

# Steeple Stories

The newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church

SUMMER SPECIAL 2018

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 6

## NEW PASTORAL STAFF

5244 N. Lakewood  
Chicago, IL 60640

### English Language Pastor Arriving Soon!

This September, we will be welcoming **Rev. Michael Ware** as the new pastor of the English Language Congregation. Pastor Michael's first day will be September 4, and his first Sunday in English worship will be September 9.

Pastor Michael's faith journey began at age seven when he was taken in by a Christian couple in Benton Harbor, Michigan, who introduced him to Christ's mercy, grace, and love. The church has been a central focus of his life ever since. Throughout his college days, secular career, marriage, and raising a family, God's call upon Pastor Ware's life has been strong. As he taught Sunday School, served as moderator, sang in the choir, and listened to the struggles of a friend, he knew that God had a plan for him, and sharing Christ's love was central to that plan. He organized and led local youth groups and became involved in coordinating and leading several state and national youth gatherings for the denomination. Through the years, Michael often contemplated a career in the ministry; finally, he felt God's call to be irresistible, so he enrolled in seminary.

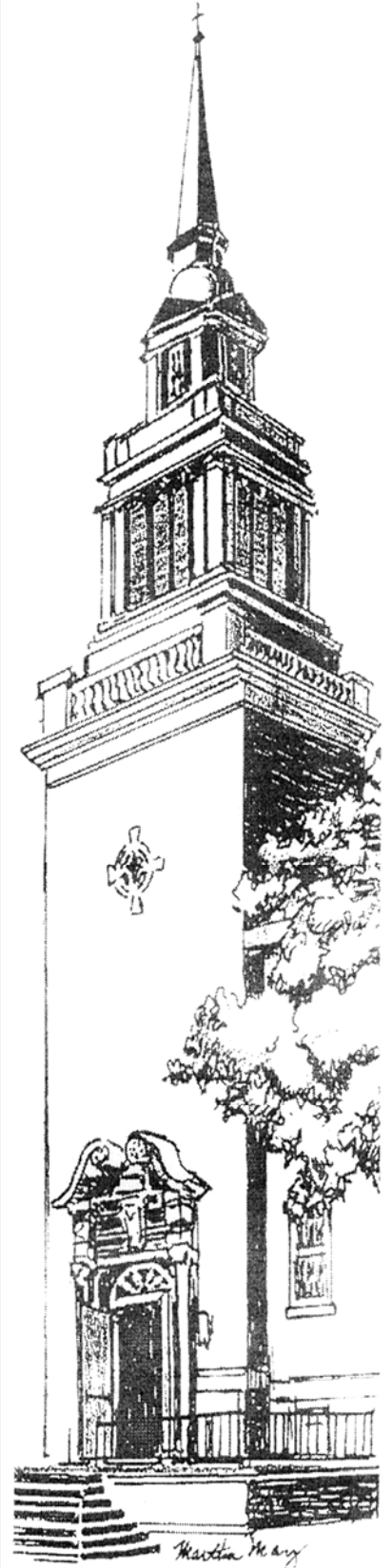


Rev. Michael Ware to arrive September 4th

Rev. Ware is wrapping up his pastorate at Webster Baptist Church in Webster, New York, where he has served since 2006 as the solo pastor of an integrated church. He will also be wrapping his service as Vice President of the Rochester/Genesee Region of the ABC. During his tenure at Webster Baptist Church, he also served as a volunteer chaplain and firefighter for the Webster Fire Department.

Pastor Ware obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Albion College in Albion, Michigan and a Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York. Michael enjoys traveling for mission, ministry, and pleasure. Outside of the United States, he has been to South Africa, Swaziland, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Jamaica. Rev. Ware likes to play disc golf, do puzzles, and ride his bike. He is a devoted sports fan, especially the Dallas Cowboys, the Chicago Blackhawks, and the Chicago Cubs.

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Michael's wife, Barbara Lacker-Ware, is employed as the Senior Grant Writer at La Casa Norte in Chicago. She is also an activist for racial justice. They have a daughter, Jestine Ware, who is a children's book editor at Timbuktu Labs and will be moving to Los Angeles later this summer with her partner, Shanice. Their son, Jason Ware, is a special education teacher at Austin College and Career Academy in Chicago; he is getting married to his fiancé Caira on September 2.

Rev. Ware is thrilled to be coming to North Shore Baptist Church as the English Language Pastor. He is dedicated to bringing energy, growth and spiritual renewal to the church through preaching, teaching, mission, and evangelism. Pastor Ware is passionate about making the church and its neighborhood part of the "beloved community."

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## Karen Language Pastor - Installation

On Sunday, July 29, over 60 guests from all over the US and Burma came to NSBC to celebrate the installation of **Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe** as Karen Language Pastor. We received a sermon from Rev. Tun Than, and also heard words of encouragement from Rev. Dr. Say Lwai Wah, the president of Karen Baptist Seminary in Burma. Thank you to all the members of the church who attended- we had representation from every congregation, which was very special. Pastor Saw's first Sunday as pastor was Sunday, August 5.

Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe received his Diploma in Theology from the Karen Baptist Seminary in Yangon, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from West Yangon University. He was ordained to preside over the Holy Sacraments in the Myanmar Baptist tradition in 2005. For the past two years, he has served as Visiting Missionary for the Mid-West (South) Karen Churches Fellowship in the USA. Before that, he was President of the Myanmar Christian Fellowship in Malaysia, and General Secretary of the Karen Christian Endeavor for the Union of Yangon Karen Baptist Home Mission Society.

Pastor Saw comes to Chicago from Rockford, IL. His wife, Naw Matilda, is a skilled musician and piano player. They have one son, Saw Jaw, and two daughters, Naw Micky and Naw Lelpwe.



Rev. Saw Eh Plo Soe and his Family

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## LBRC Yard Sale - Saturday September 8th

This annual community event will take place on **Saturday, September 8 from 9am-4pm**. As in the past, our church will participate in a number of ways, including sale of prepared ethnic foods and providing free cold water. We will also open the building for access to restrooms, which is always very appreciated by the community! **NEW THIS YEAR** - we will celebrate the talent of our family, friends,

and neighbors by hosting a **Crafts & Vendor Fair**. We hope to offer a variety of local, handmade items. If you are a crafter or artisan and would be interested in participating, please speak with **Dawn Noldan** for an application or find one at <http://www.northshorebaptist.org/blog/craft-vendor-fair>. We are requesting a donation of \$50 for participating, which will support NSBC mission work.

