

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

DECEMBER 2017

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5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Looking Forward to God's Wonderful Gift

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." (II Corinthians 9:15)

In the past 10 years or so, my Christmas season started with "A Charlie Brown Christmas" CD and saffron bread. Somehow the bright yellow color of the bread caught my eyes in the store one time and ever since then, eating the bread during the Christmas season became my personal ritual. This Christmas, however, my season will not start in the same way-the only store I knew that carried the bread is no longer in business. The residents of Andersonville lost their precious bakery after enjoying its bread and pastries with quality ingredients for 80 plus years. Thank God that the store lasted that long and contributed to the community. Still, it took some time to adjust to the idea that I had to let go of my favorite way of celebrating the Christmas season.

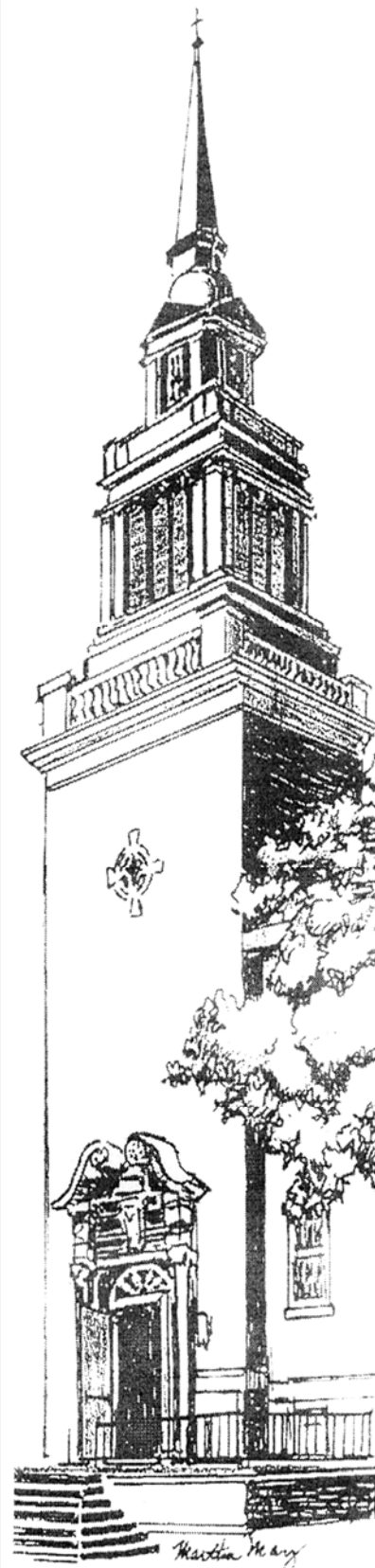


In the midst of lamenting, however, I was alerted by the word of God that sometimes focusing too much on OUR way of celebrating may cause us to forget what Christmas is all about. In Second Corinthians 9, Paul thanks God about His indescribable gift- Jesus Christ. He reminds us that while we are busy thinking about and buying goods and gifts during this season, we may be forgetting the indescribable (unspeakable) Gift, Jesus, who is the source of all wonderful gifts. In Him, we

have Life, which is better than any treasure. So "Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift." May God's blessings be with you all this Christmas!

Christmas Showcase

After English and Spanish worship on **December 17**, we will gather in the sanctuary for our annual Christmas Showcase. We will hear the Christmas story read by our youth and songs from our children's Sunday School classes. Join us for this festive, intergenerational celebration! Birthday cake will be served following the Congregational Meeting.



Longest Night Service



In these darkening days, the weights of the year often become heavier. As families gather, we remember those who are no longer with us, or disagreements that have left family estranged. The season of gift-giving puts strain on those already struggling to make ends meet. The cold and the dark can be hard on our bodies, bringing out aches, pains, illness, and depression.

It is important, through the various struggles of the season, to remember that we are not alone. To this end, we will be offering a Longest Night Service on **December 20** at 7:00 pm in Nambu Chapel. It will be a time for us to gather to mark the losses we are grieving- whether they be loved ones lost, expectations dashed, financial security threatened- and sanctify them in the light of Christ's Advent. It will be a candlelight service at which we will hold silence, pray, and reflect both on what we have lost in the past year and what has sustained us along the way.



Las Posadas

Las Posadas represents the troubles that Joseph and Mary faced in finding a room when traveling to Bethlehem. Multiple Latin American countries have continued to celebrate this holiday to this day. Typically, each family in a neighborhood will schedule a night for the Posada to be held at their home.

At North Shore we celebrate the Posadas as a time of fellowship with one another and enjoy the different dishes presented by the host. The Posadas are open to ALL people who attend NSBC. See you there! Here is the 2017 schedule of Posadas. The Posadas begin at **7:00 pm** on the 8th, and **4:30 pm** on the 9th, 16th & 17th.

Friday December 8, at the home of Pastor Rony Reyes, 5226 N. Lakewood, 2nd Fl. Chicago

Saturday December 9 at the home of Maria Nodarse, 6625 N. Kimball, Lincolnwood, IL

Saturday December 16 at the home of Viola Mayol, 1000 Monroe St., Evanston, IL

Sunday December 17 at the home of Manuel Sinchi, 1329 Brummel St. Apt. 1F, Evanston, IL

Special Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 10, 2:00 p.m.

Cocoa and Carols

with the

Lincoln Park High School Chamber Singers

Featuring choral music by:
Alessandro Scarlatti Vince Guaraldi
The Real Group Moses Hogan
and many of your favorite
Christmas carols

The Cocoa and Carols concert will be followed by a reception and

CAROLING PARTY.



Christmas Carol aficionados,
this one's for you!

Cocoa WILL be served (along with a holiday cookie or two!)

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DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>3</div> <div> 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 </div>	<div>4</div> <div>6:30 pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7pm Property Min.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</div>	<div>7</div> <div> 4:00 Stewardship Ministry 7:30 Chancel Choir </div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group</div>	<div>9</div> <div> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study </div>
<div>10</div> <div> 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 2:00 pm Cocoa & Carols </div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:30 pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7pm Church Council</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</div>	<div>14</div> <div>7:30 Chancel Choir</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group</div>	<div>16</div> <div> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study </div>
<div>17</div> <div> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Children's Program 12:30 pm Congregational Meeting </div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:30 pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</div>	<div>21</div> <div>7:30 Chancel Choir</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study </div>
<div>24</div> <div> 10:30 am Joint Worship 12:00 Karen New Year's Lunch 9:00 pm Candlelight Service </div>	<div>25</div> <div> CHRISTMAS DAY <div>Building Closed</div> </div>	<div>26</div> <div> <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>Building open for Limited programming</div> </div>	<div>27</div> <div>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study </div>
<div>31</div> <div> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Karen Worship </div>	<div>January 1</div> <div> <div>Building Closed</div> </div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study </div>



Advent & Christmas Schedule



As we prepare to celebrate Christmas over the coming weeks in the season of Advent, the church is providing many opportunities for all its members to get into the Christmas spirit. We will be celebrating the spirituality of the season in special worship services, parties, and celebrations.



- Posadas - December 8, 9, 16, and 17. A series of home celebrations in which we share Christmas songs and great food in the tradition of the Spanish Language Congregation — see *article elsewhere in this issue*.

- Cocoa and Carols - Sunday **December 10**, 2 pm. A concert of holiday music, both serious and light, followed by a reception and extended Christmas Carol Sing-Along. For all you Christmas Carol junkies — this is the event for you! — see *article elsewhere in this issue*.

- Choir Concert in English Worship - Sunday **December 17**, 10:00 am. The chancel choir will present several movements from GF Handel's *Messiah*. Pastor David will provide brief reflections between the movements reflecting on the craft of the music as an offering of joy to God for the gift of the incarnation of Jesus Christ at Christmas.



- Christmas Showcase - Sunday **December 17**, 11:30 pm. The children from our Adventures in Learning classes will present their messages of the season. A brief but vital congregational meeting will follow — see *items on both events are elsewhere in this issue*.

