

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

Shared Journey

The season of Lent is upon us again. As spring follows winter, so Lent follows Christmas. We have celebrated the birth of God-With-Us, Jesus Christ the Word Made Flesh. And now we have a season of wrestling with just what that means in our lives. The message of Christmas is that God's love becomes manifest in human forms and in human lives. This means our lives too. So during Lent, we are challenged to imagine what our lives might look like as vessels of God's love. Beyond that, we are challenged to practice being those vessels of God's love.

This is why some people take on spiritual disciplines for Lent: as a way of practicing making God's love more manifest in their lives. It's not about self-punishment; it's about clarifying our values. It's about focusing more closely for a season on our relationship with God as a foundation for living.

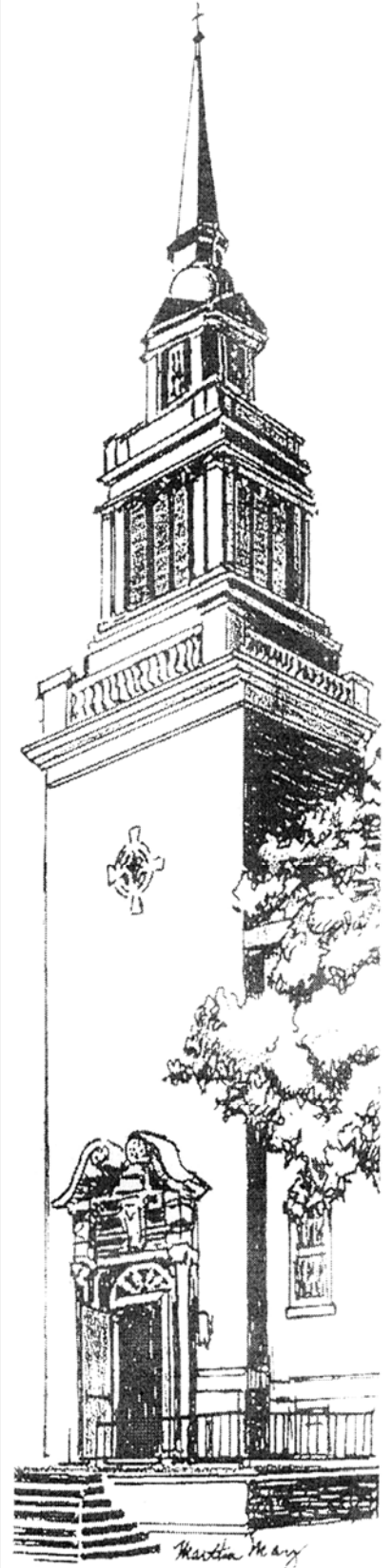
Different people like to take on different practices. Many forego desserts or other treats, as a way of simplifying the desires of the heart. Others take up new practices of daily prayer and devotion as a way of walking for a season closer to God. One year, a friend of mine carried around a thick roll of dollar bills for Lent, giving one to everyone who asked, no questions asked. One year for Lent I gave up use of my car, I felt like I was moving too fast and needed to slow down for a time. It was one of the most meaningful spiritual experiences of my life. Even the simplest daily discipline can be life changing.

I always want to add one additional element to my teachings on Lenten discipline. They often tend to be very individualistic. This is appropriate, as we each must stand alone before God and lead our own lives. But I think there should also be a communal component. Lenten practice is something we can share. Even if we each take on a different discipline, there is great strength we can derive whenever we gather together to support each other in our journeying. Your spiritual companions will have insights for you in the stories they will tell about their Lenten pilgrimage. And you will even hear your own wisdom anew as you listen to yourself tell your own story. So I hope one Lenten discipline many of us can take on is the discipline of sharing our experiences with one another.

We are producing a Lenten devotional book for the season. Each day will suggest a different reading, devotional activity, or spiritual experiment. They are not too taxing, and some of them even include opportunities to share with others. Maybe for you, Lent will mean working your way through this book, as you prepare for Easter, the celebration of Resurrection. Maybe for us, it can mean working and journeying together.




