



# “FEEDING THE SPIRIT”

**THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792  
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 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 31, 2025**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church  
of St. Thomas**

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065

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

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans  
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins  
Associate Priest



The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas |  
About The AECST

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

**Scan the QR code to support our church  
and our ministries.**

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Please click on the link provided for the  
[Order of Service.](#)

## **“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 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend 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 Reverend Canon) Martini Shaw,  
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery



The Rector is away on summer holiday. For emergencies, please contact Fr. Daren or the parish office.

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**Beginning Tuesday, September 2nd,  
the Parish office will be open normal hours  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday.**

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**Seminarian Kathryn Brossa's** last Sunday serving as a Seminarian at St. Thomas is August 31st. A reception will be held in her honor following the service. Let us come and give thanks for her ministry among us.

## **A NEEDED REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR**

Our amazing Livestream Ministry continues to be an enormous blessing to many of us who are not able to physically be present for worship on any given Sunday, but able to tune in. We are very grateful to those who serve as operators in this ministry each week.

Our live stream equipment is in desperate need of upgrading. We are establishing a fund to support this need. Please prayerfully make a donation toward this initiative and indicate the purpose of your contribution.  
Enormous thanks in advance.

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

The first half of the year 2025 was filled with many exciting ministry activities and opportunities.

Plans are now underway for the next six months of ministry.

Summer months are always challenging to meet budgeted expenses. I am asking you to please assure that you have now contributed  
**AT LEAST HALF** of your 2025 yearly pledge.

A record of your financial giving to date has been mailed. If you have not received yours, please contact Jeannette in the Fiscal office. If you can contribute additional funds, please prayerfully consider.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of our amazing church.

## **ATTENTION GUILD PRESIDENTS - COUNCIL OF GUILDS MEETING**

will be held on **Saturday, September 6, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
via Zoom. Please check your email for Zoom information.

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### **GREAT NEWS TO REPORT ABOUT OUR CHURCH!!! A Report from the Rector's Wish List and the Capital Improvement Fund:**

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

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

a) New air conditioning units in Anderson Hall  
- **Completed**

b) Restoration of walls (altar and choir areas)  
- **Work to begin in the Fall.**

(An anonymous parishioner donor has made this possible.)

c) New air conditioning units needed for the church nave.  
- **Donors are needed.**

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

-**Donors are needed.**

a) Ceiling structural work - **Completed**

b) Roofing work - **In the final stages of completion**

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Please speak with William Burke, Property Chair, if you have any questions. You may also email him at **[property@aecst.org](mailto:property@aecst.org)**.

# **ANNOUNCING EXCITING NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM**

## **Coming Soon... A New Church Management Software Program, REALM**

We have been converting our church management system to REALM. It's a solution for the management of our ministries, stewardship, media, communications, and church events calendar. Our staff will use REALM to perform administrative and accounting tasks.

### **Church Online Giving**

Our members and visitors who use GIVI to give online currently will be switching away from GIVI to REALM Connect. If you give via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new webpage link on our website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new webpage.

### **Communication**

REALM will help our staff reach you in multiple ways to keep you informed. Ministry and group leaders will be able to communicate with their members outside of their meeting times and stay in touch. And congregants can interact and communicate directly with each other through REALM.

You can get a jump on learning about REALM by going to the App Store, if you have an iPhone or to the Google Play store if you use a Samsung cell phone, to download the REALM Connect app.

Also, AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas titled, "African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas: Join our online community!" which will enable you to register on the site and view many of the available functions.

### **Training**

Don't fret! Training sessions will be made available and announced soon.

Powered By



## African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas: Join our online community!

Hi [REDACTED]

We at African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas have an online community where we can connect with each other outside our Sunday gatherings. We'd love for you to take part!

Create an account: <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWVQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,  
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

# Singsation



*A Remastering Of  
The American Negro Spiritual  
For A New Generation Workshop*



Musical Director  
Dr. Jay Fluellen

Presented by The Marian Anderson Museum

**WHEN: SATURDAY AUGUST 30TH 2025**

**WHERE: MOTHER BETHEL AME CHURCH  
419 S 6TH ST, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147**

**TIME: 10AM - 4PM. REGISTRATION FEE:\$25.00**

\*All Choirs and Vocalists/Musicians are encouraged to Register and attend. Workshop instruction will begin at 10am and Live Performance at 2pm. Workshop Registration Fee for Music Packet Materials.

