

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Celebrating the Resurrection and the Life

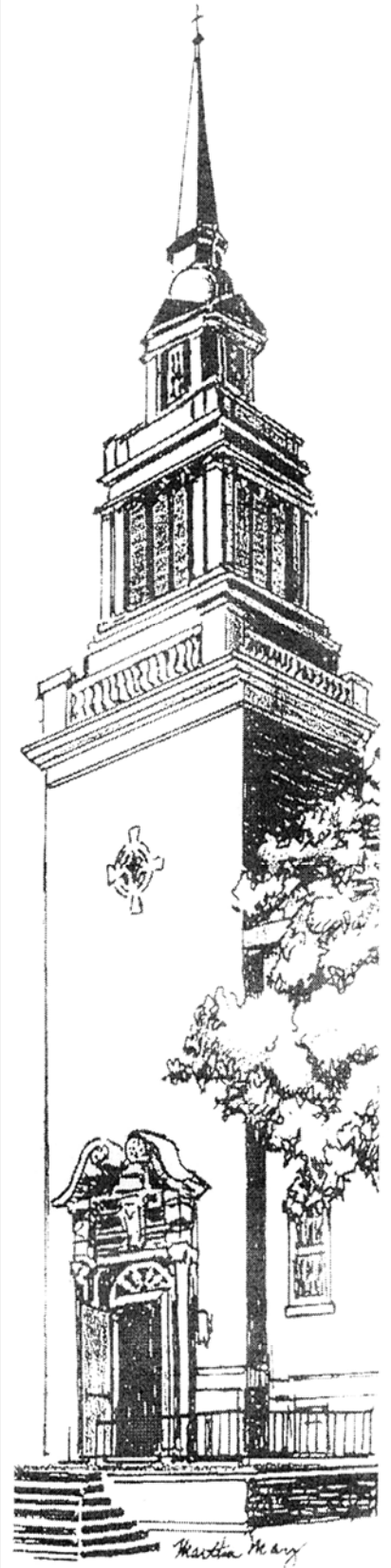
“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life...” (John 11:25)



I recently bought a book written in Japanese titled, “The Easiest Guide to the Bible in the World.” This book was written by two young lay persons in Japan and became quite popular. As I went through this book, one thing that really struck me was that how many Christian words and events we take for granted need to be explained to those who are not familiar with church culture.

Easter, for example, is one of them. Christmas is somewhat popular even in Japan, but Easter, on the other hand, is not even mentioned there. I myself didn’t grow up celebrating Easter at home. I learned about Easter only because I attended Sunday school for a while. I was too young to be interested in the Bible, but on one Easter day, my teacher gave us a card with a drawing (a smiling bird coming out of an egg) and on top of the card, it said, “I am the resurrection and the life”. I didn’t understand what that really meant as a child, but the verse as well as the image stayed with me for a long time.

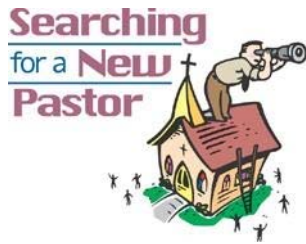
Without us being aware of it, church culture can be too intimidating o those who are not part of it. The guide I bought helped me to realize we don’t need sophisticated approaches to tell the world what we are doing at church. We just have to be ready to ‘break down’ what we do at church without feeling annoyed. I hope we get to reexamine a familiar word like “Easter” on this Easter and recall how we came to celebrate it. We will see, God may give us an opportunity to explain it to someone who is totally unfamiliar! ~ Pastor Yuki



Last month’s activities included a Sunday morning retreat of the Japanese Congregation (left) and a Lenten Creative Process art/writing class during Adventures in Learning time (below)



Hispanic Interim Pastor Search Committee



During the month of March, the search committee met twice with Rev. Shakespeare Osorio, Associate Regional Minister with the Hispanic Collaborative, to discuss next steps in the search for the interim pastor of the Hispanic congregation. The position and job description are now posted on our website, www.Northshorebaptist.org. We will be soliciting applications through April 30.

ABC/MC Annual Meeting



Schedule

8 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Conference and Annual Meeting
2 p.m.—4 p.m. Service of Installation of Rev. David Gregg,
Rev. Dr. Don Ng Preaching

Christ Community Church/United Chin Christian Church
602 E Geneva Rd., Wheaton, IL

5 p.m.—8 p.m. Disciples Dinner
Arrowhead Golf Club
26W151 Butterfield Rd, Wheaton, IL

Ample on-site parking available at both venues






INSTALLATION SERVICE

Sunday, April 7, 2019 ~ 3:00 p.m.

The Pastoral team invites everyone to an important event in the vibrant ministry of our NSBC family as **Rev. Michael Ware** (*pictured right*) is formally installed as the English Worship Pastor. He has been a part of the ministry team since September 2018 and this important marker serves to formally recognize him as a Congregational leader and Pastoral team member. The service will be commissioning of his future leadership through Christ as he serves NSBC. This service will take place at 3:00pm on Sunday, April 7th, in the sanctuary, with light refreshments to follow.



april 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm AA Meeting	2 7pm Property Min.	3 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	4 4:00 Stewardship Ministry 7:30 Chancel Choir	5 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group	6 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 2:30pm Karen Programs 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
7 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 3:00 pm Installation Service for Rev. Michael Ware	8 6:30 pm AA Meeting	9 7pm Church Council	10 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	11 10:00 Grupo de Apoyo 7:30 Chancel Choir	12 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group	13 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 2:30pm Karen Programs 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
14  9:30 am Spanish Worship 9:45 PALM PROCESSION 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Ad. In Learning 11:30 pm Karen Worship	15 6:30 pm AA Meeting	16	17 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	18 7:30 Chancel Choir	19  Good Friday 7:00 Spanish Worship 7:30 English Worship	20 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 2:30pm Karen Programs 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
21  Easter 8:15 am Easter Breakfast 10:00 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 12:00 pm Karen Worship	22 <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	23	24 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	25 10:00 Grupo de Apoyo	26 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7:00 Hannah Circle	27 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 2:30pm Karen Programs 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
28 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 pm Karen Worship	29 6:30 pm AA Meeting	30				

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**.

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 2019 we are able to offer multiple scholarships. They are: The Susan Kosmas 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, 2019.

The recipients of the scholarship awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting on May 19. Contact **Rev. Kathryn Ray** for more information on the funds and how you might make a contribution to help them grow.

Storytelling Workshop

Revelations: How storytelling helps us see one another



Share Your Stories

On March 30, roughly 25 congregants from NSBC's English, Spanish and Karen language groups participated in a storytelling training workshop sponsored by the Young Adult Initiative and hosted at the Church. While most of us had seen each other before - at worship, at times between worship, or at coffee hour - many of us were still strangers. Storyteller and trainer **Tanya Lane** led us through a number of exercises designed to slowly peel away this strangeness, to show our true selves, and thus to be vulnerable to each other. Our first exercise started safe and cheerful. We shared simple yet defining details of ourselves - favorite foods or slight quirks. But we then began to share about our family life, and as we moved into this intimate space, there was a hush around the room. Without moving, we had become closer. This peeling away asked each of us to really invest in the space and the community we were creating.

The activity proceeded to an imagining of one's lifespan, from birth until this present moment, spaced along the length of the room. We were asked to place ourselves along this imaginary timeline at a moment of major change in our lives. We each paused, looking back at our lives and slowly

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What's Up With Our Youth?



This month, we watched the movie *Romero* to learn about how Christian communities lived out their faith under an oppressive military regime in El Salvador. The following week, **Maria Teresa Lopez** came to discuss her experience of living and working in those communities during that time. On the last Friday of the month, we enjoyed an evening of pizza and laser tag in Norridge, IL.

We continue to meet every Friday from 6:30-8:30- all youth are welcome! continue to meet on Friday nights for dinner and fellowship.



Youth Mission Trip to Dubuque

This summer, we will again be joining other youth from the Edgewater area on a mission trip to Dubuque, IA from **August 3-8**. We will stay at a church in the area and complete service projects at a local soup kitchen, community garden, and state park. For more information, please speak with **Pastor Kathryn**.

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shuffled across the room to a spot corresponding to that moment in our lives. We again shuffled, responding to a new question: at what moment were you especially brave in your lifetime? We continued to share stories that bridged into this year.

Just before lunch, we reflected on our connection to and participation in the North Shore Baptist community. Why is it that so few neighbors even realize that North Shore Baptist Church exists? How do we properly explain ourselves not just against a more dominant, outspoken Christian identity but for a loving, caring and justice driven American Baptist presence?



After lunch we applied the questions and stories from throughout the day in a story crafting workshop. We created two concentric circles of people, face-to-face, inside to outside. Each person from the pair was given 90 seconds to tell a story about our connection to or growth within NSBC. The inner circle then shifted by one person so that we were still face-to-face, but with a new face. We were given only 60 seconds each this time. Again we told the stories and received feedback. We moved and repeated this story one last time, but weaving in a narrative of inspiration. How does NSBC give you inspiration and how does this story reflect or speak to that?



In telling this last story, we took a big step in forming answers to some of those questions that were raised over lunch. In the end, they did not need to be answered directly. They required us to tell our stories of life at NSBC and to continue asking the questions, finding and building new answers, and asking new questions about why we continue to make NSBC our home.

In just four hours, moments of meaning from 25 people across spans of life were shared. Many of us started as strangers, but left enriched with a fuller understanding of each other and ourselves. All this because we allowed ourselves to be seen.



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North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org



"Easter is more than a day, an event, a remembrance. It is a way of life." — Michael Marsh

Holy Week 2019

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.

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 - 12:30. 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