



# Breast CANCER

**AWARENESS SUNDAY**

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
THE REV. EREND 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 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
OCTOBER 20, 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 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost and  
Breast Cancer Awareness 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 USA. 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

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

**Dedicate a Pew Memorial Plaque for your loved ones  
on All Saints Day Sunday, November 3, 2024  
\$500.00**

Contact [Victoria A. Mosley Rivers](#) or call her [home phone](#)  
or [cellphone](#)

**Deadline: October 21, 2024**

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**October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month**  
Sunday, October 20, 2024, is Breast Cancer Awareness  
Sunday at St. Thomas



# Breast Cancer Fact Sheet

## for Patients and Caregivers



Breast cancer can start in any part of one or both breasts. For women in the US, breast cancer is the most common cancer (after skin cancer) and the second-leading cause of cancer death (after lung cancer).

### Risk Factors

**Risk factors for breast cancer that you cannot change include:**

**Sex:** Being born female is one of the strongest risk factors for breast cancer. Males can also get breast cancer, but it is much more common in females.

**Age:** As a person gets older, their risk of breast cancer goes up. Most breast cancers are found in women age 55 or older.

**Personal or family history:** Someone who has had breast cancer in the past or has a parent, sibling, or child with breast cancer has a higher risk of getting it. Having more than one close blood relative increases the risk even more. It's important to know that most people with breast cancer don't have a close blood relative with the disease.

**Inheriting gene changes:** Certain gene changes (most commonly in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genes) can create a higher risk for breast cancer.

**Starting menstruation early or having late menopause:** There may be a higher risk due to longer exposure to the hormones estrogen and progesterone.

**Having dense breast tissue:** People whose breasts appear dense on mammograms have a higher risk of breast cancer. Dense breast tissue can also make it harder to see cancers on mammograms.

**Having radiation to the chest:** Women who were treated with radiation therapy to the chest before age 30 have a much higher risk for breast cancer.

**Some benign breast conditions:** Certain noncancerous breast conditions can increase the risk of getting breast cancer.

**Lifestyle-related risk factors for breast cancer:**

- Drinking alcohol
- Excess body weight, especially after menopause
- Not being physically active
- Getting hormone therapy after menopause with estrogen and progesterone therapy
- Never having children or having a first child after age 30
- Certain types of birth control

### Prevention

There is no sure way to prevent breast cancer, and some risk factors can't be changed, such as being born female, age, personal or family history of the disease, and inherited gene changes. But there are things a person can do that can help lower the risk for breast cancer. Avoiding or limiting alcohol, getting regular physical activity, and getting to and staying at a healthy weight might help lower risk.

If you have a family history or inherited gene changes, your health care provider may have you see a genetic counselor or recommend certain medicines or procedures. They can help you better understand your risks and make informed decisions about your care.

## Screening and Early Detection

Screening is a process used to look for cancer in people who have no symptoms. The earlier breast cancer is found, the better the chances for successful treatment. The American Cancer Society recommends the following for finding breast cancer early in women at average risk:

- **Women ages 40 to 44** should have the choice to start yearly breast cancer screening with a mammogram (x-ray of the breast).
- **Women ages 45 to 54** should get a mammogram every year.
- **Women 55 and older** can switch to a mammogram every two years, or can continue yearly screening. Screening should continue as long as a woman is in good health and is expected to live at least 10 more years.
- Screening MRI and screening mammograms are recommended for certain women at high risk of breast cancer. Talk to a health care provider for more information.
- If you are getting a mammogram for breast cancer screening, you should understand what to expect and what the test can and cannot do. Mammograms can miss cancer (called a false-negative) or look abnormal even though it's not cancer (called a false-positive). Additional tests can be costly and stressful.

## Signs and Symptoms

The most common sign of breast cancer is a new lump or mass. While most lumps or masses are not cancer, it is important to have a health care provider check them. Other signs of breast cancer can include swelling of all or part of a breast (even if no lump is felt); skin dimpling (sometimes looking like an orange peel); nipple pain or retraction (turning inward); nipple discharge (other than breast milk); nipple or breast skin that is red, dry, flaking, or thickened; or swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collar bone. Have any breast changes checked by a health care provider.