5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640



UPDATES

Renovation Task Force Update: Sacred Places Interviews



The Renovation Task Force is partnering with Partners for Sacred Places (PSP), a not-for-profit organization which specializes in helping houses of worship locate funding both inside and outside their four walls. Over the next few months, PSP will interview the Pastoral Team, members of the Church Council, members of the four congregations, members of the groups who share our building

(theater groups, AA, One Hope United, etc.) and members of the community (alderman, neighborhood council, etc.) The purpose of these interviews is to learn about how these individuals perceive the church, where there is excitement for ministry and growth, and identify challenges and frustrations. This interview process is not only an opportunity to identify funding sources, but also help us discern future directions for our ministries and community outreach. If you should be approached for an interview, we hope that you will give an open and honest response to their questions.

Over the past 10 months, the Phase 2 Renovation Task Force (RTF) has been discussing wishes/hopes/dreams/desires, drawings, budgets, permits, audio-visual requirements, and contracts. Those serving on the current committee have sought ways to keep within a budget, minimize disruption to the Church and community's programming, plan for the most effective and efficient use of space, and seek compatible sound and video engineering.

Right now the committee is in a dormant phase as we await the input of the Church Council on the strategies for financing the future Phase 2 or Phase 2 & 3 builds. RTF will reconvene on Tuesday, February 27th to receive a status report from PSP and begin to strategize on a construction timeline, if we are indeed ready for the next step. Please feel free to bring your questions and concerns to the

members of the RTF. Members are: **Madison McClendon**, Acting Chairperson; **Dawn Noldan**, Secretary; **Kate Whitmore**, Church Treasurer; **Jose Flores**, Building Superintendent; **Barb Lehman**, Property Ministry; **Pastor Rony Reyes**, **Ramon Mena**, **Nellie Camacho**, **Eggee Linares**, **Randy Fler**, **Donna Barlow** and **Kuwako Arai**

Report from Search Committees

-English Language Pastor

We recently finished reviewing and scoring all the resumes and moved onto the next step. On Saturday, January 20th, we had a half day retreat and review candidates paying special attention to a range of candidates who did not receive high scores in reviews, but for whom certain committee members asked for special consideration. We also developed the parameters of three questions that we want to ask every candidate we are moving forward and formulated three questions on 1) Multicultural Experience, 2) Team Experience, and 3) Theology.



-Karen Language Pastor

We recently welcomed new committee members from lay leadership of the English Congregation. One member resigned from the Committee. We are seeking a candidate who can work well with Karen Fellowship and the entire church. The search process for the Karen pastor has been different from typical searches since Karen Fellowship is part of Karen Baptist Convention as well. As is the custom of Karen churches, we have been looking at one candidate at a time. In the last meeting, we discussed the third candidate who may be a good fit for our church. The Karen pastor may not be ordained because the practice is not to ordain until the pastor has been with the church for a few years and has reached a certain age of maturity.

We ask you to pray for God's guidance and wisdom in our process!



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 7:30 Chancel Choir	2 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	3 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal	
4 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	5 6:30 pm AA Meeting	6 7pm Property Min.	7 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	8 4:00 Stewardship Ministry 7:30 Chancel Choir	9 6:30 pm MOVIE NIGHT & Pot Luck Dinner 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	10 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal	
11 HEALING SERVICE 10:30 am Joint Worship	12 6:30 pm AA Meeting	13 7pm Church Council	14 7:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	15 7:30 Chancel Choir	16 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	23 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal	
18 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	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY Church Office Closed Building open for Limited programming	20	21 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	22 Church Photo Directory 7:30 Chancel Choir	PHOTO DIRECTORY APPOINTMENTS 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study		24 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
25 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 PHOTO DIRECTORY APPOINTMENTS	26 6:30 pm AA Meeting	27	28 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA				

MLK Conference 2018 Recap

NSBC kicked off 2018 with a 2-day conference entitled Drum Majors for Justice: Empowering Agents of Change. Over 40 members of the church and wider community joined us. The conference began with a workshop by **Jennifer Ritter** and **Anna Mangahas** of ONE Northside, who invited us to reflect on the values and experiences which have formed us and our investment in improving our communities. After a delicious lunch provided by **Dawn Noldan**, we heard from our keynote speaker, **Rev. Dr. Calvin Morris**, who shared his experiences of the civil rights movement and reminded us that, regardless of



Sunday panel discussion: (above, from left) Pastor Solomon Opehtoo, Rev. Dr. Janette Wilson, Dr. Ryan Yokota, Rev. Walter Coleman.



