

The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ www.norotonchurch.org
 2011 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 ■ 203-655-1451



Youth Ministry and Easter

I had a conversation last month with a national expert on ministry to teens. As I was sharing with him about our staff vacancy in youth ministry, he asked me, "How large is your congregation on Sunday morning and how many teens are involved in your church's programs through the week?" I responded that when we consider those in confirmation, Sunday School and midweek programs we have more than 70 Middle School and High School participants. He then asked about our staff. After I answered, he said something very interesting. "Tell your church leaders, Sam, that a church your size might have 50 teens involved. The fact that you have more than that is based on your good staffing model and their effectiveness." To that I say "Amen and Amen." We are blessed to have Mickie, Sarah and Tom. He finished with this comment, "Based on how this ministry is currently staffed, you can take your time to find the right person as a Pastor to Youth."

The following day, it just so happened, I was with another pastor from Fairfield County and

we also had a conversation about youth ministry and staffing. While his church is larger than NPC, he admitted that they don't have nearly the staff that we do. Good giving and a strong commitment to Youth Ministry are part of our heritage at NPC. That is why we have kept our commitment to Children and Youth as part of our top three priorities in addition to Worship and Mission.

As our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC in church abbreviations) begins their work to find our next Associate Pastor or Director of Youth Ministry, please do pray for them. This position is vital to the care and discipleship of the youngest quarter of our membership (349 teens and young adults between 13-25 years of age). It has been said that the young people are the future of the church, but in my mind they are equally part of our glorious present. Where would we be without our young people serving on mission teams, helping us in Vacation Bible School, helping with Feed My Starving Children, singing and playing in church, running our media presentations in Open Doors? We simply couldn't do all that we do without our younger members.

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Worship Schedule

Chapel - 8:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Open Doors - 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 4/6/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
"Practically Speaking"
 James 5:13-20
- 4/13/14 - Palm Sunday
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 4/17/14 - Maundy Thursday
Communion & Tenebrae Service - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- 4/19/14 - Open Doors Easter Vigil
 5:00 p.m. - Horton Hall
 Pastor Brandi Drake
- 4/20/14 - Easter Sunday
 6:00 a.m. - Weed Beach
 Pastor Greg Doll
 8, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 4/27/14 - TBD

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Of course the same goes for all ages of our membership. The church of Jesus Christ is most beautifully expressed when all ages and stages come together for worship, work and wonder. Just as functional families try to include all generations in their graduations, significant birthday parties, anniversaries or summers shared at the beach; the church stretches and accommodates to welcome all generations in our worship gatherings. This will surely be evident when we gather in Holy Week (April 13 – 20), - on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Saturday night Easter Vigil, our Easter Beach Sunrise service (at Weed Beach) and our three Easter Morning Sanctuary Services - for the glorious celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And don't worry about parking. We won't be tearing up the parking lot until after Easter. So please come and join us – young and old and everyone in between – as we celebrate the great victory of our faith this Easter – the Resurrection of our Lord!

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

The English Roots of Our Faith: From John Knox to C.S. Lewis

10 Day Inspirational Tour with Pastor Sam Schreiner



July 12-21, 2014

Please join Pastor Sam and other church members on the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism in Scotland, to explore our Presbyterian roots in the Scottish Reformation and the blossoming of Christianity in England. Enjoy the great company of fellow pilgrims as we explore together inspirational church architecture and informational tours of the historic cities of St. Andrews, Edinburgh, York, and London. Join us in strolls through the famous university towns of Oxford and Cambridge as we explore the legacy of C. S. Lewis, one of the most influential Christian writers of the 20th century.

For more information and registration visit www.norotonchurch.org.
Click here for more information.

Registration Deadline is April 4th.

Contact Leslie Ezzo at leslie.ezzo@norotonchurch.org
or 203-309-5618 with questions.

Report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

We have had a productive three weeks since commencing our committee. We have met three times, begun drafting the job descriptions and updating the Church Information Form to post on appropriate channels for either an Associate Pastor or a Youth Ministry Director. We have been interviewing current staff, consulting with former staff and speaking with other like-minded congregations regarding their youth programs. We plan to kick off our official search in April with the blessing of the Session. We ask that you continue to hold our committee, the current staff and most of all the youth in prayer as we navigate this process and discern the right candidate for our congregation. Thank you.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE FUTURE

April 2014 Progress Report

Building Progress:

Did you notice the upgrade in electrical service several weeks ago? How about the new heating system? We hope not! These major utility projects were planned for times when they would be least disruptive to you and our school facilities. This was a major improvement for the church which has operated for years on electrical capacity similar to a large house. And although much less glamorous, we can also boast about our new sewer ejector pit!

Much was accomplished during the school breaks (despite the snow and frigid weather!).

In addition to the utilities cutovers, we have now completed all the window replacements in the Children's Education wing. Kudos to the Properties Team and in particular Property Manager, David Lee, who have been very busy for several months making strategic infrastructure improvements that will support NPC and its new facility for years to come.

The Building Committee is in the final stages of interviewing and hiring the general contractor for our construction project. At the same time, they are working hard to lock down the last little details in the plans so the contractors can provide final bids. This requires making decisions on materials, lighting, locations of sockets, switches, A/V wiring, brick and paint colors, playground layouts, water spigots, ductwork, security and so forth and so on!

With the return of warmer weather (it really is coming!!) you will see the temporary playground for the Nursery School and Tot Drop sprout up in the space between the Chapel and the Parlor. While the Nursery School and Tot Drop can continue to operate during the site and construction work, we do have a critical demolition

period that will require us to close Tot Drop for the month of July (the Nursery School will be on summer break).

And where will the church offices reside when the church offices are demolished? Glad you asked! NPC Business Manager Dan Rosa and Elder Bob Priest negotiated a temporary office solution on very attractive terms for our staff who will be displaced during construction. The pastors and most of the staff will relocate to the office space on Thorndale Circle (behind Nielsen's) in April. The Children's and Youth Ministries staff, led by Mickie O'Donnell, will remain at the church. Mickie and the Assistants will move into Pastor Sam's office, while our Youth Associates, Tom and Sarah, will be hanging at the SHAC.



Praise God! Our Continuing Faithfulness!

It is truly amazing what God is doing through this congregation! The total of *Foundations* gifts received through February 28 is \$9,563,120, or 71% of our total pledges.

April marks the beginning of the third year of the *Foundations for the Future* campaign. Let's finish strong!

If you have not pledged, but would like to do so, or if you would like to increase your pledge, please contact Dan Rosa at dan.rosa@norotonchurch.org.

May the Lord be glorified in all we do to strengthen His foundation at NPC!

Dick and Jean Ann Bollman
Tom Taylor
Foundations for the Future Progress Team

Adult Spiritual Formation



Passover Seder

“Why is this night different from all other nights?”

For several thousand years, Jews have asked this question on the first night of their Passover celebrations. During this ceremonial meal they celebrate their freedom from bondage in Egypt -- their salvation by the hand of God.

As Christians we believe that the events of Passover or Pesach in Hebrew foreshadow our redemption through Jesus, the Passover Lamb.

I am excited to announce this Lenten season that we will again be recreating the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, a Passover Seder.

We will share it together as a congregation. So please mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 17th in Horton Hall at 6:30 p.m.** The Passover Seder will be followed by our traditional Maundy Thursday service at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Even if you

can't stay for the service, please plan to join us for the Seder.

For those of you who have never participated in a Passover Seder, it is far more than a meal. It is an elaborate teaching experience, especially for children. The elements of the meal illustrate the story of God's grace in history by involving all the senses and inviting us to participate in the story.

Last year we sold out very quickly. Space will be limited again this year.



If you are interested in participating, please sign up on line at www.norotonchurch.org or contact my assistant Marlene Moffett at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Greg Doll
Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation
and Outreach

[Click here to sign-up.](#)

Men's Bible Study:

“Moses and Mark: A Modern Conversation.”

We continue our concurrent study of the Book of Deuteronomy and the Gospel of Mark. It takes place in NYC on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. at The Yale Club (Clarence Day Room), 50 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of 44th St., across from the western entrance to Grand Central Station and in Horton Hall on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. For more information please contact Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620.

