AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

Philadelphia • (1792)

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

You are cordially invited to

JUDICIAL SUNDAY

Sunday, November 22, 2026

10:00 A.M.



GUEST SPEAKER

The Honorable Natasha Taylor-Smith

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
of Philadelphia County
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania,

Reception will follow the Service

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)
Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/AECST1792

You may read the Honorable Natasha Taylor-Smith's Biography **here.**

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
(CHRIST THE KING)
JUDICIAL SUNDAY
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY
November 22, 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





Please scan the QR code or text "AECST" to 73256 to contribute to the church ministries.

Please click on the link provided for the
Order of Service and the Bulletin

“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 Last Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King), Judicial Sunday, and Youth and Young Adults Sunday. We warmly welcome our guest speaker, **The Honorable Natasha Taylor-Smith**, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and other members of the legal community worshiping with us this morning.

On behalf of the clergy, wardens, vestry, and congregation, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792, St. Thomas is the first Black Episcopal Church in the United States and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Our first rector, Blessed Absalom Jones, was also the nation’s first Black Episcopal priest.

Our parish joyfully proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and service. We are an active and growing church family committed to sharing Christ’s love and serving our neighbors. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

As we worship together today, may you experience God’s presence, find encouragement in our fellowship, and be nourished by Christ’s grace as you receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. May you leave renewed in faith and strengthened for service. We are grateful you have joined us.

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

A NEW WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT!!!

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







YOU'RE INVITED: Judicial Sunday at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, November 22, 2026. Please see the invitation below.



Video: Quentin Heyward,
St. Thomas Videography Ministry

NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

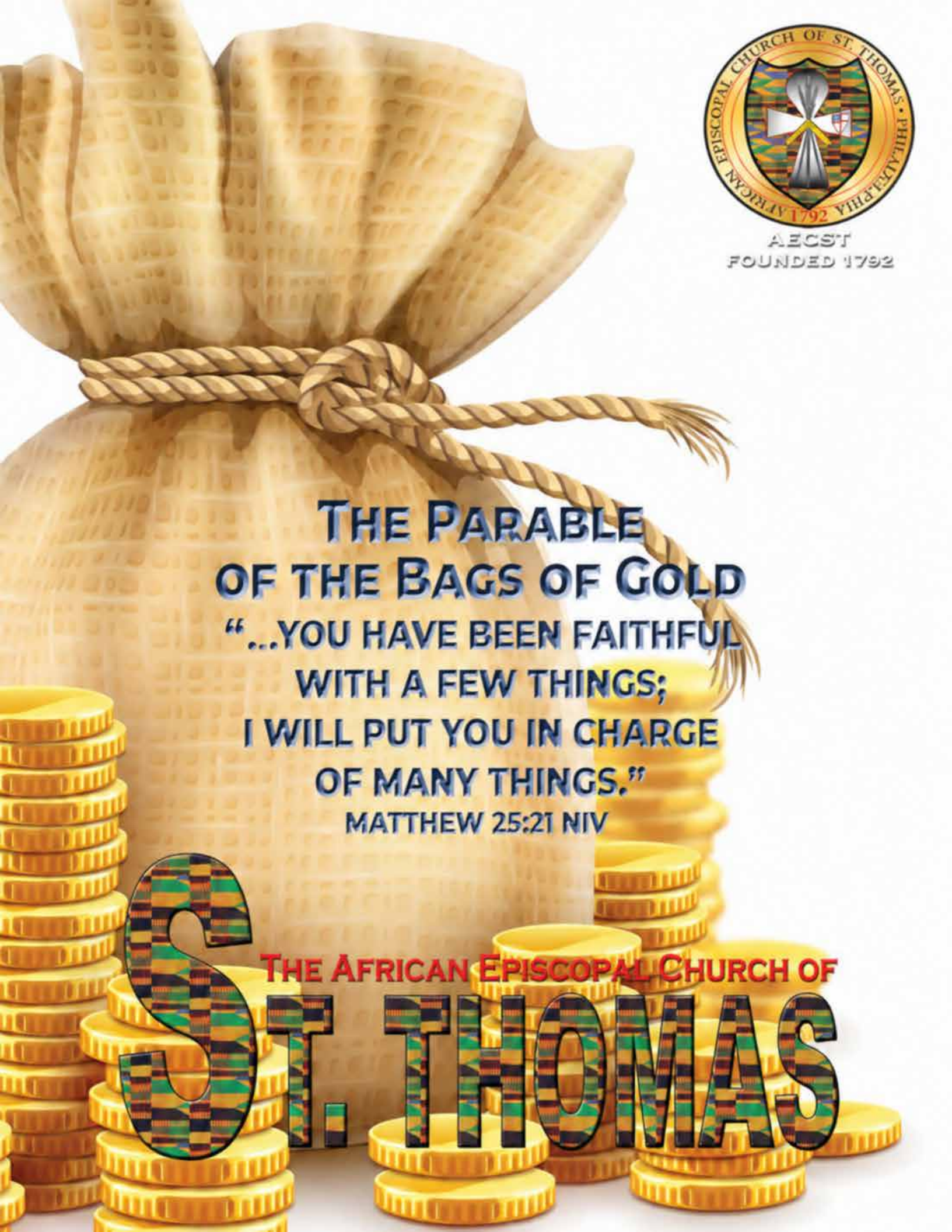
Our exciting ministry plans and activities for the remaining three months of this year are in place. I am urging each parishioner to please ensure that your financial pledge for 2026 is current and up to date. We are hopeful that all pledges will be fulfilled by ***December 31, 2026***. If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Judy Tillman, Stewardship Chair, as soon as possible at **stewardship@aecst.org**. Enormous thanks for your continued support and generous contributions.

Thank you to everyone that purchased a pew memorial plaque that will memorialize your loved one. The Memorial Tribute Ministry will notify you once the plaques are ready for installation.

