

Church Officers—L. P. Collins, Deacon; J. A. Folger, E. E. Walcott, W. O. Wedgwood, L. P. Collins, and Q. A. Chase, Trustees of Society.

St. John's (Episcopal.)

Location, west side of Grove street, between Seventh and Eighth. Rev. Benjamin Akerly, D. D., Rector; residence, west side of Adeline street, between West Fourteenth and West Sixteenth.

This church had an humble origin when Oakland numbered but few houses, and not over a hundred inhabitants. During the Summer of 1852, two families met and worshiped unitedly until a member of one of the families fell seriously ill, when the services were discontinued.

In August, 1853, Rev. Dr. Ver Mehr, Rector of Grace Church, San Francisco, visited Oakland to aid in the establishment of a church, and with much difficulty a meeting of twelve persons was convened. For various reasons, however, the project was for the time abandoned. Toward the close of the same year, the Rev. Dr. Morgan appeared, and preached a sermon to a small but attentive audience beneath the branches of one of Oakland's shady trees; and so favorable was the impression then made, that it was determined that a covered church of some kind should be procured by the following Sunday, if the reverend gentleman would repeat his visit. A large tent, 25 by 70 feet, was erected, with a cross upon the apex to designate the object of the structure, and a temporary pulpit fitted up. Mr. Morgan, however, was in some manner detained, but a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Mr. Walsworth, who had incidentally visited Oakland, being present in the congregation, was invited to officiate. The same week the tent and appurtenances were sold to the Presbyterians.

In December, 1854, the Right Rev. Bishop Kip celebrated divine service in a room that had been prepared for the purpose. In January, 1855, the missionary, Rev. E. W. Syle arrived, and became acting rector of the embryo parish. The first communion service was celebrated on Sunday, February 4th, when eleven communed with the rector. On March 5th of the same year, the parish was regularly incorporated and trustees elected, but it was not until the 8th of August following that a constitution and by-laws were finally adopted. During the same month a rented room was fitted up as a church, with benches, at a cost of \$150, current expenses being met by collections every Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Syle resigned January, 1856, and from that time lay services were regularly held, Bishop Kip occasionally officiating.

In July, 1856, the Rev. James W. Capen became rector, and continued in charge until 1857, when he resigned.

On March 1st, 1858, the present rector entered upon the discharge of his duties.

A lot was purchased in 1860 for the sum of \$450, and a church edifice erected thereon at a cost of \$2,600, which has since been enlarged twice. The church was consecrated to divine service March 1st, 1860. Number of communicants, June, 1872, one hundred and fifty.