

The Spire

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



Inspired History and Game Changers

Game changers. The NFL likes to talk about special players who made game changing plays. Anyone who grew up in Pittsburgh knows that the Steelers' dominance of the 70's all began with one play – the “immaculate reception” of Franco Harris in the 1972 playoff game with Oakland, which snatched a win from the jaws of defeat. Or what New England fan can forget the snow bowl and the tuck rule that kept Brady and his bunch alive in 2001 to eventually notch their first Super Bowl win? Certain events or plays made by special players can shape the destiny of a team.

Certain figures of history have been game changers as well – Alexander the Great, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi - come to mind. But clearly, Jesus Christ was **the greatest game changer** in history. God arrived in person. As John's Gospel proclaims so poetically, “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth.*” To a world that wondered what God's thoughts were, what godliness looked like and how God would handle human corruption, the answers

came in the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rome appeared to be in its ascendancy when Jesus was born. Three hundred years later, the Emperor of Rome bowed to Jesus as Lord. The game had been changed!

Many of us know the outline of the story of the life of Jesus and of the start of our faith. Do we realize that we have in our Bible one of the best two volume chronicles of the story ever penned? Luke's Gospel and his companion book of the Acts of the Apostles is a great, inspired history of the birth, life and death of Jesus and of the birth of the Christian faith. This Lenten season, as part of our sesquicentennial, we want to invite our whole church family to read and study together THE Foundations of our Faith – Luke's telling of the Life and Mission of Jesus in Luke and Acts – 52 chapters in 40 days. In addition to our daily readings, please join us on Wednesdays when the pastors will, in the spirit of NPC's Wednesday prayer meetings of the 1800s, offer a mid-week teaching focusing on the themes of the next week's readings. Our adults groups, youth groups and children's ministries will be invited to walk together through the same texts

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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:

- 2/3/13 - Dr. Timothy Tennent, *The Suffering, Advancing Church* Matthew 11:1-12
 No Open Doors on 2/3/13
- 2/10/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner *How Many Portraits Are Needed?* Luke 1:1-4
- 2/13/13 - Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes Service
 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. Chapel
- 2/17/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner *A Recipe for Disaster?* Luke 6:12-16
- 2/24/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner *Shocking Truths* - Luke 16:19-31

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and themes. What a great way for us to be gripped and grounded once again by all that Jesus means for us and for the world.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

P.S. So how can you join this journey we will start February 13, Ash Wednesday?

1) Make sure we have your email address (send it to leslie.ezzo@norotonchurch.org) to receive the readings of the day electronically.

2) Join us Sundays for the Sermon theme of the week and for Sunday School for the children.

3) Join us Wednesdays at 12 noon or 7:30 in Chapel for added insights to our readings.

4) Have your small group read and discuss "The Case for Christ," by Lee Strobel, during Lent.

Daily Teaching Foundations of our Faith:

In this season of Lent, beginning Wednesday, February 13th through Sunday, March 24th we will be sending out to the congregation our daily teaching via email. We will study together Luke's telling of the Life and Mission of Jesus in the gospels of Luke and Acts -52 chapters in 40 days. If you don't receive this and would like to, please email us at leslie.ezzo@norotonchurch.org.

The Foundations of our Faith

Wednesdays in Lent

February 13th - March 20th:

Following the habits of our fore-bearers in the faith - we will have a mid week meeting in Lent for study and prayer. Come and hear a teaching from our pastors that will correspond to our Sunday readings in Luke and Acts as we study the foundations of our Christian faith during Lent. This service will be held in the Chapel at noon and 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent.

2/13/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
Themes In Luke's Gospel

2/20/13 - Pastor Brandi Drake
*Believing in Jesus' Miracles -
Skeptical or Certain?*
Luke 8

2/27/13 - Pastor Greg Doll
The Power of the Parables
Luke 16

3/06/13 - Pastor Stuart Smith
Resurrection Consequences
Luke 24, Acts 1,2

3/13/13 - Pastor Greg Doll
Early Church Decision Making
Acts 13

3/20/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
Why Paul Caused Such a Stir
Acts 21-28

Noroton Lectures 2013

Saturday, February 2
in Horton Hall

"TRENDS IN GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY"

Dr. Timothy C. Tennent, President,
Asbury Theological Seminary
as our guest speaker.

8-9:30 a.m.- Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to join us
for a continental breakfast,
fellowship and a lecture.

10-11:30 a.m. - Women's Coffee

All women are invited to join
us for coffee, refreshments,
fellowship and a lecture.

7-8:30 p.m. - Keynote Address

All are welcome to the
evening lecture.

Sunday, February 3 Worship Services

Dr. Timothy C. Tennent
Scripture: Matthew 11:1-12

Sermon: *The Suffering,
Advancing Church*

8 a.m. - Chapel

9 & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

Join us for any of our
Sunday morning services.

No Open Doors Service
on February 3.

Please Register on-line at
www.norotonchurch.org
for all the events scheduled
for Saturday, February 2nd
or contact Marlene at
marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org
or 203-655-1451, ext. 49.

PRIME TIMERS

February 21, 2013,
2 p.m. in the Parlor.
Guest Speaker
Pastor Sam Schreiner.

For more information
please contact
Marlene Moffett
(203 655-1451, ext 49)
or Rita Hornlein
(203 357-1504)

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 203-655-1451 ext. 49 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 203-655-1451 ext. 49.

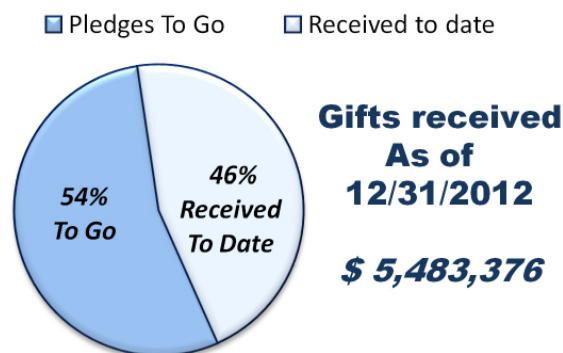
FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

January 2013 Progress Report



God's Grace Continues:

What an amazing 2012 we have had! Thanks to your generous donations, *Foundations for the Future* has received \$5,483,376 (as of 12/31/2012). Since our April campaign announcement and the beginning of our 3 year journey, we have also seen our pledges increase by \$226,100 to a new pledge commitment total of \$12,000,571. This is a very strong showing as a first step towards our total master plan goal of \$15,000,000. Your commitments and the impact of your contributions is already being felt around the world! The Mission team has made grants of \$488,000, extending God's blessings locally and abroad. And the Building team is advancing their recommendation regarding plans for a stronger foundation (literally and figuratively!) here at NPC.



Supporting Missions:

If you have been following the Mission updates, then you know that your contributions have made possible the funding of several major projects to date. So far, the Session has approved grants to 6 Mission Partners: Pivot Ministries, Forman College Infirmary, New England Intersarsity Chapter Planting, and more recently Cabwaylingo Youth & Community Center in Dunlow, West Virginia and a scholarship to a Palestinian Christian woman in the Gaza. The 6th grant will be announced at the end of January (after the deadline for this article). The Mission team has now made grants totaling \$488,000 across these mission partners. 2013 promises to deliver even more on our pledge to tithe 10% of our *Foundations for the Future* contributions to Mission projects. Please go to the Missions section of the NPC web site to learn more about these significant Mission grants.

