



**AECST**  
FOUNDED 1792



**GRATEFUL  
THANKFUL  
BLESSED**

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THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA • FOUNDED 1792  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY)  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
[WWW.AECST.ORG](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

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

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065  
[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
The 17th Rector

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

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins  
Associate Priest



**FAMILY & FRIENDS SUNDAY!**

This Sunday, November 23rd, the person with the largest number of guests worshipping with us will be given a prize from the Rector.

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

## **“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”**

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts  
with praise.

Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this  
**Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King, Youth and  
Young Adult Sunday, Friends and Family Sunday.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Again, welcomes!

Faithfully,

*Martini Shaw*✝

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



## **ALTAR GUILD ANNOUNCEMENT**

Following this morning's Holy Eucharist, please feel free to take any of the food items from the altar for your own thanksgiving meal preparations at home.

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### **FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK:**

**Please do not respond to any email or text message requests from me for monetary donations or gift cards. Please ignore these scam solicitations. Blessings to you.**

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### **EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE!**

Enormous thanks to **Vincent and Lisa Napoleon** for the donation of the two beautiful oriental rugs that have been placed in the Absalom Jones House.

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### **A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEES:**

**ALL 2025 PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2025 TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE YEAR.**

If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Jeannette in the fiscal office at 215-471-3065 or [fiscal@aecst.org](mailto:fiscal@aecst.org) as soon as possible.

Enormous thanks for your continued support and gracious contributions.

## ST. THOMAS FEEDS HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES FOR THANKSGIVING

The Sisterhood Guild would like to thank all of those who contributed cans of sweet potatoes to help out the families and the neighbors of St. James School. Along with almost 300 cans of sweet potatoes, the guild also contributed \$300 worth of ShopRite gift cards to the school for distribution. My heart is filled by the generosity of this Church. May we continue to be blessed. Thanks again, Kim Hyde, President of The Sisterhood Guild.







## **ENORMOUS THANKS**

to those who donated to the  
Jamaica Hurricane Relief Fund.  
Your generous contributions of \$3,500.00  
will be added to funds collected from other  
Schuylkill Deanery churches and  
sent directly to the Diocese of Jamaica.  
Funds will be used to provide assistance  
for emergency needs.



**Give Now**  
[onrealm.org](https://onrealm.org)



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



## FAITHFUL GRATITUDE

Please use this link to express and pledge your **Faithful Gratitude** to God for 2026.

<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>

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### A REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR

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

Our live stream equipment is in desperate need of upgrading. We are establishing a fund to support this need.

Please prayerfully donate to this initiative.

Please indicate the purpose of your contribution.

Enormous thanks in advance.



**STEWARDSHIP THEME:  
FAITHFUL GRATITUDE DURING 2026**

**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	\$1,200.00	\$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

## **2026 FAITHFUL GIVING CARDS**

We have kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2026 Faithful Giving Pledge towards the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas. Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither (10% of one's earnings). Are you working toward that spiritual goal? Please use the Giving Chart to assist you with your Faithful Giving Pledge for 2026. Please place your completed Faithful Giving card on the altar of God during offertory.

Thank you to the following persons who have submitted their 2026 Faithful Giving Card.

