



Called to be...The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church is located in Stockton, California. It is located in the Northern Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, which spans the Central Valley of California. The diocese includes 19 worshipping communities, the Cathedral, and the Episcopal Conference Center at Oakhurst (ECCO). We are a diocese of resurrection having spent the last decade involved in litigation, and celebrated our renewal with the Presiding Bishop's Revival in November 2017, when our Bishop, David Rice, was also installed as our Diocesan Bishop. We are a diocese that finds itself exploring the spaces between the ellipses in our visioning statement "Called to be..."

The Community of St. John's...Our Story

When the Missionary District of San Joaquin was formed in 1910, the oldest congregation was St. John the Evangelist. It is also the third Episcopal Church established on the West Coast of the United States. The parish was organized in 1850, at the same time as the City of Stockton. Land was donated to the church (and all of the city's original churches) by Captain Charles M. Weber, the founder of Stockton.

The first brick church in Gothic style was erected in 1857-58, and consecrated by Bishop Kip on June 20, 1858. The stained-glass windows from above the altar in this building now grace the west end of the new church. The windows are thought to be the oldest church stained glass in the San Joaquin Valley. The Vestry authorized the Rector to purchase a melodeon in 1854, and it was moved to the brick church and used until the pipe organ arrived in 1861. This pipe organ forms the core of today's organ, having been expanded several times in the last 150 years. On Easter Sunday, 1887, the Sunday School presented a carved marble Baptismal Font to the church. This font is now in the new church.

The Guild Hall was built 1889 from funds gathered by the Women's Guild and the Sunday School totaling \$9,200, with an additional \$3,100 from the parish. In 1972, the Stockton Cultural Heritage Board declared the Guild Hall a historic city landmark in recognition of its unique Nordic style.

In 1891 the old church was razed. The cornerstone for the new (current) church was laid on April 4, 1892, and the first service held on December 18, 1892, and the first vested choir was organized to sing for this service consisting of 21 boys and 11 men. This building is in the English Norman style. The debt on the building was cleared in six years and the church was consecrated on Easter Sunday 1898. At this time the parish was transferred from the Convocation of San Francisco to the Convocation of San Joaquin.

The church building contained mostly colored glass windows when built, but from that time through the 1990's those windows have slowly been replaced by exquisite stained glass, now numbering 33, with only two small amber glass windows left. Five Coptic Style Icons are located in the South Transept. They are based on the themes of the Gospel readings for the Sundays in Lent, Year A, and were written in 1998.

St. John's is living into *The Jesus Movement* on a daily basis. We are the first congregation in the diocese to be identified specifically as a "mission center" and are excited by the possibilities and challenges that await us. We see the community as an extension of the congregation, and canvassing the neighborhood and making connections is vital to our identity. The HUB (Helping Urban Bicyclists) and the Cooling Center are well known in the Stockton community, and we seek to build on those ministries.

We are a passionate community that cares for each other. All of us have gifts of the Spirit that we wish to share in some way with the congregation and the world. We are looking for a priest who can help to raise up lay leaders, work collaboratively, and encourage us to share our gifts, skills and ministries with each other.



Worship

We offer a Sunday service at 10:30 AM and Wednesday Noonday Prayer at 12:10 PM. Sunday services have traditionally been Holy Eucharist Rite II with music. Currently, our Deacon and lay leaders are offering Morning Prayer on Sundays, and occasionally we have a supply priest on a Sunday.

Lay involvement includes lectors, acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, altar guild, and the organist.

At the beginning of the Lenten season, we offer Ash Wednesday services and as well as “Ashes to Go.” During Holy week we celebrate the Maundy Thursday service which includes washing of the feet, followed by striping of the Altar. We have Good Friday services and an Easter Sunday service.

Preaching

The congregation at St. John’s comes from a variety of backgrounds: from those on the margins to highly educated professionals, from churchd to unchurched, from cradle Episcopalians to those with various religious backgrounds. We are drawn to preaching that offers lived experience in combination with scripture and scholarship. This makes the Gospel alive, inspiring us to reflect on it and apply it in our daily lives.

We appreciate the diversity of voices we have experienced throughout the history of our community, including part-time and non-stipendiary visiting clergy. They give us differing perspectives, pushing us out of our comfort zone.

We seek a priest who will challenge and inspire us.



Staff and Governance

St. John's is closely connected with the diocese for staffing and funding reasons. As such, it is important for the Priest to be able to work in consultation and collaboration not only with the laity and the Deacon of the congregation, but the Bishop's Office, Diocesan Council and the Chancellor. This call is specifically for a Priest-in-Charge as we are classified as a "mission congregation". This call is being financially supported by the diocese for the first year of ministry.

The Bishop's Committee is composed of four lay leaders who are elected to serve by the congregation at the annual meeting in January, and the Bishop must consent to those elections.

Our Bishop's Warden works closely with the Canon to the Ordinary, The Rev. Dr. Anna Carmichael, to address pastoral and administrative needs of the congregation, as well as securing supply priests to celebrate on Sundays and other Holy Days. The Diocesan Administrator, Ms. Ellen Meyer, is currently responsible for the administrative oversight of the congregation.

St. John's in the Community

St. John's is centrally situated in the downtown area of Stockton, a city in urban transition and renewal. Located on the corner of El Dorado and Miner Streets, its current office space is shared with PUENTES, a sustainable farming community. Once a week, the conference room is the meeting place for R.I. (Recovery International), a self-help mental health resource.

St. John's parish hall hosts NA (Narcotics Anonymous) several days a week. The parish hall also has a second story former rectory and classroom spaces that has gone unused for many years, but has the potential for multi-use, including housing and our office spaces; there is no ADA access to this space.



The HUB (Helping Urban Bicyclists) is the central ministry of St. John. Headed by Deacon Stephen Bentley, along with several volunteers, this ministry offers free bicycles and maintenance on a case by case basis. The HUB operates three days a week. Water and popcorn is available for those who drop in. Approximately 100 people are served each week. PUENTES operates a vegetable food stand in front of the HUB on Tuesdays, which sells fresh food in the downtown area.

In the summer of 2017, we hosted our first Summer Cooling Center for our homeless brothers and sisters. People were invited into the parish hall for refreshments and to take a break from the hot temperatures outside. We anticipate hosting the Center again this summer.

St. John's partners with the Downtown Stockton Alliance (DSA) with its Full Moon Bike Ride, Stockton Shelter for the Homeless and the Pride Center. We have also participated in: Earth Day Festival, the Interfaith Seder Dinner, Pride Oscar Night, San Joaquin Bike Coalition, Stockton Bike Club, Stockmarket (an outdoor style arts festival) Art Splash (community arts event), Stockton Speaks (a student action

advocacy group), Cleveland Cares (Brady Campaign), and Western Farm Workers. It is our hope to also partner with Family Promise in the future.



St. John's has hosted vigils and community meetings in its sanctuary and parish hall and has been available to groups in the downtown area for a fee on a case by case basis.

We continue to explore and invite new opportunities to be involved in and around the community. Part of our vision looking forward is that St. Anne's parish will become a partner in mission and ministry with us during the week, and that we will share worshipping opportunities as well.



The City of Stockton

Stockton is a city located in the San Joaquin Valley with a current population of over 300,000. It enjoys a central location that provides easy access to Sacramento (44 miles), San Francisco (81 miles), Monterey Peninsula (100 miles), Lake Tahoe (147 miles), and Yosemite National Park (151 miles). It is comprised of a very diverse population, both culturally and economically. It is home to the University of the Pacific as well as San Joaquin Delta College and is quickly becoming a “commuter community” for the Bay Area because of its lower priced real estate market.

Stockton serves as the seat of San Joaquin County and all of the business of the County takes place just blocks away from St. John’s church. This includes: the San Joaquin County Courthouse and the District Attorney’s Office, Human Services Agency which includes Welfare, Housing, Cal-Works, Foster Care, Medi-Cal, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Refugee Assistance, Aging and Community Services. The City of Stockton Police Department Headquarters as well as City Hall are both located within six to eight blocks of St. John’s.

The new San Joaquin County Courthouse is two blocks away, as is the downtown Stockton Waterfront area with Weber Point Events Center, parklands, and water views, with only a few more blocks to the Stockton Marina – which has access to some 700 miles of delta waterways, and a deep-water channel to San Francisco Bay – and the new 10,000 seat Stockton Arena and 5,000 seat Banner Island Ballpark. Downtown Stockton is thriving and St. John’s is poised to join in the excitement

The main community based non-profit organizations providing services to Stockton’s most needy and underserved population are also located within walking distance of the church. Those include:

St. Mary’s Dining Hall: provides three meals daily, seven days a week to over 700 persons per day. Also provides medical and dental care for uninsured, a hygiene center providing showers and clean clothes, and senior drop-in space.

Stockton Shelter for the Homeless: provides emergency shelter for men, women and families as well as clothing, day shelter, case management, and referral assistance. Serves 343 per day.

Gospel Center Rescue Mission: provides emergency housing, up to thirty days, and is currently pursuing refurbishing a hotel to provide ninety-six additional beds for women and children. Serves eighty-four men and one hundred women and children per day.

Women’s and Youth Center of San Joaquin: provides confidential services and shelters for homeless and runaway youth, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

El Concillio – Council for the Spanish Speaking: provides services for, but not limited to, Spanish speaking individuals in the following areas: family and childhood, wellness, citizenship and immigration, behavioral health and recovery, and senior programs.

Both the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County are prioritizing and supporting redevelopment of downtown Stockton and are currently focused on rebuilding residential housing in the city’s core. The goal is to develop the downtown area and diversify the housing as well as create a place where residents can work, dine, and shop.

The location of St. John’s in the heart of downtown provides great opportunities to collaborate with existing providers of services, and development of missional service. For more information about the city of Stockton, please visit their website: <http://www.stocktongov.com>

The History of San Joaquin

The history of this diocese is one of both Good Friday and the Resurrection. In 1910, the Episcopal Diocese of California, with the consent of General Convention, formed the Missionary District of San Joaquin, which included 14 counties through the Central Valley of California. In 1961, with the approval of General Convention, the Missionary District became the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin.

The diocese became known as one of the more conservative diocese within The Episcopal Church, particularly around issues of the ordination of women and the blessing of same-sex relationships. At the 2007 diocesan convention, a majority of the delegates voted to realign as the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin under the leadership of John-David Schofield. In 2008, Bp. Schofield was deposed by the House of Bishops.

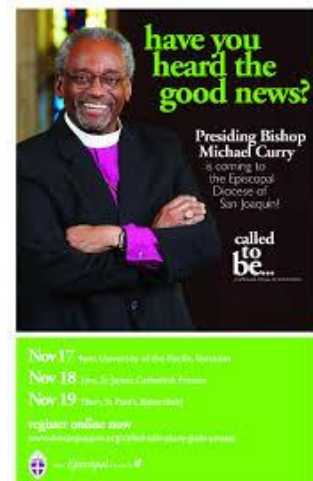
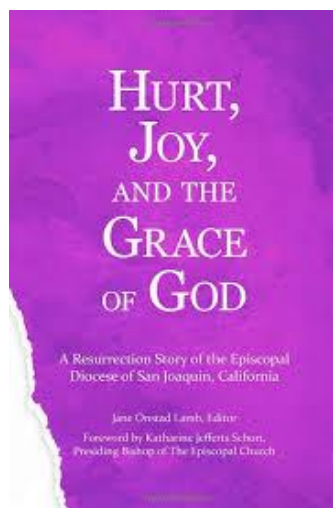
Also in 2008, *Remain Episcopal* (those Episcopalians not aligning with Bp. Schofield), in a special diocesan convention, elected the retired bishop of Northern California, Jerry Lamb, to serve as provisional bishop of the diocese. Executive Council of The Episcopal Church also agreed to offer financial assistance to the reorganizing of the diocese.

In March 2011, Bp. Chester Talton, was seated as the next provisional bishop following Bp. Lamb, and the reorganizing of the diocese (including litigation over properties) continued.

In March 2014, Bp. Talton retired, and Bp. David Rice of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, was called to serve as provisional bishop. In 2017, Bp. Rice was elected as Bishop Diocesan.

In 2016, the Fifth District Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, thus returning 25 church properties, ECCO (the conference center) and St. James Cathedral, to the diocese.

Since that time, the diocese has been engaged in the selling of many of the properties, with the exception of 19 churches, ECCO and the Cathedral. The diocese was also awarded debt-forgiveness in the amount of \$6,000,000 by The Episcopal Church.



St. John's: Who God is calling us to be...

Through a process of discernment and deep listening, we identified our strengths and weaknesses. We believe that God is calling us to be a welcoming, supportive and safe presence in our downtown community. We are one of two Episcopal Churches in Stockton and we are looking for ways to combine/partner with our sister parish, St. Anne's. As an Episcopal community, we welcome everyone across the spectrum of diversity. As one parishioner stated, "Being Called to Be is for me about making a daily decision to serve and love, using Jesus' life and teachings as the ultimate template and gold standard. For me the 'Golden Rule' is always a great 'space' to strive for each day. A beginning, a "modus operandi". We don't have to do it perfectly, but we just do the best we can on any given day, uplifted in the sure knowledge that we are walking on His path, in His will, living His ways, and always, All-Ways, with God's help."

The areas we feel God is calling us to pay attention to are:

- We are hopeful our Priest-in-Charge will support and guide us in continuing our ongoing mission projects (HUB, Cooling Center), but also challenge us to serve more—whether that's a soup kitchen, a thrift store, or a warming center.
- We are hopeful our new Priest-in-Charge will help us identify our gifts and skills, and invite others from the Stockton community and St. Anne's into mission and ministry
- We are hopeful our new Priest-in-Charge will help us further our prayer life through a variety of opportunities: adult groups, guest speakers, and formation. We feel these opportunities are a way for us to deepen our faith and welcome others to community prayer life.
- We are hopeful our new Priest-in-Charge will assist us in determining ways to best utilize our beautiful, historic church and buildings.
- We are hopeful our new Priest-in-Charge will help us grow into a leader of the Northern Deanery. As our community grows in cohesion and leadership, we can expand our community presence.



St. John's...A Calling, a Vision

Bishop Rice and the Diocesan Council believe in the potential of St. John's as a Mission Center in Stockton and the Northern Deanery. As previously noted, St. Anne's is the other Episcopal community in Stockton. St. Anne's is a thriving worshipping community, but because of location, does not have the same visibility in the community as St. John's. It is our dream to have the Priest share liturgical and pastoral responsibility between the two congregations when the clergy person retires from St. Anne's (2020), and encourage and develop mission and ministry opportunities for St. Anne's and St. John's to partner in, using the St. John's facility. Since St. John's is a "Mission Center," the Council has agreed to offer financial support to the congregation for a one-year period, in order to fund a full-time Priest-in-Charge. St. John's will contribute a portion of the stipend for a cleric, while the diocese will support the other portion, as well as medical/dental insurance for one, and pension. After the retirement of the clergy person at St. Anne's, the two congregations will share the financial responsibilities of the clergy person.

It is the hope of the Bishop and Diocesan Council that under the guidance of the new Priest-in-Charge, the two congregations will be partners in all aspects of Christian life.

Who we hope is "Called to be" with us...

Because this call is for an experiment with a developing Mission Center, we're hoping that our new Priest-in-Charge will be:

--Entrepreneurial: have big dreams and big ideas for how we can develop into a Mission Center in the heart of downtown Stockton, a priest who is inspiring, creative, energetic and enthusiastic, as well as having financial management experience

--Bilingual: the Central Valley of California has a large Latino/Hispanic population and we need to be able to communicate with our brothers and sisters

--Collaborative: willing and able to work with our partners like Faith in the Valley, Puentes, St. Anne's and others

--A person of deep and abiding faith: this clergy person will need to be able to navigate the complexities of partnership and change while being rooted in their call from God, and they need to be able to share that faith and love with others

--Loving: someone who respects diversity at all levels be it race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, and socio-economic status