

Join us

as we welcome

THE RT. REVEREND

DANIEL G. P. GUTIÉRREZ

(XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese
of Pennsylvania)

in a joyous celebration of

Holy Baptism,

Confirmation,

Reception,

and Reaffirmation

SUNDAY,

JUNE 7, 2026 10:00 AM



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



6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY)

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

JUNE 7, 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.”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this, the **Second Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation.**

We welcome our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez; The Rev. Canon Jane Gober, Chaplain to the Bishop; The Rev. Andrea Gardner, Deacon of the Mass and others worshipping with us this morning.

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. Whomever 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. Whomever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Again, welcome!

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery



Congratulations to those receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:
Isaac Matthew Nembhard Lee and
Jacob Emmanuel Nembhard Lee.



Congratulations to those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cadega Alexander | Alonda Lord |
| Dane Bowrin | Michelle J.P. Mack |
| Dominic Bowrin | Dr. Stephen Mack |
| Vanessa Bowrin | John Maxwell |
| Melissa Chatman | Derrick McBride |
| Ryan Chatman | The Rev. Jermaine McDonald |
| Regina Diane Barksdale | Paula Milbourne |
| Robert Newton Davenport | Mercy Natt |
| Karen Davis | Ingrid Nembhard |
| Donna Mae Fraser | Velma Morris Nembhard |
| Hossein Gharavi | Chinwe Onyekere |
| Renard Golden | Kareem Ragin |
| Dr. Derek Griffith | Todrick Ricks |
| Nazir Henry | Charlie Stiff |
| Samantha Richardson-Ingram | Stephenie Smith |
| Cathryn Irvis | TajMarie Thornton |
| Evelyn Johns | Marie Wallace |
| Garry Jones | The Rev. Joseph Watkins |
| Kayma-Sherman Knuckles | Stephanie Watkins |

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

The next meeting will be June 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. All are welcome to join. For login credentials please email co-chairs Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison at cattoministry@aecst.org

The Men of St.Thomas attended and participated in the recent Diocesan Men's BBQ, held at St. David's, Radnor. Wonderful fellowship, conversation, and relationship building around delicious food



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

CONDOLENCES



We are very sad to announce the death of **Lynn Marie Harris**. Please keep in your prayers her dear husband, Thomas, and the entire family. A Memorial Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Omega Omega service will begin at 9:30 AM. Requiem Memorial Mass at 10:00 AM. May the soul of Lynn rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. AMEN

The Memorial Requiem Mass for **Denise Rae Scott-Jones** will be held on **Friday, June 12th**, at 10:00 AM. Please keep the family in your prayers.



You are invited to witness **Jennie Marie Patterson** and **Jordan Marc Ellison** receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, **Saturday, June 13, 2026, 3:30 PM** at St. Thomas.



Congratulations to David Michael King and Emma Marie Livingston King on their recent marriage.



The Caribbean Festival is on June 14th.

Please contribute to one of the most significant celebrations in the church. Donations can be conveniently made using your Realm account. Alternatively, you can place checks in offertory plates (write Caribbean Festival in the memo section) or use one of the envelopes marked “Caribbean Festival,” located in your bulletin.

Congratulations to Dr. Jay Fluellen. Your St. Thomas family is very proud of you.

Dr. Jay's statement:

Receiving the Ovations Award from the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra was one of the biggest honors of my life. Dr. John Dangerfield Cooper, David King, Robert Walker, Dr. Wendell Pritchett, Dr. Clayton White are the key musician/educators who poured an immense wealth of musical knowledge into me. In addition, they set a standard of music-making and teaching that I am still striving to live up to. I am grateful for every school that I have had the opportunity to teach K-12 music; the Harambee Charter School of Science and Technology, Julia de Burgos Elementary, Parkway West High School, Northeast High School and the High School for Creative and Performing Arts. All of the students that I have taught, inspired me to find ways to be a better teacher, helping me find the resources of resilience along the way. I am grateful for the support and inspiration of my wife and children. When things got difficult, they helped me to persevere. I am grateful for my aunt Deb for always believing in me. I am grateful for my sister Fanta for continuing to inspire me with her work as community builder through dance education. I am grateful for my mother. Teaching is the family business and she is the master educator.

I love you Mom!!

Thank you to my Facebook Family for all of the kind wishes.



16th Annual Caribbean Festival

**SUNDAY
JUNE 14, 2026 10:00 AM**

**One Love
One Faith
One Family**



**SPECIAL GUESTS: THE REVEREND FR. LAWRENCE WOMACK AND
MEMBERS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

**THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792**

**GILLIAN WILSON, CHAIRPERSON
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**

Enormous gratitude to our illustrious Women's Day Committee.

Historic St. Thomas Church welcomes FIRST WOMAN
PASTOR of Historic Mother Bethel A.M.E.
Church to speak at Annual Women's Day Celebration.

More photos can be found:

<https://www.lauraelam.com/p1007659340>



Please note that giving opportunities will continue through the end of this year via Realm, or the Women's Ministry envelopes located in your pews. May God richly bless each of you for your kindness and faithfulness as we continue to grow together. May the love and unity shown throughout the celebration continue to inspire us to Rise in Faith, and Walk in Purpose, Hope and Love. Thank you for being a blessing to our ministry. With heartfelt appreciation. The AECST Women's Day Committee on behalf of the Women's Ministry.



Greetings St. Thomas Family,

On behalf of the AECST Women's Day Committee, we extend our deepest gratitude for your incredible prayers, presence, and generous support for our 2026 Women's Day Celebration. It was an honor to host our Speaker, The Reverend Carolyn C. Caveness who delivered an exceptionally inspiring message for us to carry forward. It took many hearts and hands to make it all happen, and your incredible gifts and support - whether through kind words, prayers, financial contributions, gifts of music or dance, or other forms of assistance – were invaluable to our success. Your generosity and commitment to our celebration filled us with joy and made the day a meaningful and uplifting experience for all. We are immensely grateful.

To Fr. Shaw, Rev. Downing and the Clergy of St. Thomas, we are eternally grateful for your leadership and support. We would like to thank: Vergers Eugene and Karen, for your dedicated service; the amazing Dr. Jay, and the rich melodic voices from Jillian, Alexandra, and our Women's Day Choir, for sharing their magnificent gifts of music; the Angels in Motion, for sharing the beautiful gift of dance; our angelic readers: Amina, D'Lalah, Kennedy, Amelia, and Sakiyah; the awesome Livestream Ministry; the incredibly gifted Gail Harris; our resolute Ushers; the great Monarchs and the Men of St. Thomas for their continued support; and to Gladyce DuBrey David McGilberry, the extraordinary congregants of St. Thomas and everyone who supports our ministry, Thank You!

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION MAY 31, 2026









Photos: Bill Edmonds and Brenda Johnson Best
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

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

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.

**ANNOUNCING – “A BIBLICAL FORMATION SERIES
OPPORTUNITY AT ST. THOMAS”**

A FIVE WEEK SERIES - All are welcome!

Facilitator: R. Seth Williams

**Wednesdays, from 6:00 P.M - 7:15 PM
in the Absalom Jones House.**

“Praying the Rosary: A Scriptural Journey with Christ”

Join us for a 5-week introduction to the Rosary as a deeply biblical, Christ centered devotion within the Episcopal tradition. Each week explores one set of Mysteries - Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous - through Scripture, reflection, and guided prayer.

Sessions begin Wednesday, May 27, and continue each Wednesday in June, concluding with a communal Rosary meditation.

Week 1: Introduction to the Rosary -
The Gospel on a String

Week 2: The Joyful Mysteries -
The Incarnation and the Hidden Life of Christ

Week 3: The Sorrowful Mysteries -
Walking the Way of the Cross

Week 4: The Glorious Mysteries -
Resurrection Hope

Week 5: The Luminous Mysteries -
The Public Ministry of Jesus

MUSIC MINISTRY CORNER

The internationally acclaimed **St. Thomas Gospel Choir** will be the featured background choir, for Grammy-nominated vocalist, **Josh Groban** during his upcoming concerts:

Xfinity Center, Philadelphia, PA
Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 8:00 PM

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA
Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 8:00 PM.

The concert program will also feature Academy Award-winning artist **Jennifer Hudson** as a special guest performer. Known for their powerful vocals, rich harmonies, and dynamic presentation of Gospel music within the Episcopal tradition, the St. Thomas Gospel Choir continues to carry the musical legacy of The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas onto major stages throughout the region and beyond.

Waltier Blocker, Co-Minister of Music and Director of the St. Thomas Gospel will be a featured speaker at the Justice, Mercy and Music Symposium during the Association of Anglican Musicians conference, **June 7th -11t** in Atlanta, Georgia.

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

— *Vote for* —

WALT BLOCKER



Favorite Chef 2026



Voting begins June 1
right after midnight



Many of you know me
through music ministry,
but cooking is another
way I serve with love.



Please vote daily and
ask your family and
friends to vote too.



Vote at:

favchef.com/2026/walt-blocker

Thank you for your love, prayers, and support. — Walt

Favorite Chef Competition from Waltier Blocker

I am grateful and excited to share that I have been nominated for the 2026 Favorite Chef competition. Cooking has always been one of the ways I show love, serve others, and bring people together around the table. I am thankful for the prayers, encouragement, and support of my St. Thomas family as I step into this opportunity. Voting is now open until June 11th, and each person may vote once daily per email account. <https://favchef.com/2026/walt-blocker>. Your prayers, votes, and help sharing the link with family and friends would mean so much to me. “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” — 1 Corinthians 10:31



GRADUATE SUNDAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026!

Have you or your child graduated or been promoted? Please complete the Graduate Profile form included in the bulletin or print and complete the online form. We want to highlight your achievements and share them with the congregation. The deadline to submit your information to the office is **Sunday, June 21, 2026.**

DEANERY NEWS

The 2026 Reverend Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan Memorial Scholarship application is now available for all eligible high school seniors that worship in an Episcopal church or are a part of a program sponsored by an Episcopal church. This scholarship supports graduating high school students entering their first year at accredited colleges, universities, or trade programs.

The application deadline is June 30, 2026. Please email Phyllis Cater, pbccater@comcast.net or Mary Dean, dean602ms@gmail.com for application information.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026

June 7th

Visitation of Diocesan Bishop of PA-
The Right Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutierrez

June 14th

~Annual Caribbean Festival~
Worshiping with us will be members of St. Augustine's
Church, Brooklyn, NY

June 21st

~Father's Day~
~Observance of Juneteenth~

June 28th

~Youth & Young Adults Sunday~
~Graduate Sunday~

July 5th

~Observance of America250~

This Week at AECST – June 8, 2026

Tuesday, June 9th

- ~Memorial Service for Lynn Marie Harris~
9:30 AM Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Omega Omega Service;
- ~Requiem Memorial Mass~ at 10:00 AM
- ~OPC Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~
6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft
- ~Pilgrims on a Journey with Fr. Jay~
via Zoom at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, June 10th

- ~Praying the Rosary: A Scriptural Journey
with Christ~ Seth Williams in the AJ House
- ~Angels in Motion Dance Ministry Rehearsal~
6:30 PM in the church

Friday, June 12th

- ~Requiem Memorial Mass
for Denise Rae Scott Jones~ 10:00 AM
- ~Wedding Rehearsal for the Patterson/Ellison~
~Wedding~ 4:00 PM

Saturday, June 13th

- ~Wedding of Jennie Marie Patterson and
Jordan Marc Ellison~ 3:30 PM

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

For those of you who missed our Zoom Presentation on “The ABCs of a Good Night’s Sleep,” here is a link to the presentation. The presentation on sleep health was led by Dr. Dara Tolshin, who discussed the importance of sleep for overall health and well-being. Dr. Tolshin covered topics including recommended sleep durations (7-9 hours for adults), common sleep disorders like insomnia and sleep apnea, and practical tips for improving sleep quality such as avoiding screens before bed, maintaining consistent sleep schedules, and creating relaxing bedtime routines.

Scan the QR code below:



THE TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY

is looking for volunteers. Anyone that is interested is asked to email Conchetta Brewer, ms.cbrewer074@gmail.com.

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.

REALM STATEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

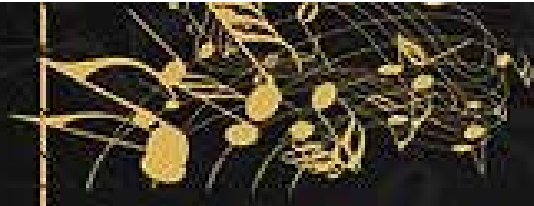
Good morning, Church family. This announcement is to inform you to please check your email for your first quarterly statement. Realm can easily generate your statement. Therefore, paper statements will no longer be mailed from the church office.

Please email stewardship@aecst.com
if you do not receive your statement via email
(remember to check spam/junk).

Thank you in advance, and have a great day.
Judy Tillman, Stewardship Chair

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 - Bloomsburg, PA

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

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 Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 7, 2026**

The First Lesson - [Genesis 12:1-9](#)
[Psalm 33:1-12](#)

The Second Lesson - [Romans 4:13-25](#)
The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of June 8, 2026**

Monday - [Matthew 15:21-28](#)
Tuesday - [Matthew 15:29-39](#)
Wednesday - [Matthew 16:1-12](#)
Thursday - [Matthew 16:13-20](#)
Friday - [Matthew 16:21-28](#)
Saturday - [Matthew 17:1-13](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
BIBLE STUDY is on Tuesdays
at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining
the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay
at associatepriest@aecst.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of
Valarie Dandridge, given by Albert, Kyle, Laura, Stevie,
Anthony and Tracey Dandridge

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 REHAB:

Francina Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home; Vernetta Dow -The Rittenhouse Rehab; 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; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center; Julie Geiger - West Park Rehabilitation Center

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Shirley Caldwell, Cornelia Camp, Virginia DuBrey, Verger Stephen Hannum, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., Mary Ann Jones, Alletta Parris Olday, Joyce Stewart, Thelma Silvers, Calvin Thompson, Wendell Whitlock

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Adinah Edwards, Teena Watson-Matthews, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Carl Dean, Arlene Gray, Adrian Gray, Sharon Harper, Quincina Edmonds, D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney, Carmen Brown, Lisa Woodley, Richard Jones, Jr., Regina Meacham Devero, Katrina Harris, Carolyn Summers, Karen Ragland

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. 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.

Church School begins at **10:00 AM** in the **Undercroft**.

You need to register your child for church school for the 2025-2026 school year. Please use this [link](#) to register your child/children.

Call for Church School Teachers - If you feel the calling by God to volunteer your time in church school, please fill out the registration [link](#). If you were a teacher last year, please fill out this year's registration.



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 | The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez | |
| Rector | The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw | rector@aecst.org |
| Associate to the Rector | | |
| Associate Priest | The Rev. Fr. Gerald (Jay) Collins | associatepriest@aecst.org |
| Associate Priest | The Rev. Patricia Downing | psdowning@verizon.net |
| 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 |
| Sexton | LaDon Elliott | 1792@aecst.org |
| Asst. Sexton | David McGillberry | 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@tlgattorneys.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 |
| O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry | Wendella Fox Elaine Gillison | cattoministry@aecst.org |
| 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 |
| Health Ministry | Nikki Franke Dr. Michael McIntosh | 1792@aecst.org |
| Jazz Ensemble Director | Jay Fluellen, DMA | chancelchoir@aecst1792.org |
| Live Stream Ministry | Yaseen Farooq Teri Tillman | livevideo@aecst.org |
| Memorial Flowers | Alfreda Brockman Clare Mae Daniels | fredabee@verizon.net |
| Memorial Tribute Ministry | Victoria Rivers | memorialtribute@aecst.org |
| Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters | Ashley Hines | 1792@aecst.org |
| Parish Vergers | Eugene Golson Karen Ragland | 1792@aecst.org |
| Parish Webmaster | Gail Hinton Harris | webmanager@aecst.org |
| Property Chair | William J. Burke | property@aecst.org |
| Scout Pack 133 | Howard Chapman | howchapman@gmail.com |
| | Arlene Gray | bsapack0133@gmail.com |
| St. Thomas Daughters of the King | Sharon Bullock | scmci@aol.com |
| Stewardship Chair | Judy Tillman | stewardship@aecst.org |
| 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 - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William J. Burke

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Tim Barksdale | Clare Mae Daniels | Eugene Golson |
| Judith Simkins Booth | Mary Sandra Dean | Monica Lewis Jones |
| Deadra Cannon | Elaine Gillison | Deborah Matthews |

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Brenda Johnson Best | Gwenda Hart | Cynthia Muse |
| Sharon Bullock | D. Lynn Joell | Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor |
| Ronnie Collins | Kelvin Johnson | 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