## Treatment

Treatment for breast cancer depends on the type and stage of the cancer and results of testing that might be done on the tumor, as well as the person's age, other health problems, and personal choices. If you have breast cancer, talk to your doctor about the best treatment for you.

## Living With Breast Cancer

Breast cancer affects a person's quality of life. Physical, social, mental health, spiritual, and money issues can come up at any time.

People with breast cancer may be helped by palliative care at any time. Palliative care focuses on helping manage symptoms, addressing issues, and improving quality of life.

Good communication between a person with cancer and the health care team is important and involves:

- Asking and answering questions
- Working together to set care goals
- Making shared decisions
- Managing side effects and other issues
- Scheduling follow-up tests and care

Visit the American Cancer Society website at [cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer) or call us at **1-800-227-2345** to learn more. We're here when you need us.



cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

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No. 080712 Rev. 1/24  
Models used for illustrative purposes only.



## **IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP NEWS - From the Rector**

Sunday begins our **Annual Stewardship Drive**. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2025 Faithful Giving Pledge toward the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas.

Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither (10% of one's earnings).

Are you working toward that spiritual goal? A chart to assist with Faithful Giving may be found [here](#).

**The Faithful Giving Form** may be found using the following [link](#) or when you come to church on Sunday please place your Faithful Giving card on the Altar of God.

Thank you to the individuals who have submitted their 2025 Faithful Giving cards.

The list of names may be found [here](#).

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### **FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR:**

This is a reminder that the Mass ends following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from leaving the Service before the conclusion.

This request is being made in order to respect others gathered for worship.

# The Twentieth-First Sunday after Pentecost October 13, 2024

**Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto**  
With Pastor / City Councilman Nicolas O'Rourke,  
Former Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney,  
Rhode Island Congressman Gabe Amo, and  
Philadelphia Election Commissioner Chair Omar Sabir



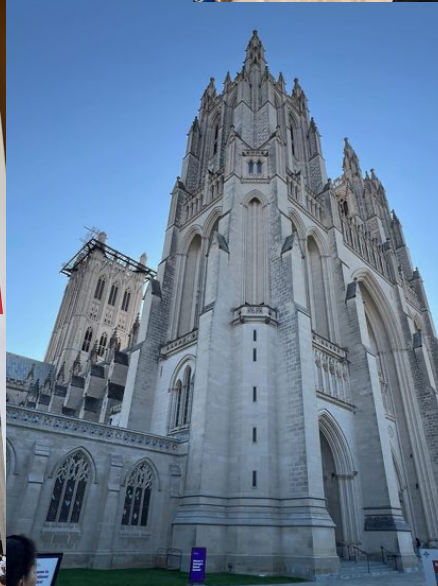
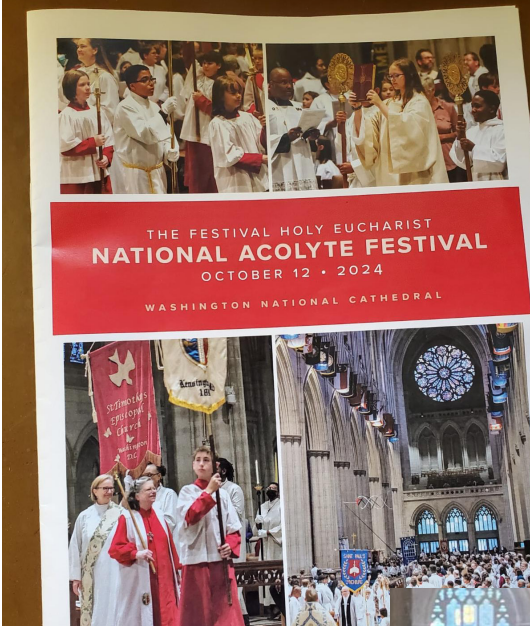


