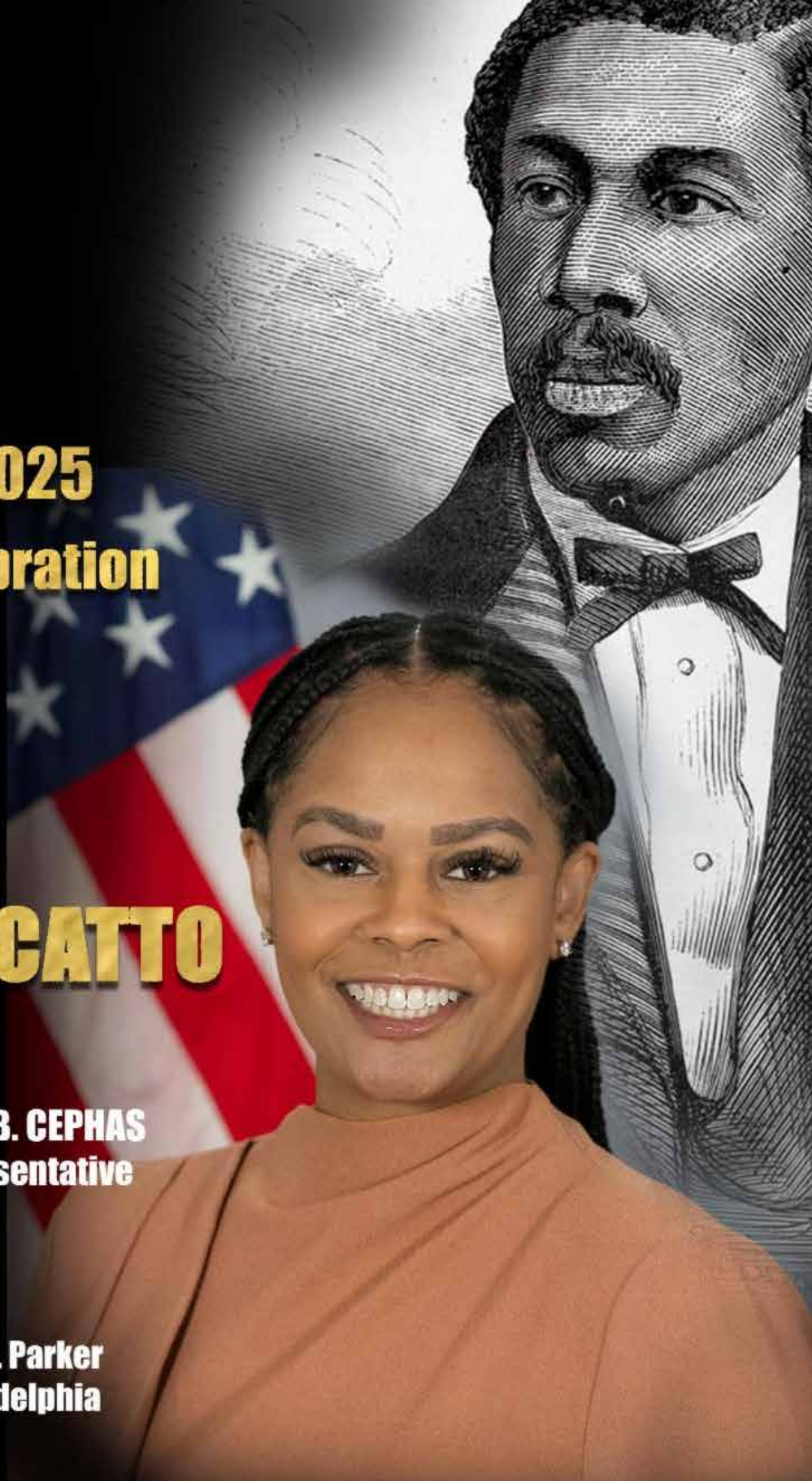




**Sunday
October 12, 2025
The Annual Celebration
of the
Life
of
OCTAVIUS V. CATTO**

**Guest Speaker:
THE HONORABLE MORGAN B. CEPHAS
Pennsylvania State Representative
- 192nd District**

**Guest:
The Honorable Cherelle L. Parker
Mayor of the City of Philadelphia**



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
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 • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 12, 2025**

**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. Daren E. Evans
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins
Associate Priest



**Scan the QR code to support our church
and our ministries.**

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

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”

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

Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Celebrating the Life of
Octavius V. Catto. We welcome our guest speaker, **The Honorable
Morgan Cephas (State Representative - 192nd District);
The Honorable Cherelle Parker** (Mayor - City of Philadelphia);
The Honorable Omar Sabir (Philadelphia City Commissioner); and
other city and state officials worshipping with us today.

