



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**  
**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](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost and  
Homecoming Celebration.**

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

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





# A History

## The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19151 (215) 473-3065 [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

Originally established as the African Church, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas was founded in 1792 by and for persons of African descent to foster personal and religious freedoms and self-determination. The original African Church was an outgrowth of the Free African Society - a mutual aid organization established in 1787 by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others -to assist the Black population in Philadelphia. The early religious services were held in private homes and in a school. Within the congregation were many who -because of growing racial tension and insults -had followed the lay preachers, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, in an historic walkout from St. George's Methodist Church. Affiliation with the Episcopal Church was ratified in 1794. The Reverend Absalom Jones became the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first rector of St. Thomas' Church.



Original Church  
5th & Adelphi



12th Below Walnut St.

The original church house was constructed at 5<sup>th</sup> and Adelphi Streets in Philadelphia, now St. James Place, and dedicated on July 17, 1794. Subsequent locations of the church included: 12<sup>th</sup> Street below Walnut; 57<sup>th</sup> and Pearl Streets, (uniting with the Church of the Beloved Disciple); 52<sup>nd</sup> and Parrish Streets; and the current location, Overbrook and Lancaster Avenues (formerly St. Paul's Overbrook) in Philadelphia's historic Overbrook Farms neighborhood. The congregation has continued to be predominately African American.

The parish's Eucharist-centered liturgy has evolved over the years from a traditional Anglican/Episcopal high church worship experience to one that is enriched with an evangelical Afrocentric focus.

St. Thomas has been in the vanguard of action to sustain the legacy of humanitarianism and community outreach passed down from its founders. St. Thomas' clergy and parishioners have played key roles in the abolition/anti-slavery/underground railroad movements and the early

equal rights movement of the 1800's. Over the past fifty years, St. Thomas has figured prominently in the civil rights movement, The NAACP, Union of Black Episcopalians, Opportunities Industrialization Center, Philadelphia Interfaith Action and The Episcopal Church Women. Paramount, however, has been the movement to uphold the knowledge and value of the Black presence in the Episcopal Church. Today, that tradition continues with an ever-growing membership and through a host of ministries such as Christian Formation, the ChancelChoir, Gospel Choir,

Jazz Ensemble, Men's Fellowship, Young Adult and Youth Ministries, a Church School, Health Ministry, Caring Ministry, and a Shepherding Program.

On November 10, 1996, the church dedicated the Absalom Jones Chapel with a Festal Eucharist and enshrined his ashes in the altar. In addition, the Absalom Jones Memorial Stained Glass Window was installed and dedicated in July 1997. A stained glass window featuring Black Saints and Black Bishops past and present was also installed in 2000.



52nd & Parrish Sts.



57th & Pearl Sts.



Current Location  
Overbrook & Lancaster Aves.

Today, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas flourishes as an open, Christ-centered community of faith where the Gospel is taught, lived and spread.

# WELCOME

## **NEW MEMBERS TO ST. THOMAS**

We welcome **Tina Soumahoro, Andre Dumetz**, and their children:

**Josephine Aya Dumetz, Adam Dumetz**; Tina's shepherd will be Marie Golson. Andre's shepherd will be William Burke, Jr.

We welcome **Comfort** and **Karl Migan**, and their children: **Michael** and **Nathaniel Migan**. Comfort's shepherd will be Brenda Johnson Best. Karl's shepherd will be Kelvin Johnson.

All of the children will be shepherded by our Church School Superintendent, Tynecia Wilson. And we look forward to getting to know both of the families.  
To God be the glory!!!



# NEW MEMBERS TO ST. THOMAS



Help us begin our Homecoming Celebration with a Musical Tribute to Marian Anderson on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 3:00 PM at St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Avenue. Tickets are \$40.00 and may be purchased at the door.



**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

 <b>LAURICE S KENNEL</b> SOPRANO	 <b>JILLIAN PIRTLE</b> SOPRANO	 <b>LILY KASS</b> SOPRANO	 <b>DR. JAY FLUELLEN</b> MUSICAL DIRECTOR
 <b>TERRANCE HART</b> TENOR	 <b>MARCUS SIMMONS</b> BASS	 <b>BRENTON MATTOX</b> 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







## **OUR CONDOLENCES**

to Dale and Shaleen Williams on  
the death of her mother  
**Janet Manning** and aunt -  
**Sherry Treasure.**

May the souls of Janet and Sherry  
rest in peace and rise in glory.  
Please pray for the family.

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## **OUR CONDOLENCES**

to Deborah Harrison, Elaine Young and family on the death  
of Debbie's sister, **Claretta White.** May the soul of Claretta  
rest in peace and rise in glory.

