

Lord, teach us to

pray



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.



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

“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 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.**

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 world-wide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. 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 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 Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery



Please scan the QR Code or Text “AECST” to 73256 to contribute to the church ministries.

**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026**

The Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Homilist: The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

Verger: Eugene Golson

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Summer Ensemble

Livestream/Sound: Yaseen Farooq and Teri Tillman

Order of Service

The Meditation

Verger Eugene Golson

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn—"Spirit of the Living God"

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #115

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

The Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Pg. 355

The Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. AMEN

The Collect for Purity

BCP Pg. 355

The Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. AMEN

The Gloria in excelsis

The Celebrant and The People

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN

The Proclamation of the Word

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Let us pray O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so

pass through things temporal, 3 that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

The First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28

Lee Anne Douglas Trotman

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 128

Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker

Happy are they all who fear the Lord, *
and who follow in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

The man who fears the Lord *
shall thus indeed be blessed.

The Lord bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

The Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Justin Trotman

A Reading from Paul’s letter to the Church in Rome.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "He Has Done Great Things for Me"

(vv. 1-3)

1) He has done great things for me.

**Great things, great things,
He has done great things for me.**

2) I'm gonna be a witness for Him.

**Witness, witness,
I'm gonna be a witness for him.**

3) I'm gonna testify for Him.

**Testify, testify,
I'm gonna testify for Him.**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Fr. Collins

The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn – “He Has Done Great Things for Me”

(vv. 4-6)

**4) I'm gonna let my little light shine.
Shine, shine,
I'm gonna let my little light shine.**

**5) He has made a way for me.
Made a way, made a way,
He has made a way for me.**

**6) He gave me the victory.
Victory, victory,
He gave me the victory.**

**The Homily
The Call to Christian Discipleship**

Fr. Collins
The Celebrant

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With
the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in
one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look
for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN**

The Prayers of the People

Harold Townsend

**Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one**

**Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

**We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who are incarcerated and their families,
as well as those who may have been affected by their actions.
We lift our prayers, O Lord.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

Almighty and everlasting God, whose providence has sustained your people throughout every generation:
Receive these prayers we offer with thankful hearts, and grant that, trusting in your mercy and guided by your Spirit, we may continue to serve you faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

The Confession

BCP 360

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Silence is kept)

The Celebrant and The People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN

The Absolution

The Celebrant

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN**

The Peace

The Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Sentence and Offering

The Celebrant

Offer your gift now via text : Text “AECST” to 73256

Or scan the QR Code on page 8

The Musical Offertory Selection

St. Thomas Summer Ensemble

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

The People: We lift them to the Lord.

The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

The Celebrant and the People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is your, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed.

The People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Agnus Dei

The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The People: Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN

The Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion

The Communion Selections

St. Thomas Summer Ensemble

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Celebrant and the People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Celebrant: In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

The People: **We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.**

The Announcements

Deborah Camp-Frye, Accounting Warden

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "Blessed Be the Name"

LEVAS # 78

1) Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

2) Jesus is the name! Jesus is the name!

Jesus is the name of the Lord!

Jesus is the name! Jesus is the Name!

Jesus is the name of the Lord!

3) Worthy to be grand! Worthy to be grand!

Worthy to be grand is the Lord!

Worthy to be grand! Worthy to be grand!

Worthy to be grand is the Lord!

The Dismissal

Fr. Collins

The Postlude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Sunday Spearhead
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026

Summer Hours for the Church and Parish Offices

July and August business hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. The Church will be open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM.

Condolences and prayers for Pamela Johnson and family on the death of her uncle, the **Rev. Raymond L. Poole**. May the soul of Raymond rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. AMEN

Condolences and prayers for Rev. Dr. Jermaine McDonald and family on the death of his grandmother, **Edna Mae Moss**. May the soul of Edna Mae rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. AMEN

Car For Sale – 2016 Silver Mazda 6

Parked in the Assistant Rector's spot on the church parking lot, this vehicle was previously used by Father Daren Evans. Contact Bill Burke, Property Chair, at property@aecst.org for details.

RECTOR'S WISH LIST

Our Audio/Visual/Media Systems sorely needs 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, rector@aecst.org, if you have questions.

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.

The Caribbean Festival Committee's raffle was drawn last Sunday after service. The winners are:

- 1st Prize - 43" Smart TV: Jiselle Clarke •
- 2nd Prize - Soundbar and Subwoofer Set: Jason Kurhan
- 3rd Prize - Toaster Oven/Air Fryer Combo: Terry King
-

Winners will be contacted to claim their prize. Thank you for your continued support!

MUSIC MINISTRY HOMILY SERIES

During July and August, the St. Thomas' Ministers of Music: Waltier Blocker, Dr. Rollo Dilworth and Dr. Jay Fluellen will prepare several special musical homilies. Make sure you're in attendance to hear their dynamic presentations.

Health Ministry News

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Below are information and resources you may find interesting or helpful. Please share this information with anyone you feel might be interested.

The Stigma Associated with Mental Health Concerns

Despite progress in recent years, there is still a significant stigma associated with mental health concerns. In the Black community, there is often difficulty acknowledging psychological difficulties. Destigmatizing mental health is an essential part of well-being; just like a healthy diet, sleep, and exercise.

Too often people believe that a mental health condition is a personal weakness due to negative stereotypes of instability and attitudes of rejection. Because of a lack of information about mental health issues in the Black community, it is not always clear when one may need to seek help or where to find help. Luckily, with the rise of social media and improved awareness related to mental health, the development of and funding for culturally responsive mental health treatment is increasing.

A growing network of culturally responsive organizations now exists to connect individuals with Black mental health professionals and support systems. One such organization is National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). They offer support groups, good resources, and provide guidance on navigating the mental health system, especially for the Black community. Visit the website for more information, www.namiphilly.org

In addition, scan the QR code below, to watch their video on “Black Men and Mental Health” entitled: “*Cutting Through the Stigma: NAMI and The Confess Project.*”



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. 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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study are on vacation for the summer. It will resume on September 8, 2026. If you are interested in joining the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay at associatepriest@aecst.org

OUR DEDICATED OUT OF TOWN FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly through various media platforms:

Constance Anderson - Florida	Yvonne Hyde-Carter -New York
The Reverend Dr. Paul Bach and Dr. Julie Hergerather -Seattle, Washington	Dr. Calvin Johnson -Florida
Deadra Cannon -Georgia	Bettie Jones -North Carolina
Dr. Tracy Collins -North Carolina	Richard Jones, Jr. -Virginia
Nora Corbin -Illinois	Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith -South Carolina
Paula Cropper -North Carolina	Steven and Jameela Lewis -Colorado/California
Lee Daniels -New York/California	Gregory Lyles -Switzerland
Stacey Davis -New York	Nohjay Nimpson -Texas
Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas -Portugal	Zennetta Peters -North Carolina
The Rev. Fr. Daren Evans -Texas	Richard and Rebecca Scales -Florida
Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal -Michigan	Shelly and Ann Stewart -Florida/Massachusetts
The Reverend Dr. Wil Gafney -Texas	Jillian Theorgood - Georgia
Richard and Gwenda Hart -South Carolina	Howard Tucker -Brazil/Philadelphia
	Allison Young - Maryland

The Readings for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost-July 26, 2026

The First Lesson- Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 128

The Second Lesson- Romans 8:26-39

The Holy Gospel- Matthew-13:31-33,44-52

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of July 27, 2026

Monday- Matthew 27:24-31

Tuesday- Matthew 27:32-44

Wednesday- Matthew 27:45-54

Thursday- Matthew 27:55-66

Friday- Matthew 28:1-10

Saturday-Matthew 28:11-20

This Week at AECST – July 27, 2026

Monday July 27th

- Church and Parish Offices are closed

Tuesday, July 28th

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

Please pray for those who are sick and shut-in:

In Rehab: Francina Norris- St. Francis Nursing Home; Patricia Walker-Ellison- Rosewood Gardens Rehab; Regina Meacham Devero, Bryn Mawr Rehab

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, Shirley Caldwell, Cornelia Camp, Virginia DuBrey, Stephen Hannum, Roosevelt Harris Sr., Joyce Stewart, Vernetta Dow, Vernetta Johnston, D. Lynn Joell, Edgar Wise

Keep in Prayer: Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart, Adinah Edwards, Teena Watson-Matthews, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Carl Dean, Arlene Gray, Adrian Gray, Sharon Harper, Quincina Edmonds, D. Lynn Joell, Edita Gauthney, Carmen Brown, Lisa Woodley, Richard Jones, Jr., Carolyn Summers, Karen Ragland, Charlene M. Wiltshire, Calvin Thompson, Dr. Cassandra Ruffin, Joan Hall

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS' NEWS

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.

Young Adults 18–45

Following Sunday service, the young adult fellowship ministry will convene for brunch. Attendees are asked to meet **Renard Golden in front of Anderson Hall** immediately after service.

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return this form (please print) with payment to Alfreda Brockman or the Church Office. You can also order via the church website or scan the QR code below to order and pay for flowers.

- ☐ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar- \$80 each.
☐ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar- \$70 each.
☐ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium- \$60 each.

In memory of _____
In Thanksgiving for _____
Given by _____ Envelope _____ Amount \$ _____

HOW CAN YOU 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.” II Corinthians 9:7

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 to one or all the special requests below.



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 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.