

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Easter for All: A Multicultural Church

Easter is a reflection not of the Easter bunny, although our church kids enjoy egg hunting. Nor is it a meditation on a joyful series of events that concluded in a risen Christ. It is preferable to believe in the all-conquering Christ, which depicts the image of a victorious God. One tends to stay away, not to believe in a Christ that becomes the Suffering Servant. There is a painful journey to get to the event of the resurrection (Luke 24). Christ went through agony at the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46), a crown of thorns (John 19:2), a spear went through his side (John 19:34), culminating with the event of dying fixed to a cross (Mark 15:33-34), which is equivalent nowadays to dying in the electric chair. Christ endured these awful harmful acts in his emotional and bodily being. Yet there is the tendency to shy away from these topics, because they are not pleasant to reflect on.

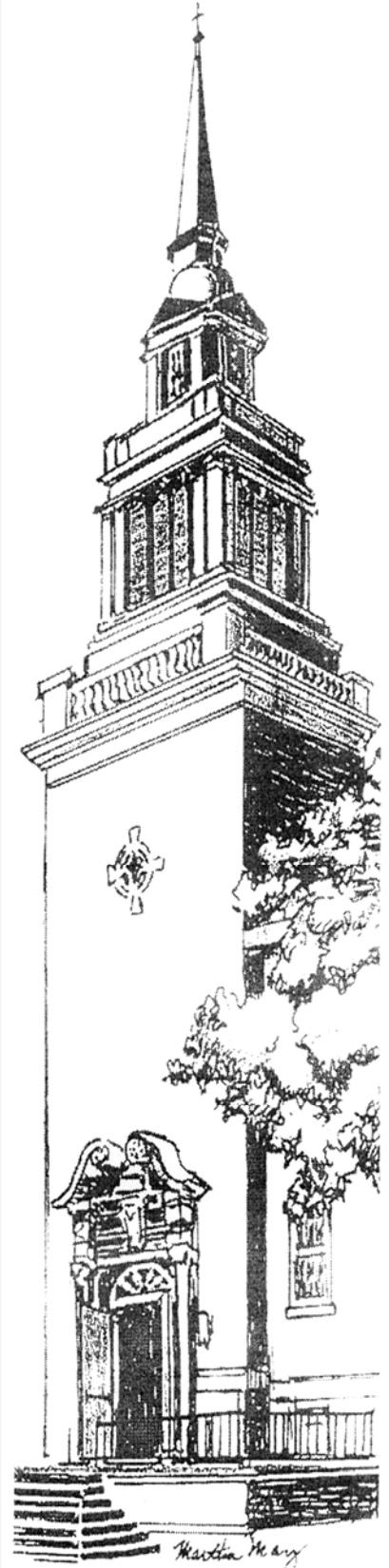


The example of Christ is that he did not fit within the teachings of the religious leaders of his time, primarily the Pharisees and the Sadducees (Matthew 16). Nor did he fit the mold of the Roman Empire. He communicated the good news of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:20; Greek: *basilea theou*). He did not socialize with the elite, but with Samaritans (Luke 10:25-37), drunks, prostitutes, and with sinners like tax collectors (Matthew 11:19). In other words, Christ did not fit the regular categories of the religious and imperial status quo. He became a rare thing, a strange fellow that did not belong in any category. Therefore, he became a threat to all.

Like Christ, our church does not fit the mold of being an Anglo congregation, or a Hispanic congregation, or a Japanese Congregation and/or a Burmese/Karen congregation, but we all form one church: North Shore Baptist Church (NSBC). It is hard to define NSBC. To make it more complex, the pastor leadership is composed of a Pastoral Team, not a Senior Pastor. Even our denominational leaders, when addressing or sending a letter of recognition do not put in all the pastors' names. Maybe it's more complicated adding four names, than simply one or two. The point is that NSBC is a rare thing and we are proud of it. We are the alternative of other congregations. The question is, how do we define ourselves?

