

The Spire

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



Blessed Interruptions

Snow, like life's troubles, can stop us in our tracks. Snow and ice become costly to deal with -removal, repair of sagging roofs and unexpected ice dams- and they are certainly disruptive. Speak to travelers stuck in transit or children and teachers going to school deep into June; storms such as the ones we have endured this winter are more than an interruption, they can be crippling or life altering. It's amazing that something as simple as frozen water can lead to a bad month for commercial enterprises or force an overload on utility repair crews. It's amazing the power God has placed in nature's hands. Bring on spring – enough of this snow.

Coping with a winter like we have had may be instructive about how to handle life's overloads and interruptions. This winter, more than any other winter in the last decade, we have had to close down the church and ask people to stay safe and warm at home. In these storms I have come to see that the more we strive to keep up the normal routine, the less we appreciate the unexpected gift of time given to us to just "hibernate".

Snow days are great days to pull that book off the shelf that we have been meaning to read or to call a friend we haven't spoken to in a long time and reconnect. For families in the habit of moving 100 miles an hour in five different directions, a snow day can be a time to come together and enjoy the "forced community" caused by impassible roads and cancelled activities. Blessed are the interrupted, for they shall find the gift of rest.

Set backs in life that surprise us like storms - a lay off, a necessary surgery or unplanned illness - can bring us an opportunity to pause and regroup, if we take time to discover God's plans or purpose. We may not like being sidelined or having our schedules and plans interrupted, but behind every burden is a possible blessing in disguise. Friends who come to our rescue or new opportunities that come after a sudden loss make us aware of what we might have been ignoring or have been closed to, without this change happening in the first place. Our daughter didn't get a job in California but was then available for her next interview that took her to Virginia. She loves Richmond, but it took a loss to get there. In Lent, our faith teaches us to look at the cross in a similar way. Through this painful episode in the

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Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 3/2/14** - Pastor Sam Schreiner
"Keeping the 'Royal' Law"
 James 2:1-13
- 3/5/14** - **Ash Wednesday**
 12:00 and 7:30 p.m. Chapel
 Imposition of Ashes services
 Pastor Greg Doll
 5:00 p.m. Family Friendly Ash
 Wednesday Service
- 3/9/14** - Pastor Sam Schreiner
"Deadly Faith, Living Truth"
 James 2:14-26
- 3/16/14** - Pastor Brandi Drake
 James 3:1-12
- 3/23/14** - Pastor Sam Schreiner
"The Perils of a Divided Heart"
 James 3:13-4:10
- 3/30/14** - Pastor Sam Schreiner
"The Uncertainty Principle"
 James 4:13-5:12

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life of Christ, grace and true victory over sin and death has come. The storm of rejection gave way to the sunrise of resurrection. God is at work even, and especially when, our plans get cancelled. That is something I have been reminded of in this winter of 2014.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

P. S. It's not too late to sign up for our wonderful and inspirational trip to Scotland and England to learn about the English Roots of our faith. Visit castles and cathedrals with new and old friends. For more information please call or write my assistant, Leslie Ezzo (203-309-5618, leslie.ezzo@norotonchurch.org). Registration closes April 4th.

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

10 Day Inspirational Tour with Pastor Sam Schreiner



July 12-21, 2014

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

For more information and registration visit www.norotonchurch.org.
[Click here for more information.](#)

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

Notice to the Congregation

Following the 9:00 a.m. service on March 2nd, a Congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary to hear the report of the Nominating Committee to nominate (Jimmy Degnan, Missy Fiorita, Sandy Henry, Holly Jespersen, Kim Lewis, Burt Palmer, Kalie Riordan, Brian Roberson, Tony Scolaro, Phil Won) to the Youth Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. All members are encouraged to attend, and child care will be extended briefly for this short meeting.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Israel Trip 2015

L'shana ha'ba-ah b'Yerushalayim.
Next year in Jerusalem.



Each spring, faithful Jews around the world conclude their Passover *seders* with the words “next year in Jerusalem.” That phrase can be interpreted in many different ways but above all it bears their Messianic hopes and dreams that this will be the year when God’s anointed one arrives on the human scene to deliver His people and establish an earthly kingdom that will not end.

As Christians we recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the long-expected Savior who brought healing in his wings and established a very different kind of Kingdom -- in the hearts of his people.

“Next year in Jerusalem,” there will be a group from the Norton Presbyterian Church experiencing the land where Jesus walked and taught and lived and died. We will wonder at the place of Christ’s birth. We will travel along the road the Jericho. We will sail across the Sea of Galilee, step into the River Jordan, and float upon the waters of the Dead Sea. We will travel to places that you’ve been reading about your whole life. Places like Cana and Capernaum and Caesaria Philippi and

Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives. These names will be translated from stories of scripture to sacred and indelible images. We will follow Jesus’ final sorrowful steps along the Via Dolorosa. We will experience the holy triumphant in places like the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb.

We will experience the joy of being together as Christ’s Body – “next year in Jerusalem.” I hope you will consider joining us.

The dates of the trip are February 11 – February 21, 2015. We travel during the winter break week for the Darien Public Schools. The trip is open to middle school age students through adults. If you would like more information on the winter 2015 tour of the Holy Land, please contact my administrative assistant, Marlene Moffett at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org and 203-309-5620.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Greg Doll

Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Men’s Bible Study:

“Moses and Mark: A Modern Conversation.”

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

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

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



Adult Spiritual Formation

Prime Timers

Thursday, March 20th at 2:00 p.m.
at Maplewood*, Darien.

Evan Drake, Neuro-Psychologist and Member of NPC will present
“What’s Normal about an Aging Brain.”

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 Congregation Church
4. If at church parking lot, wait for someone to shuttle you across street
5. Shuttle available to return to Congregational Church parking
6. Travel 2 mi. west on Boston Post Rd/US-1 to NPC

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

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

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

Caring & Women's Ministries

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ~James 3:9-10



The book of James has been washing over me this Winter. I've been thinking about him quite a bit, the writer of this book: If he was the half-brother of Jesus (and I believe he was), what an interesting vantage point he had. AND—he was the respected leader of the “Mother Church”—that is, the Church in Jerusalem. I would make the assumption that this “mother church” was likely the most spiritually mature fellowship of all.

NOT SO! It seems that James was concerned greatly about his flock's maturity and was not “above” addressing things that we may feel childish or petty: favoring the “beautiful people”, gossip, jealousy... All of these things, it seems, were present in this church that was led by James.

I'm not sure whether I'm depressed or comforted by this. I suppose Solomon was right when he wrote *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.* (Ecclesiastes 1). In this way, I suppose we are much like the early church! As I've walked through James this time around, I'm acutely aware of petty places in my own heart and life.

I love that the goal of following Christ isn't just that we're “saved.” The goal is to be shaped more and more into his likeness—to grow in maturity! I read somewhere in this study that the 5 chapters of this letter mark the 5 marks of the mature Christian:

1. Patient in testing
2. Practices the truth
3. Has power over her tongue
4. A peacemaker, not a troublemaker
5. Prayerful in troubles

These marks intrigue me. And my prayer is that as we explore the book of James together more closely, that even as we become aware of the areas we need to work on, we might also be encouraged as we see these five marks of maturity.

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

Women's Studies

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

Tuesday Morning Bible

Studies:

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

We are studying the Book of Hebrews right up until Easter.

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

Study on Book of James ends March 4th.

Brunch on March 11th with Evalyn Wakhusama.

March 18th, New Study! - “The Me I Want To Be” by John Ortberg.

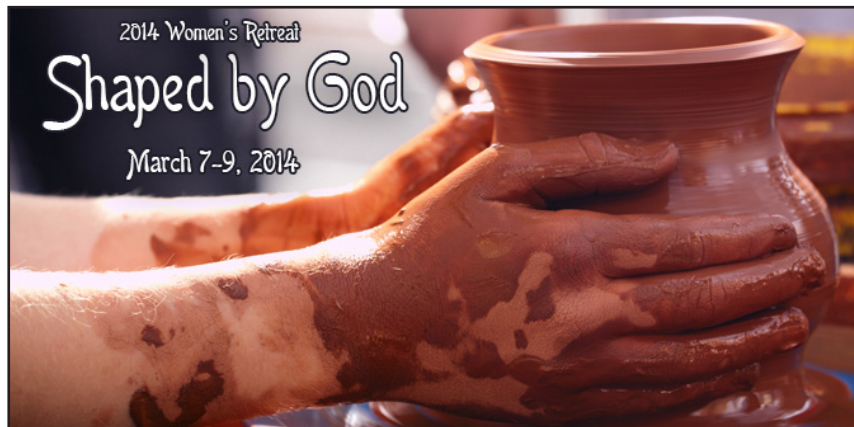
OASIS Moms Ministry: ends March 27th.

Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Horton Hall. This is a study especially for moms with young children. How can you honor God as you love and raise your kids? Come to learn, meet other moms, and be comforted. This morning is led by a team of veteran moms—what a beautiful group! *Childcare waiting list only.*

Moms of Teens:

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

Caring & Women's Ministries



NPC Women's Retreat

March 7-9, 2014 Warwick, NY
(New month this year!)
"Shaped by God"

Scripture uses the image of God as potter from Psalms through to the early Christian church.

What does it mean for us to be like clay in the potter's hands?

There is always a lot of laughter, mingled with silence and reflection.

Co-Chairs are Pam Zangrillo and Judy Phillips.

There are a few spots left! - [Click here to sign up!](#)

Online registration is on the NPC website under Women's Ministry.

Children's & Youth Ministries



Minute with Mickie

Wondering about moving forward. . .

We're moving! We'll be under construction and I'm packing. This is so exciting. Ever since I was five years old, my family has moved just about every three years. My father was

in the film business and we went where we felt God called us so that my dad could be with other artists and creative types to produce media that would benefit believers world-wide as well as present the Gospel of Jesus to seekers. When I was 5, my parents gave me a small white suitcase with red satin lining and a small mirror in the lid. They said to me "This is your very own suitcase. You can pack it yourself. It should remind you that as Christians we never know when God is going to call us to move. So in our hearts and minds we keep our bags packed and by the door." This has been a

comfort to me throughout my life as God has called me to Texas, 7 different places in Illinois, Scotland, and now Darien for local church ministry as well as all over the U.S. as a national Family Ministries consultant since 1999. What a journey! So packing up and moving for me is just a natural part of life and it excites me every time.

What will this NPC construction and move mean for all of us?

First of all, it will mean we have to be **flexible**. One of the reasons we have tents in Horton Hall for Sunday School is to get us in the flexible mode. Our Educational ministry can flourish with a portable mentality – rather like the Israelites in the Wilderness - Horton Hall is like the Tabernacle. If needed, we can move around. Gosh, how about that for a Biblical concept!

Secondly, we need to **pray** for each other all the time!

Children's & Youth Ministries

In moves, people can feel dis-equilibrated, a little off balance and confused. We won't be able to go to our normal places to retrieve what we are used to having close at hand. We will have to share spaces in a new way and we will have to change programming to match what is "doable" and not count on what "we've always done." So we need to pray for good attitudes, grace and a sense of God's presence in the midst of the dis-equilibration. I'll pray for you, will you pray for us?

Thirdly, we need to find ways to **do community** differently. As you may have heard, VBS (NPC style) will not be doable this summer. But that's not a bad thing. It means we will find other ways to do Bible activities throughout the summer with families hosting Backyard Bible Clubs, partnering with other churches in the area at their VBS programs (for example: St. Luke's Episcopal Church June 23-27), meeting more intentionally at the beach for fellowship and fun, gathering in one another's homes for play dates, etc. etc. You get the idea.

Let's **move forward** creatively. In the meanwhile, what's happening in March?? Worship and Sunday School as usual of course, and. . . .

- Beginning on **March 12** and continuing through May 14 – JAM meets from 4-5:15 p.m. to concentrate time on the Spring Musical only. JAM is not meeting on **March 5** but join us for a Family Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel at 5:00 p.m.

- **Ash Wednesday**, also March 5 – parents and children are invited to a special Family Ash Wednesday service in the Chapel at 5:00 p.m. Learn about Ash Wednesday, receive Ashes and prepare for the Lenten Season.

Moving even further forward, April 6 is Second Grade Bible Sunday. If you have a child in 2nd grade you will receive a letter to reserve his or her special Church Bible which will be presented during the Worship Services (9, 10:30 or 5:00 p.m.). That day will include a special class for parents and children to learn how to use their Bible. What a special day.

I so look forward to moving into spring with you at NPC, and, together we will see where God is calling us to go!

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

A Spring Break Work Trip that will change your life!!

The youth ministry team will be heading to New Hampshire for this year's Spring Break Mission Trip, April 13-18. We will be partnering with Work Camps New England. Visit their website to learn more about this amazing ministry at www.workcampne.com. Possible work includes, but is not limited to, home repairs, painting, and roofing. Our youth will join high school

participants will join together for games, praise, worship and an inspirational message of God's love from a special speaker. We will also have time for our own NPC small group devotional time before falling into sleeping bags for a well deserved recuperative sleep. All eighth grade and high school students are invited to join us. We need one adult worker for every five youth, as required by Work Camps New England, so come with your teen! Space could be limited depending on our adult/youth ratio. Sign-ups and forms are available on the website. Please talk to Sarah or Tom if you have any questions.



youth from other churches in New England as well as students from Lincoln Christian College in Illinois. Together they will work in teams of 6-10. Every evening all 80+

[Click here for more information or to sign up.](#)

Children & Youth Ministries



Ignite and Harbor are still in full swing!

Ignite continues to meet every Sunday evening, but we have changed the time! For the rest of the year, Ignite will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

During that time, we will engage in worship, prayer, fellowship, and be encouraged by God's word! Although

Ignite will officially end at 8:00 p.m., students are welcome to stay, hang-out, eat snacks, and talk about the lesson until 9:00 p.m. Ignite is open to all high school students.

Harbor remains on Wednesday nights in Horton Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We start the night off with snacks, Gaga ball, and games! We then gather to listen to a lesson from Scripture, and break into smaller groups to discuss what we've learned. Harbor is open to all students in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

We are excited to see you and spend time with you at these weekly events, and we can't wait to build memories with you! Friends are always welcome!

Blessed to be serving with you!
Tom Fagan & Sarah Swible,
Youth Ministries Coordinators

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



February and March were fun months at the nursery school. As you can imagine there was a great deal of sledding and snow building. We completed the registration process for the 2014-15 school and are pleased to have so many new families to add to ours. Our staff has been busy with continuing development

trainings and in preparing for Parent Teacher conferences.

Our students received several cultural arts visitors. Award winning Story Teller, Jonathan Kruk shared his hand plays and stories with the students. Karen Hall with Acting Out helped the children perform Jan Brett's "The Mitten" and the Darien Nature Center brought live versions of the animals in "The Mitten" to visit the two year olds. Animal Embassy also brought live animals in for the 3 year olds. They are learning about winter habitats and how our local wildlife survives in cold and snow. Our Pre-K students visited New Pond Farm to learn about harvesting Maple Syrup.

We have a few openings in our programs for next year. If you know of any families who are looking for placement please ask them to give us a call at 203-655-3223.

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



Townsend and Connor enjoying a snowy day at school.



Bailey building a sculpture out of ice.



Sloane, Sophia and Trevor show off their snowflakes.

more photos on next page...

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



Robbie, Blake, Henry, Liam and Zoe make pancakes on pajama day.



Matthew painting with a straw.



Christina, George B, George C and Olive making playdough for their class.

Tot Drop



Noroton Presbyterian Church

Tot Drop

Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

Many parents, church members, grandparents of Tot Droppers, and others have asked or are wondering about the further impact that the church's construction plans will have on Tot Drop; you may already be aware that Tot Drop was closed on February 18 so that our new electrical service from CL&P could be connected. (Tot Drop staff had a wonderful day of professional development in the SHAC that day!) Church management is very conscious of the challenges presented to working families when we have to close or inconvenience families in this way. The snow days we have endured punctuate this!

It was thought that we would be able to keep Tot Drop's doors open without interruption throughout the construction, and only need our regular week-long closing around the Fourth of July to complete targeted projects; however, the scope of the work planned—air conditioning all Tot Drop and NPNS classrooms, creating a new Tot Drop office and staff room, building a dedicated, no-stairs entrance to Tot Drop, adding a much needed adult bathroom on the Tot Drop level of the building, replacing all NPNS windows (Tot Drop's were completed during the Christmas break) and constructing a mansard roof on the Christian Education

Wing now presents a different reality.

After careful deliberation and planning, based on advice from those who know the scale and demands of the construction process, we have reluctantly come to the decision that we need to add an additional three weeks to our already scheduled July closing. This means a total of four (4) weeks closure this summer to avoid the dust, dislocation and inevitable banging this work requires; most importantly it will ensure the safety (and sanity!) of children, parents and staff. Accordingly, we will close at noon on Thursday, July 3, and reopen on Monday, August 4. Our hope is that this news comes in sufficient time for parents perhaps to plan their family vacation for this time, register for a summer camp or work with other families to create an alternative care plan for their child during this hiatus.