Performance Admission : Free Will Offering

Register today by calling our Marian Anderson Museum Office 215-779-4219

or visit our secure website [www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)



**SPECIAL SUMMER HOMILY/MEDITATION SERIES:**  
**"Feeding the Spirit"**

During the summer months of July and August,  
our homilists will include our clergy, seminarians,  
and music ministers.

**August 31st**

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Homilist

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**ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS  
AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Classes will begin **September 21, 2025**,  
every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45 AM  
in person and via Zoom on designated days.  
Check the bulletin and Spearhead  
for additional information.

Please speak with Fr. Daren or  
Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

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*Please*

PARDON OUR  
MESS  
DURING OUR  
*renovations*



**PLEASE PARDON THE  
TEMPORARY SCAFFOLDING**

Our chancel and altar areas are  
undergoing beautiful restoration.  
We remain very grateful to our  
anonymous donor who is  
making this possible.

# THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## AUGUST 24, 2025





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

Photos: William Edmonds  
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

### September 7th - Back to School Sunday

Blessing of students and their backpacks. Bring your backpacks, book bags, and other items related to the start of the new school year. Students, please bring your items to be blessed.

# BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

**September 7, 2025, 10:00 AM**

~BLESSING OF STUDENTS, THEIR BACKPACKS AND BOOK BAGS.~  
(Students, remember to bring your backpacks and book bags.)

~BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF.~

~HOMILIST~

**TYNECIA WILSON M.ED, AECST CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

Church School Classes  
resume on Sunday, Sept. 21st  
(Education Sunday)

Use the QR Code below for  
Church School Registration



Use the QR Code below for  
Church School TEACHER  
Registration



FOUNDED 1792

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## **September 14th – Annual Homecoming Sunday**

Have you been away or know of individuals who have been absent physically from worship? Please join us for a day of reunion and celebration filled with festive music, anointed dance, provocative preaching, and joyful fellowship.

- Worshipping with us - **Georgetown University Black Alumni Council**

- **Installation of the new members of the St. Thomas Daughters of the King (DOK)**

- **Installation of Men's Ministry and Fellowship Officers**

A reception will follow the service.



**Homecoming  
Sunday  
2025**

"Celebrating 233 Years  
of relevant and vibrant ministry"

**All onboard the AECST EXPRESS!!!!**

**September 14, 2025 - 10:00 AM**  
(Reception to follow Service)

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## SEPTEMBER 21st - ANNUAL EDUCATION SUNDAY

- Guest speaker will be **Dr. Brenda Allen**, President of Lincoln University, and the Lincoln University Choir.
- **New Member and Confirmation classes** - will begin at 8:45 AM
- Inurnment of **Deloris Bliss** and **Elizabeth Hawkins Brooks**
- Commissioning and Blessing of Eugene Golson to the ministry of Parish Verger

# EDUCATION SUNDAY

"BUILT ON FAITH, BOUND FOR GREATNESS"

GOD'S ROLE IN THE LEGACY & FUTURE OF HBCUs

-SHAPING STUDENTS TO IMPACT THE WORLD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025, 10:00 AM

GUEST SPEAKER:

**DR. BRENDA A. ALLEN**

PRESIDENT OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY



CHORAL SELECTIONS BY  
THE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY CHOIR  
DR. LLOYD MALLORY, CHOIR DIRECTOR



CO-CHAIRS

DEIDRE R. FARMBRY, Ed.D. • MONICA J. TAYLOR, Ed.D.

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## September 28th - Youth and Young Adult Sunday

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### **THIS WEEK AT AECST**

#### **Monday, September 1st**

Church and Parish Offices Closed for Labor Day

#### **Tuesday, September 2nd**

Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting  
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft

#### **Wednesday, September 3rd**

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

#### **Saturday, September 6th**

Council of Guilds via Zoom 9:00 AM

Chancel Choir  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
in Anderson Hall

Rhyuhn Green in Concert  
3:00 PM in the church

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**The New Members Manual has arrived.  
Please use the [link](#) to access it.**

## CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATES

The November election is critical for PA. Numerous judges' seats are up for election and retention. It is CRITICAL that we all understand and vote on our judges. What does it mean when a judge is "up for retention"? Why are these elections so important?

