

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

One Spirit, Many Traditions

It is unfortunate when a pastor or denomination will advocate that their “brand” is better or superior to the other ones. Or even more, that their tradition is the only correct one. In developing a more expansive way of cultivating our spirituality, we need to be open to see where the Spirit is leading before dismissing it or demonizing other traditions/brands of Christianity. Having spent time in Pentecostal, Baptist, and other traditions, I have found my own spirituality deepened by multiple Christian traditions.

One author that as personally exposed me to other spiritualities is Richard J. Foster. I first read Foster while taking a class at the Christian University that I attended. The class was called The Life of Prayer, and one of the text books was called, Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home. Foster also outlines other contemporary traditions in a book called, Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith along with the workbook, A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Faith.

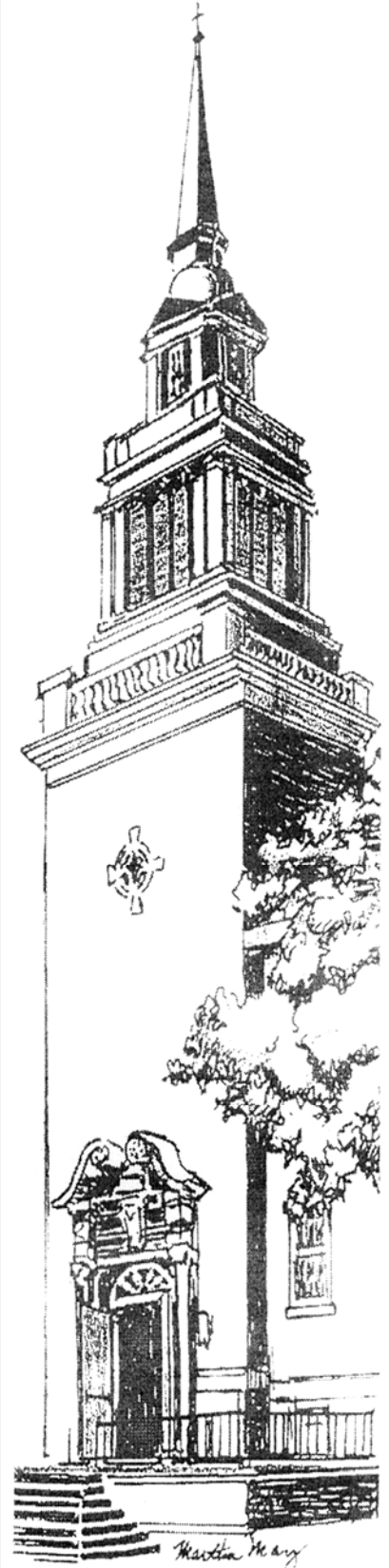
In these two books, Foster outlines different Christian Traditions. The first Christian Tradition he describes is “Discovering a Life of Intimacy with God: The Contemplative Tradition”; the second one is “Discovering a Life of Purity and Virtue: The Holiness Tradition”; the third one is “Discovering a Life of Empowerment Through the Spirit: The Charismatic Tradition”; the fourth one is “Discovering a Life of Justice and Compassion: The Social Justice Tradition”; the fifth one is “Discovering a Life Founded upon the Word: The Evangelical Tradition”; and the last one “Discovering a Practical Strategy for Spiritual Growth: The Spiritual Formation Group”. Which of these traditions would you claim?

Like many in the Baptist faith, I follow the Evangelical and Social Justice Traditions, but I also draw deeply on the Pentecostal/Charismatic tradition in which I was brought up. The Pentecostal/Charismatic traditions hold that the role of the Spirit is vital in the life of the believer. They look to Acts 1:8, which says, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” After the baptism of the believer in water, there is another subsequent experience called the In-filling of the Spirit or the Baptism the Spirit. The early Christian leaders in the book of Acts laid hands on the believers, and they all were filled with the Spirit. As the apostle Paul says, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead is the same Spirit is with us as the Counselor, the Parakletos. As a young person, my pastor Gabriel Wil-

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5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640



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lis prayed for me to received the Spirit. Nothing immediately happened, I didn't feel anything, but then God began to open my spiritual eyes to see visions and dreams. I was not aware of the Spiritual realm until my pastor prayed for me to receive the power of the Spirit. The In-Filling of the Spirit is for every believer.

May this Easter season awaken within your heart a desire and passion to study the Word of God and apply it to your heart like never before. Who knows where the Spirit may lead us? Blessed Easter!

~ Rev. Rony Reyes

Search Committees Updates

-English Language Pastor: On March 24, the English Search Committee met for a few hours to discuss and narrow our candidate pool following interviews. They will now move forward with the remaining candidates to continue conversations allowing both sides to learn more about each other. There will also be an opportunity for the remaining candidates to meet with the Pastoral Team and learn more about the team ministry of our church.

-Karen Language Pastor: The Karen Search Committee met on March 25 and discussed new candidates since the last candidate we all agreed to invite to the Karen Fellowship withdrew from the process. We will be meeting again on April 1 to continue to discuss who will be desirable for the Karen Fellowship and the whole church.

We ask you to pray for God's wisdom and direction for both committees, and let us remember to pray for the English and Karen Congregations during this time of transition.



PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting of ABC/MC



The verses from Isaiah in illustration at left are the theme verses for the annual meeting of the ABC-Metro Chicago, to be held on **May 19** in Evanston. God's plan for the region is becoming clear. God is doing something new among us as we prepare to call new executive ministry leadership. A new plan is emerging, calling us in new directions with new leadership. On May 19, we will gather together and learn more about this plan. And we will celebrate the relationships we share with American Baptists across the Chicago region.

Our annual meeting this year is being hosted by three of our ABCMC churches in Evanston. The morning session, including workshops and the annual meeting itself, will be hosted at the Lake Street Church. Afternoon worship will be at Second Baptist Church, just a few blocks away.

The Disciples Dinner, our annual banquet celebrating the volunteers who give so much to the churches and the region, will be at the Crystal Ballroom in downtown Evanston. North Shore will be well represented, filling several tables to honor our own Daily Disciple.

If you would like to attend the Disciples Dinner, the day session, or both, please see Pastor David.

What's Up With Our Youth?



This month, the youth group had several opportunities to connect with other people from NSBC. We received **Kyra Leigh**, the tenor in the Chancel Choir, as a special guest. She shared her story of her gender transition, and what she had learned about herself and God in the process. We also joined with Olga Diaz's Friday night Bible study for dinner, songs, and games.

Next month, we are looking forward to joining other members of the church to see *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Lyric Opera on April 27 (see information in article below).

Below: Gabe Reyes, the newest member of the Hispanic praise band.



Above & Left: Youth fill out their surveys for the Young Adult Initiative

Top Center: Victor Alvarado, Alex Barajas, and Aaron Noah Alvarado hanging out in the gym during Friday night youth group.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Group Outing!

On **April 27**, we will have a church outing to see *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Lyric Opera. The show begins at 8 pm. We will meet at the church at 6 to eat dinner and go downtown together. Here is the description from the website:

One of the greatest stories ever told comes to life in the groundbreaking, iconic Broadway sensation that reinvented musical theater. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, this global blockbuster imagines the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ. This award-winning production features high-energy dance, an eclectic mix of contemporary musical styles, and powerful storytelling.

Adult tickets are \$20, youth tickets are \$5. Contact Pastor Kathryn if you are interested- space is limited!



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



"Easter is the soul's first taste of Spring." - Richelle Goodrich

Sacred Seeds 2018

Keeping Faith: Sisters of Story

Kim Schultz, Rohina Malik, Susan Stone

Three exceptional storytellers share stories from their own faith—Christian, Muslim, and Jewish—to counter the current rhetoric and transcend our differences through their shared belief in the power of connection, compassion, and unity

Join the church and our neighbors at this interfaith storytelling event on **April 15!** We will hear true stories from the spiritual lives of women from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish backgrounds. The event is sponsored by the Edgewater Community Religious Association, of which NSBC is a founding member.



Presented by Edgewater Community Religious association at **Sacred Heart Schools 6250 N. Sheridan Rd.**, Chicago, IL 60660. For information, please contact jane.steinfels@shschicago.org

Sunday April 15th—3:00 p.m.

Doors Open at 2:00 p.m.

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