Building Plans:

Brian Smalley, our new Building Chairman, reports that the Building Committee was very busy in December. They have contracted with 3 specialists to advise and assist in our building decisions and process:

- 1) *Land Use Attorney, Bruce Hill, LLC:* a local land use attorney has been hired to prepare and assist us in our application to the Planning and Zoning Board. In addition, he will advise us on how best to approach and address any concerns from our neighbors. Having a local attorney, well versed in local regulations and processes, will insure we progress through the approval process with the help of a knowledgeable advisor.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

2) *Beacon Projects* has been hired to be our independent Owner's Rep. Other churches have found that hiring an Owner's Rep has saved them hundreds of thousands of dollars. *Beacon Projects* has been engaged to advise us during the design and construction phases. Currently, *Beacon* is serving us as an independent check of our Architect's recommendations and our design alternatives. Among other things, *Beacon* will validate that our Architect's design recommendations and costs are reasonable and aligned.

3) *Redniss & Mead* is a Civil Engineering company that has been contracted to advise us on engineering and regulatory compliance. This includes everything from environmental and water run-off calculations and considerations to grading and structural engineering design/decisions.

The building plan is focused on refining the design of the central area, between the mail room and the Children's Education wing. This includes the staff offices on the upper level and the choir room on the lower level. As previously communicated, the plan includes a new entrance from the parking lot side of the church to a new Fellowship Lobby. The reconfiguration improves our music space, enables new youth classrooms, and frees up space for Children's ministries in the Children's Education Wing by moving out staff offices. With the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the Building Committee is also diligently looking at the design from an enhanced security perspective.

Next Steps:

Step 1: Finalize Design Recommendation

The Building Committee expects that January and possibly a good part of February will be consumed refining the design and reviewing the architect's plans with the specialists for any additional required modifications. They know it is more important to do this right than to do it quickly. They want to make sure they are spending every dollar wisely before they make their recommendation to the session.

Step 2: Session Review & Approval

Once the Building Committee is comfortable with the design, they will present it to the Session for approval. The Architect will join the Building Committee in presenting the design recommendation to the Session. The Building Committee expects that there will be lots of questions and even perhaps some "tweaking" of the design. Once there is agreement and approval of the design by the Session, then it will be ready for

communication to the congregation.

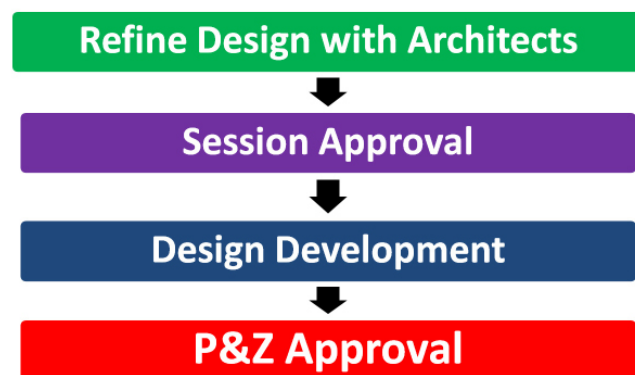
Step 3: Congregational Update & Detail Design Documents

After the Session has approved the design, a series of communications and updates will be done with and for our NPC congregation. After this, the design will be "frozen" so that the Architect can start the more detailed design and development work, including more detailed design documents.

Step 4: Planning & Zoning Application and Approval

One of the most critical next steps is getting approval from the Town of Darien on our plan. Without this we cannot proceed. Our Land Use attorney and civil engineers will work with us to insure we have a thorough and acceptable plan. It is hard to estimate how long the P&Z approval process may take as they could require modifications or additional specifications. However, once we receive P&Z approval the Building Committee can then authorize our Architect to produce the Construction Documents. Then the Building Committee will put the job out to bid and select a construction company.

Whew! As you can see, much has been done and much is still to come. Please keep this very special, hard working team in your prayers!



Your Foundations for the Future Commitment:

As we enter 2013, we encourage you to consider your *Foundations for the Future* commitment. If you have not pledged, but would like to do so, please contact Dan Rosa (dan.rosa@norotonchurch.org).

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

Tom Taylor, Jean Ann and Dick Bollman
FFF Progress Team Leaders

150th Anniversary Celebration

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.”

Hebrew 12:1,2

Neighbors Who Shared a Property Line, Faith and Vision!

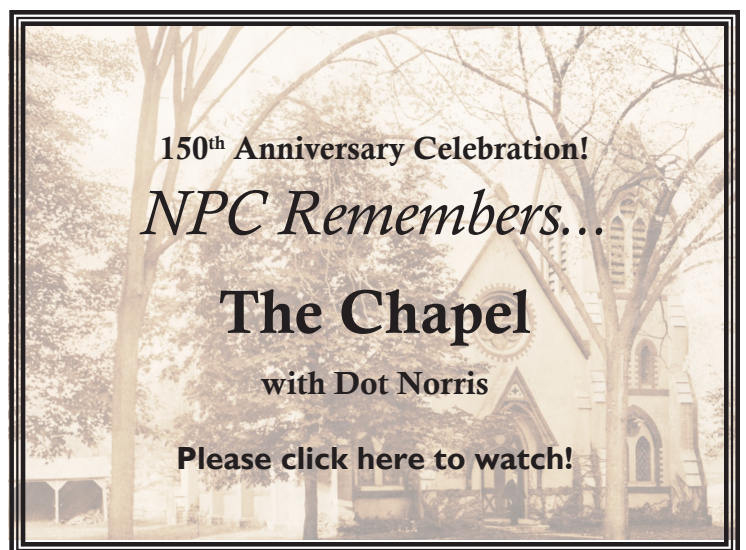
Benjamin Weed and Frederick Bruggerhof were neighbors living on the Post Rd. in Darien. The Weed house was located where the Christian Science church is today and the Bruggerhof house, now called “Garden Gate”, still stands just east of that church. Both men had great vision for the new church in Noroton as well as great generosity in time and money in helping to secure its future.

Benjamin Weed was the ninth and last child born in the house his father (also Benjamin Weed) built on Hollow Tree Ridge Rd. He commuted all his life to New York City for business, first by sailing vessel and stage coach, and then by the new railroad which came to Darien in 1848. He retired in 1904 at the age of 83 and died five years later. Census records show that in his later years he was also involved in real estate in Darien. Weed’s NY Times obituary said “He founded the Presbyterian Church in Noroton.” Benjamin Weed served the church as clerk of Session and elder, Secretary of the Board of Trustees for 46 years, and as Superintendent of the Sunday School. In his will he left the church \$2000.00 (nearly \$50,000.00 today) and a house he had bought from his sister and brother-in-law, John and Sarah Waterbury. This house is known to NPC as the Benjamin Weed house and was located where the Post Rd. manse is now located, opposite Nearwater Lane. Benjamin and his wife Mary, his brother Isaac and wife Sally, his sister Rebecca (Isaac’s twin), his brother Rufus and wife Phebe, and Benjamin’s mother Hannah were eight of the original 21 members of NPC.

