



**SUNDAY
JULY 5, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Observance of
AMERICA250**



**THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR**

**6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792**

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 5, 2026

The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)

Philadelphia, PA, 19151

(215) 473-3065

www.aecst.org

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw

The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins

Associate Priest

The Reverend Patricia Downing

Associate Priest



Scan the QR code or text "AECST" to 73256 to support our church and our ministries.

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.”

Psalms 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this, **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, celebrating America250.**

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 welcome 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. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw

17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

THIS SUNDAY, YOU'RE INVITED!

**"Celebrating Two Narratives, One Nation Under God
at the "AECST"**

**Each person in attendance will receive two
commemorative gifts.**

Please watch the video below.



**Video: Quentin Heyward
St. Thomas Videography Ministry**



**During July and August, the church and parish office hours
are Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.**

On Saturdays, the church will be open 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.



Three Perspectives, One America

Written and edited by: JR Brockman, Arthur Sudler, and Elaine Gillison

Our Collect for Sunday reminds us that God wants us to keep the commandments by loving God with the devotion of our whole hearts, and by loving one another - all of our neighbors – in order to be united in pure affection.

On July 4, 1776, the signers of the Declaration of Independence announced to the world that they, as neighbors, as representatives of the United Colonies, had appealed to God and were jointly declaring their right and just intentions to be free and independent states. They acknowledged their strong reliance on God and pledged to one another their mutual support.

But, as African Americans asked then and thereafter, most famously Frederick Douglass, “What to the slave is the Fourth of July?”

In this moment, when there are fierce pitched battles over historical narratives, including right here in Philadelphia, at The President’s House over interpretive panels, panels that include our own Blessed Absalom Jones, what to us is America250?

The semiquincentennial observance of the United States means different things to different people. There are even two federally-formed entities competing for public prominence. America250 is a national nonpartisan organization created by Congress to provide educational and celebratory programs. Freedom250 is an effort established by President Donald Trump to further his administration’s vision of how America’s founding should be understood.

African Americans in the era of the Early Republic celebrated the anniversary of the American Revolution while experiencing a duality - high hopes and disenchantment. These, and other celebrations founded later, were informed by two movements: a determination to construct an African-American memory - one which often ran counter to the national memory - and a desire to complete an unfinished revolution.

Many religious and political leaders seized upon these occasions to address the world in sermons, speeches, and orations. Like Absalom Jones, in his Thanksgiving Sermon, they evaluated the contributions of Black people in the building of the nation, and they were setting themselves in the place of the Founding Fathers, as those who could take the dream of liberty one step further and perhaps bring it to completion. The commemorative spirit which permeated these past celebrations was therefore oriented both toward the past and toward the future. The future that was at stake was the destiny of the republic and of American democracy.

Anniversaries like the semiquincentennial offer new opportunities to make the nation a more perfect union by retelling the American story, by reaffirming the basic ideals of the country, and by engaging with the present challenges the nation faces as Americans look toward the future. Like the preceding events that commemorated the founding of the nation: the centennial, the sesquicentennial, and the bicentennial, the semiquincentennial exposes the work yet left undone, even though we now observe two federal holidays associated with the African American struggle for freedom.

National anniversaries not only have - but are - power. They represent a combination of myth and history. American national anniversaries should represent the idea that American history symbolizes the forward march of freedom for everyone in the nation. Freedom is defined as power in three ways. The first is freedom as the absence of constraint on one's latitude to act.

The second is “civic freedom” - the ability to participate in the governance of one’s community. The third is the idea of freedom that means the power to restrict the freedom of others.

National celebrations that are only symbolic, however, leave undisturbed the architecture of oppression that has made various groups disproportionately vulnerable to a “travestied” freedom. In this regard, three groups’ contributions to the establishment of the nation are especially fraught: 1) veterans, 2) immigrants, and 3) women.

