



Breast CANCER

AWARENESS SUNDAY

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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 19, 2025**

**Please wear something pink this Sunday in observance
of Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday.**

**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

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost, Breast Cancer Awareness 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. 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



**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.



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.

**Today, we will commission the members of
the AECST Memorial Tribute Ministry:**

Victoria Rivers; Paula Glenn Lamb; Marilyn Brown;
Patricia Hunt; R. Seth Williams; Dr. Monica Johnson;
Charlene M. Wiltshire; Evelyn Johns



FAITHFUL GRATITUDE

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

<https://forms.gle/yj3eujEaSZ58VMgK9>

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.

IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Annual Stewardship Drive has begun.

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.

**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. Enormous thanks to ALL who have submitted their Faithful Giving Cards. Please add your name to the list this week by submitting your card today.

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

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

Dorothy Archey	Sheila Jones-Smith
Julie Hergenrather	Nancy Lee
Susan Ben	Karen Leys
Deborah Billips	Landon Leys
Guy Booth	C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
Lorita Brockington	James Lowe
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Winston Lowe
Marilyn Brown	Michael McIntosh
Charlotte Card	Laura McNeil
Terry Corson	Vincent & Lisa Napoleon
Karen Davis	Mercy Natt
William & Quincina	Carolyn Paige
Edmonds	Samuel & Deidre Patterson
Yaseen & Alaina Farooq	Zennetta Peters
Barry Frye	Eugene & Karina Phillips
Barbara Glenn	Kareem Ragin
Perski (PJ) Grier	Clarence Rice
Thomasina Hack	Victoria Rivers
Lisa Harper	Arlene Singletary
Roosevelt, Sr & Gail Harris	Catherine Stafford
Thomas & Lynn Harris	Shelly & Ann Stewart
Eric Hill-Yates	Lynda Tapper Smith
Robert Hugh	Barbara Wiley
Yvonne Hyde-Carter	Rufus Williams
Evelyn Johns	Lorna Wilson
Frank Johnson	Jenelle Johnson-Wilson
Eric Jones	Khalita Wright

MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP OLD SCHOOL CABARET

Come join us for an evening of fun.
Purchase your ticket at the door.



- 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
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Important General Elections (November 4, 2025) Deadlines and Dates

What's really important in this election in Pennsylvania is the retention of Supreme Court Justices. For information about the statewide judicial candidates, go to www.seventy.org.

	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

On Saturday, October 11th, representatives from St. Thomas joined others from the Schuylkill Deanery and the Diocese of PA at the **Washington National Cathedral for the Annual Acolyte Festival.**







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



On Saturday, October 11th, **"Telling Our Stories"** sponsored by The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and performed and facilitated by Playback fo Change, was inspiring and empowering.



**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OCTAVIUS V. CATTO
OCTOBER 12, 2025**









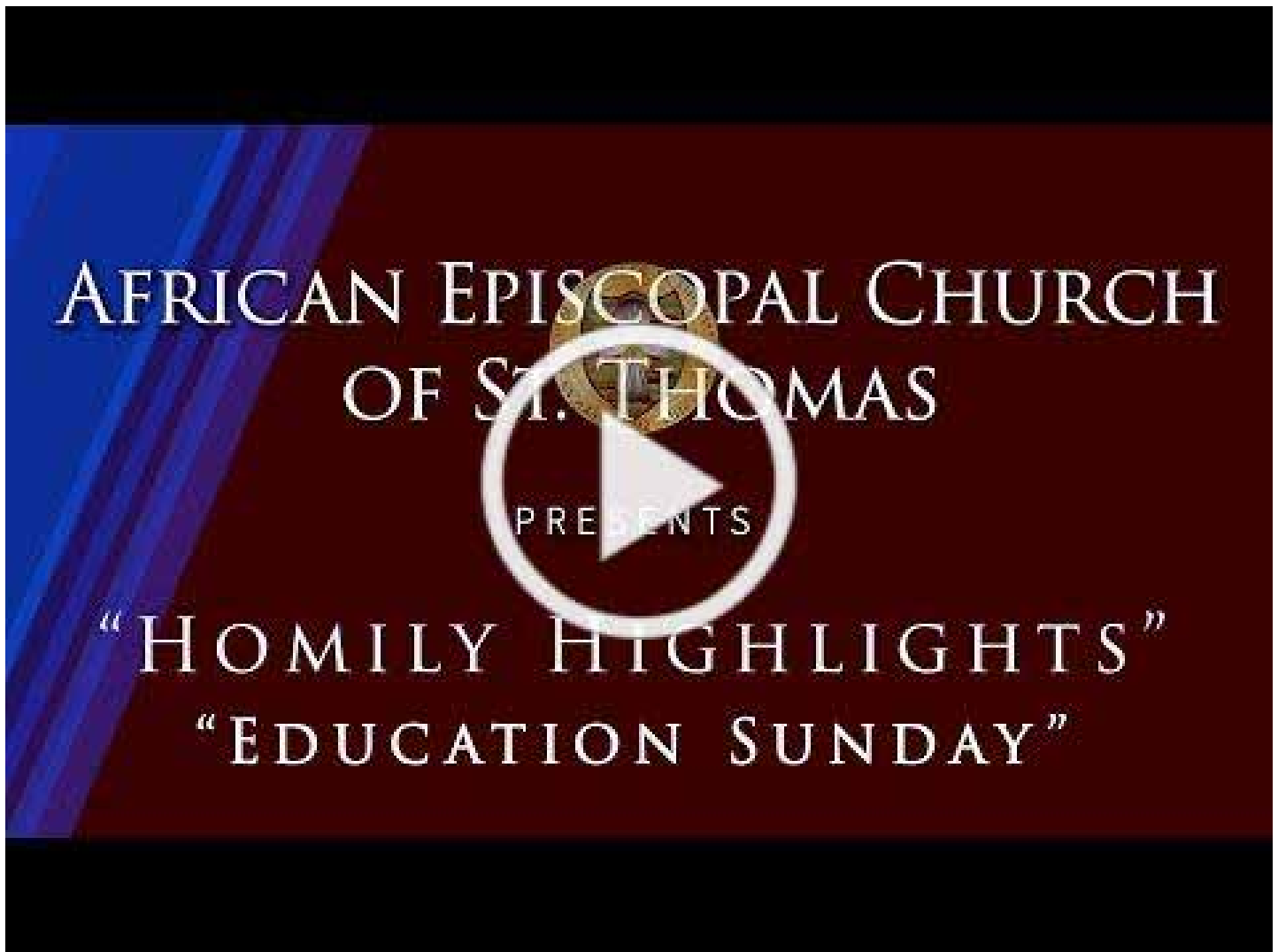
More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#)

