



Steeple Stories

FEBRUARY 2020

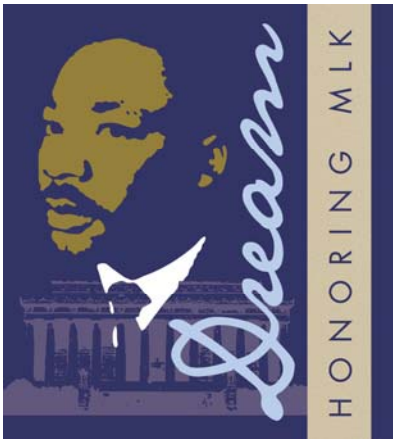
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The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

Martin Luther King Jr. Teach-In 2020

by: Peggy Ann Griffin

January 15, 2020 would have been the 91st birthday of the social justice champion, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In commemoration of this national holiday, North Shore Baptist Church launched the first of a six- week series of workshops on Sunday, January 19th as the fourth annual MLK Teach-In. The theme of the series is "Towards Justice and Human Rights." Successive workshops will continue on **Sundays from 11:30 to 12:30 PM through February 23rd.** The series of workshops was organized by the newly formed Social Justice Taskforce under the auspices of Outreach Ministry.



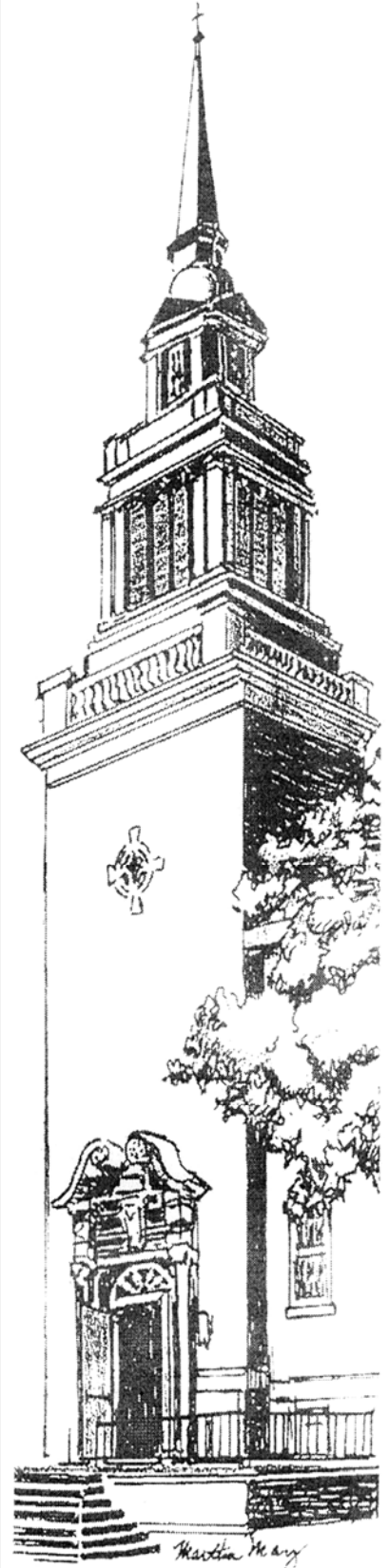
The snow and icy streets did not keep away the enthusiastic participants on Sunday January 19th as Pastor Michael Ware relived his Civil Rights pilgrimage. His vivid descriptions riveted our emotions when we were drawn into such historical places as the Peace Memorial Museum, Tent City, Brown Chapel, Tuskegee University, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge. My mind traveled back to 1965 when I slept in Brown Chapel, spent a week in Selma and walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. As we compared notes, we had to admit a sad reality.

Pastor Michael told us about the poverty in those Southern towns and outlying areas. He explained his observance of homelessness and his response in purchasing lunch for hungry individuals daily. This is a contrast to the time when I traveled to this region. After our first night in Brown Chapel, we were assigned to homes in Selma. The homes were mostly frame houses with no modern plumbing, but they were clean. We bathed in tin tubs and used outdoor toilets. Our hosts served us delicious meals and treated us so well that we did not mind the absence of some conveniences. To my knowledge, there was no homelessness. People cared for each other and shared what they had. We can compare the present- day southern poverty to the plight of the homeless in Chicago. That gives us reason to study economic justice in our workshop series.

With great anticipation we welcome the opportunity to participate in forthcoming sessions. On January 26th, Pastor Juan Ángel Gutiérrez Rodríguez will speak about Martin Luther King's work during his visits to Puerto Rico, the home country of Pastor Juan. February 2nd will be head's up time for responsible voters to be versed on the ins and outs of the progressive income tax. Taxpayers can change the present system to one that increases the funds for education, social services, and homelessness prevention. Christians can have fun and learn at the same time on

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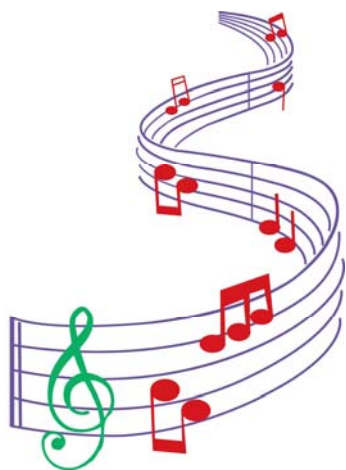
5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640



Feb. 16th in the “Economic Justice Simulation Game.” The game will enable us to learn more about our own values and assess our priorities. On February 23rd, we will welcome Natalie More, WBEZ’s South Side reporter. She will discuss “Housing in Chicago: A City Divided” and refer to her book, *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*.

Two more events complement our workshop series. On **February 9th**, an **Agape Feast** will follow our Unity Sunday Healing Service. We will share ethnic dishes from around the world and from different localities in the United States. On Saturday, **February 29th** at 7:00 PM, the “**Hearing in Color**” concert will be back by popular demand.

Hearing in Color Presents: A Journey Unsung



After the success of last year’s Hearing in Color concert, Chancel Choir baritone **LaRob Payton** was able to turn Hearing in Color into a not-for-profit organization dedicated to “highlighting music of specific cultural origin within performances curated and performed by people of that lived experience.” It aims to develop concerts that feature the work of underrepresented composers and performers. We are excited to feature Hearing in Color again this year in their second concert at NSBC, entitled “A Journey Unsung.” As LaRob explains on the event page:

A Journey Unsung takes a musical look into the absolute spiritual strength of a people ensnared in an inexorable place determined to find "home." Spirituals often tell the story of a voyage to a promised land. Come and join Hearing in Color as we explore the emotional, spiritual and physical journey of Black Americans from Africa to present day North America.

The concert will take place at **7:00 pm** on **Saturday, February 29**. We hope to see you there!

YOUR MONEY

Money matters to you. It matters to everyone. But we don’t usually talk about it, especially in a Christian context. That changes this month, as part of our MLK Teach-In. We have the opportunity to learn about the upcoming Illinois Fair Tax proposal that would change the state income tax system from a flat tax to a graduated income tax. This is an historic effort that we can participate in, and you can learn all about it on **Sunday, February 2**, when **Anna Gaebler** from ONE Northside is our guest at 11:30 am. Join us to learn how this effort is a continuation of Martin Luther King Jr.’s work toward economic justice, toward equity, and toward an end to racial/ethnic disparities.

Game time for everyone! Another opportunity, as part of the MLK series, will be fun and informative. Join other church members in playing a game that teaches us about ourselves, our values, and our relationship to money. You will not lose any money, but you will definitely have fun gaining insights that may make a difference to you and to others about what we value and how we show it. Come to Howel Hall on Sunday, February 16, at 11:30 and be ready for fun and learning, led by NSBC members Sean, Jay, Peggy and Pastor Kathryn.

What does money have to do with where you live, work, or go to school? How did you end up on the north side, the south side, the west side of Chicago? Why is Chicago so segregated, and can anything be done to change it? Is this a subject you should care about? What would Martin Luther King Jr. say if he came back to Chicago today? We have the rare opportunity to hear from



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What's Up With Our Youth?



The youth celebrated the end of 2019 with a Secret Santa gift exchange and movie night. We began 2020 with reflections on what we learned in the past year, what we want to take with us into the new year, and what we want to leave behind.



We are gearing up for our annual retreat to Camp Tamarack in Waupaca, WI. The retreat will take place from **February 14-17**. We will leave at 6:00 pm on the 14th and return in the late afternoon on the 17th. Cost is \$15/youth, \$20/family. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Pastor Kathryn.

Ash Wednesday and Lent



On **Wednesday, February 26**, the English congregation is hosting a family-friendly, dinner-church style **Ash Wednesday** service at **5:30 pm** in the Warner Welcome Center. It will include a light meal and the imposition of ashes. All are welcome! You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

As Lent begins on **March 1**, we will be offering two new Sunday School classes starting at **11:30 am**. Pastor Juan will be teaching a course in Spanish (with translation to English available) on Baptist history, values, and polity. Pastor Kathryn will be teaching a course in English (with translation to Spanish available) on the parables of Jesus, using Dr. AJ Levine's book and video series *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*.

Hurray! A New Van!

The church has purchased a new all church van for the future transportation to and from church events. This is in thanks to the generosity of three of our church households donating funds which covered the entire purchase. The old bus, after 20 years of service, could no longer be repaired or patched up. Our Property Ministry is proud to show off our new addition. My friends, this vehicle provides 15 individual seats!



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Natalie Moore, an author and WBEZ journalist who has lived in, researched, and written about her own life on the South side as well as its history and the stories of its residents. What can we learn today about the racial segregation that persists and how exemplifies our continuing housing divide, our wealth divide. We have the rare opportunity to hear Natalie Moore in person at our church. This is a major scoop for NSBC, and I hope you will invite all your friends to hear her wisdom and experience about our beloved city on Sunday, February 23 at 11:30 am. I believe we will take away many insights that could lead us to make a difference in the healing of our city. ~ Barbara Lacker-Ware



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North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org



"There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved." ~ George Sand

Joint Worship – Healing Service

Sunday, February 9, 2020

10:00 a.m.



*Healing
Service*

The annual Joint Healing Service will take place Sunday, **February 9**, at **10:00 am** in the **Sanctuary**. Along with worship, praise, and preaching we will celebrate our ritual of healing anointment with oil. Rev. Kathryn Ray, Pastor of Discipleship, will bring us the sermon. An Agape Meal will be held in Howel Hall following worship. Everyone one is welcome and invited to bring a side dish or dessert that represents their ethnic or cultural background.