Learn about these elections and then come hear from the PA Supreme Court Justices up for retention at an event on 9/8! And why aren't more people talking about them?

This Zoom event will further your understanding. Please register for the free informational Zoom meeting offered by the Committee of 70. It is worth the 1-hour investment!

"Understanding Judicial Retention" with **Debbie Gross**, President and CEO, Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts:  
**Wednesday, September 3rd, 12:00 - 1:00 PM.**

[Register](#) (it's FREE)

WE hope to see you in the Zoom box!

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## AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), [the Live Stream Service](#), on our [Facebook](#) page or [Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

You can also watch [Past Services](#).



**Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family born in September**

- 9/1 Bertha Mordeci
- 9/2 Harold Townsend, Mary Dean
- 9/3 Calvin Thompson
- 9/4 Carmella Bullock, Kevin Carter
- 9/5 Michael Archey, Jr.
- 9/7 Stephen Hannum, Ricardo Bostic
- 9/8 Edgar Wise, Amelia Williams
- 9/9 Patricia Bantom, Tyler Stafford, Gabrielle Alston
- 9/10 Gwenda Hart, Gabrielle Hamlin
- 9/11 Terry Corson, Brandon Barksdale
- 9/13 Frank Johnson, Joe Tucker
- 9/14 Diana Hutchins
- 9/15 Lauren Flamer, Carole Harrell
- 9/16 Ann Stewart, Eric Jones, Richard Sewell, Richard Scales, William Edmonds
- 9/17 Kelvin Johnson, Sr., Angelo Cameron
- 9/18 Deadra Cannon, Terry Booker
- 9/19 Alycia Horn
- 9/20 Ella Randall, Diane Winkfield
- 9/21 Wendella Fox, Constance Lyons
- 9/22 Stephanie Bovell
- 9/23 Rollo Dilworth, Elaine Curry, Stephanie Foster, Ken Bundy, Jerry Thurman
- 9/24 Carlia Wallace
- 9/25 Vaughn Greaves, Natasha Bagwell, Khalita Wright
- 9/27 Shirley Caldwell
- 9/28 William Smalls, Avion Donohue, Ted Corbin
- 9/29 Joyce Stewart
- 9/30 Paige Cropper, Jenelle Johnson, Catherine Bell, Kellen Thomas

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
PRESENTS**

**RHYUHN GREEN  
IN CONCERT**



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**3PM**

**FREEWILL OFFERING**

**AMERICAN SONGWRITER, PIANO VIRTUOSO, AND COMPOSER RHYUHN GREEN (A GRADUATE OF CAPA AND CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE JULLIARD SCHOOL OF MUSIC) IS ALL FOR CULTURE – AN ARTIST DEVOTED TO PUSHING BOUNDARIES AND BRIDGING WORLDS. HAILED BY NPR AS “BOTH AN EXTRAORDINARY PIANIST AND A COMPOSER,” GREEN BEGAN HIS LIFELONG DEVOTION TO MUSIC AT THE AGE OF TWO AND HAS SINCE CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES AROUND THE WORLD WITH HIS DISTINCTIVE, DIVINE ARTISTRY AND UNMISTAKABLE ORIGINALITY.**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 lancaster ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19151**

*AN EVENING WITH*  
**HARRY**  
**&**  
**RENARD**  
*IN CONCERT*

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**12 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**7:00 PM**

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**RENARD GOLDEN, BARITONE**  
**HARRY T. BURLEIGH, COMPOSER**  
*BARBARA BROWNE, PIANO*  
*JAY FLUELLIN, PIANO*

**THE HISTORIC**  
**AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**

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**6361 LANCASTER AVE,**  
**PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151**

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**FREE ADMISSION**

## SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES!!

During the summer months, while Church School is on break, we are pleased to announce two areas to enrich the lives of our children:

**The "Children's Corner"** a space designated for children ages 4 and up in the sanctuary. Children are invited to enjoy reading materials, games, and activities during the Service.

