



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Memorial Day Observance

**We remember those who died in war.
We thank the men and women
who gave their lives for our freedom.**



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 First Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday
May 26, 2024**

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”.

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this

**The First Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday
Memorial Day Observance/Youth and Young Adult Sunday**

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. 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



The Church and Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27 in honor of Memorial Day. Have a blessed day!

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Today, St. Thomas will remember three individuals who served: **Sergeant Kennedy Landon Sanders** (age 24); **Staff Sergeant William Jerome Rivers** (age 46); and **Sergeant Breonna Alexsondria Moffett** (age 23).

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

You will soon be receiving your 1st Quarter Financial Statement. Please carefully examine it and make an extra effort to fulfill your mid-year faithful pledge of giving by **June 30th**. Enormous thanks to everyone current with their faithful giving and actively supporting our many ministries with their treasures.

Please click here
for the [Order of Service](#).

THE ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Presents

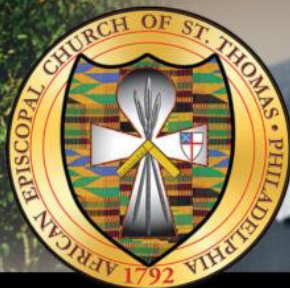
The Annual Celebration of Women

"WALKING IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD'S LOVE"

June 2, 2024 10 AM

Guest Speaker:

The Reverend Kelly Brown Douglas, Ph.D
Interim President of the
Episcopal Divinity School



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The Day of Pentecost The Birthday of the Church

May 19, 2024











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



Gracias! Merci! Asante!
Thank you to those who donated
to The St. Thomas Gardeners on
Mother's Day.

SUMMER IS IN THE AIR!!!

St. Thomas Gardeners exercising their ministry of maintaining the beauty of God's house of prayer and worship. Thank you for your ministry.



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

May 26, 2024
Memorial Day Observance
Youth and Young Adult Sunday

June 2, 2024
Annual St. Thomas Women's Day Celebration

June 9, 2024
14th Annual Caribbean Festival

June 16, 2024
Father's Day Observance

June 23, 2024
Graduate / Youth and Young Adult Sunday

Parents and Students:

Please fill out the [Graduate form](#) and return it by [email](#) or return it to Gladyce by **Monday, June 17, 2024.**

June 30, 2024
Annual Youth, Young Adult and
Church School Celebration



Coffee Hour (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 for further details.

**Save the Date for the
14th Annual Caribbean Festival
will be held on Sunday, June 9th.**

In preparation for the Caribbean Festival on June 9, 2024, the committee will sell Jamaican beef and chicken patties after church on May 26th. Patties are 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5.



**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AT ANNUAL
WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

During our Annual Women's Day service on Sunday, June 2, 2024, we will acknowledge special women in our congregation who are celebrating their 90th birthday this year! Please send the names of these blessed members of our congregation to [Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor](#) at, no later than Wednesday, May 29, 2024.



**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](#) or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

Attention AECST Graduates!



Are you or one of your children graduating from school this year? Are they successfully moving up a grade? Please complete the [Graduate information form](#) and return it to [Gladyce](#) in the church office, by **Monday, June 17, 2024**, so that they can be acknowledged for their accomplishments.

Come Sunday

A Concert Celebrating the Music of Marian Anderson & Duke Ellington

Spirituals & Jazz



The National Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society invites you to join us for this glorious music event as we honor the iconic Marian Anderson and Duke Ellington in song with the sacred spirituals of Marian Anderson and the beloved jazz standards of Duke Ellington for which they are celebrated.

June 2, 2024
3pm

TINDLEY TEMPLE

750 S. BROAD STREET, PHILA., PA 19146

FEATURING



Music Director
Dr. J. Fluellen



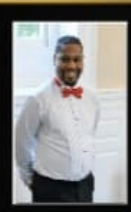
Soprano
Laurice S. Kennel



Soprano
Jillian Pirtle



Soprano
Lily Kass



Tenor
Terrance Hart



Baritone
Marcus Simmons



Bass
Brenton Mattox



MAHS
Instrumental Ensemble

FOR TICKETS: WWW.MARIANANDERSONHISTORICALSOCIETY.WEBBLY.COM

Donation: \$30



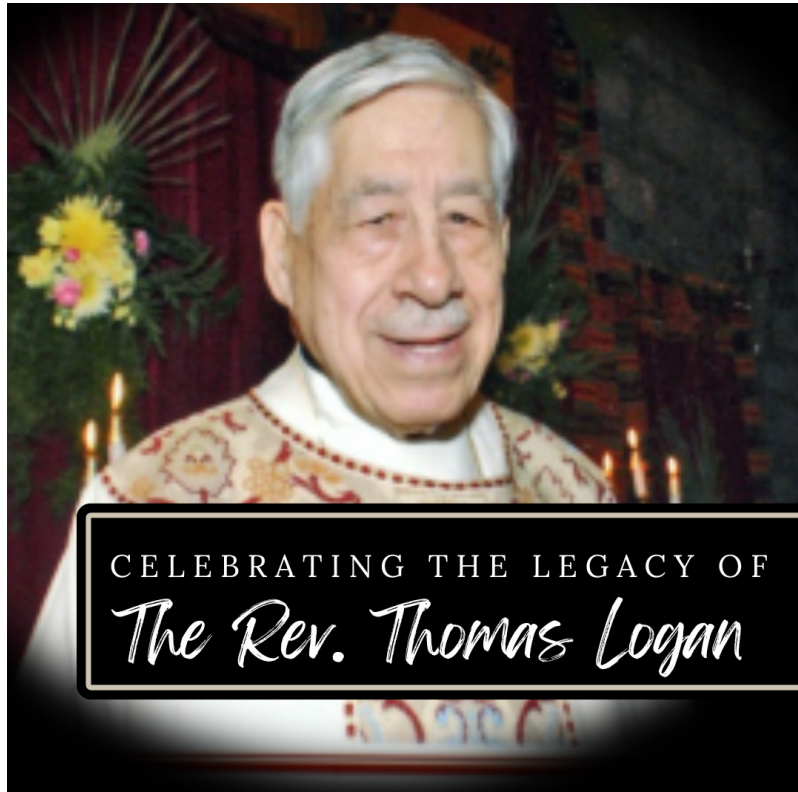
**The Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr.
Memorial Prize**

**The Schuylkill Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery**

Since 2015, the Schuylkill Deanery has recognized student scholars by offering **The Rev. Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr., Award**. This award, which has had a profound impact on past recipients, is provided to students at churches within the Schuylkill Deanery who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, community service, and a strong commitment to their faith.

Fr. Logan served as the Rector of Calvary Church Northern Liberties, one of eight churches that comprise the Schuylkill Deanery. He was named Rector Emeritus when he retired in 1984. Upon retirement, he became Associate Priest of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. At the time of his death in 2012, Rev. Canon Logan was the eldest serving African-American priest in the Episcopal Church.

The application may be found [here](#).



On Saturday, **June 8, 2024**, the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) Philadelphia Chapter and Calvary St. Augustine Church will celebrate the ministry and service of the **Reverend Thomas Logan**, who was a civil rights pioneer and a long-term leader of the Conference of Church Workers Among Colored People (CCWACP), which was the precursor to the Union of Black Episcopalians. His contributions to his hometown of Philadelphia went beyond that of being a parish rector.

More information may be found on the [Diopa website](#).



The Philadelphia Heritage Chorale
Dr. J. Donald Dumpson, Founder and Artistic Director



Presents

Communities that Sing, Unite!

with Special Guests

Intermezzo Choir Ministry

Carrie Lessene, Conductor

Philadelphia Community Mass Choir

Dr. Jay Fluellen, Conductor

Sounds of Joy

Sheila D. Booker, Conductor

Featuring works by

William Abby, Carol Antrom, Joshua Campbell, Rollo A. Dillworth, J. Donald Dumpson,
Cynthia Erivo, Robert Ray, Clayton White and More

Sunday, June 9, 2024 @ 4:00PM

A free-will offering will be received.



Arch Street Presbyterian Church
1724 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103
Rev. Carla Jones Brown, Pastor

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 who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. 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](#).

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS
READINGS FOR

The Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 26, 2024

The First Lesson - [Isaiah 6:1-8](#)

[Psalm 29](#)

The Second Lesson - [Romans 8:12-17](#)

The Holy Gospel - [John 3:1-17](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of May 27, 2024**

Monday - [Luke 14:25-35](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 15:1-10](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 15:1-2,11-32](#)

Thursday - [Luke 16:1-9](#)

Friday - [Luke 16:10-18](#)

Saturday - [Luke 16:19-21](#)

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to
Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman.

__ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00

__ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar -
\$50.00

__ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of
paper for more names.)

a) In Memory of _____

b) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____ Envelope # _____

Amount \$ _____

St. Thomas
Presents

"WADING IN THE WATER"

August 5-9, 2024

from 10 am to 2 pm
drop-off starting at 9 am



A VACATION BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Ages: 4-16

FREE OF COST

Plenty of fun, fellowship, and food!

Register at QR CODE ATTACHED

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

ASSOCIATERECTOR@AECST.ORG



**COMING
SOON!**

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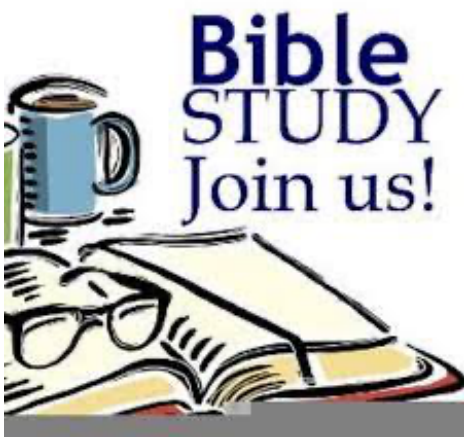
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DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

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](#).



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#).



Young Adult Bible Study

Bible Study is held on Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House. During the Spring, we will explore the "Acts of the Apostles". Join our exciting journey with the Apostles of Jesus. All are welcome!

**Looking for a nice quiet getaway?
Come to Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey**

GFS PA HOLIDAY HOUSE

OPENING FOR THE 2024 SEASON! JUNE 1ST- SEPTEMBER 30TH

2024 Season Donation Rates

\$125/night: single occupancy

\$225/night: double occupancy

\$250/night: triple occupancy

*Family and Group rates available

No meals \$90/night: single occupancy. Must be indicated at the time of reservation.

JUNE/SEPT Bed and Breakfast Rate \$100/night: single



Ask for details about our SPECIALS! \$250/person (Children 12 and under ½ price.)

Out of School- Two weeks!

- Mon., 6/17- Fri., 6/21
- Mon., 6/24- Fri., 6/28

- 4th of July Special- Choose Mon., 7/1- Fri., 7/5
OR Wed., 7/3 - Sun., 7/7
- Labor Day Weekend Fri., 8/30- Mon., 9/2

For reservations e-mail gfsholiday@yahoo.com or call *609-846-6097 *New phone number!

Podcast Series

Stay tuned for an upcoming parish podcast series for parents with young children, and those who are responsible for the care of children. The series will explore the text: “When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-filled Responses for Tough Topics”, edited by Bromleigh McCleneghan and Karen Ware Jackson.

Church School begins at 10:00 AM.

The theme this year is: “Exciting Stories of the Bible”. Registration forms may be found on the tables in the Undercroft Sunday School Room or the registration [link](#).

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 are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

Vacation Bible School

If you would like to be part of a team to help with the planning of a Vacation Bible School, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

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 will meet 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: Roy Ellison - Univ of PA Hospital

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Fr. Darryl James - Stapley Rehab; Leotta Griffith - Saunders House; Wendell Whitlock, Linda Holmes - Saunders House

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Kenneth Dow, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ola Bass; Ronald Coleman, Shirley Winkfield, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Terry Corson, Barbara Douglas, Patricia Holmes, Loretta Fergueson, Verger StephenHannum, Micheleanne Bradwell, Barbara Douglas

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Sandra Bryant Miller, Waltier Blocker, Adinah Edwards

WE PRAY FOR

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

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We need strong support for our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card or go on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#) to complete your Faithful Giving Card. You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

The Building Fund Envelopes have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. And 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 once a month. Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month. Thank you

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount are placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) Judy Tillman. We appreciate your help with this.

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or [email](#), please do so **ASAP**. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the Givi App or [Online Giving](#) Donations, please [email](#) your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. Judy Tillman

A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. 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. Thank you.

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, 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 am-2 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 Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	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 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		jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.royellison@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

VESTRY OFFICERS

Richard Jones (Rector's Warden)
Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. (Treasurer)
Deborah Camp-Frye (Accounting Warden)
Judy Tillman (Stewardship Chair)
William Burke (Property Chair)
Clare Mae Daniels (Vestry Clerk)

VESTRY

Deadra Cannon
Wendella Fox
Marie B. Golson
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Pamela Johnson
Patricia Lynch
Judith Simkins-Booth

AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best
Deborah Booker Matthews
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Mary S. Dean
Elaine Gillson
Eugene Golson
Cynthia Muse
Dr. Monica Taylor
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

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.