- Longest Night Prayer Service - Wednesday, **December 20**, 7:00 pm. A quiet, meaningful service of light, healing, and hope. The service acknowledges the ways the Christmas season is not always a time of simple joy, but for many comes mixed with loneliness, anxiety, and grief. We gather in mutual support to listen and hear God's comforting whisper beneath the brassy noise of our culture's Christmas expectations—see *article elsewhere in this issue*.

- Christmas Eve, Morning Worship - Sunday, **December 24**, 10:30 am. Again this year, we will be celebrating Christmas together, the whole church, in a combined worship service in the Sanctuary. Each of the pastors will present a brief reflection on the meaning of Christmas in their particular tradition, and we will join in offering prayers, carols, and songs from our whole variety of traditions. *Please note the change of time, 10:30 am.*



- Karen New Year Celebration - Sunday, **December 24**, noon. After combined worship, we will gather in Howel Hall hosted by the Karen Fellowship to celebrate the Karen New Year. A luncheon is provided.



- Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday, **December 24**, 9:00 pm. 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 candle-light 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.



What's Up With Our Youth?



Above: Our youth helped set out tables, prepare and serve food, and direct traffic for the annual ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. They were a vital part of its success!

This month, we all pitched in to put the new furniture together for the youth room. It is now set up and ready for a fresh coat of paint! Refugee Ministry Assistant **Eh Kler** also led the youth group in a reflection on thankfulness and remembering all the things for which we are thankful.

In December, we are looking forward to attending the posada at **Pastor Rony's** home on **December 8**, and having our own Christmas celebration and Secret Santa gift exchange on **December 15**.



50+ Year 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
1949—Marjorie Bailey
1955—Flo Reeves
Gloria Russell
1956—Donna Barlow
1957—Jackie Gunther

1957—Hiroko Shimotake
1959—Diana Hoffman
Masaru Nambu
1961—Vivian Berget
1962—Margo Bach
Judith Dold

Emy Kosmas
1964—Barbara Rosga
1965—Berlene Hermer
Edward Bautista
1966—Hiroshi (Paul) Shimotake
1967—Kuwako Arai

Second MLK Teach-in at NSBC in 2018



The MLK Taskforce is eagerly preparing for the 2018 Teach-in to be held **January 13th-14th, 2018**. The theme for this year's conference is "Drum Majors for Justice: Empowering Agents of Change." The two days will be teeming with Lectures, panel discussions, workshops, networking, and strategizing for the future. The conference will feature keynote speaker **Rev. Dr. Calvin S. Morris**, a civil rights veteran and former executive director of Community Renewal Society in Chicago.

Saturday will include a keynote address by Rev. Dr. Morris, as well as workshops by ONE Northside and CPAC (Civilian Police Accountability Council) an arm of Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. On Sunday, Rev. Dr. Morris will offer the message at a special MLK Sunday worship service. In the afternoon, there will be a panel. In the afternoon, there will be a panel discussion entitled Human Rights Beyond Borders: Immigration and the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. on immigration will include: **Rev. Dr. Walter (Slim) Coleman** (pastor of Adalberto United Methodist Church), **Rev. Dr. Janette Wilson** (Rainbow/Push), **Solomon Opeh Htoo** (Karen Pastor and Theologian) and **Ryan Yokota** (Japanese Internment Historian).

Registration will be available on Eventbrite by December 15th.



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North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org

*"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not
Christmas in his heart." - Helen Keller*



Congregational Meeting



We will have a Congregational Meeting on:

December 17, 2017 at 12:30PM

- to discuss and vote on our budget for 2018
- to consider Karen Language Pastor Search Committee recommendation
- to consider a constitutional amendment (see relevant section below, proposed change printed in bold italics)

Article XI, Section 3, A.3

"Secure the names of possible candidates, working in consultation with the appropriate national and regional American Baptist representatives, and considering as possible candidates only ordained person, whose ordination is recognized by the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., **or candidates willing to have their Baptist ordination recognized by the American Baptist Churches U.S.A., within six months of their installation.**"

We request that all members attend so that we can discuss and take action on these very important issues. It is vital that we have all present for these important decisions in the life of our Church. Please mark your calendars. Copies of the proposed budget will be available on Sunday December 10 so you can review it before the meeting on the 17th.