



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS

IN CELEBRATION OF
The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



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

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

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 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](#)

“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 **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost and The Observance Of The Feast Of St. Francis Of Assisi.**

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 USA, and proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

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

Faithfully,

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

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!! "Blessing of Animals" at the AECST.

Bring your friendly family pets to worship with you THIS SUNDAY!!! (dogs, cats, turtles, birds, fish, hamsters, etc.)

Invite your family and friends and share with others.



Video: Quentin Heyward
St.Thomas Videography Ministry

A Note from the Rector

- All pets must be in a closed pet carrier, caged, or on a leash for the service. For safety reasons, there are no exceptions.
- For anyone uncomfortable worshipping in the presence of pets, Anderson Hall will be providing a Livestream of the service.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

October 4th is Kick-Off Sunday for the 2027 Stewardship Campaign. The Vestry will bring their Faithful Giving cards to the altar today. Please take a Faithful Giving Card from the ushers before you leave this morning. Prayfully consider your pledge during the week, then bring your Faithful Giving Card to the altar next Sunday, October 11th. You can also scan the QR code below or use the link to complete your pledge online

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





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 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

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

- **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.



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.

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
First Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. (1792)
Philadelphia

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

Pictured:
The Rector
receiving his
vaccination.

GET VACCINATED — THIS SEASON —



COVID-19 VACCINE

Helps prevent
severe illness
and hospitalization.



INFLUENZA (FLU) VACCINE

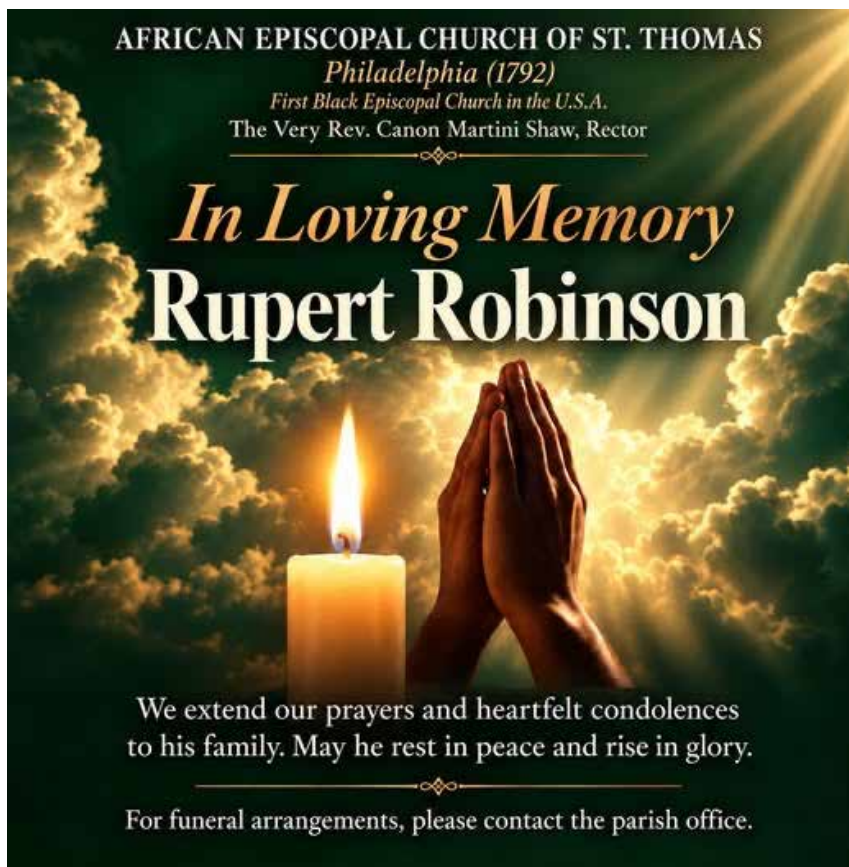
Helps reduce the spread
of illness and protects
those most at risk.



RSV VACCINE

Recommended for
older adults and those
with certain health
conditions.

Protect Yourself. Protect Your Family. Protect Our Community.

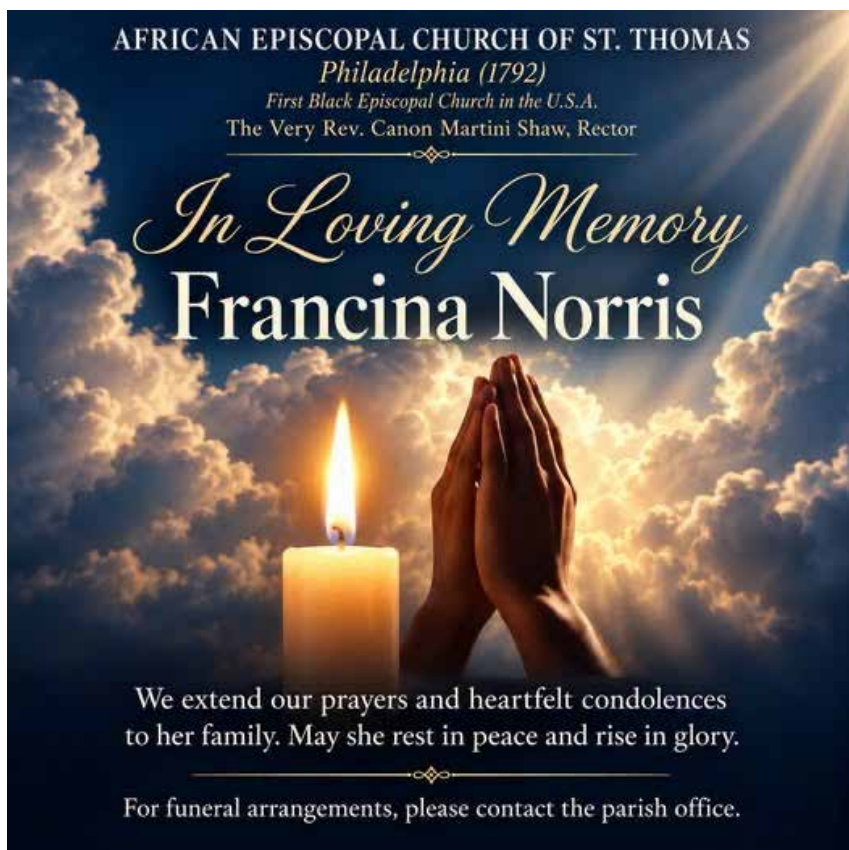


Condolences

to Tynecia Wilson and family on the death of her grandfather **Rupert Robinson.**

The service will be held at St. Thomas on **Thursday, October 15, 2026.** Viewing from 10:00 AM -11:00 AM.

Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM. May the soul of Rupert rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.



Condolences

to the family of **Francina Norris**, who passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026. May the soul of Francina rest in peace and rise in glory. Funeral arrangements are pending. Please pray for the family.

Oops! Last Sunday, flowers on the High Altar were given in
Thanksgiving for the
50th Birthday of Jenelle Wilson Johnson,
by her parents, Louise and Arnott Trotman; her husband,
Gerald Johnson, Jr.; mother-in-law, Alice; brother and
sister-in-law, Justin and Lee Anne; nephews, Addison
and Axel; The Wilsons, The Cyruses, The Alexanders; The
McCollins; The Bowrins and The Greaves families

STREET RE-NAMING CEREMONIES

Street Renaming Honoring Bishop Richard Allen

First pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 11:00 AM

Corner of 6th and Lombard Streets

Street Renaming Honoring Octavius V. Catto

Former Vestry member of St. Thomas

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 2:00 PM

Corner of 8th and South Streets

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.

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



Our amazing Dr. Jay Fluellen and Renard Golden held a recital at Cathedral Village.



•“You Can Tell The World: Black Composers” in concert at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, **today, October 4, 2026, at 3:00 PM.** An afternoon of art song and sacred repertoire by Black composers and original compositions featuring Chantal Freeman, soprano; James A. Early, piano and Dr. Jay Fluellen, piano. This is a free-will offering event.

- 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 at 215-893-1999.

- The St. Thomas Chancel Choir is a dynamic music ministry that sings on 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, October 17th - 10:00 AM
 - Saturday, November 7th - 10:00 AM
 - Saturday, November 21st - 10:00 AM
 - Saturday, December 5th - 10:00 AM
 - Saturday, December 21st - 10:00 AM
- Vocalists and Musicians Wanted! You are invited to join the professional recording St. Thomas Gospel Choir. The Gospel Choir (STGC) is directed by Waltier Blocker and sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, in addition to special services. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:30 PM in Anderson Hall.

OCTOBER 4, 2026
3:00 PM

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

YOU CAN TELL THE WORLD: *BLACK COMPOSERS IN CONCERT*

An afternoon of art song
and sacred repertoire by
Black composers and
original compositions.

**FREE WILL
OFFERING**



**JAMES A. EARLY,
PIANO**



**CHANTAL FREEMAN,
SOPRANO**



**GUEST ARTIST
DR. JAY FLUELLEN,
PIANO**

Haitian-American soprano Chantal Gabrielle Freeman is known for her luminous tone, thoughtful artistry, and compelling stage presence. A 2021 Richard F. Gold Career Grant recipient, she has performed with Berkshire Opera Festival, Santa Fe Opera, and On Site Opera, and made her Carnegie Hall solo debut at Weill Recital Hall.

SISTERHOOD GUILD

Purse



BYOE - Cabaret Style

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026 AT 1:00 - 5:00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30PM, Cost \$25.00

***NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

ANDERSON HALL

AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE

PHILADELPHIA PA 19151

***NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED**





THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

PHILADELPHIA 1792

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

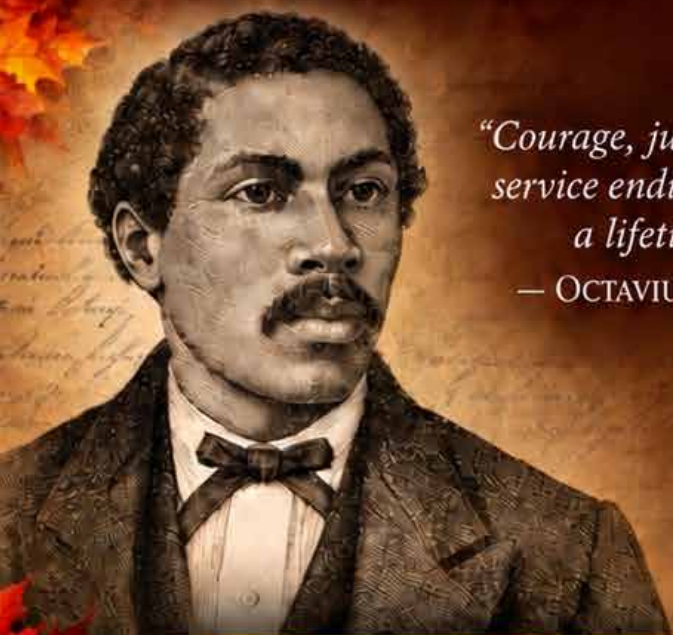
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

OBSERVANCE AND CELEBRATION OF

OCTAVIUS V. CATTO SUNDAY

Faith in Action. A Legacy for Today.

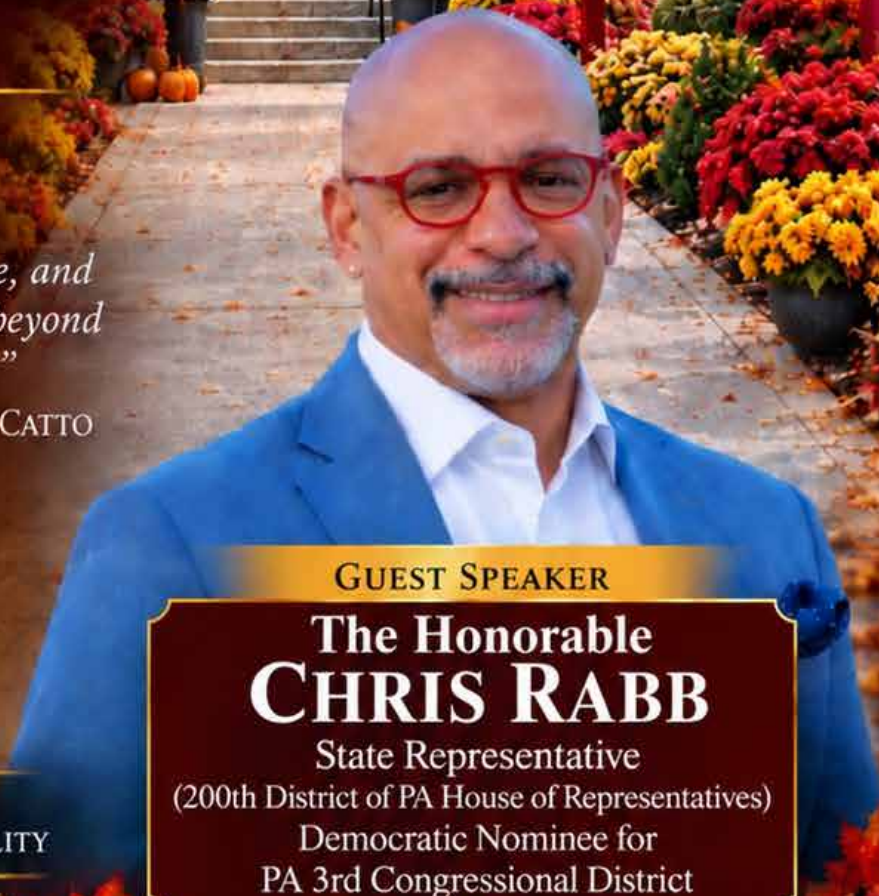
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
10:00 A.M.



*"Courage, justice, and
service endure beyond
a lifetime."*

— OCTAVIUS V. CATTO

EDUCATOR • CIVIC LEADER
ADVOCATE • CHAMPION FOR EQUALITY



GUEST SPEAKER

The Honorable
CHRIS RABB

State Representative
(200th District of PA House of Representatives)
Democratic Nominee for
PA 3rd Congressional District

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

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

PLEASE JOIN US
TO CELEBRATE THE
OPENING OF



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR COURAGEOUS
WOMEN OF FAITH

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN
AND
BISHOP BARBARA HARRIS



OCTOBER 12, 2026 | 1:30 PM

225 S. 3rd Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

RSVP at www.ccwof.org



**TO OUR PARISHIONERS
BORN IN OCTOBER**

10/4	Paula Stanley Cropper
10/6	Kemil Dawkins, David Rivers, Andrew Dumas
10/7	Loretta Brockington, Susan Taylor
10/8	John Kortue, Ashley Hines
10/11	Dorothea Bell
10/12	Angela Holloway
10/14	Roosevelt Harris, Sr., William Hanscom
10/15	Clarice Grant, Telena Gunby
10/16	Frank Abbott, Yvonne Hyde-Carter, Dominic Bowrin
10/17	Jordina Koilor, Kayma Sherman-Knickles
10/21	Hilda Zack, Vince Napoleon
10/22	Sandra Rushin, Kedeja Wexler
10/23	Cornelia Camp, Jacquelyn Wallace, Lorenzo Whitaker
10/25	Butch Farmer, Gladyce DuBrey
10/27	Diane Abbott
10/28	Velva Smalls
10/30	Michael Grizzle, Eugene Golson, De. Stephen Mack
10/31	Lisa Woodley, Alice Bowman Cropper, Melisse Brunet

St. Thomas members making a difference!

Sherilynn Johnson Kimble celebrated the 10th year anniversary of The Kimble Group, collaborating with early childhood care providers to enhance program quality.

