



November 9, 2011

Greetings Friends,

Earlier this fall after a long wait, and much prayer, Waco and Central Texas finally received some much-needed rain. Although the downfall barely put a dent in the drought we have been struggling through, it was enough to brighten spirits and lighten loads, if only for a moment. It was also enough to create one of the more unique moments in the life of University Baptist Church.

The rain brought with it a power outage as people were filing into the sanctuary moments before Sunday morning worship. Our staff and leadership met quickly to develop a plan of action. Those with flashlights were asked to usher people into the sanctuary, which was lit with every candle we could find. Children's programs were cancelled as parents were asked to sit with their kids in the service. The music list was quickly tweaked to include more familiar songs that the congregation could sing from memory.

Cancelling the service never entered our minds, and what could have been a mildly disastrous Sunday morning turned into what many people have expressed as one of the most special moments of worship in their time at UBC. In a room that has seen joy, redemption, contemplation and even tragedy, we sat together and worshipped. There were those who had been at UBC for years and those visiting for the first time. Babies and young children were passed around, as they cried, laughed and danced to the music.

As we sang, we could hear each other's voices. The songs that originated from our community, and those hymns that have given voice to the Church around the world and across the ages mingled together as a statement to who we are—Followers of God on the path of the Risen Christ. There was darkness and there was light in the room. Not surprisingly, the light was greater.

As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, we are reminded of the reasons UBC was formed—To share the light of Christ, the Light of the World, with those who have not found it elsewhere. To provide a place where people can be real and authentic before God and each other.

Unfortunately, we have not been immune to the stressful financial situation our country has experienced recently. Since the majority of our congregation consists of students on very tight budgets, we continue to depend on gifts from friends like you to sustain us throughout the year. Your generosity not only helps us keep the lights on (and candles ready), but also allows us to feed and to provide assistance to those in our neighborhood who are experiencing the stress of difficult economic times. As you reflect on your year and the many ways God has blessed you, please consider a year-end gift to UBC.

Our prayer is that your Holidays are just that—Holy days in which you experience the hope, love, joy and peace that comes from knowing Jesus Christ, the light of the world that continues to shine in the darkness.

Blessings,
UBC Staff and Leadership Team