Dr. Peggy Griffin displayed her collection of buttons from various justice movements over the past 50 years.

what political and social circumstances prevail around us, God is not through with us yet. **Ted Pearson** of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression closed out Saturday with a discussion of the Civilian Police Accountability Council that is being proposed for Chicago.

Yokota, and Pastor Solomon Opehtoo- reflected on bearing a prophetic, nonviolent witness to justice for those forced by economic and political circumstances to leave their homes and cross borders.

On Sunday, Rev. Dr. Morris brought us a sermon about loving whole-heartedly, and inviting others into that love. The final event of the conference was a panel discussion on immigration and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., where the panelists-**Rev. Walter Coleman, Rev. Dr. Janette Wilson, Dr. Ryan**

It was an inspiring conference, and we look forward to building upon it through future events!



Camp Grow Sale

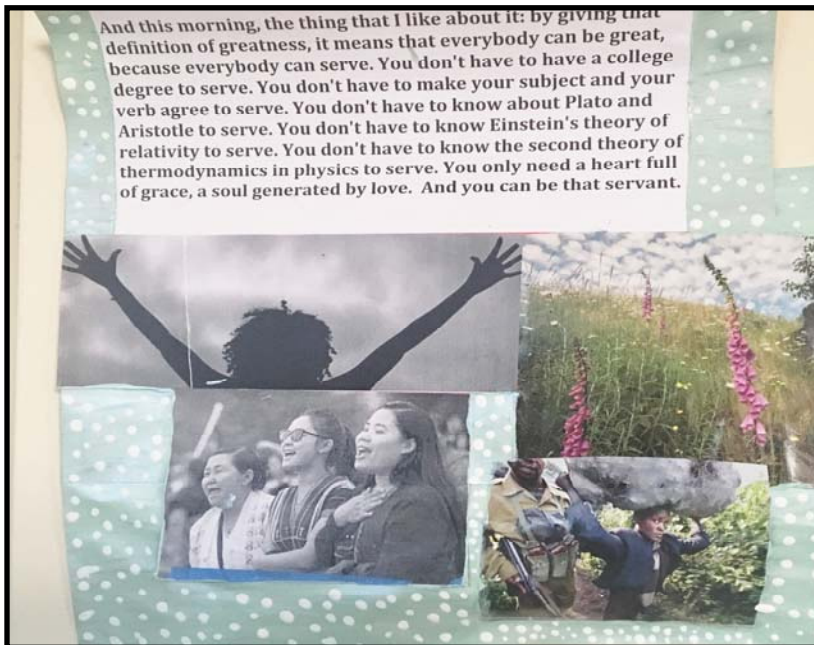
The American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago voted on Saturday, February 3, to accept an offer for the sale of our region's camp, Camp Grow. The buyer is the Green Lake Conservancy, an environmental protection group that will hold the land in perpetuity as a nature preserve. It will be open to the public as a place to walk, breathe fresh air, encounter wildlife, and explore God's creation. Although the sale of Camp Grow is a cause of grief for some, this particular arrangement is as close to a perfect "win-win" as could be hoped. The region received a good price. The proceeds from the sale will provide for camping and outdoor ministry that is more appropriate to our 21st Century urban setting. And the property will remain undeveloped, honoring God's creation in a way that is intimately related to the camping ministry for which the camp was first purchased.

What's Up With Our Youth?

