

The Spire

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



Save the Date

What a difference a year makes. Just a year ago we broke ground

on the final stage of this once in a generation transformation of our church facility. Last June we took down the aging center sections of offices and choir room (3,000 square feet) and laid the foundation for 14,000 square feet of new ministry space. Prayer stones were laid in the foundation, representing our prayers for God to use this space to welcome visitors and touch members and friends with His hope and love. In the fall families and children wrote prayers and well wishes on a steel girder that went into the skeleton of the new structure. Now, the first Sunday in June, once again members and families will have a chance to “seal” the project with written wishes, prayers and Scripture verses on the floor as we tour the lobby and see the first floor of the center core before the finishing touches are applied. Because there is so much to finish, we can only secure and visit the first floor at this time – but be sure to look up at the skylight to catch a glimpse of the steeple and cross!

Tours and time to share prayers and wishes will be available after the 9 and 10:30 services on June 7th so come and celebrate this milestone with us.

We are also pleased to announce that special “above and beyond” gifts will allow us to add air conditioning to the Sanctuary and Horton Hall - to be completed during the summer. This improvement will make the facility comfortable to use any time of the year and will be especially appreciated by families holding weddings and memorial services in the summer, as well as by the children and teachers in Vacation Bible School. Unfortunately we will need to close the Sanctuary between June 8 and July 24 to erect scaffolding to complete this renovation. Our friends at St. Luke’s and the First Congregational Church of Darien have graciously promised to welcome us to use their Sanctuaries if we need to schedule a memorial service that will require more seating than our Chapel can provide.

When will the entire project be finished? It has been promised to us before school opens in the Fall. Our last Sunday of worship on the beach will be Labor Day Weekend, September 6. So **the Grand Opening is planned for**

Worship Schedule

Chapel - 8:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins 6/14:

8:00 a.m. Weed Beach
 10:00 a.m. Chapel

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 6/7/15 - Youth Celebration Sunday
 Pastor Jimmy McPherson
- 6/14/15 - First Sunday at the Beach
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 6/21/15 - Father's Day
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 6/28/15 - Pastor Jimmy McPherson

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Sunday September 13th. Please save the date! We think our members will be pleased with the wonderful improvements these renovations will provide. Seniors and parents with young children can walk from the parking lot to the Sanctuary without encountering any steps, play grounds are safely next to our education wing, offices are conveniently located at the entrance, new rooms and inspiring spaces for education and meetings are available – all with technological enhancements. Prayers, planning, sacrificial gifts and great teamwork have made all of this possible. Like a kid at Christmas, I can't wait for September 13 when we will be able to see all that God has prepared for us to use in His service.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend
Sam Schreiner

P.S. Since this is the last issue of the summer you might be looking for a few books to put in your bag for the beach.

My recent favorites were:

- 1) **The Naked Now** - by Richard Rohr. Seeing as the Mystics do.
- 2) **Humble Apologetics** – by our Noroton lecturer this year, John Stackhouse.
- 3) **Ego vs. EQ** – by Jen Shirvani. How to avoid the ego traps senior leaders fall into.
- 4) **Master of War: General George H. Thomas** – by Benjamin Bobrick. Thomas was the most efficient and effective General of the Civil War who was Southern bred but served the North out of principle and conviction.
- 5) **George Washington's Sacred Fire** – by Peter Lillback. An exhaustive study of the Christian practices of America's founding father.

I also hope to lead a book discussion of the classic by Dietrick Bonhoeffer – **Life Together** in late June/early July. Take some time for fellowship and discussion as we explore the convictions that led Bonhoeffer to found an alternative seminary to the Nazi dominated church of his country.

Noroton Presbyterian Church

Summer Worship Schedule

June 14 - September 6

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 6B,
where they can be signed out by parents
at the end of service.
All other children will be in worship
with their families.



Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 20th

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



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 13th
Re-Dedication of Building – specifics to come.

Beginning June 1: There will be limited access (weekdays only) to the NPC parking lot at the Chapel/Post Road entrance due to phase 3 of the parking lot construction. Please use the Noroton Ave entrance. We thank you for your cooperation.

Foundations for the Future



*"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal,
"The Lord knows those who are His," 2 Timothy, 2:19*

You are invited to "Seal the New Foundation"

When: Sunday, June 7th
After the 9:00 and 10:30 services

Where: The new Fellowship Lobby
(enter through the Parlor)

The congregation is invited to symbolically seal the new building foundation for future generations. How? By signing or imprinting your best wishes and praises to God on the concrete floor of the new fellowship lobby. Although the concrete floor will eventually be covered with carpet, we have the opportunity on June 7th to leave our signatures and sentiments about our love for Jesus Christ to future congregations. Sentiments that will surface each and every time the carpet is removed.

Plus, aren't you just a little bit curious about how the interior of the building is shaping up?

Since this is an active construction zone, it is not possible to safely provide a broader tour but you can get a peak at the new facility before we move to the beach service. After all, when we return in September we will be on the cusp of dedicating the completed building.

The lovely skylight (picture below) is now in, so take a moment on June 7th to look up before you look down and sign the floor. Our Noroton Presbyterian Church Steeple Cross is known to guide boaters in the sound as a navigational tool. It is now also visible through the new skylight. How perfect is that?

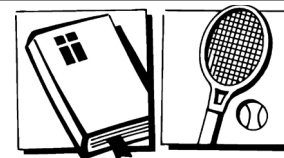
In God's Service,
Jean Ann & Dick Bollman and Tom Taylor
Foundations for the Future Progress Team



Adult Spiritual Formation



Men's Retreat



Gentlemen, 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 9 to Sunday, October 11, 2015. 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 activities are being planned for Saturday afternoon. We will have a golf outing, hiking, photography, fishing, biking, and can get a softball game together with enough interest. And, of course, a peaceful afternoon doing absolutely nothing but watching college football, reading, playing cards and hanging out with good friends is always an option.



Many of you are familiar with our guest speaker, Rev. David Zuidema, Associate Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming (in Cincinnati, Ohio).

David was at NPC years ago before attending Yale Divinity School. Those who know him are looking forward to re-connecting and we're all excited about discovering how the Holy Spirit continues to work in him, his family and community.

The retreat is a real opportunity to connect with God and other men of faith in a relaxed environment. It's a fulfilling and spiritual weekend and we're really looking forward to this year. This is one weekend that no matter who you are is fulfilling in so many ways. We're hoping to see all the regulars, but would love for those of you who have thought about in the past and those who are new to NPC to also consider registering. Invite your friends, all are welcome and we promise it's going to be a great time!

We will begin online registration in June and provide additional information through the church website 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 John. 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 Erik Schroeder at erik.schroeder@mac.com, Eric Emel at eric_emel@yahoo.com or Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620. We look forward to seeing you in Ivoryton.

Men's Studies

Men's Bible Study

- Study wrap-up on Tuesday, June 2nd NYC and Thursday, June 4 in Horton Hall with a continental breakfast.
- Guest Speaker - Robert Johnson, CEO of Friends of Forman will be here Thursday, June 18 to give a presentation of Faith Facing Persecution in Pakistan. 7:00-8:30 am in the SHAC with continental breakfast.

Men's Study at the Sugar Bowl:

- **Wednesdays 7:00 a.m.** Led by different men from the group gathering for breakfast, fellowship and reflection on a passage of Scripture.

Men's Ministry 9th Annual Golf Outing



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 4, 1:00 p.m. shot gun start at Woodway Country Club. Details will be posted on the church website www.norotonchurch.org.

To sign up to play or for more information contact Burt Palmer at Burt.Palmer@unilever.com or Marlene Moffett at 203-309-5620 or marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Summer Reading

“Summertime, and the living is easy . . .” I had those words go through my mind the other day. As I thought about them I wondered if the summer really is any easier than other times of the year. I’m not sure the summer is any easier, but it is has a pace that is usually a bit slower. Schedules change, we spend more time outside, and hopefully get to enjoy some well deserved vacation.

It is my understanding that the June issue of the Spire includes a “summer reading list” from the Pastors. So, I unpacked some boxes to look at books that I read recently and found these. Some are ministry related, some devotional, some about leadership, but all thought provoking.

- *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline*, Lauren Winner
- *Holy Luck*, Eugene Peterson
- *A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness*, Gene Edwards
- *The Crucifixion of Ministry: Surrendering Our Ambitions to the Service of Christ*, Andrew Purves
- *The Ascent of a Leader: How Ordinary Relationships Develop Extraordinary Character and Influence*, Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and Ken McElrath
- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Cannot Stop Talking*, Susan Cain
- *You’ll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times*, Max Lucado
- *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ*, Greg Ogden

It is a joy to be here at NPC. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received and I look forward to getting to know you better.

Pastor John Seiders
Interim Associate Pastor of Adult and Outreach Ministries



Small Groups are all about COMMUNITY ...

‘A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple braided cord is not easily broken.’ Ecclesiastes 4:12

We were created for community and relationships. We all need people who will stand up for us and stand by us -- protect us, help us stay on track, and encourage us.

That’s what Small Groups are all about.

We do it through sharing ... refreshments, God’s Word, our praises and prayer concerns, and service to others.

Our culture suggests that it is all about ‘me’ – my needs, my interests, my wants, and my ambitions.

The Bible on the other hand says we should care about each other. As brothers and sisters in God’s family, we should help each other grow and understand. Our personal enemy, Satan, wants to mess with your life and ruin relationships. He can’t hurt God, so he turns instead to hurt God’s children ... that’s you and me! Our best defense is to be in community with one another, and say together ... ‘we’re not going to let each other get discouraged, or depressed, or worry. We’re going to support each other shoulder-to-shoulder.’

In short: We’re better together!



Small Group

‘Look out for one another’s interest, not just your own.’ Philippians 2:4

Walking through life together,

Valerie Muller
Director, Community and Communication
(Including ASF’s Small Group Ministry)

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!

- John Ortberg: *Soul Keeping*. I love this writer/preacher. This is hands-down my favorite book of his. I've led a couple of groups through this book, and have been quoting it shamelessly for a year now. If you read nothing else on this list, pick up Soul Keeping. Better yet—read it with a friend.
- Anne Lamott: *Small Victories*. I find Lamott's voice refreshing, and this book was a light read with surprising challenges. I laughed out loud reading, and then read some of her chapters out loud to my family—and they laughed too.
- Lauren Winner: *Wearing God*. A book of essays on metaphors used in scripture to describe God. I've only browsed it so far—but you'll see me with it at the beach this summer!

- Marilynne Robinson: *Lila*. A beautiful novel full of hope and desperation: a follow-up to her masterpiece *Gilead*, this one written in the first-person voice of the preacher's wife.
- Timothy Keller: *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. This one is for the more ambitious and academic reader. I love it!
- Richard Rohr: *Breathing under water: Spirituality and the twelve steps*. A beautiful bridge to help his readers approach the 12 steps with a depth of scripture and faith.
- Christopher Pramuk: *Hope sings, so beautiful: Graced Encounters across the color line*. With all of the racial tension across this country, I am hopeful as I pick up this book.
- Phillip Yancey: *Vanishing Grace*. Our 6:15 women read and enjoyed this thoughtful book, which explores ways that Christ's beloved body of believers might again shower grace on a world thirsting for such.

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

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

Women's Studies

Tuesday morning Bible Studies:

- 6:15 a.m. in the Parlor. We will complete Yancey's study on *Vanishing Grace* the first two Tuesdays in June and have our breakfast celebration on the third Tuesday, June 16th.

We will resume gathering following the July 4th holiday for the Summer Extension series. Details on study still being determined. They will be communicated in future Noroton Notes as well as via email to those who frequent these studies. Please call the office if you do not receive our regular Tuesday happening emails.

prime
timers

Luncheon

Thursday, June 11th at
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at
First Congregational Church

Pastor Jimmy McPherson will present,
"Being in Third: The Importance of
Three Generations to the Life of Community."
For more information, call Marlene Moffett
at 203-309-5620.



Minute with Mickie - Wondering about the Summer

It's June! It's June! Hip hip hooray! We have waited a long time for the summer to arrive and I surely hope that by the time you are reading this it IS feeling like summer because as I write

it still doesn't feel like Spring! However, what does summer actually mean for us? Graduations, Vacation Bible School, family trips, time at the beach, the beach worship service, etc. etc. Summer actually allows for us to have even more opportunity for family time. I look forward to being with my family who live so far away. Grandbaby #10 is due to arrive right after VBS in the Chicago area, so you can bet I'm eager to be there! My two Chicago-land grandsons are turning 5 and 7 this summer so I want to be with them, tell them Bible stories, play at the beach, go to a museum and pray with the whole family as they welcome this new baby into our family. I also plan on having my older grandchildren come here to visit, swim in our apartment complex pool, walk to the Dairy Queen and downtown Stamford, jump on the train and go hang out in NYC. David and I plan to go for a few days to visit my father in Seattle to see how he is doing as a new widower, sharing times of love and care with him. Yes, summer is a wonderful time to concentrate on family.

As Christians, we are also Family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. So I would love to plan time to be with you too this summer and not just on Sunday. Will you have some time to let me come play at your house? Play on the beach with you? Join me for a picnic? I know – let's go together to the Maritime Museum or meet me at Stamford Town Center Food Court with the kids in the play area. We can have fun, I could tell a Bible story to the kids and we can even pray together. Just like family does.

Often I am asked for recommendations of books that will help keep the spiritual spark alive during the summer months for families with children so here are a few suggestions: All of these books are published by Scandinavia Publishing House and I recommend them because they do NOT use cartoon style drawings nor do they use whimsical texts that cheapen the

authenticity of the Gospel message. You can go directly to their website at <http://www.sph.as/> and find these titles:

- **The Little Children's Bible Storybook** – great for toddlers-Kindergarten.
- **The Children's Bible** – not exactly a complete Bible but a beautiful collection of the most important stories using the Contemporary English Version translation and wonderful pictures.
- **My First Children's Bible** – the Greatest Story Ever Told
- **Activity Bible for Young Minds; and Children's Activity Bible** – these are actually workbooks and can be used by the whole family - AWESOME!
- **The Comic Book Bible** – I love the artwork.
- **Men and Women of the Bible** – This is a series of shorter books on different Bible people.
- **The 365 Day Children's Bible Storybook** – one story a day like a daily devotional.

Want to be more tech-savvy with Bible resources? Use on-line resources and go to www.familyministriesinternational.com, www.npckids.com, www.btstories.com, www.bibletelling.org and check out the Bible apps for your phone at www.sph.as.

I look forward to summer time fun with my family and that means with you too! I wonder who is going to invite me for a play-date first?

In God's Service,
Mickie O'Donnell
Director of Children's Ministry

Actors...Leaders...Creators... If you are an adult or an upper High School youth, we'd love to have you join us in a leadership role at VBS from June 22-26. Help Mickie in an acting capacity, at a station or with the little ones, please go to www.npckids.com and follow the link to sign up! Questions? Call Liz: 203-309-5619 or Mickie: 203-309-5622 .

Youth Ministries

The summer months are fast approaching, and with them come a couple of new youth ministry staff additions who will be joining NPC this summer:

Tori Hoff—Youth Ministry Intern



Tori grew up in Old Greenwich and graduated from Greenwich High School in 2012. She is currently studying at Eastern University (outside Philadelphia), where she is pursuing a degree in Youth Ministry (minoring in Psychology and Biblical Studies). Tori has shared that in her spare time she LOVES doing arts and crafts, frequently visiting her local Michael's craft store, as well as visiting Pinterest online.

Tori became a Christian when she was starting high school, and has been following the Lord eagerly ever since. She has served as a leader for middle and high school students at two different youth groups, both in Greenwich and in Pennsylvania. According to Tori, she loves being involved in youth ministry, and feels called to this vocation since her senior year of high school. She is looking forward to ministering at NPC this summer.



Jack Hein—Youth Ministry Coordinator



Jack has spent all of his childhood in Connecticut. He found a passion for the outdoors, music, and most importantly a passion to serve God for the rest of his life in ministry. Attending Nyack College in New York, Jack began to serve heavily at churches in Newark and Wyckoff, New Jersey, and Milford, Pennsylvania as a Youth Ministry Intern. He graduated in May 2015 with a BS in Youth and Family Studies with a concentration in Advanced Youth Ministry. He is very excited to be part of the NPC team and how God will use him in the best way possible.

When Jack is not hanging out with teenagers or in the office he can be found drinking a cup of coffee, hunkered down reading a book in his hammock or fly fishing in the river. He loves people and getting to know them more.



A special welcome reception for students and parents to come and meet both Tori and Jack is being planned for June in The SHAC—see the weekly Noroton Notes for more information for the time and date. Please join Coordinator Sarah Swible and myself in welcoming these new members of our staff.

*Grace be with you all,
Pastor Jimmy McPherson
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries*



The Importance of Stories

There are several ways to enjoy stories... and all of them have a tremendous impact on the overall development and learning of young children:

Listening:

Sharing stories can be a very special time for adults and children, one that elicits life long memories. Sharing stories also encourages a range of important skills such as language, imagination, concentration, creativity and problem solving.

Reading:

As children grow older and follow along page by page, they begin to glean information about print. For example, they learn the difference between letters and words, notice that print travels from left to right, realize that words are spelled consistently, and most important discover that print has meaning.

Acting:

When acting, stories become three dimensional. Using props helps to provide concrete cues to help make a story come alive; taking on a new character encourages creativity as well as point of view.

Telling:

While telling stories, children are demonstrating their understanding of narrative. In addition, they are learning to express their own feelings and ideas. Storytelling is one way that children share their own thoughts and lives.

An elementary-age child once told me, "Everything I know comes from reading fiction." At the time, I thought it was a humorous oxymoron. But, in fact, it is true; a great deal of our knowledge actually comes from stories. Stories help us explore new and different ideas, lifestyles, places and cultures. They are an invitation to hope and possibility.

Peace and Joy,
Beth Aparicio
NPC Tot Drop Director



Listening: Infant teacher Linda Orawsky shares a snuggle as well as a story with Sammy Bonnanno.



Reading: Liz Morelli of NPC Children's Ministry, reads a classic story, *Edith and Mr. Bear*, to the three and four year old children.



Acting: Karen Hall, a local storyteller, instructs Cole Hartofilis, as he and his peers act out the story of *Make Way for (Community Worker) Ducklings*. Every child in the room has a part to help complete the story.



Telling: Colleen Queally shares with her teacher, Kathleen Gilliam, about how she helps to take care of her new baby sister.



May was one of our busiest months and one of the most exciting. We started the month off with teacher appreciation days. The children brought in flowers and homemade cards for their teachers and the board put together a lovely luncheon for our staff and room parents.

Our 4's visited Earth Place in Westport. Following a nature hike they were able to spend time in the injured bird sanctuary. The highlight was an introduction to a Bald Eagle and learning more about this majestic bird.

We held our New Parent's Orientation at the home of Crystal and Rich Hill. We had a wonderful turn out and the new families were able to mingle with our teachers and board members. They were given information to prepare them for the upcoming school year.

We held our end-of-year class picnics at Pear Tree Point Beach. The sun was shining brightly on the children as they played and laughed, it was a wonderful time for all to celebrate the end of an amazing year together. Our 4 year olds and Pre-K students ended the month with their Graduation and Stepping Up ceremonies. The programs were both opened by Pastor Sam. The children sang for their families and received their diplomas. Afterwards teachers and families gathered at receptions to honor their accomplishments and acknowledge the next steps in their education paths.

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School has completed another wonderful year. The staff and I work very hard to continue our education and training to maintain the level of excellence held here. We are so grateful for the support we receive from our parent-led Board, NPC Session Representative - Audrey Hutter, NPC Pastors and staff, our NPNS families and volunteers, our Chapel leaders - Mickie O'Donnell and Liz Morelli, and especially our Board Chair Tori Barnett who kept everyone's focus and efforts on what was best for our students and our nursery school.

We will miss our precious little ones and their families, and wish you all a summer filled with much joy and laughter!



God Bless You,
Kalie Riordan and the
NPNS teachers and staff



Room 10 enjoying the beautiful spring day.



The 4's visit Earth Place

Membership Ministry

June New Member Class... Please register NOW... Last chance to join until October!

For those considering membership, there will be a Saturday half-day class on June 6 from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. New members will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, June 14 at the first beach service of the year. Free professional nursery care is provided during the class for children 3 months to 4 years. No membership classes are offered over the summer.

Pre-registration is needed. To register on-line and for more class information, see the membership ministry page on the NPC website (www.norotonchurch.org). It's also an option to attend the New Member class for information only and – if you choose – join within one year.

During the class you will:

- Explore what it means to be a Christian and to follow Jesus
- Discuss the significance of membership and being a Presbyterian
- Learn about NPC ministries/programs, and how to get involved
- Meet others joining and expand your faith community

Here's what recent new members have said about the class:

"I thought it was a great introduction to the church. It was a very enjoyable experience, and I learned things that would have taken me a long time to find out."

"The small groups were very helpful in getting to know other new members, and the topics were interesting."

"We appreciated that the pastors were involved. I also met new people who are now familiar faces at church and in town."

If you have questions or concerns about membership, please contact Julie Colbath (julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org, or 203-309-5615).

Spend More Time on the Beach this Summer!

Welcome newcomers at the Visitor Station...

If you enjoy lingering at the beach on Sundays after 8 a.m. worship, please consider taking just 15 minutes to welcome newcomers to our Visitor's Station following the service. Volunteers will be needed each Sunday, June 14 through Sept. 6. Sign up for one or more dates. Contact Julie Colbath to serve in this simple but important way.



Hold the Date for "THE ALPHA COURSE" January 2016

Explore your unanswered questions about Christianity in a safe environment...

The Alpha Course is an opportunity to consider the meaning and relevancy of the Christian faith to one's personal life through ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. Regardless of faith background or belief, it's for anyone who wants to grapple with spiritual questions in a low-key, no-pressure, non-judgmental atmosphere.

With a kick-off in January, each weekly meeting begins with a delicious dinner, followed by an entertaining talk on an aspect of the Christian faith and then a discussion in small groups. Some of the topics are:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How does God guide us?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- Does God heal today?

There will be an introductory dinner (no-commitment) to learn more before the course starts later that month. Mark your calendars now and tell others! If you've already been to Alpha, think about who you'd bring to the introductory dinner. The course is open to anyone in the surrounding community.

Many volunteers will be needed for this very well-received, meaningful course to help with promotion, meals and small group facilitation. If you'd like to be part of the Alpha Team, please contact Julie Colbath.

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership

Congregational Life Ministry



Time for Beach Breakfast!

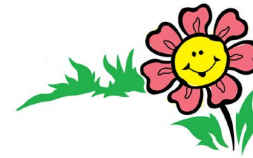
Love this time of year, when our team gets to host NPC's Annual Beach Breakfast.

As is our tradition, we will gather in the picnic table area of Weed Beach, following the 8 a.m. worship service. **Members, friends, neighbors, visitors are ALL invited** to 'walk across the parking lot' following the service, and enjoy refreshments and conversation *for a few more hours 'at the beach'!*

Date: Sunday, June 28th

Time: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Picnic table area, Weed Beach



No need to prep anything for yourself or family members ... we supply it all!

Homemade breakfast breads, deviled eggs, fresh fruit, sweet bagellettes, and of course, donut holes for those that need their 'Sunday fix'. ☺ We'll have hot coffee and cold beverages too.

Sand games, hula hoops, beach balls, and pinwheels will keep the kids busy so adults can have extended conversations with each other.

We'll also have sunscreen and insect repellent available.

We'll set up the picnic tables there for eating. If you want comfortable seating, bring your beach chairs along and set up on the sand or in the grass area.

As an aside ... we can always use extra hands to 'transport' all the goodies from Horton Hall to the beach. Let us know (valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org) if you are able to stop by the church on your way to the 8:00

a.m. service, and we'll have a tray ready for you to bring over.

Hannah Massad will be sharing news with us during the service, and the Pivot choir will be worshipping with us that day. We are hoping they will both be joining us at breakfast afterwards, and providing a nice window of time for our members/friends to interact and learn more of their respective journeys.

While the beach services every week are a great venue for inviting a friend or neighbor to join you to experience our family of faith and we hope you will see the beach breakfast as an exceptionally good week to extend that invitation. We would love to help you 'host' them for a time when they can mingle comfortably while enjoying some good food.

Please note that no beach sticker is needed IF cars enter the area BEFORE 9 a.m. Cars that arrive later DO require one.

We have been blessed in past years with good weather, and hope that is the case this year as well.

Looking forward to seeing you all 'at the beach'!



*In our faith journey together,
Valerie Muller and Congregational Life Team
(Gwynne, Lil, Eric, Cheryl, Laura, Walker)
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org
203-309-5650*

Messages from the Mission Field

Dear NPC,

Thank you for supporting me during this launch season! It means the world to have Noroton play a part in this Kingdom building adventure. We are moving on multiple fronts at the moment, renovating the Holy City Collective, expanding our leadership with local nonprofits, as well as building a vibrant community of faith with the Daniel Island Fellowship. We had around 120 people at our first Easter service, which was a pleasant surprise considering how many families were out of town for our school's local Spring Break. We are weeks away from our church being able to meet in the morning in our own space, so there is buzz in the air.

I look forward to visiting you in the summer at the beach service on July 26!

Weston Roberts



Wes Roberts grew up at NPC and is now Executive Pastor of the Daniel Island Fellowship and Director of Operations for the Mission Collective in Charleston, SC.

Mission Opportunities

Knitting! If you are interested in helping create blankets/shawls for this ministry which has recently opened an office in Stamford please contact stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org for further information about patterns/group meeting times etc.

Open Door Shelter – next NPC service dates are Saturday June 6, Sunday June 21 and Saturday July 4. If you are over 16 and interested in volunteering please contact Holly Hough (hhough7@optonline.net).

June 25 – Hanna Massad Presentation – Update on Hanna's ministry to the people of Gaza and Iraqi/Syrian refugees.

June 18 – Presentation from Dr. Robert Johnson on the current situation in Pakistan and the work of Forman Christian College, Lahore.

June 21 – Moment For Mission Artie Van Sciver from Campus Outreach will speak at our 8am Beach and 10am Chapel services.

June 28 – Pivot Choir will be worshipping with us at the 8am Beach service.

June 28 – Hanna Massad (Missionary to the people of Gaza and Iraqi/Syrian refugees) will be visiting us with his family at both the 8am and 10am services and will share a Moment for Mission.

July 26 – Wes Roberts (Pastor at the Daniel Island Fellowship and Mission Collective in Charleston) will be visiting and sharing a Moment for Mission.

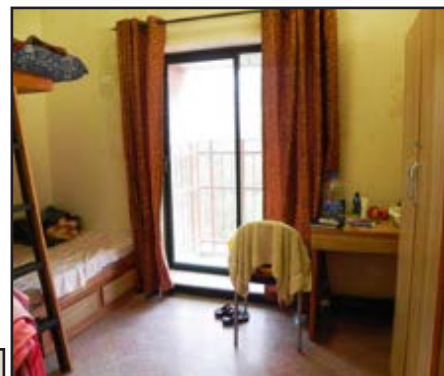
August – Open Door Shelter School Supply Drive – collection bins at the church and at the beach during worship.

For more information about NPC Missions, please contact Stella Clarke stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org or check the NPC website.

Mission Ministry

Foundations for the Future Mission Grant to Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

In 2013 an NPC *Foundations for the Future* Mission Grant was provided to Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan. This grant partially funded the interior finishings for a new Women's Hostel (dormitory) constructed through a USAID grant. This facility provided much needed safe housing for some of the many young women of Pakistan seeking a higher education. We are happy to share news that the hostel was completed in October 2014 and women have begun to move in. Over time 366 women students will call this dorm "home".



Music & Fine Arts



There is Always Room for One More..

Over the years I have tried to express what it means to be part of a choir and what a choir means to a church. All of my efforts have fallen short of poignancy and eloquence of this letter written (on next page) by Melanie Turner, a senior at Darien High School and member of our Soprano section. As much as I love sports and a good praise band, you can't always add more people to a band or a sports team. Like the Body of Christ, in a choir there is always room for one more.

Dwayne Condon
Director Music & Fine Arts

Dear Noroton Church Chancel Choir,

As all of you know, I am graduating this year, and due to conflicts in upcoming weeks, this will be my last Thursday evening rehearsal. I wanted to write a letter addressing all of you, who have made my experience singing in this choir a highlight of high school.

I still remember the first time I came to a rehearsal. I was nervous because I didn't really know what to expect. I had texted Mr. Condon earlier that morning to let him know that I would be coming, and he of course told me that he would look forward to it! However, walking into a room full of incredibly talented musicians who knew the system was intimidating.

I soon realized that my worries had been futile, for hardly any environment is as welcoming as this group's. It seemed like as soon as I walked in, people were coming up to me with smiles and greetings, telling me where to get music and encouraging me to come back again. I recall that Mr. Condon even formally welcomed me before the group, saying that my early-morning text had made his day. I felt so loved from Day One. That night we sang the Maurice Durufle Ubi Caritas, which continues to hold a special place in my heart, as it is the first piece I shared with this amazing choir.

I have since continued to be blessed by each choir member. From those singers who have literally watched me grow up from the time I was too young to remember until now, to our newest members of the choir who I've only just met, each of you has touched me in a unique way. Your graciousness as I tried conducting for the first time was so much appreciated, and I will never forget the feeling of making music with you. The fact that our beloved Bob has been singing in this group for 70 years is proof enough of just how special it is. This choir was even part of my Common Application Essay. I wrote, "While we sing the reverent lyrics, I consider how much God loves me. When we pray together, we look forward to what will come." Choir has been a respite and a joy as I have navigated the sometimes difficult and stressful years of high school.

I love those moments when the conductor raises his arms and the room falls to pure silence. All is quiet as the reverberation of the old chords disintegrates, singers inhale in unison, and the promise of new harmonies beckons. The special part about this choir is that those magical moments are moments that everyone is using to praise God. They are times when I can not only enjoy the echo of beautiful music, but when I can also think about the beauty of our Savior and the majesty of the Lord.

From the Ubi Caritas to the "We Are Not Alone" we will be singing in a few weeks to "Spiritus Sanctus" to the Hallelujah chorus, these songs are a part of me, and I will be thinking about each of you as I go off to college next year. Thank you for showing me the body of Christ.

Much love and many blessings,

Melanie



NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

April 23rd:

Samuel V. Schoonmaker III

May 1st:

Virginia M. Lemons

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

Join us in celebrating the following Wedding...

May 9th:

Noelle Vinson and Terry St. Jean

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

6/14 at 10:00 a.m. Chapel service, 6/21 and 6/28 at 8:00 a.m. beach service. To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.

If you would like to submit an article for the September 2015 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>	Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Community and Communications</i>	Kalie Riordan 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>	Dwayne Condon.....203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Julie Colbath203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Jimmy McPherson 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Youth</i>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Dan Rosa.....203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Pastor John Seiders.....203-309-5620 <i>Interim Associate Pastor Adult and Outreach Ministries</i>	Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	David Lee.....203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i>
	Beth Aparicio 203-309-5605 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	

NPC's Endowment Fund

The Benjamin Weed Society

An honorary organization formed to recognize contributing members and friends supporting the Endowment Fund of NPC. Contributing members may be recognized through listing in the Society or remain anonymous as directed.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

What is it?

The Endowment Fund of Noroton Presbyterian Church was established in 2012 to create a vehicle for members and friends of the church to make lifetime gifts or bequests to provide for the long-term financial health of NPC. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are to enhance and supplement the financial resources of NPC beyond the annual operating budget and specific capital campaigns. The Benjamin Weed Society was created as an honorary organization, named after one of the early benefactors of NPC, to recognize contributing members and friends.

Have you thought about NPC in your legacy or estate planning?

What has NPC meant to you in your life? For many, this church has been a place of healing, care, education and community. It has been a place to attend weekly worship service, to learn about Christ, to educate children and establish lasting friendships. To our mission partners it is a vital source of support and resources. A gift to the Endowment Fund provides financial backing for the long-term continuation of all that NPC provides to those in this community and to the world at large.

How can you participate?

Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be made during one's lifetime or through one's estate as general or restricted gifts.

- Income from general gifts is to be distributed to expand NPC's mission programs, to supplement the costs of capital improvements, or as otherwise needed and approved.
- Restricted gifts, as designated by the donor, can be customized for specific use or disbursement.

In faith, we know that all we have been given is a gift from God. In giving to the NPC Endowment Fund we give thanks to God for His many blessings and honor our responsibility to share our gifts to provide for others. Contributing members have the satisfaction of knowing that they are providing a lasting legacy for the many ministries of NPC.

Communicating your intentions:

The members and leadership of NPC greatly appreciate your consideration of a gift. If you have arranged for such a gift, please let us know so that we may acknowledge in confidence your participation.

I wish to make or have made a contribution or pledge to the NPC Endowment Fund

I would like more information

I would like to speak with a pastor about this.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

You can mail this page, with your intentions indicated to the church office at 201 I Post Rd, Darien.

Trifold brochures including a form to let us know your intentions are available in the Narthex, online at www.norotonchurch.org, or by calling the church office 203-655-1451.

**** All information is strictly confidential****

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night	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.		12:30 p.m. New Member Class
7	8	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study	10	11	12	13
Youth Celebration Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -k 10 & 11:30 a.m.. Coffee/ Refreshments and Seal the New Foundation			7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	12:30 p.m. Prime Timers Picnic 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg.		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Summer Worship begins 8:00 a.m. Weed Beach 10:00 a.m. Chapel 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Luncheon	3:00 p.m. Big Lot (Grades 6-12)	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study Breakfast 8:00 p.m. Session	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Guest Speaker Robert Johnson, CEO of Friends of Forman 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg.		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day 8:00 a.m. Weed Beach 10:00 a.m. Chapel	Vacation Bible School 7:00 p.m. Summer Nights (Grades 6-12)	Vacation Bible School 7:00 p.m. Late Tuesday (High School & College)	Vacation Bible School 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	Vacation Bible School 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg.	Vacation Bible School	
28	29	30				
8:00 a.m. Weed Beach 9:00 a.m. Beach Breakfast Celebration (Weed Beach picnic table area) 10:00 a.m. Chapel	7:00 p.m. Summer Nights (Grades 6-12)	7:00 p.m. Late Tuesday (High School & College)				