

# Steeple Stories

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The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood  
Chicago, IL 60640

## #whylgivettoNSBC

Sunday morning Fellowship Time has always felt to me like a great act of interweaving. There is a constant *vaivén*, the swaying back and forth between English and Spanish, interspersed with what few words of Karen I know that are always received with grace. It is a moving in and out of worlds, mediated both by language and by physical space. This person gets a hug; another gets a handshake; another, a kiss on the cheek.

I'll never forget the moment when I was coming up from Hispanic worship and ran into Cecilia Poenyunt. As I had been kissing people on the cheek all morning, I moved in towards her face, until an alarm went off in my brain shouting "ABORT! ABORT! ABORT!" At the last second, I extended my hand for a handshake. What is a warm greeting for one is an intrusion into the physical space of another. This place never fails to keep me on my toes.



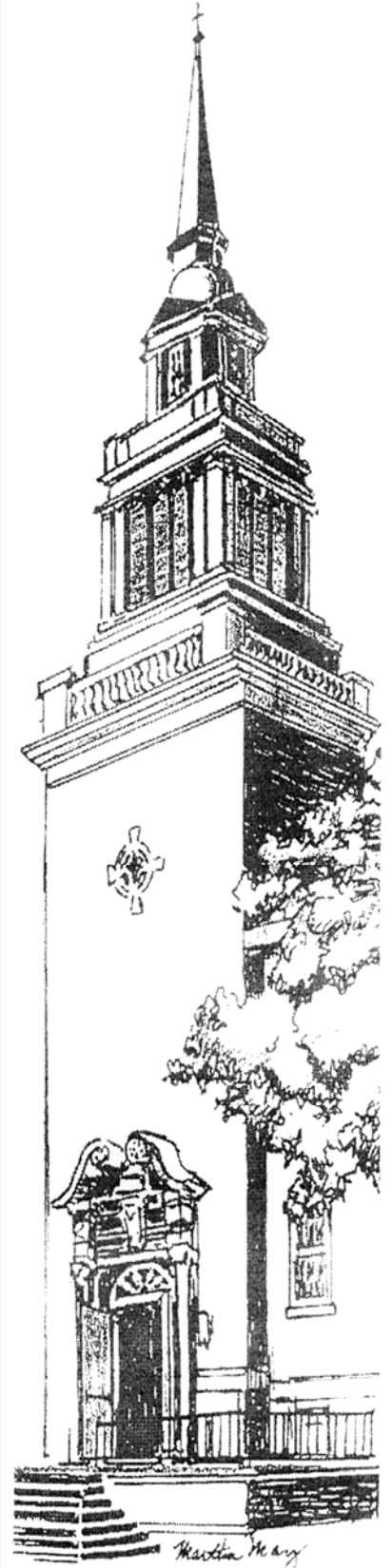
This story has always embodied an essential component of my experience at NSBC. With every encounter with another individual at this church, I find a sacred space that I must enter on its own terms. I greet other people on a daily basis without a second thought. This church demands that I be intentional about my greetings. That intentionality reminds me of the beauty and holiness of the act: the welcoming and the being welcomed, the joyful heralding of a shared space.

With each encounter with another, I move not only between worlds, but between stories. For each of us, there is a story behind our arrival in this church, and more stories unfold with each passing week, each passing Fellowship Time. What is your story? What brings you into this space, and what happens for you while you are here?

As we enter pledge campaign season, we will be thinking about how much money we pledge to donate to the church in 2019. As we think about money, I also want us to think about stories. What stories that accompany each gift you make to the church? Starting October 4, there will be a display in the Wilbur Warner Welcome Center entitled "Why I Give to NSBC." I invite you to use one of the large Post-Its provided to share your story. If you are on social media, I also invite you to post your stories, photos, and reflections online using the hashtag #whylgivettoNSBC.

To share my story: I give to the church, in part, because of this absurd and beautiful moment when I was stopped up short transitioning between cultural spaces during Fellowship Time.

~Pastor Kathryn



# “Opening Journey Together”

Wow, I cannot believe it my friends yet it is true: I am here at North Shore Baptist Church! It has truly been a busy time of adjustment from the East Coast to the Midwest for me. All the while, I have been filled with my and your eagerness in the midst of this opening journey together. I have had the pleasure of greeting many of you from our differing congregations all the while knowing this family is much larger than those present in worship on Sunday. I am so happy to have the first of many home visits under my belt. I am looking forward to visiting those who are homebound or in the hospital.



Pastor Michael began his pastorate with us September 1, 2018!

Less than a month has passed, and I can say it has been wonderful working with the pastoral team and the leaders in ministry at NSBC. The openness of welcome and honest engagement has been rewarding as I have attended meetings, taken part in the yard sale, and led worship services. All the signs of embrace have made the ease of this transition exactly what a pastor could have imagined. I am filled with enthusiasm each day I see or speak with members and folks connected with NSBC. This beginning only adds to my anticipation and happiness of where God is leading us into the future.

Blessings to all,  
Rev. Michael Ware (*Pastor Michael*)

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## “Me, My Family and North Shore Baptist Church”



Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe (2nd from left) and Family at his Installation Service on Sunday July 29, 2018

Me and my family, we pray to God everyday that do we have to work at NSBC or not? It took us one and a half year. When we received a call from Pastor David, we believed that God wanted to use us so we accepted to work at NSBC.

As for me, I decided to serve God at NSBC until the rest of my life. Pastor David is a great friend for me. He gave me good advice before I came here. May God bless him more and more and use him in God's work. I also got to know Pastor Rony, Pastor Kathryn, Pastor Michael, Pastor Yuki and I see that they are nice and very friendly. I thank God that they welcomed me and supported me.

I also would like to thank NSBC church members for voted me 72 out of 73. I also would like to thank the person who didn't vote for me. I am so grateful to work here and feel like I am in heaven. May God bless NSBC church member and we pray for each of you to be healthy and wealthy both physically and spiritually.

My vision for this church is that we put God in first according to Proverb 3:5-6 said, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding". God is the only one who can develop church. Ephesians 5:23, "Christ is the head of the church" that mean we have obey him and follow him. I Corinthians 3:9, "For we are both God's worker. And you are God's building" therefore we all are coworker in God's work and NSBC.

Dear Parents, you are pastor for your children to teach them God's words everyday. Pastors will have to pray everyday for their church member as well as the church member. It also has to be prayer service at home everyday. If we do that everyday together, the holy spirit will be with us and guide us. Tomorrow God will make a miracle to NSBC.

According to Joshua, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you."

Rev. Eh Plo Soe (Karen Pastor)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm Property Min.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:00 Stewardship Ministry</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm Spanish Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal</p>
<p>7</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>8</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7pm Church Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal</p>
<p>14</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>15</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal</p>
<p>21</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>3:00 pm Installation Service for Pastor Kathryn</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal</p>
<p>28</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>29</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Halloween!</p> <p>6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA</p>			

## Hispanic Women's Conference



The women of the Hispanic congregation gathered for prayer, reflection, and various activities around the theme of "Loving Yourself a Little More... Woman, You are Free!"

## Installation Service

As the new NSBC pastoral team settles in, there is an important component of the formation of that team we have yet to complete. We will be holding an Installation Service for **Rev. Kathryn Ray** as Pastor of Discipleship. The service will honor her three years of service at the church, with two as a full member of the pastoral team, and commission her forward into future years of leadership.



The service will take place at **3:00 pm on Sunday, October 21** in the sanctuary, with light refreshments to follow.



## LOOK for us on INSTAGRAM

The church now has an Instagram account! Follow us at **nsbc\_chicago**. We will be using this account to share our community life with the broader neighborhood. If you are over 18 and do NOT want photos of you to be shared on social media, please speak with **Pastor Kathryn** or **Becca Hartman-Pickerill**. We will obtain written consent from parents/guardians before posting any photograph in which the face of someone under 18 is visible.



