MISSION

To grow God’s church and serve God’s people in our worship, which reflects the richness of the African American culture, and through educational and outreach programs to the community. We welcome all who wish to join us in witness to God’s love, empowerment and mercy.
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

Designed and built in 1890's St Augustine Episcopal church is one of the few examples of Carpenter Gothic listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The History of St. Augustine's is the history of two Oakland Episcopal churches although separated by four blocks. Trinity was predominately white and relatively affluent and St. Augustine's was predominately black and socio-economically diverse. Over the years the neighborhood surrounding each parish changed from single family residential homes to a largely commercial community. In the early 1960s the diocese suggested emerging churches.

In 1910 the Black Episcopalians in the Bay Area formed the nucleus of a mission. St. Augustine's dedicated as a center for service to the community in the 1915. In 1919 St. Augustine's became an organized mission of the Diocese, and in 1920 the new church was dedicated. In 1946 the church became an independent and self-supporting parish, our current church home is a result of that merger which occurred in 1975. The Trinity edifice, built in 1892, was selected as the location and St. Augustine's was elected as the name. The first Rector, John Bakewell donated the land and the first members raised the funds to build this Carpenter Gothic Revival church.

During the 1960's at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the congregation was motivated to expand its Christian witness and decided its ministry should emphasize innovative community involvement. St. Augustine's served as primary meeting place for the Black Panther Party (BPP). In January 1969, members of St. Augustine's along with the BPP initiated the Free Breakfast Program for School Children; the first of its kind in the nation. Today St. Augustine's continues to work for social justice. Our buildings are used by the broader community, including a Korean church, an Ethiopian church, an education academy and AA. We work with Family Alternative Services, a foster care agency that serves the Bay Area; and we have a bi-monthly food distribution program called One Good Meal which serves approximately 80-100 homeless and low-income people a month.

We are a diverse multi-racial congregation of approximately 130 members with a proud Afro-Anglican heritage and history. Our liturgy and music draw from African-American and traditional Anglican sources. On the first Sunday of each month we have a Jazz Mass with the nationally known Stabe Wilson Band. Our parishioners include natives of the San Francisco Bay Area, other regions for the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. We are a welcoming community, open to people of all races, young and old, gay and straight, those who are rich or poor of varying educational levels, suburban or urban.

Church Services each Sunday at 10:00 AM, and we have church school on Sundays and Bible Study every Wednesday at 6:30 PM.