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

HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Education Sunday (Sept. 21, 2025)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Brenda Allen, President, Lincoln University of PA and Lincoln University of PA Choir.



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Videography 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.

ERASED

A HISTORY OF
BLACK PROGRESS AND
WHITE BACKLASH

MERIDIAN,
MISSISSIPPI

OPELOUSAS,
LOUISIANA

HAMBURG,
SOUTH
CAROLINA

COLFAX,
LOUISIANA

CLINTON,
MISSISSIPPI

CAMILLA,
GEORGIA

THIBODAUX,
LOUISIANA

EUFALA,
ALABAMA



SLOCUM,
TEXAS

EAST ST.
LOUIS, ILLINOIS

OSCARVILLE,
GEORGIA

KOWALIGA,
ALABAMA

OCOEE,
FLORIDA

KNOXVILLE,
TENNESSEE

ELAINE,
ARKANSAS

DR. JONATHAN RASHIED WILSON JR

Authored by one of St. Thomas' own:

DR. JONATHAN R. WILSON, JR.

View More: <https://a.co/d/5cDZp9g>

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

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.

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](#)

THIS WEEK AT AECST

Tuesday, October 21th

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 22nd

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

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

Friday, October 24th

Retired Peoples Ministry - 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Directory Photos - 2:00 PM - 8:45 PM in the Undercroft

Saturday, October 25th

Daughters of the King
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM in Anderson Hall

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 – 12:00 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)
- Daughters of the King Corporate Communion

November 9th

- **Observance of Veterans Day**

November 16th

- **Annual Judicial Sunday**
- Our guest speaker is The Honorable Kia Niambi Scott, United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of PA

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

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY

October 2025 is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer In Men

Each year in the United States, about 270,000 women get breast cancer and 42,000 women die from the disease.

Men also get breast cancer, but it is not very common. About 1 out of every 100 breast cancer diagnoses in the United States is found in a man.

Please scan the QR code below to learn more about breast cancer in men.



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 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 Gladycce 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.

MAZZONI CENTER HONORS

Melba Moore

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 3

MARIAN ANDERSON HALL
KIMMEL CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Featuring powerhouse performances from:

AVION GLOYER • LISA FISCHER • LOW CUT CONNIE • J HARRISON GHEE
ROY WOODS • MYKAL KILGORE • VICKI PETERSON • RICHARD BARONE
MIKKI 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

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.



DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 19, 2025

The First Lesson – [Jeremiah 31:27-34](#)
[Psalm 119:97-104](#)

The Second Lesson – [2 Timothy 3:14-4:5](#)
The Holy Gospel – [Luke 18:1-8](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of October 20, 2025

Monday - [Luke 9:51-62](#)
Tuesday - [Luke 10:1-16](#)
Wednesday - [Luke 10:17-24](#)
Thursday - [Luke 10:25-37](#)
Friday - [Luke 10:38-42](#)
Saturday - [Luke 11:1-1](#)



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

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, Deborah Harrison

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 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 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
Rector
Associate to the Rector
Associate Priest
Associate Priest
Associate Minister
Executive Asst to the Rector
Fiscal Administrator
Sexton
Asst Sexton
Chancel Choirmaster
Gospel Choirmaster
Rector's General Counsel
Altar Guild
Baptism Co-Chairs

O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry
Church School Superintendent
Ed Muse Photography Ministry
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector
Girls Friendly Society
Jazz Ensemble Director
Live Stream Ministry
Memorial Flowers

Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters
Parish Vergers
Parish Webmaster
Property Chair
Scout Pack 133

Stewardship Chair
Videography Ministry
Visitor's Ministry
Voices of Comfort
William Burke Ushers Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach
Gladyce DuBrey
Jeannette Jeffrey
LaDon Elliott
David McGilberry
Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.
Waltier Blocker
Joe Tucker, Esq.
Alfreda Brockman
Gail Hinton Harris
Patricia Walker-Ellison
Wendella Fox | Elaine Gillison
Tynecia Wilson
William Edmonds
Deadra Cannon
Nikkol Simms
Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.
Yaseen Farooq | Teri Tillman
Alfreda Brockman
Clare Mae Daniels
Ashley Hines
Karen Ragland
Gail Hinton Harris
William Burke
Howard Chapman
Arlene Gray
Patricia Lynch
Quentin Heyward
Edita Gauthney | Michele Green
Robert Davenport
Arlene Singletary

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recordedvideo@aecst.org
visitorsministry@aecst.org
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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
Judith Simkins Booth
Deadra Cannon

Clare Mae Daniels
Eugene Golson
Marie B. Golson

Kelvin Johnson
Monica Lewis Jones
Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins

Mary Sandra Dean
Elaine Gillison
D. Lynn Joell
Cynthia Muse

Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Judy 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 Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller