



In This Issue

Where are You?

Getting to know Smitty better

Breaker Rock Beach

August Message Series Where Are You?

- 8/4 Seen & Hide
- 8/11 Road Block
- 8/18 Who is Good?
- 8/25 The Road to Life

What's Happening at UBC

Backpack Drive



Our annual backpack drive is underway. We have received a lot of backpacks that were donated to us. Please help us to fill them with school supplies.

Baptism at the Lake & Church Picnic

August 17, 2024

Montrose Beach
(at the end of Wilson Ave.)



Where are You?

Pastor Nick Kim

After getting to know God, putting first things first, and then to avoid drifting away, we should ask ourselves a question. Where are we at?

If you have ever been in a relationship where your love was taken for granted, you know how bad that feels. You poured yourself into someone's life and they used you for whatever they wanted and didn't put anything back into the relationship. The thing is a lot of us do that with God. In the midst of the blessing we're thanking Him. We're praising Him. We're worshiping with all our heart. When the first sign of trouble comes we're no longer putting Him first and we drift away.

Where are you? Where are you in your faith and walk with Christ? Are you close to Him in the midst of the blessings and the storms? Our God desires a deep loving relationship with us? He wants for us to look to Him in the blessings and really depend on Him in the storms. At the same time, He is patient. He is waiting for us to receive His mercy, grace, and His love. This month we will be exploring this question and digging deep to understand where we're at. It's a question that each of us need to ask ourselves. It's a question that each of us should regularly ask ourselves. Hopefully, you will be able to say I am closer to Him.



In His Service
Glatha Smith



Smitty is a deacon, an usher, and vital to our prayer lines and men's ministry. On Sunday mornings when entering from Wilson Ave., he is often the first person you see as you go to your class. He is a veteran and former Chicago police officer who faithfully served his country and city. Now he is faithfully serving the Lord. Let's get to know Smitty a little better.

How did you first come to know the Lord?

In 2008, my mother died. That really woke me up and I knew I needed the Lord.

What brought you to UBC?

I visited a church and I wasn't comfortable. I came to UBC, and saw guys wearing shorts and dressed comfortably. I don't like wearing suits and thought this might be the church for me.

The picture above was the first time many of us saw Smitty in a suit. A definite Kodak moment.

COVID was an uncertain time in the world and even the church. When we think back to that time, we remember you standing guard with sanitizer, cleaning the bathrooms, wanting to keep everyone safe. What made you want to do that?

I got Covid three times and didn't want that for anyone else.

What do you hope to see with the ministry of UBC in the future?

I hope to see us reach more young people. We need to see young people in the church.

Breaker Rock Beach

By Pastor Joshua Yoak

Children are taught a lot of things these days that just aren't true. They live in a world of shifting sands and that is what this year's Vacation Bible School theme addressed. Children were taught that God's truth never changes. What is that truth? Everyone needs Jesus. We brought children inside the walls of our church and transported them to the rocky shores of the Pacific Northwest to Breaker Rock Beach.

A successful VBS depends on a successful team. A successful team rallies around strong directors. We couldn't have been more blessed with Lynn Morris and Darnice White directing this year's VBS. I was a little worried with them singing the Pointer Sisters on Sunday morning instead of those VBS songs we can't get out of our heads. They were "so excited" though. When the time came, we were all singing and dancing or at least trying to dance. Over 50 volunteers served and made this our best VBS yet. Freshwater Community Church from Wadsworth, OH led our worship rallies every night. The closing rally on Friday night isn't one we will soon forget.

In all three years that we have done VBS, we have had children from shelters. There is a lot of uncertainty in their lives with their families are going through hard times. To be able to sew into their lives at this vulnerable time is an awesome responsibility. When I watch the videos, I see pure joy. You can watch the video of this awesome week at www.youtube.com/@UptownBapChurch. Next year's theme is "Magnified" - Discovering the Bigness of God In The Smallest of Things.



Lynn and Darnice at national VBS event in Nashville, this past January.



Uptown Baptist Church
1011 W. Wilson Ave. Chicago, IL 60640
www.ubcreal.org



Like and Subscribe Today
youtube.com/@UptownBapChurch