

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

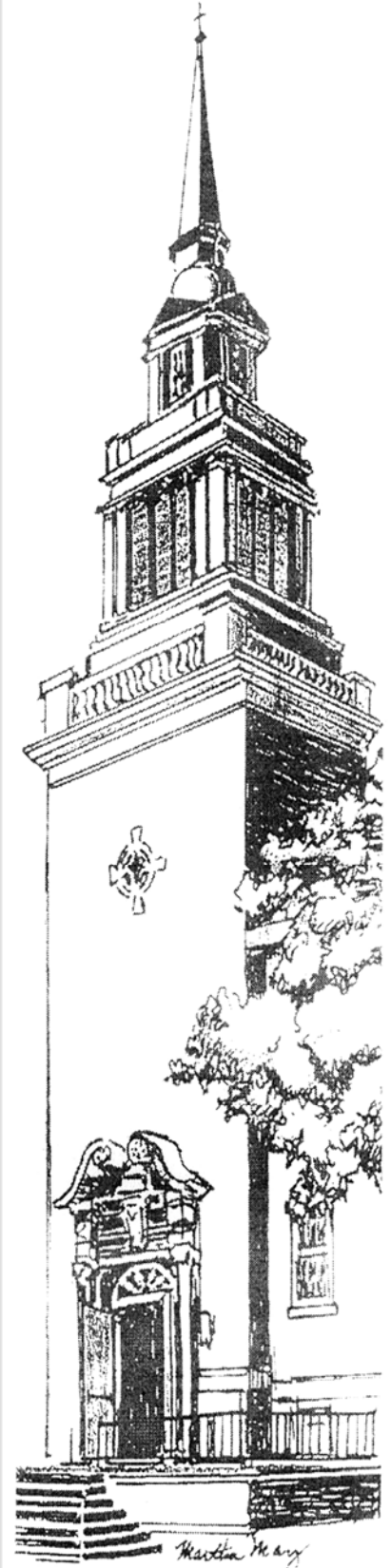
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Closing for New Beginnings

Sisters and brothers, we have come to the close of our Christian year at North Shore Baptist as certain programmatic activity will go on hiatus. This transitioning is not unfamiliar, with the warmer temperatures and bright sunshine looming. Graduations, vacations, and family gatherings will take center stage for most of us as summer begins. And we acknowledge that we have been busy in God's work from last fall through this spring season. Our faithful witness has been lived out through our regular worship services, creative programs, and innovative ways to address social justice issues. Now, we will close this season of fellowship, worshiping, and mission with an end of church-school celebration. My friends, indeed it is a time for some things to come to a close, as our scripture tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1—"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

What I love about this passage of scripture, as it continues on through verse 8, is that each of the transitional moments is listed independently of the other. Everything listed has its own time of beginning and ending ("... a time to die, and a time to live; a time to plant, and a time to uproot..." Yes, there is a closing for some things and a beginning for others, and it is this that I want us to hold onto as we enter this season normally considered in the church as a time of low activity and attendance. Rather, I am challenging each of us to see this time as new opportunities to be servants of the living God in the midst of this commonly known season of recreation and relaxation. North Shore will be a place of activity throughout the summer and our God is asking you and me to be engaged through worship, prayer, and participation.

To start with, each of our congregations will be offering fresh opportunities for ministry through our regular times of worship and gathering each Sunday throughout the summer. Our worship teams will be seeking to provide the spiritual food for everyone who comes so they might be fed. New beginnings in mission are shaped around the ABCUSA Biennial, the Global Peace Conference, and the NSBC Youth retreat to Dubuque, Iowa. Participants desire your prayers for their safe travel and return, if you are unable to support in some other way. And we have the church picnic in August where I hear we close off the street and have a party! We may have ended some areas of focus only to have these aforementioned activities and others yet to come provide ways we can and should stay connected in ministry over the summer.



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Friends, we need time for gathering, fellowshiping, serving and being equipped in this season. The leisurely activities of the season do not take away the importance of staying connected in the shared ministries of NSBC throughout the summer. Making time for Sunday worship or taking part in the life of your church during these warmer days will enable us to withstand whatever comes our way. So I encourage you, as you plan your schedules, to remember that exciting things are happening at North Shore Baptist Church!

~ Peace Be With You, Pastor Michael

Wilbur Warner Grant Awards

We meet in the fall and the spring to consider grant proposals for projects (domestic and international) that align with our church's values and mission. This past church year we gave out six awards totaling \$20,500. Check out what these folks are dreaming and doing!

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America - \$ 5,000

BPFNA is creating a long-term plan to become more fully bilingual-Spanish and committed to partnerships with Baptists from North, South and Central America. They will use the grant to: 1) invest in sending their new Spanish-language editor for The Baptist Peacemaker to the Cali Global Baptist Peace conference; 2) have staff meet with Latinx Baptist leaders after the conference; 3) send the Spanish language editor participate in an immersion trip at the US Mexico border; and 4) send another staff member to the border experience to prepare for 2020 BPFNA annual conference next summer at the US/Mexico border.



Community Christian Church / Giftmart 4:12, Naperville, IL -- \$ 2,000

Since 2003, Giftmart 4:12 has partnered with businesses and faith-based organizations to collect more than 100,000 new toys. They want to bring from suburbs to a CPS under-resourced school, serving a population that is 78% low income. Grant money will be used to buy toys that will then be bought at \$2 a toy to provide dignity for parents and caretakers providing holiday gifts. All proceeds raised by the parents for the toys are given back to the school.



Iglesia Bautista Central, Brooklyn, NY, -- \$ 3,000

This church is the parent organization for La Asociación de Iglesias Bautistas Penial in Managua, Nicaragua. They will use the grant to support the self-education and biblical and theological training of four lay pastors by building a small library within one of the four churches in the association. The library will have bookshelves, photocopier, two computers, tables and chairs.



ONE Northside - \$ 2,500

Affordable Housing Storytelling project – key community leaders who have been directly affected by housing costs will share their story to change the current narrative about affordable housing on the Northside. The grant is for sound, video and editing equipment.



Sarah's Circle, \$ 5,000

The grant will make Daytime Support center bathroom more accessible by installing electric door opener, to allow women in wheelchairs and electric scooters comfortable, secure access.



Youth Togo Center - \$ 3,000

The Youth Center Togo ministry will give youth in primary and secondary schools uniforms and shoes in three remote villages in the southeast region of Togo.



It's been a pleasure to work with **Manuel Sinchi**, **Sachiko Kano** and **Pastor Kathryn Ray** on this committee these past few years. Blessings to the new Wilbur Warner Trust Grant Committee chair and members. Submitted by Sherry Nelson, Chair

What's Up With Our Youth?



The youth group began its meetings in May by joining our Jewish neighbors at Emanuel Congregation to mark Yom HaShoah (the Holocaust Day of Remembrance) and mourn the shooting at the synagogue in Poway, California on the final day of Passover. Paw Say Ku (pictured left) also joined us on a Friday night to give a presentation on prescription medication misuse by teenagers and lead us in games.

We are also very much looking forward to our annual end-of-the-school-year lock in, which will take place Friday-Saturday, June 14-15.



2019 NSBC Scholarship Recipients

Cameron Feiler received a \$700 NSBC scholarship for tuition. He is entering his third year at Eckerd College, where he studies anthropology. This year, he will complete a semester abroad in Galway, Ireland.

Cossette Flores received a \$500 NSBC Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her first year at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she plans to study biology. She hopes to pursue a career in nursing.

Dah Blah Sher received a \$500 Coats scholarship for tuition. She is entering her first year at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ha Na received a \$700 Susan J. Kosmas Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her second year at Northern Illinois University, and plans to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.

January Htoo received a \$500 Coats scholarship for tuition. She is entering her second year at North Park University, and is interested in graphic design and early education.

Lisbeth Monge Argueta received a \$700 Hardy Family Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her first year of college, and she plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Michelle Centeno received a \$700 NSBC Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her third year at University of Illinois at Chicago, where she studies criminal law.

Mu Doh Eh Mu received a \$500 Japanese Congregation Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her senior year at Northeastern Illinois University.

Pyo E Sa received a \$700 NSBC scholarship for tuition. She is entering her final year at Northeastern Illinois University, pursuing a degree in Business Administration. She hopes to open a small business to benefit refugee women, girls, and community members.

Reshma Zadda received a \$300 NSBC Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her second year at Malcom X College, and hopes to pursue a career in immigration law.

Richie Zadda received a \$500 Japanese Congregation Scholarship for tuition. He is entering his senior year at University of Chicago at Illinois, and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Rosie Htoo received a \$300 Susan J. Kosmas Scholarship for tuition. She is entering her third year at Northeastern Illinois University, where she studies early childhood education and business management. She hopes to return to her country to serve as an educator to Karen people.

Sha Mo Aye Lar received a \$300 Hardy Family Scholarship. He is entering his first year at Harry S. Truman College, where he plans to study Automotive Technology.





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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 Sunday, **June 9**, we will celebrate the end of another year of Adventures in Learning. We will recognize our Sunday School teachers, graduates, and see some presentations from our children's classes!



Youth Mission Trip to Dubuque

This summer, we will again be joining other youth from the Edgewater area on a mission trip to Dubuque, IA from **August 3-8**. We will stay at a church in the area and complete service projects at a local soup kitchen, community garden, and state park. For more information, please speak with **Pastor Kathryn**.



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