**The "Tiny Tykes Temple"** located in Anderson Hall for infants, children 3 and under, and parents.

We encourage families to take advantage of these wonderful spaces!



## **CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY**

There is still an opportunity for students to apply for this year's Freshman Class (2029). Any high school senior with a 3.5 GPA or higher, may apply for a full academic scholarship (all expenses paid). High school seniors with a 3.0 to 3.25 GPA may apply for a partial scholarship.

These scholarships are for PA Residents only.  
For more information, contact Cheyney University at:  
[admissions@cheyney.edu](mailto:admissions@cheyney.edu) or call **(610) 399-2275**.



## **NATIONAL ACOLYTE FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025!**

Calling all acolytes (current and former), sponsors, and vergers! Join the Grandest of Processions at Washington National Cathedral for a day of worship, workshops, and fellowship. Enjoy hands-on activities like Thurible Training, LEGO® Cathedral building, and more!

Interested in attending? Contact Fr. Daren for details and registration. Don't miss this inspiring celebration of sacred service!

## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY

There are several ways in which we memorialize and cherish our loved ones at the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas:

- 1) dedicate pew memorial plaques
- 2) present floral tributes
- 3) purchase a niche in the Geraldine B. Wood Columbarium
- 4) dedicate new or restored areas of the Church  
in memory of loved ones

These examples of dedications are designed to celebrate those whom we loved and remember.

If you are looking for a ministry within the AECST that will allow you to share in the joy of families, friends, and neighbors, please prayerfully consider becoming a member of the **Memorial Tribute Ministry**.

Please reach out to Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at [victoria.rivers@verizon.net](mailto:victoria.rivers@verizon.net) or call **267-253-2899** and express your desire to obtain information about this Ministry.

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## ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please provide [Fr. Daren](#) with your contact information as soon as possible, including your cell phone.

Our prayers remain with you.



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF ST. THOMAS  
PRESENTS

# YOUTH FUN DAY



Acolytes

*Church  
School*



**SATURDAY  
SEPT. 20TH  
10 AM TO 2 PM**

All are  
welcome!

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

**PLUS:**

**READING NOOK  
BOUNCE HOUSES  
GAMES & CRAFTS**

**CORNHOLE AND MORE...  
COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!**

Refreshments will  
be served!

For more information, contact  
Wendella Fox at [wpfox3008@verizon.net](mailto:wpfox3008@verizon.net)  
or Nikkol Simms at [njsimms@verizon.net](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)

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## OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS/FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members/families of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson  
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather  
Christopher Burks  
Deadra Cannon  
Nora Corbin  
Dr. Ted Corbin  
Paula Cropper  
Lee Daniels  
Stacey Davis  
Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal  
The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney  
**Bradley Hammond**  
Richard & Gwenda Hart  
Yvonne Hyde-Carter  
Dr. Calvin Johnson  
Bettie Jones  
Rae Scott Jones  
Richard Jones, Jr.  
Dr. Sheila Jones  
Steven and Jameela Lewis  
Gregory Lyles  
Nohjay Nimpson  
Zennetta Peters  
Dr. John Rich  
Richard, Rebecca, Scarlett, and Jeremiah Scales  
Shelly and Ann Stewart  
Howard Tucker  
Allison Young

**WE  
ARE  
FAMILY**

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks for **Bradley Hammond**. Presently living in Memphis, TN, and has been a member of St. Thomas for four years.

Bradley's message to us: "Even though I am hundreds of miles away, I have never felt more connected and engaged with a spiritual community. St. Thomas will always be my spiritual home."



## **MARIAN ANDERSON TRIBUTE CONCERT**

We honor our great Marian Anderson and her musical relationship with historic composer Nathaniel Dett in this stellar Tribute Concert event featuring the dramatic and dynamic compositions of composers, **Nathaniel Dett and his "The Ordering of Moses" & Robert Ray's Gospel Mass."**

These exceptional works will feature our outstanding National Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, our Marian Anderson Historical Society Instrumental Ensemble, the Elizabeth City University Choir, and Choral Director Dr. Walter Swan, all under the direction of Marian Anderson Historical Society Director of Music and Pianist Dr. Jay Fluellen on