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

Faithfully,

Martini Shaw+

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



MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU!

PLAN TO ATTEND...

October 12, 2025 11:30 AM - 1:30PM

Octavius V. Catto Ministry's RESOURCE FAIR

- How to access neighborhood services
- Know your voter options
- Traveling on SEPTA
- Acquire info for REAL ID
- Gather Passport, Social Security/
- Medicare info

Light Refreshments will be Served

THE OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY
IS A NON-PARTISAN MINISTRY OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL OF ST. THOMAS

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA

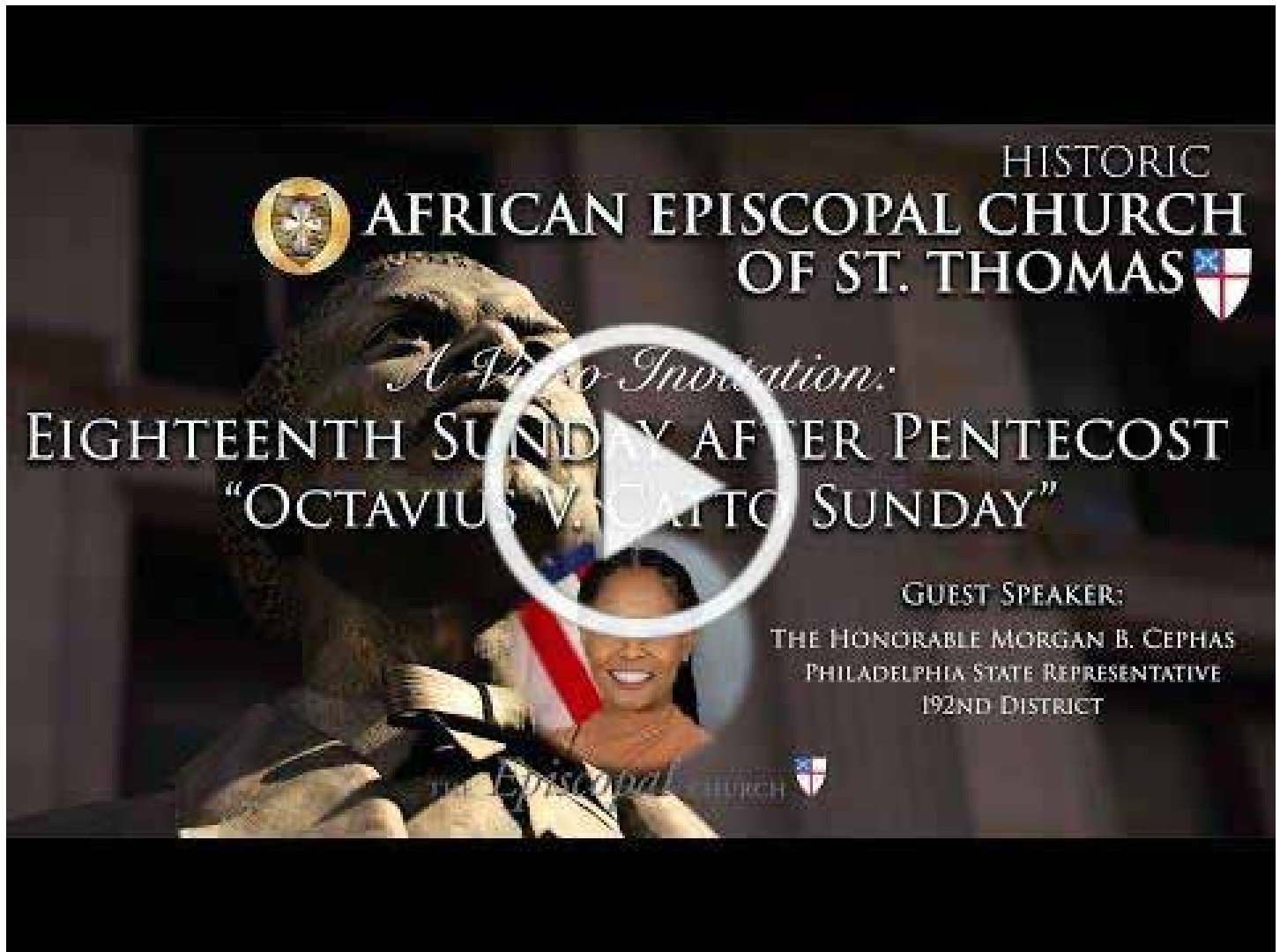
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

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 • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

CHECK OUT THE VIDEO BELOW AND SHARE NOW!



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Videography Ministry)

ELECTION INFORMATION

Join us on Sunday, in Anderson Hall, for the **Catto Ministry Resource Fair!** Stop in and discover what services are free and available to you!

	Pennsylvania	New Jersey
Last Day To Register	October 20th	October 14th
Last Day To Request a Mail-In Ballot	October 28th by 5:00 PM	By Post: October 29th by 3:00 PM
Municipal Election Day	November 4th	November 4th



The church and parish offices will be closed on **Monday, October 13th** in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.



The African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas |
About The AECST

www.aecst.org



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

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 as soon as possible.

Enormous thanks for your continued support and gracious contributions.

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Beginning **Monday, September 29th**, the Parish Office will be closed from **12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM** for lunch.

Welcome

We welcome and give thanks for:

Dr. Stephen & Mrs. Michelle Mack,

Reginald Carter, who joined our church last Sunday.

Stephen's shepherd is Dr. Tim Barksdale, Michelle's is Mary Dean, and Reginald's is Richard Jones. We look forward to getting to know them.





CONGRATULATIONS:
to **Dr. Timothy** and **Mrs. Diane Barksdale** on their recent marriage.





Photos: Bill Edmonds and Stephen Pugh
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF SUNDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2025**







MINISTRY OF SERVICE
The Installation and Commissioning of
Eugene Golson, St. Thomas' new Verger!



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

Photos: William Edmonds
(St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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 are needed.**

a) Ceiling structural work - **Completed**

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

Please speak with William Burke, Property Chair, if you have any questions. You may also email him at property@aecst.org.

A NEEDED 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 make a donation toward this initiative and indicate the purpose of your contribution.
Enormous thanks in advance.

ATTENTION: ALL GROUPS/MINISTRIES/ ORGANIZATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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

Also beginning **Monday, October 13, 2025**, ALL Groups, Ministries, and Fellowships **MUST** 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 Great Lawn at least 2 weeks before the meeting**. Nothing should be said or given to LaDon or David. Everything should come through the church office. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact Gladyce in the church office at 215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org.

We were blessed today with a visit from a friend
and colleague of Fr. Daren,
The Right Rev. Juan Carlos Quinonez,
Bishop of the Diocese of Central Ecuador.



ANNOUNCING EXCITING NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

Coming Soon... A New Church Management Software Program, REALM

We have been converting our church management system to REALM. It's a 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.

Church Online Giving

Our members and visitors who use GIVI to give online currently 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 webpage.

Communication

REALM will help our staff reach you in multiple ways 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. And congregants can interact and communicate directly with each other through REALM.

You can get a jump on learning about REALM by going to the App Store, if you have an iPhone or to the Google Play store if you use a Samsung cell phone, to download the REALM Connect app.

Also, AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from 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.

Training

Don't fret! **training sessions** will be made available and announced soon.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: In order for your enrollment in REALM Connect to go through successfully, all of your personal information must be correct. Please see **Patricia Lynch** in Anderson Hall after service to fill out a member information form.



Powered By



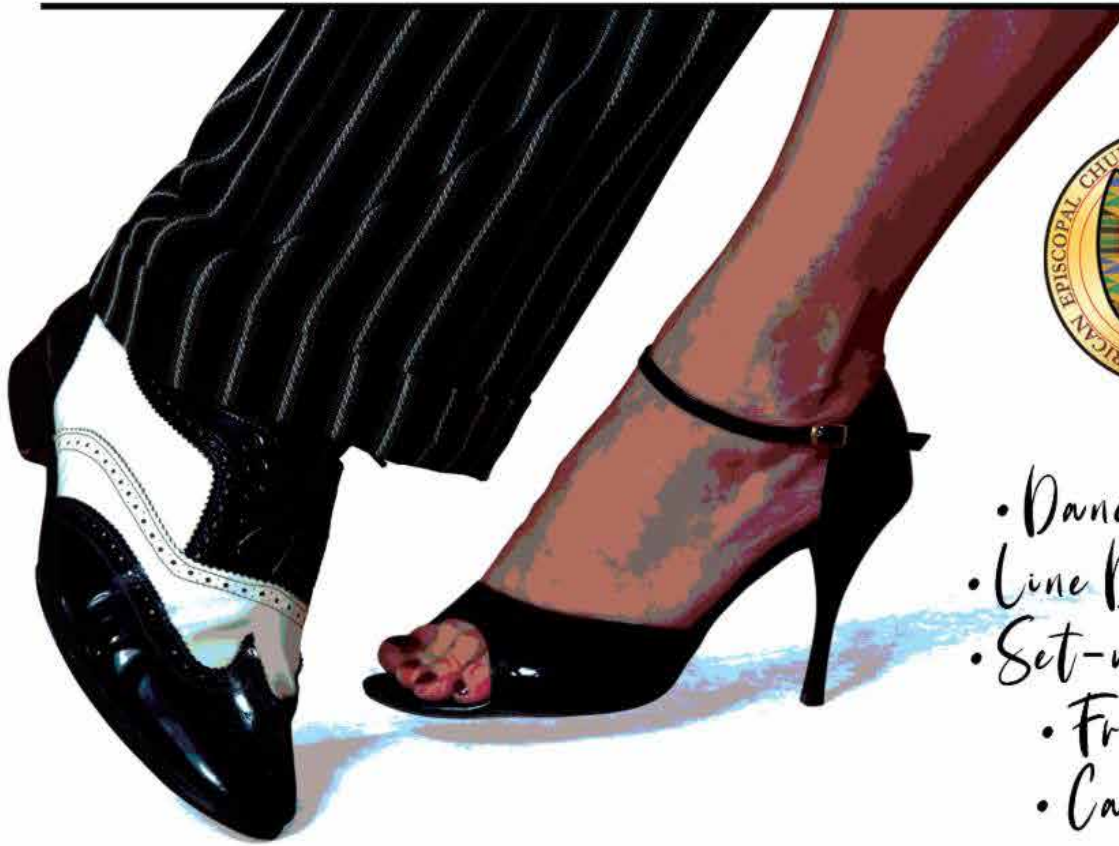
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas: Join our online community!

Hi [REDACTED]

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=NTA0MzUyN2QtODZhZS00NDJhLTg5MWQtYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas



- Dance, Caribbean
- Line Dance Music
- Set-ups Available
- Free Parking
- Cash Raffle

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

~ Old School Cabaret ~

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 • 6PM TO 10PM

NARBETH FIRE HALL

100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBETH 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 GIEGER (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

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 • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



Please

PARDON OUR
MESS
DURING OUR
renovations



PLEASE PARDON THE TEMPORARY SCAFFOLDING

Our chancel and altar areas are
undergoing beautiful restoration.
We remain very grateful to our
anonymous donor who is
making this possible.





Sunday, October 19th, immediately following church service, there will be a fall gathering for all parishioners to meet our new members. Information will be provided about the guilds and ministry committees of the church.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

“Our directory will not be complete without you!”

Attention: All guilds, ministries and groups are invited to get your group photo for the church directory.

Pictures will be taken by Bill Edmonds on the following Sundays, immediately after service. The dates will begin on **Sunday, October 19th and every Sunday until the end of November.**

Please contact Church Directory committee members, **Lynda Tapper Smith** @2158802998 or **Thomasina Hack** @2159012773 to schedule your photo appointment.

Thank you.



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING THANKSGIVING GIFT OF JOY 2025

Each year the Daughters of the King collect donations
for our Thanksgiving Project.

The monies collected will help individuals in need.

We are asking you to prayerfully consider
making a donation.

Members of the Daughters of the King will be at the front
door of the church and Absalom Jones entrance, starting
October 12th - November 16th. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Monday, October 13th

Church and Parish Offices closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Tuesday, October 14th

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

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

Wednesday, October 15th

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, October 16th

Vestry Meeting – 6:00 PM via Zoom

Saturday, October 18th

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
in Anderson Hall

Girls' Friendly Society Meeting -11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
in the Undercroft

Men's Ministry and Fellowship Old School

Cabaret – 6:00 - 10:00 PM at the Narberth Fire Hall,
100 Conway Avenue, Narberth, PA 19072

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

October 19th

- Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday
Please wear something pink.
- New Members Fall Harvest (after service)

October 26th

- Youth and Young Adult Sunday
- Trunk or Treat – 12 PM in the AECST Parking Lot

November 2nd

- Celebration of the Feast of All Saints/All Souls
- Observance of the Birthday of Blessed Absalom Jones (first rector, born Nov. 6th) and Fr. Shaw (17th rector, born Nov. 6th)

November 9th

- Observance of Veterans Day

November 16th

- Annual Judicial Sunday

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



<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>

ROBO CALLS

Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector with special announcements? Do you know someone who does not receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](#)

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	\$1,250.00	\$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

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2026 Faithgiving cards. The names can be found [here](#).

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY CORNER

October 2025 is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month can mean different things to different people. For some, it's a trigger — 31 days in the fall of pink-ribbon reminders of a disease that forever changed them. For others, it's a chance to show their support for the more than 2 million women around the world who are diagnosed with the disease each year.

Understanding the goals behind the global campaign and the emotions felt by the many different people living with the disease may help you decide if and how you want to commemorate the month.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an international health campaign that's held every October. The month aims to promote screening and reduce the risk of the disease, which affects 2.3 million women worldwide. Known best for its pink theme color, the month features a number of campaigns and programs designed to:

- 1) support people diagnosed with breast cancer, including those with metastatic breast cancer:
- 2) educate people about breast cancer risk factors:
- 3) encourage women to go for regular breast cancer screening starting at age 40 or earlier, depending on personal breast cancer risk:
- 4) raise money for breast cancer research.

There are also specific dates in October designed to raise awareness of specific groups within the breast cancer community.

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

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather

Christopher Burks

Deadra Cannon

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas

Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Yvonne Hyde-Carter

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Nohjay Nimpson

Zennetta Peters

Dr. John Rich

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Howard Tucker

Allison Young

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 the [link](#)



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](#).

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

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY

There are several ways in which we memorialize and cherish our loved ones at the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas:

- Dedicate pew memorial plaques
- Present floral tributes
- Purchase a niche in the Geraldine B. Wood Columbarium
- Dedicate new or restored areas of the Church in memory of loved ones

These examples of dedications are designed to celebrate those whom we loved and remember.

If you are looking for a ministry within the AECST that will allow you to share in the joy of families, friends, and neighbors, please prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Memorial Tribute Ministry.

Please reach out to Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at victoria.rivers@verizon.net or call **267-253-2899** and express your desire to obtain information about this Ministry.

THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY PRESENTS THE PEW MEMORIAL PLAGUES ON ALL SAINTS DAY, Sunday, November 2, 2025.

All Saints' Day, also known as All Souls' Day, is a time to commemorate and share a day of intercessory prayer for those who are deceased. The deadline is **October 20th**. **Donation is \$500.00**. Please reach out to Victoria A. Mosley Rivers of the Memorial Tribute Ministry (victoria.rivers@verizon.net or 267-253-2899) for further information.

**Kid
Friendly!
Ages 12 &
Under**

AECST

4th Annual

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

**Volunteers
needed to
decorate your
trunk and hand
out candy!**

Come and Join Us!

***Costumes optional
but encouraged!***

October 26th

Time: After service

Location: AECST Parking Lot

**Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses,
and superheros to join in the fun!**

**Please contact Gladyce in the church office at
215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org**



The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)

The Very Reverend Cannon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector

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

www.AECST.org www.facebook.com/AECST1792



**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! AECST KID FRIENDLY TRUNK
OR TREAT! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
12:00 Noon in the AECST Parking lot.**

Ages 12 and under

Volunteers are needed to decorate your trunk
and hand out candy.

Please contact Gladyce in the church office
at 215-473-3065 to reserve a space for that day.
Costumes optional but encouraged!

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.



The Episcopal Diocese
of Pennsylvania
Anti-Racism Commission

TELLING OUR STORIES

HEALING WOUNDS OF RACISM, BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Performed and facilitated by **Playback For Change**

In 4 interactive sessions of theater and discussion, participants see themselves in one another's stories of race and racism as they are brought to life on stage

Sep 20 *Embracing Diversity* **Trinity, Swarthmore 2-4:30 pm**

An introductory experience of Playback Theatre that affirms the power of diversity and our common humanity and gives a taste of the rest of the sessions. Open to all.

Oct 11 *Telling the Whole Story* **African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia 2-4:30 pm**

A session for People of Color to face racism and affirm resilience through healing and community building. Open to those who are Black, Indigenous or identify as Non-Black People of Color.

Nov 15 *Exploring Our Whiteness* **Incarnation Holy Sacrament, Drexel Hill 3-5:30 pm**

A session to explore the experience of ingesting, upholding and resisting beliefs and behaviors that shape White supremacy. Open to those who identify as White.

Jan 17 *Creating Common Cause* **St. Alban's, Newtown Square 2-4:30 pm**

A session for everyone to share their stories and experiences of resisting and healing from racism, and how to continue the work together. Open to all.

What is Playback Theatre?

Audience members' real stories become the source material. The performance is spontaneous - it is theater created through a unique collaboration between performers and audience. Someone from the audience tells a story or moment from their life, chooses actors to play the different roles, then watches as their story is immediately recreated on "stage."

Learn More + Register



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of
Gail W. Lowe, given by James T. Low, Jr. and Jarem M.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment
to **Clare Mae Daniels** or **Alfreda Brockman**.
(Please do not place in the collection plate
or give to the church office). Thank you.

*Unfortunately, due to rising costs of goods, the Altar Guild
has increased the cost of the flowers.*

High Altar - \$70
Absalom Jones Altar - \$60
the Columbarium - \$50

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



**MAZZONI CENTER
HONORS**
Melba Moore

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 3**
MARIAN ANDERSON HALL
KIMMEL CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

**SAVION GLOVER • LISA FISCHER • LOW CUT CONNIE • J HARRISON GHEE
JOY WOODS • MYKAL KILGORE • VICKI PETERSON • RICHARD BARONE
NIKKI RENEE DANIELS • BRITTANY LYNN • JOHN COWSILL • VANCE GILBERT
LAUREN HART • THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR • AND MORE TO COME!**

Hosted by Peabody Award-winning journalist
SOLEDAD O'BRIEN

With special appearances by local radio legends
**PATTY JACKSON
AND DYANA WILLIAMS**

Tickets start at \$35 and go on sale

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

For full details and ticket information visit
MAZZONICENTER.ORG/HONORS

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2025

The First Lesson – [Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7](#)

[Psalm 66:1-11](#)

The Second Lesson – [2 Timothy 2:8-15](#)

The Holy Gospel – [Luke 17:11-19](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of October 13, 2025

Monday - [Luke 8:26-39](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 8:40-56](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 9:1-17](#)

Thursday - [Luke 9:18-27](#)

Friday - [Luke 9:28-36](#)

Saturday - [Luke 9:37-50](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY ADULT 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

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with [Fr. Daren](#) meet on Wednesdays 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.

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.



A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:

ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

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 - St. Francis Nursing Home;
Deborah Harrison - Kearsley

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, Eleanor Chestnut, Virginia DuBrey, Teena Watson-Matthews, Alletta Parris-Olday

KEEP IN PRAYER:

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

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.



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.

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!



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!

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 Parish 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 webpage.

6) Cell Phone: Text "**AECST**" to **73256** to make a donation.

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. We appreciate your assistance.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund.

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

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	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	wpfox3008@verizon.net
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

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

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	

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