### **Clergy**

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

### **Vestry**

Dr. Tim Barksdale

Deadra Cannon

Albert Dandridge, III

Clare Mae Daniels

Deborah Camp Frye

Eugene Golson & Marie Golson

Kelvin & Pam Johnson

Monica Lewis Jones

Richard Jones

Patricia Lynch

Deborah Matthews

Judith Simkins-Booth

### **Auxiliary Vestry**

Conchetta Brewer

Sharon Bullock

Ronnie Collins

Elaine Gillison

Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor

Cynthia Muse

Bobby & Judith Tillman

## MEMBERS

Patricia Akins	Andrew & Lisa ReneeDumas
Carmen Alexander	William & Quincina Edmonds
Constance Anderson	Rashid & Christie Faisal
Dorothy Archey	Larry & Diedre Farmby
Jeanne Arnold	Loretta Ferguson
Brenda Battle	Marceline Fitzwilliam
Jennifer Bell	Jay Fluellen
Susan Ben	Marcia Forde
Deborah Billups	Stephen & Donna Foster
Waltier Blocker	Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel
Dr. Naomi Booker	Norman & Nikki Franke
Guy Booth	Barry Frye
Ricardo Bostic	Irenda Gates
Alice Bowman-Cropper	Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Theresa Bramwell	Barbara Glenn
Lorita Brockington	Swanie Goldsmith
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Clarice Grant
Marilyn Brown	Arlene Gray
Julia Bryant	Linda Greaves
Kenneth Bundy	Michele Green
Cornelia Camp	Presko (PJ) Grier
Charlotte Card	Dr. Derek Griffith
Phyllis Cater	Richard & Gwenda Hart
Eleanor Chestnut	Thomasina Hack
Suzanne Closson	Lisa Harper
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Sharon Harper
Terry Corson	Katrina Harris
Gwendolyn Cottman	Walter & Nicole Harris
Zenobia Dancy	Roosevelt, Sr. & Gail Harris
Karen Davis	Thomas & Lynn Harris
Johanna Daye	Gregory Hayes
Carl Dean	Maurice Hayes



Rene' Hayes	Winston Lowe
Denise Henderson	Gregory Lyles
Julie Hergenrather	Thomas Lynch, IV
Quentin Heyward	Constance Lyons
Erica Hill-Yates	Stephen & Michelle Mack
Synethia Hill	Stacye McCoy-Ndiaye
Merle Hopson	Sheila Sawyer McCullough
Fleta Howell	Denise McKinney-Gibson
Diana Hutchins	Michael McIntosh
Robert Hugh	Laura McNeil
Donald & Patricia Hunt	Velma Morris-Nembhard
Kim Hyde	Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia
Yvonne Hyde-Carter	Velma Morris-Nembhard
Diann Jacox	Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia
Simone Jeffers	Vincent & Lisa Napoloen
Evelyn Johns	Mercy Natt
Bobby Johnson	Ingrid Nembhard
Dr. Frank Johnson	Chinwe Onyekere
Vernetta Johnston	Debbie Otey
Bettie Jones	Carolyn Paige
Claremce Jones	Samuel & Deidre Patterson
Eric Jones	Zennetta Peters
Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith	Eugene & Karina Phillips
Tyrone Keller	Kim Phillips
Jurdina Koilor	Mary Ann Phillips
Paula Lamb	Stephen Pugh
Nancy Lee	Wendy Puryear
Steven & Jamella Lewis	Karem Ragin
Karen Leys	Karen Ragland
Michele Lofton	Cynthia Ray
Alonda Lord	Dolores Redmond
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey	Clarence Rice
James Lowe	Caryn Rivers

Victoria Rivers	Harold Townsend
Cassandra Ruffin	Arnott Trotman
Yvonne Ruiz	Justin & Lee Anne Trotman
Barbara Savage	Louise Trotman
Georgia Sawyer	Howard Tucker
Richard & Rebecca Scales	Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Leah Sheppard	Robin Vann-Lynch
Kayma Sherman-Knuckles	Karen Vaughn
Arlene Singletary	Barbara Wiley
Anita Smith	R. Seth Williams
Catherine Stafford	Gillian Wilson
H. Lynn Starr	Jenelle Wilson Johnson
Daryn Stewart	Laura Wilson
Shelly & Ann Stewart	Lorna Wilson
Arthur & Michele Sudler	Carole Williams Green
Carolyn Summers	Charlene Wiltshire
Lynda Tapper Smith	Diane Winkfield
Kellen & Sarah Shaw-	Khalita Wright
Thomas	Paula Wright
Jillian Theorgood	Wanda Wood
Gloria Thomas	Alice Young
Teri Tillman	M. Elaine Young

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## St. Thomas partners with Chosen 300 Outreach Ministry.





Saturday, November 15th, was a busy day at St. Thomas:  
The Men's Ministry and Fellowship had their  
monthly meeting.



## The Girls Friendly held their 1st Annual GFS Friendsgiving!





Sunday, November 16th, was an afternoon of beautiful music. Dr. Jay Fluellen was in concert with special guests.

