



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

St Matthew's Episcopal Church is located in San Andreas, California

St James Episcopal Church is located in Sonora, California

Located in the Northern Deanery of The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, which spans the Central Valley of California, both congregations are in what is known as “Gold Country”—home of the California gold rush in the mid-nineteenth century. While gold rush fever has died down since the great discovery of 1849 (hence the name “49’ers” for the gold diggers), these small towns have continued to thrive and be a home to those seeking a slightly slower paced life that’s not too far from major cities such as Stockton, San Francisco and Sacramento, while also being a short drive from Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada mountains. It is our hope to call a priest who can serve both communities, who not only feel “Called to be...” followers of Jesus, but also the hands and heart of Jesus at work in the local community.

The diocese includes 19 worshipping communities, St James Cathedral in Fresno, 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 C. Rice, was installed as the fifth Diocesan Bishop. We are a diocese that finds itself exploring the mission and ministry spaces between the ellipses in our visioning prompt “Called to be...”



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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located in San Andreas, a town in Calaveras County, California. San Andreas is one of the foothill communities founded during California's historic Gold Rush and now serves as the county seat. The church serves all areas of the County and is 10 miles north of Angels Camp, and 10 miles east of Valley Springs where many parishioners reside. It is located off historic Highway 49 in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Both San Andreas and Angels Camp relish in the fact that they have inherited the 49er history (no, not the San Francisco 49ers). The original Gold Rush 49ers ran through the oak studded forests surrounding the cities. Their history can be traced through the various historical markers along the highways that point out the location of an "almost" hold-up by Black Bart outside of San Andreas, and another landmark marks the "Mark Twain Cabin" just outside of Angels Camp. While neither landmark is especially remarkable, they do recognize two of the most notable people who lived in the area. One can still take in the "frog jump" at the Calaveras County Fair every May.

For those who enjoy mountain scenery, South Lake Tahoe (102 mi) and Yosemite National Park (115 mi) are easy day trips. Neither San Andreas nor Angels Camp suffers from large snowfalls; however, one can easily travel to one of several ski resorts in the area to Alpine or Nordic ski or just play in the snow. The Bear Valley Ski Resort is 62 miles from San Andreas.

Many dams and lakes in the area provide camping, fishing and water-skiing opportunities for the entire family.

Museums are located in both cities depicting what life was like in the past and are interesting to visit. Old time nostalgia will reappear when walking thru either San Andreas or Angels Camp. While the shops are certainly up to date, the buildings bring back memories of what life in the

towns were like in the “golden days”. The museums are managed by volunteers and provide another avenue for people interested in learning and preserving memories of the past.

A short drive to Jamestown and you can see the Railroad Museum and follow it with a ride on a steam locomotive. Nearby, a stagecoach ride, camping spaces and even a room in a historic hotel can be enjoyed at nearby Columbia State Park near Sonora.

One can stop at any of the various caves in the area, take tours through the limestone caves, rappel several hundred feet down a cave wall, or hang from a zip line over a deep ravine and then pan for gold in the flumes.

If you enjoy the great outdoors and basking in the glory of God’s good creation, this is an ideal location for you!



History of the founding of St Matthew’s

In 1955, Mrs. Betsey Metzger and Mrs. Hersche Allen, launched the birth of our church by inviting friends to a Tea Party. The guests included people that they thought would be interested in forming an Episcopal Church, and they invited the priest from the “Red Church” in Sonora to attend. He agreed to officiate at 5:00 o'clock pm services on Sundays for the fledgling group, which were held in the upstairs of the Murphys Firehouse. The structure has since burned, but at that time it featured an organ, and Betsey became the very first organist! (She admitted that her choices for the hymns were those written in the key of C, so she didn't have to worry about sharps and flats!)

A primary objective of our early founders was to provide Christian education for their children, and this attracted many families to participate. As the group grew, they met in Angels Camp in the Orthodox Church, and Fr. Leonard Dixon would come from Sonora to officiate. However, the facility did not have a separate area for the Church School, so the group moved to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Angels Camp - whose congregation did not use it on Sundays. A donation of land in San Andreas where a new church could be built inspired the group to move to the San Andreas area, and the growing congregation met in the Gardella Mortuary while the new church was under construction. Many interesting stories can be told about Sunday School classes that were held in the back rooms of the mortuary!

In the late 50's, Bishop Sumner Walters arranged to send a seminary student from C.D.S.P. in Berkeley to provide services on Sundays, and one of those students was Fr. Ed Murphy who was a recent graduate. His interests in building the congregation and the physical structure of the church, (he had been an architect prior to going to seminary) created a robust Christian community and the simplistic beauty that is now our beloved church. As the Roman Catholic Church in San Andreas was named St. Andrew's, which was the first choice for a name, Fr. Ed suggested naming our church St. Matthew's, as there was no St. Matthew's church in the Diocese. The building was dedicated in 1962.

During the 60's and 70's St. Matthew's flourished, the community was home to the Calaveras Cement Company and the logging and mining industries were still booming. Although the community has changed since those days, St. Matthew's continues to serve the community and its parishioners as in its earliest days.



St. Matthew's Church School 1957

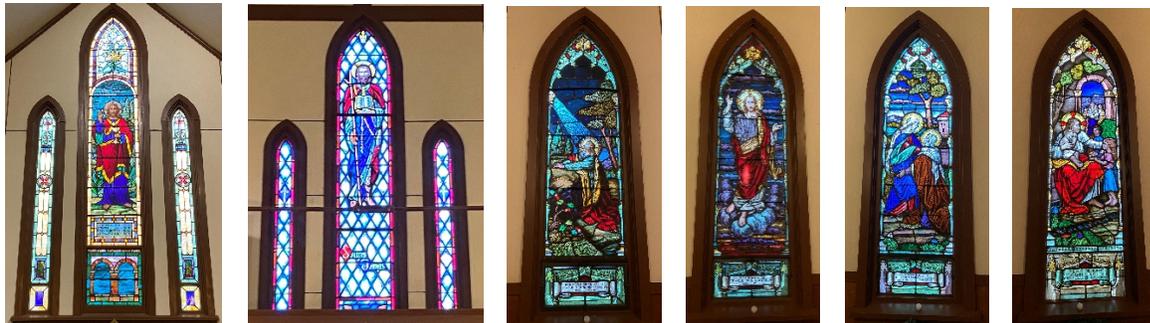
The Community of St James Sonora...Our Story

Sonora, one of the oldest cities in California, was incorporated on May 1, 1851. It lies in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Foothills, in the heart of California's "Gold Country". The city's name comes from the miners from Sonora Mexico who settled the city in 1848. St. James' Episcopal Church was completed in 1860 and sits atop the Bonanza Mine, the largest and most productive gold mine in the area.



The Miners Go to the Red Church stained-glass window is located in the Sacristy.

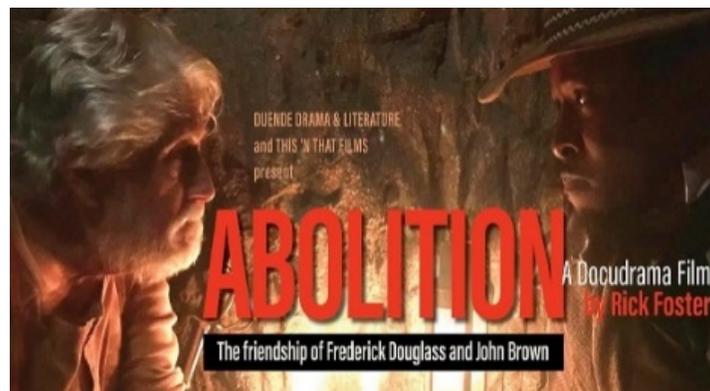
The church sits at a rise on the main street through town and is the icon for the city of Sonora. Tourists from all over the world visiting California's Gold Country make it a point to tour the Red Church. The church building has housed different worship congregations over the years and so because of the commonly used, inexpensive red lead and linseed oil paint it is typically referred to as The Red Church by most locals. Its image has been painted and photographed by artists from all over the world and they document the building's history.



In 1986, Sonora was chosen as one of the first "Main Street" cities in the State of California. Working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the California Main Street program the City Council committed over a quarter of a million dollars in an effort to revitalize

the city's historic downtown while maintaining the rustic charm. Today the historic downtown is the commercial, government and cultural center for Tuolumne County.

The City of Sonora is accessible year-round with four distinct and beautiful seasons, and is conveniently located near Yosemite National Park (120 miles), Lake Tahoe (123 miles), and other regional favorites, including Columbia State Historic Park (3 miles) and Railtown State Historic Park in Jamestown (3 miles). Pinecrest Lake, Lake Don Pedro, New Melones Dam and Lake Tulloch provide water sports and fishing. Dodge Ridge Ski Park, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and Dragoon Gulch Hiking Trail are great for day trips. More ambitious hikers can pick up the Pacific Crest trail which goes through the Sonora Pass.



Sonora is home to the acclaimed Sierra Repertory Theater. In 2017 a local playwright produced in The Red Church a two-man play entitled Abolition. This story of a meeting between Frederick Douglas and John Brown in a small church was perfectly suited to our historic church, and each of nine performances were sold out.

The area has many excellent wineries and two casinos which attract tourists year-round. The hospitality industry provides many excellent restaurants as well.

For more than 25 years St. James has sponsored classical music concerts in the sanctuary of the church. Proceeds from concerts are used to provide music scholarships for children and young people. Although no concerts have been held for over a year due to COVID, the Board continues to meet by ZOOM to be ready to hire artists as soon as possible. We are currently in need of a St. James parishioner to serve as liaison to the Board.

History of Founding of The Red Church

In 1859 Abner Pitts, Caleb Dorsey and Frederick Salter approached Bishop Kipp about establishing an Episcopal Church in Sonora. Land was donated by Mr. Salter and Mr. Pitts. John Gassman, reverend of a group of 15 people meeting in the old courthouse, designed the building which was completed in 1860. The church was consecrated in November 1860. In 1868 the west side of the church was partially destroyed by a fire which started in the hotel across the street. An antique reed organ was donated in 1900, and was used regularly until the installation in 1973 of the Flentrop pipe organ in the choir loft. It was not until 1909 that the Sacristy and Choir Room

was added, and a separate Parish Hall was built which served as residence for the parish priest. In 2004 the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin was added to meet ADA requirements.



1868 fire



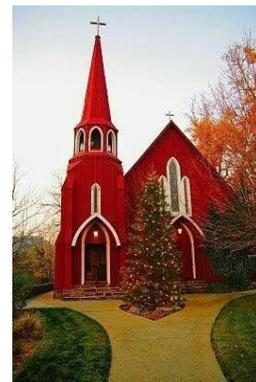
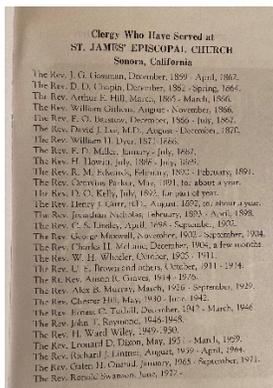
St. Mary Chapel at Easter

Remnants of charred beams were uncovered when the church was reroofed in 2019.

The Episcopal congregation of Sonora was once the center not only of worship but also of social gatherings in the growing town. By 1910 the membership had grown to 93 members.

Modern History

For many years there were two Episcopal churches in Tuolumne County – St. James (The Red Church) and St. Michael and All Angels (The Blue Church) in Standard, CA. Both churches left membership with the Episcopal Church, along with the rest of the Diocese in December 2007. Fr. Martin Risard, retired from St. Michael’s, received permission to establish a new Episcopal church in Tuolumne County in January 2008, and named it St. Mary in the Mountains. Membership came from St. Michael’s, St. James’ and elsewhere. After resolution of a lawsuit over church properties St. James’ became an Episcopal Church again on July 1, 2013. The Anglican congregation moved into The Blue Church and the membership of St. Mary’s moved to St. James’ (The Red Church). St. Michael’s remained Anglican but eventually disbanded and their property was sold.



In a heart-shaped garden in front of the church steps there is an air vent for the mine. Normally this is covered by a large round stone. However, at Christmas the city now uses the air vent as a holder for the city Christmas tree. The lighting of the tree and the ringing of St. James' bell signals the beginning of the annual Holiday Parade on the night after Thanksgiving. This year, in an effort to make the City of Sonora into Christmas Town USA, the city outlined our church in white lights that can be seen for miles around.



The Red Church was added to the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1934. This designation limits any changes to the facility, and repairs and maintenance are expensive. In 2018 an anonymous donor from the town gave \$215,000 to replace the metal roof, and a member of our congregation donated \$25,000 to paint and repair the wooden details on the siding of the church.

Called to be...a worshipping community

Worship at St James

We are a Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created them. We celebrate Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am, using Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer. Before COVID, we also offered Holy Eucharist and the laying on of hands at 11am on Wednesdays; we look forward to resuming this service with our new cleric.

No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!

St. James' congregation enjoys our current priest's eloquent sermons based upon scripture. He is always careful to avoid political or controversial topics, and some parishioners have expressed a need for spiritual discussion and reflection on these topics. Because he attended seminary at Nashotah House, our services are very formal and traditional using only music from the Hymnal 1982. We believe that more familiar hymns and a contemporary approach to preaching would help us put our faith into action and reflect on issues of the day as faithful Episcopalians.

Worship at St Matthew's

We celebrate Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00, using Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer. There is a sung Mass and incense on Holy Days. Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist at mass and laity serves as acolytes and lectors. The Coming of Christ is celebrated early Christmas Eve with Holy Eucharist and singing of Christmas songs. On Christmas morning we celebrate Christ's birth with a sung Mass and Incense. We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday service. Each Friday in Lent we can walk the Stations of the Cross followed with a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This Friday service is followed by a simple soup supper in the parish hall. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with a Procession of Palms. Maundy Thursday service includes the washing of feet followed on the next day with the service for Good Friday. The Great Vigil of Easter is held on the evening of Holy Saturday and on Easter Sunday we celebrate the Glorious resurrection of Jesus. Hymns are selected by our Priest from the 1982 Hymnal. An electronic organ accompanies our congregation as we sadly we have no choir nor musician.

St. Matthew's has a small Columbarium located in the Narthex. We hope to have panels placed on the exterior wall so people can sit, pray, meditate, and remember their loved ones when the church building is closed. Plans are in place to add a labyrinth at an easily accessible location for the enjoyment of our parishioners as well as our neighbors.

Our congregation is primarily composed of senior citizens from all walks of life. We are comfortable with the services in the Book of Common Prayer. We love a Homily connecting Jesus' teachings and the current lessons, especially the gospel, as it relates to our daily lives. In other words, the Priest acts as "Explainer in Chief" who encourages us to consider and understand the teaching of Christ for use in our daily lives.

Prior to the pandemic shutdown we held Sunday school classes for children during the 10:00 AM worship service which were concluded in time for students to join the congregation for the Eucharist. Hopefully with community outreach again we can reestablish this important ministry.



Called to be...the hands and heart of Jesus

St James Sonora

The average household income in Sonora is \$68,806 with a poverty rate of 20.99%. In 2018 the city council roughly estimated only 90-100 people were homeless in Sonora. However, a Point In Time count conducted that summer identified 730 homeless individuals in Tuolumne County. After applying a formula used to account for those typically missed, the number rose to well over 1,000. Aiding this homeless community became the primary Outreach Mission for St. James.

St. James' partners with **New Life Lighthouse Ministries** which meets in St. James' Parish Hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings to provide prayer, hot food, fresh vegetables and staples to the homeless and food insecure. This long-standing partnership is the face of St. James' to many in our community. Because of our elderly congregation, we would not otherwise be able to provide this vital ministry without Lighthouse. In exchange Lighthouse assists the church with cost of additional garbage and utilities.

Our other partner, **Give Someone A Chance (GSAC)**, is a local non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, and advocacy for the homeless in Tuolumne County. In 2018 St. James' secured a grant from the Sonora Area Foundation which allowed us to install water and electricity hookups on a vacant lot owned by the church. We now partner with GSAC to use this area weekly for their mobile shower bus. In addition to providing hot showers, GSAC gives new underwear and toiletries to our homeless community.

St. James' **Backpack Ministry** ended when the church was forced to close during the height of the COVID pandemic. Many food pantries and meal sources throughout the county also closed. Prior to the pandemic we gave out approximately 72 backpacks per year. Donations from our congregation filled them with emergency food, toiletries, socks, gloves and scarves, emergency survival blankets.

During COVID our mission changed. From money donated by the congregation, two of our members purchased canned foods, vegetables and fruit, toiletries, and bottled water and delivered these items directly to the largest homeless camp known as Camp Hope. They had the privilege of getting to know many of the camp residents. Going into the camp was a spiritual experience. We became known as the "Church ladies". That camp was shut down by the city in August 2021.



St. James operates the **Red Church Thrift Store (RCTS)**

This store not only sells furniture, clothing, books and toys at very low cost throughout the year, it also provides clothing and household items at no cost for families who are being assisted by American Red Cross following fires or other disasters. RCTS employs 7 people who would not otherwise be employable. They are extremely loyal and hard-working. The store has become very profitable and for the past year has donated over \$1,000 per month to the church's operating fund. Father Verne now manages the store's finances, but this will need to change in the future.

Facebook Website

One of our younger members hosts a Facebook page for St. James' on which she adds a new post every day. She works a job that prevents her from attending service on Sunday, so this is her ministry.



When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the peoples,
to make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman

This window can be found
in the St. James Church sanctuary.

St Matthews San Andreas

Both AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and NA (Narcotics Anonymous) use our parish hall for meetings each week. We have included here some of the activities and community engagements we participate in annually.

ANNUAL MEETING

**EVERY JANUARY THERE IS A
“STATE OF THE PARISH”
ADDRESS BY OUR PRIEST AND
LEADERS OF VARIOUS
COMMITTEES AND
ELECTION OF VESTRY
MEMBERS AND DELEGATES TO
CONVENTION**



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER MEN ONLY ALLOWED IN THE KITCHEN!



**ST. PAT'S AT ST. MATT'S
CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER
SPRING FUND RAISER & A COMMUNITY FAVORITE**



SUMMER ACTIVITIES – BISHOP'S VISIT






JOIN US!
HOMECOMING
&
OPEN HOUSE
BRUNCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19
Following 10:00 am Service
Meet Rt. Revd. David C. Rice
Diocesan Bishop - Diocese of San Joaquin
ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
414 OAK STREET - SAN ANDREAS
209 754-3878
BRING THE FAMILY!

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS



PETS NEED BLESSINGS TOO!

 SOCIETY OF
SAINT FRANCIS
PROVINCE OF THE AMERICAS





**THE FEAST OF ST.
MATTHEW
PARISH BBQ**



Baptisms & Confirmations

FALL FUNDRAISERS



**SAN ANDREAS FIRE IS HAPPY
TO RECEIVE OUR DONATIONS!**

JOIN US!

**SPAGHETTI
LUNCH & DINNER**
to benefit
**SAN ANDREAS FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10TH
12:00 noon to 7:00 pm
Drop by with a donation and your appetite!
Bring the family!



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
414 OAK STREET SAN ANDREAS
209 754-3878





**PRESENTING CHECK TO
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS DONATION BOXES



Bishop David blessing the solar panels at
St Matthew's



Bishop David blessing the solar panels at
St James

Called to be...stewards of our people and resources

A slightly different approach

St Matthew's San Andreas

There are currently 47 members listed in the church directory without counting dependents. Father John Shumaker (actively retired) presently serves our church as a half-time Rector but will be officially retired in the spring of 2022. There are no other additional paid or volunteer staff at this time, but we would welcome having volunteers trained to assist the priest with administrative duties, or to share those duties with St. James volunteers.

A sizable donation was received by St. Matthew's several years ago from the estate of a deceased parishioner. The majority of those funds are invested and managed by the DFMS (The Episcopal Church) and administered by the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin.

The Vestry is composed of seven elected members who serve staggered terms of three years. The Rector functions as "chair" of the Vestry and creates the agenda for the monthly meetings. The Rector also appoints a senior and a junior warden each January who serve in that position for one year.

St James Sonora

Pre-COVID St. James had an average 45-50 regular Sunday attendees. Today we are averaging 30 regular attendees and we are also live-streaming services so that remote worshippers can celebrate with us. Father Verne Walter (actively retired) presently serves our church as a half-time Priest-in-Charge but will be officially retiring in the spring of 2022. Deacon Amy Larsen also serves our community as well. There are no other additional paid staff, but we do have a few volunteers who offer administrative support to the priest.

With a 2020 population of 4,874, Sonora is currently growing slowly at a rate of 0.10% annually. St. James' aging congregation does not reflect the town's median age of 42 years old, but rather is between 65 to 90. (We describe ourselves as "Elderly But Active".)

Although the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin is 62% Hispanic, 86.95% of Sonorans speak only English. The local Hispanic history is no longer prevalent here. The area has few opportunities for young people other than in the hospitality industry. Of those who leave for college, many don't return. The area is challenged with many low paying jobs. Drug and alcohol addiction is identified as a major contributor to mental illness and homelessness.

Most members of St. James' have college education or higher degrees. We have a couple who worked with CDC for over 26 years in several African countries, an historic architect who assisted with our roof restoration, social workers, nurses, teachers and retired clergy. The church draws current and potential members from several very important sub-groups.

Sadly, we have no children in our congregation. St. James has not been able to attract families with children in the past few years. We compete with several mega-churches that run a large variety of activities for kids. One of our major goals is to revitalize our services in order to attract young members to build the Episcopal church of the future.

“Elderly but Active”: Regular attendees range from 65 to 90 years old. The active members have participated in many rallies in Courthouse Square in support of Black Lives Matter as well as LGBTQ+ rights, and the Annual Aids Walk in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Deacon Carolyn Woodall held Transgender Day of Remembrance services for several years in St. James’ church.



St. James has a number of Friends of St. James who reside in various parts of California but attend St. James 2-3 times per year. These faithful members are some of our most generous financial contributors.

Especially during summer and holiday weekends many tourists stop in to see our historic church and attend services. The church appears in travel guides all over Europe. Prior to COVID St. James’ volunteers provided tours of the historic church in conjunction with Sonora’s Second Saturday Art and Wine nights. We look forward to reopening the tours as many local residents came to learn more about the city icon. We believe these may be potential parishioners.

This call is a yoked ministry position. At St. Matthew’s the cleric will be serving as a part-time Rector, and at St. James as a part-time Priest-in-Charge (classified as a “mission congregation”). Both congregations are eager and curious about what this new arrangement might look like for their shared life together. To help support the financial resources of the congregations to be good stewards of their priest, the diocese is providing a grant for the first five years of ministry with the hopes that the congregations can support their priest going forward.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022 ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

INCOME:

Open Plate	\$1,500.00
Fund Raisers	\$-
Votive Candles	\$90.00
Pledges	\$46,428.00
Investment Income	\$30,500.00
Additional Pledges	\$-
Total Income	\$78,518.00

EXPENSES:

Priest compensation	\$39,000.00
Workers Comp	\$510.00
Liability Insurance	\$5,000.00
Diocese Assessment	\$4,900.00

UTILITIES

A.T.&T.	\$1,300.00
Water	\$900.00
Sewer	\$931.00
PG&E	\$500.00

OFFICE SUPPLIES

PO Box	\$112.00
Postage	\$400.00
Copier	\$1,500.00
Garbage	\$225.00
Misc.	\$300.00

OTHER

Church Expenses Misc.	\$1,000.00
Altar Guild	\$650.00
Janitor	\$3,600.00
Misc. Repairs	\$300.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$61,128.00

Compensation package for the new priest called to serve St James and St Matthews

Stipend (non-negotiable):	\$65,000
Pension (18%):	\$11,700
Health/Dental (clergy only):	\$12,000
½ SECA:	\$4,972.50
Continuing Ed:	\$2,000
Total Package:	\$95,672.50

**The Diocese is contributing \$30,000 towards the compensation package each year for up to five (5) years

**There is also a moving expenses allowance of up to, but not exceeding, \$10,000 (receipts required for reimbursement)

Called to be...holders of history, but not bound by it

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.

