

Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

Tales From Adventures in Learning

The hour on Sunday from 11:30 am-12:30 pm is one of the most vibrant in the ministry of North Shore Baptist Church. During that hour, children of all ages explore faith, learn about the Bible, and have fun with one another in our four Adventures in Learning classes for people under 18. At the heart of this ministry is a small team of dedicated teachers who minister to our children each and every week. In this Steeple Stories, we hear about their experiences.



Cecilia Linares and Chris Abiera, Beginners Class (4 yrs - 1st gr)

Ceci

I always like to work with kids, and to be a Bible schoolteacher is something that was in my plans and in my heart to do. We work with kids from 4-7 years old. They are so smart, funny, lovely, and respectful. Sometimes when they are sick or maybe upset, we pray for them and it is so beautiful to see how they change because they know God is with them. That makes me think how great is God: if we put our lives in his hands, that makes me feel really strong. Every Sunday is something different and special.

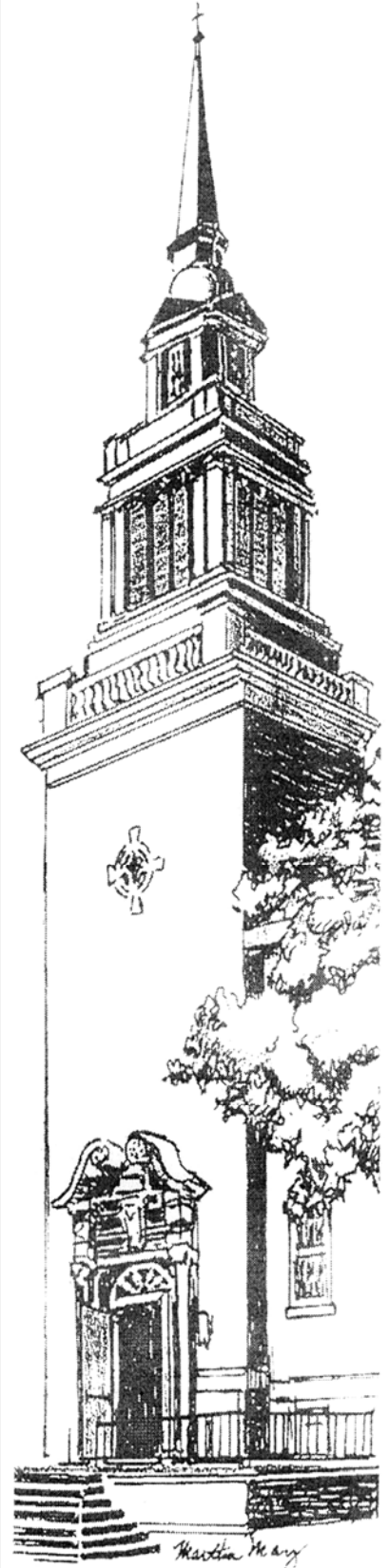
Chris

Each week, we begin by talking about what's going on in our lives that we want God to know about. Then we pray out loud to God together. We had one tiny little boy who was new. For weeks, while we pray out loud together, he would sit and stare at the rest of us. But then one day, he put his hands together, bowed his head and closed his eyes along with the rest of us. It was a very precious moment. Our children face many challenges: being perceived as different, deaths of loved ones, bullying. We teach our kids that God loves them, no matter what.. And we try to show them that following God's rules and treating others the way Jesus did are the right ways to live.

Eggee Linares, Primary Class (2nd grade-3rd grade)

Even though I look like this serious person, I enjoy working with kids. One thing that I like about the class I have right now, the kids are always looking for me around church. There's some kind of bond, even though words are not said or expressed. Sometimes I'm talking [during coffee hour], and they'll say "we're ready to go to class." I feel like I'm helping them understand a little bit about the Bible. I have fun with them. To me, that's fulfilling, the bond we have. I feel like I'm doing my part. And I'm having fun at the same time. I enjoy it.

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Yanira Silva, Older Elementary Class (4th grad-6th grade)

Yanira began teaching Sunday School many years ago, when a new family arrived who needed a Spanish-speaking Sunday School teacher. She says, "I love to work with kids, to see them come as babies. I love to see the spark in their eyes, that 'aha' moment they have, to see them growing in faith. Teaching gets me to open up the Bible, to look at stories I looked at as a child and go back to them and hear what the kids see. They know what being a part of church is, being a part of North Shore. They get it, and their faith is growing. Watching a student read the story out loud for the first time was really special. They may be really shy, but they do understand."

Madison McClendon, Youth Class (7th grade-12th grade)

We are exploring the use of role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons for teaching middle and high school youth in Sunday School. While we might not play the game every Sunday, we'll be interspersing our curriculum with breaks to allow students to improvise and explore the lesson content in a different way. For example, we recently conducted a lesson about spiritual gifts. In order to connect the curriculum with the game, students were encouraged to share about their personal skills and God-given gifts at the same time we were developing the characters they would use in the game!

To close, I will quote Ceci Linares: "God bless all teachers and help us to continue with this BEAUTIFUL JOB!!!"

~ Pastor Kathryn

Interim and Search Update

At a specially called meeting on February 5, the Congregation voted to appoint a search committee for the permanent English Language Pastor. The committee is: **Maura Galarza, Yanira Silva, Eh Kler, Cecilia Poenyunt, Sachiko Kano, Jay Shimotake, George Figueroa, Peggy Griffin, Becca Hartman-Pickerill, Barbara Lehman, Agnes Palmejar-Takaki, Scott Turner, Nick Fong,** and the four settled pastors, **Pastor Kathryn Ray, Pastor Rony Reyes, Pastor Roger Poenyunt, and Pastor Yuki Scroggins.** Our English Congregation Interim, **Pastor David Gregg** will serve as a resource to the committee in the early part of the search. The committee was commissioned for its work as part of the Healing Service on February 12. Their first meeting will be March 9.



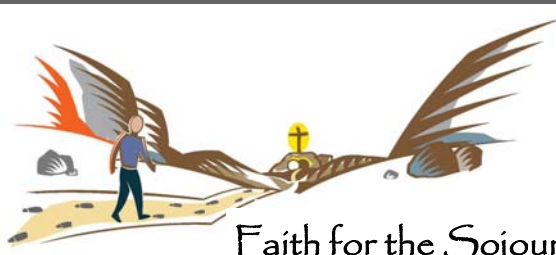

**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Their first steps are to select a chair and orient themselves to the interim and search process. Normally we would receive assistance in this church from the Regional Executive Minister. At this time, however, the Executives in Chicago are the previous English language pastors of this church, **Revs Carol McVetty & Doug Harris,** and it would be inappropriate for them to work with our search committee. So they have invited the Regional Executive Minister from ABC-Wisconsin, **Rev Marie Onwubuariri,** to work with our committee; we will also be helped by **Rev Sarah Jay,** the Associate Regional Minister for Euro American and multi-cultural congregations in Metro Chicago. They will both be at that first meeting.

There is a lot about the search that must remain confidential, and so there will be periods when the church will not know what all the committee is doing. But it will be all the more important, therefore, for the committee to communicate what it can. Watch this space for further updates in coming months. It is on and for their commitment to walking this journey together.

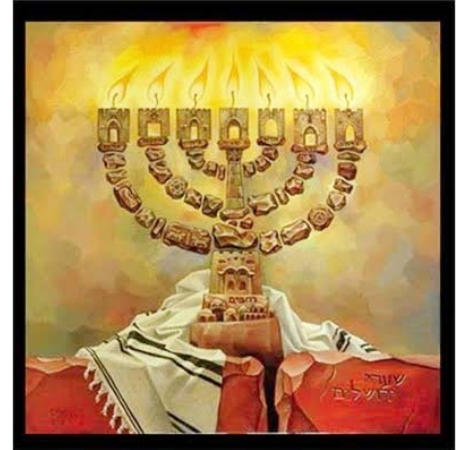


march

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Faith for the Sojourner</p>			<p>1</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study</p>
<p>5</p> <p>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</p> <p>6:30pm ES Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA 7:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study</p> <p>4:00 Stewardship Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study</p>
<p>12</p> <p>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 12:30 pm Baptist History</p> <p>6:30pm ES Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7pm Church Council</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA 7:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study</p> <p>6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study</p>
<p>19</p> <p>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 12:30 pm Mission Lunch 2:00 pm Know Your Rights Workshop</p> <p>6:30pm ES Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA 7:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study</p> <p>6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6-8:00pm FotL Youth Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Spanish Bible Study</p>
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Letter to Emanuel Congregation

In light of recent anti-Semitic vandalism in our city, the pastoral team crafted the following letter of support to Emanuel Congregation, a synagogue in our neighborhood. The letter also honors **Rabbi Herman Schaalman**, a prominent community leader in interfaith relations who was rabbi emeritus at Emanuel. The letter was approved in a unanimous vote by the Church Council on Tuesday, February 14.



Emmanuel Congregation
5959 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660

Dear Rabbi Marantz and Emmanuel Congregation,

On behalf of North Shore Baptist Church, we offer our deepest condolences to you for the loss of Rabbi Herman Schaalman. His scholarship, leadership, and example have left a profound impact on this community, which will remain for generations to come. His collaboration with North Shore's former pastor, Rev. Ralph Elliott, gave rise to the Edgewater Community Religious Association. Through this space of interfaith relationship, dialogue, and mutual support, their work continues to bless our church and neighborhood. May his memory be a blessing.

In the spirit of Rabbi Schaalman's steadfast witness to interfaith bridge-building, North Shore Baptist Church also extends our unequivocal support to your community in the wake of the increased anti-Semitism seen around our nation, and particularly in the recent acts of vandalism at the Chicago Loop Synagogue. In his interview with the Chicago Sunday Evening Club, Rabbi Schaalman tells a story from his youth in Munich during the rise of the National Socialist Party. His friends came to him one day and beat him up, with the explanation "We just learned that you killed Christ." We acknowledge the long history of Christian anti-Semitism that inspired both acts of violence, and commit to our responsibility to transform that history. If we can be of support in the days to come, please call on us.

In the words of Martin Buber, whose writing restored Rabbi Schaalman's faith in his ability to be a rabbi: "In the beginning is relation." Through mutual relationship, may we share in the mending of this world.

In peace,

The letter was signed by the members of our Pastoral Team, Church Moderator, Vice Moderator and Church Clerk

Community Workshop



On **Sunday, March 19** at **2:00 pm** in Howel Hall, North Shore will be hosting a Know Your Rights workshop for immigrants and concerned citizens in collaboration with the **Edgewater Community Religious Association**. The workshop will be in English and Spanish. The following topics will be covered:

1) What to do if ICE comes to your home, workplace, or you encounter ICE in a public place. 2) What to do if you are detained. 3) How to make an emergency plan for yourself and your family.

ALSO, on March 19 at **12:30 p.m.** we will have a fundraiser **Mission Trip Lunch** for the upcoming trip to Salamanca, Spain. Come for Worship that Sunday and stay for lunch and a workshop!!!

Fruit of the Lord Youth Group



Fruit of the Lord YOUTH News

The youth group went on its yearly retreat to Camp Grow from **February 17-19**. The theme was **“Faith for the Journey.”** We had 16 youth in attendance, and **Eh Kler, Pyo E Sa, Gilberto Gonzalez** came along. We discussed how faith is like a journey, for which God gives us sustenance. We also played games and celebrated **David Ramirez’s** 18th birthday!

left: Reflecting on our Faith Journeys;

below: Morning Worship



above: Braving the Muddy Trails

below: Human Foosball



The Group



Our Praise Band



above: Celebrating David's Birthday

left: Hanging Out

How to support the FotL youth ministry:

- ◆ Reach out to youth on Sunday morning! Get to know them and ask how they are doing.
- ◆ Remember our youth and youth ministry in your prayers.
- ◆ Accompany one of our special events. If interested, contact Pastor Kathryn at kray@northshorebaptist.org



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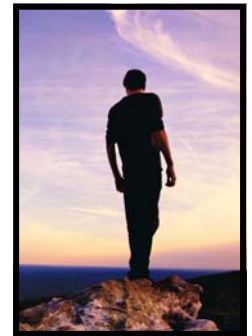
e-mail: office@northshorebaptist.org

North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org



"Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."

~ Martin Luther

The Lenten Sojourn

Faith for the Sojourner
"Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you."

A Lenten Sermon Series
March 5 – April 9, 2017
10:00 AM

Rev. Kathryn Ray - Mr. Madison McClendon - Rev. David Gregg
Rev. Holale Azondjani - Dr. Chakravarthy Zadda

North Shore Baptist Church 5244 N Lakewood Ave, Chicago
A multi-racial, multi-lingual, inclusive community of faith

With the beginning of Lent on March 1, North Shore Baptist Church again entered a period of introspection and spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection. Some of the activities include:

- Ash Wednesday Service, was held March 1, 7 pm, in Kraft Chapel
- Lenten themed worship, with a sermon series in the English Language Service on **"Faith for the Sojourners."** Preachers will be: **Rev Kathryn Ray, Mr Madison McClendon, Rev David Gregg, Rev Holale Azondjani, and Rev Dr Chakravarthy Zadda.**

- Shared study book, **"40-Day Journey with Parker Palmer"**; there will be weekly discussions of how the devotional book has revealed in our journey. You have two choices for this Lenten study: these will meet **Wednesdays at 7 pm (starting 3/8)** or **Thursdays at 1 pm (starting 3/9)**.

You are invited to join any of these activities that draw you. This spiritual season of Sojourn is one we can share, learning from each other and giving each other strength for the journey.



Season of Lent

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