Men's Study at the Sugar Bowl: Wednesday 7:00 a.m.

Led by different men from the group gathering for breakfast, fellowship and reflection on a passage of Scripture.



Adult Spiritual Formation

Prime Timers

Thursday, April 10th at 2:00 p.m.
at Maplewood*, Darien.

Priscilla Hartokolis will share the amazing work God has done in Brazil over the last 60 years since God spared her father, Harold Reimer and 2 missionary colleagues from a harrowing 3-day attack by savage natives in the Amazon jungle.

For more information contact Marlene Moffett (203-309-5620)
or Rita Homlein (203-357-1504).

*DIRECTIONS - NPC TO MAPLEWOOD/CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND BACK

1. Travel 2 mi. east on Boston Post Rd/US-1 through town
2. Maplewood 599 Post Rd on left across from Congregational Church
3. Park under Maplewood or in parking lot for Congregation Church
4. If at church parking lot, wait for someone to shuttle you across street
5. Shuttle available to return to Congregational Church parking
6. Travel 2 mi. west on Boston Post Rd/US-1 to NPC



Small Group Studies

Small groups: are a great way to get involved and make friends in the church. Small groups are made up of 8 to 12 adults who meet weekly or every other week on various days or evenings of the week for friendship and Bible study, or to read a book together. Contact Marlene at 203-309-5620 to get plugged into a group that fits your schedule and interest. You can also visit the church website www.norotonchurch.org for more info.

Weekly Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday in the Parlor from 1:15-2:15 p.m. Come and pray for needs of our church family. Everyone is welcome – no prayer experience necessary! For more information please contact Marlene at 203-309-5620.

Would You Like to Stay Connected and Join Our Email List?

We send email blasts to the congregation with general church updates, prayer requests, special events and more. If you're not receiving these email notices and would like to, please contact Claire Bragdon in the church main office, 203-655-1451 or email claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org to be added to the list.

Caring & Women's Ministries



Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him... Mary, in John 20:15



When we are all despairing;
When the world is full of grief;
When we see no way ahead,
and hope has gone away:

Roll back the stone.

Although we fear change;
Although we are not ready;
Although we'd rather weep
and run away;

Roll back the stone.

Because we're coming with the women;
Because we hope where hope is vain;
Because you call us from the grave
and show the way

Roll back the stone.

~ Janet Morley

As we prepare this year to behold a stone rolled back, I hope you will join us in worship!

In addition to our traditional services, for the second year, we will be holding an Easter Vigil on **Easter Eve: Saturday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. in Horton Hall**. We will again recreate the story of salvation, from creation to its hopeful end, in the style of our Open Doors worship service.

May we each have the courage to hope when hope is vain.

Pastor Brandi Drake,
Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministries

Women's Studies

Monday Lunchtime Study:

12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Join this thoughtful group of women as they pour through scripture and support one another in prayer! Led by Beth Peelle: 203-856-7092.

Tuesday Morning Bible Studies:

6:15-7:15 a.m. in the Parlor:

Right now we are working through Hebrews. Study guides available in the office or during the study.

9:30-11:15 a.m. in Horton Hall:

Current study is "The Me I Want To Be" by John Ortberg.

Moms of Teens:

Thursdays 12:00-1:15 in the SHAC. This group of moms have lots in common as they walk through the adolescent years of their kids together! B.Y.O. lunch, and we spend time praying and reading relevant books! Led by Sallie Schmidt and Laurie Bessey.



Children's & Youth Ministries

Minute with Mickie

Wondering if you are wondering. . .



It's APRIL and boy are things moving fast around here. I started wondering if you are wondering what we are doing. In any period of change those of us in the midst of it can assume

that everyone else is aware of what's

happening. Then we find ourselves a little surprised when someone says to us "Oh, I didn't know you were. . . ." (fill in the blank). So then we exclaim to ourselves "Wow! How did someone not know what's going on?" I just thought I'd wonder in writing about what you might be wondering about.

