Renee McKenzie

DEGREE: MA and PhD, religion
LOCATION: Diamond Street, North Philadelphia

JUST A TYPICAL WEEK: As vicar at the 120-year-old Church of the Advocate, Renee McKenzie, CLA '98, '05, presides over everything from jazz concerts to community meetings and, of course, Sunday service. MORE THAN A CHURCH: This fall a new wellness center will open at the Advocate. A centerpiece: a grand piano donated from the Boyer College of Music and Dance. A FRONT DOOR TO NORTH PHILADELPHIA: As the episcopal chaplain to Temple's Campus Ministry, McKenzie makes sure that students know they are always welcome. The ministry is well known as a center for community building, and students often visit to take part in everything from social, spiritual and cultural conversations to tours of the building. KEYNOTE: When a local undocumented mother of four needed help to prevent forced deportation, McKenzie answered the call. She led supporters in a prayer vigil and offered asylum to the woman and her family behind the walls of the church. —JAZMYN BURTON

QUOTABLE

"The Advocate is more than a church; we’re a social services organization with faith at the heart of what we do."