



Steeple Stories

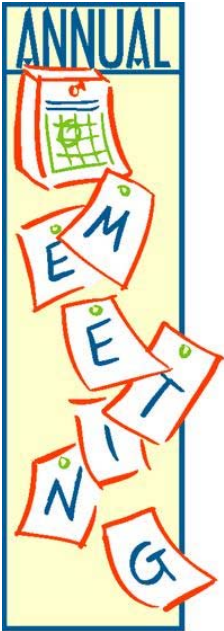
The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

MAY 2019

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4

5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60640

113th Annual Meeting



On **Sunday, May 19**, we will gather to celebrate Pentecost with a joint worship service at **10:00 am.** followed by a lunch and our annual meeting at 12:00pm.

As we recall, many changes took place in 2018-2019. In September 2018, after resignation of Rev. David Gregg from his position as an Interim English Language Pastor, we welcomed Rev. Michael Ware as a new English Language Pastor. We also welcomed Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe as a new Karen Language Pastor. After a departure of Rev. Rony Reyes in November, 2018, we formed a search committee and started a search for an Interim Spanish Language Pastor.

In the midst of all these changes, it is truly God's Grace that we are able to continue with clear visions and goals. In October 2018, we held a bilingual Spanish/English panel discussion called "Habits of A Liberating Church" to learn about the sanctuary movement. In February 2019, we celebrated the MLK weekend by hosting an event, "Hearing

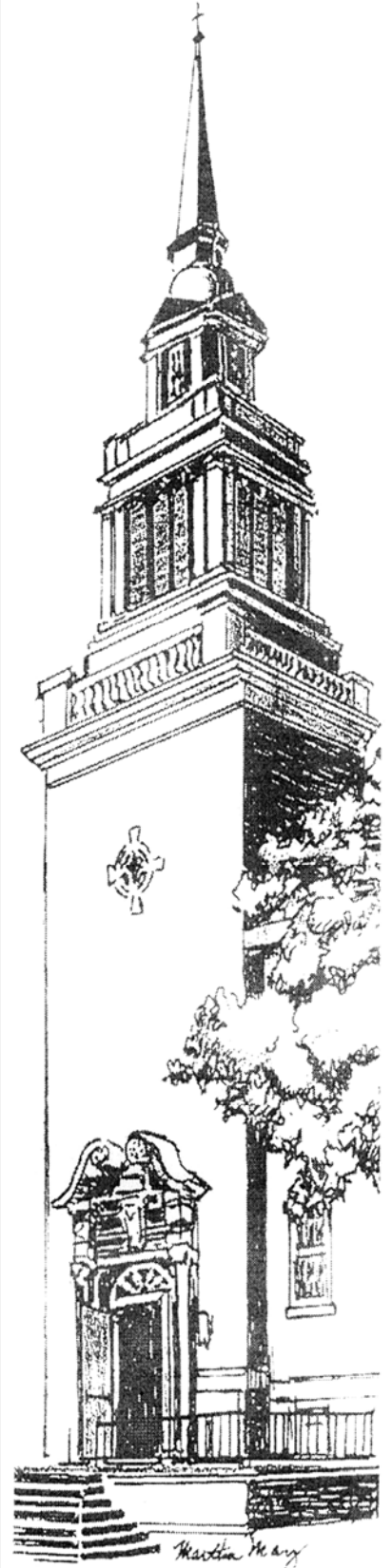
in Color and Seeing Clearly", which had three speakers to address current racial issues and empowering those in the community who are underserved.

As well as the English Congregation, Karen, Spanish and Japanese Congregations had their highlights; celebrating their anniversary (Spanish), having a singing competition (Karen), retreats (Japanese) and many more! During the joint service, Pastor Saw Eh Plo Soe will offer a sermon and during the Annual Meeting, we will recognize our Faithful Servant and scholarship recipients. This year, we will be honoring Ron Barlow for his longtime dedication to the NSBC as an administrator and member.

Let us all come together, celebrate what we have done, and envision our future in the presence of the Holy Spirit on May 19!



**JOINT Worship is at 10:00 a.m. on
Sunday May 19th!**



ABC/MC Annual Meeting

Schedule

8 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Conference and Annual Meeting
2 p.m.—4 p.m. Service of Installation of Rev. David Gregg,

Rev. Dr. Don Ng Preaching

Christ Community Church/United Chin Christian Church
602 E Geneva Rd., Wheaton, IL

5 p.m.—8 p.m. Disciples Dinner
Arrowhead Golf Club



Honoring Kate Whitmore



NSBC has put forward Kate Whitmore to receive the Daily Disciple award from the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago for 2019 for her work as church treasurer, member of Pastoral Relations, and handbell choir director. She will be honored, along with servant leaders from other ABC churches, at the Disciples Dinner, which will take place at the Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton on May 18. If you would like to attend the banquet, please contact Pastor Kathryn.

Rev. Michael Ware Installed

Reverend Michael Ware was formally installed as the English Pastor at North Shore Baptist Church on **April 7th**. The day could not have been grander, as **Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri** delivered a powerful message on trust to both the congregation and pastor. She would be followed by **Rev David Van Brakle** and **Rev Erica Van Brakle**, who offered a magnificent yet challenging charge to Pastor Michael and the church. The laying on of hands by fellow clergy was a moving experience, as **Rev. Veronica Johnson**, President of ABC Metro Chicago, prayed over Michael with fellow clergy, including former **Pastors Doug Harris and Carol Mc Vetty** laying hands on him. The Chancel Choir and the Karen Trio rounded out the service with glorious special music. Those present were asked to take a rock from the altar table, so they “may say this was the day the Lord passed over a servant seeking to do God’s will.” We would close the day over a bountiful feast prepared by our fellowship team, led by **Maura Galarza!**



Pastor Michael prepares to cut in to his congratulatory cake (*above*).

Clergy leaders from throughout the Region help make it a very special day (*right*).



What's Up With Our Youth?

This month included several acts of service, as the youth prepared sandwiches for the ministry to those experiencing homelessness (pictured, left) and also filled plastic eggs with candy for the children's Easter egg hunt (below, right). We also read Psalm 139 and watched an episode of a TV show about a quinceañera as a way of reflecting on what it means to celebrate being created and known intimately by God. Finally, we attended the Good Friday service together to mark Holy Week. Thank you to Pastor Michael for his accompaniment on Good Friday!



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**.



Good Friday Half-Vigil

On Good Friday, the Hispanic Congregation gathered from 7:00 pm until 11:00 pm to commemorate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. **Olga Diaz** organized the half-vigil, which included hymn singing (led by **Gilberto González** and **Yadira del Toro**), testimonies by **Alicia Sinchi** and **Meredia Montero**, an improvised drama of a reporter (**Tomás Acosta**) interviewing witnesses of the triumphal entry and the cleansing of the Temple (**Blanca Regalado**, **Juvenal Centeno**, and

Lázaro Silva), celebration of the Last Supper, and foot washing (by **Maria Teresa Lopez**). After a brief recess, we heard brief reflections on the Seven Last Words of Christ from **Rina Linares**, **Elmer Contreras**, **Manuel Sinchi**, **Yanira Silva**, **Ceci Linares**, **Lisbeth Monge**, and **Rosa Melendez**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this moving event!





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North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

www.northshorebaptist.org



"Kindness is like a garden of blessings." — Sirach 40:17 (a book of the apocrypha)

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

113th Annual Meeting!
Sunday May 19, 2019



10:00 a.m.
Joint Worship

12:00 p.m. - Luncheon & Meeting

- ◆ Conduct church business
- ◆ Remember those who have gone before us
- ◆ Honor our faithful servants
- ◆ Congratulate our Scholarship Fund recipients
- ◆ Commission missionaries and representatives