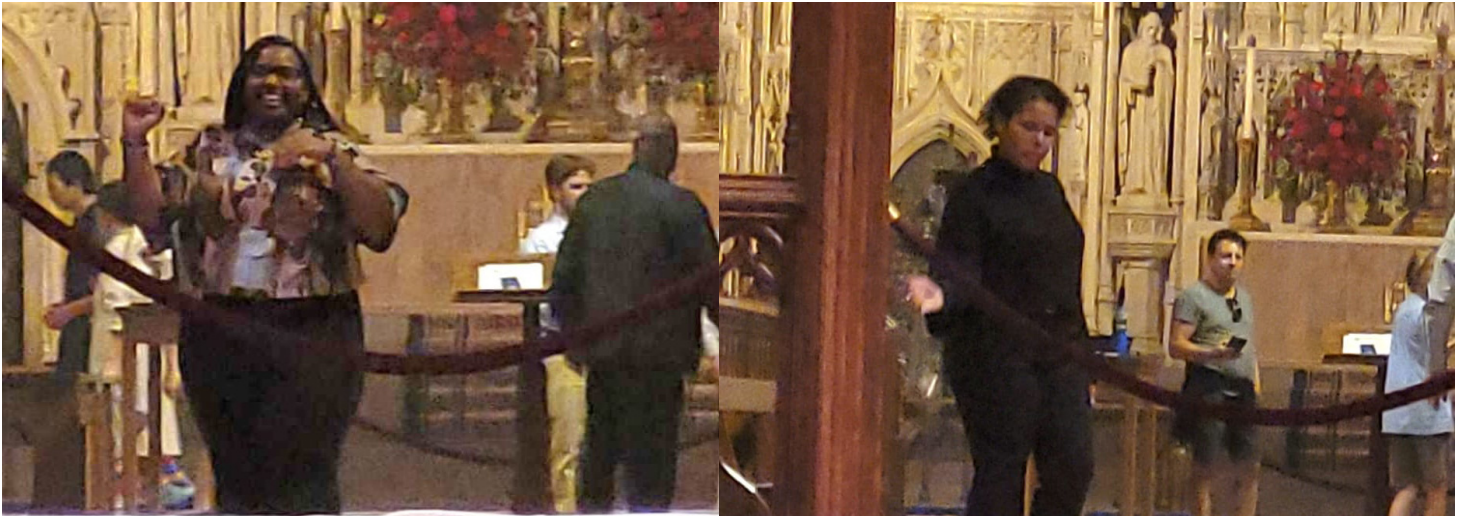




More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

**On Saturday, October 12, 2024, Two of our  
St. Thomas Acolyte Wardens  
(Cheyenne Williamson and Junita Miller)  
attended the Annual Acolyte Festival-  
Washington National Cathedral.**





## **OUR CONDOLENCES**

to Cassandra Ruffin, her brother, Carl Dean, and Mary Dean on the death of their mother and mother-in-law respectively: **Sara Dean**. May the soul of Sara rest in peace and rise in glory. AMEN.

to Mary Dean and family on the death of her cousin, **John Johnson**. May the soul of John rest in peace and rise in glory. AMEN.

# **\*ST THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY\***

On Saturday, October 13, 2024, some parishioners took the opportunity to get their Flu and COVID-19 vaccines.



## **HEALTH MINISTRY SURVEY**

### **Possible Health Topics**

Members of the Health Ministry met and have suggested several topics for the upcoming 2024-2025 church period, beginning in October 2024.

Please click on this [link](#) for a VERY short survey to let us know which topics you are most interested in learning more about. Thank You!

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## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

### **THANKSGIVING GIFT OF JOY**

Each year the Daughters of the King collect donations for our Thanksgiving Project. The money collected will help individuals in need. We are asking you to prayerfully consider making a donation.

**Members will be at the church entrance, to receive donations today thru November 17th.**

Thank you!

## **ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS MEMORIAL CANDLES**

On November 3rd, we are celebrating the  
Feast of All Saints / All Souls.

You are encouraged to bring in photographs  
of your loved ones to place on the Columbarium.

In addition, you can dedicate a Memorial Candle  
to your loved ones. Candle Memorials will cost \$2.00  
per single name, and married couples will cost \$4.00.

Please send the names to:

[Clare Mae Daniels](#) or [Alfreda Brockman](#)

or mail to the church office at 6361 Lancaster Ave.  
Phila. PA., 19151.