This decision was not made capriciously and we hope our families can see that the ultimate results will greatly benefit their child when he or she returns to Tot Drop in August or the fall.

In His service,
Carol Scott
Director of NPC Tot Drop

Congregational Life Ministry

NPC's 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff!



Date: Saturday, March 22nd

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

Where: Horton Hall

*If competing, please arrive by/before 6-6:15 p.m.!

6:30-7:30 p.m. tasting/judging

8 p.m. prizes awarded!

We will award prizes for 'favorites' in multiple categories:

Chili: Beef, Poultry, All Other Meats, Vegetarian; and Spicy (any category)

Cornbread: 'Northern' (sweeter version) and 'Southern'

In past years, this has proven to be a fun-filled (and tasty!) evening for folks of all ages and family compositions. And, it's easy to invite friends and neighbors to join you for the evening with lots of opportunity to mingle.

Please direct questions to valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650.

Hope many of you will join in the fun of competing!

And ... hope to see even more of you around Horton Hall with tasting spoons in hand!



Sign Up Now!

- Use Registration Form on this page,
- pick one up outside the church Main Office,
- or register online.

Competitors are required to sign up.

(We also **encourage** those coming to judge/eat to sign up so that we can make sure to provide sufficient seating.)

EVERYONE who comes receives ballots for ALL categories at the door.

[Click here to register online!](#)



Chili Cook-OFF! Registration

Saturday, March 22nd 6:15-8:30 p.m.

(Please let us know if you are coming, whether cooking or not.)

Name of Individual, Family or Group: _____

Individuals Attending: (# and Names) _____

Contact Person Info

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Chili Dish Name (If Known): _____

Check here if you haven't decided yet []

Type of Chili: [] Beef [] Vegetarian [] Poultry [] All-Other Meat

[] Also Spicy! [] Eating/Judging ONLY!

Cornbread: [] Sweet [] Traditional

Questions?: valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650

Congregational Life Ministry

Looking Forward ...

Passover Seder in April



It's not too early to 'mark your calendars' for this evening of fellowship and worship. We will again serve a Passover Seder meal, complete with teaching from Pastor Greg.

We will meet in Horton Hall on Maundy Thursday (April 17th), from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Plan to arrive by/before 6:15 p.m. Meal will start PROMPTLY at 6:30 p.m.

This will permit all those who wish to attend the traditional Maundy Thursday sanctuary service at 8:00 p.m. to do so.

Watch for details for signing up. For now, make sure to save the date in your calendars.

In fellowship with you,
Valerie Muller

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

Membership Ministry



**“Alright Mr. DeMille, I’m ready for my close-up”:
IT’S TIME FOR ALL
CHURCH MEMBERS
TO GET READY FOR
THEIRS!**

So said the character Norma Desmond in the 1950 movie “Sunset Blvd.”... Now it’s your turn: we need to update the on-line NPC directory to include photos of everyone.

The directory is being used more and more by volunteers, members, pastors, and staff to support the efforts of our many ministries and teams; it would be greatly improved if we had photos for all. There are many entries without photographs if you didn't have one included in the print directory we did in 2012.

Please email a decent shot as an individual, couple or family – whichever is appropriate – to me at julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org. You can also give me a printed picture, which we will scan, if that's easier. This is a good time to check and update your contact information as well.

If you'd like to check your on-line record and don't have the access information, please email me. Be assured that the directory is secure and password-protected. I share the user name and password only with church members and regular attenders who specifically request it from me. I can also give you a copy of the colorful printed directory, which includes many pictures of all NPC's ministries and programs, as well as member portraits.

Sign up NOW for the March Membership Class – NOTE THE NEW DATE!

Join NPC this spring and get more engaged in your faith and the life of the Church! Since it's such a busy time of year, we've decided to offer a half-day Saturday class instead of a four-part Sunday, as originally announced.

NEW DATE: the Membership Team invites you to attend the next New Member Class on Saturday, March 29, 2014, Noon to 5:30 p.m. New members will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, March 30, at the 10:30 a.m. service. Free childcare is provided during the class for children 3 mos. to 4 years.

The class is interesting, faith-deepening and fun! It offers an opportunity to:

- learn more about NPC's great ministries and programs, and how to get involved
- build community with others in small group discussions
- enjoy fellowship with all the participants, pastors, volunteers and staff
- strengthen your knowledge and faith through teachings by the pastors

If you are considering taking the class, but have questions, concerns or would like additional information, please let me know. To register, email me so I have your name, and then return the registration profile found on the Membership page of the church website before March 21st, if possible. You can also attend the class for information now, and then take your vows later (within a year of the class).

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership

julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615 **11**

Mission Ministry



Mission News

Thank you to all who donated soup for our Souper Bowl collection! We were able to take over 200 cans to the Norwalk Open Door Shelter just before the big winter blizzard.

This month we will be having a visit from Evalyn Wakhusama, our good friend and founder of the Nambale Magnet School in Kenya. Evalyn will be joining the women of NPC on our annual retreat and will also be sharing news about how God is at work in her life and at the school at our Open Doors Service at 5:00 p.m. on **March 9th**. All welcome!

This year is the 5th Anniversary of Nambale Magnet School and there will be a Birthday Celebration on **March 15**, 5-8:00 p.m. at the Restaurant on the Green in Norwalk. Please contact Mary Thompson for more

information at mmasb@optonline.net. There is also more information on the Nambale website, www.nambalemagnet.org.

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

"Serving a Smile" - Come and help serve lunch at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk! The next NPC service date is April 5th. Please contact Holly Hough, hough7@optonline.net to sign up!

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



**THE NAMBALE
MAGNET SCHOOL IS**

Come celebrate the first **5** years
and anticipate the next **50!**

5th Birthday Party
Saturday, March 15, 2014, 5 - 8 PM
Oak Hills Restaurant on the Green
165 Fillow Street, Norwalk, CT

\$55 per person ♦ Festive Attire
Buffet Supper ♦ Cash Bar ♦ Silent & Live Auction
Special Guest: School Founder, Evalyn Wakhusama

RSVP by March **5** - Reply Card enclosed
Pay online with PayPal link or mail checks payable to
WIKS-USA, P.O. Box 200413, New Haven, CT 06520
All proceeds support the Nambale Magnet School
Preview auction items at www.nambalemagnet.org

YOU'RE INVITED



PRAYER BREAKFAST

7AM-9AM GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH 2014
WITH PIVOT MINISTRIES

CONTINENTAL MANOR
112 MAIN STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851

Open Door Shelter

Dear NPC Friends: We are starting a new year of servanthood and support for the Open Door Shelter in South Norwalk which is a significant part of NPC's local mission efforts. First of all, we want to thank all of the faithful volunteers of the NPC congregation and staff who have worked so hard to spread Christ's love, peace, and hope to so many. We also thank Macedonia Church, our mission partner, who serve and share a Sunday worship service with us.

Founded in 1983, Open Door Shelter is a non-profit organization managed by a 15 person board of directors, and it also has a staff of 32 full and part time employees. Eighty- nine cents out of every dollar that is donated goes directly to client services and needs. It is one of NPC's oldest continuing ministries and involves more than 200 NPC volunteers who are active in various Shelter programs. There are clothing, food and toiletry drives (e.g., Make A Difference Day), sponsored children at Christmas, a Turkey Trot, the Annual Gala, and of course purchasing, preparing and serving meals in which NPC volunteers participate.

More specifically, it's the largest Shelter in Southwestern Connecticut and is open 365 days per year and serves over 12,500 meals per month in the Manna House Soup Kitchen. Additionally, the Shelter's food pantry provides another 20,000 meals per month to needy people in the surrounding community. It offers safe shelter care for 85 to 90 residents every night including men, women and children and assists homeless families to secure and maintain affordable and appropriate housing. Since January 2000, it has placed several hundred families into permanent housing.

Residents receive help in searching for employment and job training and are given relevant counseling through trained coaches. Medical treatment is available three days per week through collaboration with the Norwalk Community Health Clinic. In the very near future, the Shelter hopes to open an in-patient recovery program which will have a work force development component. This will be called The Sono Life Center.

Why do so many volunteers gravitate to servanthood at the Shelter? Very simply, we make a huge difference in people's lives as we open our hearts and live Christ's

Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) and honor God's Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37) " Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind "...and the second is like it, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Our impact is immediate, personal, and long term. It is about Christ's love for all of us and sharing this love through us as his disciples and servants. As a church, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to reflect Christ's love, compassion, and hope to the needy. Indeed, we are following our church's Mission Statement, "Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to love and serve a broken world." This is a wonderful, joyous way to honor and glorify God. This is what we are called to do.

