



Stories of Generosity

One of the greatest habits of Christian faith is generosity! It is not instinctual. We are not born generous. Generosity is learned and cultivated. It is nurtured through our family and church. We discover what it means to be generous as we experience the giving of others, especially the giving of God. Through the One who abounds in generosity, may this be a season in which we all grow in this wonderful habit!



We BELONG to God

Life is short, and Vic and Kathy knew that a long-distance relationship was not drawing them together. So Vic quit his job and moved to Delaware to be near Kathy, and the two got engaged. Finding a church was important and immediately upon entering Red Clay, Vic felt at home when he recognized the sanctuary's similar design to the church he had just left in New Jersey. Red Clay's vibrant Stephen Ministry appealed to Vic, also a Stephen Leader. And, as if according to His plan, that very Sunday, Patrick invited him to a new member kick-off session after the service! Stranger still, Vic met his future colleague Lee, a long-time member, that same day. And Kathy was drawn to the fellowship conversations after each service. Both loved the sermons and the relevance to their lives. They felt committed, and became members in May. Next step: wedding invitations!



One evening Mary drove by the church and saw our sign at the intersection, but the worship time was too small for her to read. So, she drove around the block to read it again! It took a lot of courage, but that Sunday Mary worshipped with us for the first time. It took a lot of courage because it has been twenty years since she visited a congregation. She had left her previous church because she had been blamed and shamed for her divorce. But Red Clay was different, She felt accepted. She felt safe. Mary felt as if she belonged. She joined our church and faithfully worshipped with us until she moved to another state. The power of the gift of belong is truly amazing!



We NURTURE faith in Christ Jesus

Honestly I was a little nervous to go to Camp at the Eastward (CATE) with my youth group, I felt like everyone already knew everyone and I wasn't going to fit in. But as it turned out I couldn't have been more wrong. CATE was amazing. It gives you a week to get away from the outside world. You not only get close to all your current friends but make so many more. These friendships will last past that one week of camp and all the inside jokes will always be funny. Camp is fun, there's no other way to put it. As Pastor Nate later talked about, It's not that we all fit in it's that we all somehow fit together. –RCCPC youth attending camp for the first time



Independence is one of the most valuable skills one can learn in life. Stories, new and old, tell how faith in God has been shown to sustain people throughout their lifetimes. When an opportunity arrives for a child to grow in both independence and faith, a parent rejoices. Thank you to all of the RCCPC team who worked so hard to give our son, Matthew, this experience at Montreat which developed his independence and faith. Matthew had a satisfying retreat with his peers, deepened his relationships with adults in the group, reflected on his spiritual journey, and created a memory to hold onto through the year ahead—until he can attend Montreat again! We greatly appreciate this wonderful opportunity you made available to Matt.

—Cindy and Bob Gamble



We REACH out to others in the power of the Holy Spirit

One thing that specifically stuck out to me was when Enyzah said, "Ms. Em, when you come back, I'm coming with you! My Pop Pop can buy me a ticket!" When I asked what she loved about it, she said, "It's just so peaceful, no sirens, no gun shots, nothin'." When I asked Hasan how he felt about Oklahoma, he said, "its just so free... you can run around anywhere." All in all, the kids loved Oklahoma and I know this trip was different because they continue to ask me when we're going back.....every single day. Thank you so much for allowing us this opportunity with your sponsorship. It is one the kids will not forget! And who knows, we may be heading back this Spring Break! - Emily Kennedy, Urban Promise Camp Hope Director



***R**ed Clay has a long standing, cherished relationship with Friendship House. The men and women that participate in the program, as well as those that support them, are truly heroes. They have made a conscious decision to improve their lives and be held accountable for their actions, under a kind and loving support system. It is with great pleasure that I am able to provide a small service to the women of Epiphany House, and others nearby, with transportation to a local supermarket. These encounters are like visiting with friends with a simple purpose, grocery shopping. I always leave my visits in awe of the strength of character of these women. The obstacles they have to overcome to establish and maintain a traditional lifestyle are substantial. But they walk the path with grace and dignity. I feel privileged to be able to share God's grace in my life in this simple and meaningful way.*
-Kathy Mowczan



We REJOICE in the Good News

Connie loved music. Blessed with a good voice, she loved to sing praises to the Lord. She sang for many years in the church choirs, singing solos and adding her strong voice to the others in the alto section. She even played in the bell choir for many years. When no longer able to participate, she would sit in the sanctuary and you could tell she was still singing with the choir, even if it wasn't loud. Connie wanted the Red Clay congregation to continue to enjoy the music at the church. In her will, Connie stipulated that \$25,000 from her estate was to support the music program at Red Clay. So when she passed, the church bought a portable organ for the transept, a new piano for the choir room, and equipment for youth choirs. The handbell choir bought new storage cases, new mallets and a mallet bag, and a bell tree. Connie's wish came true, and her love of music lives on in worship at Red Clay.



When we established our livestream ministry, we hoped that we could reach out to folks not necessarily connected to Red Clay. That has happened. What we have discovered, however, is that the online service has provided a wonderful way for homebound members to stay connected to our church. "Margaret" is an older member of our congregation who found herself in a rehabilitation facility following surgery. Hers was an extended stay that lasted several months. She said, "I watched the service every week on my iPad. It was just like being here, and it helped me know that I was still a part of what was going on." Even when we are not physically present, God brings us together in worship!