WORDS FROM TODAY’S PRESENTERS:

The Veteran: delivered by Eugene Phillips

Stories of the American Revolution usually follow two threads: the political and the military. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution are the primary touchstones of the political. George Washington personifies the military and the political. Historians may cite numerous factors that were critical to winning the American Revolution but Independence would never have been won had it not been for the men and women who fought in the Revolutionary War. All who fought risked their lives, and many lost their lives, in pursuit of freedom. For African Americans and indigenous people, the path to freedom was complicated. We venerate valorous veterans of the American Revolution, like James Forten, who would become a pillar of St. Thomas. Others made different calculations about how best to achieve freedom. We must remain vigilant if we are to ensure that our brave military members are treated with the respect due them for their many sacrifices on our behalf.

The Immigrant: delivered by Dr. Michael McIntosh

Throughout these 250 years, immigrants and immigration have been at the center of a contentious tug-of-war in our nation. Historians estimate that roughly more than one-third of the Continental Army were immigrants: Irish, Scots, Germans, French, and English, and people born in Africa.

Immigrants served in the ranks and were vital to military leadership. As we grapple with these issues in the present day, all too often the contributions and sacrifices of immigrants are forgotten.

Similarly occluded is the fact that our nation is comprised of immigrants and the descendants of immigrants. John Pierre Burr and Louisa Charlotte Burr, prominent members of St. Thomas, were the children of Vice President Aaron Burr and Mary Eugénie Emmons, a native of India who was either enslaved or a servant. Burr descendants continue to make notable achievements today. Cooperative coexistence and the blending of our talents, skills, and dreams are hallmarks of our nation's strength.

The Woman: delivered by Wendella P. Fox

Too often, the roles of women who helped shape and create America are marginalized or omitted altogether. Women were crucial to the American Revolution, fueling the war effort as political activists, political commentators, political polemicists, fundraisers, nurses, camp followers, spies, equal rights activists, and combatants. Mary Jones, wife of Absalom Jones, helped oversee the security of the home and store of Absalom's enslaver, patriot Benjamin Wynkoop, during the British occupation of Philadelphia. The struggle for equal rights for women continues today.

Perhaps the reason why the Collect reminds us that God wants us to keep the commandments by loving God with the devotion of our whole hearts, and by loving one another - all of our neighbors – in order to be united in pure affection is because even though we profess principles based on our faith that proclaim equality and justice for all, as individuals, and collectively as a nation, we have fallen short. But if the spirit that inspired past generations teaches us anything in relation to making this nation a more perfect union, each of us must decide how best to contribute to the continuation of this work. Our purpose persists. The vision is plain. Our duty is clear. The source of our hope is eternal.

Happy 250, America!



THE AMERICAN FLAG: ORIGINS, MEANING, AND A REMARKABLE ANECDOTE

The origin of the first American flag is a matter of both history and legend. The stronger historical claim belongs to Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey naval flag designer and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He formally requested compensation from the Continental Congress for designing the flag, the Great Seal, and other ornaments. Congress denied his payment not because his design claim was false, but because they considered it already covered by his government salary. His version of the Stars and Stripes is believed to have featured thirteen six-pointed stars in staggered rows, though no surviving original flags confirm this exactly.

The more popular — if unverified — story involves Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross. According to legend passed down by her grandson nearly a century later, George Washington and two other men visited Ross's shop in 1776 with a rough sketch of a flag. She reportedly suggested changing the six-pointed stars to five points because they were easier to cut. There are no historical documents to support this account, though Ross is known to have made flags for the Revolutionary War. She remains, legend or not, the name most Americans associate with the first flag.

The flag's red, white, and blue were chosen to mirror the British Union flag, reflecting the nation's colonial roots. In 1782, Congress officially assigned meanings to each color: red for valor and bravery, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The 50-star flag has its own remarkable story. In 1958, a 17-year-old Ohio student named Robert G. Heft designed it as a high school history project, anticipating Hawaii's statehood. His teacher gave him a B- but promised to raise the grade if the design was officially accepted. After reviewing more than 3,000 submissions, President Eisenhower selected Heft's design in 1960 — and his teacher kept his promise and gave him an A.