## Yard Sale Wrap-Up

At the annual Lakewood-Balmoral Yard Sale, we had another successful year of selling food from our various congregations! In the expert hands of Amanda Linares, Amber Linares, and Kamilah Contreras, the hot dog sales made a profit for the first time in years. The Karen and Hispanic offerings were, as always, extremely popular. This year, we also hosted a Craft & Vendor Fair in Howel Hall in addition to selling food. There were all kinds of goods for sale, from knit items to clothing, jam, art, jewelry, and books. Thank you to all the vendors, volunteers, and staff who made this year's event a success!



# What's Up With Our Youth?



Youth group kicked off another program year in September, meeting on Friday nights in the youth room for dinner, games, singing, and discussion. On **Saturday, October 5**, we are looking forward to another trip to the corn maze at Abbey Farms in Aurora, IL. We will leave at 4:00 pm and return around 11:00. In addition to the corn maze, there will be a bonfire, s'mores, games, freshly baked apple cider donuts, and a giant trampoline. Cost is \$5 per youth. Speak with Pastor Kathryn for more information!



## Death Notice



We were saddened to learn recently of the passing of **Geraldne (Gerry) Myers**, wife of former NSBC pastor, Rev. Dr. William Myers. The Myers served NSBC from 1963-1975. A note from her family

tells us that she slipped away peacefully in her sleep at home last Sunday, September 2. She had been in hospice care for just over a week, surrounded by the comfort of family and friends. Her memorial service was held Saturday, September 8 at First Baptist Church of Oak Park, IL. If you would like to send cards, they will be collected by their daughter, Beth Myers House at RR 1 Box 816 Wintergreen Resort VA 22967.

## Wedding Bells



Lisa Shimotake and Thomas Skurtu were married on September 1 at City View Loft in Chicago. Lisa is the daughter of NSBC members **Jay and Yumiko Shimotake**. Our own Japanese Language Pastor, **Rev. Yuki Scrogins**, performed the ceremony.

## 2019 Mission Trip Opportunities

Missional Ministry has some exciting opportunities for use to participate in Ministry beyond the walls of our church. Look for more information about the following mission trips to be available Sunday, November 4th!

- ◆ American Baptist Churches USA 2019 Biennial Mission Summit, Virginia Beach, Virginia, **June 21-23**
- ◆ En Vivo Joint Mission Trip to Valencia, Spain, **June 23-30**
- ◆ Connecting Hands Mission Project, Retalhuleu, Guatemala, **July 2019**
- ◆ BPFNA/ Global Baptist Peace Conference in Cali, Colombia, **July 15-20**
- ◆ Youth Mission Trip, Dubuque, Iowa, **August 3-8**.



Please plan to participate in upcoming informational and fundraising events and, of course, in one or more of these trips!



5244 N. Lakewood  
Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: 773-728-4200

Fax: 773-728-1582

e-mail: [office@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:office@northshorebaptist.org)

North Shore Baptist Church

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

We're on the Web:

[www.northshorebaptist.org](http://www.northshorebaptist.org)



*"Change always comes bearing gifts." — Price Pritchett*

## UNITY SUNDAY



**November 4, 2018**

**10:30 am** - Sanctuary

*(All Language Groups)*

Light Luncheon - Noon - Howel Hall

*No Adventures in Learning Classes*

High among the great joys of life at North Shore Baptist Church are the Joint Worship services we share. We will again celebrate our unity on **November 4, 2018**, at **10:30 am** (note the time). Our preacher this year will be **Pastor Michael**, our new English Language Pastor. During worship, people will be asked to present their pledge cards as part of the **#whygivetoNSBC** campaign, for our 2019 church budget.

A reception with finger foods will follow in Howel Hall. Please plan to attend and celebrate our multi-lingual, multi-cultural Unity!