

*We have striven to make
this school a blessings*



In 1867 Bishop William Kip wrote about St. Philip's Academy and Boarding School, with students from Panama to Seattle:

We believe that no greater good can be conferred upon the Colored People of this coast than to establish St. Philip's Academy on a permanent basis.

*Unto your mission be
true*

Make Me a Blessings

Out in the highways and byways of life,
Many are weary and sad,
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,
Marking the sorrowing glad

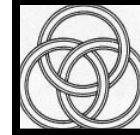
Make me a blessings, make me a blessing,
Out of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray
Make me a blessing to someone today

Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love,
Tell of His power to forgive;
Others will trust Him if only you prove
True, every moment you live.

Give as 'twas given to you in your need.
Love as the Master loved you;
Be to the helpless a helper indeed,
Unto your mission be true.

Ira Wilson
George Schuler
From *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

For more information about the Cassey's
see
Trinity Cathedral
www.trinitysj.org



Trinity Cathedral
San José

PETER WILLIAMS
CASSEY
ANNIE BESENT CASSEY



*Unto your mission be
true*

August 13, 1866

Celebrating the Lives of Holy Pioneers



California State Capitol—San Jose 1849

We commemorate the lives and ministries of a remarkable husband and wife who are the spiritual ancestors to all who strive to honor the dignity of every human being and celebrate the cultural diversity of our communities.

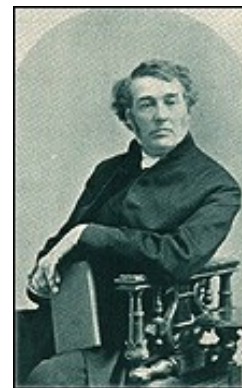
In 1848 the President and Congress wrestled with whether California should enter the Union as a state, permitting slaves or not. The records of 1855 indicate that over 6,500 African Americans were in California, many of them slaves brought by Southern settlers. The first Episcopal priest, founder of Trinity Church, San Francisco included in his household a

woman servant who was bonded to him. Few church records refer to the horrific institution of slavery which included countless Indigenous people.

Peter arrived in San Francisco in 1853, a fourth generation freed African American, a third generation clergyperson and son of Philadelphia abolitionists and educators. He labored in that city to free slaves and moved to San José later that decade where he met and married Annie Besent. Little is known of her life. They organize St. Philip's Mission for Colored People out of Trinity Church, San José, where they were founding members. In that same year (1861) they established an academy and boarding school to educate Black, Latino, and Chinese children forbidden to attend public schools. This congregation was the second church planted in what is now the Diocese of El Camino Real.

Peter was ordained a deacon on August 13, 1866 by Bishop William Kip, first Bishop of California, marking the first ordination of a person of color west of the Mississippi River.

(Bishop Kip)



Peter and Annie's mission and ministry were prophetic, well over a century before their time in acknowledging the dignity of all human beings to be of equal value and importance in the life the community and the church.



Trinity Church c 1865

In later year's Peter wrote:

We have striven to make this mission a blessing.

Peter founded Christ Church, San Francisco in 1871, co-pasturing the two congregations—a three day buggy ride - while Annie held together St. Philip's school until 1875 when she died. By that time universal education in California was enforced.

In 1881 Peter was called to be the first African American priest in North Carolina. Subsequently, he served as rector to three churches in Florida until he died on April 16, 1917 at 86.