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE
Co-chairs, Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison

- Today, July 5, 2026 -Martyrs Day: A New National Day of Civil Rights Remembrance
- Join us and our partners from Mother Bethe AME Church, as we honor the lives of the five (5) African American men that were murdered on Election Day, October 1871. At 1:00 PM there will be wreath laying ceremonies at the gravesites of Octavius V. Catto, Moses Wright, Levi Bolden, Issac Chase and Jacob Gordon in Eden Cemetery 1434 Springfield Rd., Darby, PA. Following the ceremony, 3:00 - 6:00 PM there will be Voter Registration at Malcolm X Memorial Park, 52nd and Pine Streets. All are welcome!
- Commemorative America250 Absalom Jones posters will be sold TODAY in Anderson Hall, after service. We only have a limited number of posters... not sure we can get additional copies. For the low price of \$10, this frame-able work of art can be yours! Don't delay. Get one today.

MUSIC MINISTRY CORNER

Dr. Jay Fluellen will serve as musical director for some of the performances of “1776: The Musical” at the H.S. for Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA). He will be conducting the “pit orchestra,” composed of student musicians. Today, Sunday, July 5th is Dr. Fluellen’s first performance. Tickets can be purchased through the website link <https://pennlivearts.org/events/CAPA1776.php>

RECTOR’S WISH LIST

Our Audio/Visual/Media Systems sorely need upgrading.

- Anderson Hall sound system
- Livestream system
- Sanctuary sound system

Please consider donating towards our goal to raise \$10,000.00. You may contact Father Shaw if you have questions.

OUR LIVESTREAM MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Each week, many people who are away are able to worship with us via our amazing Livestream. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. If interested, please communicate with the rector.

ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY CORNER

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for racial and ethnic minority groups to get access to mental health and substance-use treatment services. Throughout the month, the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) will focus on promoting tools and resources addressing the stigma about mental health among racial and ethnic minority populations, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental health is about how we think, feel, and connect with others. It affects how we handle stress, make decisions, and go about our daily lives. When our mental health is good, it helps us take care of our responsibilities and enjoy life. When it is not, it can affect our physical health, our self-esteem, and how we behave and relate to other people.

Some people have mental health symptoms that are strong, long-lasting, and make it hard to function day to day. This may be a sign of a mental health condition, such as depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or panic disorder. Others may not have a diagnosed condition but still struggle with their mental health. This can include feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed, or emotionally distressed.

- In 2024, Black/African American adults were 11% less likely than U.S. adults overall to report having a mental illness in the past year.
- In 2024, Black/African American adults were 36% less likely than U.S. adults overall to have received mental health treatment in the past year.
- In 2023, Black/African American high school students were 8% more likely than students nationwide to report attempting suicide in the past year.
- In 2022, Black/African Americans were 37% less likely to die by suicide than the U.S. population overall.

Next week, we will share evidence-based strategies and actionable recommendations to address these observations, and how to reduce associated risks.

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/mental-and-behavioral-health-blackafrican-americans>

The By-Laws for the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Church will be sent through Realm soon. If you do not receive it by August 1, 2026, email Judy Tillman, stewardship@aecst.org, and you will be provided with a copy. Remember to please check your junk/spam email. Thank you in advance.

ST. THOMAS OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY

sponsored a trip to the African American Museum of Philadelphia. The tour included time to see the traveling Ruth E. Carter exhibit, and Audacious Freedom: African Americans in Philadelphia (featuring historical facts of Octavius Catto, Absalom Jones, Richard Allen, and James Forten).

The Ruth E. Carter exhibit: Afrofuturism in Costume Design. Ruth E. Carter is a two-time Oscar Award winner in costume design.



A FUN, INFORMATIVE, AND INTERACTIVE DAY

Our Retired Persons Ministry (RPM) recently welcomed a special presenter who walked through some aspects of Philadelphia250, which included an interactive conversation about Absalom Jones and Richard Allen.





More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

A New Worship Enhancement!!!

You are invited and encouraged to now use our new Order of Service QR code to download to your phone each Sunday. You may find it at both entrances to the nave of the church.



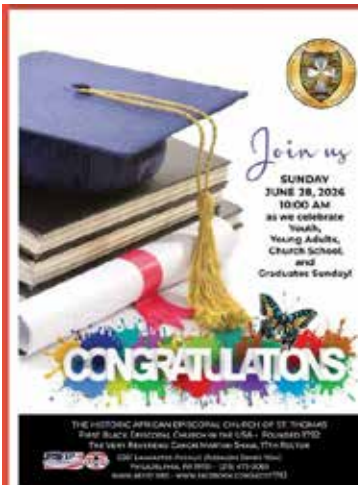
The youth of St. Thomas are the church of
TODAY & TOMORROW!!!
They gather around the Lord's table.



Photos: Screenshots via Livestream Ministry
Quentin Heyward

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, CHURCH SCHOOL AND GRADUATES

St. Thomas celebrates and congratulates its Youth,
Young Adults, Church School students,
Scholarship recipients and Graduates.





Photos: William Edmonds and Justin Trotman
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

We celebrate some of our Church School children.



Photos: Screenshots via Livestream Ministry
Quentin Heyward

More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

**St. Thomas celebrates its AMAZING, DEDICATED,
and FAITHFUL acolytes!!!**



Photos: Screenshots via Livestream Ministry
Quentin Heyward

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, July 7th

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

Are you receiving the weekly electronic Spearhead? If not, please email Gladyce DuBrey at 1792@aecst.org with your mobile number and email address.

NEW REALM ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you to everyone for maintaining your financial pledge/faithful giving. During the summer months please submit your offering through Realm or by mail if you're not going to be in church. That will be appreciated. Also, if there's a need to adjust your pledge, please email me at:

stewardship@aecst.com

Thank you again.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 12, 2026 - Annual Youth Fun Day!



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS
PRESENTS

YOUTH FUN DAY

Acolytes **2026** Church School



**SATURDAY
SEPT. 12TH
12PM-3PM**

All are welcome!

**SIGN UP FOR OUR YOUTH GROUPS
PLUS:**

- RAINGUTTER REGATTA
- MINUTE TO WIN IT GAMES
- READING NOOK
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- CRAFTS
- DOUBLE DUTCH
- CORNHOLE AND MORE...

COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!

Refreshments will be served!

**CHALLENGE:
MAKE IT TO
EVERY STATION
FOR A PRIZE!**

For more information, contact
Wendella Fox at wpfox3008@verizon.net
or Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net

THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
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ATTENTION: All Groups/Ministries/Organizations and Fellowships

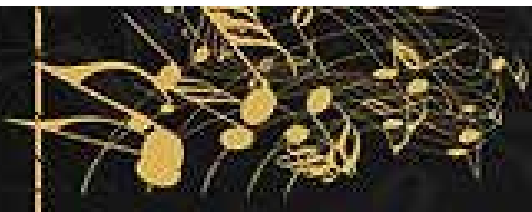
- Announcements and flyers for the Sunday Bulletin and digital Spearhead should be received on **Monday by 12:00 Noon**. If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office, (215) 473-3065.
- Please submit a "**Request for Meeting Space**" form to the office for all meetings in the Church, Anderson Hall, Absalom Jones House, parking lot and/or the Great Lawn two weeks prior to the event. Please refrain from approaching the sextons. The church office maintains the calendar for all events. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact the church office at (215) 473-3065 or email 1792@aecst.org.

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.

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.



VOCALISTS & MUSICIANS *Wanted*

**To Join
A Professional Recording Gospel Choir**

The St Thomas Gospel Choir
Directed By, Walt Blocker
of the
African Episcopal Church of St Thomas
Philadelphia, PA

WWW.STTHOMASGC.ORG

(484) 816-STGC (7842)

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES

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

Constance Anderson - Florida

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather - Seattle, Washington

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Dr. Tracy Collins - North Carolina

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney - Texas

Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina

Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York

Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida

Bettie Jones - North Carolina

Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia

Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina

Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado/California

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson - Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly and Ann Stewart - Florida

Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

Allison Young - Maryland

**The Bible Readings for
the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2026**

The First Lesson - [Deuteronomy 10:17-21](#)
[Psalms 145:1-9](#)

The Second Lesson - [Hebrews 11:8-16](#)
The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 5:43-48](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the week
of July 6, 2026**

Monday - [Matthew 23:1-12](#)
Tuesday - [Matthew 23:13-26](#)
Wednesday - [Matthew 23:27-39](#)
Thursday - [Matthew 24:1-14](#)
Friday - [Matthew 24:15-31](#)
Saturday - [Matthew 24:32-51](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY
is on vacation for the summer. Class will
resume on September 8th. If you are
interested in joining the ministry, please
contact Fr. Jay
at associatepriest@aecst.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to
Alfreda Brockman or Gladyce in the church office.

Flowers on the High Altar - \$80.00 each

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$70.00 each

Flowers on the Columbarium - \$60.00



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





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.](#)



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.

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 **Livestream/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.
- as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Shaw](#) 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](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Daryn Stewart

IN REHAB:

Francina Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home;

Patricia Walker-Ellison - Rosewood Gardens Rehab, Broomall, PA

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen-Simpson House; Gwendolyn Langford -

Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass - Atria Lafayette Hill

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Shirley Caldwell, Cornelia Camp,

Virginia DuBrey, Stephen Hannum, Roosevelt Harris Sr.,

Joyce Stewart, Calvin Thompson, Vernetta Dow,

Cassandra Rufin

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Adinah Edwards,

Teena Watson-Matthews, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin,

Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor,

Carl Dean, Arlene Gray, Adrian Gray, Quincina Edmonds,

D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney, Carmen Brown,

Lisa Woodley, Richard Jones, Jr., Regina Meacham Devero,

Katrina Harris, Carolyn Summers, Karen Ragland,

Charlene M. Wiltshire, Joan Hall

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 Shaw! 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. Shaw](#) for details.

THE YOUNG ADULTS (ages 20's and 30's) meet immediately after service every 4th Sunday of the Month in the Absalom Jones House.



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

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



Tiny Tykes Temple is now located in the beautiful library of the Absalom Jones House for infants, children (under 3 years old) and parents. Parents who may find it necessary to step away from mass for a moment are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful space.

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. NIV

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:



OTHER 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 Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

3) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

4) Church Website - <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm> 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.

5) REALM CONNECT - Members and visitors who use GIVI must use **Realm Connect**. If donate via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new webpage and corresponding QR code.

6) Cellphone: Text "AECST" to 73256 to donate.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, envelop number and amount is placed on the offering envelope. This is particularly important for bookkeeping accurate. If you are unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount is placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the [Donation Button](#) and select the Building Fund button on our Capital Improvement Donation button on our [website](#).

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop
Rector
Associate to the Rector
Associate Priest
Associate Priest
Executive Asst. to the Rector
Sexton
Asst. Sexton
Chancel Choirmaster
Gospel Choirmaster
Rector's General Counsel
Altar Guild
Baptism Co-Chairs

O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry
Church School Superintendent
Ed Muse Photography Ministry
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector
Girls' Friendly Society
Health Ministry
Jazz Ensemble Director
Live Stream Ministry
Memorial Flowers
Memorial Tribute Ministry
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters
Parish Vergers
Parish Webmaster
Property Chair
Scout Pack 133

St. Thomas Daughters of the King
Stewardship Chair
Videography Ministry
Visitor's Ministry
Voices of Comfort
William Burke Ushers Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	rector@aecst.org
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	
The Rev. Fr. Gerald (Jay) Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
The Rev. Patricia Downing	psdowning@verizon.net
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Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William J. Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale
Judith Simkins Booth
Deadra Cannon

Clare Mae Daniels
Mary Sandra Dean
Elaine Gillison

Eugene Golson
Monica Lewis Jones
Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Johnson Best
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins

Gwenda Hart
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson

Cynthia Muse
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Sandra Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller