

Offerstories

Shelter

For years our church has been an important part of the local homeless shelter. I don't know if you've ever experienced it, but something happens to you on the inside when you're surrounded by people who've lost everything. For some it's mental illness, addiction or just losing a job.

John lost his family to drugs.

Allison lived in her car for two months.

Jerry found himself out on the street after serving time.

They have names and faces just like all of us.

I talked to a man last week who said that he'd never have imagined that he'd be where he is today.

Our students went there last week to lead worship. I wish you could have seen the faces of the people in the worship service and I wish you could hear the stories our students told when they got back. It was a powerful, holy time. Through your generosity, our church feeds over 50 people a hot meal once a week. Some of the people who work in the shelter aren't believers, but they are always grateful we're there. I'm so proud we're a church that gives sacrificially, not only to keep this church healthy but to provide for the least of these in our city. And it's all a part of what we do every Sunday at this time.

We love because He first loved us.

And we give because He gave so much! As our ushers come, let's pray ...