

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

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5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Hearing in Color and Seeing Clearly

For the past two years, NSBC has hosted a conference on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday to celebrate the legacy of the Baptist preacher and civil rights leader and to explore how we can continue his example of striving for the justice of God's reign in our world today. This year, we will be teaming up with the Young Adult Initiative to host an event the weekend of **February 2-3**, bridging the message of MLK Day with the beginning of Black History Month.

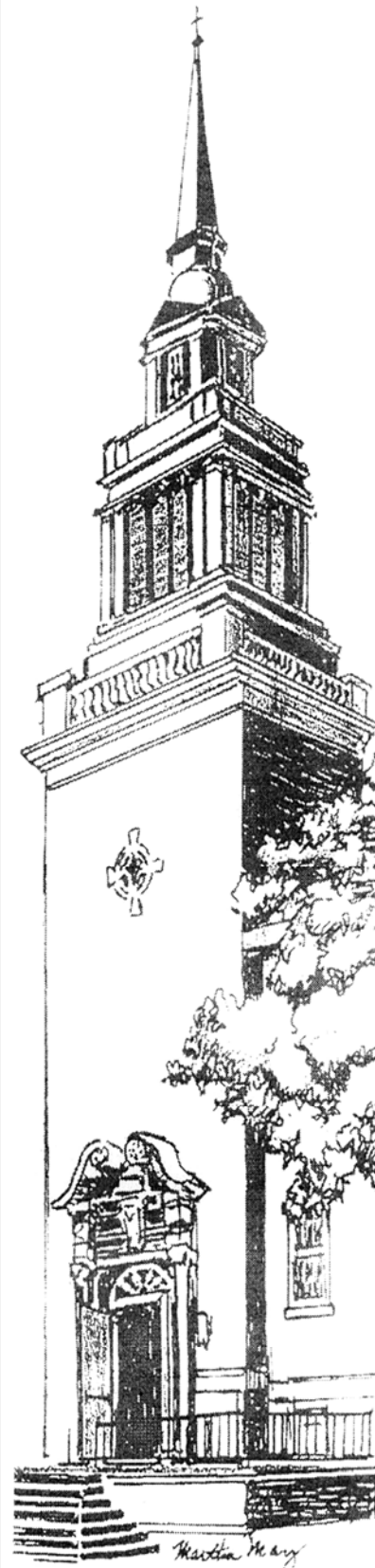
The event will begin on **Saturday, February 3** with a concert at 4:00 pm. LaRob Payton, baritone in the NSBC Chancel Choir, spearheads a project entitled "Hearing in Color." The aim of this project is to make more widely known the works of classical composers of color through performances by classically-trained artists of color. Previously hosted in coffee shops, Hearing in Color will appear in its largest venue to date at North Shore Baptist Church. This concert will feature modern settings of African-American spirituals. We will hear songs and stories of empowerment and resistance to oppression. As LaRob puts it, "Hearing in Color believes in the power of music to comfort, embolden, and inspire in the face of subjugation and oppression...In an effort to heighten the empathetic view on the issues in our society, we will share messages of love, faith, and justice to educate and call our community to action!"



After receiving the inspiration of these featured artists, we will then gather on Sunday at 12:00 pm to reflect on the challenges we face and how we might work together to overcome them, in order that we might "see clearly." We will hear a keynote address from the **Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri** (pictured left), executive minister of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin. We will then attend workshops led by Rev. Dr. Onwubuariri, along

with Rev. Dr. Janette Wilson of Rainbow/PUSH and NSBC's own Naw Paw Say Ku, who works at Heartland Alliance's Refugee & Immigrant Community Services. A light lunch will be served.

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12:00 Light lunch

12:30 "Hearing in Color and Seeing Clearly"

Keynote by Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri

1:00 Workshops

- "Let's Talk about Race: Where to Begin" by Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri

- "Resurgence of White Supremacy in 21st Century America" by Rev. Janette Wilson

- "Empowered to Connect & Heal" by Naw Paw Say Ku

Please join us for this weekend of inspiration, challenge, and reflection!

Search for an Interim Hispanic Pastor Begins

After Pastor Rony Reyes departed from the role of Hispanic Congregation Pastor in November, pastors and lay leaders have worked together to develop a regular preaching and worship leadership rotation. In the past two months, we have received the preached word from Rev. Shakespeare Osorio, Associate Regional Minister for Hispanic Churches; Rev. Dr. Leslie Diaz-Perez, director of the Center for the Study of Latin@ Theology and Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary; and Rev. Gonzalo Palacios of First Baptist Church-Waukegan; along with in-house preachers, Pastor Kathryn and Olga Diaz.

**Searching
for a New
Pastor**



The Church Council has also collaborated with the Hispanic deacons to form an interim search committee. The committee consists of **Manuel Sinchi** (chair), **Maura Galarza**, **Maria Teresa Lopez**, **Lázaro Silva**, **Kate Whitmore**, **Pastor Kathryn Ray**, and **Pastor Yuki Scroggins**. The committee's next step will be to draft a job description, which we will distribute publicly.

Please keep the Hispanic congregation and the entire church in prayer during this time of transition.

In Memoriam: Pastor Roger

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. Philippians 1:21

On December 7, 2018, Pastor Roger Poe Nyunt went home to his God. He was a faithfully loved son of God. He likewise was a husband, father, teacher and pastor to many. As some of us know, his journey from Burma as a Karen Baptist would come long after he had attended primary school and high school at KO Tha Byu in 1966. Out of this educational grounding, he would go on to Bible school. His call to serve God came at an early age and would be affirmed even more as he became a Pastor in the Karen State, from which he was from. His heart to serve and help others in their way and walk with God was central to Pastor Roger as we called him at North Shore Baptist. This was pointed out by one of the Karen speakers, at his service, recalling the times wisdom, along with financial support was offered to him.



Rev. Roger Poenyunt
- 2018

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What's Up With Our Youth?

Youth group has already kicked off another year of weekly dinner, activities, and conversation on Fridays at 6:30. We are gearing up for a retreat at Camp Tamarack in Waupaca, WI on **February 15-18**. We will be trying something new this year, as the youth will cook for themselves on retreat! Cost per youth is \$20. Contact Pastor Kathryn for more information.



Sex Offender Participant Policy



The NSBC Church Covenant affirms that we will “humbly welcome friends and strangers... [and] not put up barriers to anyone’s participation in the church.” How do we apply these values when an individual who has a sex offense on their record enters the life of the church? How do we show grace and honor the dignity of each person while taking seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety of all church participants, and minors in particular? These are questions that Church Council has discussed over the past year. At our most recent meeting, we approved a Sex Offender Participant Policy, which outlines the steps we will take should we become aware that a participant in church func-

tions has a sex offense on their record.

According to this policy, individuals who have committed a Tier III offense (the most severe kind) will not be allowed to attend church functions. Individuals who have not committed a Tier III offense, but who are on the Sex Offender Registry, will be required to meet with representatives of the church and sign a covenant agreeing to limitations on contact, which will include not working with minors in any capacity.

For a full copy of the new policy, please contact the church office.

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When he arrived in the United States, there was no guarantee Pastor Roger would have a pastoral leadership role, and yet he stood firm in honoring his faith. However, the time would come in which he would be called by North Shore to lead the Karen Fellowship which had grown here. And lead is what he did with his wife, Cecelia, by his side. There were challenges as well as celebrations throughout the ministry with the Karen Fellowship, yet he held to his conviction in God. For 9 years, he would lead and, in collaborations with the Pastoral team, leave a legacy as a committed follower of Christ, husband, father, and pastor.

So we do say farewell to someone who has planted a great seed. Now it will be God who waters for the next new growth which shall come. I know what springs from the good soil which remains shall be a blessing to God and hold true to the servant who has been called home.



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North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org



"Knowing what must be done does away with fear." — Rosa Parks

Joint Worship – Healing Service

Sunday, February 10, 2019
10:30 a.m.



Healing
Service

The annual Joint Healing Service will take place Sunday, **February 10**, at **10:30 am** in the **Sanctuary**. Along with worship, praise, and preaching we will celebrate our ritual of healing anointment with oil. Rev. Yuki Scroggins, Japanese Language Pastor, will bring us the sermon. Regular Fellowship Time will be held in the Welcome Center following worship.