Have you ever wondered if there is a plan for what we teach children and youth at NPC? There is! As a matter of fact, we have a very specific "Scope and Sequence" which means we know what content we are teaching and when it is taught. Did you know our Early Childhood classes are taught by three wonderful paid professionals, using quality material published by Gospel Light publishing, a company started by a Christian Educator in a Presbyterian Church many years ago? The material teaches through the main Biblical stories in a 3 year cycle.



In our Elementary classes your children have been learning specific Biblical Narratives that follow the Liturgical calendar. I write the material (saving us money and giving us great creative freedom and flexibility). In the Fall we studied Exodus (Moses and the Ten Commandments) and about God's plan of redemption. We learned about All Saints Day the end of October and then moved into Christ the King Sunday. We spent time on how God's redemption plan was going to happen through Advent. On January 6 we moved into the Season of Epiphany – which we call "The Season of AHA!" and have been studying Jesus' life and ministry through the study of the Book of Mark. Now we are in Lent and still in Mark, looking at the stories that bring Jesus to the Cross. After

that we will move into a study of the birth of the Church and the Apostles Creed as we enter the season of Pentecost and then into Ordinary Time once again. The rhythm of the church year gives us a wonderful pattern for learning.

Our Middle School Sunday School students have also been studying the book of Mark. The Biblical narratives have also been the key focus in the talks given at Harbor on Wednesday night. Understanding the big plan of redemption through DVD's, discussion and Scripture our Middle School students are getting a jump start on Confirmation. Confirmation Students with Pastor Greg are getting into God's Word in an even deeper way along with learning the rich history and traditions of our faith. In High School our students have been digging deeper into the life of Jesus working on understanding what it means to be a devoted follower of Christ. Some

youth have been doing small group studies and some have been helping with the leading in Elementary Sunday School. There has been unity in what we have been teaching across the ages. – Were you wondering if there's a plan? There is!

Did you ever wonder why we give Bibles to 2nd Graders? This special event is coming up on Sunday April 6 during three of our Worship Services

complete with a Parent/Child seminar on how to use a Bible. We do this because by the end of 2nd grade we believe our children should have their own Bible to bring to Sunday School and to read at home. Presbyterians are people of The Word. Ask any of our Elementary kids what we do when we first gather together in Horton Hall and they will tell you that we "Bring the Bible from the back of the room to the front and place it on the table, open it and say 'Let us Worship God.'" It will be a wonderful day as our children receive the greatest Book in the world as a gift from their church family.

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Children's & Youth Ministries

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Wondering about our Youth Mission Trip during Spring Break? We are going with Work Camps of New England to work on homes and buildings that are in serious need of repairs. We will be joining with Christian college and other High schools students from all over the US. Every day we will work and every evening we will play, pray and praise together. It's going to be amazing. We will return on Good Friday energized by the experience and hopefully stronger in our faith having experienced Christian Community on a whole new level.



and NPNS Staff, Sarah, Tom, Liz, Eileen and I will remain "on site" during this construction phase of our church's building improvements. While the rest of the staff relocates to another building, Children and Youth Ministry will be here coordinating our efforts to be a presence so that parents and children can find us. Wondering about the SHAC? You can find Sarah and Tom over there on the 2nd floor while the first floor becomes a redesigned "hang out" space. Wondering about Eileen, Liz and me? Find us in Pastor Sam's office area. My candy stash basket will be with me.

On Easter Sunday we will all worship together. Wondering how we will all fit in the Sanctuary? We won't. That's why there will be a separate Worship Experience for children, youth and families in the Chapel. In this sacred space we will watch an ugly cross become a beautiful creation as we place our tissue paper flowers asking Jesus to forgive us into the chicken wire cross. We will watch our sins disappear into the water of our baptism and we will sing songs, clap our hands, re-tell the stories we've learned and worship in a way that only happens when all the generations come together in one place. I love Easter!

So what else have you wondered about that has to do with Children and Youth? Along with the Tot Drop

Wondering about VBS? Go to www.saintlukesdarien.org and register there. Liz and I will be leading the Bible Story Station. Your volunteer help will be needed as well.

Wondering about anything else?? Email me, call me, text me, Facebook message me, Skype me, FaceTime me – whatever. I love to wonder too – but most importantly I don't want you to be in the dark about what we are doing. As a matter of fact – we need you to do all this with us.

Mickie O'Donnell
*Director of Children's Ministry
& Interim Director of Youth Ministry*



Children's & Youth Ministries

Intentional Fellowship

One of the great joys of youth ministry is seeing students come together in fellowship. Making new friends and being together, they get to be a part of a Christian community; one that is loving and accepting of them. One of the changes we added earlier in the year to Harbor was adding snack time as a part of our programming. We wanted to be intentional of how our time together was spent. A snack time was added to incorporate fellowship. We would love parents to be a part of that snack time. A sign-up was recently sent out via email. If you did not get a chance to sign-up, we would love to include you in the process.

Each Wednesday night, we would ask that when you sign up for snack, that you would bring snack for 25 students. Snacks could be packaged chips, pretzels, animal crackers, cookies, etc. and we will be providing water for them. We would ask that all snacks be nut free. Please arrive at 6:55 to drop off snacks you brought and we would ask that you would stay until 7:20 to help with putting the snacks away. It will give parents a chance to hang out with us, see what goes on and

relieve us this activity so we can focus on the kids. Thank you in advance for partnering with us. Youth ministry is all about relationships, and ultimately, bringing snack is so much bigger

than dropping off chips and cookies; it provides the opportunity for new relationships to be formed and old ones to be strengthened.

For the month of April we will be continuing our study in the book of Mark. So far we have learned about Jesus' Baptism, the calling of his disciples, some of the healings and

miracles Jesus did, as well as some of the parables that He taught. As we continue our study during this Lenten Season, we will take a deeper look into Jesus' teachings, healings, and miracles, as well as the reason we celebrate Easter.

Sarah Swible,
Youth Ministries Coordinator



Youth Summit



We are happy to announce that on April 6th we will be having our second Youth Summit event, and needless to say we are very excited! Over the past year we have been coming together with Youth Workers from all over Fairfield County in order to plan and strategize different ways we can be serving our youth.

The Summit events have been a product of those meetings. We were very pleased with our first Youth Summit, drawing over 100 youth from all over Fairfield county to one awesome event!

This month's Youth Summit will feature a dodgeball

tournament, excellent food, new and old friends, discussion of hot topics, and worshipping with other believers!

This event is open to all high school students and will take the place of Ignite on April 6th.

We will meet at the SHAC on Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m., and depart for Trinity Baptist Church in Fairfield. We will return to the NPC parking lot at about 8:30 p.m.

This is a big event you won't want to miss!

Look for sign-ups online, space is limited to 27 people!

Tom Fagan
Youth Ministries Coordinator

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



This winter has been a long one, but that hasn't stopped the nursery school students and staff from enjoying themselves. We have visited New Pond Farm and Curtain Call. We enjoyed storyteller Jonathan Kruk and meeting the animals from Animal Embassy. The Pre-K class is wrapping up their Playground Project (photo below), after months of research, field trip

studies, meeting with playground architect and designer and creating their wish for the future new NPNS playground. The nursery school held its annual Pancake Breakfast with face painting and entertainment by the Amazing Andy. March ended with an exciting day where the students met with Firemen, EMTs and Police officers. The students learned safety tips and were able to explore a fire truck, ambulance, police cruiser and motorcycle.

Our staff continued their training in the Project Approach. Each teacher pair held presentations for other staff to view and learn from. Staff attended the Keefe-Bruyette Symposium that focused on teaching Science and Math through Nature and the value of play, among other interesting topics.

April will hopefully bring warmer weather and spring blossoms. Students will learn about oral health from our dental hygienist and visit Earth Place. Our students will complete their journey through Lent, with Ms. Mickie in Chapel, and celebrate Easter!

The nursery school is in the planning phase for the 2014-15 school year and looking for additional teachers. If you know of any qualified teachers that might be interested, please ask them to send their resume to martha.duff@norotonchurch.org.

God Bless You,
Martha Duff and the
NPNS teachers and staff



Emma, Georgia and Marlo build together at the light table.



