



CELEBRATING A FEW OF OUR HEROES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
(IS JUST NOT LONG ENOUGH)



THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Celebrating our Ministries and Love Sunday

February 16, 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

**The Presiding Bishop honors Absalom Jones at
Philadelphia's Historic Church of St. Thomas**



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

“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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, Celebrating our Ministries, Love Sunday, and the Annual Parish Meeting.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., 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

We are very thrilled to announce the new addition to our church family - **Alison Migan**. Congratulations to parents: Comfort and Karl Migan and family.



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



MEN - YOU ARE INVITED!!

Join us this **Saturday, February 15th, at 8:30 AM** for breakfast, presentation and fellowship. Our presenter will be one of St. Thomas' own, The Reverend Joe Watkins, Minister, Television News analyst & Political Commentator.



Committed and dedicated members helping to keep the AECST EXPRESS on track and able to journey to various ministry destinations

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.



Our condolences to Vernetta Dow and family on the death of her husband, **Kenneth Dow**. His service will be at St. Thomas on **February 25, 2025, at 11:00 AM**. May the soul of Kenneth rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



*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

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 Feast of Absalom Jones
Sunday, February 9, 2025

All roads led to the "MOTHER CHURCH" (founded by Blessed Absalom Jones) to welcome the new Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church to the City of Philadelphia in Celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones at his burial and final resting place.



THE RAIN AND SLEET DID NOT DETER THE HUNDREDS WHO FILLED THE PEWS TO CELEBRATE

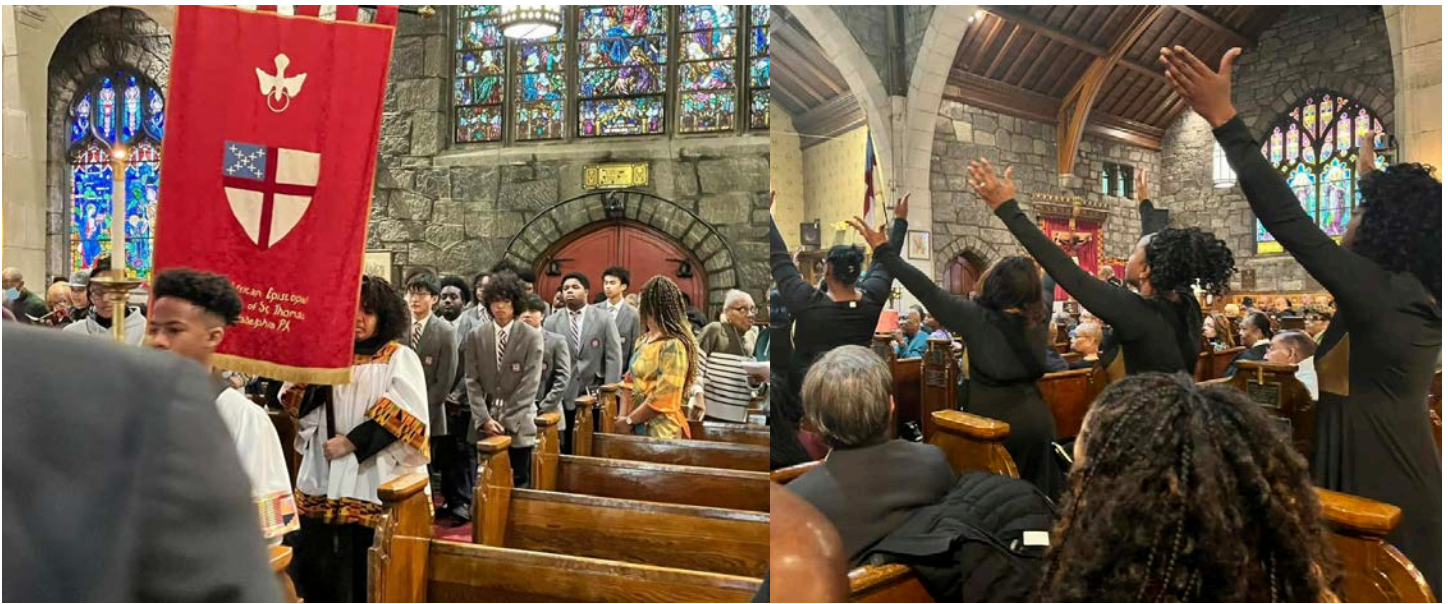


THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE MET WITH THE VESTRY AND STAFF BEFORE SERVICE





A GLORIOUS DAY OF WORSHIP - FULL HOUSE







LET THE PARTY BEGIN! GO BIRDS!!!









Photos: Quentin Heyward, Justin Trotman, Stephen Pugh and Brenda Johnson
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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

THANK YOU!!!!

On behalf of the Absalom Jones Celebration Committee, we extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your support and assistance in helping to make the Absalom Jones service and reception a joyful celebration.

To our wonderful Fr. Shaw, Fr. Daren, Fr. Jay, Kathryn Brossa and Karen Ragland, THANK YOU for your guidance! Thank You to the congregation for your continued support. A huge THANK YOU to Mueni Mwanzia, Candice Hall, Deborah Matthews, Cydney Hamlin, Sukona Davis, Sakiyah Davis, David McGilberry, Greg Allen, Thomasina Hack, and new member Wendy Puryear, for jumping in with all hands on deck. To Gail Harris for the beautiful program bulletin, and to Gladyce DuBrey and the Office Staff for your help in many ways. To the best Music Ministry in the nation, led by Waltier Blocker, Jay Fluellen and Dr. Rollo Dilworth, Thank you to the Angels in Motion for your beautiful presentation. To Freda Brockman and the Altar Guild volunteers, the Monarchs and Ushers who greeted everyone with grace, and the Livestream Ministry, Quentin Heyward, Kim Hyde and Ted Bythewood, who made it happen for the world to see. Thank you!

And to others who supported us through prayers, a kind word, other duties or financial considerations, we couldn't do it without you!

Peace and abundant blessings,
Albert Dandridge, Monica Lewis Jones, Cathy Stafford
AJ Celebration Co-Chairs

The CFS Choir, under the direction of Erik Stenswold, was honored to perform as part of the Feast of Absalom Jones celebration at The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) in Philadelphia on Sunday. Pictured with Interim Head of School Tiffany Scott (left) and CFS Board Chair Vincent Napoleon (right) are the Most. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and Dr. Angelina Arrington, Head of the Bishop Walker School in Washington, DC.



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

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



Professor Randy Gibson
Concert Pianist
Gibson School of Music & Arts



Evelyn Simpson Curenton
Concert Organist



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.ensembleartshilly.org/rent-our-spaces/special-events-and-performances/music-of-the-heart>

OR



Scan me!

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.



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.

**ST. THOMAS JOINS OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS AT
ST. JAMES SCHOOL IN CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF
ABSALOM JONES.**



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

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

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.](#)

THE RETIRED PERSONS MINISTRY (RPM) OF OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND ST. THOMAS SENIOR PARTNERS

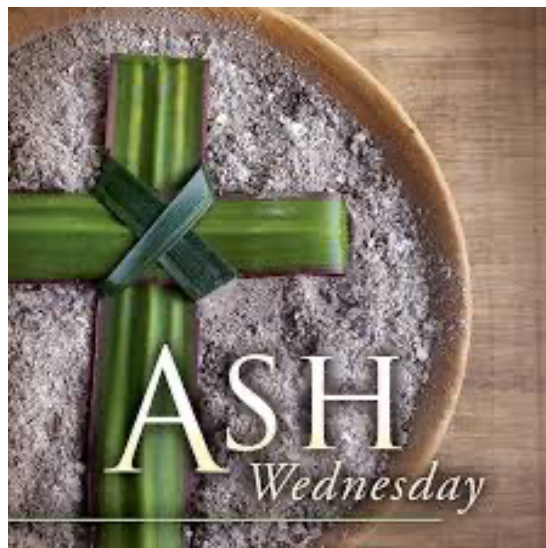
VALENTINE'S DAY & EAGLES CHAMPION PARADE DAY BREAKFAST





**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 23rd

Scout Sunday/Youth and Young Adult Sunday

HBCU Sunday – Guest: The Reverend Richard Burnett
General Secretary, Colleges and Universities
of the Anglican Communion (CUAC)

