

The Spire

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



Reconnecting and Staying Connected

I recently learned that a church member, who had become isolated over the past few years, was in the hospital for two weeks. No one had called the church to let us know. (It used to be that ministers could drop by the hospital, look over the admission list and see if we knew anyone. HIPAA privacy laws have changed all of that.) I felt horrible when I learned this. All it would have taken was a phone call and we could have been there.

People withdraw from church for a variety of reasons. For some, declining health or mobility issues or even being widowed makes it harder to come to church alone. For others, the graduation of the youngest from high school permits greater travel and thus, less regular weekend attendance. Sometimes a sermon topic offends a person. There might be the difficulty of the competing weekend sports schedules or recreational hobbies. I understand these ebbs and flows of life, but being a member of church is like being a member of a family – whatever is happening - we miss those who aren't with us and we still care about

them in all of life's ups and downs.

How do we as pastors and we as a church family get the word out that we care about our members who have drifted away? In a large church like ours with multiple services, it is admittedly difficult to do. We don't know if someone is traveling, sick, visiting a relative or are they now drifting away? Studies show that a "re-invite" after two months of absence may be all it takes to re-engage a member. We all need to be on the look out for those we haven't seen in a while and let them know that we noticed their absence and that we care - encourage them to come back in a friendly and gracious way. Our upcoming beach services offer a great opportunity to do this. We will start worshipping at Weed Beach on June 15. (We will continue our tradition of a 10 a.m. service in the air-conditioned chapel – with no childcare available in July when we remodel the CE wing.) The service begins at 8 a.m. and a beach sticker isn't required to attend. On June 22nd we will host a brunch at the beach. This would be a wonderful setting for reconnections or even for inviting new friends.

Our church should always be a

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Worship Schedule

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

Summer Worship Schedule

June 15 ~ September 7
 Weed Beach Service - 8:00 a.m.
 Chapel - 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

6/1/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 5:00 p.m. Last Open Doors Service

6/8/14 - 8:00 a.m.
 Pastor Brandi Drake

9 & 10:30 a.m. -
 Youth Celebration Sunday

6/15/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

6/22/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

6/29/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

8:00 Weed Beach: 6/22, 7/13,
 7/20, 8/10, 8/24

10:00 Chapel: 6/15, 7/27, 8/17

*To schedule a Baptism please call
 Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

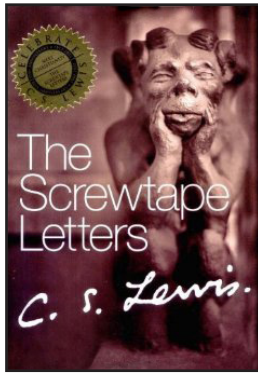
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welcoming place. Unfortunately this season of construction might make it seem less so, and sadly, encourage a few of us to drop back or even drop out. Let's all work together to not let that happen. Let's keep an eye out for one another and check on friends you haven't seen at church for a while. Wouldn't it be great if we actually grew in attendance while under construction? Let's stay connected. Let's reconnect. Let's continue to be the church, even with the challenges of our physical building.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner



Coming this summer!

**6 Week Book Study of C. S. Lewis' classic
on Temptation**

The Screwtape Letters

Join Pastor Sam in the weeks of late June and July to read and discuss this short book together. It is a great introduction into Lewis' imaginative writing style.



Reformational Heritage Trip to British Isles

Due to lack of sufficient summer travelers, the trip to Scotland and England has been cancelled. See Pastor Sam if you have an interest in this trip in the future.

Report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The nominating team wanted to update you on the search for a new youth pastor or youth director. We know this is a time of transition for the Youth Ministry Department, but we ask for prayer and patience as we search for the right candidate. We have retained a search firm, SIMA, and also have begun receiving candidates from the Presbytery. We are prayerfully meeting each week to review candidates and will continue to keep the congregation updated. Most of all we know that this is the Lord's timing and we honor that.

*Kalie Riordan, Chair
Burt Palmer, Vice Chair*

*Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.
Psalm 27:14*

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



June 2014 Progress Report

May 4th Groundbreaking Ceremonies ...



Pictured (left to right), Craig Flaherty -Civil Engineer, Frank Mullaney - Owner's Rep, Dennis Kowal - Architect, Pastor Sam Schreiner, Dale LeMasters-NPC Building Team chair, David and Rosemary Mace-Foundations for the Future Team Co-chairs, Luke and Jonathan Yerrall-4th Generation NPC Family, Jean Ann Bollman - Foundations for the Future Treasurer.

On May 4th between the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, the congregation joined Pastor Sam and others for a brief groundbreaking ceremony in the courtyard between the Sanctuary and Chapel, officially marking the start of the demolition/construction of the center core of our facility.

Members gathered around the site ... in the courtyard, on the Parlor steps, at Sanctuary and hallway windows ... as ten shiny shovels dug into the earth signifying the beginning of building our new foundation.

Prayer rocks (from our Capital Campaign kick-off three years ago) were blessed and 'turned over' into the earth, incorporating the on-going prayers of the congregation that preceded, and continue, as we embark on this journey together.