Frederick Bruggerhof was born in Prussia. He was the president of a large seed business in New York City and was credited with establishing a code of ethics for the seed industry. He was also a CT state senator and Chairman of the State Finance Committee. In 1856 he built his house on 17 acres on the Post Rd. which he named “The Lindens” after the trees which still grow there today. He became a trustee of NPC in 1868 and served as President from 1883-1899 and again from 1906-1917. When he died in 1921 he had served 52

years as trustee and the Session minutes recorded, “He was identified with our church from its beginning”. In 1870 Mr. Bruggerhof purchased six acres from the Clock family. This included all the property the church now owns except the one acre tract that Lewis Clock had already sold to the church in 1865 for today’s chapel and the land which now contains the Memorial Garden and the Post Rd. manse. In 1894 Bruggerhof sold this entire tract to his daughter Carrie Bruggerhof Jones (Mrs. Franklin Jones). Four years later Carrie’s husband died. In 1921 she married General Henry Hodges after he returned from military service in World War I. In 1945 Carrie gave the corner lot to NPC for the new sanctuary and willed all the remaining property to the church. She predeceased her second husband in 1961. General Hodges continued to live in the house (now the manse where the Doll family lives) until his death in 1963 when he was 103 and the oldest living graduate of West Point. Frederick Bruggerhof, in addition to his leadership and time, provided for the future of the church by purchasing the land and raising a generous daughter who became one of the first women trustees of the church.

150th Anniversary Committee



Adult Spiritual Formation



A Journey in the Footsteps of Paul and John (October 16-23)

This fall I will be leading an eleven-day study tour of Greece and Turkey in cooperation with Pilgrim Tours

(www.pilgrimtours.com) and ably assisted

by Pastor Sam to explore some of the most important sites of the New Testament. We will follow many of the steps of the early Apostles and visit the cities of the early Church.

Our itinerary will include the following destinations (among others): Ephesus, Isle of Patmos, Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica and Philippi.

The approximate cost of the trip will be \$3,700.00. *Price Per Person based on double occupancy.*

This price includes the following:

- Roundtrip airfare from New York City
- 7 nights lodging
 - October 17-19: Fantasia Hotel in Kusadasi
 - October 19-21: Louis Cristal Cruise Ship on the Aegean Sea
 - October 21-23: Electra Palace Hotel in Athens
 - October 23-24: Hotel Meteora in Kalambaka
 - October 24-26: Electra Palace Hotel in ThessalonicaThese are all very nice 5★☆☆☆☆ hotels.
- 2 nights aboard cruise ship in standard inside cruise cabin
- Breakfast and dinner daily, all meals while on cruise
- Full time English-speaking tour escort
- Services of long distance deluxe motor coach
- All guides, entrances and transportation

*For those interested, Pastor Sam would like to lead an additional two-day option to Istanbul on the front end of the trip. The cost would be an additional \$650 per person if we have 6-9 people and \$600 per person if you have 10 or more people (plus \$325 for a single room). This price would include all transfers, tour guide, entrance fees, breakfasts, dinners, and one lunch.

Itinerary for the extra leg would be as follows:

October 14: Depart New York City (JFK airport)

October 15: Arrive in Istanbul. Visit Archaeological Museum as well as the Bazaar and Spice Market

October 16: Tour of Istanbul to include St. Sophia Church, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace

October 17: Transfer to Istanbul airport to meet the rest of the group and fly together to Izmir.

If you are interested in joining us on this educational journey or learning more about the trip, please contact my assistant Marlene at 203-655-1451, ext. 49 or email marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

A trip orientation meeting is planned for March 14 in the Parlor at 8:00 p.m.

Hope you will prayerfully consider joining us. We would love to have you!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Greg Doll

Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Men's Ministry Studies

Men's Bible Study: "*Moses and Mark: A Modern Conversation.*" This course is an 8-month concurrent study of the Book of Deuteronomy and the Gospel of Mark. Join Pastor Greg each week on Tuesdays in NYC (Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave., 4th floor, Clarence Day room, 3 minute walk from Grand Central), 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. or on Fridays in Darien at NPC in Horton Hall beginning from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., continental breakfast included.

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.

Caring & Women's Ministries



*Weeping may endure for the night,
but joy comes in the morning.*
Psalm 30:5

I have been thinking about Gethsemane a lot lately. Our Tuesday morning Bible studies recently spent three weeks there as we worked through the Gospel of Mark.

It's not a comfortable place to be, Gethsemane.

Maybe you remember. Gethsemane was the garden Jesus went to pray in just before he was betrayed by Judas, and arrested. He had spent time with his disciples around a table that night, telling them that his body would be broken, and his blood would pour out for the remission of their sin. And he told them that he was about to suffer and die. And he told them that he'd be back. He seemed to be at peace during dinner, walking in the presence of God, able to 'drink from the cup' set out for him.

But then he went to the garden. And he doesn't seem to be at peace. Not at all. He says "my soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, to the point of death." And he moves further into the garden and falls to the ground, continuing in prayer. "If it's possible, let this cup pass from me." This was a moment of profound grief and wrestling. Tim Keller writes of this in his book *King's Cross*. Keller observes that in this prayer, Jesus is staring into the abyss: He knows that he is about to bear the consequence of evil, and that the consequence of evil is separation from God. The one who was with God from the beginning, who had never known separation from God, the one who was God, would 'drink the cup' and be separated from God when crucified. Terrifying. No wonder he was prostrate in prayer.

This prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is brought out every year during Lent. And most years, I give it a nod, and continue on my way. "That's nice, Jesus," I think. "You sure did do a nice thing for us."

Here's the thing: It's not "nice." It's horrible. He went through a horrible ordeal for us. He did not just gloss over the grief. He experienced deep, make-your-stomach-hurt-and-your-throat-sore grief. He wrestled and moaned. He did it so that we would be free. Not so that we wouldn't know grief ourselves, but so that we would never know the absence of God.

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Women's Ministry Studies

MONDAY Women's Lunchtime Study:

Join us Mondays at noon in the Parlor. Contact Beth Peelle at 203-856-7092 or beth@peelleassociates.com.

Women! Tuesday Morning Happenings:

If you haven't tried Tues. morning Bible study yet, why not make this your year?

6:15 am: in the Parlor. We will finish our study of Mark on February 5. The join the All-church study of Luke/Acts for Lent. Come when you can!

9:30 am: in Horton Hall. We're excited to be

spending time in Mark. We worship in song, receive teaching from one of our leaders, and then break into small groups to apply what we've learned to our lives. Register online or contact Lori at lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451 ext. 44.

Moms of Young Adults Book Group:

We meet two Tuesdays each month 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in NPC's SHAC. Our new book is *Unglued* by Lysa Terkeurst. For questions and sign-ups, please call leaders Linda Russell (203) 536-6110 or Claudia Roux (203) 253-6795.

Moms' Oasis Ministry: Have you ever sought guidance as you navigate being a Mom? Join us Thursday mornings 9:30 - 11:00 from Oct. 4 - April 4. Register early for TotDrop childcare. Check our website or contact Lori at 203-655-1451 ext. 44 or lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org.

Moms of Teens Parenting Book Group:

Please join us on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the SHAC. Led by Lisa Isherwood and Seana Turner. We have chosen a book called "*Parenting Is Your Highest Calling: And Eight Other Myths That Trap Us in Worry and Guilt*" - Leslie Leyland Fields. We look forward to seeing you then! Bring a friend! For registration and book, please contact Marlene Moffett at 203-655-1451, ext. 49 or email marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org. Questions? Email Seana (seanagt@aol.com) or Lisa (lisherwo@optonline.net).

Caring & Women's Ministries continued...

And this year, I am unable to give it a simple nod and continue on my way. This year, I find it especially comforting that Christ also grieved over the magnitude of evil. Yes, he conquered it. But first, he grieved.