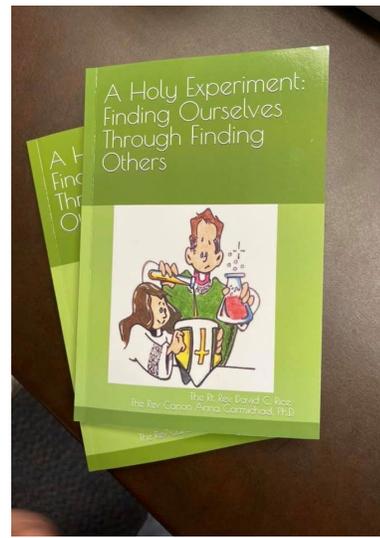
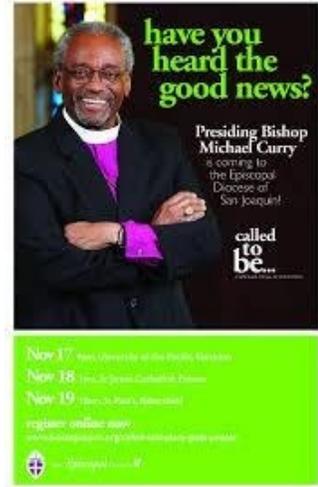
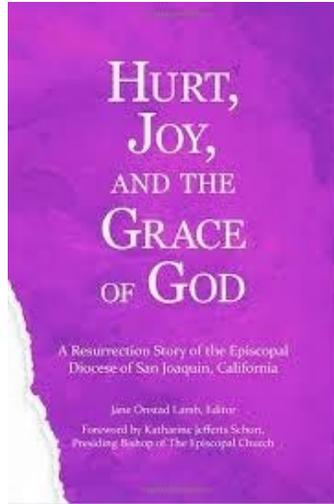
Also in 2008, *Remain Episcopal* (those Episcopalians not aligning with Bp. Schofield), in a special diocesan convention, elected the retired bishop of Northern California, Jerry Lamb, to serve as provisional bishop of the diocese. Executive Council of The Episcopal Church also agreed to offer financial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



Are YOU Called to be...our next priest?

After several months of conversation, listening and deep prayer and reflection, the joint search committee from St James Sonora and St Matthew's San Andreas hope that our next priest will:

- Be eager to provide service and pastoral care to both parishes and be aware of the subtle but definite differences in the two;
- Appeal to young families to grow the church of the future while being pastorally sensitive to aging and dying parishioners;
- Build upon the traditional service and scripture by introducing familiar music and addressing current topics;
- Restore the church's historical and cultural participation in community events;
- Delegate and engage parishioners in stewardship and service to the church.
- Show integrity: honest, creative, transparent, genuine, empathetic and compassionate
- Possess a deep spiritual foundation by leading a spiritual life of prayer, worship and actions of caring and justice.
- Be a model of engaging in prayer, lifelong learning and engaging in the scriptures.
- Empower the congregation to live a Christian life and work collaboratively to involve the community.
- Possess time management skills and know how to balance life among work, family and relaxation.
- Work collaboratively with the Vestry/Bishop's Committee
- Engage with the wider community outside the church.
- Help the congregation realize that change is constant and that we have to be open to change.
- Be able to welcome all people from our diverse society and make them feel they are children of God.
- Show strong leadership skills, knowing their own strengths and weaknesses, train others to become active in the church, find the strengths in others and involve others.
- Possess the ability to listen and manage conflict that will lead to positive resolutions.
- Be flexible with the daily schedule to be able to serve two churches.
- Be patient and give the congregation time to adjust to a new Priest.

We believe that we're Called to be...the continuation of the Gospel narrative and to share our Good News with the Gold Country!