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## **THIS WEEK AT AECST** **September 16, 2024**

### **Tuesday, September 17th**

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

### **Wednesday, September 18th**

Young Adult Bible Study with Fr, Daren - 6:00 PM-  
Gospel Choir rehearsal in Anderson Hall - 7:30 PM

### **Saturday, September 21st**

Family Fun Day  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Our Annual Education / Back to School Sunday  
September 8, 2024

# 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

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



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

**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, and 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

**Sunday, October 6th** - Stewardship Kickoff  
Catto Ministry Resource Fair - **11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Sunday, October 13th** - The Annual Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto

An Informative and spirited evening as members of St. Thomas along with the Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw gathered to watch the debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump



**YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE RECTOR FOR A PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE WATCH AND RECEPTION BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS AND FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 8:30 P.M. THE ABSALOM JONES HOUSE OF ST. THOMAS 6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 | (215) 473 - 3065 YOU MUST RSVP WITH THE NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY BY THIS TUESDAY NOON TO: RECTOR@AECST.ORG**







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



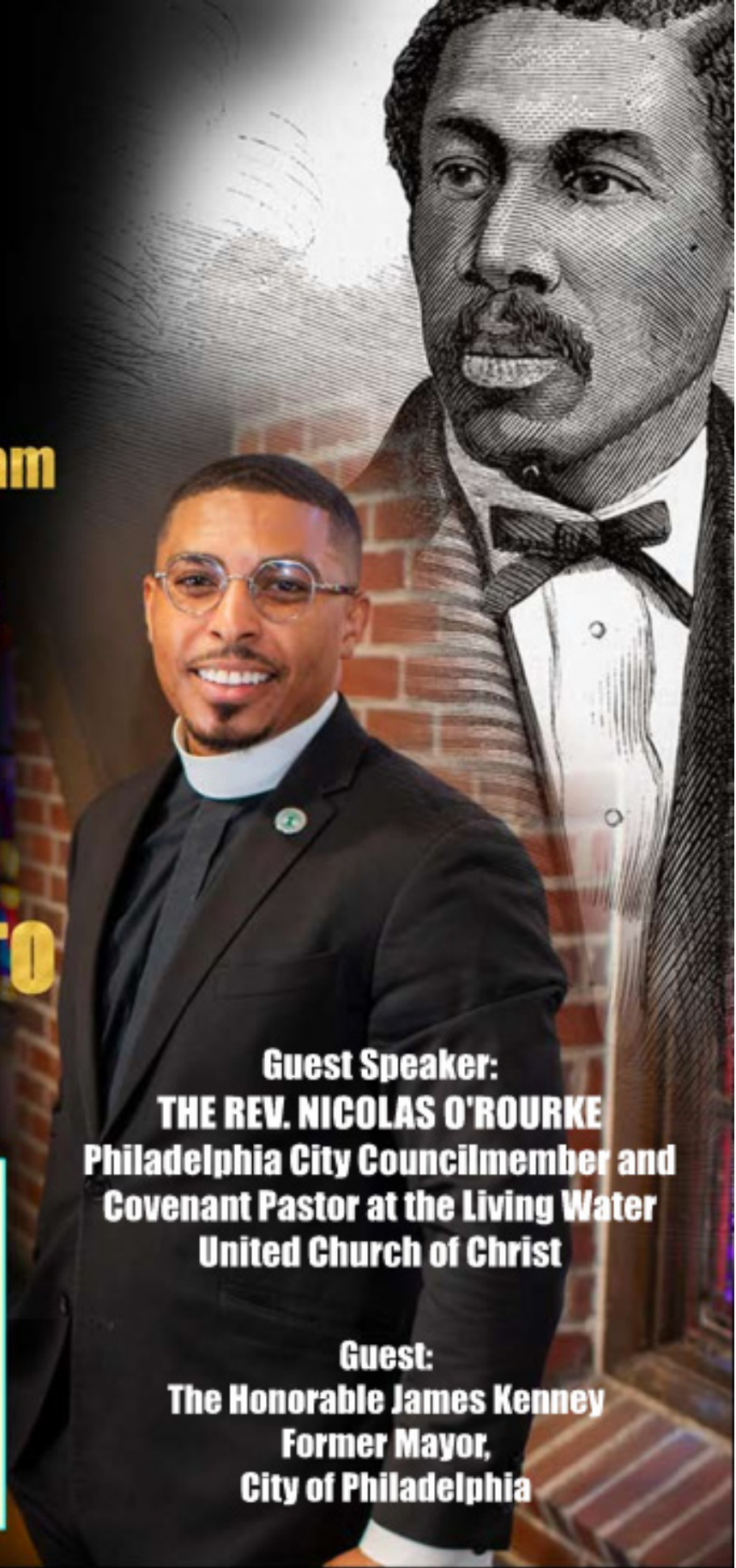
Today we install two new Lay Eucharistic Visitors:  
**Tyrone Keller** and **Eugene Golson**.

