

Church of the Advent, Kenmore

What are some significant moments in the history of your church that have shaped its identity today?

We became fun. We stopped being snooty. We no longer have cliques, divisions and became a family of people that worship together and love and support each other and welcome all into our community.

What makes your church unique in the region and the diocese?

Unique is a strong word. We don't claim to be unique. We do have ministries and worship that set us apart from other parishes. We are the only Episcopal Parish in Kenmore/Tonawanda. We are a small parish that is growing. We don't have a large endowment and we pay our bills every month from giving and fundraising. We have an active and growing Sunday School.



We are increasing in membership, average Sunday attendance and in new missions. We have the only annual mission team from the Diocese to Our Little Roses. We engage in fellowship, worship and mission with other parishes. We have a midweek service that is informal, welcoming and vibrant. We have welcomed new members into our parish through this service and also every week we welcome members of other parishes and denominations to this time of worship and fellowship, who while not members, are a valued part of our parish family.

What are the most vibrant ministries or strengths of your parish today?

Our Little Roses Support. Sunday School, Participation in Youth United in Ministry Hospitality, Multiple Donations Ministries, Sandwich Making for the Cathedral's outreach ministry, Christmas and Easter Outreach, Parish Picnic, Pet Blessing, Family Movie Nights, Partnerships with St. Patrick's Cheektowaga and St. Mark's North Tonawanda

Describe a moment in your community's life when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit moving among you. What made that moment possible?

At a recent vestry meeting we engaged in a potentially divisive conversation, but with open hearts and concern for each other and the world we based our conversation solidly on our Baptismal Covenant. We talked about living in and through our Baptismal Covenant. We came to a unifying resolution to the question of the evening and made plans for how we can continue to move forward in our Baptismal Covenant.

How does your church engage with the local neighborhood, the civic life of your community, or diocesan and/or Episcopal Church-wide initiatives?

We participate in CDRD activities. Our Lenten Souper Suppers are open to the public, without charge. We support Journey's End with furniture collection and delivery. Our Annual Pet Blessing is open to the public through published invitations. Our Advent

Line of Hope is a way for people to stop and find hats, mittens, gloves, and socks from an outdoor line. We are expanding this to a food ministry as well. We support the Cathedral's Garden of Hope. We collect backpacks and school supplies at the beginning of every school year.. They are given to the pastor of a Baptist congregation in Buffalo and distributed to children in need.

What are the hopes and dreams of your congregation for its next chapter?

To become an increasingly visible presence of God's Love for all people in our community. We are looking to engage in more non-denominational collaborations.