When we share the good news in word and deed, it can also be a transforming, life changing experience for yourself. If you are not a current volunteer at the Shelter, we hope you will consider participation in one or more of the many activities mentioned above. Perhaps you may have some new thinking which would be great. Let us know.

Remember: "No one chooses to be homeless, and hunger takes no vacations. To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world." (The Open Door, Spring, 2007)

Chuck Richardson,
NPC Mission Team Liaison to the Shelter





God's Truth Abideth Still- A Mighty Fortress is Our God

In many ways, we live in a world dominated by the disposable. Nothing seems to last. Not our cell phones, not our computers, not our children's toys, not our cars, and not even our arts and culture.

In order to keep a steady stream of income, the fashion industry decrees what is 'in' and what is 'out' on a frequent basis. The music industry does the same. I am particularly susceptible to new electronic gadgets. One of the things I hate about my cellphone contract is the fact that I have to wait a whole two years to replace a perfectly fine phone with the latest and greatest.

Being surrounded by throw-away technology and culture, it can be comforting to me to remind myself of things that last. Martin Luther's Hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is one such thing. We are now just thirteen years shy of this great hymn's five hundredth anniversary.

It was a rallying cry of the Reformation. It was sung by banished Protestants on their way to exile. Prisoners were comforted by hearing it sung in the streets. There are stories of martyrs singing it at their death. With inspiration drawn from Psalm 46, the hymn celebrates God's sovereign power over all earthly and spiritual power, and the tremendous hope we can have in Christ. I can easily imagine this great hymn still being sung five hundred years from now.

*A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our shelter He, amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth is His name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.*

*And tho' this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim — We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly pow'rs — No thanks to them — abideth:
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Thro' Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.*

Dwayne Condon,
Director of Music & Fine Arts

Flower Team



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

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



2014 Easter Flower Memorial Donations

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

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

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

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

Given in love by: _____

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

February 21st:
Arthur Van Sciver Sr.

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

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

February 16th:

Charlotte Sage Wayland, daughter of
Patrick and Sarah Wayland

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

3/16 and 4/13 10:30 a.m.

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

Join the "7 Minute Team" as a Worship Greeter

It takes just 7 minutes for visitors to form an impression of NPC! Be part of making it positive by serving as a warm and welcoming greeter before the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services, or after worship at a visitor station we are seeking to set up.

Please contact Julie Colbath at
julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615.



DivorceCare is a confidential weekly seminar for people who are separated or divorced. It is a safe place where people can be around others who understand what they're experiencing, and where they can learn valuable information about healing from the hurt of divorce.

Come once or often for support and care. Join at any time! Non-members welcome.

Meets every Monday through April 7th in the Parlor,
7:15 -9:00 p.m.
\$15 for workbook with scholarships available.

If you would like to submit an article for the April 2014 issue please submit it before March 14 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-655-1451
Pastor and Team Leader

Pastor Brandi Drake..... 203-655-1451
Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry

Pastor Greg Doll..... 203-655-1451
Associate Pastor Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650
Director of Congregational Life

Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614
Director of Music & Fine Arts

Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622
Director of Children's Ministry
& Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645
Mission Ministry Associate

Carol Scott..... 203-309-5605
NPC Tot Drop Director

Martha Duff..... 203-655-3223
Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School

Julie Colbath..... 203-309-5615
Director of Membership

Dan Rosa..... 203-655-1451
Business Administrator

David Lee..... 203-655-1451
Director of Properties

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	I
2 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-5th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:00 a.m. Congregational Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:00 p.m. Ignite	3 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	4 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Presentation 8:00 p.m. Team Night Meetings	5 Ash Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 5:00 p.m. Family Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	6 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7 Women's Retreat	8 Women's Retreat	
9 Women's Retreat 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	10 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	11 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	12 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	13 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	14	15	
16 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	17 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	18 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session	19 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	20 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers - Maplewood, Darren 7:00 p.m. Handbell Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	21	22 6:15 p.m. Chili Cook-Off	
23 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	24 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	25 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	26 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	27 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	28	29 12:00 p.m. New Member Class	
30 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	31 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare						