

# **Parish Profile**

**The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour  
Oakland, California**

**July 2009**

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# Parish Profile

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# The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour Oakland, California



## Introduction

**T**he Episcopal Church of Our Saviour (Our Saviour), known as True Sunshine Mission prior to becoming a parish, was founded in 1906 in Oakland, California, after the San Francisco earthquake and fire displaced a large Chinese population from the City of San Francisco. Despite years of challenge, Our Saviour became a parish in 1974. We have monolingual, bilingual, and trilingual members speaking English, Cantonese, and Mandarin respectively.

In the early years, the majority of our members were from the local community. Our Saviour is now a “magnet” church which attracts members that commute 15 or more miles to attend Sunday services with a few members who live within walking distance. Although the majority of our members are Chinese, Our Saviour welcomes everyone. We are an intergenerational family

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church that has a strong sense of family, rich cultural Chinese heritage, and community.

In 1995, Our Saviour was designated as a Jubilee Center with various outreach programs (we are one of two Jubilee Centers in the Diocese of California). We are actively involved at the Diocesan and National levels of the Episcopal Church. As part of our open door ministry, we share our facility with St. Patrick's Korean Episcopal Church and we are considering Area Ministry as proposed by the Diocese.

## **Our Saviour Invites You**

**O**ur Saviour invites all qualified ordained ministers within the Anglican Church (Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion) to apply for the Rector in Charge position. The applicant's Christian view should be consistent with the current progressive thinking of the Diocese/Episcopal Church, yet demonstrate sensitivity that respects diverse views and opinions. The future Rector will represent our Church that has a very long history in the Diocese. The person will be expected to lead the Chinese congregation into the next generation, fully participate in Diocesan, Provincial, and National events, and be a leader in the Oakland Chinatown community that the Church has proudly served in the last 103 years.

## **We seek a rector who will be...**

- **highly motivated**
- **multi-lingual**
- **have diverse experience**
- **good management skills**
- **be easily approachable**
- **demonstrate great pastoral care**
- **a good communicator**
- **a deeply rooted Christ centered person**



## **Our Saviour's Mission Statement**

**S**erve the Church and the local community through contemporary spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and leadership based on the gospel and spirit of Jubilee emphasizing youth and evangelism.

## **Aspirations of the Congregation**

**A** Town Hall meeting was held in March 2009 to gather the opinions and aspirations of the congregation. The focus groups were divided into English, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking members. The following categories are the major themes which arose from the discussion. They represent top priority items for Our Saviour to accomplish in the coming years. The Vestry will be working closely with the Interim and new Rector to achieve desirable outcome of the priority items.

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### **Pastoral Care and Spiritual Guidance**

The congregation in all three language groups desire visitation, bible study for all ages (from Sunday school for children to adult bible study group and/or adult Sunday school), and Christian education regarding service and liturgy. We need to have home visits for those who cannot come to the church and/or provide transportation to those who have no way of getting to the church. There is a great need to deepen our spiritual lives with God and each other by studying the bible, and to learn about the Episcopal Church (liturgy, Book of Common Prayer, Church structure).

### **Congregational Development and Activities**

The congregation in all three groups want youth activities, programs attracting young families and new comers, improving the service/sermon, creative services, and visiting other churches to learn what programs work or not.

### **Serving the Spiritual Community**

The congregation needs a phone tree contact list for community building and improved communication, carpools for picking up people for Sunday service and other activities, a welcoming committee for new and former members, and to clean up the outside and inside of the Church to improve our image. The Church needs to let the neighborhood know that our church is located within the Oakland Chinatown community. The exterior and interior of the church needs to be cleaned up and welcoming. Both doors should be opened during the day so people know that the church and the priest are available and accessible. There should be posters in English and Chinese to promote the church and to let the neighborhood know what kinds of services and activities are offered. The church may broadcast the service and/or have a church bell/music outside to let the community know when services are starting. We should have sign posted to let people know that the Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion. The members want to bring the church to the community by having door-to-door visits to the neighborhood. We want to let the community know what the Episcopal Church is about and how it will benefit their spiritual life.

### **Healthy Finance**

One of the most important aspects for the Church is finance. Our church must have a healthy financial situation; otherwise only limited programs may be implemented in the Church. There should be an ongoing organized effort to sustain the Church under the leadership of the Rector.

### **Community Events**

The Church should have more community events such as forums on important religious or social issues, health issues, music/art/sports (subjects not offered at school), bible study, evangelism/outreach, and activities/fellowship with other churches. It is important to have activities for all age groups who are at different stages of life.

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## **Qualities and Experience Desired in a Priest**

**O**ur Saviour invites all qualified ordained ministers within the Anglican Church<sup>1</sup> (Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion) to apply for the Rector in Charge position. In addition to the minimum qualifications described below, the ideal applicant will be highly motivated, multi-lingual, have diverse experience, good management skills, be easily approachable, demonstrate great pastoral care, a good communicator, and a deeply rooted Christ centered person. The applicant's Christian view should be consistent with the progressive thinking of the Diocese/Episcopal Church, yet demonstrate sensitivity that respects diverse views and opinions. The future Rector will represent our Church that has a very long history in the Diocese. The person will be expected to lead the Chinese congregation into the next generation, fully participate in Diocesan, Provincial, and National events, and be a leader in the Oakland Chinatown community that the Church has proudly served in the last 103 years.

Details of attributes for the ideal candidate (the qualifications and attributes are obtained from the Town Hall meeting data that was attended by Church members):

### **Language**

It is highly desirable that the new rector command both English and Chinese (Cantonese and/or Mandarin) languages. The new rector should have a diverse cultural background that will understand the needs of new immigrants, first generation Chinese Americans as well as those that have already assimilated into the American society. Though the language attributes and diverse cultural backgrounds are desirable, the Search Committee will review and consider all exceptional applicants; in the Church of God, we all speak in one common language.

### **Leadership**

Strong leadership should be demonstrated by the new rector. The leadership skills should be part of the person's personality that possesses self-confidence, the ability to complete a task, lead by example, and the ability to inspire the congregation to achieve objectives. The person with strong leadership attributes should be able to fulfill many of the congregation's desires of hard working, energetic, being able to organize programs and Lay Eucharistic Ministry (LEM), trial and error - not afraid of failure, putting plans into action, evangelism, fund raiser, effective communication with the congregation, Diocese, and other parishes and communities. The new rector should be able to communicate and work well with youth/teenagers/young adult, and has the skill and know how in leadership training to raise a new generation of church leaders of tomorrow. It is expected that the new rector will work closely with a very friendly and accommodating Vestry to achieve the objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Exemptions are granted on a case-by-case basis and are subjected to Search Committee, Vestry, Diocese, and Bishop approval.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is another attribute that was emphasized by the congregation. Prayer, bible study, visitations, and the delivery of the weekly sermon are just some of the minimum expectations expressed by the congregation. The applicant must make a commitment that pastoral care will be one of their ministry priorities. The pastoral care will also be part of the contract and a major factor in the continuous evaluation of the rector by the Vestry.

### **Christian Faith**

The new rector must be able to demonstrate his/her deep-rooted Christian faith by example. It will be part of the prerequisite for any potential applicant for the new rector position. All applicants should be prepared to provide supporting proof (e.g. sermons, published articles, experiences...etc.) for this important attribute.

### **Minimum Qualifications**

The applicant should have the following minimum qualifications to be considered for Our Saviour's Rector:

1. Applicant graduated from an accredited seminary of the Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church.<sup>1</sup>
2. Applicant must be fluent in English language skills.
3. Applicant who is not a U.S. citizen is expected to establish legal residence in the U.S. prior to the permanent contract.
4. Applicant should be eligible for California Driver's License (except for legitimate health or other reasons that prevent the applicant from obtaining a license).
5. Applicant should have minimum computer skills including word processing, spreadsheets, and electronic mail.

All the applicants will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. An ideal candidate does not necessarily have to possess all the attributes as described. Some attributes can be substituted by other qualities that are not included here and can be major factors for consideration. Our Saviour invites all those receiving the calling to apply.

