

JUNE 2018

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Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Calling a Pastor

In our Baptist tradition, the calling of a pastor is a long, complicated, and sometimes even frustrating process — it's hard work! We believe that the Divine Spirit leads us, but we must do a lot to cooperate with that Spirit. This is a very delicate operation, subject to interference, and we have to refine our sense of ourselves as a church and our hopes for the future. Study and introspection are not easy, but absolutely necessary if we are to avoid missing what the Spirit is doing. If we have fantasies about a savior pastor who will come like Christ on a White Horse, we will be disappointed. On the other hand, if we seek only comfort and familiarity, again, our hopes will come back less than fulfilled. There are often many turns along the way. Like driving down a winding country road at night, we can sometimes only predict as far as our headlights can illumine, trusting that the road continues beyond our vision and that it will lead us where we are going.

All that said, the two searches are coming to their culmination. This past Sunday, May 27, the church voted to call the **Rev. Eh Plot Soe** to serve as the Karen language pastor. In the coming weeks, we will

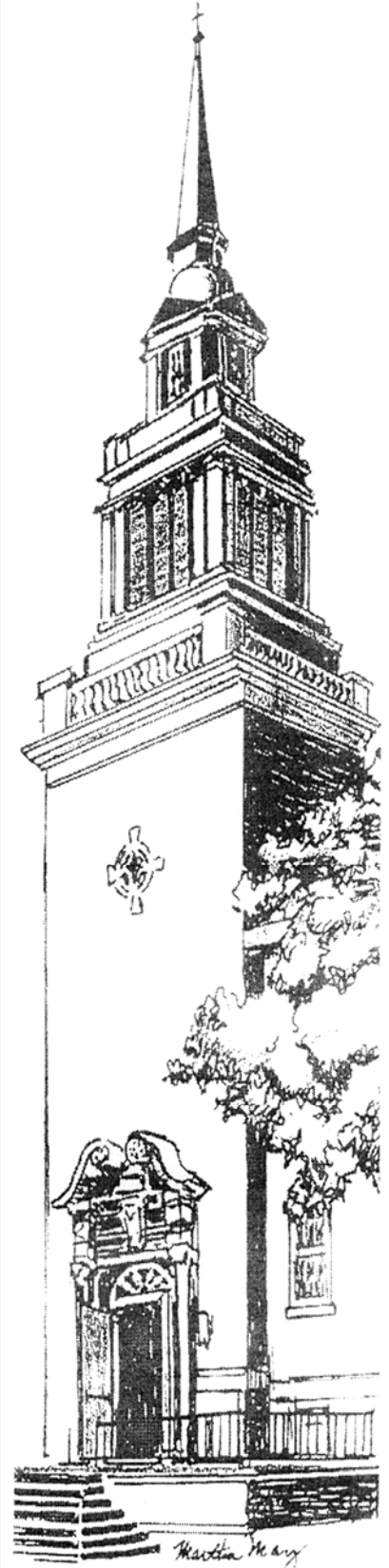
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English Language Pastor Candidate Weekend

After over a year of prayer, lively discussion, and discernment as we reviewed applications and conducted interviews, the Search Committee has achieved consensus and chosen a single candidate to present to the church for the position of English Language Pastor. We have worked hard and are very excited about the candidate we have found. This individual will be preaching in English worship on **Sunday, June 17**. At 12:30, the church will vote on receiving them as English Language pastor.

Because the candidate is currently serving in a church, we are withholding identifying information about them until just before the day of the vote. The purpose of our discretion is to ensure that, should NSBC accept the candidate as the new pastor, they will have the opportunity to inform their present congregation of their upcoming transition in the way they deem most pastorally appropriate.

On Sunday, June 10, we will make more information about the candidate available. For the time being, we ask that you please mark your calendars and plan to be present on June 17 for this exciting day in the life of the church!



help him move from Rockford to Chicago, to find a high school for his two daughters to attend for their senior year, and to get established in his role in our church. Many of the details have not been worked out yet, nor has a first Sunday been set. But we expect he will start sometime around the beginning of August, if not sooner.

On June 17th at 12:30, the church will meet for the second time in four weeks to vote on calling a pastor. This time for the English Language Congregation. If this is the Spirit's will, the church will vote to call and the candidate will accept. And then all the same details for the English Pastor: housing, transportation & moving, start date, arrangements for family, and so on.

But here's an important point: though it will feel like the work is over, in reality the harder work is just beginning. There will be the work of getting the new pastors and their families settled in, as well as the work of orientation to the church and all of its procedures, habits, rhythms, and patterns. It's a complicated church, and this orientation takes some time (take it from me!). Then there will be work most will not see, but all will feel the effects of: the pastoral team will be working hard to again form itself into a single team with a shared vision of team ministry.