**The Deadline is Tuesday, October 29th.**

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### **THE WEEK AT AECST - October 21, 2024**

**Tuesday, October 22nd** - Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting -  
6:00 PM

Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, October 23rd** - Young Adult Bible Study with Fr.  
Daren - 6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

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

**Thursday, October 24th** - Funeral of Geraldine Overton.  
Viewing 10:00 AM. Requiem mass 11:00 AM

**Friday, October 25th** -The Retired Peoples Ministry will meet  
from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

**Saturday, October 26th** - Daughters of the King -  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**  
**UPCOMING DATES IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER**

**Sunday, October 20th** -Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday  
(Please wear something pink)

**Sunday, October 27th** -  
Youth and Young Adult Sunday  
2nd Annual Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot  
after service

**Sunday, November 3rd** - Observance of the Feast of All Saints  
/ All Souls; Observance of our 1st Rector (Absalom Jones) and  
17th Rector's (Fr. Shaw) birthday. Both of them were born on  
November 6th.

**Sunday, November 10th** - Observance of Veterans Day.

**Sunday, November 17th** - Annual Judicial Sunday  
Guest Homilist - **The Honorable Lori A. Dumas**, The  
Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

**Sunday, November 24th** - Youth and Young Adult Sunday

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The honor and joy of preparing the Lord's table for the  
celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Is God calling you to  
become a member of the altar guild? Please express your  
interest with [Freda Brockman](#), director.





## 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.

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Following Service Sunday, **October 13, 2024**, Fr. Daren and a few members of the St. Thomas O.V. Catto Ministry gather with several young adults to discuss the upcoming election and other relevant issues.







**AECST  
TREE OF LIFE  
Prison Ministry**



**AECST  
FOUNDED 1792**

**Sunday**

**October 27, 2024,**

**After Church Service in Anderson Hall**

**Save The Date!**

## **Recruitment Drive For New Members**

**Lite refreshments, history of ministry, trivia, giveaways, etc...**

**All Interested persons should contact:  
Conchetta Brewer, Secretary (267) 975-7283**

**Thank you,  
Ricardo Bostic Co-Chair  
Catherine Stafford, Co-Chair**

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- *Dance, Caribbean & Line Dance Music*
- *Complimentary Set-ups*
  - *Free Parking*
  - *Cash Raffle*

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS**

## *~ Old School Cabaret ~*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024 • 6PM TO 10PM**

**NARBERTH FIRE HALL**

**100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBERTH, PA 19072**

**TICKETS \$25.00 PER PERSON OR \$50 PER COUPLE**

*PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH INITIATIVES*

**FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT:**

**ED GEIGER (716) 207-0405 OR MIKE ARCHEY (215) 983-3939**

***DRESS LIKE YOU'RE BLESSED & READY TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EVENING!***

**BRING AND SHARE FAVORITE FOODS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS**

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17<sup>TH</sup> RECTOR

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

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



**CATTO MINISTRY CORNER - UPDATE  
HOT OFF THE PRINTER**

The 2024 General Election Voter's Guide is a great resource to help you make informed decisions before casting your ballot. Click [here](#).

**Important... Please Read**

**Monday, October 21, 2024,  
is the last day to register to vote in the PA  
November 5, 2024, General Election!**

If you changed your address, changed your name, (marriage or divorce), or want to change your political party go to: [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov)

Is Your Mail-in Ballot **one of 2,900+**  
in Philly that won't be counted?  
This is a very serious matter!  
You must take action immediately.

**The Philadelphia County Commissioners**, who oversee elections in the city, have identified more than 2,900 mail-in and absentee ballots with various issues that may prevent them from being counted in the upcoming November 5, 2024, General Election.

Go to [www.vote.phila.gov](http://www.vote.phila.gov) to see if your name, a family member's name, or a friend's name appears on this list. As of now, the list is alphabetical by first name. The same page also explains how to solve issues with a ballot or get a replacement ballot. Check the list often because it is updated regularly, so you may want to bookmark the page!

**Pennsylvania residents** can check the status/progress of a mail-in ballot at [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov)

**New Jersey residents** can check the status/progress of a mail-in ballot at <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml>

