



When I think of Harvard Avenue, I think of all the saints that have gone before us, who were examples of generosity of spirit and gifts, Carol Southard, Bill Gilpin, Russ Vanderslice, Nancy Wells, Jim Cobbs, James McFarland and the list goes on.

When I started coming to Harvard Avenue over 15 years ago, I saw members who were wholehearted in the mission of 'Being the Hands and Feet of God'. It wasn't just words but action. This helped me realize the true meaning of the gift of time and talent.

Several years ago I started working with the nonprofit Iron Gate. Iron Gate began in 1978 with one act of kindness. Three men - one of who is our own Keenan Barnard - had a sandwich left over after a meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church. They took that sandwich outside and gave it to a man who was hungry. This started a trend and soon enough word on the street was 'if you are hungry, go to the church with the Iron Gate'. That one act of kindness went from a single sandwich, to a pot of beans on the secretary's desk, to serving over 290,000 meals in 2020.

Iron Gate's mission is simple - we feed the hungry of Tulsa every day. We believe in treating everyone with kindness and respect. We feed the hungry in 3 ways - our community meal, grocery pantry, and kid's pack program. We are able to provide for anyone who comes to us hungry or in need with no questions asked. This has allowed us to respond to the increase in need during the pandemic. Families who had never needed assistance before were having to ask themselves... do I feed my family or pay my mortgage? We believe no family should ever have to ask this question. We are here every day feeding those in need. All because of individuals and congregations like Harvard Avenue.

When I read the scripture for today's offering this is what stayed with me. *We are able to move with Christ knowing we are good and clean in his eyes. Let us be the gift to others that Christ is to us.*

Now More Than Ever our City and neighbors need us.

Let us *Be loved, Believe,* and *Become* together in service.