:**

Please 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](http://www.aecst.org) select donations Chosen 300

Questions: please contact [Sharon Bullock](#).



**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





**A Formal Invitation to All Men!!!!**

“A Special Black History Month Breakfast Presentation”  
with St. Thomas’s own -The Rev. Joe Watkins  
(Minister, Television News Analyst and  
Political Commentator)

**Saturday, February 15, 2025**, at 8:30 AM  
in the Undercroft

Sponsored by:  
The St. Thomas Men’s Ministry  
and Fellowship

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**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.

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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](#).

**From the Desk of the Dean  
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw  
Urgent Legislative Action Request Needed**

1) An Urgent Legislative letter is being sponsored by the Schuylkill Deanery of the Diocese of PA requesting legislative opposition to a recent Congressional Resolution that has been filed in the U.S. House of Representatives to censure Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde of Washington, DC for a sermon delivered by her at the Interfaith Prayer Service in the Washington National Cathedral on **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**. You may find the letter [here](#).

2) Also, a Stop Gun-Violence Campaign Legislative Letter to the PA State General Assembly is now available for your support. Please see our Schuylkill Deanery Delegate Phyllis Cater in Anderson Hall to obtain copies of both letters that will be forwarded with your signature to Legislative Representatives in the U.S. Congress, and to the Representatives in the PA State General Assembly. Please follow the links for a copy of the letter to your [PA State Representative](#) and [United States Representative](#).

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

# 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>

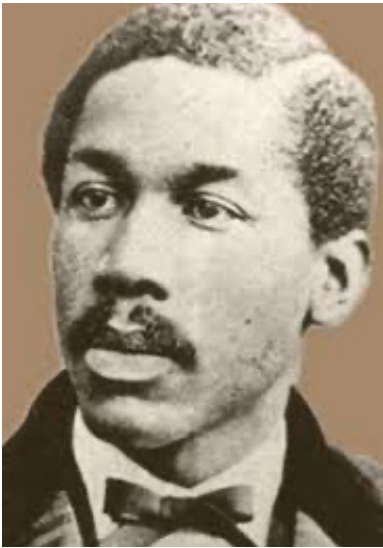
OR



Scan me!

## **CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY UPDATE**

**From Elaine Gillison and Wendella Fox, Co-Chairs**



We're back and have much work to do! Let's all pledge to stay informed regarding how city, state and federal policies affect us. Let's take action!! Sign up to receive important alerts from EPPN, Episcopal Public Policy Network, Pennsylvania Residents Only. Mark your calendars, please. **Monday, May 5, 2025**, is the last day to REGISTER TO VOTE in the 2025 Primary Election.

### **AECST HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS**

The first Friday in February (February 7) is National Wear Red Day. On this day, which is considered American Heart Month, everyone across the country dons the color red to raise and spread awareness in hopes of helping eradicate heart disease and stroke in millions of women all over the nation. So put on your reddest red — whether it be a lipstick, a pair of pants, or your favorite hat — and paint the city red.

National Wear Red Day is supported by the American Heart Association and is celebrated in conjunction with National Heart Health Month. It focuses specifically on raising awareness of women's heart disease and stroke risks. Cardiovascular disease causes 1 in 3 deaths in women every year making it the number one health-related killer in women. The good news is that 87% of all heart issues are believed to be preventable making awareness, education, research, and resources vital to the cause this holiday supports.

For more information on Healthy Heart Month click [here](#)

*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*



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.

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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.

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**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 (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

# 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



## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

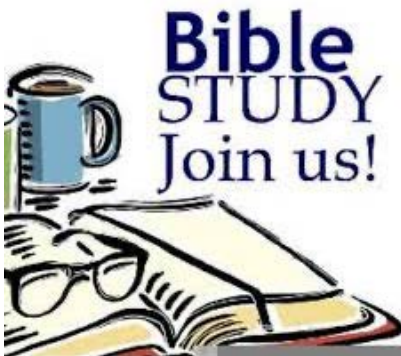
### Readings for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 9, 2025

The First Lesson - [Isaiah 42: 5-9](#)  
[Psalm 126](#)

The Second Lesson - [Ephesians 4: 1-6](#)  
The Holy Gospel - [John 15: 12-15](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of February 10, 2025

Monday - [Mark 9:30-41](#)  
Tuesday - [Mark 9:42-50](#)  
Wednesday - [Mark 10:1-16](#)  
Thursday - [Mark 10:17-31](#)  
Friday - [Mark 10:32-45](#)  
Saturday - [Mark 10:46-52](#)



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### 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.

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### 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.



## **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](#).

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## **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 loving memory of **Tyra, Debbie, Kevin, Charles, and Lonnie**, given by a Cousin/Friend.

Special flowers are in loving memory of **Absalom Jones**, given by Clare Mae Daniels.

Special flowers are in loving memory of **Eline Francis on her 89th heavenly birthday, given by Karen Leys.**

Special flowers are in thanksgiving for the **33rd birthday of Courtney Williamson**, given by Gladyce and Virginia DuBrey and Cheyenne Williamson.

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](#).



