

EDUCATION SUNDAY

"EDUCATION CONCEPTS IN A DIGITAL WORLD"

ANNUAL

BACK TO SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.



Keynote Speaker:
St Thomas' very own
KIMBERLY A. LLOYD
President

Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Back to School /
Education Sunday. Our speaker is Kimberly Lloyd.**

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](#).

GREETINGS FAMILY

We pray you are well and that you had a great Summer.

This is a reminder that this **Sunday, September 8th** is **Back to School Sunday**. During the service, all students and educators will be blessed to mark the beginning of a new academic year. Each student will also receive a special spiritual gift to guide them throughout the year. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact one of us. We look forward to seeing you!

Blessings,
Fr. Shaw & Fr. Daren



RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST

Replacement of Air Conditioning units - \$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 towards

the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.



CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS
to Gloria Babb, William Meek, and
their families on the death of
Cedric Babb. A memorial service
will be held here at St. Thomas on
Monday, September 9, 2024,
at 10:00 AM.

May the soul of Cedric rest in peace
and rise in glory.

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Karen Smith, Paula Wright and family on the death
of **Keith Smith**. His service will be held at St. Thomas on
Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Viewing will be held
from 9-10:45 AM and Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM.

May the soul of Keith rest in peace and rise in glory.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Thank you for the calls, texts, cards, and condolences
given to me following the death of my niece,
Shareba B. Waters.

Please continue to pray for my family.

Fleta W. Howell

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Kelvin and Pamela Johnson and family want to thank
our church family for every card, text message, and other
kind expressions of sympathy. Our mother, grandmother,
great-grandmother, **Martha B. Johnson** loved visiting our
church! Her legacy will be in our hearts forever!!!



WELCOME ISIDORE!!!

We welcome St. Thomas' newest member, Isidore Francis Brossa, born this morning at **4:26 AM**.

Parents: Ryan and Kathryn Brossa.

Congratulations Kathryn and Ryan.

Your St. Thomas family loves you.

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 8th - Back to School / Education Sunday
Blessing of Church School staff, students and their backpacks.

HOMEcomings CELEBRATION WEEKEND!

Saturday, September 14th - St. Thomas Homecoming
Celebration Weekend - A Musical Tribute to Marian Anderson

Join us as we present a tribute concert of Brahms
Schubert and Negro Spirituals dedicated to Marian
Anderson, featuring the Marian Anderson Scholar Artists,
led by our own Dr. Jay Fluellen. The concert will begin at
3:00 PM at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas,
6361 Lancaster Avenue. Admission is \$40.00.

Sunday, September 15th - All Aboard the AECST Express
Homecoming Sunday Celebration - 10:00 AM "Celebrating
232 Years of **Relevant** and **Vibrant Ministry!**" Bring your
family, friends and neighbors to this exciting celebration. A
reception will follow the service.

Sunday, September 22nd - Youth and Young Adult Sunday

Sunday, September 29th - Health Ministry Sunday
Church School reconvenes for all children and youth

ATTENTION:
ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN

Church School will begin on **Sunday, September 29th**.
Please register using this [link](#).



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



Homecoming

Sunday

2024

"Celebrating 232 Years
of relevant and vibrant ministry"

All aboard the AECST EXPRESS!!!

September 15, 2024 - 10:00 AM
(Reception to follow Service)

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
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Preparations are underway for an exciting Homecoming Weekend: Saturday, Sept. 14th - Special Musical; Sunday, Sept. 15th - Celebration Service and Reception.



Singsation

A Musical Tribute To Marian Anderson

Presented by The Marian Anderson Museum



JOIN US AS WE PRESENT A TRIBUTE CONCERT OF BRAHMS SCHUBERT AND NEGRO SPIRITUALS DEDICATED TO MARIAN ANDERSON. FEATURING THE MARIAN ANDERSON SCHOLAR ARTISTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAHS MUSIC DIRECTOR DR. JAY FLUELLEN

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2024

LOCATION: AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151

3PM

FEATURING

CONCERT TICKET ADMISSION: \$40.00



LAURICE S KENNEL
SOPRANO



JILLIAN PIRTLE
SOPRANO



LILY KASS
SOPRANO



DR. JAY FLUELLEN
MUSICAL DIRECTOR



TERRANCE HART
TENOR



MARCUS SIMMONS
BASS



BRENTON MATTOX
BASS

FOR TICKETS PLEASE VISIT THE LINK : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/singsation-a-musical-tribute-to-marian-anderson-presented-by-the-marian-anderson-museum-tickets-942985824987?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

OR CALL OUR OFFICE @ 215-779-4219





CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

Attention!! Attention!!

The Committee of 70 has released information that the Center for Voter Information is mailing unsolicited mail-in ballot applications to PA voters. The mailers include a QR Code that sends voters to the state voter registration website after extracting personal information. Folks do not fall into this trap.

If you are a PA resident and need to check your voter status, register to vote, or request a mail-in or absentee ballot go directly to the Department of State's portal; www.pavoterservices.pa.gov. Civic engagement is crucial for the upcoming General Election. There are many ways to become involved but, the first is to register.

“It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church’s responsibility to help get souls to the polls.” - Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

VOTE – It is your Superpower!!

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](#).



ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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.



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.

ST. THOMAS YOUTH AND FAMILY FUN DAY

September 21, 2024

10:00 AM

Calling all Youth, Teens, Families, and those Young at Heart...

You are welcome to join us on Fun Day! Fun,
Fellowship, and Food

2 bounce houses & slide, jump rope workshop, corn hole,
arts & crafts, games, storytime for the little ones.

Learn to bake yummy cookies outdoors.

Try your hand at different sports, food,
learn about all the Youth & Teen groups
and much more.

Want to volunteer? Need more information??

Contact [Nikki Simms](#) or [Pam Johnson](#)

All are welcome!

Invite a friend to come and join us!! It will be fun!!



FOUNDED 1792

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS
PRESENTS

YOUTH FUN DAY



Acolytes

*Church
School*

*Angels in
Motion*



**SATURDAY
SEPT. 21ST
10 AM TO 2 PM**



**LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP FOR OUR YOUTH
GROUPS**

PLUS:

READING NOOK

BOUNCE HOUSES

DOUBLE DUTCH WORKSHOP

CORNHOLE AND MORE...

COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!



For more information, contact
Pam Johnson at pamelajohnson5620@gmail.com
or Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net

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DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

READINGS FOR

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

The First Lesson - [Isaiah 35:4-7a](#)
[Psalms 146](#)

The Second Lesson - [James 2:1-10,11-17](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Mark 7:24-37](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of September 9, 2024

Monday - [Mark 15:40-47](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 16:1-8](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 2:13-23](#)

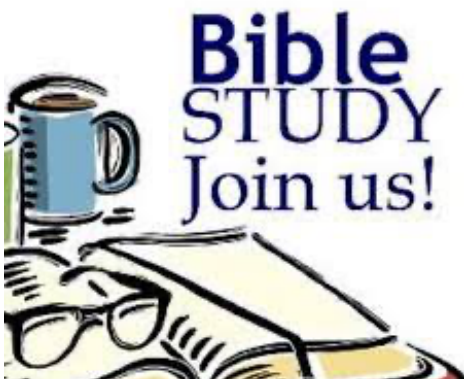
Friday - [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 3:13-17](#)



The Adult Bible Study Group Meetings

resume on Tuesday, September 10th 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 - 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, Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden

KEEP IN PRAYER:

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

WE PRAY FOR

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

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](#).

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

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

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.

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, www.aecst.org, 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 1792@aecst.org 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.

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.

-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 at stewardship@aecst.org.

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

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

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.