## The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Chancel Choir



Presents



Dr. Jay Fluellen  
Pianist and Composer  
In Recital



**Musical Explorations:  
Spirituals, Hymns, Gospel and Jazz**

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
at 3:00 pm**

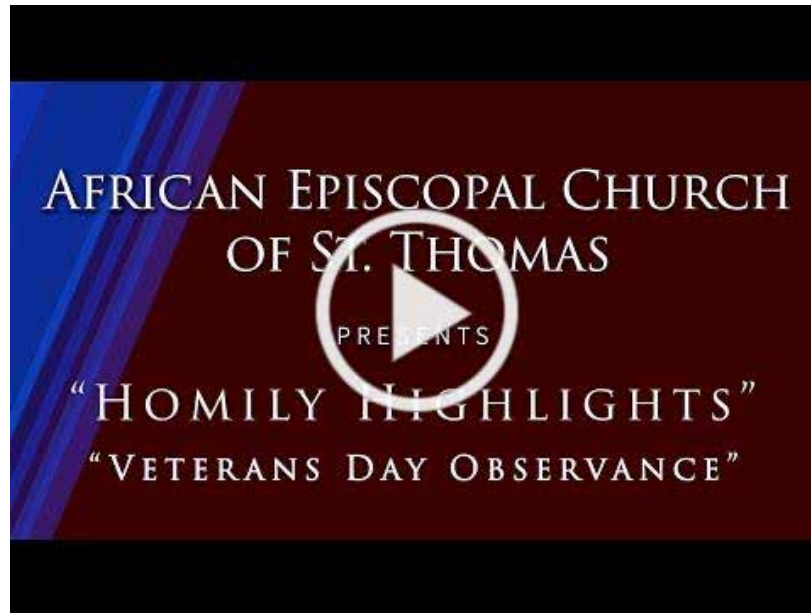
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
6361 LANCASTER AVE. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151

FREEWILL OFFERING





Please watch the HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS from our  
Observance of Veterans' Day



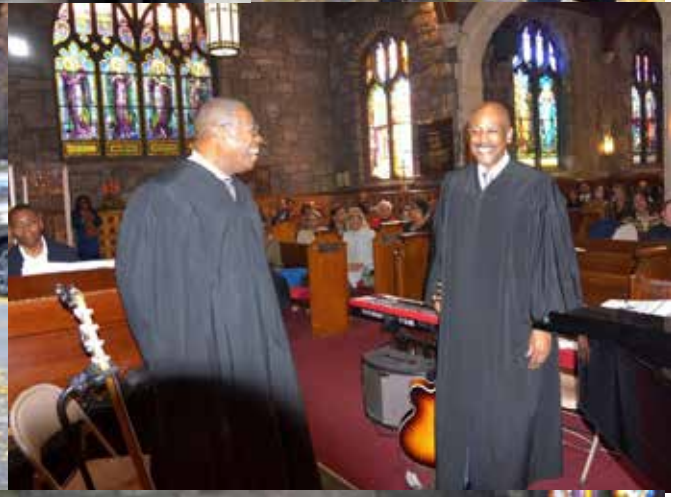
(video by Quentin Heyward)

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**THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
ANNUAL JUDICIAL SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 16, 2025**















Photos: Bill Edmonds, Stephen Pugh, JustinTrotman,  
Brenda Johnson Best, and Quentin Heyward  
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)





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

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

Our exciting ministry plans and activities for the remaining three months of the year are in place. I am urging each parishioner to please ensure that their financial pledge for 2025 is current and up to date.

**We are hopeful that all pledges will be fulfilled by December 31, 2025.**

If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Jeannette in the fiscal office at 215-471-3065 as soon as possible. Enormous thanks for your continued support and gracious contributions.

## **ALL GROUPS, MINISTRIES, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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 @ 215-473-3065 or email 1792@aecst.org.

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## **ATTENTION: ALL GROUPS/MINISTRIES/ ORGANIZATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Announcements and flyers for the Sunday Bulletin and digital Spearhead **must be received on Monday, by 12:00 Noon**. If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office, 215-473-3065.

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The Christ-Mass (Christmas Eve) - Wednesday,  
December 24th, 7:00 PM



## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

### **November 23rd**

- **Family and Friends Sunday**

The person with the most family or friends worshipping with us will be awarded a prize.

### **November 30th**

- **First Sunday of Advent/ Health Ministry Sunday**

### **December 7th**

- **Annual Men's Day Celebration**

Guest speaker is the Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, PA State Senator of the 7th District.