REMINDER: Do not park in the Overbrook Presbyterian Church parking lot on Sundays! Their office has told us this rule is still being violated! Thank you.

Following the call to worship the Verger, or designated person, requests that the congregation maintain a spirit of reverence and silence as we prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God. Please refrain from conversation.

As a sign of reverence and respect for the worship of God and others, kindly remain in the church for the entirety of the liturgy, unless you have an unavoidable reason to leave early. Please refrain from exiting the church until after the closing hymn and the dismissal, as our worship is not complete until we are sent forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.


AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • PHILADELPHIA 1792
AECST
FOUNDED 1792
THE PARABLE
OF THE BAGS OF GOLD
"...YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL
WITH A FEW THINGS;
I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE
OF MANY THINGS."
MATTHEW 25:21 NIV
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. THOMAS

A STEWARDSHIP NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

The 2027 Annual Stewardship Drive has begun. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2027 Faithful Giving Pledge towards the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas. Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither, 10% of our time, talents and treasures. Are you working toward that spiritual goal?

Please use the Giving Chart below to assist you with your Faithful Giving Pledge for 2027. If you are in church and have the physical Faithful Giving Card, please bring it to the altar during the offertory, or directly submit it online using the link below or scan the QR Code.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDERUxYZeOi_K4tSTrqKh6JVVnGNhwaTEd_4ndPNLYpM08tw/viewform.

2027 Faithful Giving Cards

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2027 Faithful Giving Pledge. Is your name included yet? Please submit yours today by using the QR Code below

The Clergy Leadership
The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
The Rev. Patricia Downing

Vestry
Tim Barksdale
Deborah Booker Matthews
William Burke
Deborah Camp-Frye
Deadra Cannon
Albert Dandridge
Clara Mae Daniels
Mary Dean
Elaine C. Gillison
Eugene Golson
Pamela Johnson
Richard Jones
Monica Lewis-Jones
Judith Simkins-Booth
Judith Tillman

Auxiliary Vestry
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Gwenda Hart
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Monica Johnson Taylor
Brenda Johnson-Best
Cynthia Muse
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

Membership
Patricia Akins
Constance Anderson
Dorothy & Michael Archey
Jeanne Arnold
Paul Bachand & Julie Hergenrather
Brenda Battle
Jennifer Bell
Susan Ben
Deborah Billups
Guy Booth
Ricardo Bostic
I. Page Bowser, Jr.
Theresa Bramwell
Conchetta Brewer
Lorita Brockington
Alfreda & J.R. Brockman
Jane & Robert Brown
Marilyn Brown
Phyllis Brown
Kenneth Bundy
Charlotte Card
Phyllis B. Cater
Eleanor Chestnut
Suzanne Closson
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant
Tracy Collins
Gwendolyn Cottman
Karen M. Davis
Stacey N. Davis
Sukona & Eddie Davis
Carl Dean
Rollo Dilworth
Andrew & Lisa-Renee Dumas
William & Quincina Edmonds
Larry & Deidre Farmbry
Loretta Ferguson
Marceline Fitzwilliam
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel
Barry Frye
Irenda Gates
Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Hossein Gharavi & Stephenie Smith
Barbara L. Glenn
Swanie Goldsmith
Marie Golson
Clarice Grant
Arlene Gray
Linda Greaves
Michele Green
Persko (PJ) Grier, Jr.
Derek Griffith
Tyrone & Teleia Gunby
Thomasina Hack
Joan Hall
Nicole & Walter Harris
Roosevelt & Gail Harris
Deborah Harrison
Richard Hart
Gregory Hayes
Maurice Hayes
René Hayes
Denise McDaniel Henderson
Quentin Heyward
Synethia Hill
Wanda Hill
Fleta Howell
Robert Hugh
Donald & Patricia Hunt
Diana Hutchins
Kim Hyde

2027 Faithful Giving Cards (continued)

Yvonne Hyde-Carter
Diann Jacox
Simone Jeffers
Evelyn C. Johns
Bobby Johnson
Frank Johnson
Naomi Johnson Booker
Jenelle Johnson-Wilson
Vernetta Johnston
Bettie Jones
Sheila B. Jones
Tyrone Keller
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Jurdina Koilor
John Kortue, Sr.
Nancy C. Lee
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Karen Leys
Michelle Lofton
Adriene Logan
Alonda Lord
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
James Lowe
Winston Lowe
Pat Lynch
Thomas Lynch
Constance Lyons
Stephen & Michelle Mack
Derrick McBride
Stacey McCoy-Ndiaye
Michael McIntosh
Denise McKinney-Gibson
Laura McNeill
Regina Meacham Devero
Velma M Morris-Nembhard
Mueni Mwanzia
Vincent & Lisa Napoleon
Nohjay Nimpson
Chinwe Onyekere
Deborah Otey
Carolyn Paige
Tiana Pankey
Samuel & Deidre Patterson
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips
Michael Pyles
Kareem Ragin
Dolores Redmond
Clarence H. Rice
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Cassandra A. Ruffin
Nicole Ruffin
Barbara Savage
Georgia Sawyer
Sheila Sawyer McCullough
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman
Arlene Singletary
Anita Smith
Dorothy Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Shelly & Ann Stewart
Sheila Stubbs
Michele & Arthur Sudler
Lynda Tapper-Smith
Calvin Thompson
Teri Tillman
Harold Townsend, III
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Anne Trotman
Louise Trotman
Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen J. Vaughn
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Rufus Seth Williams
Stephanie Williamson
Lorna Wilson
Charlene M. Wiltshire
Wanda A. Wood
Khalita N. Wright
Paula Wright
Bernadette Wyche
Alice Young
M. Elaine Young

A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Holy Scripture commends
a minimum tithe of
10% of our earnings.
Where are you on your spiritual journey?

