



# Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

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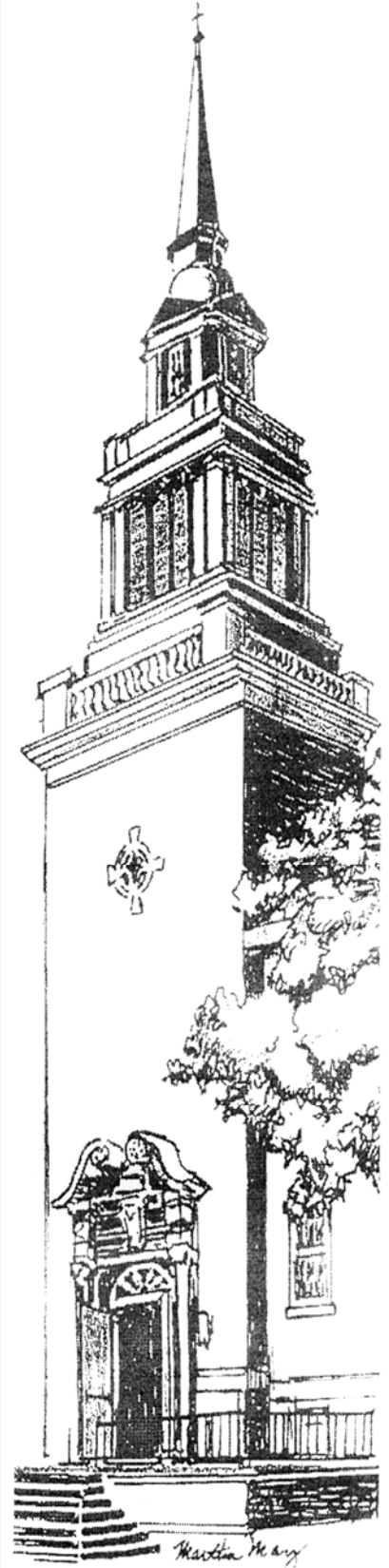
## Parting Words

Rev. David Gregg completes his service as Interim English Language Pastor, which began in September 2016, this month. He offers these parting words of encouragement and challenge:

As the new Karen- and English-language pastors take their place in the leadership of North Shore Baptist Church, the church has an opportunity to cast a new vision for how it will serve the Reign of God in the coming years. And as I prepare my own departure from your service, I wanted to share a couple of final thoughts about the shape this vision might take.

The Team Ministry model of NSBC is a remarkable experiment in making the church better resemble God's Beloved Community. We don't do things at NSBC by hierarchies; we do them in teams. Of course, working by team is inefficient. It is harder than just having one "in charge" person declare what the right answer is. This new group of pastors will have to work to forge themselves into a strong, working team of colleagues who work together in trust, faith, and a spirit of service to the church, its congregations, and its people. This will take a little time, so don't expect the "vision train" to leave the station next week. But some time later in the fall or early next year, I predict it will be time to involve the whole church in a process of casting a vision for NSBC going forward.

As I mentioned in my sermon last May, this will be a complex vision. First, there must be a vision for the church as a whole. Then, each congregation will have to forge its own vision for its own work. Each congregation will have its own vision, but each of these congregational visions will need to serve the church-wide vision. That is, the church-wide vision may find one form in the Spanish congregation, another in the English, another in the Japanese, and still another in the Karen. But each congregation will serve the whole. If this works, every person at NSBC will know how her own congregation is working to fulfill the church vision, and how all the other people in all the other congregations are working in their own ways to achieve the exact same vision.



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I would offer you two pieces of advice as you begin to think about what the church-wide vision might be. First, I would urge you to begin simply with a vision of North Shore fulfilling the promises it has already made about being one church with four congregations; one word, many languages; one God, many perspectives; one church, many cultures. The church has come so far, and is already a shining example of multi-cultural cooperation and mutual love! But this is a hard vision to fulfill in our fractious world,



Rev. David Gregg  
Interim English Language Pastor

and more work remains to be done in terms of fully empowering leadership from every congregation. As the church continues to fulfill this vision, then, share it with the world. Everyone in our denomination, and everyone in our city, and everyone in our nation will eventually have to learn the lessons NSBC has already begun to master. Share your wisdom with all the many people who will need it.

Second, as you perfect this vision of being, then figure out what your vision of doing will be. NSBC is a sleeping giant, and as it awakens, it will be capable of doing magnificent things for the coming of the Heavenly Reign. You have incredible resources of talent & wisdom to offer, and the financial stability to allow you to take some risks. Imagine together how this neighborhood, or this denomination, or this city might be different in response to the work of God; then take the steps to bring about that new creation. Be the church of the end of the book of Revelation, proclaiming and creating a New Heaven and a New Earth, in a New and Heavenly City.

I want to thank you all for the privilege of serving this wonderful church for the past two years. Your hospitality and openness to me and my leadership has been very affirming. I'm especially grateful for your care and support through my knee injury this past winter and spring. We have done good work together, and I am gratified in my confidence that you are truly ready for a new phase of your life together. Like that lamp up on the lamp stand, I thank God for your shining example of what the Peaceable Kin-dom will be like. You will be in my prayers.

Peace, Pastor David

## Your Pastors' Contact Information



With the arrival of two new pastors, we thought it a good time to update you on how to connect with your Pastors! The extension number for those who have dedicated landlines at the church are listed after each pastor's name and title, along with e-mail addresses. You can always leave a message for a pastor at our general office voice mailbox, or send an e-mail to [office@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:office@northshorebaptist.org), and we will make sure the pastor gets your message.



Name & Title	773-728-4200	e-mail address
<b>Rev. Kathryn Ray</b> , Pastor of Discipleship	ext. 28	<a href="mailto:kray@northshorebaptist.org">kray@northshorebaptist.org</a>
<b>Rev. Rony Reyes</b> , Spanish Language Pastor	ext. 27	<a href="mailto:rreyes@northshorebaptist.org">rreyes@northshorebaptist.org</a>
<b>Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe</b> , Karen Language Pastor		<a href="mailto:sploesoe@northshorebaptist.org">sploesoe@northshorebaptist.org</a>
<b>Rev. Yuki Scroggins</b> , Japanese Language Pastor	ext. 26	<a href="mailto:yorog@msn.com">yorog@msn.com</a>
<b>Rev. Michael Ware</b> , English Language Pastor	ext. 23	<a href="mailto:mware@northshorebaptist.org">mware@northshorebaptist.org</a>



# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:30 am Spanish Worship 10 am English Worship 11 am Japanese Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Karen Worship	<b>3</b>  <b>Labor Day</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Building Closed</b> </div>	<b>4</b> 7pm Property Min.	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	<b>6</b> 4:00 Stewardship Ministry	<b>7</b> 7pm Spanish Bible Study	<b>8</b> <u><b>LBRC Yard Sale</b></u> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
<b>9</b> 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	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 7pm Church Council	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	<b>15</b> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
<b>16</b> 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 <u><b>12:30 pm Karen Anniversary Luncheon</b></u>	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Andersonville YPAA	<b>20</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30-Potluck & Movie Night 7pm Spanish Bible Study	<b>22</b> <u><b>HISPANIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE</b></u> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
<b>23</b> 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	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Anderson-	<b>27</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:00-8:00 pm FotL Youth Group 7pm Spanish Bible Study	<b>29</b> 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm AA Meeting 10 am Spanish Bible Study 4:00 pm Karen Music Rehearsal
<b>30</b> 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						

# Karen Fellowship Anniversary and a Brief History

**Pastor Roger** arrived in Chicago on June 11, 2008. Before this, Po Clee and several other families had come to Chicago in 2007 and started attending North Shore Baptist Church. The first week we [Roger and Cecilia] came to church, we met the Karen families who had come before us. **Po Clee**, who came to church first, introduced Pastor Roger to Pastors Carol and Doug, which is how we came to know each other. A few months later, Pastor Roger began work as Karen Fellowship Pastor, but then we only gathered and worshipped with the English service. On September 13th, 2009, we got room in Kraft Chapel and started the Karen Fellowship worship service. So every year in September, we celebrate our anniversary with thanksgiving in Howel Hall.

From 2008-2010, more Karen families arrived. Later, some families moved to Minnesota; Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska; Waterloo, Iowa; Utica, New York; as well as Rock Island and Rockford, Illinois. We now have only fifteen families remaining in Chicago. By the grace of God, the Karen Fellowship members work and worship together every week at 11:30 am, after fellowship time.

In December of 2017, Pastor Roger retired from work because of his declining health resulting from cancer treatment. From December to June 2018, he returned to Myanmar. Now, by the grace of God, we have a new pastor, **Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe**, from Rockford. Rev. Eh Plo Soe's installation service on July 29 featured guests from many places. Rev. Eh Plo Soe moved to Chicago on August 1, and some members of the Karen Fellowship helped him move into his apartment.

This year, on **September 16th**, we will celebrate 9 years of the Karen Fellowship with a thanksgiving worship service, followed by an All-Church Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in Howel Hall.

~ Cecilia Poenyunt



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## Baptist Peace Fellowship/Bautistas por La Paz Summer Conference

**Viola Mayol** and I joined incoming English Language **Pastor Michael Ware** in Keuka, NY for the annual conference of the Baptist Fellowship of North America/Bautistas por la Paz, which took place from July 1-8.

The theme of the conference was Decentering Power & Privilege: Becoming a Peculiar People. Each day, we wrestled with the question of how to share power across lines of difference. The biggest lesson I took home was that it is not possible to create a community that has no center and margins. Rather, we must develop communities that have shifting centers, in which everyone has the experience at times of being at the center and at other times at the margins.

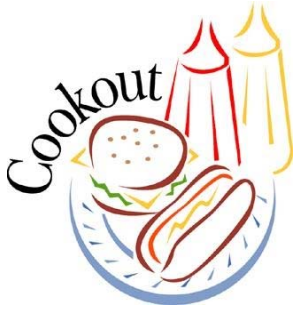
Each day featured storytelling by Dr. Cheryl Bear of the Nadleh Whut'en from the Dakelh Nation (what is now called British Columbia), and original music by Gerardo Oberman and Horacio Vivares, worship leaders from Buenos Aires. Their respective arts- music and storytelling- wove a week of challenging conversations together with a spirit of prayer.

I express gratitude to these artists in particular, to the leadership of BPFNA/Bautistas por la Paz for its hard work developing this conference, and to North Shore Baptist Church for its ongoing support of this organization and the important work it does.

Next year, BPFNA/Bautistas por la Paz will join other Baptist organizations in Cali, Colombia for the Global Baptist Peace Conference. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Dawn Noldan, chair of Missional Ministry.

~ Pastor Kathryn

# What's Up With Our Youth?



The youth group had a cookout in August at Foster Beach. Though it was cloudy the whole time, it didn't rain on us! Thanks to **Olga Diaz, Sam and Becca Hartman-Pickerill, and Alex and Sandra Barajas** for their assistance.



We will be kicking off the new year of programming on **Friday, September 7**. We will begin at 6:30 in the youth room. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome!

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## Adventures in Learning Begins Again

Adventures in Learning begins again on **September 9!** This fall, **Pastor Rony** will be offering a course in Spanish entitled The Spiritual Landscape of St. Luke, in which we will use the narrative interpretation techniques that last year we used with the Book of Revelation. **Kate Whitmore** will also be offering a mini-course on NSBC financial practices in English, which is particularly recommended for anyone who is in a new position of leadership at the church (check bulletin announcements for more information!).

Children's classes will be as follows:

**Beginners Class:** Children ages 4 through first grade, in Room 202.

**Primary Class:** Children in 2nd to 3rd grade, in Room 311.

**Older Elementary Class:** Children in 4th to 6th grade, in Room 317.

**Youth Class:** Youth in 7th to 12th grade, in Room 307.



The following adult groups will also continue to meet:

**Wholly Wednesdays:** This English-language small group meets at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays at Whole Foods.

**Grupo de Apoyo:** This Spanish-language Bible study and support group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 10:00 am in the Wilbur Warner Welcome Center.

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## 2018 Summer Mission Explorers



**MISSION  
MINDED**

The children wrapped up another summer of learning about the different missions in which NSBC participates. This year, **Gilberto Gonzalez** shared games that he played with the children in Retalhuleu, Guatemala, as part of our mission work there. We also learned about how to take turns being leaders and followers, like the Baptist Peace Fellowship tries to help us do. We learned about **Pastor Jonathan and Thelma Nambu's** work to help women in the Philippines exercise their rights to education, health, and safety. Finally, **Dr. Peggy Griffin** shared with us about how important children were in the civil rights movement. Thanks to Dawn Noldan, we also had lots of fun craft activities, from weaving stars to dying T-shirts.

Thank you to **Jen Mihalek, Chris Abiera, Yanira Silva, Celia Rodriguez,** and all the parents who provided support!



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North Shore Baptist Church

"Serving All God's People  
From This Corner"

We're on the Web:

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



"No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire." — L. Frank Baum



## SUMMER 2018 MOMENTS

Here are just a few snap shots of some activity from Summer 2018. Some moments happen far from home, like the Baptist Peace Fellowship Camp held this year in Keuka, NY. **Pastor Kathryn, Rev. Michael Ware, and Viola Mayol** (picture left) joined in the fun and learning. Read more about their adventure on *page 4*. Some moments happened right here at NSBC, like our Summer Mission Explorers program (picture right). Find out more about the SME memories on *page 5*.



Our annual **All Church Picnic** is always a source for creating lasting memories! Once again, we held our picnic block party style on Lakewood Ave. right outside our doors. Food and Fellowship were in abundance!



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