I would like to suggest the metaphor is of a hybrid car and its pistons. According to the web site auto.howstuffworks.com, the first hybrid car was the "Lohner-Porsche...first advanced electric car and the technological star of the 1900 Paris Auto Show." It was invented because gas cars were noisy and smelled bad. However, the battery did not hold much charge, so "Porsche added an internal combustion engine that ran a generator, making the Elektromobil the first vehicle

continued next page



to combine an electric motor with a gasoline-powered engine.” So sorry folks, it was not the Toyota Prius nor was it invented in the 1990s or 2000s. So what makes a hybrid car is that it runs on both battery and gasoline—It is not just electrical or just gasoline but both makes one. Sounds much like our hybrid church. We have Asian Americans, Latin@s, Anglos, and African-Americans, Africans, Caribbeans, and Asians. We are a mixture of everything. This Hibridez (Hybridity) expresses itself in our church by each group worshiping God in their own identity and particular language—The Karen worship in Karen, the Spanish Language congregation in Spanish—this both affirms and celebrates the identity of each group.

Where we encounter the “other” is through our “combined services,” in which each group contributes to the worship service in their own language, through reading of scripture in their own language, and singing songs in their particular language. Another encuentro (encounter) happens when we have meals from the different groups, such as the Salvadorians’ pupusas or the Karen spicy meals. So this hybrid church goes back and forth from one identity to another. We celebrate our identities but we enjoy the sharing with the “other” congregations. And this leads me to my last car metaphor, the pistons. The pistons of a car either work smoothly or run very fast. Professor Daniel Orlando Alvarez describes Hibridez as, “the experience and movement between *identidad* (Identity) and *Otredad* (Otherness). Depending on the experience it may be delicate dance or a tumultuous back-and-forth experience similar to the incessant motion of pistons in a car engine.” (*Latin@ Identity in Pneumatological Perspective*) Yes, sometimes our church runs smoothly, and sometimes our combined services are called, “holy chaos,” or as Alvarez puts it, *encontronazos* refer to messy interactions.

Messy or not, so we are told by our members, that our greatest gift is hospitality. Jesus touched the lepers (Mark 1:40-45), which were the outcast of that day; we continue to welcome the stranger and we strive to welcome the undocumented and all of those that are hurting.

So the challenge is in front of us to continue to be a hibrido church, thus, welcoming those that perhaps do not fit in the mainstream society. This Easter those looking for a single ethnic church are going to be disappointed, but those seeking to be loved and accepted just as they are, then: “Welcome!” After all, Revelations 7:9 says, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...”

Confused or intrigued by our church? Then come experience us!!!!

~ Rev. Rony Reyes

Interim and Search Update



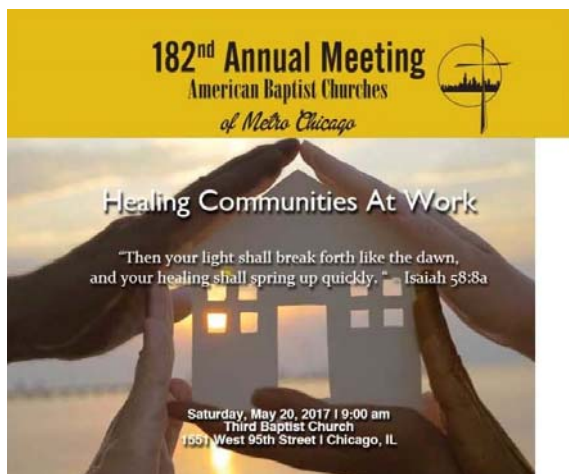
At its second meeting, the English Language Pastor Search Committee selected its leaders: **Barb Lehman** and **Becca Hartman-Pickerill** will be serving as co-Chairs, and **Yanira Silva** and **Nicholas Fong** will be serving as co-Secretaries. Meetings will take place the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month; the odd schedule is because, with so large a committee, there is no single day that is good for everyone. The committee is getting to know each other, developing mutual trust and work habits, and planning a process to involve the entire church in telling the story of who we are, where we are headed, and the leadership we desire. If you have any questions or suggestions,

please speak to any member of the committee. In addition to the co-Chairs and co-Secretaries, the committee members are: **Maura Galarza**, **Eh Kler**, **Cecilia Poenyunt**, **Sachiko Kano**, **Jay Shimotake**, **George Figueroa**, **Peggy Griffin**, **Agnes Palmejar-Takaki**, **Scott Turner**, and the four settled pastors, **Pastor Kathryn Ray**, **Pastor Rony Reyes**, **Pastor Roger Poenyunt**, and **Pastor Yuki Scroggins**. **Pastor David Gregg** is resourcing the committee in the early part of the search.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship 6:30pm ES Rehearsal	3 6:30 pm AA Meeting	4	5 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	6 4:00 Stewardship Ministry 7:30 Chancel Choir	7 6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting	8 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
9 Palm Sunday 10 am Palm Procession 10 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship 12:30 pm Mission Lunch 6:30pm ES Rehearsal	10 6:30 pm AA Meeting	11 3 pm Heartland Career Fair 7pm Church Council	12 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	13 7:30 Chancel Choir	14 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 pm Spanish Worship 7:30 pm English Worship Spanish Vigilia overnight	15 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
16 Easter 8:15 Easter Breakfast 10 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 12 pm Karen Worship	17 Easter Monday <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Church Office Closed Building open for Limited programming </div> 6:30 pm AA Meeting	18	19 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	20	21 6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting	22 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 1 pm Puckett Memorial Service 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish
23 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship 6:30pm ES Rehearsal	24 6:30 pm AA Meeting	25 7:00 pm Renovation Task Force	26 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	27 7:30 Chancel Choir	28 6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting	29 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study
30 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 am Karen Worship 6:30pm ES Rehearsal						

ABCMC Meeting



The annual meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago will take place **Saturday, May 20** (the day before the NSBC annual meeting) at the Third Baptist Church of Chicago. The day-long event has several components: a morning workshop on how American Baptist Communities are at work around the nation; the annual regional business meeting; a worship service at which the guest preacher will be the Rev Dr Jeffrey Haggray, executive director of the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and a banquet celebrating the year and honoring recipients of the region's awards, including the daily disciple from North Shore Baptist Church. There are limited seats available at the North Shore Baptist banquet table. If you would like to attend, please see Pastor David for more information or if you would like to attend.

Faithful Servant

Members of North Shore are invited to nominate candidates for the "Faithful Servant" award. This is someone who has:

- ◆ been a church member for at least 15 years;
- ◆ taken on tasks and leadership roles in the past;
- ◆ served the church over the years; and may be at a point in life of needing less demanding service involvement.

Please submit nominations to one of the members of the Pastoral Team by **April 30th**.



Know Your Rights Workshop



On March 19, about 20 people from North Shore and the surrounding community gathered to hear a "Know Your Rights" presentation by Dr. Tisha Rajendra, professor of theology and Christian ethics at Loyola University. Dr. Rajendra explained what one should do if ICE agents come to your home, or if you encounter them in a public place. She also detailed how to make an emergency plan for yourself and your family in case you are detained. Attendees asked many questions, and the workshop lasted almost three hours.

Other Immigration Ministry Opportunities...

To build off of this event, North Shore is forming an Immigration Task Force to discuss how we can further minister to immigrant members of our church and community. Among other things, we will discuss what support systems need to be in place should a member of our community be detained, what programming we might offer, and what kinds of community outreach efforts might be appropriate. If you are interested in participating in this task force, speak with Pastor Kathryn or Pastor Rony.



SACRED seeds

Children of Abraham
Reading Text Together

A Jewish • Christian • Muslim Encounter

INTERFAITH DISCUSSION & Justice Fair



“The Prophetic Tradition Today:
Defining Justice in Society”

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Emanuel Congregation

5959 N Sheridan Rd, at Thorndale

Parking Lot | 0.2mi W of Thorndale Red Line | 36, 147, 151 Buses

2:00 PM Justice Fair

3:00 PM Interfaith Program & Discussion

4:00 PM Reception & Justice Fair Information Tables

Hosted by ECRA (Edgewater Community Religious Association)

For more information contact Pastor Fred Kinsey | pastorfred86@gmail.com | 773-697-4612

Camp Grow 2017 - Register Now!

Believe it or not, summer is right around the corner. Registration forms are now available, both in hard copy from Pastor Kathryn and online. <https://campgrow.campbrainregistration.com>. For information about scholarships, contact Pastor Kathryn.

ABCMetroChicago's own Camp Grow on Green Lake in Wisconsin has one week summer camp sessions for kids entering grades 3 through 12. North Shore will again assist any camper from our congregation with \$50 toward the camp fee. Additional assistance is available, **but only if you sign up before May!**

Dates for 2017 Sessions

3-6th grade: June 18-June 24 or July 9-15

6-9th grade: June 25-July 1 or July 16-22

Senior High: July 23-29



CAMP GROW MINISTRIES

Finding God's Purpose for My Life
www.campgrow.org

Scholarship Applications Invited

Scholarships are available to assist North Shore's young people in their pursuit of post-high school education or training programs. The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that for 2017 we are able to offer multiple scholarships. They are: The Susan Kosmos Memorial Scholarship, The Hardy Memorial Scholarship, and the Stephen Coats Memorial Scholarship (specifically for Karen young people) and the North

Shore Scholarships. Scholarship amounts vary depending on the cost of tuition. They range from \$300 for those attending two year programs to \$1,000 for those attending four year colleges or universities. Application forms will be available now on the Narthex Desk, in North Howel Hall, from the Church Office, or from Pastor Kathryn.

The application deadline is April 30, 2017.

The recipients of the scholarship awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting on May 15. Contact **Rev. Kathryn Ray** for more information on the funds and how you might make a contribution to help them grow.



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting Sunday will be **May 21st** with Joint Worship at 10:30am followed by the Annual Meeting and Luncheon in Howel Hall at Noon.



Fruit of the Lord Youth Group



This last month, the youth group has been playing games to improve our biblical literacy. Among our activities included a discussion the first five books of the Bible in which we matched biblical quotes to the book they were from. We also had a special session with **Paw Say Ku**, who talked about teamwork and led us in teambuilding games. We meet each Friday evening from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** All **6th through 12th** graders are welcome!

Fruit of the Lord
YOUTH
★ News ★

How to support the FotL youth ministry:

- ◆ Reach out to youth on Sunday morning! Get to know them and ask how they are doing.
- ◆ Remember our youth and youth ministry in your prayers.
- ◆ Accompany one of our special events. If interested, contact Pastor Kathryn at kray@northshorebaptist.org

SPREAD THE LOVE

North Shore has ordered special "Hate Has No Home Here" signs (suitable for yard or window) in the church's four languages (English, Japanese, Spanish, and S'gaw Karen). If you would like to order one, please contact the church office for ordering information. We are requesting a \$10 donation per sign.



Death of Former Members

We learned recently of the death of two former members of North Shore Baptist Church.



Larry Oldfield passed away March 18; he was 72. Larry lived most recently in Oak Brook, IL. He is survived by his wife Kaaren, daughters Kim and Lauren and grandchildren. Memorial Service will be 11:00 a.m. April 7 at Christ Church of Oak Brook.

Kenneth Puckett passed away on March 17; he was also 72. Ken lived in the St. Louis, MO area with his wife Laura who survives him. There will be a memorial service held here at North Shore on Saturday, April 22 at 1:00 pm.

Both Larry and Kenneth were very active members here in the 1970s and 1980s. We pray God's blessing on both families as they grieve the loss of their loved one.



5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: 773-728-4200

Fax: 773-728-1582

e-mail: office@northshorebaptist.org

North Shore Baptist Church

*"Serving All God's People
From This Corner"*

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org



"The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears."

~ Native American proverb

Holy Week 2017

As Holy Week approaches, with its climax in the Resurrection power of God's love in the world, North Shore is offering special observances and celebrations.

- **Palm Sunday** - the Spanish language and English language congregations will gather together shortly before **10:00 a.m.** in the memorial garden courtyard (or the gym if the weather is bad) to sing Hosannas and process into worship, led by children and waving palms.
- **Good Friday** - there will be two worship services, one in **English** (7:30 in the Sanctuary) and one in **Spanish** (7:00 pm in Howel Hall). Each will focus on the crucifixion as a revelation of God's love and of the promise of Liberation.
- **Vigilia** - The Spanish Language Congregation will share an all-night vigil after their Good Friday service to continue in prayer and study about the Liberation of the Cross.

Sunday - Easter worship. The day will begin with Easter Breakfast at 8:15 am in Howel Hall, Then each congregation will celebrate in its own way, according to our regular schedule: Spanish Language - 9:30, English Language - 10:00, Japanese Language - 11:00, Karen Language - 11:30. Special music, songs and prayers of praise, resurrection preaching, lilies, all will combine to make North Shore a glorious tapestry of "Alleluia!" in many languages in one church! An Easter Egg Hunt for the children will take place after worship.



If you would like to receive *Steeple Stories* by e-mail (in color!), contact us at office@northshorebaptist.org