

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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 29, 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 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/
Health Ministry Sunday. We welcome The Rev. Fr. Levon Alkins,
Priest in charge at Holy Cross Church, Barbados.

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**.



# Please join the Health Ministry in Anderson Hall for a Chat and Chew after service on Sunday.

#### 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 <u>link</u> 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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#### **OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS**

for Eugene Golson and family on the death of his cousin, music great - **Benny Golson**. May the soul of Benny rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

#### On Saturday, September 21, 2024, St. Thomas held its Second Annual Youth Fun Day





# **EXPRESSION OF THANKS Greetings our Church Family**

Thank you to everyone who showed up for our Youth Fun Day on September 21, 2024 - youth, parents, guardians, young adults, volunteers, authors, Child Care Voters, and Cassandra Lee & The Philly Jumping Jems Double Dutch Team.

We are giving a shout out to the Planning Committee Nikki Simms, Carlia Wallace, Howard Chapman,
the Scouts and those who gave an assist The Girls Friendly Leaders, Kadeja Wexler, Elaine Gillison
and Ed Geiger and his MM&F crew.

Gratefully, Pam Johnson, Wendella Fox and Fr. Daren

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congratulations
to Julio Rodriguez and
Alexandra McFadden who received
the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on
Saturday, September 28, 2024

#### The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Youth and Young Adult Sunday September 22, 2024









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

Contact <u>Victoria A. Mosley Rivers</u> or call her <u>home phone</u> or <u>cellphone</u>

Deadline: October 21, 2024

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! UPCOMING DATES IN OCTOBER

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

**Sunday, October 13th -** Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto, Guest Speaker: The Rev. Nicolas O'Rourke

**Sunday, October 20th** -Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

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#### This Week at AECST - September 30, 2024

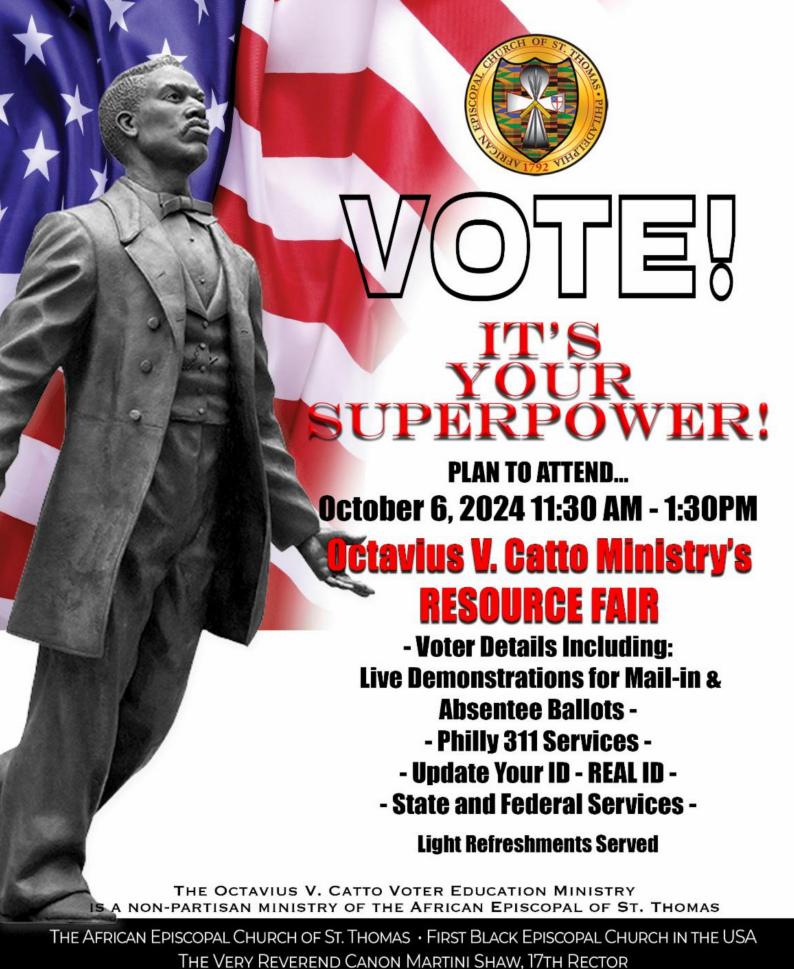
**Tuesday, October 1s**t - Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, October 2nd - 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