### **Current Mission and Ministry**

Our Saviour is a "magnet" church which attracts members that commute 15 or more miles to attend Sunday services with a few members who live within walking distance. The majority of the members are Chinese. We are an intergenerational family church with the average age of the members being in the sixties. We have monolingual, bilingual, and trilingual members speaking English, Cantonese, and Mandarin respectively. There are different levels of acculturation and social-economic levels. Many of our congregation has been members of our church for over 40-50 years. There are widows, widowers, married, married with teenage

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and adult children, and a few single people. In 2008, seven of our members passed away and there are several members who need pastoral care given to them at their home. There is a strong sense of family, rich cultural Chinese heritage, and community at our church. We serve the Oakland Chinatown community through the Oakland Chinatown Jubilee Community Center programs, but many of the participants and families are not members of our church.

The following programs continue to strengthen our outreach mission to build an atmosphere of fellowship, outreach, and stronger ties to the community. Our Saviour has Sunday Services, Potlucks on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, and Coffee Hour/Knitting Class. St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (Korean Ministry) also shares our facilities. Our Saviour was designated as a Jubilee Center by the national Church Executive Council in 1995 and is one of two Jubilee Centers in the Diocese of California.

### **Sunday Services**

Our regular services include 9:30 am Mandarin service, and a 11:00 am joint English/Cantonese service. During the interim period, The Rev. Canon Michael Hansen conducts the Sunday service at 10:30 am. It is primarily conducted in English with Cantonese and/or Mandarin translation for the lessons and sermons. Hymnals are available in Chinese and English and hymns are sung in both languages at the same time. Members use the Chinese/English Book of Common Prayer. St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (Korean Mission) shares Our Saviour's facilities. Sunday services are conducted by The Rev. Joseph Joo at 9:00 am in Korean with bible study and/or fellowship and food after the service. In addition to Rev. Joo, Our Saviour also has three other non-stipend assistant ministers to help out when needed.



After Sunday Services, there is a tea hour for a social gathering and reflection on the Sunday service. On every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, there is a potluck where the members bring food to share. It is a good opportunity for Our Saviour's congregation to share in fellowship with Chinese food. Periodically, Our Saviour will also have joint services with St. Patrick's congregation and we will have Chinese and Korean potlucks between the two congregations. English, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Korean languages are all spoken during this gathering with God in the midst of us. The Church annually hosts the Easter and Thanksgiving Luncheon. In addition, we celebrate our Church Anniversary, Chinese New Year, and Mid-Autumn Festival by having fund raising dinners or special lunches. The Altar Guild staff, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) group, the Program Committee, and the Vestry provide much of the support for the Sunday Services and the coordination of all the luncheons and dinners.

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### **Oakland Chinatown Jubilee Community Center**

In the spirit of Jubilee, the Oakland Chinatown Jubilee Community Center (OCJCC) was created to supplement the various programs within the Chinatown community by offering affordable educational classes to enhance learning and growth in the younger generation. Since 1997, funded solely by Our Saviour, OCJCC consists of five outreach programs that include an After School Tutorial, Chinese Language School, Art Class, Sunday Tutorial, and a Summer Youth Program. The majority of the children live in the Oakland Chinatown community, they are bilingual (Chinese and English), live with a family with two or more siblings, and have parents who are mainly monolingual (Chinese speaking). The tutorial programs assist the children with homework and offer them a safe place to go after school instead of hanging out in the street. Many of the participants come to OCJCC directly after school and arrive before the tutorial program begins at 3:00 pm. OCJCC offers the participants a place to gather, make new friends, and assistance with academics. Parents are secure that their children are in a safe environment. During Easter, Christmas, and Annual Picnic in summer, OCJCC will host activities for the participants. OCJCC has a very successful program with dedicated church members supporting every aspects of the Center.

### **Coffee Hour/Knitting Class**

This group of Our Saviour's members meets every Friday at 10:30 am for fellowship, food, and coffee/tea. The majority of the participants are retired seniors.

### **After School Tutorial Program**

The tutorial program is for students grades K-6, Monday to Friday, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, from August to June. There is a paid coordinator and several paid tutorial staff. Each semester has approximately 45 to 52 students enrolled. Lincoln Elementary School is across the street from our church where the majority of our after school program students attend. Students are tutored in their homework and/or are given instruction in Reading Language Arts/Math.

### **Summer Program**

The Summer Program is Monday to Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, from June to August (10 weeks). The program is run by the same paid coordinator as the After School Program and has paid tutor/teachers, volunteers, and junior volunteers. The program consists of tutoring/instruction in Reading Language Arts/Math, art, group games/activities, and fieldtrips (e.g. park, beach, Water World, Marine World). The majority of the participants are from the Oakland Chinatown community.



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### **Chinese School Program**

The Chinese School Program occurs on Saturdays from 9:30 am -11:30 am during the school year. The majority of the students come from the Oakland Chinatown community. The goal of the school is to focus on the basic skills of reading, writing and conversation using the Cantonese dialect. The classes are from Pre-kindergarten to 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The teachers are mostly volunteers. We prefer to have small classes so that the teachers can better monitor the students' progress, develop rapport, and good teaching relationships with the students.



### **Art Program**

The Art Program is on Saturday from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. The students range from 4 to 12 years old. Student participants learn various skills from basic drawing to developing advanced knowledge in color and graphics. The majority of the students come from the Oakland Chinatown community. This is the only Chinese School in Chinatown that provides the art program.

### **Others**

The Church has the equipment and facility to conduct small computer classes for the community. However, it is currently not being implemented due to lack of resources. We also participate in the Good Friday Service that is rotated among the different denominational Chinese churches in Oakland. Periodically, we have joint activities with local Episcopal churches in the area.

### **Finances**

**O**ur Saviour currently has 125 communicants in good standing with an average Sunday attendance of 50 people. Our annual budget is separated into three different expense/income budgets plus a reserve investment fund.

The first one is the general operation budget which covers all church related expenses and salaries. It has an annual expense of approximately \$140,000.

The second is the church building budget which includes the rental incomes and most overhead expenses of the building. It has an annual budget of approximately \$95,000.

The third is the Jubilee Community Center budget that covers most of the outreach programs including staff salaries and tuitions. The annual budget is approximately \$80,000.

Due to the decline of membership and the aging of the parishioners, pledges have been slowly

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decreasing. Each year, the general operational budget must borrow a significant amount from the church building budget to cover for expenses that exceed the income. We conduct several fund raising events each year to coincide with major festivals to supplement the income.

The Church compensates the Rector at the appropriate salary range as recommended by the Diocese of California. In addition, the Church complies with the guidelines as recommended by the Clergy Wellness and Mutual Ministry booklet published by the Diocese of California. This includes among other benefits, sabbatical leaves with full pay every five years. However, the Church does not provide a residence for its rector, part of the compensation can be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986 (there is no housing subsidy provided).

## **Building and Facilities**

**O**ur Saviour is located at the corner of Harrison Street and 10th Street in Oakland, California. The property occupies approximately 20,000 square feet and consists of two buildings connected to each other. The Church and the Diocese wholly owns the current property. On one side of the building is the Church chapel that is made of red masonry bricks. It was retrofitted in 1986 to comply with the earthquake building code. The other side of the building consists of the parish hall and the rental tenant (restaurant) on the first floor with additional rental spaces and church offices on the second floor. The basement of the property consists of the restaurant on one side and classrooms underneath the parish hall and the chapel. Both buildings are connected on all floors. The main entrances for both buildings (with the exception of the restaurant) face Harrison Street.



There are currently seven rental spaces on the second floor adjacent to the Church office and utility rooms. The chapel, parish hall, and the classrooms have central air-conditioner whereas the second floor's offices contain individual window air-conditioners. The red masonry bricks in the Chapel keep the temperature relatively constant year round, though the air-conditioner will provide cooling ventilation on those days that are hot and warmth during the cooler winter days. The Chapel and the parish hall are protected by an alarm system and the whole property is equipped with a fire sprinkler system.

The parish hall consists of a small kitchen, two restrooms, long folding tables and chairs for multipurpose use, and the entrance to the classrooms in the basement. The Chapel has pews that can fit 120 people in traditional seating. It has a separate area for the choir and music is performed via the organ or the piano. There is a small area for the Baptismal fountain in the center of the Chapel. The Chapel has both a wire and wireless sound amplification system. In

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the back of the Chapel immediately above the entrance, there is a sound proof multipurpose room that overlooks the Chapel. The room can be entered through the Church office on the second floor and people can observe and participate in the service with privacy.

The Chapel is fully equipped with all the necessary accessories for Eucharistic services. There are two processional crosses, multiple sets of chalice and patens, veils, vestments, and other accessories. All the candles are refillable oil candles. The maintenance of the altar area is done by the Altar Guild staff. The pews have the Chinese/English Book of Common Prayer, Chinese and English Hymn Books, and Chinese Bibles that are available to the parishioners. We also subscribe to “Forward Day by Day” and the Chinese Christian newspaper.

The Church currently employs one part time secretary to assist with the day to day operations and one part time custodian that provides cleaning services for the chapel and parish hall.

## **Congregational History**

In 1905, Deaconess Emma B. Drant from Honolulu, came to San Francisco and opened the True Sunshine Mission for the big Chinese population. As the result of the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906, a great number of the Chinese people fled across the bay to Oakland and in a brief period assembled themselves in a colony of their own camping for awhile on the shore of Lake Merritt.<sup>2</sup> Aware of the opportunity, Deaconess Drant opened the Oakland Mission with her quarters in a small house. In July 1907, she sent to Honolulu for her former teacher and pupil, Ng Gee Ching. Prior to San Francisco, Deaconess Drant learned the Chinese language from Ng Gee Ching, who was very anti-Christian. Gee Ching later began to believe the Gospel and through his prayers to God, he was converted. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Elizabeth’s Church in Honolulu and took the Christian name Daniel.

Three days after Daniel Ng arrived in San Francisco on July 12, 1907, he began teaching in the Mission school. He organized a Chinese afternoon school for Chinese children with the purpose of teaching them their native language and most importantly, to introduce them to the Gospel and the Church.

In 1908, he entered the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Daniel graduated with honors in 1912. Daniel continued to be in charge of both Missions and was ordained a Priest in 1913. Bishop William Nichols was very proud that the first Chinese Episcopal priest belonged to his Diocese. The Rev. Daniel Gee Ching Ng later changed the pronunciation of his family name to Wu. The name Ng was very difficult for non-Chinese persons to pronounce. The Chinese character is written exactly the same. Ng is the Cantonese pronunciation and Wu is the

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<sup>2</sup> Harriet B. Bakewell. Special Jubilee Number, Journal of the House of Churchwomen, 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 1950, Diocese of California, 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the California Branch of the Woman’s Auxiliary to the National Council, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, February 4-6, 1930.

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Mandarin pronunciation.

Father Wu was assisted by an American deacon, The Rev. Thomas J. Williams and a group of volunteer workers. The work on the two sides of the bay was conducted on the same principles, the one being an almost exact counterpart of the other. Both True Sunshine San Francisco and True Sunshine Oakland had their afternoon Chinese schools for children. Each had its English evening school for men taught by the clergy and volunteers; and each had its Saturday sewing school taught by Mrs. Wu, the wife of the priest, and some women volunteers. Father Wu and the deacon, Father Williams, spent much of their time visiting among young men in Chinatown. Mrs. Wu visited among the women. Through the Chinese day schools, the English evening schools, sewing schools, and the visitations, the Missions came into direct contact with more than one hundred individuals every week. All this effort brought many men, women, and children within the influence of the Gospel and the Church.