Maybe you've also known grief this season. Maybe it's because we've been visited by an especially heinous evil in CT. Maybe it's because you've lost someone. Maybe it's because you have an impossible circumstance.

My prayer for our community in this season of Lent is

that we will be able to walk honestly through the grief. After all, we do know the end of the story, don't we? As Tony Campolo famously said "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!" After the crucifixion comes resurrection! After Lent, Easter. After the weeping, joy. The kind of joy that comes because we know that *NOTHING can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.* (Romans 8:38).

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

Children's Ministry



Minute with Mickie Growing in faith - To Infinity and Beyond!

I've been here a year now! Yippee. . .thank you all for being so welcoming and gracious with me as I feel my way through the winding roads of New England and the busyness of NPC Family life. What a wonderful

family of faith this is here on the corner of Noroton Ave. and Post Road. I am loving it! As I reflect on my call to be the Children's Director, I am energized by the way so many Moms and Dads are eager about helping their children grow in faith. What do we have to look forward to in February 2013 and beyond?

quickly. We are proud that NPNS is one of the earliest adopters. After Newtown, a few people reached out to specifically purchase and donate Kimochis for the schools there. Our NPNS teachers volunteered and then trained on their own time to help and partner with teachers in Newtown. As Kimochis were created in the wake of Columbine, it made sense to pray over these requests and see how God would have us respond. With the impact Kimochis was having already in our school, it seemed God-driven to form a plan to begin a grassroots infusion of Kimochis to Newtown. To learn more go to www.npckids.com and click on "Newtown Initiative." People from around the country and various Foundations are helping us make this dream a reality.

February 24 at 4pm, Families with 3rd Grade children are invited to come to the Parlor to learn what "Worship" means. It is our next "Take-it-Home" event. If you are interested in knowing what these events are like visit www.npckids.com and click on the Take it Home tab. Lots of great things for you to do at home with your children as part of your faith journey.



For **February ONLY** is our special "Newtown Initiative." We are partnering with people all over Fairfield County to equip the schools of Newtown with the Kimochis Curriculum that we use here at NPNS. Kimochi means "emotion" in Japanese and is a new social emotional learning tool. Quick to ignite teachers and students alike, the program is spreading throughout Darien quite

For February and March, in Horton Hall we will continue our **Survey of the New Testament** and then move into Lent with a six week study of Holy Week. Did you know that when a child can learn the Biblical story and be able to re-tell those stories 3-5 times the meaning and significance of God's Word takes a deeper root in

Children's Ministry continued...

his/her heart and life? This is why we are getting back to basics. Telling the Biblical story and encouraging our children to re-tell these stories to each other and to you. Ask your children to tell you the stories they hear on Sunday morning. Just hearing them here will do little to nothing of significance if parents don't reinforce that lesson at home. Did you realize that parents are two to three times more significant in the spiritual development of their children than any church ministry? That's why I work very hard at providing you opportunities to do things here with your children that you can then continue to do at home. All the Sunday morning lessons are downloadable from the website so you can use them and share them with others. Join your children in Horton Hall to learn these stories too. Join them in their spiritual journey. They need you to do that.

For February through May on Wednesdays, our **JAM (Jesus And Me)** ministry is expanding. Ruth Lettera has joined us so that children can learn how to play Hand Chimes and Hayden Smith is co-directing our new Puppet ministry so that children can learn to use puppets to help them learn about God's Word. Jen and Dwayne Condon, and Claire Gardner are already working with the singing and



drama aspect of our Spring musical. We are hoping for a wonderful new use of Horton Hall Stage for our productions. Dinner Theater anyone???



Vacation Bible School

We've had to move the date to the last full week of June (23-29) due to the extension of school days from Hurricane Sandy. But that's a good thing, as it will give us more time to prepare. As in years past we will be doing one of GROUP Publishing's VBS programs with the great music that everyone loves. As always children will be in Crews, gathering in a large group setting for opening skit and music and then rotating to special "places" for Bible story, crafts, snack, Music, Games and small group prayer. As always, our youth will be a vital part of the leadership as Crew Leaders and Counselors in Training (CIT). As always, our focus will be the Bible. This year our Biblical story will be Paul in Athens. What fun we will have decorating the church to look like New Testament Times!! It's going to be exciting and YOU are an essential component. Watch the website (www.npckids.com) for registration and more details. VBS is the highlight for many in our community and we always put our best foot forward. This year will be no different. Please sign up to participate. You'll be glad you did.

This Faith Journey with Jesus for you and your children here at NPC is an exciting adventure and it is for "infinity and beyond" because knowing Jesus, following Jesus, and living for Jesus secures our eternal destination. And THAT is the best infinity there is!

For the Love of Wonder
Mickie O'Donnell
Director of Children's Ministry

Music & Fine Arts

JAM Sessions



The Children's Choir has gone through some exciting changes this school year! Since the creation of JAM (Jesus and Me) our program has happily grown. As we prepare for a fun spring musical, we are equally excited to have the kids learn about the love of Jesus and the Father in song. We are looking at favorite older hymns that their Grandparents will know such as "This is my Fathers World", and praise songs that "tell the story" like "Lord I Lift Your Name on High". In the spirit of everything old is new again, the kids are learning these songs with great enthusiasm! Claire Gardner is helping teach hand motions that even our older "kids" (high school and up) still remember today. This is what we are hoping to accomplish, that as our children grow in their faith, that they will remember these songs and get excited to re-visit them. We hope and pray that they will sing them for a lifetime and perhaps even wonder why they still remember all the words years from now.

Our musical has been chosen and is on it's way. "Cross Country" a musical about a race for life with Jesus! As always the music will be rockin' and fun but the

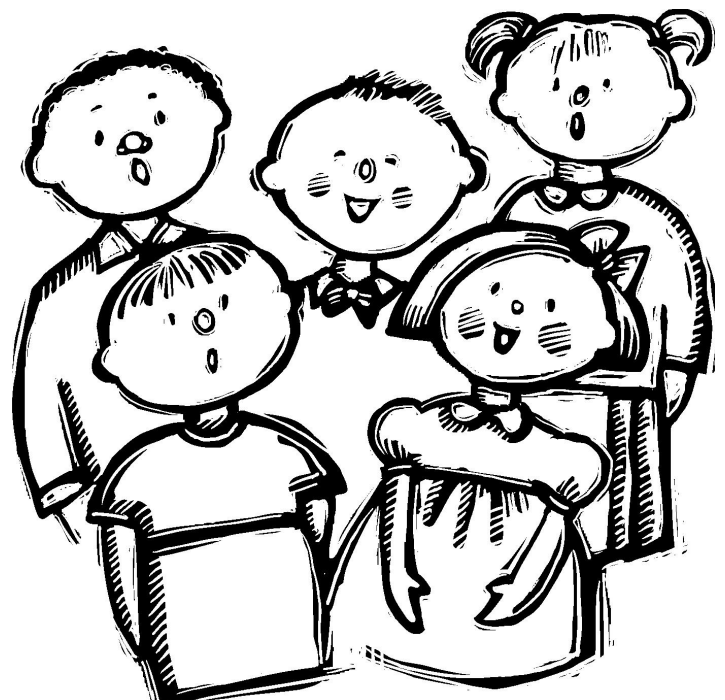
message is strong. The musical focuses on the fact that it seems harder and harder to live the Christian life. The only way we can maintain our Christian walk is to take up our Lord's cross daily and follow Him. We will be returning to more than one evening performances and adding a dinner theatre component as well. Stay tuned for a date and PLEASE plan on attending, even if you do not have kids participating. They are all our kids after all! Thanks to Miss Mickie and Miss Claire for supporting and adding to this oh so important ministry. And we have another special addition for the kids with music. Ruth Lettera has graciously agreed to teach chimes and perhaps later, handbells to the kids. The Children seem to love every aspect of JAM and I as always, am touched when I hear their angelic voices sing! I really am so grateful for all the help and support this year! The collective knowledge and experiences teaches me and we all continue to raise our children up to love and follow Jesus!