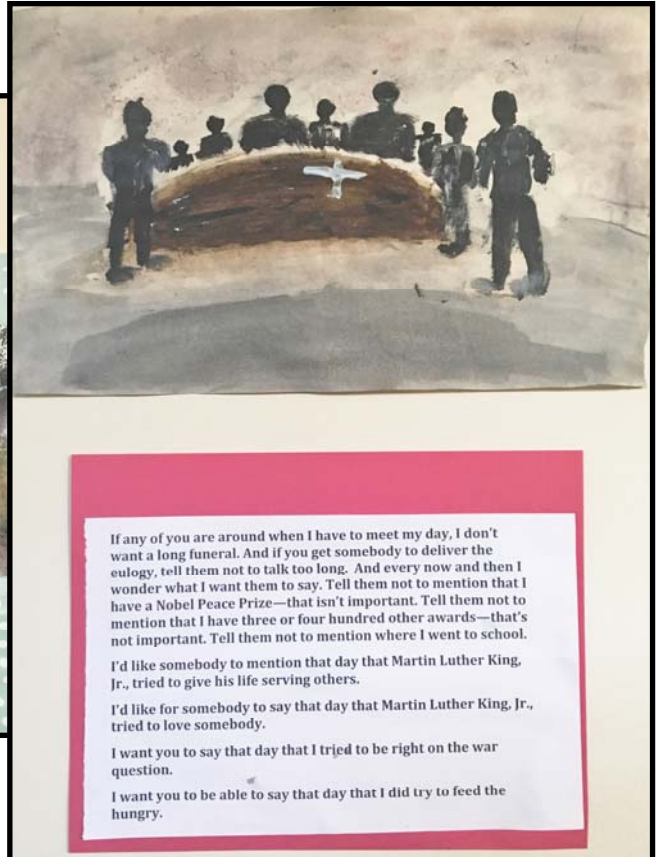


After all of our work last fall to update the furniture in the youth room and remove old and broken items, the youth group made its official return to the youth room this month. Activity highlights included illustrating quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last sermon, "The Drum Major Instinct," to decorate the hallway for the MLK Day Conference and molding clay as we reflected on the story of the potter's house from Jeremiah.

February will be a month full of special events. On **February 2**, we will go ice skating in Millennium Park. On **the 9th**, we will share in a movie night event with the rest of the church and watch "All Saints," a 2017 movie about what happens when a group of Burmese refugees join a local church. From February 16-18, we will travel to Camp Tamarack in Waupaca, WI for our winter youth retreat.



Youth illustrations of quotes from "The Drum Major Instinct"



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMING



We are putting together a pictorial directory of members and friends of North Shore and we want everyone! Appointments are being taken now for **February 22nd through the 25th**. Please see **Sherry Nelson** to reserve your time slot. Please book your appointment by February 8, so we can see if we need to add an additional date for photography appointments. If you cannot attend any of the dates, please speak with Sherry Nelson to explore alternate options. There is no charge to be included in the directory. You will have the opportunity, if you wish, to purchase photo packages. If you want to purchase a personal pose, you can bring your pet. Each family unit that participates gets a free professional 8 x 10 photo! Because we are doing the directory in February, all products are 20% off. There are coupons for \$10 and \$5 off as well. Sign up through the church website or at the following link: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y8yj0zs/>



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

*"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes
the ride worthwhile."* - Franklin P. Jones



Joint Worship – Healing Service

Sunday, February 11, 2018

10:30 a.m.



*Healing
Service*

The annual Joint Healing Service will take place Sunday, **February 11**, at **10:30 am** in **Howel Hall**. Along with worship, praise, and preaching we will celebrate our ritual of healing anointment with oil. Pastor Solomon Ophetoo, Acting Karen Language Pastor, will bring us the sermon. Regular Fellowship Time will be held in the Welcome Center following worship.

Kraft Chapel - February 14 - 7:00 pm

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the holiest of all Christian celebrations, all language groups of North Shore are invited to an Ash Wednesday Service of song, silence, scripture, prayer, and the traditional imposition of ashes.



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