Finally, there will be the work of the church and the pastors getting to know each other. I'm always amused the way a new pastor's preaching "improves" in the first six months or year of service. This is, of course, because the church learns to listen for how the pastor says things, and the pastor learns to speak to how the church hears things. A new pastor will bring new skills, insights, strengths, blind spots, challenges, and gifts — and will bring out different aspects of the church's soul into prominence. This will all be work.

But there's a blessing here too: if the Spirit is involved, as I am confident it is, then this work will not feel burdensome. Instead, it will feel like the fulfillment of the process and the inauguration of the next phase of North Shore's life together. It will be joyful work, lifting up the spirits of all who participate. It will be meaningful work, connecting the day-to-day efforts of church-craft with the coming of God's Reign. And it will be rewarding work, bringing blessing upon blessing to the church, the neighborhood, the denomination, and the world.

So get ready... the search work is coming to an end, and the new church work is about to begin!

Searching for a New Pastor



Welcome New Organist

Tadashi (Tad) Suzuki is thrilled to be a part of NSBC as the new organist for the Japanese congregation. He is a Chicago area solo pianist performing at major hotels and private clubs for cocktails, weddings, and private parties. He is originally from Tokyo, Japan. He loves playing many different musical instruments for fun. He treasures spending most of his time with over 30 piano students at his piano studio in downtown, Chicago. He holds a Master's Degree of Music in Piano Performance from DePaul University School of Music and a Bachelor's Degree of Music in Piano Performance from Chicago College of Performance Arts, Roosevelt University, as well as B.A. in Economics from Roosevelt University.

Tad will be taking the position previously held by long time organist, **Lyka Takei** who stepped down in April for health reasons. Thank You! and Best Wishes! to Lyka, and Welcome! to Tad.





2018

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 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	4 6:30 pm AA Meeting	5 7pm Property Min.	6 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	7 4:00 Stewardship Ministry	8 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	9 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
10 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am End-of-Year Celebration 11:30 am Karen Worship	11 6:30 pm AA Meeting	12 7pm Church Council	13 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	14	15 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	16 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
17 <u>Candidate Sunday</u> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time ** Father's Day Lunch ** 11:30 pm Karen Worship 12:30 pm Congregational Meeting	18 6:30 pm AA Meeting	19	20 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	21	22 6:30-Potluck & Movie Night 7pm Spanish Bible Study	23 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
24 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Karen Worship	25 6:30 pm AA Meeting	26	27 6:30 pm Anderson-ville YPAA	28	29 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	30 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
July 1 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Karen Worship	2 6:30 pm AA Meeting	3	4  <div>Building Closed</div>	5		

Mother's Day Celebration

I want to thank Tomas Acosta and Olga Diaz for spearheading Mother's Day celebration and preparing the food for annual meeting. I would also like to thank the countless volunteers, like the Centeno family that helped for these two events, from setting up to cooking. In particular, I want to thank Tomas for his willingness to take the leadership in getting the Hispanic men involved in the celebration. Even though, like in any other project, there were different types of challenges, the event was well executed and the meal was delicious. Again, to all the volunteers—Mil Gracias!!!!!!

~ Pastor Rony



Sachiko Kano sports a hat made by Toshi Sakata (right), for which they both took home prizes.



Esperanza Nava took home top prize in the hat competition, with a hat featuring photos of her children.



Faye & Lester Argüelles' mother demonstrates her fan for Jhonnathan Sinchi.

The men of the church prepare and serve a delicious meal.

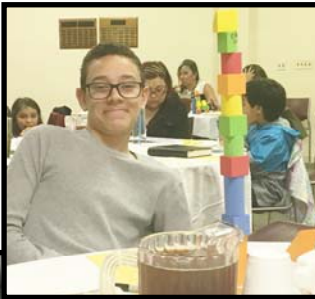


Mother's Day, cont.



Juvenal and Margarita Valdez family plus Olga Diaz and Tomas Acosta spent countless hours making the horseshoe.

Annual Meeting 2018



Caleb and baby Christian made good use of the blocks put out by Palmejar-Takakis.



Flo Reeves reads her letter nominating Margo Bach for the Faithful Servant award.



Cheryl and Yanira participate together in the time-honored church tradition of holding babies that aren't yours.



Olga and Trinidad hard at work in the kitchen.



NSBC Expresses Support for GAPA

In April, Anna Mangahas from ONE Northside (a community organization of which NSBC is a member) came to the Church Council meeting to discuss the work of the **Grassroots Association for Police Accountability** (GAPA). At its meeting in May, the Church Council voted to formally express support for the work and recommendations of the coalition, which we believe furthers the work of building peace, justice, and right relationship in the city of Chicago.



GAPA describes itself as “a broad-based coalition of community organizations committed to making our neighborhoods safer, improving police practices and accountability, and transforming the relationship between the Chicago Police Department and the communities it serves.” The coalition formed two years ago in order to create an avenue for broad-based community input in the city’s discussion regarding

police oversight reform. Over the past two years, it has been hosting community conversations between various stakeholders, including the police department, local businesses and organizations, and members of communities experiencing high levels of violence.

Based on these conversations, GAPA has formulated a proposal to establish a Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, which will share oversight responsibilities of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability and the Police Board with the mayor. Members of the commission, while elected by the city, will be required to have experience and education in fields directly related to the work they will be overseeing. The full proposal can be found on GAPA’s website at <http://chicagogapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GAPA-Report-2018.pdf>.

Drafting a Sex Offender Participant Policy

NSBC’s Church Covenant states that we will “love each other with loyalty and forgiveness” and “not put up barriers to anyone’s participation in the life of the church.” How do we best live out these values with those friends and neighbors who have been convicted of a sex offense, while also recognizing our responsibility to safeguard the well-being of other members of our community? On May 12, the Church Council gathered offsite for a half-day retreat to delve into this challenging question. Drawing on expert resources regarding sex offense law, psychological research, and existing evidence-based practices, we shared in conversation that was both deeply technical and thoroughly heartfelt.



Out of this retreat, we developed a set of guiding principles to be used in formulating a Sex Offender Participant Policy. Our next step will be to establish a Council task force that will use these guiding principles to draft the policy itself.

What's Up With Our Youth?

This month, the youth group shared in fellowship and deep conversation. We watched a talk by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie discussing “the danger of a single story,” and used felt and paint to tell our own stories. We talked about the struggles of the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit to come to them after Jesus ascended to heaven. We also gathered with other members of the church to watch the movie *Coco*.

Next month, we look forward to our annual end-of-the-year lock in on June 15-16.



Young Adult Initiative

In May, **Yanira Silva** and **Kate Whitmore** joined **Pastor Kathryn** and **Sam Hartman-Pickerill** at the final two-day seminar of the Young Adult Initiative's series on “Religious and Spiritual Lives of Young Adults.” We worked our way through the design process, developing insights about our church life and discussing projects we might implement to reach out to our neighbors and deepen our connections to one another. This month, we look forward to turning one of the (many!) ideas we discussed into a grant proposal for the Lily Endowment.



Sam, Kate, and Yanira give thoughtful consideration to the task!

2018 NSBC Scholarship Recipients

Michelle Centeno received a \$1,000 NSBC scholarship for tuition. She is entering her second year at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she studies criminal law.

Cameron Feiler received a \$1,000 Susan J. Kosmas Scholarship for tuition. He is entering his second year at Eckerd College, where he is pursuing a major in anthropology.

Jose Luis Flores, Jr. received a \$1,000 NSBC scholarship for tuition. He is in his third year at DePaul University and plans to pursue a career in data analysis.

Mia Palmejar-Takaki received a \$1,000 Hardy Family Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her third year at the College of Wooster, where she is pursuing a double major in Psychology and Communication.

Pyo E Sa received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coates Fund for tuition. She is pursuing a degree in Business Management at Northeastern Illinois University.

Rony Reyes received a \$500 William R. Myers scholarship for seminary tuition for a Ph.D at LSTC.

Seven Chrit received a \$1,000 NSBC scholarship for tuition. She is completing her associate degree at Harry Truman College, and plans to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

Richie Zadda received a \$1,000 NSBC scholarship for tuition. He is pursuing a degree in biology from University of Illinois at Chicago.

Reshma Zadda received a \$1,000 NSBC scholarship for tuition. She will be entering her first year of college, and plans to pursue a career in immigration law.





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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 [one] who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after." — Newton Baker



End of Year Celebration



On **June 10**, at 11:30 a.m. we will celebrate our graduates and teachers. We will also see what our Adventures in Learning classes have been up to this year. Join us for songs, celebration, and cake!



Summer Mission Explorers



This summer, we will again be hosting a Summer Mission Explorers series for our children. Rather than doing a one-week VBS program, we will be gathering during the traditional Adventures in Learning hour, **Sundays, 11:30-12:30**,

to learn more about the mission work of the church and do crafts together. Summer Mission Explorers will take place on **July 29, August 12, August 19, and August 26**. This year, we will learn more about the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America; the church's work in Retalhuleu, Guatemala; the Samaritana Ministry in the Philippines; and our lunch and shower ministry for those experiencing homelessness.