

St. Cyprian's

Episcopal Church

The Voice

News for God's People at St. Cyprian's

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Love Has a Home Here

December was a true celebration of Christmas spirit at St. Cyprian's as the parish gathered with the St. Augustine community on many joyous occasions.

On the 16th, the pews were packed for Lessons and Carols, a traditional program of scripture and music illuminating the Christmas story. Following the service was a trolley ride to see the Nights of Lights. Also, participants enjoyed mingling in the Mission House while feasting on Jim Vande Berg's celebrated chili.

Christmas Eve again brought over 100 to St. Cyprian's for a Festival Eucharist. Soft candlelight and fragrant greens provided a warm atmosphere to celebrate the feast of the Incarnation with music, scripture, and a message of hope from Fr. Ted — hope that God's Incarnated Presence has the power to bring our hurting world into the dawn of a new day.



The power of Jesus to do that shines especially brightly at St. Cyprian's on Friday and Saturday nights this season. The church is a temporary home for the homeless, welcoming St. Augustine's Dining with Dignity to its campus.

This program, in which some 40 groups provide a warm meal for the homeless every night of the year, is displaced from its regular location downtown to accommodate peak-season parking.



With St. Cyprian's leadership and dedicated congregation, it will undoubtedly continue to 'take seriously what Jesus took seriously' and spread the Christmas spirit throughout the coming year.

UPCOMING Events

Tuesday, January 1
Dining with Dignity

Wednesdays at 4:00
Centering Prayer

Tuesday, January 8
Ecumenical Food Pantry

Saturday, January 12
Cyprian Women at 10:30

Tuesday, January 15
Mission Board

Sunday, January 20
MLK, Jr. Day Vespers

Altar Guild



Every week, the women of the Altar Guild care for the details of preparing the altar for Worship and Holy Communion. For Christmas, they used their talents to decorate the church entrances, sanctuary, and altar. Their efforts created a warm, holy atmosphere in the church. Thank you to Tish Taylor, Chris Mason, and Linda Larrimore, who decorated, and to Tish and Barbara Colee, who cleaned and waxed the woodwork on the altar. Other members are Jane Schwab and Anita McDonough.

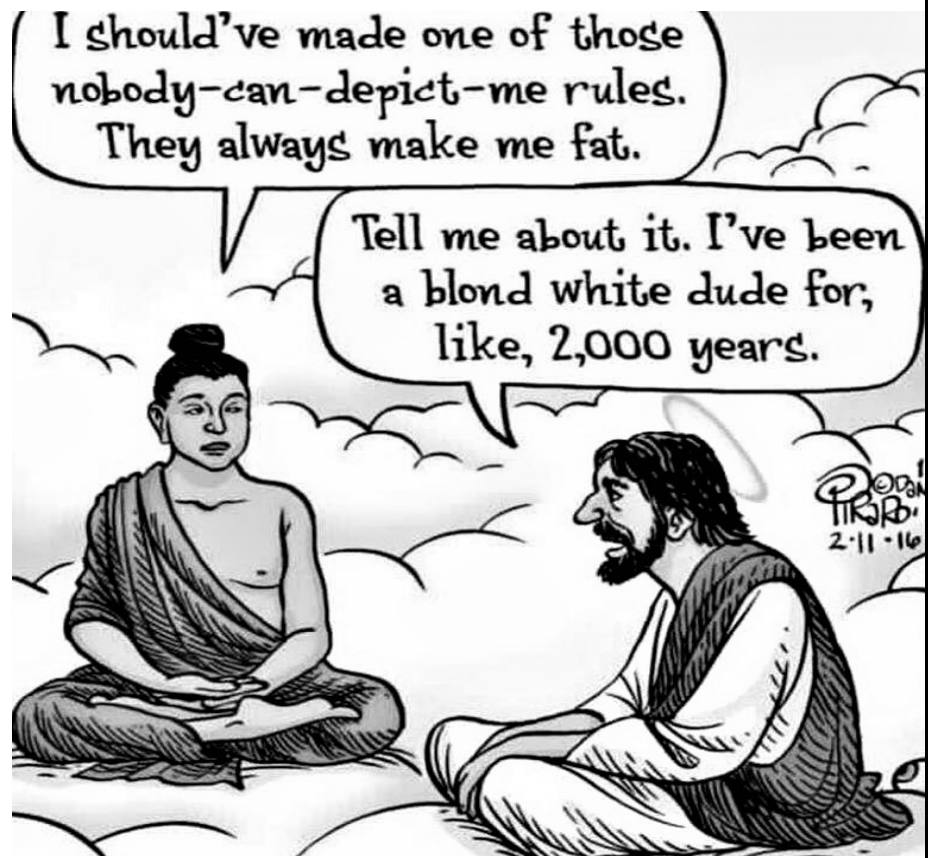
We Need Your Votes

St. Cyprian's made the cut! We were nominated as one of the five best churches in St. Augustine, and now Folio Weekly's very first Best of Saint Augustine voting has started.

You may vote daily - once per day, per category. Voting lasts through midnight on January 11th. Every vote counts and is entered into Folio's \$250 sweepstakes. Get busy. Use all of your email addresses!

Some of our friends are nominated, too. Kathy Vande Berg is nominated as Best Musician in the Entertainment category. Compassionate St. Augustine was nominated as the Best Cause in the Issues category. And Caren Goldman is nominated twice in the People category: Best Community Activist, and Best Social Justice Crusader.

Let's vote! <http://folioweekly.com/saintaugustine/#//>



From the Vicar, by Fr. Ted Voorhees



The Bells of St. Cyprian's

The Bell in the Belfry

Have you noticed that you no longer hear the ringing of the church bell before our worship on Sunday morning? The rope that hangs next to the Baptismal Font snakes its way through the church ceiling into the belfry atop the steep roof of the church. In the belfry the rope winds around a large wheel connected to the bell. When a person pulls on the rope the wheel in the belfry moves causing the bell to hit the clangor hanging inside the bell. At least that is how it is supposed to work. Somehow, a few months ago, the rope came off the wheel ... and it is a long way up to the belfry to put it back on. But, we are working on it, and hope to have it back ringing real soon.

The Bell at the Prelude

During the Church's season of Advent we began our worship with the ringing of a Tibetan singing bowl, followed by the organ Prelude. We started this practice simply because the congregation was very loud in the moments before the service began as people greeted each other, and when Kathy Vande Berg played the Prelude ... an indication that the service was beginning ... it seemed to be a competition between the organ and loud voices. So, we needed a way mark the separation between our friendly time and our worship time ... and the Tibetan singing bowl seems to get people's attention. Now, for a few minutes, members of the congregation have an opportunity to gather their thoughts and offer their private prayers before our communal worship begins with the Opening Acclamation and Response.

If you are looking for a prayer to prepare yourself for worship this is the one that I pray with the Acolyte and Chalcist every Sunday morning in the sacristy:

*Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you, and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people: through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen. (BCP p. 832)*



**FEEDING THE HUNGRY
IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

Year-End Report

St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry is one of St. Cyprian's ongoing outreach ministries. The church supports this important community program through donations of food, money, and time.

The church has a collection basket on Sundays for food items. It accepts monetary donations during the Offering. In addition, a team staffs the food pantry on the second Tuesday of the month.

St. Cyprian's donated 275 items of food in December and, for the year, a grand total of 2,392 items *plus* \$1,324 in cash. Also in 2018, volunteers totaled over 80 hours of time at the food pantry.

To make a monetary donation, write a check to the church with "Food Pantry" in the memo line or go online to <http://stjohnsfoodpantry.org/>. The pantry can purchase 7 pounds of food per dollar donated.

**For information, contact
Mary Lou Woods at
631-525-6875.**

Cyprian Women Share Christmas Reflections

by Pastor Deena

Fourteen women met at the Mission House on December 8 to consider together Christmas memories. As always enriching our lives when we are together, this conversation led to discussion of the relationship between Giving and Receiving. Jesus



gave the disciples an example of the necessity for gracious, indeed grateful, receiving when he washed their feet. We parted with grateful hearts for all we have been given -- both seen and unseen. All ladies are welcome next on January 12 at 10:30.

A Warm Meal on a Cold Night

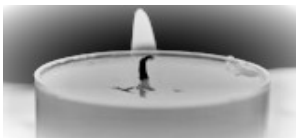
The monthly outing to feed the homeless at Dining with Dignity brings together

many parishioners of St. Cyprian's who always receive more than they give. Food preparation, setup, serving, and cleanup



are all contributed with love. In December, the group served 103 guests, and on New Year's Day, 63. Students and parents from The Pioneer School also join to create a welcome and uplifting gathering. Special thanks to Fr. Ted and coordinators Kate and Tommy Cash. The next outing will be February 5.

Contemplative Moment



Offered by the Centering Prayer Group

Hope fills us with the strength to stay present, to abide in the flow of mercy, no matter what outer storms assail us.

Cynthia Bourgeault, "Mystical Hope"

St. Cyprian's has centering prayer weekly, a labyrinth and prayer wall on the Commons, and occasional Taize services.

Mission Board

Joe Finnegan - Senior Warden
Tommy Cash - Junior Warden
Jody Stowers - Clerk
John Wooldridge - Treasurer
Jim Vande Berg
Tom Lutton
Missy Colee

St. Cyprian's Staff

Holly Horahan
Office Administrator
StCypriansChurch@att.net

Kathleen Vande Berg
Organist & Music Director

Jerry Gilmer
Organist

Pastor Deena Galantowicz
Pastoral Associate

Fr. Ted Voorhees
Vicar

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Contact Us

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