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FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

May God bless the workers during construction as well as the work our renewed facility will accommodate in the years to come.

We thank our members and friends for your patience during this process. We look forward to celebrating together again as we 'cut the ribbon' once construction is complete.

Our Foundations Giving Reaches a Significant Milestone!

It is said that April showers bring May flowers. The continued showering of our faithful giving to *Foundations* has raised the total of gifts received after two years to over \$10,000,000!! We are collectively blessed by God's goodness as evidenced by the congregation's amazing, sacrificial giving. Thanks be to God!!

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!

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

Noroton Presbyterian Church Groundbreaking Ceremony

May 4, 2014

10:00 a.m.

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
-Psalm 118:24

Call to Worship

Rev. Samuel A. Schreiner III

Introduction of our Partners

Statement from the Pastor and Building Committee

Pastor Schreiner

Dale LeMasters, Building Committee Chair

Breaking Ground

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Statements from our Partners

Closing Prayer

Pastor Schreiner

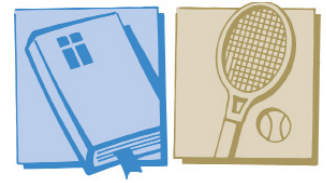
Please join us in the Parlor or Horton Hall for light refreshments, coffee and fellowship immediately following.



Adult Spiritual Formation



Men's Retreat



Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to announce that our Annual Men's Retreat will be returning to the rustic, rugged beauty of the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. The retreat will be **Friday, October 31 to Sunday, November 2, 2014**. We will be joined again by our brothers of Macedonia Church.

The spectacular wooded setting offers us a chance to take advantage of a true retreat and get back to nature. A wide range of recreational options are being planned for Saturday afternoon. As usual, we will have golf, basketball, and hiking. We are also planning to offer skeet shooting, photography, painting, biking, and of course as always available, a peaceful afternoon doing absolutely nothing with good friends.

As if we needed any further motivation, our featured speaker and leader for the weekend will be Dr. Jerry Root, who was with us this year for Noroton Lectures. Jerry has been studying C. S. Lewis and a constellation of subjects related to Lewis since 1970. Both his M.Div. thesis and Ph.D. dissertation were about C. S. Lewis. He has taught college and university courses on C. S. Lewis continuously since 1980. He has lectured on Lewis at 59 Colleges and Universities in 9 different countries and has preached or lectured in 24 different countries and 32 states.

Currently he is an associate professor of Evangelism and Leadership at Wheaton College and also teaches in the Christian Formation and Ministry Department at Wheaton College where he has taught since 1996. Jerry has also been a visiting professor at Biola University and Talbot Graduate School of Theology since 1990. He is married to Claudia since 1975 and has four married children and eleven grandchildren.

We will begin online registration in June and provide additional information through the church web site www.norotonchurch.org. We hope you will register early and indicate your likely recreation choice (for some there may be participation limits). Registration will be handled by Marlene Moffett, administrative assistant to Pastor Greg. Communication regarding the Retreat during the summer will be by email, so please make sure Marlene has your current email address. If you have questions, please contact Clay Colbath at clayhamiltoncolbath@gmail.com or Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620. We look forward to seeing you in Ivoryton.

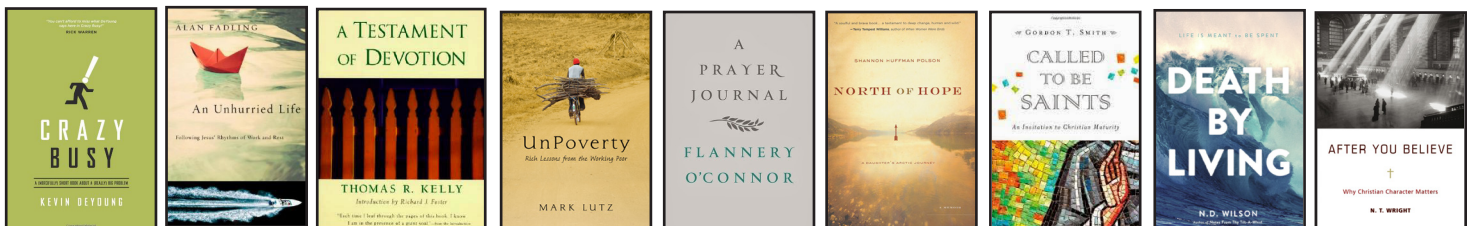
Clay Colbath

2014 Summer Reading List



1. DeYoung, Kevin - *Crazy Busy*
2. Fadling, Alan - *An Unhurried Life*
3. Kelly, Thomas - *A Testament of Devotion*
4. Lutz, Mark - *Unpoverty*
5. O'Connor, Flannery - *A Prayer Journal*
6. Polson, Shannon Huffman - *North of Hope*
7. Smith, Gordon T. - *Called to Be Saints*
8. Wilson, N.D. - *Death by Living*
9. Wright, N.T. - *After You Believe*
10. Yancey, Philip - *The Question That Never Goes Away*

Happy Summer Reading!
Pastor Greg Doll
Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation
and Outreach



Adult Spiritual Formation

Men's Bible Study: Thursday, June 12 - 7-8:30 a.m. in Horton Hall

All men are invited **SPECIAL BREAKFAST** with **GUEST SPEAKER, RABBI DANIEL COHEN**

Please RSVP with Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620.



