

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

SCOUTS' SUNDAY

HONORING HISTORIC TROOP 133

HBCU SUNDAY



FEBRUARY 23, 2025 10 AM



GUEST HOMILIST:
THE REV. FR. RICHARD BURNETT
GENERAL SECRETARY,
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION
(CUAC)



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 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 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



Following yesterday's churchwide announcement about Episcopal Church staff realignment, please go to the [St. Thomas Facebook](#) page to view a message from our presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe as he provides further insight about the vision behind the changes underway.

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 Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany, Youth and Young Adult Sunday, Scout Sunday, and HBCU Sunday.** We welcome **The Rev. Fr. Richard A. Burnett, General Secretary, Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC) as our guest Homilist, and Dr. Aaron Walton, President of Cheyney University.**

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



HBCU / SCOUTS / YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY, February 23, 2025

We welcome The Reverend Richard A. Burnett, General Secretary, Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC). Our two Episcopal HBCUs are members of CUAC: St. Augustine's University (1867) and Voorhees University (1897).



Please use this [link](#) for the Bio of The Reverend Richard A. Burnett

Support Episcopal HBCU Chaplains Through Gifts To The Absalom Jones Fund

People of all backgrounds and faiths are invited to give generously to the Absalom Jones Fund in support of the work of two historically Black institutions of higher education in cultivating and preparing leaders: Voorhees University and Saint Augustine's University.

Many Episcopal congregations take dedicated offerings around February 13th in observance of the Feast Day of Absalom Jones, the first Black priest ordained by the church.

"Absalom Jones recognized the transformative power of education," Bishop Michael Curry writes in a churchwide letter inviting donations. "These institutions continue his mission, providing a liberal arts education and robust campus ministries that shape young adults into ethical leaders."

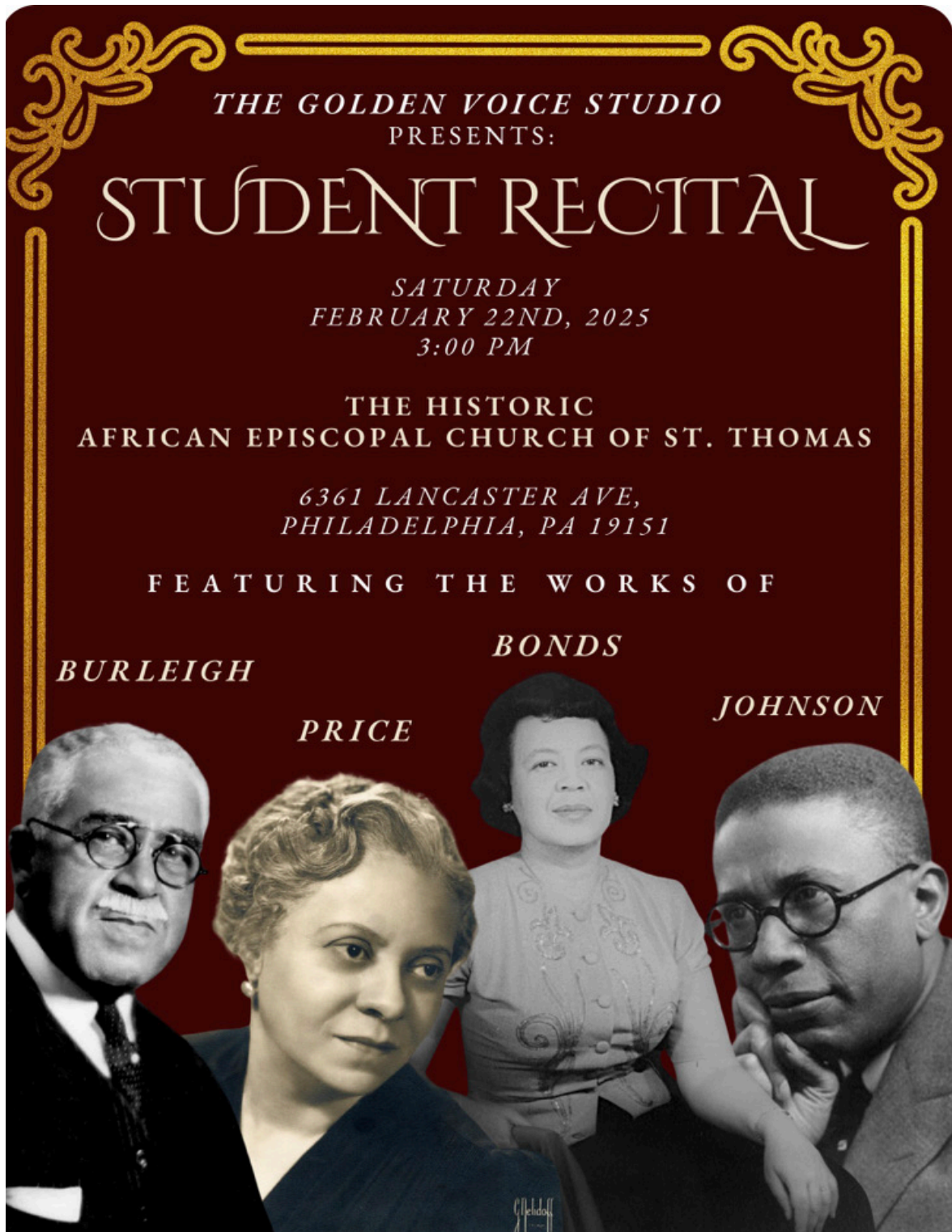
Both Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina, were founded after the Civil War to create educational opportunities for formerly enslaved people.

"The Chaplains at Voorhees and Saint Augustine's play a crucial role in this formation, guiding students in their faith journey and helping them navigate the complexities of our world," Curry writes.

Donations to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) help support "the vital work of these chaplains" he says. "By investing in these students, we are investing in a future where love, justice, and reconciliation prevail."

To make a donation, please make checks payable to "AECST" place in the offering plate or via online giving and designate for "Episcopal HBCUs".

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*
PRICE *JOHNSON*



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



**Choral Evensong
5 P.M. - FEB 23**

We welcome members of choirs from the **African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia** to join us for this collaborative service in recognition and celebration of **Black History** in worship, featuring music exclusively by black composers.

A reception will follow the service.

All are welcome!

www.StMartinEC.org/blackhistory

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**. Viewing at 10:00 AM and Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Kenneth rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
“Celebrating our Ministries”/Observance of President’s Day
February 16, 2025



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



Photos: Justin Trotman, Stephen Pugh and
Brenda Johnson
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)
More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.





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

CHAT & CHEW

An open house/information session for women of the church to learn more about the Daughters of the King (DOK). A new class will start soon.

(FYI: The St. Thomas Chapter of the DOK presently has over 50 members)



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

The 2025 Annual Parish Meeting of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (Sunday February 16, 2025)



Following last Sunday's Annual Parish Meeting, the following people were elected to:

Vestry: Dr. Timothy Barksdale, Eugene Golson,
Monica Lewis Jones,
Deborah Matthews, Deadra Cannon (Re-elected)

Auxiliary Vestry: D. Lynn Joell, Judy Tilman

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:

Albert Dandridge, Esq.,
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin,
Tyrone Keller (Alternate)

Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery:

Phyllis Cater, Mary S. Dean,
Tyrone Keller (Alternate)

**The Following Were Elected /
Appointed To Other Offices:**

Rector's Warden: Richard Jones
Accounting Warden: Deborah Camp Frye
Treasurer: Albert Dandridge, III Esq.
Clerk: Pamela Johnson
Property: William Burke
Stewardship: Patricia Lynch



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.**

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.

GOD IS GOOD!!!

Enormous thanks to the 54th Eastern Regional Conference of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for a \$5,000.00 donation; followed by a matching gift from our own Kimberly Lloyd.



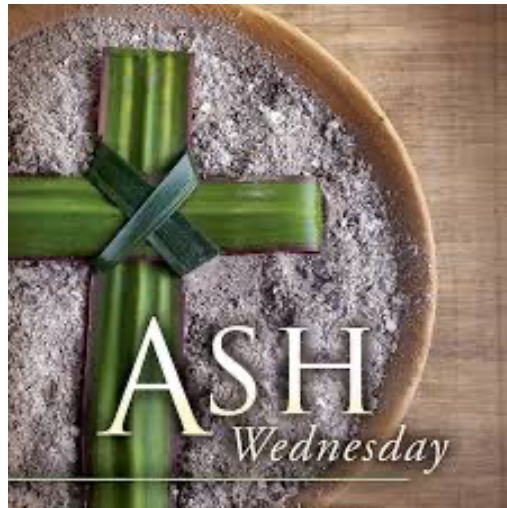
Photos: Stephen Pugh and Brenda Johnson Best
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

ST. THOMAS MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

Several of St. Thomas' men met for breakfast, fellowship, and conversation on **Saturday, February 15th** led by the Reverend Joe Watkins.



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



Lent begins on **ASH WEDNESDAY - March 5, 2025**

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

7:00 AM, 12 Noon, 6:00 PM

The Lenten theme for this year is

“The Role of the Church: Post 2024 National Election”

Wed, March 12th

Introduction - Political Structure of Government

Wed, March 19th

2024 National Election Results

Wed, March 26th

The Role of the Church During the 1960's

Wed, April 2nd

Current Involvement of the Church and Faith Communities

Wed, April 9th

A Role for St. Thomas Church Post 2024 Election

6:00 PM - Mass

6:30 PM - Presentation/Group Discussion

7:00 PM - Ending

**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
Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

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](#).

THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Tuesday, February 25th

Funeral service of Kenneth Dow,
Viewing 10:00 AM, Requiem Mass 11:00 AM

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 26th

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

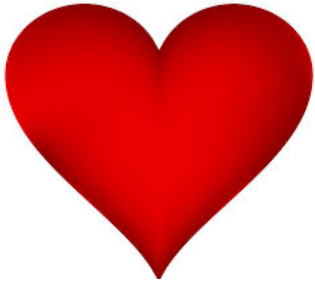
St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Thursday, February 27th

Black Love Donor Life event, sponsored by Philadelphia
Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,
6:00 PM in Anderson Hall

Friday, February 28th

Retired People's Ministry
11:30 AM in Anderson Hall



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 collection plate.

Donate online at: aecst.org

Select Donations: - Chosen 300

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



**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. You may find the letter [here](#).

2) 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 your [PA State Representatives](#) and [PA State Senator](#).

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

For those of you who couldn't attend the Healthy Heart Zoom that was held on **February 6th**.

Scan the QR Code to watch the presentation.



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

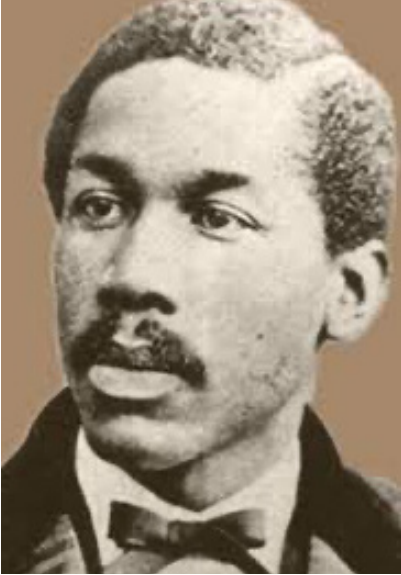
Walk-in

- \$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 23, 2025

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

[Psalm 37:1-12,41-42](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Luke 6:27-38](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of February 24, 2025

Monday - [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 5:13-20](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 5:21-26](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 5:27-37](#)

Friday - [Matthew 5:38-48](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 6:1-6](#)

ALTAR FLOWERS



Flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00 each

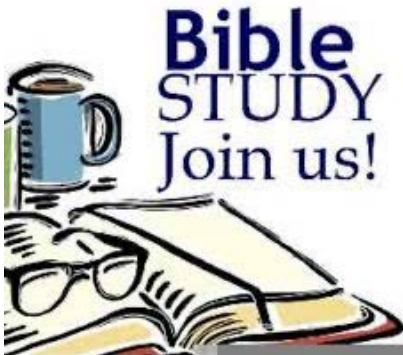
Flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.00 each

Flowers on the High Altar are presented in honor of our beloved, **Inez Turner, in celebration of her 100th birthday (February 22nd)**, given in love by:

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

Flowers on the High Altar are in Thanksgiving **for the support and guidance over the years by the St. Thomas community**, given by: The Boy Scout Troop 133

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 at St. Thomas 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

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; 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, Inez Turner

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, Sharon Harper

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 [Patricia Lynch](#).

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 the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGillberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography 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 Brockman	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	Patricia Lynch	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	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller