

St. Simon's, Buffalo

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

St. Simon's has always been a church serving its neighborhood but in the 1980's a parishioner started a food pantry out of her home that quickly grew and was moved to our gym serving about a hundred families weekly.

In 2013 we expanded to offer an evening meal once a week and in 2014 plans began for The Genesis Center.

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

In 2014 we walked out in faith to turn an old run-down neighborhood bar into a community space that would serve our neighbors. Clothing their children, feeding anyone who needs a meal 4 days a week, and letting clients shop our food pantry twice a month at The Genesis Center

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

Today we help to keep The Genesis Center Funded and we offer a Wednesday Morning Prayer group each week for those that want or need an alternative spiritual connection.

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?

Two of our youth (who are now adults) invited a classmate to sing with them in the choir for an event. This young lady said, I will sing with you but don't expect me to join the church because I am an atheist. She has since been received into the church and is a current member of our vestry. This moment was made possible because the Holy Spirit moves through our members and we quickly become more than a church, we become family.

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

St. Simon's currently hosts a Day Care in our Education wing, AA or NA groups 5 days a week and a girl scout troop, we regularly support the mission of The Genesis Center. We currently have members serving on the Search and Transition committees.



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

As the only Episcopal Church left in South Buffalo, we are hoping that with the help of the Diocese and the new Bishop we can thrive and grow into a new spirit led future and expand our membership to keep the Episcopal church and The Genesis Center alive in South Buffalo.