Rabbi Cohen began serving as spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Sholom, Stamford in 2005. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Rabbi Cohen is a graduate of Yeshiva University in New York and its Azrieli Graduate School. He received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. After his ordination he and his wife, Diane, spent a year in Israel, after which he returned to the States to serve as an assistant Rabbi in West Orange, New Jersey. His first pulpit as a senior rabbi was in West Hartford where he spent about seven years in which time he doubled their membership. Rabbi Cohen then moved on to a much larger synagogue in Denver, a position he held for the three years immediately prior to coming to Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford. Rabbi Cohen serves as a National Officer of the Rabbinical Council of America, a Regional Board Member of the Anti-Defamation League, a member of American Israel Public Affairs Committee National Council and the current Chairman of the Vaad of Fairfield County and the Stamford Rabbinical Council.

Men's Ministry - 8th Annual Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, **July 22**, 1:00 p.m. shot gun start at Woodway Country Club.

Details will be posted on the church website www.norotonchurch.org and around the church next week.

For more information contact Burt Palmer at Burt.Palmer@unilever.com or

Marlene Moffett at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620.



Prime Timers

Thursday, June 12 at 2:00 p.m.
at Maplewood*, Darien.

Isabelle Millet, Pharmacist and Dr. Katie Takayasu of Stamford Hospital present
"Minding Our Medications and Supplements."

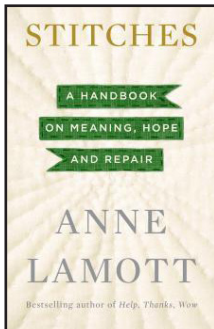
For more information contact Marlene Moffett (203-309-5620)
or Rita Hornlein (203-357-1504).

*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 Congregational Church. **Please do not park right across from Maplewood in the parking area for the Center For Hope.**
4. If at Congregational Church parking lot, wait for someone to shuttle you across street.
5. Shuttle available to return to church parking.
6. Travel 2 mi. west on Boston Post Rd/US-1 to NPC.

Caring & Women's Ministries

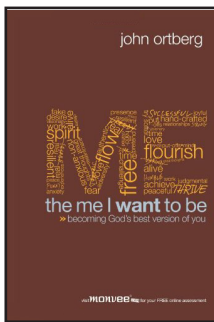
Well Hello Sunshine!



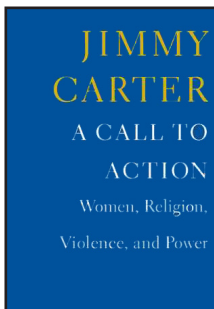
This is that time of year I wait for. Do you? That time of year when the sun comes up early and stays out late. The time of year when it seems the kids aren't overscheduled, and I don't feel like I'm always running from one meeting to the next.

That time of year when the stack of books I've been collecting can actually get opened.

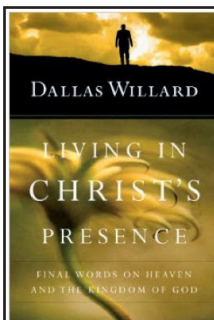
Here are some of the books I've loved this year that may be worth your attention!



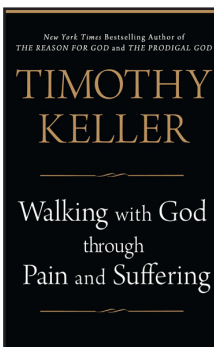
- Anne Lamott - *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair*. This is a small but powerful book that Lamott wrote in response to the shootings in Newtown. I have quoted it often this year. A beautiful book for people walking through a dark valley.



- John Ortberg - *The Me I Want To Be*. Our women's studies have opened this book together this year, and I even shamelessly preached on it in May. A beautiful book about what it looks like to dive into the river of life that is the Holy Spirit. Very practical and readable. Another book by John Ortberg I'm about to read: *Soul Keeping*. Just released.



- Jimmy Carter - *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power*. A very informative book about global issues, written through the lens of a devout Christian brother.



- Dallas Willard - *Living in Christ's Presence: Final Words on Heaven and the Kingdom of God*. We lost a great one when Dallas Willard died this year. This book is a collection of his talks, with sections of discussion that he had with Ortberg during a conference in 2013. Very thought-provoking.

- Timothy Keller - *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*. A more academic approach to the question of suffering. A rich read—but not for the beach!

Blessings on each of us as we breathe in God's grace this Summer. Happy reading!

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



Women's Studies

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

6:15-7:15 a.m.

Now studying
"The Me I Want To Be"
by John Ortberg
through June.

Children's & Youth Ministries



Minute with Mickie Wondering about Transitions

"Sometimes life takes us places we never expected to go. And in those places God writes a story we never thought would be ours."
~ Renee Swope

So how many transitions have you been through in your life? Or, perhaps you feel like I do, "When ISN'T there a transition?" Transitions are those moments in life when whatever you thought was the "status quo" is no longer. We transition from childhood to teenagers to adults. We transition from being kids at home, to kids at school, to adults at work, to adults in retirement. We move houses, we change jobs, we make friends and then someone moves, we get new bosses, and on and on it goes. So the wonder questions then are, "Why does yet another transition seem to take us by surprise?" and, "Why do we keep expecting that another transition won't happen?" or even, "What makes us think that a transition shouldn't happen or is bad if it does?"

I can't answer these for you, but I can tell you how I have worked on these thoughts myself this past year in light of the various transitions that NPC has faced and is experiencing both with staff and with property. What's happening here at NPC is normal. No church building has ever lasted without some remodeling or fixing up! Nobody stays in one place forever. No church has a founding pastor who built it and then preaches until he or she is 95 and meets the Lord mid sermon. Let's face it – even the Apostle Paul didn't stick around just one church location during his whole ministry, nor did the other Apostles. No, the Gospel message, the Good News of Jesus, is meant to be spread. In Acts 1, the Lord tells his disciples that once they receive power from the Holy Spirit they will be God's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and into the uttermost parts of the world. We are not meant to only be in one place. Ok, then. What do we do when we are in a place for 'a season' – like all of us right now in Darien, at NPC? Well, I think we are to use our gifts to build relationships with each other and grow the church while we can. Remember what James told us (James 4:13-15) "You should know better than to say, 'Today or tomorrow

we will go to the city. We will do business there for a year and make a lot of money!' What do you know about tomorrow? How can you be so sure about your life? It is nothing more than mist that appears for only a little while before it disappears. You should say, 'If the Lord lets us live, we will do these things.'" It seems to me that we should acknowledge that the Lord is letting us do what we are doing right now and we should do our part to share the Good News of Jesus with those around us for however long God lets us be together. We should be ready for whatever next transition God has planned. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations." He didn't say, "Therefore, stay." So I've asked myself, "Who in my life has 'stayed' forever?" My parents have been with me the longest of course, but soon even they will leave me. So actually, if I'm honest, only the Lord is my sure and certain forever person, just as He promised in Matthew 28: 20, "And surely, I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

So, what's the point in all of these "wonderings" you ask? Well, for me it makes me realize that my job is to do my best at preparing children and youth to "GO" and use their God-given gifts to tell others about Jesus – they won't be here forever you know! I should also be equipping moms, dads and other adults to use their gifts just as the Bible tells us to. I think I should work on building relationships with others who are at NPC for as long as we are with each other. I want to share my home and my life for Christ's purposes so that, with you, we can be a witness to this community. I need to be ready to say goodbye to our teens who graduate and go off to college but I want to be sure that this church family has prepared them to be people of strong faith and that they have good relationships with you, not just me or a pastor. They need lots of connections.

Right now, NPC is at a fantastic moment in her history to show this community what it means to be "Church"

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Children's & Youth Ministries

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and not totally dependent upon a building. We won't have the perfect spaces to come to for everything right now so maybe we should start meeting at the parks, in the restaurants, at the library, and especially in our homes. People will see that we, the people of NPC, really love each other and are committed to each other because we live here! It's time for the Pastors and Directors to reproduce themselves into others who are gifted as teachers, mentors, leaders, prayer warriors, servants and caregivers. It's time to pour ourselves into our children and youth by opening our homes for various events and Bible Studies, sharing our lives and testimonies of what God is doing. It's time to use this transition as a magical moment to get excited about what the next transitions might bring us. Nothing of what happens here takes God by surprise. God is with us, always. So won't you get excited with me about this transitional season? It's not the first one and it won't be the last!

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



Looking Back: "Testify to Love" was a fabulous sermon delivered by our JAM Kids on May 18. What a blessing to hear their own words along with Scripture sharing how they have experienced God in their lives even in the transitions. Thanks Jen, Dwayne and Claire and kids. God was present in a special way that morning.

What's Up in Youth and Children's Ministry?

**June 23-27 Vacation Bible School
at St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

**World Mission Tour!
Ambassadors of Hope
Vacation Bible School**

June 23-27, 2014

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.



The Market Place is on a mission! The children will spend the week exploring the Acts of the Apostles. There will be opportunities for self-exploration to see how they too are Jesus' apostles and how they might answer their call. The children will be issued VBS passports on the first day and virtually tour a new mission site each day, from Darien all the way to the ends of the earth in Malawi, Africa. Although the tours are virtual, they will be real missionaries actively participating in mission work for real missions. Children will perform their songs Friday, June 28 at 12:00 noon and parents will join them for a picnic afterwards.

June 1 – A Welcome Transition time for Kindergarten children and parents at both 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Attend the Worship service first and then join the Elementary children in Horton Hall. Get a feel for what Sunday School time will be like next Fall when your child is in First Grade. This will be a fun "Step up to Elementary Sunday School" time at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

June 8 – Youth Celebration Sunday 9:00, 10:30 and 5:00. A special Worship Service celebrating our Graduates, our Youth and Children's Ministry Volunteers and hear a special message from Pastor Brandi.

June 8 – 3:30-4:45 p.m. "A Step Up to Harbor" Party for all of our soon to graduate 5th Graders. Come to Horton Hall and have a special experience of learning about Harbor. *Parents are invited to join Mickie at this time to learn about this transitional time in your budding teen's life.

Be sure to check the website all summer long for videos, updates and information to help keep you connected to the ministries and activities for both Children and Youth.

Children's & Youth Ministries



Dear NPC Family,

There is no easy way to say goodbye to a congregation you sincerely love. It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation as Youth Ministry Coordinator, drawing a close to this meaningful season in my life. Since June of 2012 I have faithfully served in this role, and on June 30th I will be leaving in preparation for Seminary.

Through this process I have felt a great spectrum of emotions. As I've considered this transition, I have experienced feelings ranging from anxiousness to excitement, from sadness to peace. Noroton Presbyterian Church has become a home for me. Being welcomed into this community as a fresh college graduate helped shape me into the man I have become and has given me a foundation on which to build in order that I may become the man God has designed me to be. The relationships and experiences that have come during my time here will continue to be some of the most fundamental building blocks for my future ministry adventures. I count it a great honor to have served in this community, and to have served you with all God has given me. For this blessing I thank you, and ask that you extend the same heart to any and all who come into this ministry.

My plans are still coming together, but I will offer you all I can. God has called me to continue my education by earning a Master's in Divinity. This degree will enable me to pursue many ministry opportunities and continue to glorify Him through the work I do in His name. Where I will be pursuing this degree has not yet been decided. I have many options, and I am seeking God's guidance in this decision. I am confident that God will

work in me regardless of where I end up, and that He will continue to be faithful to me as I am faithful to Him.

Though the timing of this transition and change may seem inopportune, I sought God's wisdom in the decision, and to know that our ministry would thrive in my absence. God has confirmed this to be true; His calling me to seminary is no mistake, making it necessary for me to answer this call in order that NPC and the Youth Ministry would be able to realize and capture what He is going to do next.



It is in Paul's words in the book of Romans that I have found God's comfort in this decision. Romans 8:28 reads, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." Greater than any work I have done or could do, and greater than any work that will be done, is the work that God is doing for us, on our behalf, that we may enjoy the fruits of His labor. That we may be blessed by our Father in Heaven and feel His love reign in our hearts. That we may be free from fear and trepidation, and that we can walk in the righteousness God has declared in our

lives. This is my prayer for NPC and it is my prayer for you whom I have served.

Please celebrate with me all God is doing now and will do in the future. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ways I may serve you during my remaining time at NPC.

In His peace,
Tom Fagan
Youth Ministries Coordinator

Children's & Youth Ministries

Save the Dates!



There is so much happening in the youth ministry here at NPC. Check out some pictures of our recent Prom after party that was "Frozen" themed.



As summer approaches, between vacations, sports, and family time, drop in and hang out with youth ministries. We will see you at the beach service. We will meet for breakfast afterwards. Please pay attention to the follow dates as they tell you when and where we are meeting. If a date is not listed, there is no programming that evening. As always, please be checking our Facebook Page: NPC Youth Ministries for updates to programs and last minute events and hang outs! See you around!

If you are in Middle School, check out what is happening for you:

June:

- 4 - Harbor 7-8:30 p.m. in Horton Hall
- 8 - Youth Celebration Sunday during Church; 5th grade step up event in Horton Hall from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- 11 - Harbor Event
- 13 - 8th grade hang out from 6-8:00 p.m.; Pizza, root beer floats, and time with your friends. Meet in the SHAC.
- 18 - Harbor 7-8:30 p.m., will be in the SHAC, come hang out!
- 23~27 - VBS at St. Luke's

July:

- 2 - 5th graders are now in 6th grade! Come hang out with us at Harbor in Horton Hall from 7-8:30 p.m.
- 6~12 - Vacation with a Purpose trip to West Virginia
- 16 - Harbor in Horton Hall from 7-8:30 p.m.

August:

- 13 - Harbor Cookout 7-8:30 p.m.
- 21 - Bring a lunch and join us at Weed Beach from 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

If you are High School these dates are for you:

June:

- 1 - Ignite
- 8 - Youth Celebration Sunday in the morning; Ignite in the evening
- 22 - We will be going to Hillsong Church in NYC to join them in their worship service. Check the facebook site for more details. Sign-ups are required!
- 29 - Celebrate Tom!

July:

- 6~12 - Vacation with a Purpose to West Virginia
- 20 - Ignite
- 24 ~ August 2 -Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.

August:

- 10- Ignite
- 17- Ignite
- 19- Meet at Weed Beach with a packed lunch. We'll be there from 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
- 24- Cookout

Tot Drop



After months of watching “diggers” pushing and dumping dirt outside our windows, the temporary playground, which will be shared by Tot Drop and the Nursery School, has received flying colors in its final inspection by the state Department of Health licensing agent. We are now enjoying playing under a glorious canopy of shade trees, nestled behind the stockade fence, between the Parlor and the Chapel. All the climbing structures were moved from the old playground to the new space, but it all feels fresh and different in its new setting!



Give me a shovel and I can dig all day!
(Orange fencing is retractable so we can section off playground as required by state regs.)

Maximum group size for children under the age of three is eight. This State regulation means that physical barriers are required to separate the space for each group of 8 children. Because there will be four groups of 8 children (one class of 1 year olds, and three groups of 2 year olds) sharing the playground at one time, we have installed retractable fencing to divide the playground into four spaces. New sandboxes were constructed to provide quieter play opportunities in each of the spaces and each

area has appropriate and varied equipment. There are two areas with climbing and sliding structures, one area for riding wheeled vehicles and one small area especially equipped for one year olds.



Space to run, dig and climb.

We have worked out a shared schedule for NPNS and Tot Drop children to be on the playground together until each organization once again has its own playground. This schedule will go into full effect when the Nursery School resumes in the fall.

An unusual happening for Tot Drop takes place this summer when it closes from July 3 until August 4 to facilitate the construction projects in the CE Wing. Tot Drop families have graciously accepted this inconvenience and we are most grateful. When we return in August we will have some summertime special events like we usually do, including our world-famous water days, visits from the library, sing-alongs with “Beautiful Marcia”, outdoor art events, Tot Drop Olympics and more—on our tree-shaded playground.

In His service,
Carol Scott
Director of NPC Tot Drop



One of two areas for climbing and sliding.



Off to another adventure!

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



May is an exciting month, but always feels too short! The month started with our Teacher Appreciation week. Children brought in flowers and created amazing arrangements for their teachers. The NPNS Board and Room Mothers held a delicious and fun luncheon for the staff.

Our older students visited the SUNY Purchase Theater and saw the play "Going on a Bear Hunt" and all classes were able to visit with Farmer Minor and his pig, Daisy. Room 13 held a talent show for their families. The children worked very hard on their performances, costumes and sets. They sold tickets to raise money for a scholarship to the POP Academy summer program.

The construction of our Temporary Playground has been completed and the children are so excited to be able to finally use it. Our students, staff and families enjoyed our end of year traditions. The weather was touch and go, but held off for all our beach picnics. We celebrated summer birthdays, Pre-K Stepping Up ceremony and brunch, and the 4s graduation ceremony and reception.

The quality of our program is due to so many people. Our Parent-led Board, NPC Session representative, Pam Kolakowski, NPC Pastors and staff members, parent volunteers, community members and especially our Board Chairperson, Rochelle Charmin have made this another year of growth and excellence. We are very blessed to have Mickie O'Donnell and Liz Morelli, of Children's Ministry, lead our weekly Chapels and to have Dwayne Condon assist our children during their Graduation ceremony and Christmas Chapel.

The end of this school year has been particularly bittersweet for me as I have turned in my resignation as Director of NPNS and am moving to Tennessee this summer. My family has been apart for over two years and it has become apparent that the decision for me to move is the right one. NPNS and NPC have been such a gift to me over the last eleven years. This place and its people have become my home and my family. I have been incredibly blessed to work under the guidance of such individuals as Barbara Geraghty, Cathie Viola

and Pastor Sam Schreiner, over the years. The love and support shown to me and my family is indescribable and I know I leave here a much better person because of it. My hope is that I will be able to pay forward the grace shown to me and be an instrument of God's peace wherever He takes me.

This beautiful program is being left in the capable hands of our office manager, Barbara Magee, newly appointed Assistant Director, Susanne Frank and our wonderful teachers. Our out-going Board Chair, Rochelle Charmin and Pastor Sam have put together a search committee to find our next Director. Our board for the new school year will be led by Chairperson, Tori Barnett and her Vice Chair, Tracy Balderach. I ask that you keep all these amazing people in your prayers and thank you so much for your support of our nursery school.

We are already missing our students and their families and have begun preparations for September! We wish them all a summer filled with play!

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



4 year olds having fun with Ms Kalie and Ms Meg.

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



3 year olds enjoying a spring day on the old playground.



4 year olds present a gift check to POP Academy for a summer scholarship.



Sophie and Abbey having fun together on their Earth Place field trip.



Whitney loving on Daisy the pig.



Ms Susan and Ms Ewa love Daisy too!

Membership Ministry

Notable Highlights:

June 7th New Member Class!

Last chance to join before the fall...

We will meet on Saturday, **June 7**, Noon to 5:30 p.m. (or shorter depending on the size). New members are welcomed into the congregation the next day, June 8, at the 10:30 service. Others who have recently joined say the class is "enriching", "relevant", and "thoughtful"! You can also take the class for information and join within the following year. Free childcare is provided (3 months to 4 years). For more information and to register, please contact Julie Colbath at julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615. No classes are offered over the summer.

Volunteer to Welcome Visitors at the Beach!

If you enjoy lingering at the beach, please consider taking just 15 minutes to welcome newcomers to our Visitor's Station following the 8 a.m. service (each Sunday, June 15 through Sept. 7). Arrive 5 minutes early to set up. Contact Julie Colbath to volunteer for one or more dates.



Working our faith,
Julie Colbath

Director of Membership

julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615

Congregational Life Ministry

We are Celebrating Early this year ... !

We invite you to join family and friends ...

in **JUNE** this year for

NPC's Annual Beach Breakfast Celebration!

When: Sunday, June 22nd

Time: 9-11 a.m. (right after the 8 a.m. beach service)

Where: Weed Beach, Picnic Table Area

This year we have scheduled this annual event a little earlier in the summer than in past years. It will be our second Sunday on the beach for services. (They start on Father's Day by the way, June 15th.) Children will just be finishing up the school year, and folks will just be taking a deep breath before heading off for various summer plans ...

Co-incidentally, June 22nd is the 'first day of summer'!

... so, we add that element to our reasons to
C E L E B R A T E ...

As in past years, our team will host you ... and provide homemade breakfast breads, fresh cut fruit, hot and

cold beverages, and some fun-in-the-sun 'sand activities' (hula hoops, horse shoes, windmills, bubbles), all available in a festive/ colorful environment.

We even provide suntan lotion, bug spray, and wipes!

You need simply 'show up' ... and perhaps bring along your chair from the beach service since the Picnic Table Area has limited tables/ seating.



Note: This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to invite friends and neighbors to join you! For our beach service, and/or the breakfast itself!

If you are only coming to the breakfast ... please note that you need to have a town beach sticker if entering the beach after 9 a.m. (Alternatively, you can pick up a copy of our Beach Permit for the morning; call the office, 203-655-1451, to ask where to obtain.)

This is a can't miss event for all ages and family stages!

It is enjoyed equally by those who are brand new to our church community, as well as those who have been attending activities for years!

In fellowship with you,
Valerie Muller
Director of Congregational Life
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650



Mission Ministry

NPC and World Vision in the Dominican Republic



As we embark on a new partnership with World Vision in the community of Palmera we wanted to look back and celebrate the blessing we have experienced through our relationship with the people of Restauracion in our previous partnership with World Vision and the wonderful progress towards a self-sustaining community that has been made. Carleton Cleveland, is an NPC member who was actively involved in this partnership and shares his perspective in the following article.

In 2003 World Vision approached Noroton Presbyterian Church to ask it to solicit its congregation for one-on-one and personal sponsorship of children in the Dominican Republic (DR). The Church agreed to do this, and NPC's members sponsored around 200 children.

World Vision then asked the Church for financial participation in two projects it was doing along the northwest quadrant of the DR along the Haitian border, a hugely impoverished area. One was the construction of a six kilometer irrigation pipeline that would bring water from the Artibonito River to a desolate area called Guayajayuco so crops could eventually be grown there, the other was the construction of a library in Loma de Cabrera, a town nearby, where the children were very educationally challenged.

After a due diligence trip to the DR in October of 2003, the Church, at the recommendation of the Mission Team, agreed to fund a substantial portion of the costs of these projects.

In subsequent years the Mission Team and other NPCers visited these projects annually to see personally how these projects were coming along, to visit the sponsored children there and to become somewhat involved with the community. This is sustainable and

has built a lasting long-term relationship with all involved.

Along the way NPC's members also funded the building of ten houses in Ravenzal for families of four or more. These houses were donated by NPC members and did not come out of the mission budget.

Today Guayajayuco is a thriving community with families moving in from the major cities. It is not only self-sustaining but it exports, thanks to the irrigation system, corn and beans to a restaurant chain in Florida.

The library is well stocked with a host of books donated by the Pear Tree Point School in Darien and includes a clinic that educates women in pre-natal health issues and HIV-AIDS prevention.

In addition, a number of NPCers have separately arranged for certain financial accommodations for their sponsored children. This is done through World Vision and does not involve the Church's budget. There are many, many heartwarming (and funny) stories here.

I will tell you that being involved in this has been a God-given life changing experience that may not be repeated for me again.

Carleton Cleveland, NPC Mission Team

The number of orange ribbons (our symbol of child sponsorship) worn on Mother's Day shows us how many NPC members are actively supporting children in Restauracion. We give thanks and praise for that. World Vision partners with communities to help them become self-sustaining. Restauracion is achieving that goal, so World Vision's work there is coming to a close. The Mission Team at NPC is excited by our new partnership with World Vision in the area of Palmera, just outside Santo Domingo. We hope you will consider sponsoring a child and becoming part of this life-changing ministry.

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

Mission Ministry

World Vision Child Sponsorship Sunday Mother's Day 2014



Summer Events

June 1st - World Vision Promise Kits Packing Event

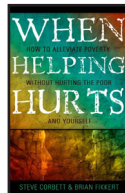
After the 10:30 a.m. service in Horton Hall. Please come and help assemble kits for school children in Palmera, Dominican Republic. All are welcome to sign up via the NPC website. Younger children can help with adult supervision. Each kit will include a hand written note of love and encouragement. Pizza available after the packing!

June 15th - Father's Day – this year we will launch our **FMSC M&M Tube Fundraiser** on the beach. Please take a tube, enjoy the candy, and return the tube filled with \$14 of quarters or cash/check to help raise the funds needed for this year's Joint Churches Darien FMSC MobilePack event which will take place in October. Each filled tube will cover the cost of 63 special FMSC meals for children starving around the world.

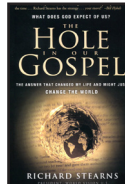
June 7th, July 5th and August 2nd - NPC will serve at the **Open Door Shelter** please contact Holly Hough at hough7@optonline.net to sign up.

August 24th - 8:00 a.m. on the Beach - Blessing of Backpacks and School Supply Drive for the Open Door Shelter. Please bring school supplies to help the needy in Norwalk, and bring your own backpack for a blessing before the new school year. School supplies can be dropped off at the Beach or at Thorndal Circle office any time in August.

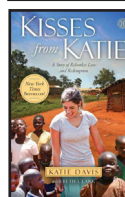
Mission Team Summer Reading Recommendations



"When Helping Hurts. How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor. ...and Yourself" - Steve Corbett and Brian Fickert



"The Hole in the Gospel" - Richard Stearns



"Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption" - Katie J. Davis

Noroton Presbyterian Church Summer Worship Schedule

June 15 - September 7

8:00 a.m. Weed Beach Service

Dress is casual and bring your beach chair.
Family friendly environment - children worship with family.
(childcare not provided)
Beach permit not required for entry.

10:00 a.m. Chapel Service

Professional childcare is provided for children
(ages 3 months up to 3 years.)
3's - K will be dismissed after **Words of Wonder**
to our teacher and brought to room 4B,
where they can be signed out by parents
at the end of Service.
All other children will be in worship
with their families.

Sundays in July and August 3rd,
there will be no childcare or
Sunday School. All children are welcome
in worship with their families.

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 14th

8:00 a.m. Chapel, 9/10:30 a.m. Sanctuary, 5:00 p.m. Open Doors

Summer Worship Schedule

(If raining, beach service will be held in the Sanctuary.

Please check www.norotonchurch.org or
call NPC at (203) 655-1451 for updates).

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| June 15 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| June 22 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach Beach Breakfast 9-11 a.m. after 8 a.m. service 10 a.m. Chapel |
| June 29 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| July 6 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach Commission VVAP trip 10 a.m. Chapel |
| July 13 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| July 20 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach Commission DR mission trip 10 a.m. Chapel |
| July 27 | Guest preacher Robert Johnson - President, Friends of Forman 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| August 3 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| August 10 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| August 17 | Guest preacher Rev. Tom Haugen - Chaplain, Gordon College 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| August 24 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| August 31 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |
| September 7 | 8 a.m. Weed Beach 10 a.m. Chapel |

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 14th
8:00 a.m. Chapel, 9/10:30 Sanctuary, 5:00 p.m. Open Doors



In Loving Memory of...

May 7th:

Edward M. Harris Jr.

*...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.

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

May 18th:

Mae Elizabeth Balderach, daughter of Stefan and Tracy Balderach

Ella Katherine Balevich, daughter of Igor and Emily Balevich

Wes Patrick Lawton, son of Michael and Lindsay Lawton

Henry Richard Symons, son of Andrew and Charlotte Symons

Welcome to our new Elders and Deacons:

Class of 2017 Elders: Doug Campbell, Lou DeLoma, Cheryl Huffman, Iris Mix (Class of 2015), Joe Orban, Cindy Smith, Tom Taylor, Morgan Whittier

Class of 2017 Deacons: Arlis Baird, Phebe Gardner, Tim Hesselsweet, Carolyn Hurst, Scott Isherwood, Kristin Jordan, Mike Keehlwetter, Erik Schroeder, Andrew Symons

Class of 2015 Youth Deacons: Julie Evans, Melanie Turner, Michael Yim

If you would like to submit an article for the September 2014 issue please submit it before August 15 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-309-5618 <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..... 203-309-5620 <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..... 203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach</i> | Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i> | Dan Rosa..... 203-309-5608 <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..... 203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i> |

June 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | 7 |
|---|--------|---|--|---|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th Grades 11:45 a.m. World Vision Promise Pack Event 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite | | 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 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 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. | | | 12:00 p.m. New Member Class |
| Youth Celebration Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -K 10:00 a.m. Congregational Mtg. 3:30 p.m. A Step up to Harbor 6:30 p.m. Ignite | 9 | 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study Breakfast 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers - Maplewood, Darien | 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade Hang Out | | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | 21 |
| Father's Day Summer Worship Starts 8:00 a.m. Weed Beach Service 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service | | 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | 28 |
| 8:00 a.m. Weed Beach Service 9:00 a.m. Beach Breakfast Celebration 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service | | 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl | 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. | | | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. Weed Beach Service 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service | | | | | | | |