Installation and Blessing of Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry,
Delegates to Schuylkill Deanery

March 2nd

Mardi Gras Jazz Mass / Last Sunday in Epiphany
Mardi Gras Brunch after Mass in Anderson Hall

March 9th

First Sunday in Lent

March 16th

Second Sunday in Lent

March 23rd

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, February 17th

President's Day - Church and Office Closed

Tuesday, February 18th

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 19th

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

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

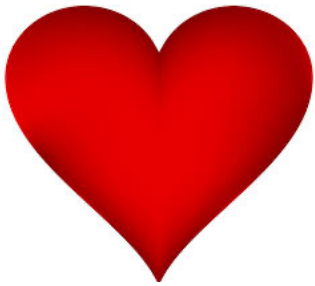
Thursday, February 20th

Vestry Meeting - 6:00 PM

Saturday, February 22nd

Girls' Friendly Society
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Undercroft

Dr. Jay Fluellen and the Chancel Choir present
Renard Golden and his students in concert
3:00 PM in the Church



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 select donations Chosen 300

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

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.

*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



G. Heldoff

**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. This letter is expressing 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.

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.

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.

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

The first Friday in February was **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](#)

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.

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

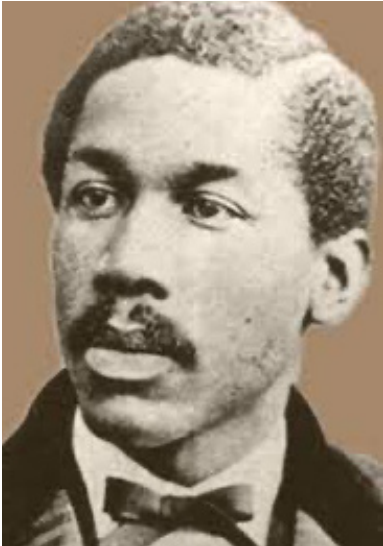
Walk-in

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

REGISTER TODAY!

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

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.

SAVE THE DATES

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
Women's Weekend - 2025

"Revive, Renew, Restore: Finding Strength in Faith"

Saturday, May 31st | Women's Retreat

Sunday, June 1st | Annual Women's Day Celebration

You don't want to miss this exciting weekend!

More Information coming your way soon.



**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.



**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.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2025

The First Lesson - [Jeremiah 17:5-10](#)
[Psalm 1](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)
The Holy Gospel - [Luke 6:17-26](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of February 17, 2025

Monday - [Mark 11:1-11](#)

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

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

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

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

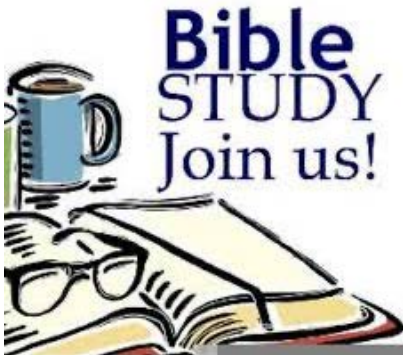


Flowers on the High Altar -\$60.00

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 [link](#).



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
Adult Bible Study
with Fr. Jay meets on Tuesdays
7:00 PM via Zoom.
Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with
questions/requests.

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.

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.



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.



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)

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](#).

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.



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?

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.

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 - Presbyterian Hospital;
Leotta Griffith - Lankenau

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Inez Turner - The Residence; Sharon Harper; 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

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 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
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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.