In His Love,
Jenifer Condon
Director of Children's Music

J.A.M. (Jesus And Me): for K-5th Grade is back in session Wednesday afternoons from 4-5:30. Interested in joining? Go to www.npckids.com, click on "Music and Midweek" then on J.A.M. to sign up!

Choir Rehearsal: Thurs. nights 8-9:30 p.m. for rehearsal and Sunday mornings 8:30 for rehearsal and participation in the 9:00 and 10:30 Sanctuary services.
Handbell Rehearsal: Thurs. 7-7:45pm.
Open Doors Worship Band: We are looking for instrumentalists and vocalists to help lead the congregation in praise and worship.

If you are interested, please send an email to music@norotonchurch.org.



Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



January was a busy month filled with many visitors attending tours of NPNS. Classes started back with great enthusiasm as the children and staff were so excited to be back together again. The children started a new program with our Naturalists, Ms. Emily. They are learning about animal habitats in Winter and how to recognize animal tracks.

We had our annual pajama day and classrooms were having fun cooking pancakes and other goodies. Room 13 4's visited the Bruce Museum to view their own art that was a part of the "Your Face Squared" project. Our Pre-K students visited the Darien Post Office to help them turn a part of their classroom into a Post Office of their own. The 4 years olds attended the "Ugly Duckling" and the "Tortoise and the Hare" at the Purchase Theater. Children celebrated a slight snowfall by sledding on the hill behind Pastor Doll's house. Several classes had a special music program this month with Robert Markowitz. He brought a perfect combination of music, movement and imagination to our students. We are looking forward celebrating Valentine's Day and hopefully getting more snow!

Thank you for all the lovely Christmas and New Years cards and well wishes.

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



Lilly Romanowski plays the Snowperson with a magic wand while Acting Out with Karen Hall



Elsa Balderach and Rhys Monaghan participate in a sink / float science experiment



Room 11 - 4 year olds make pancakes on Pajama Day



Nolan Glenday and Tate Sedlock begin an experiment on liquids freezing and melting.

Student Ministries



Mission Trips

The March and April Mission trips are right around the corner! The groups leading the rebuilding efforts in New Jersey are transitioning from the demolition phase into the rebuilding phase. Because of this we are in the final stages of confirming our ministry partners, location, and final cost. Because of the constraints of the print deadline, the details were not finalized. I trust that when you read this you will be able to go to www.norotonchurch.org and read all the details.

The details we do know are:

- Dates:** March 17-22 and April 14-19. Both groups will leave after the 10:30 worship services and return Friday afternoon.
- Where:** Somewhere along the Jersey shore. Although accommodations are not finalized, we will likely be sleeping at a church on air mattresses or cots.
- What:** We will be helping to rebuild homes devastated by Super-Storm Sandy. We will be a key part in rebuilding several homes.
- Who:** All adults in the NPC family, students in grades 3-5 are welcome to come with a parent, and students grades 6-12 are welcome with or without a parent.



I am excited about this great opportunity to serve our neighbors in need. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling and if He has equipped you to serve this March or April.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Stuart
Pastor of Children's & Student Ministries



Ignite Super Bowl Party

For as long as there has been a Superbowl, there have been Superbowl parties. This February 3rd, we will be holding our annual High School Super Bowl party at the SHAC and it is going to be incredible. This has been a crazy year for the NFL, and we are excited to see who comes out on top! We are also excited for the always clever and humorous commercials that accompany this historic game. Even if you don't like football and think that a squib kick is something I just made up (it's not), you should still join us at this event for snacks and social time with friends.

This event is open to all high school students and all the friends you can fit into your cars! We will meet at 6pm, and stay as late as the game goes. We will provide some food and drinks, but feel free to bring some for yourself or for the group! It's going to be a great time, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Tom Fagan
Student Ministries Associate

Student Ministries continued...



Potato Lunch and Dessert Auction

We are so excited about our upcoming Student Ministries Event, the Potato Lunch and Dessert Auction! Here's what it entails: After the 10:30 service on March 3, join us in Horton Hall to enjoy a delicious lunch of baked potatoes with all the fixin's: chili, veggies, cheese, sour cream, bacon, etc. Once lunch is over, we'll have a Dessert Auction, where we auction off delicious treats made by men and boys from our church family. All the money that we raise on this day will go towards the Student Ministries programs, helping to fund mission trips and other activities that we do annually. We'd love for you to join us at this fun event, and if you're a guy,

we'd love for you to bake something for our auction! Please contact Pastor Stuart, Abby, or Tom for more information about this event, or to sign up to bring something. It's definitely going to be a great time. We can't wait to see you there!

Abby Young
Student Ministries Associate



Confirmation Retreat



Membership Ministry

Please Welcome Our Newest Members!



Tracy and Stefan Balderach recently relocated their family from NYC to Darien. They have three children, Elsie (5), Callie (3.5) and Brody (21 months). Stefan has been at UBS for 8 years and Tracy has been home with the children since their first daughter was born. Their family loves to travel back to Texas and Florida where they originated, as well as spend time outdoors and at the beach.



Lauren Edgar just moved to Darien from NYC with her husband, Brad, and their 7 month old daughter, Bailey. She is an analyst at a hedge fund and Brad is an equity trader at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.



Banks Edwards is originally from NC and attended The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for undergraduate and graduate school. He and his wife, Meredith (a recent new member), have two daughters, Anna (12) and Kate (6). Before Darien, Meredith and Banks lived in NYC and were members of The Brick Presbyterian Church. Banks is a tax partner at Deloitte, primarily advising private equity funds.



Blair and Chris Gorman currently live in NYC but are moving to Darien in the spring, where Blair grew up. They have a 9 month old daughter, Piper. Blair and Chris both attended U. of Colorado at Boulder. She is a Sales Trainer for an Asset Manager in Stamford, and Chris is a Solutions Development Manager for NYU Langone Medical Center. In their spare time, they are usually outside enjoying some sport.



Christina and Mike McManus have a daughter named Valentina (4 ½ months) and a puppy named Sydney. They have been living in Stamford for two years. Christina is currently home managing their busy household, while Mike works in private wealth management in NYC.



Edward Pak resides in Darien with his family. He attended UCONN for undergraduate studies and Gordon-Conwell for seminary. He completed a hospital internship at Norwalk Hospital and his residency in Delaware. Last year he moved from Delaware to CT. Ed enjoys disc golf and reading.

Membership Ministry continued...



Cindy Peiser resides in New Canaan with her husband Mark and three boys Joseph (13), John (12), and Matthew (9). Cindy is a Marketing Research Consultant. She enjoys participating in bible study and in children's ministry, as well reading novels, exercising, and spending time with her family.



Lisa Primmer lives in Darien with her husband, Ryan, and stays at home caring for their children: Anna (6), Katie (4) and Will (3). They moved to Darien in 2007 after living in NYC for 14 years. Lisa has a BA in economics from Kenyon College; following college she worked for 13 years at Merrill Lynch.



Bill Vredenburg resides in Darien and was recently married to NPC Elder Renee Vasey. Both work in NYC, Bill for the FBI and Renee in banking. Bill is happy to join Renee at NPC and support this church.



Barbara and Phil Peters reside in Greenwich and have one child, Savannah (9 months). Barbara is an Integrated Ad Sales Manager with Time Magazine in NYC. Phil has a Private Wealth Management practice with Merrill Lynch in Stamford.



Michelle Savino resides in Darien with her husband, Michael, and three daughters, Katie (6), Lauren (5) and Piper (1). She is employed with CBRE as a Property Manager in Norwalk. Michelle and her family enjoy riding their bicycles around town and spending time at the beach.

CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN PRINT

Both formats provide great information and are easy to use. Try the print version in the kitchen and car, and the online version from your office or mobile device.

To access the secure ONLINE VERSION, use the link on the church home page (www.norotonchurch.org).

If you have not already received the user name and password, contact Julie Colbath to request it (julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451, ext. 14). Be sure to check your contact information and send changes (including a photo if not submitted before) to Julie. Please keep the access info secure and remember the directory is for fellowship purposes only.

You can get the colorful, photo-filled PRINT VERSION from the church office during the week or contact Julie Colbath to arrange pick-up at your convenience.

March New Member Class: Hold the Dates!

The class will meet the first four Sundays in March (3, 10, 17, 24), from 10:15 to 11:30 AM, except the fourth class which is extended until noon followed by a lunch reception. New members are then welcomed into the congregation on Easter Sunday, March 31.

For more information and to register, contact Julie Colbath (julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org, 203-655-1451, ext. 14).

Julie Colbath
Director of Membership

Tot Drop



Noroton Presbyterian Church



Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

It is hard to believe, but it is already time to start planning for the September 2013-2014 school year! At the end of this month current

Tot Drop families will receive a packet in the mail to use to request space for the next school year. This mailing follows on the heels of the NPNS enrollment process for next year so that those NPNS families needing daycare before or after their session at the nursery school can complete their planning.

Tot Drop embraces a unique model of daycare. Most daycares offer only full day care for the same children day after



day. For instance, every Monday would have the same roster of children, week after week; every Tuesday would have the same roster week after week, and so on through the week. Not so at Tot Drop!

Because Tot Drop is a ministry first and a business second, our model is designed to reach and serve as many families as possible. While Tot Drop policy only allows standing (recurring) reservations for children who require full day care (and most of our reservation space serves these children), we try to have space each day for families who want only morning or afternoon reservations or an occasional all-day space. With this "as-needed" accommodation, every Monday roster is different from the previous week; every Tuesday is different, etc. Additionally, some families need to add the breakfast hour or lunch to their morning reservation, while others only need the minimum three-hour block from 9:00 to 12:00! Others arrive at noon for lunch and the afternoon session and get picked up at 4:00. This flexible model makes scheduling and maintaining proper staff/child ratio a big challenge!

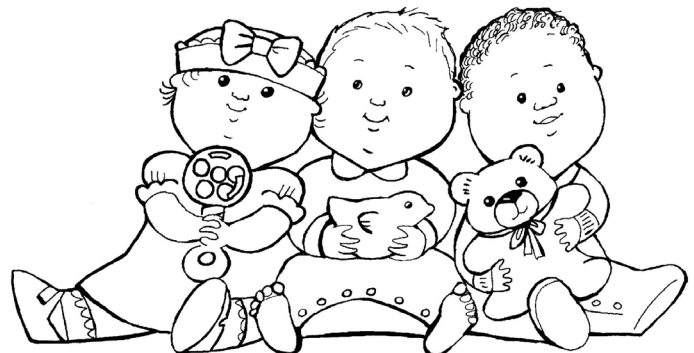
Another uniquely flexible element of the Tot Drop model is that families do not need to maintain their standing reservations over July and August in order to

retain them for the following school year. This is a huge benefit to families who send their child(ren) to summer camp, plan family vacations or whose parents are teachers and have summers free.

Families receiving the 2013-2014 planning packet will be deciding their needs for both the summer months of July and August 2013 and the school year that follows. Priority is given to families with children currently enrolled with all-day standing reservations; families currently using Tot Drop on an as-needed basis and families on the waiting list have the next priority; families new to Tot Drop will then be addressed.

This process sets up the framework for the coming year; it should be noted, however, that Tot Drop has a rolling enrollment, so it is never too late to be admitted, space permitting. Proof of the pudding is that Tot Drop is licensed for 55 children per day, but over 100 families use it regularly or occasionally as family need requires. For a tour of Tot Drop or for registration information, contact the Director at 203.202.9441 or check out the Tot Drop page on the church website. Tot Drop is featured this month in a Focus on Ministry video on the NPC homepage as well.

In His service,
Carol Scott, Director
Director of NPC Tot Drop



Congregational Life Ministry

Spring Fellowship Event...

Return of the ...

CHILI COOK-OFF!

Saturday, February 23rd

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tasting/Judging 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Prizes awarded at 8 p.m.



Join us for the eagerly-awaited return of this fun-filled activity ... appropriate for ALL ages!

Members/friends had such a good time last March, that our team was asked to 'repeat' the event.

As was true last year, you can

- **cook your favorite chili recipe and compete** in a friendly (but heated! ... yes, pun intended!) competition for 'best' in category (i.e. most popular, voted by those in attendance),
- **OR, simply come, vote, and enjoy others' masterpieces!**

EVERYONE who attends will receive one-vote-per-category ballots!

There will be six categories:

- Best Beef Recipe
- Best Poultry (Chicken, Turkey)
- Best 'All Other' Meat
- Best Vegetarian
- Best Spicy (regardless of type or lack of meat)



NEW this year:

1. IF you want to compete
 - We will REQUIRE you to REGISTER in advance (by/before Noon of day of event).
 - We need you to bring your dish to Horton Hall no later than 6:15 p.m. (to be included in the competition).
 - (We need to be totally set up before starting time, so that everyone has a chance to get around to taste ALL the entries.)
2. a CORNBREAD competition

This will consist of two categories: 'Best Sweet' and 'Best Traditional Southern'. So, if you are a baker, and want to try your hand ... please participate.

Those who want to may certainly compete in BOTH the Chili AND the Cornbread Competitions.

Our team will provide:

- traditional toppings for chili (e.g., cheese, sour cream, onions, chips)
- mixed salad
- a thank you gift for all bringing an entry

First and second prizes will be awarded in all categories; we'll add a third prize if the number of entries in an individual category warrants it.

It is best to bring your chili entry in a crockpot or slow cooker if you have one. We'll have a couple of warming trays, as well as some extra ladles on hand. (It would be good to know in advance if you think you'll have need for either of these.)

continued on next page...

Congregational Life Ministry continued...

Chili Cookoff (con't)...

Please **R.S.V.P.** ...

Look for Registration Forms around church, and online ... or, use the one here in this article.

- We NEED to know if you are going to enter the competition.
- We would LIKE to know if you are planning to attend to 'taste and judge' (so that we can plan appropriate table arrangements).

We hope to see Horton Hall filled with members/ friends ready to enjoy an evening of laughter, good stories, and good food!

Questions: valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451, ext 48.

Welcome New Members

Please join us in welcoming our newest members!

As you see new faces in Sunday services, studies, during coffee fellowship, or around the hallways ... be sure to offer a friendly smile and a helping hand.

(Their photos can be found elsewhere in this February Spire; they are also posted on a welcome board along the ramp/hallway outside the Main Office.)

Save the Date: Passover Seder

Maundy Thursday: March 28th

More to come in the March Spire ... from Pastor Greg Doll



Name of Individual, Family or Group: _____

Individuals Attending: _____

Contact Person Info:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Chili Dish Name (If Known): _____


Check here if you haven't decided yet

Type of Chili: *Beef* *Vegetarian* *Poultry*

All-Other-Meat _____ *Also Spicy*


Cornbread: *Sweet* *Traditional*

Questions: valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org



FOCUS ON MINISTRY

February: Children's Ministry



- Sunday School
- VBS
- J.A.M.
- Tot Drop

See videos (including both kids and adults) on NPC's website ... www.norotonchurch.org

Come to Horton Hall after services during February and talk to some of those involved!

Continuing our journey together,

Valerie Muller
Director of Congregational Life

Mission Ministry News



Thank you to all who are active in Mission Ministry and to those who took the time to explore the Mission videos and website and find out more about our Mission partners during the January Mission Focus Month. If you feel called to get involved in any way please do get in touch! As always there are opportunities to serve locally with the Open Door Shelter, Inspirica Women's Emergency Shelter, Carver Center, Young Life, Pivot, InterVarsity and by taking part in our prayer ministry. If you are interested in joining a Mission trip this year to New Jersey, West Virginia or Africa please check the NPC website or pick up a leaflet with information and signup!

Below you can read more about the latest *Foundations for the Future* Mission Grant award to Nambale Magnet School, in an article written by Tom Sansome, President

of the WIKS-USA board. Evalyn Wakhusama, Founder of the school, is so thankful for the grant and the ongoing support of NPC in helping to love and serve the people of Nambale through the ministry of the Nambale Magnet School. Evalyn was able to attend our latest Women's Retreat and also spoke at the Open Doors Service, bringing us the latest news from Nambale, and further deepening our strong relationship with her and the school. If you are interested in visiting Nambale this summer there is an NPC trip going there in July 2013. Please see more information on the NPC Website or contact Stella Clarke stellaclarke@norotonchurch.org.



In Christ's Service,
Stella Clarke
Mission Associate

Foundations for the Future Mission Grant **Nambale Magnet School, Kenya**

The latest recipient of the *Foundations of the Future* Mission Grant is the Nambale Magnet School, the flagship initiative of WIKS ("Women's Initiative for Knowledge and Survival"), a Kenyan NGO established in 2003 by the Reverend Evalyn Wakhusama. Evalyn, a native Kenyan and ordained Anglican minister, embarked upon a transformative journey in 1999, when she was accepted into the graduate program at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut.

Leaving her four young children in the charge of her veterinarian husband, Sam, Rev. Wakhusama traveled to the United States to begin a Master of Divinity and Masters of Sacred Music Program at Yale. She applied herself in earnest to her studies, in the faithful belief that the knowledge she acquired through her academic experiences could be applied to her ministries in her Kenyan homeland. While in Connecticut, she engaged in a number of ministries, including an early-morning Bible Study at Noroton Presbyterian Church from 1999 – 2002. It was there that she established many lifetime friendships, and has kept in close touch with many of the parishioners, following her return to Kenya after completing her studies at Yale.

Soon after returning to Kenya, Evalyn conceived the idea of a school for children orphaned or otherwise rendered vulnerable because of the AIDS/HIV pandemic afflicting much of East Africa. Focusing on her home village of Nambale, a tiny agrarian backwater a few kilometers from the Ugandan border, Evalyn developed a concept of providing a safe, nurturing residential environment where orphans and other destitute children could access a quality education, enabling them to breach the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that is painfully widespread in this region of Kenya.

Through her many relationships with her American friends, Evalyn was able to raise sufficient funds (including the seed money for acquiring the seven-acre parcel on which the school was eventually constructed, largely funded by NPC) to build the Nambale Magnet School, which opened its doors in January of 2009 for its first "pioneer" class of 32 incoming students. Since then, the School has added a grade of students each year. As it began its fifth year of operations this month, it now boasts a student body in excess of 225 students, ranging from pre-nursery class to fifth grade.

continued on next page... 19

Mission Ministry continued...



The long-range goal of the project is to continue the development of a high-quality primary school through eighth grade. The school will also provide a forum for dialogue and capacity-building to empower the general public to determine its destiny through informed discernment and skills training, to create the potential for income-generating activities, increased self-reliance and more responsible citizenship.

While the primary beneficiaries of the project are its students, the approximate 70,000 residents of the Nambale District (which includes the town of Nambale) will also benefit from the operation of the school, which serves as a symbol of development and innovation in an area traditionally disempowered by the extreme poverty of its residents. On a more tangible level, the school has provided and continues to provide employment opportunities for local citizens, and has already become a showcase for exemplary animal and plant husbandry, conservation and recycling of rainwater and active community service by its student population.

Sufficient space exists at the existing facility to allow for the capital expansion necessary to create additional classroom space for grades five through eight, as well as the corresponding boys and girls' dormitories to house the students in those grades. The grant enables the School to complete much of the construction work associated with these expansion plans. Within three years, sufficient space will exist on site to educate 330 children through eighth grade, and to house a large percentage of them who will be boarding on site.

This grant enhances the School's abilities to meet the following objectives:

- Enabling children orphaned or otherwise rendered vulnerable by HIV/AIDS to access a quality education in a nurturing residential setting

- Acting as a center of excellence in primary school and artisanry curricula in the Nambale District in the Western Province of Kenya by creating an environment conducive to both teaching and learning

- Supporting the general population, but especially destitute children, by providing marketable apprentice skills to enhance opportunities for self-sufficiency

- Empowering the general population, but especially destitute children, to take control of their futures through informed decision-making

- Providing a suitable venue for conferences, retreats and capacity-building seminars

The success of this venture is and will be measured in a number of ways. The most immediate outcome is the vast improvement in the lives of the children selected for admission to the school. The scholarship student recruitment process uses a questionnaire, containing a number of objective, empiric indicators to rate the level of need of prospective students. Essentially, the worse off a child's home situation is, as reflected by these indicators, the lower his overall score will be. The children with the lowest scores are the ones selected for admission. The transformation in the lives of these children is nothing short of monumental. They go from living in absolute squalor, sleeping on mats on earthen floors and eating one small meal a day to living in a world-class facility, receiving individualized attention in small classes (30 students or less) with three nutritious meals and two snacks each day, retiring each evening to sleep in a real bed in a safe environment.

The second most immediate outcome is the successful mainstreaming of impoverished, disadvantaged students with paying students, something that is quite rare in Kenyan society. Because of the meteoric rise in the school's

continued on next page...

Mission Ministry continued...

reputation, it is attracting ever larger numbers of paying students who are now studying alongside their destitute peers. In this environment, the traditional negative stigma that the destitute students were destined to labor under their entire lives has been obliterated.

Third, aside from providing a quality education to children who would likely not enjoy such an opportunity, the Nambale Magnet School has served as an economic engine for the town of Nambale. All of the labor for the construction of the school (was supplied by local citizens). Subsequent construction projects also provided employment for area residents. Moreover, most of the non-faculty staff positions and virtually all of the casual/temporary labor was supplied by local residents. And, from a purely aesthetic point of view, the school facility is impressive and visually pleasing. It has, in essence, put the town of Nambale "on the map," as evidenced by the fact that a national university approached WIKS with an offer to purchase the campus for establishing its own branch in Western Kenya.