**Saturday, October 5th** - The Girls Friendly Society begins at 11:00 AM in the Undercroft

The Dr. Ala "Like My Own" Community Choir Rehearsal - 10:00 AM -12:00 PM in the St. Thomas Sanctuary



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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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AECST TREE OF LIFE Prison Ministry



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

#### **IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUESTED!!**

If you are interested in assisting high school students who will be eligible to vote, for the first time, in the **General Election** on **November 5, 2024**, please email

Elaine Gillison or Wendella Fox ASAP.

#### **DEMOCRACY NEEDS YOU!**

If you are age 17 and up you can contribute to the success of the **November 5, 2024**, General Election and GET PAID!! Yes, **GET PAID**. The city and state of Pennsylvania need poll workers. Depending upon your specific interests, training can often take place online. Please visit <a href="www.vote.pa.gov">www.vote.pa.gov</a>; scroll down and click on "Become a Poll Worker," and complete the interest form.

**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 for more information.



Communicate, educate and advocate to save lives in your





#### 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



#### 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.





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

Church School will begin on **Sunday, September 29th**.

Please register using this <u>link</u>.

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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.

#### **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 <a href="Bill">Bill</a> 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 <u>link.</u>

#2 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Pamela Johnson** as his guest. "Body Image: Good Enough for Jesus". The podcast can be found using this <u>link</u>.

#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 <u>link.</u>

Flowers on the High Altar are in Thanksgiving for **Julio** and **Alexandra Rodriguez**, who were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, September 28, 2024.



# 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 <a href="#">Fr. Daren</a> 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 <u>Gladyce</u> in the church office.

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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.

#### DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

#### **READINGS FOR**

#### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 29, 2024

The First Lesson - Numbers <u>11:4-6,10-16,24-29</u>
Psalm 19:7-14

The Second Lesson - <u>James 5:13-20</u> The Holy Gospel - <u>Mark 9:38-50</u>

# The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of September 30, 2024

Monday - Matthew 6:25-34

Tuesday - Matthew 7:1-12

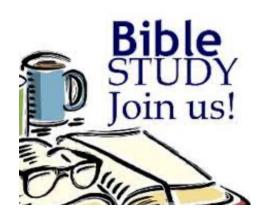
Wednesday - Matthew 7:13-21

Thursday - Matthew 7:22-29

Friday - Matthew 8:1-17

Saturday - Matthew 8:18-27

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#### The Adult Bible Study Group

meets on Tuesday, 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 - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill

#### 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

#### **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 <u>St. Thomas website</u>, the <u>Live Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>Youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch <u>Past</u> <u>Services</u>.

#### 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 <a href="#">Fr. Daren</a> 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 <u>Master Howard Chapman</u> 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 <u>Faithful Giving Card</u> on the <u>church website</u>, 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 shutin 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 shutin 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 <u>Judy Tillman</u>.

#### **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 <u>link</u> 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.



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

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

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

Thank you so much to all who have return them.

#### MINISTRY STAFF

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	C. I II	15000
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
Davida Malana attan	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
Ctavia valabia Chair	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair Transportation Ministry	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Videography Ministry	Quentin Howard	recorded video @ acest era
Voices of Comfort	Quentin Heyward Robert Davenport	recordedvideo@aecst.org robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	•	leaniepo302@gmail.com
william burke Ushers Milhistry	Arierie Sirigietary	rear reposozogrifian.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.