



September 3, 2010

Dear Friends,

Every Sunday we gather at University Presbyterian under the graceful branches of our beloved oak with some of the most faithful, committed, creative, intelligent, and, well...fun people in Baton Rouge! Every Sunday we worship in one of the loveliest sanctuaries in the city. Every Sunday we bask in the light of Christ as we study God's Word and re-ground ourselves in the faith that shapes all of life. We are richly blessed. We have been since the beginning. Every Sunday, because of our gathering and the amazing heritage of faith that is ours, we are poised to make, for our day, an offering of energy, imagination, and love as we share God's welcome and grace, God's justice and mercy, just as those who went before us did. We do it through all sorts of ministries throughout the city but notably on this particular corner of State and Dalrymple.

In recent years, as you know, we've noticed some things about our physical presence on this corner. We've noticed that not everyone we welcome with open arms can get around our buildings or find their way to the sanctuary. We've noticed that with more members, visitors, and community groups responding to our welcome we need more flexible space for meeting, learning, and gathering. We've noticed, of course, that the ceiling in the sanctuary needs replacing. We've noticed that our beautiful building, a heritage of faith and commitment, is no longer as effective a place to fulfill our mission as we are called to provide) and that we want to pass on to the next generations.

On **Sunday, September 12th** we will gather and worship as always. We will gather offering ourselves to the work of Christ as always. But on that day our response in gratitude will begin to take on a new shape. On that day we will begin the next phase of faith and life for UPC as we **kick off our Capital Campaign: "Rooted in Faith, Responding in Gratitude."** After the 11:00am service we will gather over a potluck lunch to hear about the campaign fundraising process and from our architects who will share preliminary drawings of the vision for our buildings that has taken shape among us. It is a vision that creatively addresses the needs of today but still has room for your input and for what God might be calling us toward in the future!

On each new day, the community at UPC has responded with gratitude for our roots in faith and with prayerful vision for the future. Today is no different. Today and in the years to come much will be asked of all of us, to whom much has been given. Won't you join us as we take this next step in continuing to grow in the service, commitment, faith, and welcome that is our heritage on this, our corner of State and Dalrymple?

With our prayers,

Rev. Patti Snyder, Sr. Pastor

Jerry Trahan, Chairperson of the Capital Campaign

Herman Rowlett, Chairperson of the Campaign Fundraising Committee