

DECEMBER 2021

SPECIAL EDITION

# Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood  
Chicago, IL 60640

## Growing, Sharing, Serving: 2021 at NSBC

Even as the pandemic continues to linger, NSBC has continued growing and adapting our ministries in order to serve as God's hands and feet, both here in Chicago and around the world. In this year-end edition of Steeple Stories, we highlight some of the ways we have shared holy love in solidarity, service, and support. You can also find some ways that you can minister alongside fellow church members to the broader community in this month of December.

## Youth Update



Youth Trip to Waterfall Glen State Park

Despite the challenges the pandemic presented for in-person gatherings, the youth have been able to have several successful, creative gatherings this year! In June, we took a trip to Six Flags. With the help of **Dave Howser, Yvette Boles, Tillary Blackman, and Mary and Dennis Ray** (my parents), we camped in tents overnight at Warren Dunes in early August and hiked the dunes. On a very windy Friday night in September, we

gathered in the church courtyard for an outdoor movie night (thanks to Pastor Michael and Bobby for their creative work securing the screen in place!). We hiked through Waterfall Glen State Park in October and heard stories from the Bible about creating stone memorials to mark sacred events. As November grew chilly and rainy, we absorbed the warm comfort of nature by visiting the Garfield Park Conservatory. ~Pastor Kathryn

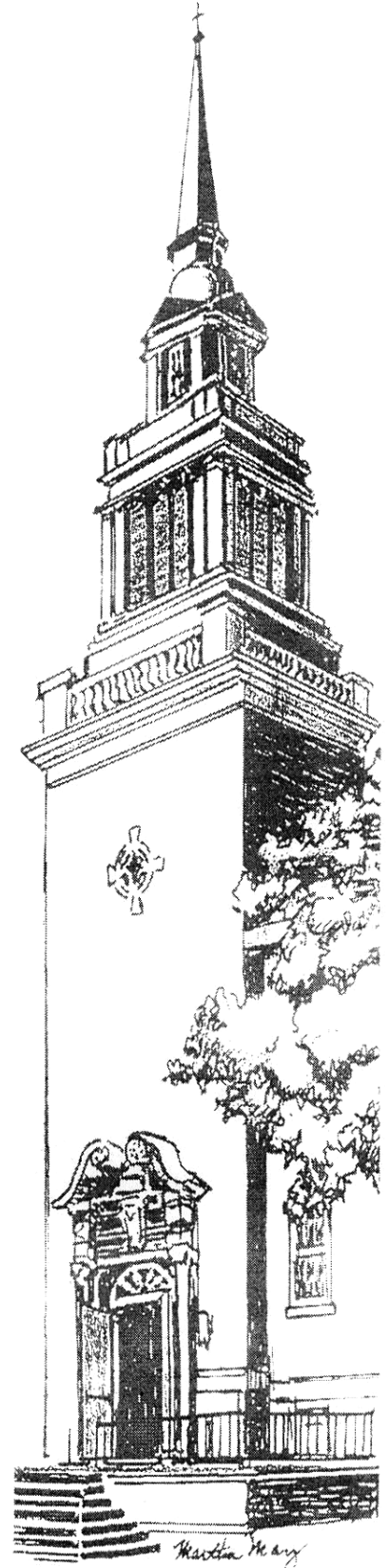
## 2021 Scholarship Program Recipients

The NSBC Scholarship was established through donations by a variety of church members over the years, including Bill and Emy Kosmas, Edith Leet, and James Hardy. A committee appointed by Educational Ministry makes the awards each year.

**Paw Say Ku** received a \$1,000 Susan J. Kosmas Scholarship. She is completing the Clinical Mental Health Program at Adler University. She plans to become a counselor focusing on working with youth of color in one-on-one and group settings.

**Eh Wah** received a \$1,000 Stephen Coats Scholarship. She is in her first year at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and hopes to become a nurse and serve as a role model for younger children aspiring to go to college.

**Paw Dah** received a \$1,000 NSBC Scholarship. She is in her first year at the



University of Illinois at Chicago, where she is pursuing a lifelong dream of becoming a nurse.

**Hel Ku Paw** received a \$1,000 Hardy Family Scholarship. She in her first year at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she studies aviation, setting an example as the oldest of her siblings and the first to go to college.

**Cameron Feiler** received a \$1,000 NSBC Scholarship. After completing undergraduate work at Eckerd College, he now studies Landscape Archaeology at the National University of Ireland in Galway.

**Eh Nay Moo** received a \$1,000 NSBC Scholarship. He is in his first year at Truman College, studying auto mechanics. He hopes one day to return to Karen State to help his people.

## 2021 Wilbur Warner Grant Recipients

*The Wilbur Warner Grant is a special fund established by the church, funded through our endowment, which provides grants to local non-profits and ministries around the world. The Grant Committee— **Cheryl Johnson, Adriana Silva, Naw Lei Pwe, and Pastor Kathryn**— made the following awards in 2021.*

**The United Church of Rogers Park** received \$5,000 to replace windows that had become a safety hazard.

**Mecklenburg's Metropolitan Interfaith Network** received \$2,500 for their "In Our Own Back Yard" leadership camp, a unique interfaith experience for high school students that brings youth together from different faiths, races and socioeconomic backgrounds to learn more about each other's faith traditions and to serve Mecklenburg County residents in need.

**Christian Missionary Fellowship International** received \$3,000 to purchase and build a hydroponics system for sustainable agriculture at the Discipleship Training Institute to provide nutrient-rich food to the local community in Namikango, Malawi.

**Arise Chicago** received \$5,000 to update their communication system, establishing an impactful text messaging service to communicate with clients and members. Arise Chicago trains, organizes and develops the leadership of low-wage, primarily immigrant workers to take action and improve their workplaces.

**The Dr. Jorge Masa International School** in the Philippines received \$3,000 to install a deep well/pressurized potable drinking water system.

**Heartland Health Centers** received \$5,000 to buy books for approximately 1,000 low-income children ages 6 months to 5 years old who visit HHC-Wilson for regular pediatric primary care.

**QC Family Tree** received \$4,000 to create an artist-in residence showcase to highlight the work of local artists from underrepresented backgrounds. QC Family Tree uses cultural organizing to build community for the common good.

**Sarah's Circle** received \$5,000 to frost the windows of their residential areas. Sarah's Circle provides a full continuum of services for women, including housing, life necessities, and supportive services to help them permanently end their homelessness.

**The Southside Center of Hope** received \$3,000 to purchase a washer and dryer. The mission of Southside Center of Hope is to provide a safe and healing environment for homeless women and children to recover from substance abuse addiction, trauma, and mental illness

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### Sunday, November 19 at 11:00 am.

## Congregational Meeting



**Attention NSBC Members!** We will meet to vote on the 2022 Budget and a mid-year committee appointment on The meeting will take place in the sanctuary. You can also participate via Zoom at the following link:

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/96428740891>

Meeting ID: 964 2874 0891

Call: +1 312-626-6799, 964 2874 0891#



# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**FRIDAY December 24th**

**7:00 p.m.**—The English Language Congregation will again share this meaningful opportunity to tell the Christmas story through lessons and carols of the season. As the service culminates in a candlelight singing of “Silent Night, Holy Night,” we can experience the birth of Jesus in its full power and humbleness, born in a manger to a poor family, born to transform the world.

**9:00 p.m.**—The Karen Language Congregation will gather for Christmas Eve observance.



## Hearing in Color

With the support of a grant from the Garrett Innovation Hub's Young Adult Initiative, NSBC has continued to partner with Hearing in Color, directed by LaRob K. Rafael, in creating musical and artistic programming that uplifts the community and features the work of artists from underrepresented backgrounds. In January, Hearing in Color featured a livestream, multimedia event entitled *Kababayan: A Celebration of Filipino Identity*, many segments of which were recorded at the church. In November, Hearing in Color put on an original opera entitled *Undying Love* at the Kehrein Center for the Arts. In addition to funding, the church provided rehearsal space for the event.



Attending the Hearing in Color event,

## Vigil Against Violence



A highlight from 2021 was the community prayer vigil led from our community garden in April. The "Vigil Against Violence" had community leaders, pastors and youth providing a powerful message for justice and peace for this community.

Pastor Juan Ángel speaks at the Vigil Against Violence on April 22





# Ministry Highlights from 2021



Visiting the 45,000 Quilt Project at City Hall



Youth Camping Trip to Warren Dunes, Michigan



Celebrating the Karen Anniversary in August



Attending the Stop AAPI Hate Rally in March



Under the leadership of Viola Mayol, we created our own symbols for a peace banner in September



Packing Bags for the Back to School Celebration

## New Members

We welcomed three new members to the church this year. **Kofi and Holiness Mensah** just moved to Chicago from Budapest, Hungary. They are originally from Ghana. Kofi has begun a Master's program in Finance at the University of Chicago at Illinois. We also welcomed **LaRob K. Rafael** as a member of the church. LaRob is a longtime attendee and member of the English Chancel Choir.

## 50+ Year Members



HONORING  
OUR  
LONGTIME  
MEMBERS

We wish to honor these 50 + year Members of North Shore Baptist Church whose examples of Christian joy, dedication to Christ, and faithfulness to North Shore and its ministry continue to bless us.

1947—Robert Dold

1955—Flo Reeves

1956—Donna Barlow

1957—Jackie Gunther\*

Hiroko Shimotake\*

1959—Diana Hoffman\*

1962—Judith Dold

1964—Barbara Rosga\*

1965—Berlene Hermer

1966—Hiroshi (Paul) Shimotake\*

1967—Kuwako Arai

1968—Nancy Davis

Barbara Lehman

Stanley Lehman

1970—Richard Ertman

1971—Jim Fong

Avany Penaherrera

\* - non-resident member

## In Memoriam

This is a list of members of the church who have passed away since our last in-person Unity Sunday service in November of 2019. We hold them in our hearts and celebrate the powerful legacies they left behind.

Bill Kosmas

Emy Kosmas

Pat Carlson

Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe

Vivian Berget

Saw Yu Dah

Gloria Russell

Rev. Masaru Nambu

Rev. Jean Anne Feiler

Virginia Recintos

## Japanese Congregation's News for 2021

Due to the pandemic, we had a zoom service and alternative online communication until the beginning of July when we resumed our in-person service on Sunday. In November, the group visited the grave site of Rev. Masaru Nambu who passed away in September. All members are doing well and Jay and Yumiko Shimotake welcomed their second and third granddaughters this year. ~Pastor Yuki

## Hispanic Congregation - 43rd Anniversary

With the theme "See, I am doing a new thing" (from Isaiah 43:19) the Hispanic Congregation celebrated 43 years of service last November. On Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Waukegan Hispanic Church praise group inspired us with their singing and Pastor Juan Ángel preached on *CAMINANDO HACÍA LO NUEVO* (Walking toward the New) from Romans 12.1-2. On Sunday, November 21, the English-speaking congregation and choir accompanied us for a joint celebration. The choir sang in Spanish with Hermana Wanda, and Pastor Obed Pérez shared a message on *LO MEJOR ESTÁ POR VENIR* (The Best is still to Come), based on Philippians 3:13-14. After our worship service on Sunday, we shared a wonderful and delicious meal with our English and Japanese brother and sisters. A word of gratitude to the Deacon board and all the members that in different ways made our celebration possible. Many blessings and thanks. ~Pastor Juan

## Benevolence Fund

In the past two years, the nation has seen great economic upheaval. With your help, NSBC has assisted members of the church and community with a variety of needs, including rental assistance, food, medical bills, and funeral costs. In 2020-21, we have provided approximately \$12,000 in assistance.





*More light than we can learn, more wealth than we can treasure, more love than we can earn, more peace than we can measure!*

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Missional Ministry has been gearing up for more ministry opportunities -- finding creative ways to support others during this phase of the pandemic. We will not be doing an Angel Tree (gifts for children); instead, we would like to offer the following suggestions as you consider giving during the holiday season. You can direct an offering made to the church to any of these ministries, and the donation will be matched 2 to 1.

### **Epworth Men's Shelter**

You can drop these items off at church in the Wilbur Warner Center: thermal underwear, winter gloves, winter coats, and hygiene items that are new and in factory/store packaging such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush.

### **Care for Real**

Monetary donations make the most difference for them at this time. You can stop by Play Toy and Books in Andersonville, who will be collecting donations of board and picture books. They also have a Wish List on Amazon, which can be found here by visiting [www.careforreal.org/wishlist](http://www.careforreal.org/wishlist). For a full list of ways to donate, please visit [www.careforreal.org](http://www.careforreal.org).

### **Sarah's Circle**

Sarah's Circle is a local shelter for women and children. They are not accepting in-kind donations at this time, but they certainly welcome monetary gifts.

### **Period Project**

We are working with two local organizations -- Heartland Alliance's Grocery Center on Broadway and Care for Real on Sheridan -- to provide feminine hygiene products to low income women in Edgewater on a monthly basis. We've given over \$1,000 worth of items just in the past six months! Contact Dr. Peggy Griffin at [globaled34@gmail.com](mailto:globaled34@gmail.com) for more information on how to get involved.

**Thank you for your generosity and care expressed for our neighbors in so many ways!**