



Mardi Gras

JAZZ MASS

**SUNDAY
MARCH 2, 2025
10:00 AM**



**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA**

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

March 2, 2025

The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

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

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest



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 Last Sunday after the Epiphany and Mardi Gras Jazz Style Mass.**

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 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 +

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

WEAR YOUR BEADS!!!

Join us this Sunday for our Annual Mardi Gras Style Jazz Mass as we prepare to start our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday. Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!!!!



**The JFA Scholarship Committee presents
The Mardi Gras Brunch
Sunday, March 2, 2025**

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

Tickets are available for purchase
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

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](#).

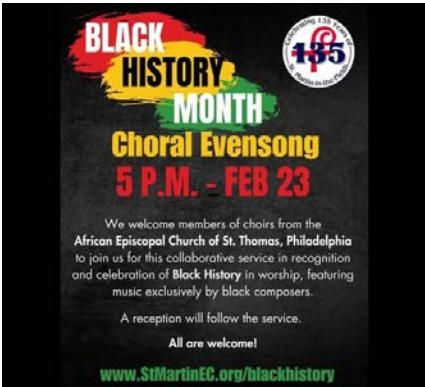
All proceeds will go to helping us maintain the National Marian Anderson House.

Saturday, February 23rd was a busy day on the AECST Express. The Golden Voice Studio Recital under the direction of our own Renard Golden and an Awards Ceremony for our St. Thomas Scouts #133. (Court of Honor Ceremony) see photos below:





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



Some of St. Thomas Music Choirsters and Music Ministers joined this beautiful Evensong Celebration with our friends at St. Martin in the Fields, Chestnut Hill.



Our Rector, Vince and Lisa Napoleon join Washington D.C. Bishop Mariann Budde and Dr. Angelina Arrington at Gala Celebration Dinner, on Thursday, February 27th, for Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys at the Washington National Cathedral.



On Thursday, February 27th St. Thomas hosted members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated





PHILADELPHIA ALUMNAE CHAPTER
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
KIMBERLY A. LLOYD, PRESIDENT

Black LOVE

LOVE TO THE RESCUE FOR OUR COMMUNITY & FAMILIES

WELCOME

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025, 6PM - 9PM

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVE | PHILA, PA. 19151

BLACK LOVE IS A POWERFUL FORCE.

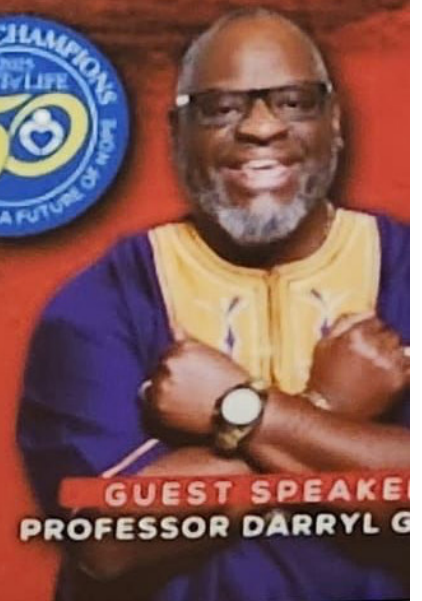
Professor Darryl Green will represent the Deep Forgiveness Organization, an institution dedicated to healing relationships through the power of forgiveness.

Gift of Life Donor Program will share the transformative impact of organ donation. Their story serves as a beacon of hope for our community, even in the face of grief and loss.

Please join us for dinner and this inspirational conversation.

For more info, email Health@phillyalumnae-dst.org.

FOR EVENT REGISTRATION VISIT
PHILLYALUMNAE-DST.ORG



GUEST SPEAKER
PROFESSOR DARRYL GREEN



ASH WEDNESDAY

Begin your 2025 Lenten journey
on **Wednesday, March 5th**,
with the Imposition of Ashes /
Holy Eucharist.

7 AM - 12 Noon - 6 PM

Some familiar St. Thomas faces attended a special
reception at the Governor's Mansion in Harrisburg, PA
hosted by Governor and Mrs. Josh Shapiro.
(Hanging Photo of St. Thomas member, James Forten)



THE LENTEN SERIES - 2025

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

March 12th

Introduction - Political Structure of Government
(Facilitator: The Rev. Joe Watkins)

A basic description of the structure of our American government

March 19th

2024 National Election Results

(Facilitators: Ernestine Johnson and Julio Rodriguez)

What were the election results and what do they mean?

March 26th

The Role of the Church During the 1960's
(Facilitator: Arthur Sudler)

What has been the role of the church following various election results and various political climates in our society?

April 2nd

Current Involvement of the Church and Faith Communities
(Facilitator: Lisa Sharon Harper)

In what ways are faith communities presently involved around the country?

April 9th

A Role for St. Thomas Church Post 2024 Election
(Elaine Gillison and Wendella Fox)

Are there ways that St. Thomas can be more involved following the recent election:

6:00 PM - Mass

6:30 PM - Presentation/Group Discussion

7:00 PM - Ending



TIME

SUBSCRIBE



Dorothy Roberts Thinks We Need a New Way to Keep Kids Safe

One of St. Thomas' own, **Dorothy Roberts**, is featured in [Time Magazine](#).



Our own **Inez Turner** is featured on CBS as she joins the Centenarian Club. She shares her secret to a long and happy life. Her interview may be found [here](#).

The Sisterhood Guild will collect items for the [Northern Children's Services](#) throughout the season of Lent. Any of the following items would be appreciated: toiletries, feminine hygiene products, baby wipes, disposable diapers, lotions, and diaper rash ointments.

A collection tote/box will be located in the back of the sanctuary starting on **March 9th**.

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

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.

A RECTOR'S REQUEST FOR DONORS

Our beautiful three banners hanging outside the church are in desperate need of replacement. Are you interested in being one of the donors? The cost for each is \$750.00. Please contact [Gladyce DuBrey](#) in the church office to make a donation.

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



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.

SAVE THE DATES

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

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

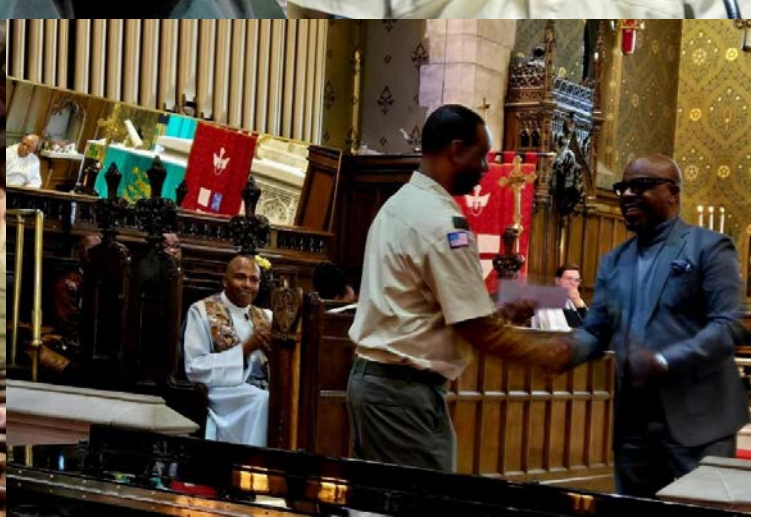
Saturday, May 31st | Women's Retreat

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

You don't want to miss this exciting weekend!
More Information coming your way soon.

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025







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

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

**Following Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday,
February 9th 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

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](#).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MARCH**

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

March 30th

Fourth Sunday in Lent-Health Ministry Sunday

THE WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2025

Monday, March 3, 2025

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

Tuesday, March 4th

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

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

Ash Wednesday, March 5th

Distribution of Ashes 7:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 6:00 PM
Bible Study with Fr. Daren - 6:00 PM in the A.J. House
St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating a Birthday in March

3/1	Nancy Jean Sewell
3/2	Cynthia Muse
3/3	Tyrone Keller, Victor Stoute
3/5	Carol Lowe
3/6	Rosita Taylor, Christopher Golson
3/7	Valerie Hutton Labdone
3/8	Sam Patterson, Elaine Gillison, Dorothy Roberts, Scott Williams
3/9	Paula Lamb
3/10	Natalye Wiltshire
3/11	Sylvia deKnight
3/12	Karen Singleton
3/13	Patricia Walker -Ellison
3/17	Simone Ellison, Eleanor Chestnut
3/18	Stephanie Williamson, Ryan Lynch
3/19	Clarissa Pyles, Solomon Cropper
3/20	Nyszha Brown
3/21	Deidre Patterson, Deborah Billups, Cheryl Stiles, Jillian Theorgood
3/22	Helen Foster
3/23	George Parris, Robert Hugh, Jonathan Wilson
3/24	Kathleen Lacy
3/25	Joe Wells, Lauren Patterson, Shirlynn Kimble, Tracy Collins
3/26	Dylan Coleburn, Norman Franke
3/27	Jabriyah Brown-Williams
3/28	Lisa Napoleon
3/29	Stephen Foster
3/30	Elaine Walden, Alliyah Maxwell
3/31	Patricia Lynch, Nikki Franke, Faith Odnamloo

**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

Please use the QR Code to view
the Main Line Health
Winter Newsletter.

For those of you who couldn't attend the Heathy Heart Zoom that was held on February 6th, here is a link to the presentation. [Staying Heart Healthy Zoom](#)



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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
March 2, 2025

The First Lesson - [Exodus 34:29-35](#)
[Psalm 99](#)

The Second Lesson - [2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#)
The Holy Gospel - [Luke 9:28-43](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the week of March 3, 2025**

Monday - [John 1:1-18](#)

Tuesday - [John 1:19-28](#)

Ash Wednesday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Thursday - [John 1:29-34](#)

Friday - [John 1:35-42](#)

Saturday - [John 1:43-51](#)

ALTAR FLOWERS



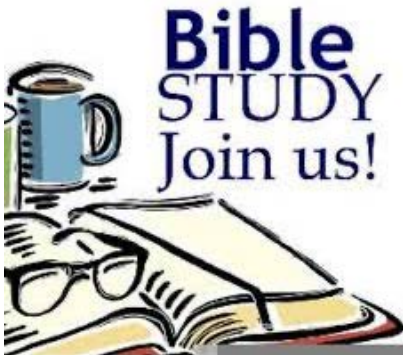
Flowers on the Columbarium are in loving memory of **William and Geneva Thompson for their 83rd heavenly anniversary.** (March 3rd) given by Lance and Calvin Thompson.

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.

Thank you!!!

Girls' Friendly wants to thank St. Thomas for their generous participation in our 2nd "Souper Bowl of Caring" event. The Media Food Bank was thrilled with our donation of 217 items. We raised a total of \$626 on GFS Sunday with donations going to Media Food Bank and a portion going to support our Holiday House in Cape May. We look forward to the next Souper Bowl!

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