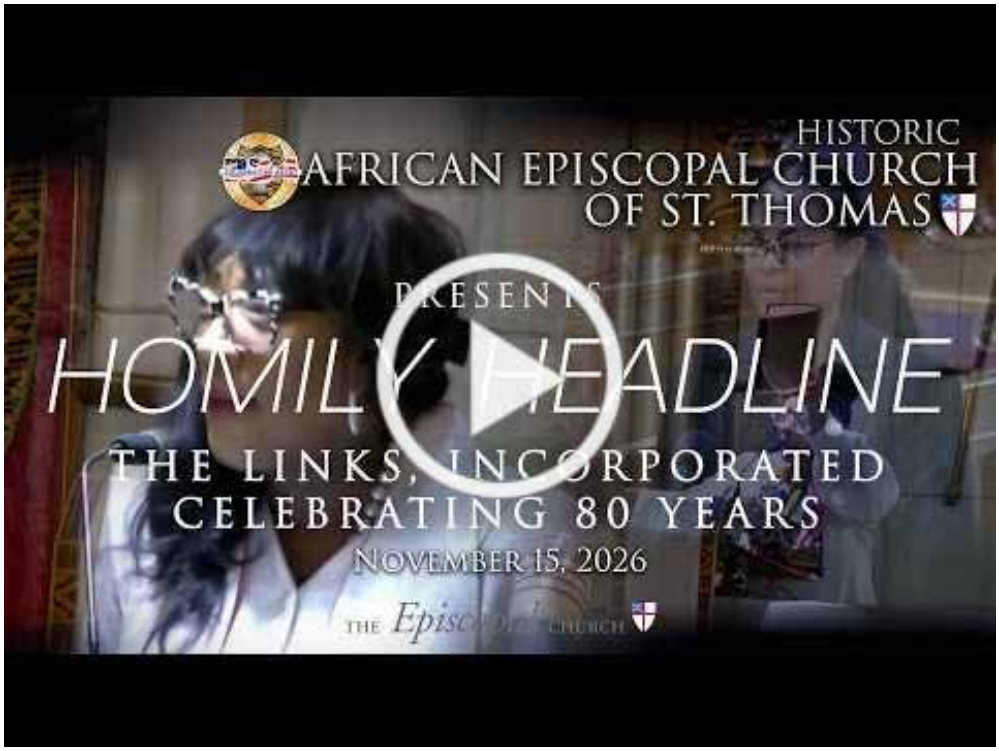
Annual Faithful Giving

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
$10,000.00	$200.00	$500.00	$1,000.00
$15,000.00	$300.00	$750.00	$1,500.00
$20,000.00	$400.00	$1,000.00	$2,000.00
$25,000.00	$500.00	$1,250.00	$2,500.00
$30,000.00	$600.00	$1,500.00	$3,000.00
$40,000.00	$800.00	$2,000.00	$4,000.00
$50,000.00	$1,000.00	$2,500.00	$5,000.00
$60,000.00	$1,200.00	$3,000.00	$6,000.00
$70,000.00	$1,400.00	$3,500.00	$7,000.00
$80,000.00	$1,600.00	$4,000.00	$8,000.00
$90,000.00	$1,800.00	$4,500.00	$9,000.00
$100,000.00	$2,000.00	$5,000.00	$10,000.00
$110,000.00	$2,200.00	$5,500.00	$11,000.00
$120,000.00	$2,400.00	$6,000.00	$12,000.00
$150,000.00	$3,000.00	$7,000.00	$15,000.00
$175,000.00	$3,500.00	$8,750.00	$17,500.00
$200,000.00	$4,000.00	$10,000.00	$20,000.00

HOMILY HEADLINE

"Celebrating 80 Years of The Links, Incorporated" at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

November 15, 2026



Video: Quentin Heyward,
St. Thomas Videography Ministry

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
NOVEMBER 15, 2026





















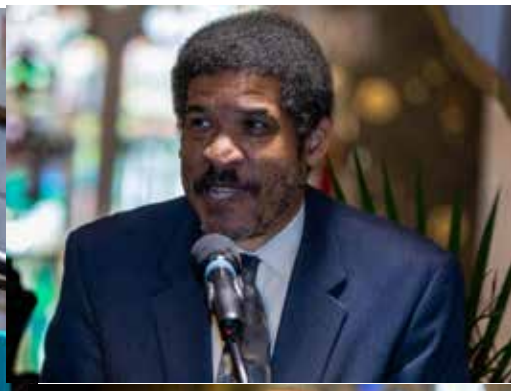


























More pictures may be found on our **Facebook** page.

Photos: Quentin Heyward and Justin Trotman
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

On Sunday, November 15th, the Intermezzo Choir Ministry presented a Pre-Thanksgiving Service of Praise.









Photos: Richard Jones, Rector's Warden



Condolences to Denise McKinney Gibson on the death of her cousin, **Larry Riddick**. May the soul of Larry rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

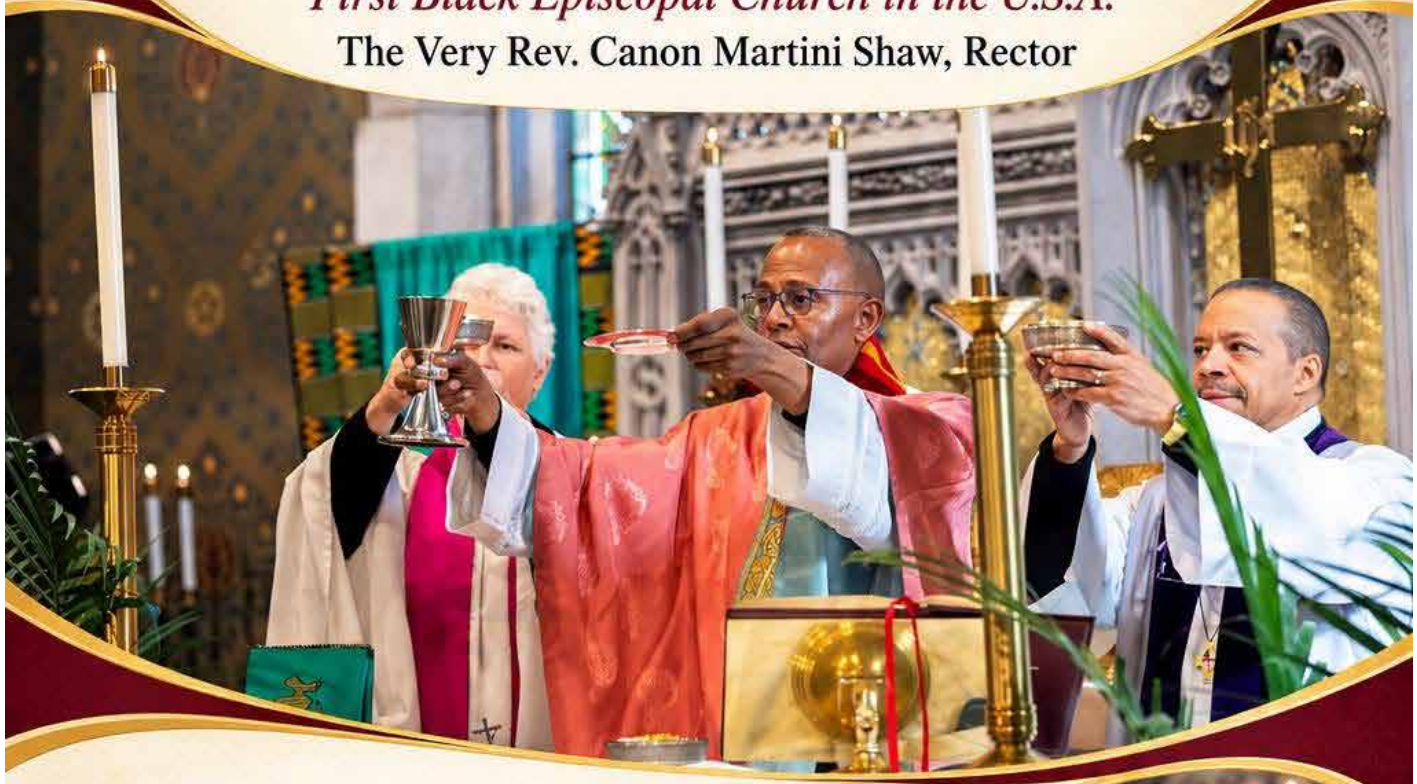
Condolences to Elizabeth Derr on the death of her niece, **Anissa Bynum.** May the soul of Anissa rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (1792)

Philadelphia

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector



You Are Invited

Gather Around The Lord's Table

Each Sunday



Visitors, friends, and neighbors—
join us for worship, prayer, and fellowship
as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

Come worship with us.
Find a welcoming church family.
There is a place for you at St. Thomas.



STRICTLY PROHIBITED- FIRE LANE PARKING

Parking in the fire lanes located in the church parking lot is **ILLEGAL AND STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Fire lanes are NOT temporary parking spaces for any reason. They must remain clear and unobstructed at all times to ensure emergency vehicles have immediate access when needed.

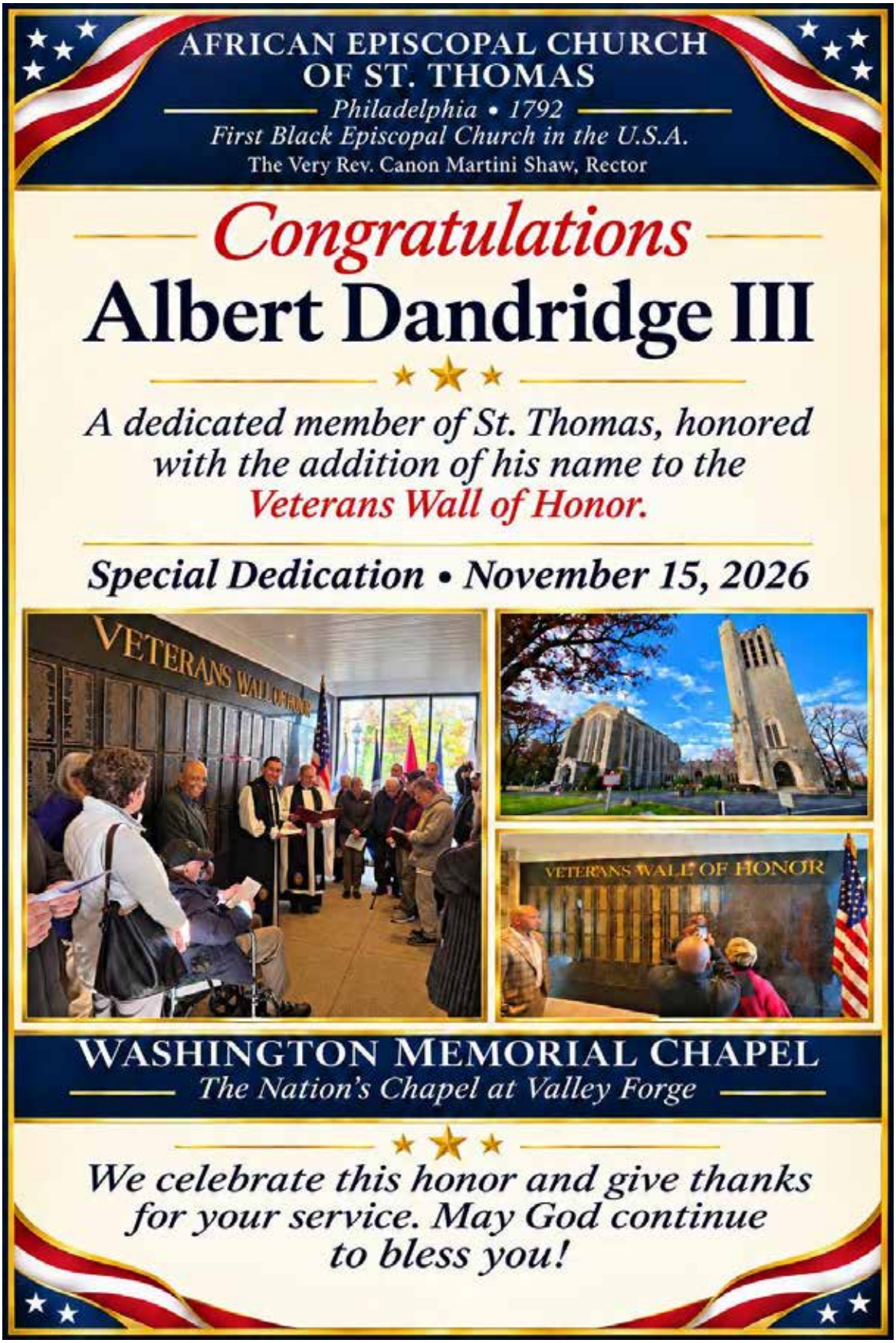
DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE LANE-NOT EVEN TEMPORARILY!

This is a matter of safety, not convenience. **No exceptions. Please comply with this rule at all times.**

The St. Thomas Chancel Choir is a dynamic music ministry that sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, in addition to special services. We welcome anyone who loves to sing, regardless of age or skill level. The choir sings a wide variety of musical styles, including anthems, spirituals, and gospel, among others.

Our rehearsal schedule is as follows:
Saturday, November 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Saturday, December 5th, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Saturday, December 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Congratulations to Albert Dandridge, III! His name was added to the Veterans Wall of Fame at the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge on November 15, 2026. We celebrate you and thank you for your service.




32
CPT FREDRICK GLOVER CHOATE JR - US ARMY
1LT FRED GLOVER CHOATE - US ARMY
SPC MARK CHRISTOPHER CHOATE - US ARMY
CPL EDWARD J PAUL SR - US ARMY
PO2 ALAN J MAZZARELLA - US NAVY
CPL GEORGE JOHN HAY - US ARMY
1ST SGT JOSEPH A BENTON - US MARINE CORPS
SSGT ALBERT S DANDRIDGE III - US MARINE CORPS
PVT FERNANDO GUTIERREZ - US ARMY
TEC 5 POLES ARMIJO - US ARMY
SP4 RALPH C JONES - US ARMY
SGT IAN M BREWER - US MARINE CORPS
SSGT ROBERT E POPE - US AIR FORCE
MAJ HUNTER BARNHILL - US AIR FORCE
SSGT JEREMY D VANDEKAR - US MARINE CORPS
CDR DAVID "ESE" ELIAS - US NAVY
COL ANTONIO MARTINEZ - US ARMY RESERVE
T5 FRANK OGRODOWSKI - US ARMY
RICHARD C CARINO - US AIR FORCE
MAJ ANTHONY T MIRABILE - US AIR FORCE
ANTHONY T MIRABILE - US AIR FORCE
PO2 DANIEL J PILLIE - US NAVY
SFC FREDERICK JOSEPH KLOTZBACH SR - US ARMY
LT FREDERICK JOSEPH KLOTZBACH JR - US NAVY
CPT ROBERT GREGORY KLOTZBACH - US ARMY
SGT MARK FREDERICK KLOTZBACH - US ARMY
SGT EDWARD J WILBRAHAM - US ARMY
SSG RICHARD D SPRING II - US ARMY
SPC LOUIS D'ALESSANDRO - US ARMY
SSGT JOSEPH TRIGONE - US AIR FORCE
CAPT GUSTAV H HAAK - US AIR FORCE
SRA STEVEN J BENDER - US AIR FORCE
PO2 EDWARD JOSEPH GOEBIG JR - US NAVY
CPT DAVID H HEFFNER - US ARMY
SP5 CARL A RENNINGER - US ARMY
CPO RICHARD J CALDERONE JR - US NAVY
PO3 DICK R MORGAN - US NAVY
SP5 DENNIS R TEMPLETON - US ARMY
SP4 MICHAEL EUGENE TESTA - US ARMY
PFC ROSCOE M ROBERTSON - US ARMY
LTC CARMEN R TOSCANO - US ARMY










CHOSEN300®
MINISTRIES, INC.
COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • SERVICE • HOPE
Save the DATE
Chosen300Way
STREET RENAMING CEREMONY
Join us as we celebrate this historic moment and the legacy of Chosen 300 Ministries, Inc.
MONDAY
NOVEMBER 23RD
AT 11:00 AM
3959 LANCASTER AVE.
Come be a part of this moment as we honor 30 years of service, impact, and ministry in our community.
THE PEOPLE WE SERVE | THE WORK WE DO
AND THE CHRIST WE LIFT UP.

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
Philadelphia (1792)

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

ANNUAL MEN'S DAY
CELEBRATION

Redemption

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026
10:00 A.M.



GUEST SPEAKER

The Honorable
Kenyatta Johnson
President, Philadelphia City Council

Reception following the service

St. Thomas Men's Ministry & Fellowship
Edward Geiger, President

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

Philadelphia • Founded 1792

First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

SERVING MEALS. SHARING LOVE.

CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CHOSEN 300 MINISTRY

November 16, 2026





St. Thomas joyfully partners with Chosen 300 Ministry, serving meals to guests experiencing hunger and homelessness. Together, we share Christ's love through compassion, dignity, and welcome.

FAITH IN ACTION. LOVE IN SERVICE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

St. Thomas is grateful to partner with St. James School to provide hundreds of Thanksgiving meals and gift certificates to families. A special thank-you to our Sisterhood Guild Ministry for coordinating our part in this effort.



TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY (TOLPM)

Donations are being requested to help support the following initiatives:

- **Angel Tree Christmas Party:** This is the annual Christmas party for children who have an incarcerated parent. The party will be held Sunday, December 20th after morning worship. There are two (2) ways you can support this project;

1. a financial donation, any amount, to offset the cost of preparing the meal for the families at the party; or

2. during the month of November, we are asking you to support at least one child by purchasing a holiday gift that will be distributed at the Christmas party.

- **Family Support Assistance**: Children who have an incarcerated parent are often being cared for by a relative. The TOLPM will query families and determine what is most needed: food, clothing, children's books, etc. Funds will be used to help these families, including providing support to travel to St. Thomas for the Christmas party.

- **Tighty-Whities Project:** Incarcerated men are not always provided with a sufficient number of undergarments. The TOLPM is asking for donations of men's WHITE ONLY underwear, including Hanes (brand) tag-less T-shirts, Hanes (brand) Tag-less briefs, and crew-length socks. All sizes are needed.

- If you have questions, contact J.R. Brockman at **brock.man@verizon.net** or call 609-381-9981.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Caring for our health is an important part of caring for ourselves, our families, and our church community. When receiving health care, one simple action can help prevent the spread of infection: **make sure your health care providers clean their hands.** Whether you are visiting a doctor's office, clinic, hospital, or receiving care at home, your provider should clean their hands:

- Before touching you.
- Before performing a clean procedure, such as caring for a wound, giving an injection, or handling an IV.
- After touching you or completing a procedure.
- After removing gloves. Gloves do not replace hand hygiene.

Providers may use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wash with soap and water. When hands are visibly dirty, soap and water are necessary.

It is okay to speak up. If you did not see your provider clean their hands, you can politely say: "Before we begin, would you please clean your hands?"

You can also ask a family member or caregiver to speak on your behalf. Asking about hand hygiene is a respectful way to participate in your care. Health care professionals are responsible for providing safe care, and your questions can support that effort.

Let us care for one another by keeping our own hands clean and encouraging safe practices wherever we receive care. **Clean hands help protect us all.**

CDC Hand Hygiene: **CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings | Infection Control | CDC**

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Fall Beauty at St. Thomas

Celebrating Our Beautiful Grounds & New Fall Plantings









With Grateful Thanks

Our Landscaper, Vincent Tulli & St. Thomas Gardeners

Thank you for your care, creativity, and faithful work in making our church grounds a beautiful and welcoming place for all.



OUR LIVESTREAM MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Each week, many people who are away can worship with us via our amazing Livestream. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. If interested, please communicate with Father Shaw.

AECST LEGACY PATH CAMPAIGN

Leave a lasting legacy at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

Personalized commemorative bricks are now available for purchase and will be permanently installed on the church grounds. Each engraved brick honors a loved one, marks a special occasion, or reflects your commitment to the future of AECST.

Your support strengthens our ministries, preserves our heritage, and helps ensure that St. Thomas continues to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come. Each brick is $125. Please contact Victoria Rivers at **memorialtribute@aecst.org** for information.
Design and Personalize Your Brick at: **https://share.google/OwnV8VD0cvLfbPcQQ**

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

ROOTED IN FAITH. GROWING IN HOPE.
CALLED TO SERVE.

LEAVE A *Legacy.*

INSPIRE GENERATIONS.

Honor your faith. Celebrate your loved ones. Support the future. Purchase a personalized brick on the AECST Legacy Path.



PURCHASE A PERSONALIZED BRICK
ON THE
AECST LEGACY PATH

YOUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE. GOD'S GLORY.

Your personalized brick will be a permanent tribute on the AECST Legacy Path—a visible reminder of your faith, your love, and your commitment to the future of our church family.

Every brick supports our ministries and helps sustain the mission, heritage, and hope that continue to impact lives for generations to come.

HONOR
Loved one, celebrate a milestone, or give thanks.

SUPPORT
the mission and ministries of AECST for years to come.

LEAVE A LEGACY
that future generations will see, remember, and be inspired by.

"Rooted in Faith. Growing in Hope. Called to Serve."

Your brick is more than a gift—it's a lasting legacy of faith, hope, and love.

Visit www.aecst.org to place your order!

Be a permanent part of the AECST Legacy Path.
LEAVE YOUR MARK. BUILD OUR LEGACY. GLORIFY GOD.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

November 29th
~The First Sunday of Advent~
~Blessing of the Advent Wreath~

~Health Ministry Sunday~

~Blessing of the Shepherds Ministry~

December 6th
~Seond Sunday of Advent~

~Annual Men's Day Celebration~

Keynote Speaker -
The Honorable Kenyatta Johnson,
President, Philadelphia City Council

December 13th
~The Third Sunday of Advent~

December 20th
~The Fourth Sunday of Advent~

~Church School Presentation~

~Angel Tree Christmas Party~
in Anderson Hall from 2-4:30 PM



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.

THIS WEEK AT AECST – November 22, 2026

Tuesday, November 24th
~Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay~ via Zoom 7:00 PM

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

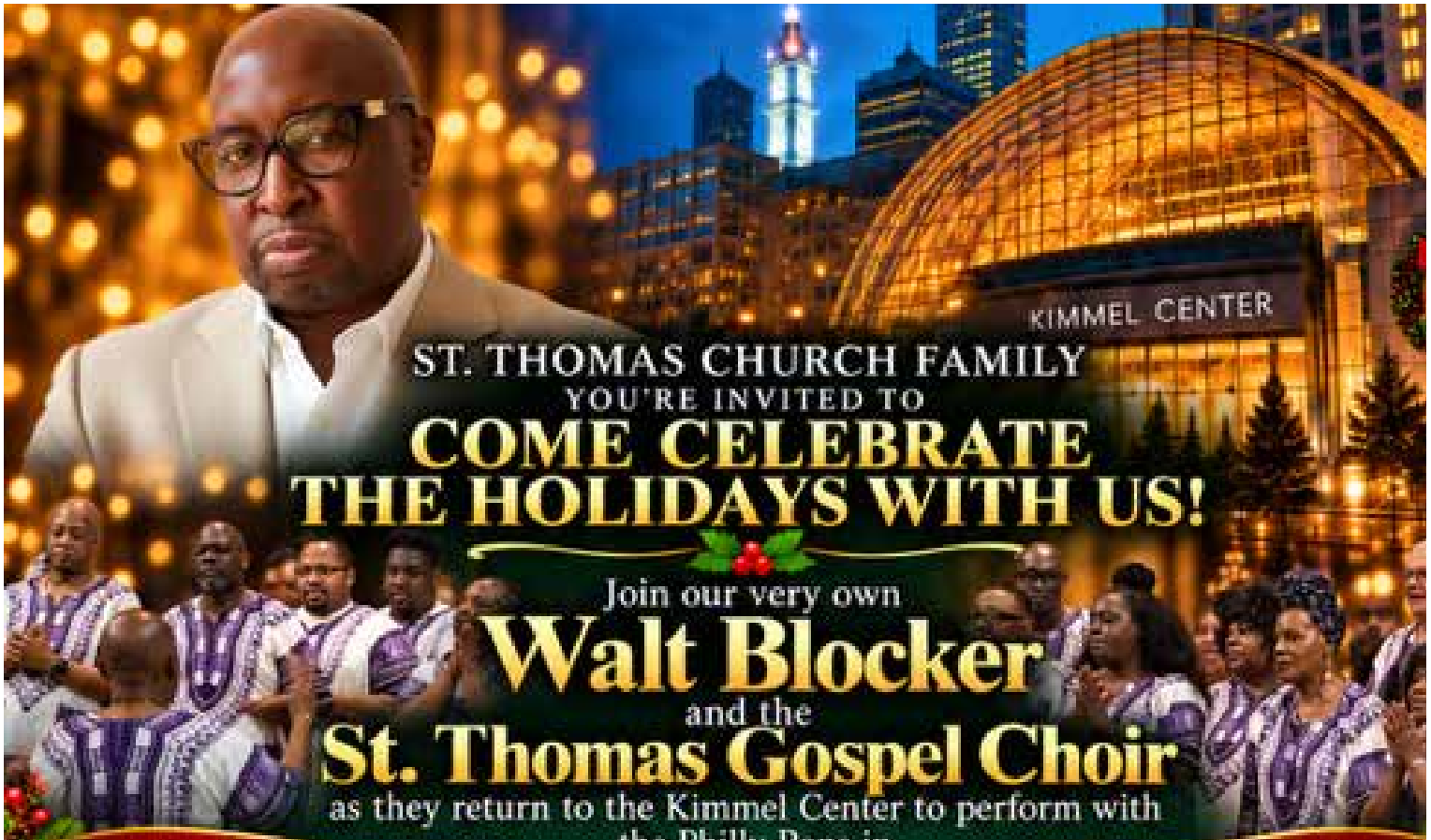
Wednesday, November 25th
~St. Thomas Gospel Choir rehearsal~
in Anderson Hall at 7:30 PM

Thursday, November 26th
~Church and Administrative offices closed for Thanksgiving~

Friday, November 27th
~Church and Administrative offices closed

Saturday, November 28th
~Chancel Choir rehearsal~
in Anderson Hall at 10:00 AM

Come celebrate the Holidays with Waltier Blocker and the St. Thomas Gospel Choir as they return to the Kimmel Center for "A Philly Holiday Spectacular." In addition to STGC, the concert will feature vocalists Ryan Shaw and Morgan James, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, The Philly Pops Chorus, The Philly Pops Orchestra and a special visit from Santa Clause!
Concerts dates are as follows:
Friday, December 11th - 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 12th - 2:00 PM
Sunday, December 13th - 7:00 PM
Tickets may be purchased through phillypops.org or by calling the Kimmel Center box office at 215- 893-1999.



ST. THOMAS CHURCH FAMILY

YOU'RE INVITED TO

COME CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!

Join our very own

Walt Blocker

and the

St. Thomas Gospel Choir

as they return to the Kimmel Center to perform with the Philly Pops in

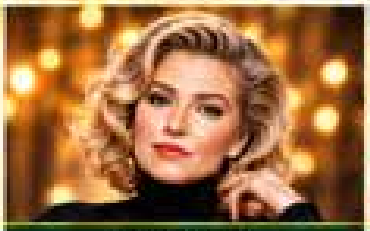
THE PHILLY POPS

A PHILLY HOLIDAY *Spectacular*

FEATURING



VOCALIST
RYAN SHAW



VOCALIST
MORGAN JAMES



THE PHILADELPHIA
BOYS CHOIR



A SPECIAL
VISIT FROM SANTA!

PLUS THE PHILLY POPS CHORUS AND THE PHILLY POPS ORCHESTRA

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2026	DECEMBER 12, 2026	DECEMBER 13, 2026
7:30 PM	2:00 PM	7:00 PM

MARIAN ANDERSON HALL AT THE KIMMEL CENTER

300 South Broad Street • Philadelphia, PA

TICKETS:
phillypops.org

BOX OFFICE:
215-893-1999

Bring your family and friends — we would love to see our St. Thomas family fill the hall!

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison, Co-chairs Democracy in Action: Your Voice, Your Power!

Well, that's a wrap! The final votes have been counted in Alaska, and a winner has been declared. While the process may have taken longer than anticipated, let us remember that democracy takes time, and every vote deserves to be counted. Our work, however, does not end when the polls close. We must remain engaged, vigilant, and committed to protecting the democratic process.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who cast a ballot, encouraged a first-time voter, or helped another person exercise their right to vote. Your efforts matter, and your participation makes a difference!

Let us never forget: Voting is your voice. It is your right. It is your power! Exercise that power in every primary and general election. Do not take it for granted and never allow anyone to convince you that your voice does not matter.

As a people of faith, we are called to be engaged, to stand up for justice, and to be good stewards of the rights and responsibilities entrusted to us. **Your vote is your superpower. Use it, protect it and encourage others to use theirs!**

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



Curious When Church School Begins?

Great question! Church School began on October 4, 2026. All Students must be registered to attend. Please scan the QR Code to register your child for this year.