Enormous gratitude goes to those who make home visits to our homebound members and take to them the Blessed Sacrament.





**Sunday**  
**October 13, 2024, 10:00 am**  
Please join us for  
**The Annual Celebration**  
of the  
**Life**  
of  
**OCTAVIUS V. CATTO**



**PLAN TO ATTEND...**  
**October 6, 2024 at 11:30 AM**  
**Octavius V. Catto Ministry's**  
**RESOURCE FAIR**  
- voter details  
- city services and more!

**Guest Speaker:**  
**THE REV. NICOLAS O'ROURKE**  
Philadelphia City Councilmember and  
Covenant Pastor at the Living Water  
United Church of Christ

**Guest:**  
**The Honorable James Kenney**  
Former Mayor,  
City of Philadelphia

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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 00 to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson](#).

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## **ATTENTION: ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN**

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

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## **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.



**CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE**  
**Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison Co-Chairs**

Were you in the room when it happened?  
The debate is over but not the work. It's time to get to work,  
get busy, and get engaged!!

“How do I do that?”

- check your voter registration status
- apply for your Mail-in or Absentee Ballot
- become a poll worker —\$\$
- help a first-timer/student register to vote
- talk to your family, neighbors, and friends about the importance of civic engagement
- gather accurate information

**PA Residents:** [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov)

**NJ Residents:** <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>

**DE Residents:** <https://elections.delaware.gov>

**\*DE RESIDENTS ONLY: October 12, 2024, @ 11:59 PM is the DEADLINE for unregistered citizens to register to vote in the November 5, 2024, General Election**

**“It is your Christian obligation to vote...”**

**Don't throw away your shot!**

**VOTE – It is your Superpower!!**





# VOTE!

## IT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER!

**PLAN TO ATTEND...**

**October 6, 2024 11:30 AM - 1:30PM**

**Octavius V. Catto Ministry's  
RESOURCE FAIR**

- Voter Details Including:  
Live Demonstrations for Mail-in &  
Absentee Ballots -
- Philly 311 Services -
- Update Your ID - REAL ID -
- State and Federal Services -

**Light Refreshments Served**

THE OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY  
IS A NON-PARTISAN MINISTRY OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL OF ST. THOMAS

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## 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](#).

Flowers on the High Altar are in celebration of **Kelvin and Pamela Johnson's 40th anniversary**, given by Kelvin and Pamela Johnson.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of **William (Fish) and Geneva Thompson**, given by Calvin Thompson.

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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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## **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**

All are  
welcome!

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

**PLUS:**

**READING NOOK**

**BOUNCE HOUSES**

**DOUBLE DUTCH WORKSHOP**

**CORNHOLE AND MORE...**

**COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!**

Refreshments will  
be served!

For more information, contact

Pam Johnson at [pamelajohnson5620@gmail.com](mailto:pamelajohnson5620@gmail.com)

or Nikkol Simms at [njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)

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## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### READINGS FOR

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 15, 2024**

The First Lesson - [Isaiah 50:4-9](#)

[Psalm 116:1-8](#)

The Second Lesson - [James 3:1-12](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Mark 8:27-38](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the**

**Week of September 16, 2024**

Monday - [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 4:12-17](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 4:18-25](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 5:1-10](#)

Friday - [Matthew 5:11-16](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 5:17-20](#)

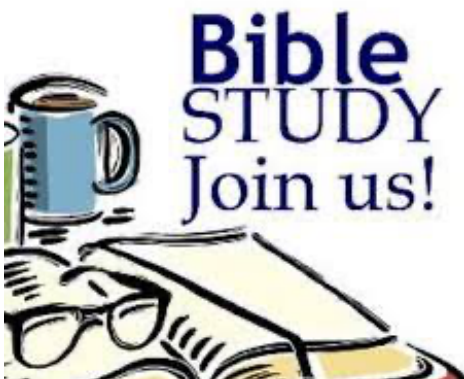


### **The Adult Bible Study**

#### **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 THE HOSPITAL:**

Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden-U Penn; Daryn Stewart-Temple

### **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

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, 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.

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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](#).



## **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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## **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](http://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](mailto: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.

**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

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Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
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Jazz Ensemble Director		
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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.