Fourth, the school will eventually administer a series of tests over a three-year period to help gauge and guide the acquisition of knowledge, skills and positive attitudes of the schoolchildren. Based upon the students' progress to date, we are very optimistic that they will perform quite well when these tests are administered.

Fifth, until the standardized test results are obtained, WIKS is making all reasonable efforts to retain quality faculty and non-faculty staff. Moreover, WIKS recognizes the importance of keeping the staff inspired and motivated to provide excellent services to the children in their charge. In addition to recognizing the high level of academic achievement of the school's best students, the faculty and staff are also honored for their dedication and extraordinary efforts in serving those students.

WIKS welcomes and encourages the input and participation of its American partners and donors.

Tom Sansone,
President of WIKS-USA



Sunday, February 3

SOUPER BOWL
FOOD DRIVE

Please bring a can/carton of soup to church for Super Bowl Sunday!

We would like to help restock the shelves of the Norwalk Open Door Shelter Food Pantry.

Please place in collection bins around the church as you come to 8am, 9am or 10.30am services on Sunday, February 3.
No Open Doors Service on February 3.

We are also be collecting soup at Noroton Lectures on Saturday, February 2 and Tot Drop & NPNS on Friday, February 1.

Africa Trips 2013

Africa - Visit to Ministry Partners – June 28-July 12.
Visit NPC Mission partners including Nambale Magnet School, Kenya; City of Hope, Tanzania; Presbyterian University of East Africa and scholarship students; Caroline King'Ori Missionary at Kenyatta University. Space is limited. Cost Approx \$4,000 for flight and accommodation. Led by John and Marilyn Parker.

Africa – Mission Trip to City of Hope, Tanzania.
June 29 - July 11 2013 "Hands on" project work at the school/orphanage/hospital at City of Hope. Trip will be co-ordinated by Clare and Jeff Myers.

If you are interested in either of these trips please contact Stella Clarke as soon as possible since space is limited.
(stellaclarke@norotonchurch.org 203-655-1451 ext 18).



Would you like to keep up-to-date check out our Mission Ministry Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/NPCMission#>

A Word from the Nominating Team

Becoming an Ordained Officer at NPC:

150 years. For 150 years, Noroton Presbyterian Church has stood as a beacon of hope bringing the good news of Jesus Christ's transforming love to Fairfield County. Carrying on a tradition of strong leadership and caring ministry, our parish is blessed to have Pastor Sam Schreiner at the helm, supported by Pastors Greg Doll, Stuart Smith and Brandi Drake, who serve our congregation with vibrant commitment, thoughtfulness and love.

In addition to our wondrous staff, NPC is further blessed to have a dynamic, committed roster of church officers, (aka Deacons and Elders) to assist in the leadership and continued growth of NPC. These ordained church members are charged with the joy and responsibility of sharing leadership with our staff, offering directly to the continued growth of our church family and the development of our church programs. Please pray and consider the prophet who, when he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will

go for us?" Isaiah said, "Here am I."

Elders are chosen by the congregation to exercise leadership in the governance of the local church. They are individuals of faith, dedication and good judgment, who on occasion, assist with Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Elders at NPC serve on the Session as ministry team members. Session teams are Children, Student, Worship & Fine Arts, Adult Spiritual Formation, Properties, Missions, Congregational Life, Outreach, Finance, Human Resources, and Stewardship. Time involved includes an evening Session meeting and an evening Team meeting each month in addition to other duties as determined by each ministry team.

Deacons are chosen by the congregation to minister to those who are in need or may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. Deacons are persons of love, sympathy and sound judgment; they form a fellowship of compassion and welcoming. Deacon ministry teams are Homebound, Flower Outreach, Sunday Fellowship, Hospitality, Welcoming/Ushers, Media and

Caregiving. The time involved includes a monthly meeting and work within a team ministry area. The congregational Nominating Team is currently working to select candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon and we want YOU to assist us by providing names of people who would welcome service at NPC.

You are also encouraged to recommend yourself!

Nominating Team members are:

David Clairborne (chair)
Diane Gilliam
Peggy Barthold
David Mace
David Mettler
Ginna Yerrall

We welcome your questions and comments and invite you to fill out the form on this page to forward your recommendations to us. Place the form in the offering plate, send it to the office, or mail David Claiborne dcmkter@aol.com, or Diane Gilliam dianegilliam@optonline.net.

I suggest the following persons for the office of Elder (E) or Deacon (D)

Name

E or D

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

We cannot promise that every person suggested will be nominated to the congregation for an office of elected leadership. However, we do promise that every person suggested will be carefully and prayerfully considered.

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	2
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th Grades Dr. Tim Tenment, Guest Speaker 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Ignite Superbowl Party No Open Doors Service	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 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 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 8:30 p.m. HS Boys Small Grp	9:30 a.m. Moms' Oasis Ministry 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			Noroton Lectures 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee 7:00 p.m. Keynote Address
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Family Ski Trip 9& 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 5:00 p.m. Open Doors	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults 7:00 p.m. H6	Ash Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 8:30 p.m. HS Boys Small Grp	9:30 a.m. Moms' Oasis Ministry 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study	Family Ski Trip	16
10	11	12	13	14	15		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 5:00 p.m. Open Doors	Presidents' Day NPC Offices closed	8:00 p.m. Session	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 p.m. Lenten and Teaching Service 7:30 p.m. Lenten and Teaching Service	1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers		6:30 p.m. Chili Cookoff	
24	25	26	27	28			
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 4:00 p.m. Take-it-Home Event 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 (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults 7:00 p.m. H6	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 p.m. Lenten and Teaching Service 7:30 p.m. Lenten and Teaching Service	9:30 a.m. Moms' Oasis Ministry 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			

NPC News

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

January 20th:

Noah Paul Bozzuto, son of
Nicholas and Carolyn Bozzuto

Charles Edward Sommer, son of
Jeffrey and Annie Sommer

Upcoming Baptism Dates: 2/17/13 and 3/17/13
at the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service.

To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo
at 203-655-1451, ext. 33.

Open Doors

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK? So are we! "Like" our page - "Open Doors at Noroton Presbyterian" - for updates on sermon topics, links to cool sites, and to find out what's for dinner. Questions? Contact Seana (Seanagt@aol.com) or Steve (Steve@Stevodemott.com)

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 ext. 40 or email claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org to be added to the list.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Anyone who wishes to give flowers to the glory of God and in honor or memory of a loved one should call Claire Bragdon ext. 40 in the Church Office. The cost is \$50 and the donor may request a date for the flowers.

Also, donations to the Memorial Flower Fund for decorating for the Advent Season and Easter are always welcome. A check payable to NPC may be placed in the Flower Team mailbox in the Mail Room. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

If you would like to submit an article for the March 2013 issue please submit it to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

Pastors & Directors

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III.....ext. 11 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Dwayne Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Julie Colbathext. 14 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....ext. 21 <i>Pastor of Caring and Women's Ministry</i>	Mickie O'Donnell.....ext. 34 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Dan Rosa.....ext. 43 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Pastor Stuart Smith.....ext. 28 <i>Pastor of Student Ministry</i>	Stella Clarke.....ext. 18 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	David Lee.....ext. 26 <i>Director of Properties</i>
Pastor Greg Doll.....ext. 23 <i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	Carol Scott.....ext. 46 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	
Valerie Muller.....ext. 48 <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Martha Duff.....ext. 35 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>	