**Saturday, September 27th, 2025**

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151  
at 3:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00

Please register on our website:

**[www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)**.

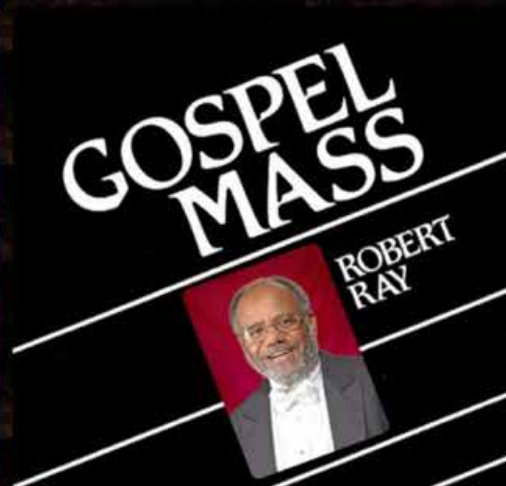
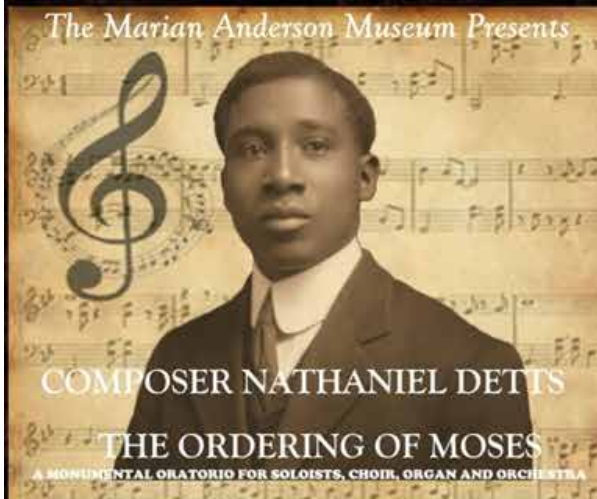
You may call the office: 215-779-4219

or send the registration to:

762 S. Martin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146

**RSVP TODAY!**

THE MARIAN ANDERSON MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS  
THE ORDERING OF MOSES & THE GOSPEL MASS IN CONCERT



We honor our great Marian Anderson and her musical relationship with historic composer Nathaniel Dett in this stellar Tribute Concert event featuring the dramatic and dynamic compositions of composers Nathaniel Dett and his *The Ordering of Moses* and Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*. These exceptional works will feature our outstanding National Marian Anderson Scholar Artists, our Marian Anderson Historical Society Instrumental Ensemble and MAHS Choral Ensemble under the direction of MD and Pianist Dr. Jay Fluellen.

**WHEN:** Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

**WHERE:** The African Episcopal Church of St Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151

**TIME:** 3PM

**ADMISSION:** \$35.00

### FEATURING



SOPRANO LAURICE KENNEL



SOPRANO JILLIAN PIRTLE



SOPRANO LILY KASS



TENOR TERRANCE HART



BASS BRENTON MATTOX



DR. JAY FLUELLEN DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
CONDUCTOR - PIANIST

THE MARIAN ANDERSON HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE



ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR  
DR. WALTER SWAN CHORAL DIRECTOR



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS

Please register on our Website [www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com) OR  
CALL OUR OFFICE @ 215-779-4219 OR SEND IT IN TO OUR OFFICE @ 762 s. Martin  
Street Philadelphia Pa 19146 TO CONFIRM YOUR TICKETS



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of my brother, **Keith Smith**, given by Paula & Wayne Wright.

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

(Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office). Thank you.

*Unfortunately, due to rising costs of goods, the Altar Guild has increased the cost of the flowers.*

High Altar - \$70

Absalom Jones Altar - \$60

the Columbarium - \$50

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers or contribute to our church ministries.



**MAZZONI CENTER  
HONORS**  
*Melba Moore*

**MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 3**  
MARIAN ANDERSON HALL  
KIMMEL CENTER  
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

**SAVION GLOVER • LISA FISCHER • LOW CUT CONNIE • J HARRISON GHEE  
JOY WOODS • MYKAL KILGORE • VICKI PETERSON • RICHARD BARONE  
NIKKI RENEE DANIELS • BRITTANY LYNN • JOHN COWSILL • VANCE GILBERT  
LAUREN HART • THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR • AND MORE TO COME!**

Hosted by Peabody Award-winning journalist  
**SOLEDAD O'BRIEN**

With special appearances by local radio legends  
**PATTY JACKSON  
AND DYANA WILLIAMS**

Tickets start at \$35 and go on sale

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1**

For full details and ticket information visit  
**MAZZONICENTER.ORG/HONORS**

**DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**  
**Readings for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 31, 2025**

The First Lesson – [Jeremiah 2:4-13](#)

[Psalms 81:1, 10-16](#)

The Second Lesson – [Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 14:1,7-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
week of September 1, 2025**

Monday – [John 8:21-32](#)

Tuesday – [John 8:33-47](#)

Wednesday – [John 8:47-59](#)

Thursday – [John 9:1-17](#)

Friday – [John 9:18-41](#)

Saturday – [John 10:1-18](#)



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**PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY**  
**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** is on vacation  
for the summer. We will resume  
meeting on Tuesday, **September 9th**  
at our usual time and venue.  
As always, it is an honor to serve  
as the facilitator for this ministry,  
Fr. Jay

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**WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY**  
with Fr. Daren is on vacation for the summer.  
They will resume on Wednesday, **September 17th**.



## **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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## **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.



## **THE AECST PODCAST**

A series dedicated to tackling tough questions our children may ask, all from a faith-based perspective, will return soon. Each episode offers thoughtful discussions to help families navigate complex topics with wisdom and compassion.

If you or someone you know in our congregation has an expertise in or a passion for any of the following subjects, we'd love to have you as a conversation partner!

This season's topics include:

Understanding Your School-Age Child  
Building Friendships  
Talking About Suicide, Grief, and Loss  
Understanding Cultural Appropriation  
Bullying  
Gun Violence  
Honoring Difference  
Wealth, Poverty, and Income Inequity  
Use of Technology

Join us in creating meaningful conversations that support families in faith and life. Contact [Fr. Daren](#), to get involved.  
Stay tuned for more 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. 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](#).



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

**ANY** and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

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## **IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW, but also as the church of TODAY!!! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

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## **CHAT AND CHEW**

Have you ever considered hosting a Chat and Chew following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office for further details.

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Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector with special announcements? Do you know someone who does not receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](#)

Our new **"TINY TYKES TEMPLE"** needs YOU! Thank you to **Sarah Shaw Thomas, Julio Rodriguez, Chelsea Selby, and Ashley Quetant** for joining the oversight committee! We are going to make a great team that will ensure that the Tiny Tykes Temple is available most Sundays.

You know, there's always room for one, two, or three more! Email Father Daren, [associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org), and let him know you can assist.

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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.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:  
IN REHAB:**

Francina Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home

**IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

**AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Virginia DuBrey, Joyce Stewart, Edita Gauthney, Dr. Jay Fluellen, Patricia Holmes,

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley, Adinah Edwards, Waltier Blocker, Arlene Gray, Daryn Stewart, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Yvonne Sydnor, Sharon Harper, Mary Ann Phillips, Ann Stewart, Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez, Quincina Edmonds, Alice Bowman Cropper

**WE PRAY FOR**

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

## CALLING ALL YOUTH



**What's an Acolyte? Am I old enough? Why do I want to be one?** These and other questions can be answered by Father Daren! No prior experience is necessary to serve in the **Acolyte Ministry**. Rehearsals are on Sundays, immediately after service. This is an excellent opportunity for children and youth to become involved in the life of the church. Contact [Fr.Daren](#) for details.

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**ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS**  
Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies.  
Please provide Fr. Daren with your contact information as soon as possible, including your cell phone.  
Our prayers remain with you.

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”  
2 Corinthians 9:7

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or 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 treasure. Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below.



## **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.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, using the QR code, [website donations](#), downloading 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 [Patricia Lynch](#).

## 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 below, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



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## FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 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.

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

- 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 nor 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) **Faithful Giving Cards (Pledge)** - 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 Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGillberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
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	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney   Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

## THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.  
Stewardship Chair - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

## THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

## DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

## DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller