

St. Cyprian's

Episcopal Church

The Voice

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

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Church's Legacy in Lincolnville Continues

St. Cyprian's originated in the 1890s as a place for African-American Episcopalians to worship, and it continues to take seriously its role as a cornerstone of the Lincolnville neighborhood.

Last year the congregation donated a chime in memory of Rev. Peter W. Cassey to the "Let Freedom Ring" public art installation at Riberia Point. Cassey was the first full-time vicar of the church and the first African-American Episcopal priest ordained in the west. His commitment to racial equality was unusual for his time.



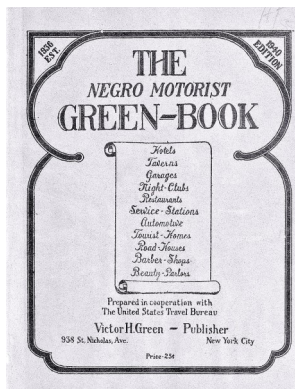
Rev. P.W. Cassey

Another way the church honors its legacy is by hosting monthly "Jazz Vespers" programs in January and February dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month, respectively.

This year's January Vespers welcomed Lonesome Bert and Peacenix singing songs of the Civil Rights movement. February Vespers featured historian David Nolan and vocalist Mama Blue and her jazz trio. Mama Blue rocked the full house with her interactive flair and signature bluesy-soul sound.

Nolan discussed St. Augustine's ties to the recent Academy Award winning movie, *The Green Book*, a list of places in the Jim Crow south where people of color could

travel safely. Nolan has said that two establishments in Lincolnville were consistently mentioned in the book: 83 Bridge Street, and 132 Martin Luther King Avenue (formerly Central Ave.), a deteriorated residence located next to St. Cyprian's Mission House. He stressed the importance of



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UPCOMING Events

Friday, March 1
Sunday, March 3
 First Coast Opera
Tribute to
Marian Anderson

Tuesday, March 5
 Dining with Dignity

Wednesdays at 4:30
 Centering Prayer

Wednesday, March 6
at 5:30
 Ash Wednesday
 Holy Eucharist and
 Imposition of Ashes

Saturday, March 9 at
10:30
 Cyprian Women

Wednesdays: March 13,
March 27, and April 10
1:30—3:00
 Lenten Discussion Series:
Being Mortal
 by Atul Gawande

Sunday, March 17 at
5:30
St. Patrick's Day Vespers
 featuring
 First Coast Highlanders
 Bagpipe and Drum Band

Tuesday, March 19
 Mission Board Meeting

DWD Night a Blessing for All

February 5 was the most recent evening for St. Cyprian's to serve the homeless at Dining with Dignity. The team served 68 meals to 30 hungry guests. Over 20 parishioners donated food. Organizers Kate and Tommy Cash head up the team with devotion and a spirit of joyful love.



Women, children, and anyone in a wheelchair go to the front of the line.

Cyprian Women Share God's Love

The women of St. Cyprian's are thankful to **Babs Lutton** for opening her home on February 9 for a delightful gathering in which they shared their love of God and each other.

The group meets on the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 to noon. All women of the parish are warmly invited.



Church's Legacy in Lincolnville Continues

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preserving remaining Green Book sites and encouraged city officials to focus efforts on the MLK Avenue building, known in 1960s as the H. G. Tye Apartments.

St. Cyprian's also has ties to piano virtuoso Donald Shirley, the main character of the *The Green Book*. According to Vicar Fr. Ted, Shirley's father, Dr. Edwin Shirley, was Vicar of St. Cyprian's during his clerical career and is believed to have been a civil rights activist. Although the church itself was not involved in the movement, members of the parish surely participated behind the scenes.

In early March, St. Cyprian's is the venue for a special musical program paying tribute to celebrated African-American vocalist Marian Anderson, which is being offered by the First Coast Opera (see Upcoming Events). It is an honor for parishioners to participate in the long history of St. Cyprian's as a place of importance in Lincolnville.

From the Pastor, by Rev. Deena Galantowicz



Lenten Reflections

A long time ago I used to dread knowing that Lent had started. All I knew was that, for a very long time, I could not enjoy chocolate. One time it was no more bubble gum. Worse than that was the time my best friend Janet and I each stole a Hershey's Kiss from her grandmother's candy dish that looked like a big egg with a top on it.

Easter seemed to take just forever to arrive, with happy music at church, special food, some extra family at the table and, better than anything, chocolate Easter bunnies and jelly beans in our Easter baskets. Honestly, I don't think I really enjoyed that stolen chocolate from Janet's grandmother's house because it made me kind of afraid of God. After all, if God knew everything, then God knew how bad I was to do that. And then, what about other bad things I did. Or worse, bad things I thought, like how ugly my English teacher was.

Well, as St. Paul would say, "When I was a child, I thought as a child." Now, praise God! I realize what a gift the church's Holy season of Lent is for me. It offers me something so special if I will but accept it. It offers me my own "forty days in the wilderness" to give up anything that would spoil Easter for me. Anything that would keep me from knowing the glorious Easter joy of life lived in the freedom of a resurrected life, unburdened by anything within me that could spoil that.

And so, I embrace Lent now as gifted time to focus on what I really do need to give up. Tough stuff like resentments, doubts

about God, ennui, fear of the future, unforgiveness, pettiness, making the lesser, perhaps easier, choices. In doing so I eagerly await that glorious morning when we all sing together, "Welcome Happy Morning, Age to Age shall say!" And a P.S. —Throughout the forty days, I will be enjoying chocolates!



In the month of February, St. Cyprian's collected 287 items of food for St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry. It took four trips with the big blue wagon to move all donations into the store room.

Tuesday, February 12 was the church's volunteer day for the month. The team served 18 families a total of 28 orders of food. This month's clients appreciated the fresh eggs, lettuce, and peppers and the frozen catfish.

Thanks to all who support the food pantry. To make a monetary donation, write a check to St. Cyprian's with "Food Pantry" in the memo line or go to [http://](http://stjohnsfoodpantry.org/)

stjohnsfoodpantry.org/

Contact: Mary Lou Woods
631-525-6875

St. Patrick's Day Vespers

The First Coast Highlanders Bagpipe and Drum Band will entertain St. Cyprian's community on March 17 at 5:30. The group is the host band for the Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games and Festival. They performed for a large group at St. Cyprian's March Vespers last year to rave reviews.



Dr. Deeh on Museum Panel

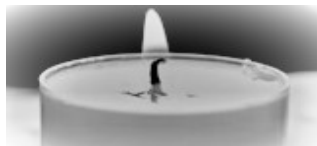


On Sunday, February 17, Dorothy Israel was a guest speaker at the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center's program to celebrate Black History Month. Deeh spoke on her reflections as an African-American living in St. Augustine. Among the guests were many friends from St. Cyprian's Church.

Lenten Book Discussion Series

In *Being Mortal*, bestselling author Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: How can medicine not only improve life but also provide a good end? Join Pastor Deena and Fr. Ted in a discussion of *Being Mortal* on Wednesday, March 13 and 27, and April 10, 1:30-3 p.m. The book can be purchased at Barnes & Noble or on line.

Contemplative Moment



Offered by the Centering Prayer Group

Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy. — Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

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
Melinda Lang Hilsenbeck

St. Cyprian's Staff

Holly Horahan
Office Administrator
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Kathleen Vande Berg
Organist & Music Director

Jerry Gilmer
Organist

Pastor Deena Galantowicz
Pastoral Associate

Fr. Ted Voorhees
Vicar

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