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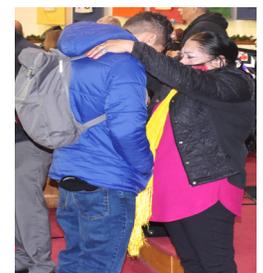
Celebrating the wedding of Andres and Mary was a highlight of 2023. Their wedding received over 900 views on our youtube channel. They ended the year serving together at our Children's Christmas party and officially becoming members of UBC. May God continue to bless them and bless their service to Him.

From A Good Year into The New Year Pastor Nick Kim

2023 was a good year. When some of you hear good year you might be thinking about tires, and that is appropriate because God is taking us places. In 2023, we joined Him in His work and we are humbled that He is using us in what He wants to do.

At the beginning of the year, we were excited when we were seeing over 100 people at our Wednesday morning service. The Lord brought together a team that was seeking His direction for the ministry. By the end of the year we had over 600 which included the ministry to our Spanish speaking friends. We had our second year of Vacation Bible School and were able to minister to more kids and parents, and saw a few of them get baptized. At the end of the year we held our second annual Christmas party for children and their families sharing what Christmas really means.

In 2024, we're not going to put our foot on the brakes. We know that God has more in store. The Monday Night Meal has been a part of our ministry for decades. God is now moving us towards feeding more. We added Wednesdays and Thursdays. In 2024 we are looking to feed five days per week. We are a little church but we have a big God. We're already preparing for the third year of VBS and looking to do additional community outreach. We're also planning on doing more fellowship like movie nights and other gatherings. 2023 was a good year, but we're looking forward to even greater things in the new year.



In His Service
Maria Cervantes



Our feeding ministry blesses hundreds of people each week. This ministry isn't easy and involves a lot of volunteers. It also takes strong leaders and we thank God for sending leaders like Maria and Brandon. We want to get to know Maria a little better.

How did the Lord bring you to UBC?

I had my eye on UBC for some time. When my mother started attending on Wednesday mornings, I started coming too. After that, I started serving and attending on Sunday mornings.

What do you get out of serving with the meal ministry?

I love to give. I was always like that as a child. When I served in the meal ministry before, I made the food but never stayed. Staying with the people when we feed them is the best part.

How has the Lord made a difference in your life?

In every way. I see life so differently. I changed so many things in my life. I changed the clothes I wear, the words I speak, and even the people I hang out with. The Lord made a difference with everything.

What would you like to see the Lord do in 2024?

I'd like to see the homeless being fed 5-6 days a week.

What is the best thing the Lord has done in your life in the past year?

The Lord has opened my eyes and helped me see what's really out there. The lust for money and things didn't satisfy. I see now what's really important.

Interview by Pastor Mark Jones



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What Christmas is All About
Joshua Yoak

The Winter Walk on Wilson gets people out and about as they visit the different businesses and organizations up and down Wilson Ave. Stops included a bistro, coffee shop, doughnut spot, pub, a taproom, a tavern, and a cafe. There was also an art gallery, different non-profit centers, and a hair salon. Stop 21 on the event map was Uptown Baptist Church. Our neighbors were greeted by caroling and some even joined in. Elder Doug, Mindy, and others gave tours while Mary Ellen served much needed hot apple cider. We opened our doors and had people walk through that we might not ever see on a Sunday morning. Pastor Nick had many conversations about the ministry we do in the community and several people expressed interest in volunteering.

The next day we hosted our 2nd annual Children's Christmas Party. We had over 100 kids from our community join our UBC Children. We served a great meal. We had crafts for the kids. Elder Doug and Andres led games for the kids while Lynn led games for the adults. We came back and shared the Christmas story and even had Andres share in Spanish. We shared that the gifts that they received that day might not mean as much as they did right then a year from now, but there is a gift that lasts forever. That is the gift that only comes through Jesus Christ. Just as the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we had gifts for the kids. Ji, Wendy, Lynn, and Rebecca passed out the gifts. There are many businesses, charities, and other organizations that celebrate Christmas. The first weekend in December we were able to share what Christmas is all about. We shared about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