"Since my ordination to the Priesthood last June there have been regular early celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in the Chinese language at least once a month. Sunday School has been held every Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The attendance is larger than ever before in the history of the Mission. There are about forty enrolled, of whom half are young men, the other half children and young girls...Immediately after Sunday School there is a short service with a sermon by the Priest in Charge. Through the Chinese day school, which meets every afternoon after public school hours, the Mission reaches some twenty-five children of Chinatown. Through the agency of the night school the workers have come into direct personal contact with over fifty Chinese men. These young men could easily have been held and won for the Church had we been able to have a sufficient number of teachers to care for them." *Report of The Rev. Daniel G. C. Ng, True Sunshine Mission, Oakland, Diocese of California, House of Churchwomen, 9th Meeting, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, January 27-29, 1914.*

True Sunshine Mission, Oakland, remained in its little store space on 528 Fifth Street for about a year. It had similar quarters on Sixth and Harrison Streets and on Sixth and Webster Streets. In 1914, a two story old frame building converted from a barn, located on 320 Sixth Street, was purchased where the Mission operated for nearly 30 years. The classes and services grew and the increasing work was hampered by crowded quarters.



In 1941, the Oakland Mission moved into a new building on the corner of Ninth and Madison and has been appropriately designed with a slight Oriental flavor in its architecture. The Rt. Rev. Karl Morgan Block, Bishop of the Diocese of California, was determined to provide adequate quarters for the mission, in spite of the war time restrictions on building materials, he was able to overcome many barriers to

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achieve his purpose and to demonstrate his love for the Chinese people. The new building was named in honor of Miss Grace Lindley, the former executive secretary of the Women's Auxiliary to the National Council. The building became the pride and joy of the Oakland congregation and it rightfully took its place as the community center of the Oakland Chinese community. At the same time, Father Wu retired and The Rev. Wai On Shim became the Priest-In-Charge followed by The Rev. Clarence Lee.

In 1947, The Rev. Stephen S. H. Ko was on his way back to Hong Kong after serving five years in Trinidad when Bishop Block intercepted him to become the Priest-In-Charge, and later the Vicar of the Oakland Mission. The Bishop wanted him to raise funds to build the chapel and vicarage. For land and building, the National Council and the United Thank Offering of the Women's Auxiliary have given \$20,000, the California branch of the Women's Auxiliary has pledged the \$2,500 needed, and the Chinese congregation pledged \$10,000<sup>3</sup> because of the wartime rise in costs, to complete the building. In spite of restrictions on most building materials, good friends of the Chinese in the Diocese have assured that construction will be completed.<sup>4</sup> In 1949, a new chapel and vicarage were built which united the three buildings into a beautiful "U" shaped complex on the green lawn. The first building served as the Parish Hall and School, while the chapel was to its right and the vicarage to its left. All the shrubbery and plants surrounding the buildings had their origin in China. Bishop Block wanted to honor Father Wu for his thirty six years of devotion to the Chinese ministry. The beautiful chapel was built as a tribute to The Rev. Daniel Gee Ching Wu. All three buildings were of Chinese design. In 1949, the vicarage and chapel were consecrated and True Sunshine Oakland was named The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour. Father Stephen Ko also married Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of Father Wu.



"The completion of this chapel and the vicarage serves as a living exhibit of the work of the National Council, the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of California, and the effort of the members of True Sunshine in Oakland. The Mission as she now stands is a symbol and testimony to the Glory of God. We have now in our contribution to this growing community these excellent facilities, designed for devotional, educational, and social endeavors. Truly, the completion marks an important and unusual

milestone for the Mission and we now look forward to an even more accomplished future." *The Rev. Stephen S. H. Ko, Vicar, True Sunshine Mission Tidings, Souvenir Edition, 1949.*

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<sup>3</sup> The Pacific Churchman, Volume 84, Number 6, June 1949.

<sup>4</sup> Loring A. Schuler. Jan Yat Kwong and Ng Gee Ching, The Pacific Churchman, Volume 78, Number 2, February 1942.

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The Rev. Walter Hsi became the Interim Priest and later Vicar in 1961 when Father Ko was called to Hong Kong. On August 22, 1965, after 24 years at the corners of Ninth and Madison, The Rt. Rev. James Pike was at Our Saviour to deconsecrate the chapel and all the buildings were completely demolished due to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) construction in the area. The Church was forced to relocate to rented quarters at 4360 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. The Mission attempted to integrate in a predominantly white neighborhood, but was unsuccessful. Then in 1969, under the leadership of The Rev. Canon James Pun, the Mission congregation reaffirmed its desire to minister to the Chinese people and to return to the Oakland Chinese community.

In June 1970, the Mission returned to the Oakland Chinese community using temporary rental facilities at 1011 Harrison Street. The entire building was purchased by the Mission in December 1971 and The Rev. Victor Wei became the new Vicar and later Rector. On December 6, 1974, the Mission was admitted as a Parish in union at the 125th Diocesan Convention. In January 1985, The Rev. Gordon K. Lau became the new Rector continuing to 2008. With the addition of the masonry building at 1013 Harrison Street, the new chapel was dedicated on February 8, 1986.

In 1995, Our Saviour was designated as a Jubilee Center and the Oakland Chinatown Jubilee Community Center (OCJCC) was established. OCJCC continues the tradition of bringing men, women and children within the influence of the Gospel and the Church by providing them with various educational programs within the Oakland Chinatown community. The programs currently include an After School Program, Art Classes, Chinese Language School, Sunday Tutorial, and a Summer Fun Program with a computer lab in development. The Church's basement was converted into classrooms, a computer lab, and library/study hall to accommodate the growing participation in these various programs. In addition, Our Saviour continues to be active within the Diocese and at the National level with members who have been asked to serve for different committees and elected offices. The Church is also the home parish of the first Chinese female priest in the United States within the Episcopal Church.



With God's grace and love, the Chinese community continues to be served as the forefathers had envisioned a century ago. Thanks be to God!

## **Diocese of California and The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour**

**T**he Episcopal Diocese of California serves a diverse community of faith with 27,000 members forming 85 congregations. Among the congregations, there are 22 missions, including 2 special ministries, in 49 cities and towns. It is organized into six Deaneries –

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Alameda (of which Our Saviour is a member), Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and Southern Alameda, and Peninsula (Peninsula and San Francisco Deaneries report the highest membership and highest average attendance.) The Diocese campus ministries at the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, and San Francisco State University support students as they grow in faith. Stanford's Canterbury group, a combined Episcopal and Lutheran chaplaincy, is in its third year and welcomes all into its worship.

The Diocese of California operates in a distinctive environment, notable for the diversity of its population and the high percentage of people who identify themselves as having no religious affiliation. Besides Our Saviour, True Sunshine Episcopal Church, and the Church of the Incarnation in San Francisco also serve the Chinese speaking congregants. The Diocese has no fewer than 335 priests and 85 vocational deacons serving the churches. The Diocese is also home to the School for Deacons, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and several religious orders.

Our Saviour participates in most of the events in the Diocese. The Church is part of the Alameda Deanery and a member of the Asian Commission for the Diocese of California. The Church also participated in special events such as the Color of Diversity that celebrated different ethnic churches in the Diocese and sends delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention. We also send members to the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) Consultations. Over the years, some of our members have been active participants in the Diocesan, Provincial, and National events and organizations. These include serving as Officers of the Alameda Deanery (including President), member of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, Executive Council Member, Standing Committee of the Diocese, EAM Officers (including Convocation Conveners, EAM Council President), and members of the different Standing Commissions of the National Church...etc. A few of the Church members who received the calling went on to ordained ministry. Our Saviour is the home parish to the first Episcopal Chinese woman priest in the United States. The Church also has a history of actively participating in the education of seminarians and ministers with many different students doing their parish fieldwork at our Church.

Our Saviour has a history of supporting the Diocese during times of need. As part of our open door ministry, we have frequently shared our facility with St. Patrick's Episcopal Korean Church since 1992 and more permanently since November 1998. Currently, Our Saviour is also considering Area Ministry as proposed by the Diocese. Area Ministry is a mission strategy under which the Episcopal Churches in our area may participate in shared missions, expenses, and resources. We believe that when appropriately implemented, it will greatly benefit the Episcopal churches and community around our area.



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## **Description of the Communities Served and the Demographic Projections**

**O**akland is the third-largest city in the San Francisco Bay Area with a population of about 420,000. Oakland is about 15 minutes by car to San Francisco downtown, 45 minutes to the Silicon Valley (San Jose). We are also part of the Pacific Rim and enjoy convenient accessibility to countries in Asia and beyond. San Francisco Bay Area is home to many high technology corporations, well-established universities including University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) and San Francisco (UCSF), Stanford University...etc. UCSF and Stanford University are premier medical research centers in the world. Oakland's population is among the most diverse anywhere, with no one ethnicity as a majority. There are nearly equal percentages of African-Americans, Caucasians, and Latinos, and slightly fewer Asians. The city is populated by both recent immigrants, and those who have been in the country more than 20 years. In many neighborhoods and families, different ethnic groups mix together rather than forming separate enclaves. Oakland attracts many new immigrants from Asian because of the weather and location. Comparing to San Francisco, Oakland is often more sunny and warmer during the days, and cool in the evenings. We have a Mediterranean climate with dry summers and it rains only in the winter and spring. It almost never snows.

Oakland Chinatown is on the peripheral of downtown. The Church is located inside Oakland Chinatown which covers approximately a five square blocks area. Most of the Chinese people living in the surrounding areas are new immigrants from China. Multiple dialects are spoken with the majority being Cantonese and Mandarin (Putong Hua). Our Saviour is directly across the street from Lincoln Elementary School, where the majority of the student population is Asian. A few blocks from the church are Laney Community College, Downtown Oakland, Old Oakland, Jack London Square and Lake Merritt.

The hub of Chinatown is the Pacific Renaissance Plaza, a multi-story residential and commercial complex, which houses a large underground parking garage and features two levels of shops and restaurants. The plaza is also home to the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and the Asian branch of the Oakland Public Library. The plaza has a quiet courtyard, where many of the locals and visitors congregate to meet with friends.

Oakland Chinatown has businesses and residents from countries throughout Asia, including China, Vietnam, Korea, and Japan which makes it more "Pan-Asian" than just "Chinatown". Oakland Chinatown is surrounded by San Francisco to the West, Marin and Napa Valley to the North and San Jose/Silicon Valley to the South.

Oakland Chinatown has a number of religious organizations that are within a few blocks from Our Saviour. These include Oakland Buddhist Church (Japanese, founded 1901), The Light of Buddha, Chinese Congregational Church (1875-1938), Chinese Presbyterian Church (CPC) of Oakland (1878), Chinese Community United Methodist Church (1887), Chinese Independent Baptist Church (1894), Bay Area Chinese Bible Church (BACBC,1956), Church of Jesus Christ

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of Latter-day Saints - Oakland 7th (Chinese) Branch, and the Salvation Army. Oakland Chinatown has easy access to public transportation. In addition to local buses, there are two nearby subway stations (12<sup>th</sup> Street station and Lake Merritt station). Oakland Chinatown is also served by Asian Health Services, Family Bridges, Oakland Chinatown Chambers of Commerce, Wa Sung Community Service Club, and other social services. The fire station is located inside Oakland Chinatown and the Oakland Police Department headquarters is only one block from Chinatown. Courtyard by Marriott recently opened its hotel on the edge of Chinatown, in addition to the Marriott Hotel two blocks away. Oakland Chinatown also enjoys many restaurants (most are Chinese and Vietnamese food) and grocery stores. All the major banks have branches inside Chinatown including Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, HSBC Bank, United Commercial Bank, and others.

The City of Oakland suffers from a high crime rate, but the Oakland Chinatown area is relatively safe. There are very few single-family dwellings within Oakland Chinatown, though several condominiums have recently been added. Most people who work in Oakland downtown and Chinatown commute from nearby cities like Alameda or the suburb areas. From the 2000 Census, Chinatown Household Income: \$14,283, Single Males: 9.6%, Single Females: 8.3%, Median Age: 51, Homes with kids: 17.3%, Average Household Size: 1.952, and Average Commute Time (Minutes): 29.014. Chinatown residents are unique because a larger number did not complete high school, a higher proportion of them are widowed females, and there are a higher percentage of people who work in office and administrative support occupations. It is estimated that there are approximately 60,000 Chinese and other Asians living throughout the city of Oakland.

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