Larry Farmbry received the Collaborative Partnership Award for years of support and service to the organization.

#AspireToInspire



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Youth and Young Adults Sunday
September 27, 2026







Photos: Bill Edmonds, Quentin Heyward and
Kelvin Johnson
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

The General Election is November 3rd. That's less than a month away! Did you check your voter status yet? Please do it today. Use the websites below to make sure you are eligible to vote.

Check your voter registration status NOW;

PA residents - www.pavoterservices.pa.gov

NJ residents - www.voter.svrs.nj.gov

DE residents - www.ivote.de.gov

You can also make an impact on this important election by:

- Planning to take a friend, neighbor or elderly family member to the voting poll.
- Helping a teenager or young adult who is not registered, to complete and mail their voter registration form (Did you know that teenagers turning 18 years old on election day are eligible to register and vote in this election?).
- Becoming familiar with who and what is on your ballot. Check out a non-partisan website like the Committee of Seventy; www.seventy.org
- Some Philadelphia residents have already received their mail-in ballot. If you did, cast your vote and return your ballot as soon as possible!

This is a critical election. Don't waste the opportunity to cast your ballot. Voting is your **SUPERPOWER!**

Next Sunday, October 11th is Catto Sunday.

The Honorable Chris Rabb, the presumptive 3rd Congressional District representative will be the guest speaker. Plan to stay for an Eagles Chat-n-Chew... Fly Eagles Fly!

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

October 4th

- ~Stewardship Season Kick-Off~
- ~Church School Classes reconvene~
- ~The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi~

During morning worship, please bring your feathered, furry, four-legged, no-legged family members

October 11th

- ~Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto~

The Honorable Chris Rabb, 200th District State Representative and presumptive 3rd Congressional District representative.

October 18th

- ~Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday~
please wear something pink

October 25th

- ~Church School Trunk or Treat~
in the parking lot after service



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.

THIS WEEK AT AECST – OCTOBER 4, 2026

Monday, October 5th

~Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Meeting~
in Anderson Hall - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Tuesday, October 6th

~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, October 7th

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

Friday, October 9th

~Retired Persons' Ministry Meeting~
in the Undercroft - 10 - 11:30 AM

Saturday, October 10th

~Sisterhood Purse Bingo~
in Anderson Hall from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Catto Ministry Set-up after 4:00 PM

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.

✝
IN MEMORY OF
MOTHER LILLIE MAE
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

✝
THE WILLIAMS FAMILY
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE
SERVING TOGETHER

✝
TO GOD BE THE GLORY
THE ANDERSON FAMILY
PSALM 100:4



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

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Welcome to your 4-Week Fall Walking Challenge!

Fall is an ideal time for a walking challenge because the cooler temperatures, crisp air, and changing foliage make outdoor exercise comfortable and scenic. Scenic views and changing leaves reduce stress and help clear your mind. This challenge is specifically designed for absolute beginners. Start small, build your consistency, and focus on enjoying the season rather than pushing yourself to exhaustion. Be sure to check with your physician if you have any questions.

The Golden Rules for Beginners

Before taking your first step, keep these tips in mind to prevent injury:

- Avoid over-striding: Do not take massive steps to try and go faster. Take shorter, quicker steps instead. Roll your feet: Land on your heel and roll through to your toes.
- Wear flexible shoes: A low-heeled running or walking shoe that bends at the ball of your foot is best.
- Your goal is to build up your stamina gradually. Pick any 5 days a week to walk and use the other 2 days for rest.

Week 1-10 mins/day

Week 2-15 mins/day

Week 3-20 mins/day

Week 4-25 mins/day

Week 1: Establishing the Habit

Goal: Walk 10 minutes per day, 5 days this week.

Pace: Easy and comfortable. You should easily be able to talk in full sentences. Fall Tip: Keep it simple. Take a quick morning walk to grab a coffee or step outside right after dinner before it gets dark.

Scan the QR Code for the full 4 Week Program:





THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS

OLD SCHOOL CABARET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 • 6PM TO 10PM

— • NARBERTH FIRE HALL • —

100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBERTH, PA 19072

TICKETS \$25.00 PER PERSON OR \$50.00 PER COUPLE
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH INITIATIVES

FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT:
ED GEIGER (716) 207-0405 OR R. SETH WILLIAMS (267) 254-9108

 DRESS LIKE YOU'RE BLESSED & READY TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EVENING!
BRING AND SHARE FAVORITE FOODS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS 



DANCE,
CARIBBEAN



LINE DANCE
MUSIC



FREE
PARKING



CASH
RAFFLE

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

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THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY All Saints'/All Souls' Pew Memorial Plaques

All Saints'/All Souls' Day will be acknowledged on Sunday, November 1, 2026. This is a time to commemorate and share a day of Intercessory Prayer for those who are deceased.

Please contact the Memorial Tribute Ministry at memorialtribute@aecst.org if you are interested in purchasing a pew plaque to memorialize a loved one. Pew plaques can be purchased through this ministry and are \$500.00 each. **The deadline to purchase plaques is October 16, 2026.**

“HOMILY HEADLINE” YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY September 27, 2026



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St.Thomas Videography Ministry)



Curious When Church School Begins?

Great question! Church School begins 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.



AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. THOMAS
TRUNK
OR
TREAT



A SAFE &
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
HALLOWEEN
EVENT!

FUN • CANDY • COMMUNITY

COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED!
BRING YOUR
SMILE!



LOCATION:
PARKING LOT



TIME:
**IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING
SERVICE**



DATE:
**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25,
2026**



CANDY
& TREATS



MUSIC
& FUN



SAFE
ENVIRONMENT



COME FOR THE TREATS, STAY FOR THE FUN!



The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

(The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)

The Very Canon Reverend Martini Shaw, 17th Rector

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151

www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/AECST1792



GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)

GFS is in full swing. Our next meeting is October 17th in the Undercroft. at 11:00 AM. All girls are invited to join. If you would like to join GFS as an adult Sponsor or be on the mailing list for future events, please contact our Branch Advisor Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net.

SCOUT TROOP #133

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

The Scout Program is open to children 11-17 years old. Meetings are held on Saturdays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in the Undercroft. For more information, please contact Scout Master Howard Chapman at howchapman@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, and on the Church campus 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.

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



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



**The Bible Readings for
the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026**

The First Reading - [Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20](#)
[Psalm 19](#)

The Second Reading - [Philippians 3:4-14](#)
The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the week
of October 4, 2026**

Sunday - [Matthew 14:1-12](#)

Monday - [Luke 6:39-49](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 7:1-17](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 7:18-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 7:36-60](#)

Friday - [Luke 8:1-15](#)

Saturday - [Luke 8:16-25](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY

meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. 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 **Gail W. Lowe**, given by James T. Lowe and Jared M. Lowe.

Flowers on the High Altar are **in celebration of the first anniversary of Tim and Regina Diane Barksdale**, given by Tim Barksdale.

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.



REALM ANNOUNCEMENT

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

stewardship@aecst.com

Thank you again.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Chair



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](#).



SICK AND SHUT-IN/THOSE REQUESTING SPECIAL PRAYERS

IN REHAB:

Verger Stephen Hannum - St. Francis Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

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, Vernetta Dow, Virginia DuBrey, Patricia Walker-Ellison, D. Lynn Joell, Karen Ragland, Joyce Stewart

SPECIAL PRAYERS:

Carmen Brown, Edita Gauthney, Joan Hall, Richard Jones Jr., Dr. Cassandra Ruffin, Cathy Stafford, Carolyn Summers, Daryn Stewart, Justin Trotman, Lisa Woodley, Charlene M. Wiltshire, Bettie Jones, Thomas Harris, The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach, Gail Harris, Roosevelt Harris, Sr.

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.

AECST ACOLYTE MINISTRY



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.



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:



The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
Abou...

www.aecst.org

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	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@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
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