

Transcript of Video Message from Rev. Chris Tuttle

Friends of Faith, what a gift you were. And what a gift you continue to be to our family.

I remember so, with such deep fondness our time together there. I remember you all helping us move into the house down on Auburndale. And Russ Hudson showed up and mowed the lawn. And Graham Pope was down the street planting shrubs around the labyrinth.

And I remember meeting some of you all who were so gracious. But also who were a little anxious back then in 2003. Some younger members had left and some questions lingered.

But I also met a community of faith, of folks, full of love and full of hope. And we served meals at Urban Ministries together. And we hung out and we had snacks and we baptized babies, and good people got married. We took a trip, a mission trip, down to New Orleans to muck out homes after Hurricane Katrina.

We collected food, and read books and welcomed neighbors and fried fish and celebrated 50 years and cared for each other in extraordinary ways.

You all loved our family. You were and remain such gifts to us. Dear Ella Brooks who you all welcomed and made blankets and quilts for her that we still have. And made promises at her baptism that have carried her into middle school which she begins this year. With Heath, as he was born the morning of a snow storm and then there was a funeral at the church that afternoon.

And the ways you cared for us not too many months later as the call to Durham came. As you loved us, as Heath got sick, as Bonnie Maready came and sat with my momma in the packers while we were in the hospital at UNC. As you came to Duke and visited, as your care for us extended even as we were moving here.

You are, you all are, a people full of hope and full of love. I'm **grateful to God** for the gift of an extraordinary 60 years.