## **GFS Holiday House is in Jeopardy!**

In the early morning hours, on January 26, 2025, notification arrived that the frigid cold weather caused a pipe to burst in our beloved summer retreat center, Holiday House. The water damage is beyond extensive and travels from the third floor down to the first floor. Built in 1870's this is the last of 30 Holiday Houses in existence. It has offered shelter and housing to immigrant women, a retreat center for girls and women, and a place where summer memories were made and friendship cured.

This historic retreat center holds a special place in the hearts of St. Thomas GFS members. There is a room dedicated to Julia Porter, our first Branch Advisor. We need your help. Are you good at researching grants? Can you write a proposal? Do you have the acumen for gross fundraising? Can you provide a monetary donation? Please contact Nikkol Simms, Branch Advisor, if you can assist.

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



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.

### **Girs’ 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.

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## **ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES**

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

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## 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.

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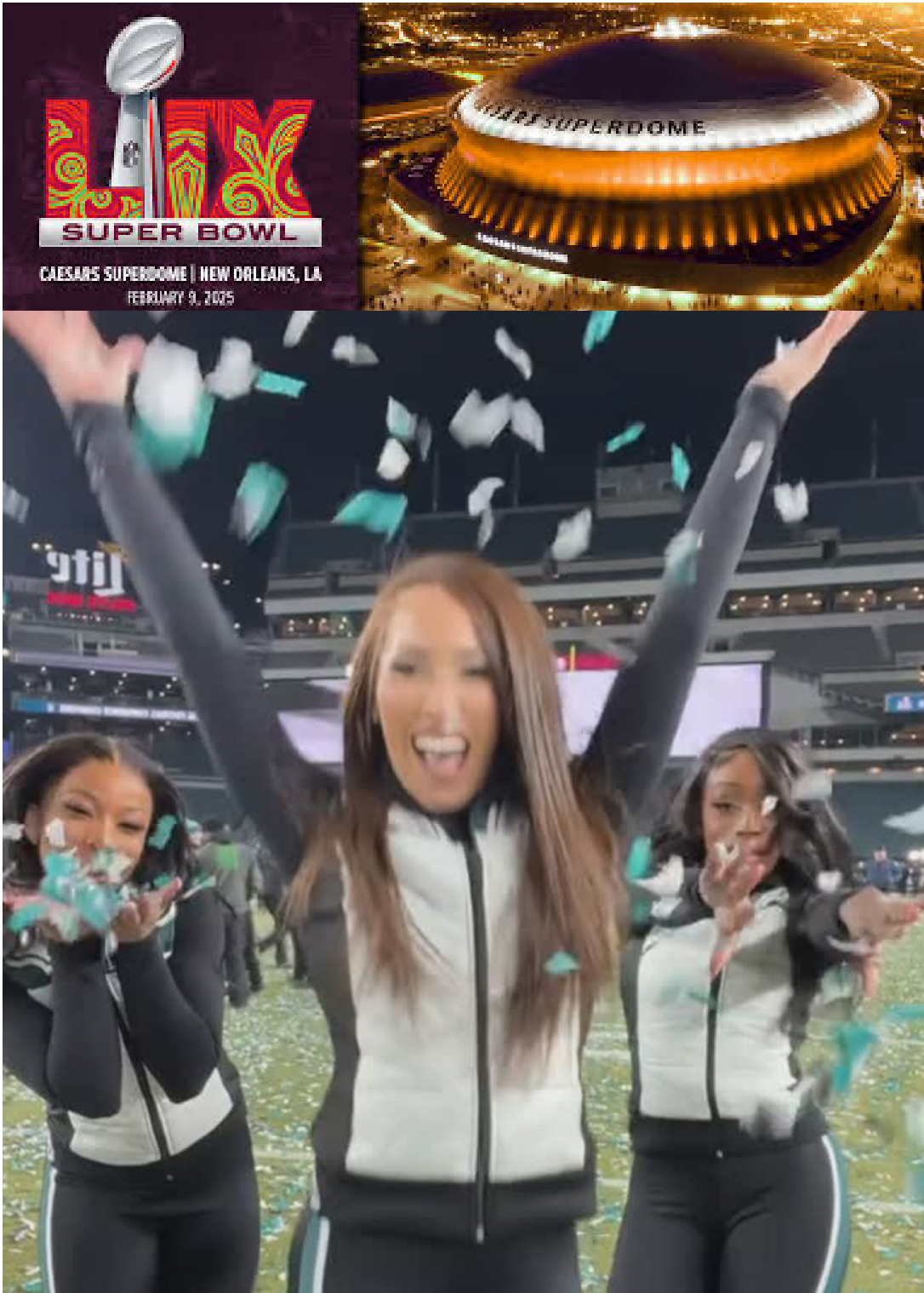
## IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW but also as the church of TODAY!!! 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?

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### 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.



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.

## **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](mailto:churchschool@aecst.org).

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### **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.

## **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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## **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.

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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 [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

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**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

**AT HOME:**

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, Quincina Edmonds

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

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

**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](http://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](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 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 Photographry 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

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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  
Deborah Harrison  
Pamela Johnson

Wendella Fox  
D. Lynn Joell  
Patricia Lynch

Marie B. Golson  
Kelvin Johnson  
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.