

## St. Paul's, Springville

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

We were formed in 1891 with 16 families. Our current sanctuary opened in 1962 with a Christmas Eve service.

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

We draw parishioners from a wide geographic area. Our clergy leadership comes from a non-stipendiary priest, who has been with our congregation in many different roles since 1971.

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

Our most vibrant ministry is long time involvement with LOVE INC which is a clearing house for people in the south towns area with significant needs. A major need is transportation to hospitals and medical facilities in Buffalo. We pride ourselves in the cooperation between different denominations that makes this ministry so effective.

### **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?**

One Sunday we were made aware that one of our "Christmas Families" (a Mother and 4 children) was unable to find a house in the Springville area that they could afford to rent. It occurred to us that we had a vacant house (our vicarage) that was empty and neglected. The Holy Spirit opened our eyes to a new ministry possibility, and we went forward with housing the family. We continue to this day providing affordable housing for them.

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

We are actively involved with LOVE INC and Springville Ministry Association and meet the needs of many needy folks through these two organizations. We provide hospitality to over 130 people each week who attend various 12 step programs in our church building we are good at that God will help us building.

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

Since 1891 we have weathered many tough times as a congregation unusually loyal to one another. While we have never been a large congregation we have always managed to keep our focus on serving the community, and not worrying about our own survival. God is in charge, and we seek to serve God's people knowing that as long as we're good at that, we'll survive.