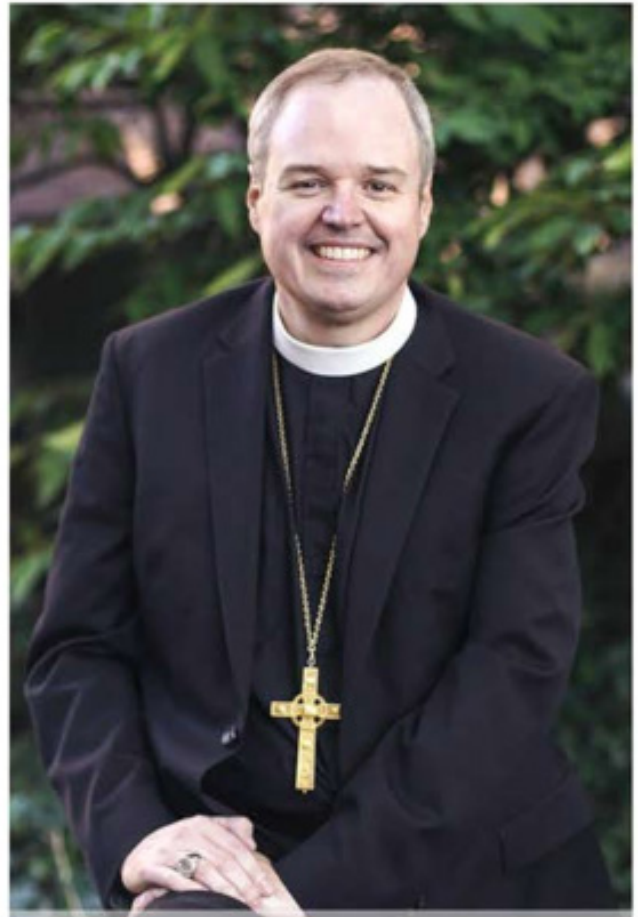
**Delaware residents** can check the status/progress of a mail-in ballot at <https://elections.delaware.gov/>



You are  
cordially  
invited  
to view  
the  
live celebration  
at:

[WWW.EPISCOPALCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.EPISCOPALCHURCH.ORG)

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THE MOST REVEREND MICHAEL CURRY  
REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE AT THE  
CELEBRATION OF  
THE NEW MINISTRY AND INVESTITURE OF  
***THE RIGHT REVEREND SEAN ROWE***  
AS PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE  
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024  
"ROLL CALL" OF DIOCESES - 9:30 AM  
SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST - 11:00 AM

## **CHAT AND CHEW**

Have you ever considered hosting a Coffee Hour (Chat ad Chew) following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received, or in memory of a departed loved one?

Please contact [Gladyce](#) for further details.

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## **CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!**

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson](#).

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**BE INSPIRED AND UPLIFTED!**

Join us for a joyful evening of music and unity as we come together to celebrate the life-saving power of organ and tissue donation.

# GIFT *of* LIFE **DONOR SABBATH** CONCERT

featuring the acclaimed

# ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR & SPECIAL GUESTS



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia

**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE FREE TICKETS**

Seating is limited! Light refreshments and fellowship to follow.

**DON'T MISS THIS SOULFUL CELEBRATION OF HOPE AND FAITH!**  
For more information, contact Naja Killebrew at [nkillebrew@donors1.org](mailto:nkillebrew@donors1.org).

[donors1.org](http://donors1.org)  **GIFT *of* LIFE**  
DONOR PROGRAM  
A Legacy of HEROES. A Future of HOPE.

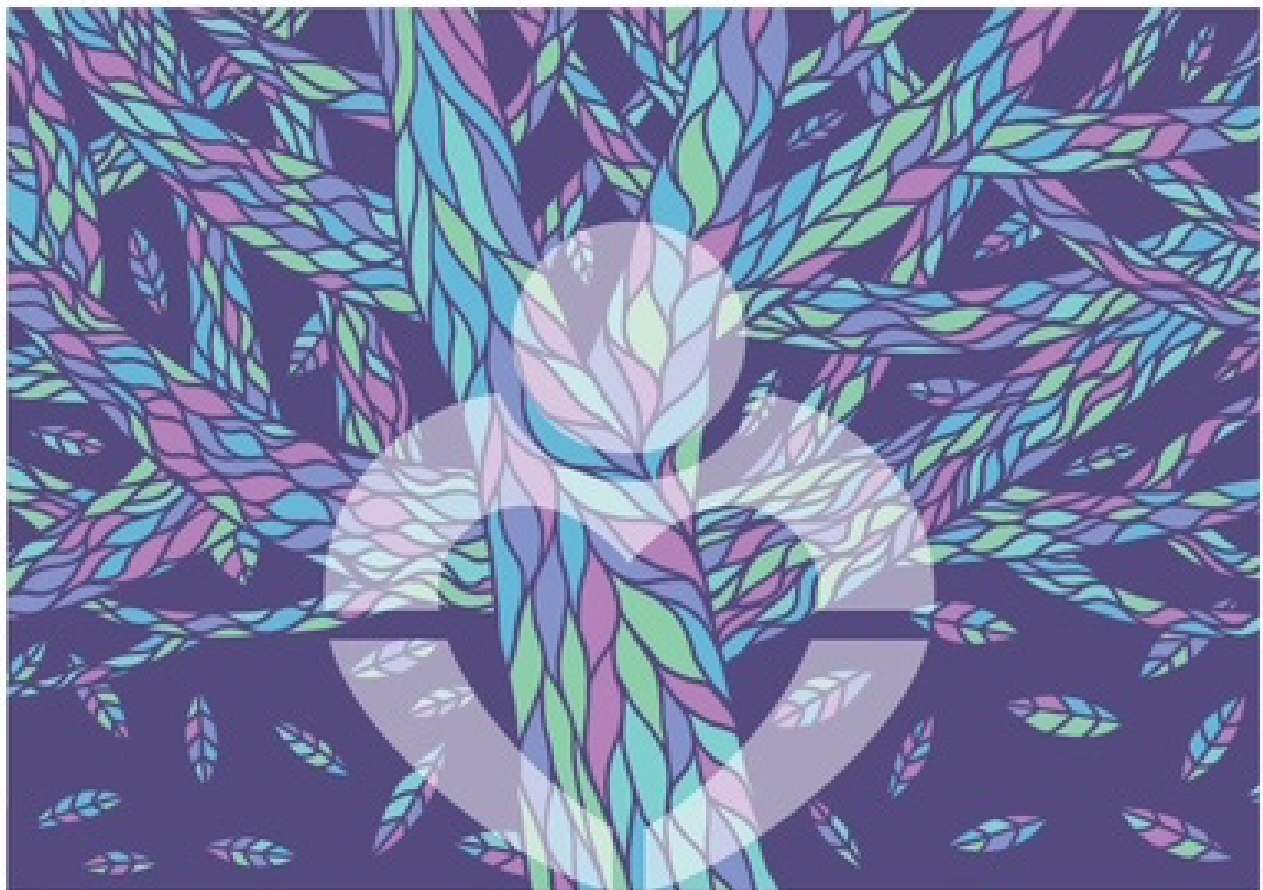
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NOVEMBER IS

# GIFT *of* LIFE

## DONOR SABBATH

JOIN OUR INTERFAITH MISSION to Save Lives



Join our interfaith mission to help save lives in your community. Leave a legacy of love by signing up to become an organ and tissue donor and encourage others to do the same.

**CLICK HERE** or scan the QR code for materials, speakers, program ideas and our inspiring faith video. Contact Naja Killebrew at [nkillebrew@donors1.org](mailto:nkillebrew@donors1.org) for more information.



Communicate, educate and advocate to save lives in your

# COMMUNITY



## 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](#).



EXCITING NEWS!!! SPREAD IT!!!

Our new and exciting Family Podcast Series is ALIVE!!  
Two series are now available for your listening enjoyment.

#1 - Fr. Daren introduces the Series with **Fr. Shaw** as his guest. "Creating a Culture of Conversation". The podcast can be found using this [link](#).

#2 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Pamela Johnson** as his guest. "Body Image: Good Enough for Jesus". The podcast can be found using this [link](#).

#3 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Tynecia Wilson** as his guest. Conversation: "The Adultification of Black Girls".  
The podcast can be found using this [link](#):





## ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers for the High Altar, Absalom Jones Altar, or Columbarium, please use this [link](#).

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### **A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:**

**ANY** and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (i.e., 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.

## CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Are you willing to serve for 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 speak with [Fr. Daren](#) ASAP if you are interested.

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Bring your Ghost, Ghouls, Heroes, Villains, Prince, and Princesses to the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot after service on **Sunday, October 27, 2024.**

Volunteers needed to decorate your trunk and pass out candy. Please get in touch with [Gladyce](#) in the [church office](#).

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At St. Thomas, 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?

**Kid  
Friendly!  
Ages 12 &  
Under**

**AECST**

**3rd Annual**

**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**

**Volunteers  
needed to  
decorate your  
trunk and hand  
out candy!**

**Come and Join Us!**

**October 27th**

**Costumes optional  
but encouraged!**

**Time: After service**

**Location: AECST Parking Lot**

**Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses,  
and superheros to join in the fun!**

**Please contact Gladyce in the church office at  
215-473-3065 or [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org)**



**The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)**

**The Very Reverend Cannon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector**

**6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151**

**[www.AECST.org](http://www.AECST.org)**

**[www.Facebook.com/AECST1792](http://www.Facebook.com/AECST1792)**

## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### READINGS FOR Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 13, 2024

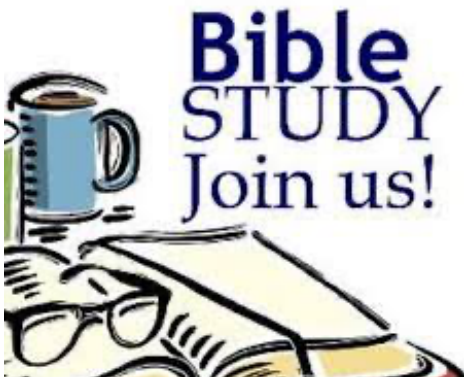
The First Lesson - [Isaiah 53:4-12](#)  
[Psalm 91:9-16](#)

The Second Lesson - [Hebrews 5:1-10](#)  
The Holy Gospel - [Mark 10:35-45](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of October 21, 2024

Monday - [Matthew 11:16-24](#)  
Tuesday - [Matthew 11:25-30](#)  
Wednesday - [Matthew 12:1-14](#)  
Thursday - [Matthew 12:15-21](#)  
Friday - [Matthew 12:22-32](#)  
Saturday - [Matthew 12:33-42](#)

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**The Adult Bible Study Group**  
meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via  
Zoom. Anyone interested in joining  
Bible Study should contact [Fr. Jay](#)  
to receive the Zoom link.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

### **IN REHAB:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Fr. Darryl James - Stapley Rehab; Leotta Griffith, Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Daryn Stewart - Liberty Center for Rehab; Deborah "Binky" Seay - Broomall Manor Rehab; Inez Turner - St. Francis Rehab

### **AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ola Bass; Ronald Coleman, Shirley Winkfield, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Terry Corson, Barbara Douglas, Verger Stephen Hannum, Wendell Whitlock, Cornelia Camp, Kenneth Dow, Yvonne Syndor, Donald Hunt, Jr., Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden, Erica Hill-Yates, Grace Wetzel

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor, Lisa Woodley, Waltier Blocker, Adinah Edwards, Carl Dean, Patricia Holmes, Sandra Bryant Miller, Ann Stewart, Autumn Simmons

### **WE PRAY FOR**

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

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### **Our Wednesday in-person Bible Study**

has resumed. We continue our journey through Acts of the Apostles. Join us every Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the AJ House.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

## **YOUNG ADULT GATHERING**

All young adults (those in their 20's and 30's) are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

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## **GIRLS FRIENDLY**

Girls Friendly will begin on **Saturday, October 5th**. Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information.

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## **DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**

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



## Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

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**Scout Troop #133** - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at **2:00 PM. on Saturdays.**

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program meets at **3:00 PM on Saturdays.**

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

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### 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](#).

## **HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?**

**“To whom much is given, much is required.” -Luke 12:48**

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways, your time, your talent or your treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God’s children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasures. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all of the special requests below.

### **FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)**

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2024 and 2025. You’ll be able to complete your [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

**THE BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES** have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. If you’ve already picked your offering envelopes up, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering [online](#). Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month.

Thank you.

## **CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select "Building Fund." If using checks write "Building Fund" on the memo line of your check.

## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

The church has received many "undeliverable" mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by [email](#) or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shut-in parishioners? If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. A list of our sick and shut-in parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact [Judy Tillman.](#)

## **RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST**

\$100,000.00. Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating toward the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



**The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas |  
Abou...**

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

## WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

“To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, (Absalom Jones Way).Philadelphia,  
PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Please download the Givi app, (**givi IOS App**) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (**givi Android App**) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours ( Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM) **After business hours**, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**  
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your online giving information.)
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**.  
Thank you so much to all who have return them.

## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate 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 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 Photogrphy 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		
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry		
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

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## VESTRY OFFICERS

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

## THE VESTRY

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

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS** is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determanation, 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.