### **December 14th**

- **Third Sunday of Advent (Rose/Gaudete Sunday)**

### **December 21st**

- **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Church School Christmas Presentation

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## **THIS WEEK AT AECST**

### **Tuesday, November 25th**

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

Pilgrims on a Journey Bible Study with Fr. Jay  
via Zoom – 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday, November 26th**

Bible Study with Fr. Daren  
6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House

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

### **Thursday, November 27th**

#### **Happy Thanksgiving**

Church and Administrative Offices closed for Thanksgiving

### **Friday, November 28th**

Church and Administrative Offices closed for Thanksgiving

**Saturday, November 29th** – Church closed for Thanksgiving

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# **GREAT NEWS TO REPORT ABOUT OUR CHURCH!!!**

## **A Report from the Rector's Wish List and the Capital Improvement Fund:**

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

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

a) New air conditioning units in Anderson Hall

- **Completed**

b) Restoration of walls (altar and choir areas)

- **Work has begun**

(An anonymous parishioner donor has made this possible.)

c) New air conditioning units needed for the church nave.

- **Donors are needed.**

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Enormous thanks for your continued generous contributions to date.

- **Donors still needed.**

a) Ceiling structural work - **Completed**

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

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

Please contact Bill Burke, Property Chair, at [property@aecst.org](mailto:property@aecst.org) if you have any questions.

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### **ROBO CALLS**

Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector? If not, please email [Gladyce DuBrey](mailto:Gladyce DuBrey) with you mobil number and email address..



## REALM CONVERSION COMPLETE

As a reminder St Thomas went through a system conversion this year. REALM is an updated solution for the management of our ministries, stewardship, media, communications, and church events calendar. Our staff will use REALM to perform administrative and accounting tasks.

REALM will help us reach you to keep you informed. Ministry and group leaders will be able to communicate with their members outside of their meeting times and stay in touch.

### Online Giving

The previous system GIVI is no longer available for online giving. REALM Connect has taken its place. REALM is not just a tool for electronic giving; it affords one the opportunity to access their giving records and offer congregants the ability to interact and communicate directly with each other. If you give directly via the church website, or by using the QR code, you will see a new webpage link on the website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new webpage.



Please note that we offer online electronic giving which provides an easy, secure method to contribute weekly, monthly, yearly or simply whenever you desire. Donations can be made at <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/give/now> or through the Realm App. (If you don't already use the Realm app and don't have an account, it's safe and easy to obtain. Download the Realm app (which is named REALM CONNECT) in the app store.

Online and text contributions are linked to your profile based on the **email address and cell phone number** you have provided. Your **envelope number** serves as an additional layer of security, especially in cases where members may have similar names (in the near future those persons without an envelope number will be issued one). We want to make sure contributions are properly credited to your account.


AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (notifications@onrealmmail.org) titled, "African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas: Join our online community!", which will enable you to register on the site and view many of the available functions. Please request a **Membership Information Form** from the Stewardship Ministry ([Stewardship@aecst.org](mailto:Stewardship@aecst.org)) and one will be sent to you. Please complete and return the form so that your profile can be updated accordingly. Once the form is returned corrections can be made and you will be sent a Realm invite.

### **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:**

For enrollment in REALM Connect to be successful, all personal information must be correct. Please see **Patricia Lynch**, after service to fill out a member information form. Thank you for your continued support of St. Thomas.

Powered By

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

Hi 

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

Create an account: <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QlODBhZS00NDJhLTg5MWwQtYjMzZTAxMDVIMzVI>

Sincerely,  
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

## THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

**“Our directory will not be complete without you!”**

If you have not taken your pictures for the directory, please sign up in the Undercroft following service today for December 12th and 13th.

**Attention: All guilds, ministries and groups** are invited to a group photo for the church directory. Pictures will be taken by Bill Edmonds on Sundays, immediately after service.

Please contact Church Directory committee members, **Lynda Tapper Smith** 215-880-2998 or **Thomasina Hack** 215-901-2773 to schedule a photo appointment.  
Thank you.

**The following groups are taking their group pictures on  
Sunday November 30th:**

The Memorial Tribute Committee  
The Health Ministry  
Chosen 300  
Photography Ministry  
Live Stream/Sound Ministry

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## DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

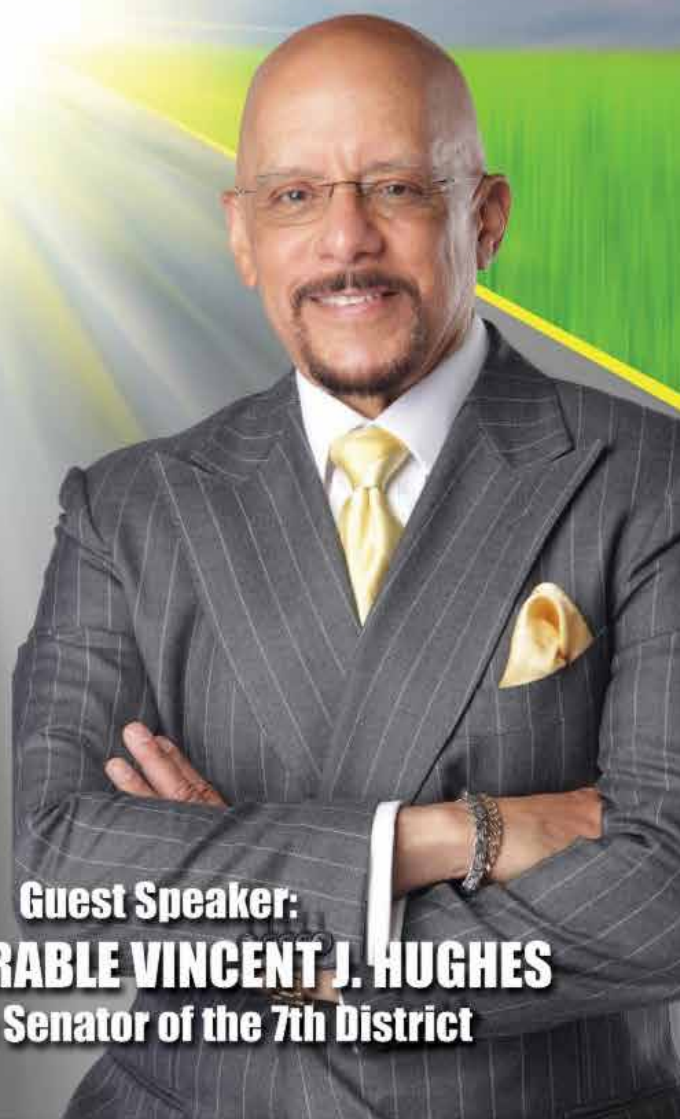


# **PREPARE A WAY: SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING!**

**MATTHEW 3: 1-12**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**Please join us for  
THE ANNUAL MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION**



**Guest Speaker:**

**THE HONORABLE VINCENT J. HUGHES**  
**PA State Senator of the 7th District**



THE HISTORIC AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
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[WWW.AECST.ORG](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

## **CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION / RECEPTION CLASSES**

have started. The schedule for in-person and Zoom  
and in-person classes is as follows:

In Person	By Zoom
Sunday, 11/02/2025	Monday, 11/17/2025
Sunday, 12/07/2025	Monday, 12/02/2025
Sunday 01/04/2026	Monday, 01/19/2026
Sunday, 02/01/2026	Monday, 02/16/2026
Sunday, 03/01/2026	Monday, 03/16/2026
Sunday, 04/05/2026	Monday, 04/20/2026
Sunday, 05/03/2026	Monday, 05/18/2026

### **Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!**

Please connect with Fr. Daren, 215-473-3065 or email,  
[associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org) if you have not received any  
information or have questions, ASAP.

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

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### **CHAT AND CHEW**

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

## **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

**Christopher Burks** - Rhode Island/New York

**Deadra Cannon** - Georgia

**Nora Corbin** - Illinois

**Dr. Ted 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

**Bradley Hammond** - Mississippi

**Richard & Gwenda Hart** - South Carolina

**Yvonne Hyde-Carter** - New York

**Dr. Calvin Johnson** - Florida

**Bettie Jones** - North Carolina

**Rae Scott Jones** - Florida

**Richard Jones, Jr.** - Virginia

**Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith** - South Carolina

**Steven & Jameela Lewis** - Colorado

**Gregory Lyles** - Switzerland

**Nohjay Nimpson** -Texas

**Zennetta Peters** - North Carolina

**Dr. John Rich** - Illinois

**Richard & Rebecca Scales** - Florida

**Shelly and Ann Stewart** - Florida

**Howard Tucker** - Brazil/Philadelphia

**Allison Young** - Maryland



## HAVE YOU JOINED THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. YET?

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, during his sermon, the Rector signed a "**RECTOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER**" announcing that St. Thomas Church and the individual Vestry members would become financial supporters and members of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The "Order" further encouraged the entire parish membership and family/friends to become supporters. Please sign up NOW using this [link](#).



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### AECST LIVE STREAM

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

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

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in thanksgiving for **44th Wedding Anniversary of Reggie and Sherilynn Johnson Kimble**, given by Sherilynn Johnson Kimble

Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of the **Honorable Charles H. Cuffield**, Beloved Partner, given by Ronnie H. Collins

Please remember that flowers are not placed on the High Altar during Advent which begins on November 30th. The only Sunday in Advent flowers are placed on the High Altar is Rose/Gaudete Sunday, December 14th.

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To order flowers, please return the form with payment  
to Gladysce in the church office.  
Thank you.

Absalom Jones Altar - \$60  
The Columbarium - \$50

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers



## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

The Readings for the Last Sunday after Pentecost  
November 23, 2025

The First Lesson – [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)  
[Psalm 46](#)

The Second Lesson – [Colossians 1:11-20](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 23:33-43](#)

## The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of November 24, 2025

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](#)



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## PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY

meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via  
Zoom. If you are interested in joining  
the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay  
at [associatepriest@aecst.org](mailto:associatepriest@aecst.org)

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## WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with [Fr. Daren](#) meet at 6:00 PM  
in Absalom Jones House.





## **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.

## AECST PODCAST



Our **AECST Podcast Series** returns with an important new episode! Fr. Daren is joined by Licensed Clinical Social Worker **Mrs. Lasheena Riley Duval** for a conversation on **supporting children through medical care**. Tune in!



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HEALING GARDEN!**

Get your hands dirty for a great cause! The CLEAR Project (Children, Liturgy, Ecology, and Renewal) is creating a healing garden right here on our church campus. This is a hands-on way to live out our Christian calling to care for God's creation.

We need volunteers of all skill levels—from expert gardeners to those who just want to help.

If you're interested, please contact Fr. Daren ([associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org)) or Tynecia Wilson ([churchschool@aecst.org](mailto:churchschool@aecst.org)).

**GFS FRIENDLY FACT**  
**BROOKE & BREANNA BENNETT –**  
**Helping Girls in Their Community**

Shared by GFS Co-Vice Presidents: Triniti and Alliyah Miller

Brooke and Breanna Bennett are twin sisters from Montgomery, Alabama, who wanted to help other girls succeed in school. When they were only 12 years old, they started a group called Women in Training (WIT). They make WITKITS®; special bags filled with things like pads, soap, toothpaste, and other hygiene items, and give them to students and girls who need them.

The twins also teach workshops to help girls learn about health, leadership, and money skills. They even spoke up to help Alabama pass a law that gives free period products to students in public schools. Because of their hard work, Brooke and Breanna have been recognized all over the country.

Brooke and Breanna show that young people can make a big difference by caring for others and taking action to help their community.

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## RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

- to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.
- to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office.
- to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).
- to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office to sign up.
- to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service. Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the office if you are interested.
- as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you are interested.
- **Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).
- **The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

### **IN REHAB:**

Francina Norris and Lisa Woodley - St. Francis Nursing Home

### **IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass - Atria Lafayette Hill; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

### **AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Joyce Stewart, Virginia DuBrey, Teena Watson-Matthews, Alice Young, Alletta Parris-Olday, Deborah Harrison, Regina Meacham Devero, Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez, Albert Dandridge III, Gloria Moses

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Arlene Gray, Adinah Edwards, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Adrian Gray, Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez, Sharon Harper, Alice-Bowman Cropper, Quincina Edmonds, Dr. Jay Fluellen, D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney

### **WE PRAY FOR**

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

## CALLING ALL YOUTH



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

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## YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

We want to highlight the achievements of our youth and young adults! If your child has excelled in academics, sports, the arts, or community service—or you are a young adult working on a significant personal or professional project—we would love to hear about it. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) so we can share your story with the congregation!





## **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 **must** 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 represent where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e., your pledge, the AJ house, Easter, etc.

**5) REALM CONNECT** - Our members and visitors who use GIVI to give online will be switching away from GIVI to REALM Connect. If you give via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new [webpage link](#) on our website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new page.



**6) Cell Phone:** Text "**AECST**" to **73256** to donate.

**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 don't hesitate to contact Pat Lynch at [stewardship@aecst.org](mailto:stewardship@aecst.org). We appreciate your assistance.

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## **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](#).

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## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	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
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
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 - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

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

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## THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

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

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## DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

## DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller