



— THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL —
CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

— PHILADELPHIA —



EDUCATION SUNDAY



Equipping Minds. Enriching Lives. Empowering Communities.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
10:00 A.M.

GUEST SPEAKER

AARON A. WALTON

President of Cheyney University



**CHEYNEY
UNIVERSITY**

FAITH • KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE

CO-CHAIRS

DEIDRE FARMBRY, Ed.D.
AND MONICA JOHNSON TAYLOR, Ed.D.

SPECIAL MUSIC

**CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY
GLEE CLUB**

*Come and be blessed by an inspiring word
and uplifting music!*



*"Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it."*
PROVERBS 22:6

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 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](#)

The Biography of Dr. Aaron A. Walton can be found [here](#).

“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 **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Education and Back to School Sunday. Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Dr. Aaron Walton, President, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, along with the Cheyney University Glee Club, worshiping with us this morning.**

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

**The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Educators/Administrators
Present and Retired
Those who Love and Support Our Children**

Dr. Deidre Farmbry, Acting Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, Hatboro Horsham School District
Mary Dean, Deputy Chief of High Schools, School District of Philadelphia
Denise Wing, Director of School Operations, School District of Philadelphia
Dr. Cassandra A. Ruffin, Regional Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia
Dr. Santee C. Ruffin Jr., Regional Superintendent School District of Philadelphia
Sherilynn Johnson Kimble, Executive Director, The Caring Center
Dr. Gregory Allen, Executive Director
Quincina Edmonds, Administrative Assistant, Willingboro, School District
Alletta Olday, COO Footprints to Financial Success
Cynthia R. Muse, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator
Judith Simkins Booth, Principal
Ronnie H. Collins, Principal
Robert Johnson, Principal
Kathleen Lacey, Principal
Eugene Golson, Assistant Principal
Lynada Martinez, Assistant Principal
Tyrone Keller, Guidance Counselor
Regina Meacham-Devero, Guidance Counselor
Dr. Robin Vann-Lynch, History Department Chair
Deborah B. Matthews, Academic Coach
Denise McDaniel Henderson, High School Academic Coach
Victoria A. Mosley Rivers, High School Academy Leader
Evelyn Johns, Middle School Mathematics Coordinator
Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Mentor & Resource Administrator
Sibyl Couche Wilson, Reading Specialist
Stephanie Seay-Wood Child Care Director
Justin Trotman, Administrative Assistant

Educators, Higher Education - Present and Retired

Dr. Tim Barksdale, Adjunct Professor, Arcadia University and Lancaster Bible College
Dr. Dawn Conley, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Gloucester County College
Albert S. Dandridge III, Esq., Adjunct Professor of Law, Boston University Law School
Dr. Rollo Dilworth, Professor, Temple University
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Professor, Lincoln University, Morgan University, School District of Philadelphia
Dr. Nikki Frank, Professor, Temple University
Wendella Fox, Director, Philadelphia Office, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Dr. Derek Griffith, Wharton School, Health Care Management
Erica Hill-Yates, PhD, Assistant Professor, Sociology Delaware County Community College
Dr. Frank Johnson, Adjunct Professor, Temple University



Educators Higher Education - Present and Retired (cont.)

Nancy Lee, Associate Professor, Villanova University
 Dr. Michael McIntosh, Professor, Temple University
 Donald E. Moore, Vice President, Real Estate Facilities, Drexel University
 Dr. Ingrid Nembhard, Wharton School, University of PA
 Caryn Rivers, Professor and Educational Consultant
 Dorothy E. Roberts, Professor of Law & Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
 Dr. Barbara Savage, Professor, University of Pennsylvania
 Dr. Samira Savoury, Professor of Business Technology, Rowan University
 LeeAnn Douglas Trotman, Adjunct Professor, Temple University
 Tynecia Wilson, Villanova University

Teachers - Present and Retired

Those Who Love and Support Our Children On the Front Lines Daily

Patricia Akins
 Patricia Bantom
 Ola S. Bass
 Henrietta Beach
 Dorothea Bell
 Joanne Bradley
 Theresa Bramwell
 Lorita Brockington
 Alfreda Brockman
 Carmen Brown
 Jacqueline DeKnight
 Lynette Dickerson
 Doris Edwards
 Elaine C. Gillison
 Angelica Glenn

Joan Perry Hall
 Bradley Hammond
 Monica Harbison
 Debra Joell
 D. Lynn Joell
 Bettie Jones
 Patricia Kendall
 Lisa Lattimore-Malone
 C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
 Eleanor McDaniel
 Dianne McNeal
 Laura McNeill
 Velma Morris-Nembhard
 Gloria Moses
 Karen Murphy

Francina Norris
 Edwin Santana
 Angelique Seay-Howell
 Stephanie Seay
 Michele Sudler
 Linda Tapper-Smith
 Sheila J. Stubbs
 Elizabeth D. Trulear
 Carlia Wallace
 Alverna Wiley
 Barbara Wiley
 The Honorable Robert Williams
 Charlene M. Wiltshire

Please excuse us if we omitted any educators.

Sunday, we celebrate Education and Back to School Sunday. Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Dr. Aaron Walton, President of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, along with the Cheyney University Glee Club, worshiping with us this morning. We give thanks and offer blessings upon all educators, past and present, students and their families, and all who work and serve in the academic community.



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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please note; as you arrive at church the playing of our beautiful carillon bells. The musical tunes were created by the late Joseph Stevenson.



A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

- 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.

"HOMILY HIGHLIGHT" (SERIES PREMIER)
September 13, 2026



Video: Quentin Heyward
St.Thomas Videography Ministry

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.



VESTRY AND AUXILIARY VESTRY MEMBERS

Please see Judy Tillman today or Sunday, September 27th to get a Faithful Giving Card. On Stewardship Kickoff Sunday, together we will take our Faithful Giving cards to the Altar.



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT (YAYA) COUNCIL

Thanks to all who participated and volunteered on Youth Fun Day, held on Saturday, September 12, 2026. We had fun, we fellowshiped, and we ate a lot of good pizza!

Members of St. Thomas & Overbrook Presbyterian Retired Persons Ministry gather on the 25th Anniversary of 9/11.



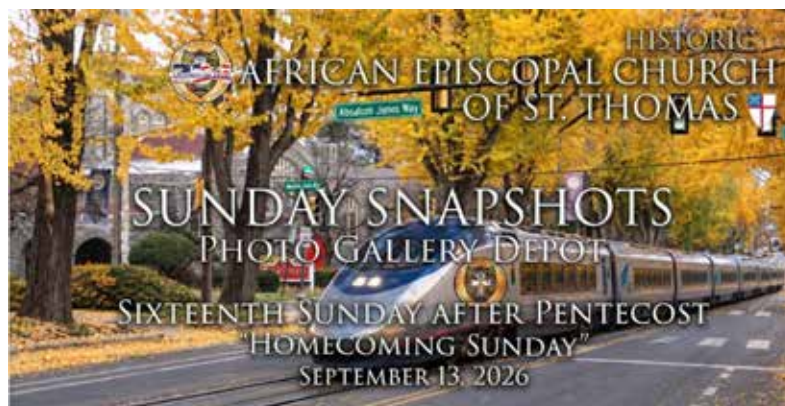
Youth Funday. A wonderful Saturday at St. Thomas, full of fun and fellowship.







The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Homecoming Sunday
September 13, 2026







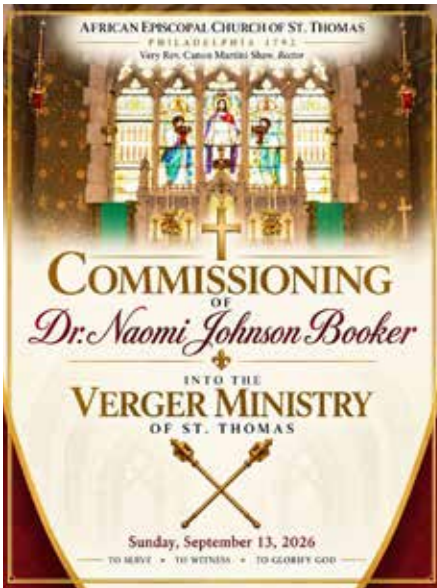




More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

Photos: Bill Edmonds and Brenda Johnson Best,
St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry

Sunday, we commissioned our new Verger,
Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker.



CHOSEN 300 INVITATION TO SERVE

Join St. Thomas Chosen 300 Ministries on Monday, September 21st at 5:00 PM to serve our homeless brothers and sisters at 3959 Lancaster Ave., Phila., PA. Please contact Cynthia Muse at musecyn@aol.com for more information.



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.

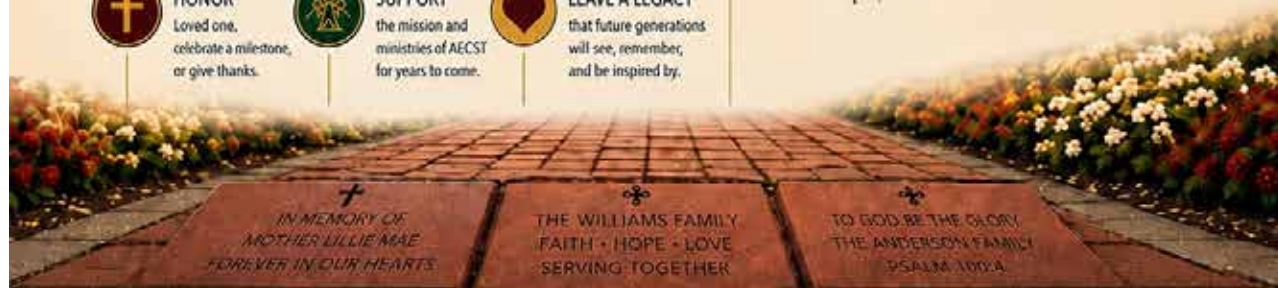


LEAVE A LEGACY

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.



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

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>

THIS WEEK AT AECST – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Tuesday, September 22nd

~Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom~ at 7:00 PM

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

Wednesday, September 23rd

~St. Thomas Gospel Choir rehearsal~
in Anderson Hall at 7:30 PM

Thursday September 24th

~JFA Scholarship Committee meeting~
in the Absalom Jones House from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday, September 25th

~Retired Persons' Ministry meeting~
in Anderson Hall from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

September 27th

~Youth & Young Adult Sunday~

~Ye Olde Philadelphia Club will worshipn with us~

October 4th

~Stewardship Season Kick-Off~

~Church School begins~

~The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi~

During morning worship, please bring your feathered, furry, four-legged, no-legged family members to worship with us.

October 11th

~Celebration of the Life of Octavius V. Catto~

Guest Speaker - State Representative Chris Rabb

October 18th

~Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday~

Please wear something pink.

October 25th

~Youth & Young Adults Sunday~

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

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

Our rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, October 17th, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, November 7th, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, November 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, December 5th, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, December 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM



Greetings from Andrew & Lisa-Renee Dumas!

Querida familia de St. Thomas, we are doing well here in Portugal. Enjoying a life filled with sunshine, slow mornings, and the kind of seafood that makes you question every past meal you ever bragged about! Between settling into the Algarve, navigating the local pace (which is somewhere between “relaxed” and “why rush?”), and finding joy in simple days, we feel blessed and grounded. We stay connected through the livestream broadcast each Sunday, carrying St. Thomas with us across the ocean. We look forward to seeing everyone in person this December. Com carinho e saudade.