Jack and Connor make green playdough for their class.



Patrick and Charlie are making the best of more snow.



Pre-K's final Playground Project

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



Liam and Blake are busy at “work”.



Malia and Jane work on their stilllife paintings.



Pre-K students share their favorite books with Ms Susan.



Harris and Greeley celebrate St. David's Day.

Membership Ministry



Membership News...

- If you're interested in joining NPC, Saturday, June 7th, Noon to 5:30 p.m. will be the next New Member Class. Free childcare is provided. Others who have recently joined say the class is “enriching”, “relevant”, and “thoughtful”! The next opportunity to join will be in the late fall. For more information and to register, please contact Julie Colbath at julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615.
- Take 15 minutes once a month to **serve as a worship greeter** before the 9 and 10:30 services. Warmly welcome visitors and regulars – it makes a big difference!

- Try the **Online Church Directory** – it's useful in so many ways: quickly look up contact information for those you know, learn names and faces (“what IS her name, I can never remember...”), reach out to new volunteers to support ministries, check your own information and photo, etc. Email me for the user name and password. I also have copies of the most recent printed directory, which includes many colorful pictures of all NPC's ministries and programs, as well as member portraits.

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership
julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org
or 203-309-5615

Congregational Life Ministry

Meet our Best Chefs ...

Congratulations to this year's Chili Cook Off Winners!

On Saturday, March 22nd, we gathered in Horton Hall for Noroton's 3rd Annual evening of friendly competition, providing a variety of chili and cornbread options to our friends.

All attendees received a ballot for EACH category as they entered. Categories included:

- Beef-based
- Poultry
- Other Meat
- Vegetarian
- Spicy (any category)

The room was filled with laughter as individuals and families scurried around to the various 'stations' to taste/judge over the course of an hour. Colorfully wrapped prizes were awarded at 8:00 p.m., based on 'favorites' (of those present).

This fellowship evening continues to satisfy all ages, and is attended by individuals and families alike!



1st place winners:
Sarah Pritchardt (Spicy), Kathleen Pritchardt (Cornbread),
Jane Cuthbertson (Poultry), Mickie O'Donnell (Beef),
Pastor Brandi (Veggie), John Parker (Other: Pork)
(with our 'Vanna's: Boone, Tucker, and Sophie)



2nd place winners:
Sarah Pritchardt (Poultry), Jenny Voelker (Beef),
Lou DeLoma (Other:Veal), Holly Jesperson (Veggie)



Attendees included the young (Schroeders) and young at heart (Maude, almost 100).

Congratulations to our winners! And, thanks to EVERYONE who participated, whether as competitors or judges!

[Click here to view more Chili Cook-Off Photos.](#)

Remember to Sign Up for ... *Passover Seder – Thursday, April 17th*

This will be the third year that Pastor Greg will walk us through this significant teaching, which is accompanied by a festive and symbolic meal. There is limited space in Horton Hall, so register early. *We ask those attending to please arrive a little early to get seated between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.* The program will start **PROMPTLY at 6:30 p.m.** in order to finish in time for those who wish to attend the traditional Maundy Thursday sanctuary service to do so.

Please check page 4 in this Spire and/or online for more details and Registration Form information.

In fellowship with you,
Valerie Muller

Director of Congregational Life
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650

Mission News



It was a great blessing to spend time with several mission partners at our Women's Retreat. Both Dora Becker (working with the Roma and mobilizing prayer for the marginalized in Europe) and Joyce Wong (InterVarsity Trinity College) shared testimonies and it was inspiring getting to know them better. We were glad to hear news and testimonies from Evalyn about the Nambale Magnet School both at the retreat and during an Open Doors Service. Two of our NPC Missionary families are expecting babies any day. Please keep Artie and Kittery Van Sciver (Campus Outreach) and Caroline and Paul Maina (Life Ministries Kenya) in your prayers!

Serving our Savior together,
Stella Clarke
Mission Associate
203-309-5645
stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org



Dates for your Calendar

April 4: Young Life Prayer Time - 9am-10am at the home of Kathy Armstrong, 2 Haskell Lane.

April 13-19: Spring Break Mission Trip - contact Youth Ministries for information

April 18: 7-9:00 a.m. - Pivot is hosting their first **Good Friday Prayer Breakfast event**. Tickets are \$40. You can order tickets from the Pivot Ministries website www.pivotministries.org. All are welcome!

“Serving a Smile” - Come and help serve lunch at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk! The next NPC service dates are **April 5** and **May 3**. Please contact Holly Hough, hhough7@optonline.net to sign up!

May 1: Open Door Shelter Gala Dinner - contact Chuck Richardson for tickets or information. chukr@optonline.net.

May 18 - Pivot Ministries will come to worship with us at the Open Doors Service.

June 28- July 13: NPC Trip to visit Mission Partners in Africa, led by John and Marilyn Parker contact parkerma@juno.com.

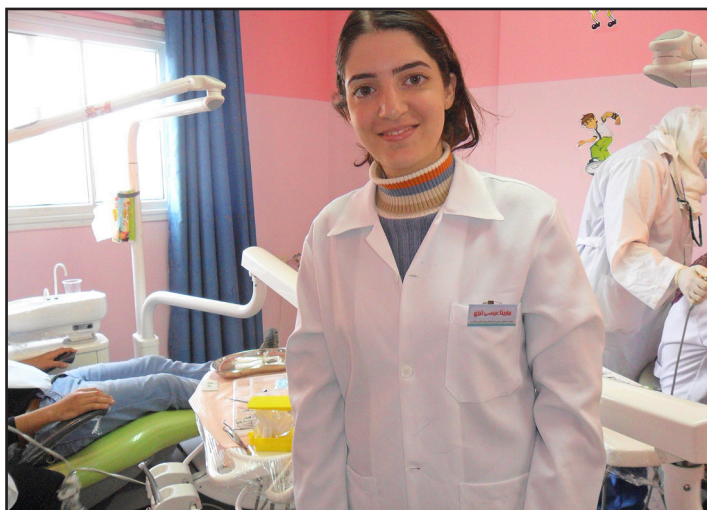


Pray for Missions

Mission Ministry

Foundations Scholarship Support

Part of the *Foundations* tithe money has been set aside for scholarship support for students in the Third World who would not otherwise receive a college education. We have used our own mission partners to make referrals for candidates who would benefit from our support. To date we have granted six scholarships with the understanding that if the recipient maintains a satisfactory grade point average, we will support them through all four years of their college or university.



Mareena Tarazi- Referred to us by Hanna Massad, Mareena is a Palestinian Christian living in the Gaza. She attends Al-Azhar University where she is studying dentistry.

Jane Hashweh- Referred by Hanna, Jane lives in Jordan where her father is a Christian minister. She attends Princess Sumaya University in Amman where she is studying business. Jane is also a violinist.

Harly Rodriguez Estevez- Referred to us by World Vision in the Dominican Republic where Harly was a sponsored child in Restauracion, she is now studying law at Universidad Technologica de Santiago in Dahabon.

Sueyene Rodriquez Barros- Referred by Children of Bethlehem, our mission partner in Brazil, Sueyene is enrolled at UNIP University where she is studying nutrition.

Joyce Aoko Aruga- Referred to us through John and Marilyn Parker, Joyce attends the Kenya Methodist University where she is earning a degree in teaching. Joyce currently teaches in one of the slums of Nairobi and she attended a meeting in London last Fall where women from the Third Word gathered under the sponsorship of the BBC to talk about women's issues and opportunities.

Mercy Kilel- Referred by City of Hope, Mercy is from Tanzania and is attending Daystar University in Nairobi where she is studying counseling and psychology.

The Scholarship Team - Renee Vasey, David Norman, Kimberly Doll, John Marr and Adriana Podesta are grateful to the generosity of NPC to make funds available to allow these students to earn a college degree. Education is clearly one of the most important tools for changing the face of poverty in the Developing World.

Sincerely, David Mace



Flower Team



The flower team will be decorating for Easter on **Friday, April 18** and **Saturday, April 19** at 9:00 a.m. and welcome others to join us. Contact Meredith Schoff and Marion Smith at flowersnpc@gmail.com for more information.



The flower team is in need of small vases for rearrangements of Sanctuary flowers each Sunday. Please drop clean vases in the flower room or contact us for pick up.



2014 Easter Flower Memorial Donations

If you would like to make a donation (in the amount of your choice) in memory of a loved one, please fill out the donation envelope located in your pew. Please make your check payable to NPC and note in the memo section: Easter flowers. Donation envelopes may be placed in the offertory plate, in the flower team box in the mailroom or returned to the church main office. Please include your donation when returning your envelope. Donations received will go toward the purchase of all the flowers used during Easter including the Sanctuary flowers, and the cross on the Post Road. We will continue to have the list of memorial names in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin.

If you have questions, please contact Meredith Schoff or Marion Smith at FlowersNPC@gmail.com.

Donations Should Be Received No Later Than: Monday, April 7th

In loving memory of: (1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____

Given in love by: _____

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

March 6th:
Sarah Knestrick

March 29th:
Nancy Conley

*...now home to be with the Lord.
(Philippians 1:23)*

Per Capita For 2014

What is Per Capita? Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on our church membership. The amount varies with the needs of these three branches and is a regular expense payable by this church each year. **The amount to be paid for 2014 PER MEMBER is \$42.00.**

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

June 15th at the 10:00 a.m. Chapel service;
June 22nd at the 8 a.m. Beach service.
To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.

If you would like to submit an article for the May 2014 issue please submit it before April 11 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-655-1451 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Martha Duff..... 203-655-3223 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake..... 203-655-1451 <i>Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry</i>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry & Interim Director of Youth Ministry</i>	Julie Colbath 203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Greg Doll..... 203-655-1451 <i>Associate Pastor Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach</i>	Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	Dan Rosa..... 203-655-1451 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Carol Scott..... 203-309-5605 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	David Lee..... 203-655-1451 <i>Director of Properties</i>

Holy Week Service Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 13:

Preaching: Pastor Sam Schreiner
8:00 a.m. Chapel
9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services
5:00 p.m. Open Doors



Maundy Thursday, April 17:

6:30 p.m. Family Passover Seder in Horton Hall
Childcare 3mos. to 4 years
Limited spaces, registration required.
Please register online at www.norotonchurch.org
or contact Marlene Moffett at 203-309-5620
or email marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org
8:00 p.m. Communion & Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary
All are welcome; no childcare offered



Walk with the Cross, Friday, April 18:

10:30 a.m. Meet at 1st Congregational Church, Darien.
Join others in our community as we walk down
the Post Rd. to St. Luke's.



Good Friday Ecumenical Service, April 18:

12:00-3:00 p.m. St. Luke's Church,
"The Seven Last Words of Christ"
(You are welcome to come and go as needed.)



Open Doors Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19:

5:00 p.m. Horton Hall - No dinner served this week.
Childcare 3mos. to 3 years



Easter Sunday, April 20:

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at **Weed Beach**
Preaching: Pastor Greg Doll
8:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service with Choir & Brass
Preaching: Pastor Sam Schreiner
No childcare or Sunday School
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Services with Choir & Brass
Preaching: Pastor Sam Schreiner
Childcare up to 3 years
3's-K: Regular Sunday School classes
1st-5th grades: Chapel
6th-12th grades: Remain in Sanctuary
(No Open Doors Service Today)



April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	5
		6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Presentation 8:00 p.m. Team Night Meetings	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-5th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 4:00 p.m. Take-it-Home 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers - Maplewood, Darien 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Palm Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite			7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	Maundy Thursday 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Passover Seder 8:00 p.m. Communion & Tenebrae Service	Good Friday NPC Offices Closed 1/2 Day	5:00 p.m. Open Doors Easter Vigil	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Easter 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 8:00 a.m. Easter Service (no childcare or Sunday School) 9:30 & 11 a.m. Easter Services (Childcare up to 3 years 3's-K Sunday School 1-5th grades Chapel)	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			
27	28	29	30				
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			