If you are interested in helping children grow in their faith and understanding of God's love, become a **Church School Teacher.** No teaching experience required. Please scan the QR Code below to apply.

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 - 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
The Rev. Fr. Daren Evans - Texas
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/Massachusetts
Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia
Allison Young - Maryland

BSA TROOP #133-B/ CUB SCOUT PACK 133

The Scout program has resumed! All children are welcome to participate. If you know of a child interested in exploring, learning new skills and developing confidence, the Scout Program might be for them.

The Cub Scout Program is open to children in grades 1-5 and meet from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturdays.

The Scout Program is open to children 11-17 years old and meet are on Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM in the Undercroft. For more information contact Scout Master Howard Chapman at. **sttroop133@gmail.com**

Scout Troop #133 of Scouting America is participating in the nationwide campaign of "Scouting for Food." This annual gathering of canned food and dry goods donations from across our community is then delivered to a homeless shelter for distribution to those in need. This year, we are partnering with Families Forward, a non-profit agency that provides emergency housing for up to 65 families experiencing homelessness, located at 111 N. 49th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139. If you are able, please bring your donations of canned food and dry goods to the church on or before **NOVEMBER 22, 2026**. The troop will then gather the food, inspect it, and deliver it to families forward. Thank you for your generous support in this endeavor! It's a great day to be a Scout!

REALM ANNOUNCEMENT
"...BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE REALM"

Some of you have this thought in the back of your mind, but your church data is already there! Church administrators and financial managers are reconciling your donations, email addresses, and phone numbers by using REALM Connect. New methods and changes can be challenging for all of us.

The REALM and Stewardship teams are here to assist you through the process. Download the Realm Connect app today. It's available to Apple iOS and Android users. If you have questions, please email **realm@aecst.com** or **stewardship@aecst.com** we will get you connected!

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)

Come join the fun! The next meeting is December 5th in the undercroft at 11:00 AM. All girls are invited.

If you would like to join GFS as an adult Sponsor or wish to be added to the mailing list for future events, please contact our branch advisor, Nikkol Simms at **njsimms@verizon.net**.

THE BIBLE READINGS FOR
the Last Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 2026

The First Reading - **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**
Psalm 100
The Second Reading - **Ephesians 1:15-23**
The Holy Gospel - **Matthew 25:31-46**

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of November 22, 2026

Monday - **Luke 18:15-30**
Tuesday - **Luke 18:31-43**
Wednesday - **Luke 19:1-10**
Thursday - **Luke 19:11-27**
Friday - **Luke 19:28-40**
Saturday - **Luke 19:41-48**



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY

The Pilgrims on a Journey, adult Bible study group meet Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom. If you are interested in joining the ministry, please email Fr. Jay, associatepriest@aecst.org. If you are interested in joining the ministry, please email contact Fr. Jay at **associatepriest@aecst.org.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

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 church website or scan the QR code below to order and pay for flowers.

To order flowers, please return this form (please print) with payment to Alfreda Brockman or the Church Office. You can also order via the church website to order and pay for flowers; **http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm.**





AECST MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **NOTE: as of November 1st,** the Church office is no longer provide printing services for flyers or notices for distribution to the congregation, including inserts to the Sunday Bulletin. If you wish to have flyers included in Sunday Bulletin, organizations must provide copies of the document. All copies must be delivered to the church by by Tuesday at 3:00 PM. A digital copy may be submitted for the digital Spearhead.
- Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin and Digital Spearhead are to be submitted to the church office by Monday, 12 Noon (emailing **1792@aecst.org** is preferred). If there are any questions please contact Gladyce, 215-473-3065.
- To request meeting space usage in the church or church campus, please submit the “request for meeting space” document two weeks prior to the event. If you have questions or need the document, contact the church office.



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 the Rector for more details.

AECST ACOLYTE MINISTRY



Attention Young Adults: Becoming an Acolyte is a meaningful way to deepen participation in worship and connect to the liturgy. It's not just for the kids.

Email Nikkol Simms at **njsimms@verizon.net** or call, 267-934-3016. You can also email Juanita Miller at **juanitamiller91@gmail.com** or call, 267-283-8011 to discuss any questions and interest in this ministry.

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.

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.**



SICK AND SHUT-IN/THOSE REQUESTING SPECIAL PRAYERS

IN REHAB:
Verger Stephen Hannum - St. Francis Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; Karen Ragland; Dr. Cassandra Ruffin - The Hill at Whitemarsh

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, Cornelia Camp, Regina Meacham Devero, Vernette Dow, Virginia DuBrey, Patricia Walker-Ellison, D. Lynn Joell, Joyce Stewart, Marilyn Brown, Carl Dean, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., Bettie Jones, Florence Sheppard

SPECIAL PRAYERS:
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach, Carmen Brown, Bill Burton, Edita Gauthney, Joan Hall, Gail Harris, Thomas Harris, Garry Jones, Richard Jones Jr., Dr. Santee Ruffin, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Carolyn Summers, Justin Trotman, Charlene M. Wiltshire, Lisa Woodley

WE PRAY FOR: those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

If you have prayer requests and wish to be added to this list, please call Gladyce in the church office or email **1792@aecst.org.**

FROM THE RECTOR

Greetings parents of our Church School children.

Our Church School children are now getting geared up for the Annual Christmas Presentation on Sunday, December 20th. I hope that your child will be among the special presentations. It is important that all children attend church school each Sunday during the upcoming Sundays to prepare for the exciting pageant.

Reminder: This Sunday is Youth & Young Adult Sunday. Please assure that your child is present.

Faithfully,

Fr. Shaw



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 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) 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., pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc.

3) Members and visitors who previously donated through GIVI will use **Realm Connect.** If you donate via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will see a new webpage and a corresponding QR code.

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

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
Executive Asst. to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator		
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst. Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@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	cattominstry@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@aecst.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
BSA Troop #133-B/Cub Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	sttroop133@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

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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