Sunday, September 20th join Dr. Jay Fluellen in conjunction with Artcinia- Music for Your Neighborhood, as they present the Tim Warfield Quartet, 3:00 PM at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Ave., Phila., PA 19151

Ticket prices are:

Adults - \$10.00 Families - \$15.00

Students and Seniors - \$5.00

They may be purchased at the door or scan the QR Code



OUR LIVESTREAM MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

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

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

September is Suicide Prevention Month.

Suicide impacts entire communities. Each person who dies by suicide leaves behind loved ones, along with the impact of suicide and the bereavement that follows. Suicidal thoughts and attempts have many significant impacts on individuals and those around them.

- The people in their lives can be a lifeline. Strong relationships and trusted connections help protect people when life gets hard.
- Suicide prevention starts long before a crisis. Open conversations, shared resources, and visible awareness make a real difference.
- Knowing the warning signs of suicide, in adults and in children and teens, means being able to recognize when someone needs support and connect them to help sooner.
- Communities that talk openly about mental health and suicide help reduce the stigma that keeps people from asking for help.
- Prevention is everyone's responsibility. Families, schools, workplaces, faith communities, health systems, and individuals all have a role to play.
- Small acts of connection, such as a check-in, a shared resource, a moment of genuine attention, are how communities take care of each other.

For Information on Suicide Warning Signs for Adults, scan the QR Code below:



CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

With less than 45 days from the midterm elections, what can you do to improve voter turnout?

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

- Plan to take a friend, neighbor or elderly family member to the voting poll.
- Help 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?
- Become familiar with who and what is on your ballot. Go to an independent website like the Committee of Seventy; www.seventy.org

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

Got a question about the polls? These folks are in the know! Kudos to the Catto Ministry members that serve as volunteer election workers:

Gloria Thomas

Evelyn Johns

Stacey McCoy-Ndiaye

Stephenie Smith

Hossein Gharavi

Mark your calendar for Catto Sunday October 11th

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

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.

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

“You Can Tell The World: Black Composers” in concert at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, **Sunday, 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.

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.



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

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

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**





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)

Meetings are held on Saturday mornings at 11:00 AM, in the Undercroft. All girls are invited to join. If you would like to become an adult GFS Sponsor and be on the mailing list for future events, please contact Branch Advisor Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net.



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.

THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE MINISTRY ALL SAINTS'/ALL SOULS' DAY 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.

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 - Seattle, 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

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.



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.



**The Bible Readings for
the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026**

The First Reading - [Exodus 16:2-15](#)
[Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45](#)

The Second Reading - [Philippians 1:21-30](#)
The Holy Gospel - [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the week
of September 20, 2026**

Sunday - [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18](#)

Monday - [Luke 3:1-14](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 3:15-22](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 4:1-13](#)

Thursday - [Luke 4: 14-30](#)

Friday - [Luke 4:31-37](#)

Saturday - [Luke 4:38-44](#)



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 Thanksgiving for
46 years of marriage today.

Given by **William and Quincina Edmonds**

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

Flowers on the High Altar - \$80.00 each
Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$70.00 each
Flowers on the Columbarium - \$60.00



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:

Francina Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center; 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, Eleanor Chestnut, Regina Meacham Devero, Vernetta Dow, Virginia DuBrey, Patricia Walker-Ellison, Stephen Hannum, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., D. Lynn Joell, Karen Ragland, Joyce Stewart, Gail Harris, The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach, Waltier Blocker

SPECIAL PRAYERS:

Carmen Brown, Edita Gauthney, Joan Hall, Richard Jones, Jr., Cathy Stafford, Carolyn Summers, Daryn Stewart, Justin Trotman, Lisa Woodley, Charlene M. Wiltshire

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



Calling all youth! Join this highly visible and special ministry. No prior experience is needed as training is provided. This is an excellent way for children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information contact Nikkol Simms at njsimms@verizon.net.



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