

# The Goodness



January 2025

The Goodness

Uptown Baptist Church

## Check Yourself

Pastor Nick Kim

Many years ago, a Christian professor named Stuart Blackie at the University of Edinburgh was listening to his students as they presented oral readings. After listening to a few of the students, one young man rose to begin his recitation. After the first few words, the professor stopped him and criticized him because he did not hold the book in his right hand. The student then shifted towards the professor, held up his arm and showed that he didn't have a right hand. The other students watched intently and uncomfortably.

For a moment the professor hesitated. He then made his way to the student, put his arm around him, and with tears streaming from his eyes told the student he didn't know. He asked the student for forgiveness and they became close friends. The professor's apology made a lasting impact on the student, and the professor was able to lead him to Christ. The student said the professor never would have been able to do that if he had not made

the wrong right. The professor could have downplayed what happened. He didn't do that and checked himself. Ever since the fall in the garden, there has been a lot of wrong. As Christians, Christ has forgiven us of our sins, but sometimes we slip and need to do as the professor did and check ourselves.

In January we're going to start off the new year with a series called "Check Yourself." A lot of times we don't have a problem checking someone else. The problem with that is we check someone else and have the background, context, and situation all wrong. We cause more confusion to an already confusing situation. What makes us different from everyone else is that our faith is not just practices. It is a relationship. It is a relationship with an all-knowing, all-loving, faith-perfecting God. There is a place for accountability in the church, but accountability begins with checking yourself and spending time with him.



### Winter Walk on Wilson

The Winter Walk on Wilson invites the businesses up and down Wilson Ave. to open their doors for a festive tour. We opened our doors and welcomed our neighbors and others in. We had music, gave tours, had refreshments and got to know many people, most of whom had not been here before. It was a great evening where we got to share what we're all about which is what Christmas is about.

### Check Yourself

- 1/5 Making Good Decisions
- 1/12 Do You Have Wisdom?
- 1/19 Are You Good or Evil?
- 1/26 The Mind of Christ



[uptownbaptistchurch.com](http://uptownbaptistchurch.com)



January 2025

The Goodness

Uptown Baptist Church

## In His Service



Mary Ellen Jones

A lot of the outreach and ministry that we have done in the high rises in the neighborhood started with Mary Ellen. Her ministry led to partnerships with the buildings and outreach to children. Her decades of service have touched several areas of our church. She met her husband (Pastor Mark) and raised both of her children (Sarah and Matthew) at UBC.

### How did you first come to UBC and When?

I moved to Chicago in 1985, and worked at Weiss Hospital as an RN. I lived in the residents building at Wilson & Claredon. One day I looked out my 13th floor window and saw “Christ Died For Your Sins” down the street. The rest is history.

### When you look back at your service, what is your favorite memory?

After 38 years, it’s hard to pick one memory. One of the things I enjoyed was watching the kids at 920 Lakeside playing in our basketball tournaments or dancing after a Christmas party.

### When you think about UBC, what warms your heart?

I love that we’re still diverse in every way. It’s a picture of heaven. In heaven we will worship and

fellowship together regardless of race, economic, or educational status. It sometimes causes misunderstandings but its worth it.

### What is something that you would like to see happen in the next few years?

I would like to see more young people be interested in serving and worshipping at UBC. I would also like to see if we can improve our response to caring for our planet. This will have a big impact on the poor in the world God has given us.



*Serving hot apple cider during the winter walk has become a new tradition at UBC.*

*Interview by Pastor Mark Jones*

## Annual Children's Christmas Party



On the first Saturday in December, we have our annual Children’s Christmas Party. This is our opportunity to show God’s love and to show what Christmas is really about. We invited over 80 children from our community and showed God’s love. We had a wonderful lunch, had crafts, had games for the children and games for the adults. Prizes were won and everyone had a lot of fun. We then shared the Christmas story. Mary would have a Son and they would give Him, the name “Jesus”. On Christmas morning , we often see gifts under the tree. When Jesus

was made to carry His own cross, He collapsed under the weight. The greatest gift wasn’t under the Christmas tree. It was under the tree that formed the cross of Calvary. The Wisemen brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Commemorating the Wisemen bearing gifts, we passed out gifts to the children. Their smiles lit up the room. We were blessed to be able to bless all these children . Special thanks goes to all who provided gifts for the children making this a special day.



# ubc

Uptown Baptist Church  
1011 W. Wilson Ave. Chicago, IL 60640  
[www.uptownbaptistchurch.com](http://www.uptownbaptistchurch.com)