

The Spire

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



Dear Friends:

There are several major events happening in the next two months that I would like to highlight – events that I hope you would like to take part in with others from this church family.

First, as you receive this we will be entering the season of Lent - a time to consider our mortality in preparation for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. I have found that it doesn't really matter whether Lent begins earlier or later each spring, it has the habit of "sneaking up" on us. This year during Lent we will be preaching on themes from the book *Sinning Like a Christian* by William Willimon. The book, which provides a fresh understanding of the seven deadly sins, will be available for purchase and conversation groups will be available for you to meet with a small group of others to discuss the themes of the book. Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, March 1.

Second, NPC will be hosting Pastor Tim Keller for Noroton Lectures on March 4 and 5. Tim will be speaking on the topic of prayer. By way of preparation or follow up, you may want to read his book entitled, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*.

Third, late in March (3/25) we will be having an all church "pi" day. That is not a misprint. March 14 (3/14) is also known as "pi" day (3.14) and we will be having a fun celebration later in the month with pies of all kinds – fruit pies, meat pies, pizza pies . . . you get the idea.

Fourth, Holy Week services are happening: Palm Sunday (4/9), Maundy Thursday (4/13), Good Friday (4/14 community service), Easter Vigil (4/15) and Easter (4/16).

Fifth, we will have a guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Mark Roberts, who will be with us the Sunday after Easter (4/23). Mark has been a personal friend for many years and is currently the Executive Director of the De Pree Center at Fuller Theological Seminary. In this position he helps people to think about vocation and living out their faith in daily life.

And last, but by no means least, we will have our NPC Service Day on the last Sunday of April (4/30). This was a great day in the life of our congregation last spring and our hopes are high for it this year as well.

Please mark your calendars now. I can't wait for what is coming!

With much anticipation,
 Pastor John H. Seiders
Interim Pastor

Worship Schedule

8:00 am - Chapel
 9:00 & 10:30 am Sanctuary
 5:00 pm Horton Hall

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

Sermon Series:

Sinning Like a Christian

3/1/17 - **Ash Wednesday**

12 and 7:30 pm - Chapel
 Pastor Jimmy McPherson
 5:00 pm - Family Service - Chapel

3/5/17 - **Noroton Lectures**

Guest Preacher, Tim Keller

3/12/17 - Pastor John Seiders

3/19/17 - Pastor John Seiders

3/26/17 - Pastor John Seiders

4/2/17 - Pastor Brandi Drake

4/9/17 - **Palm Sunday**

Pastor John Seiders

4/13/17 - **Maundy Thursday**

Pastor Brandi Drake

4/15/17 - **Easter Vigil (5 pm)**

Pastor Jimmy McPherson

Sermon Series:

Living Like a Christian

4/16/17 - **Easter Sunday**

6:00 am: Pastor Brandi Drake

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am:

Pastor John Seiders

4/23/17 - **Guest Preacher**

The Rev. Dr. Mark Roberts

4/30/17 - **NPC Service Day**

Pastor John Seiders

Table of Contents

Adult Spiritual Formation.....	2-3
Caring & Women's Ministries.....	4-5
Children's Ministry.....	6-7
Youth Ministry.....	8
NPCC.....	9
New Members.....	10-11
Outreach.....	12
Flower Team.....	13
Congregational Life.....	14-15
Music and Fine Arts.....	15
Mission Ministry.....	16-17
Calendars.....	18-19

Adult Spiritual Formation



2017 Noroton Lectures March 4-5

Featuring Dr. Timothy Keller

Sat. March 4:

Note **NEW** Times this year.

10:30 am - Morning Session*

12:00 pm - Discussion/Prayer
Breakout Groups

7:00 pm - Evening Session

Sun. March 5:

8, 9, 10:30 am

Guest Preacher, Tim Keller

5 pm Special Video Presentation

* Child care and elementary children's programming will be available for Saturday morning 10:30 am - 12:00 pm by advanced registration **ONLY**.

Children ages 3 months-Kindergarten will be in the NPCC rooms and

1st-5th graders will meet in Horton Hall for learning activities about Prayer.

There is no child care during the Saturday breakout group and evening lecture.

THURSDAY MEN'S STUDY

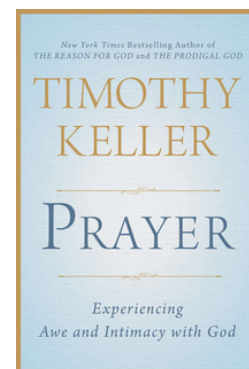
7:00 am in the
Schreiner Mission Room

NOROTON LECTURES featuring Timothy Keller

On the weekend of March 4-5, we welcome renowned pastor and bestselling author Timothy Keller to the Noroton Lectures Renewal Weekend. Dr. Keller will share his thoughts on how to truly experience awe and intimacy with God through prayer, based on his popular book: *Prayer—Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*.

Although our registration period has ended, there still may be room for you to attend one or even all of Dr. Keller's lectures. Contact Marlene at 203-309-5620 for more information.

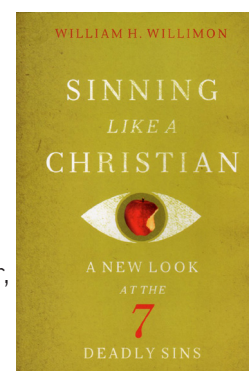
Admission to the lectures is FREE, and we are offering childcare/programming for elementary age children during the Saturday and Sunday mornings sessions. For more information and to see a complete schedule for the weekend, visit: www.norotonchurch.org/renewal.



LENTEN CONVERSATION GROUPS

For this year's Lenten season, members and friends are invited to read together William H. Willimon's, *Sinning Like a Christian: A New Look at the 7 Deadly Sins*. You can pick up a copy of Willimon's book online or from your favorite bookseller. In addition to reading Willimon's book together, as we gather together in worship each week throughout the Lenten season, our sermon series will also look at this topic of sin.

One additional way that members and friends are invited to come together around this topic is through what we are calling "Lenten Conversation Groups". Groups will be organized to gather each week throughout the Lenten season (based on the expressed availability of the participants) to discuss questions related to the Lenten series. Initial registration for the conversation groups has now closed—but there still may be room for you to join—contact Val Muller at 203-309-5650 or valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org for group availability information.



LOOKING AHEAD

We've got a great series of classes planned to begin Sunday, **May 7** when we will be hosting a three-week class that is designed to help you read the New Testament book of Acts. Meeting location and times for the "Reading Acts" class will be available later this month. More information about these classes is available by contacting Jimmy McPherson through the church main office at 203-655-1451.

Pastor Jimmy McPherson
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Adult Spiritual Formation

The History of Noroton Lectures



Noroton Lectures 2004



Noroton Lectures 2009



Noroton Lectures 2011



Noroton Lectures 2012

This March we will have the great opportunity to learn from Dr. Timothy Keller who is our Noroton Lecture speaker for 2017. Dr. Keller is the senior pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City and a very prolific writer as well.

Did you know that Noroton Lectures began 38 years ago when the Reverend Edward Danks was our pastor? When Ed came to NPC in 1977 he was asked to increase our biblical learning opportunities. He envisioned a renewal weekend during the cold winter months in which NPC members could be inspired to greater faith. In southern churches this could have been called a “revival”. The early lectures were funded from insurance proceeds following the death of Ed and Barbie Danks’s eighteen year old son Tom shortly after they arrived in Darien.

The first speaker in early 1979 was Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie who was the pastor of the Hollywood Presbyterian Church and who became the chaplain to the US Senate. From the beginning there was a men’s breakfast with the speaker, followed by a woman’s coffee, a Saturday night lecture and Sunday worship.

All the speakers below can be found online with their bios. Each was an outstanding teacher and/or writer. The people of NPC have been greatly blessed by the presence of each lecturer. The vision of Ed Danks in providing a weekend of challenge and growth continues to this day.

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1979 | Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie | 1995 | Dr. John Guest |
| 1980 | Rev. Bruce Larson | 1996- 2002 | No lectures |
| 1981 | Dr. and Mrs. Charles Shedd | 2003 | Dr. Darrell Guder |
| 1982 | Dr. and Mrs. Sam Moffett | 2004 | Dr. Tom Tewell |
| 1983 | Dr. Alan Loy McGinnis | 2005 | Rev. Gordon MacDonald |
| 1984 | Dr. and Mrs. Louis Evans | 2006 | Forty Days of Purpose Study |
| 1985 | Mr. Wayne T. Alderson | 2007 | Dr. Kenneth Bailey |
| 1986 | Dr. Lewis Smedes | 2008 | Cancelled due to Speaker illness |
| 1987 | Rev. Frederick Buechner | 2009 | Dr. Sean M. McDonough |
| 1988 | Dr. Bruce Thielemann | 2010 | Cancelled due to Speaker illness |
| 1989 | Rev. and Mrs. Gordon MacDonald | 2011 | Dr. Craig Barnes |
| 1990 | Dr. Roberta Hestenes | 2012 | Rev. Mark Buchanan |
| 1991 | Dr. Gary Demarest | 2013 | Dr. Timothy Tennant |
| 1992 | Dr. Peggy Cantwell | 2014 | Dr. Jerry Root |
| 1993 | Dr. Thomas Long | 2015 | Dr. John Stackhouse, Jr. |
| 1994 | No lecture | 2016 | Dr. Lynn Cohick |

Rosemary Mace

Women's and Caring Ministries



*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a **firm** place to **stand**. –Psalm 40:2*

Do you ever have one of those seasons where a particular phrase seems to be hunting you down? I keep seeing the phrase “Stand Firm” everywhere.

Maybe it's from our Tuesday morning Bible study. 1 Corinthians 10:12- *if you think you are **standing firm**, be careful that you don't fall!* 1 Corinthians 15:58- *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters- **stand firm**.* And in chapter 16:13 *Be on your guard. **Stand firm** in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.* Not to mention the passage in Ephesians 6 as Paul is talking about the armor of God: *therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, **to stand. Stand firm** then...*

I wonder why this phrase keeps showing up for me? Perhaps it's because of our cultural/political climate. To take a stand, stand firm, stand one's ground... is a solid act. It's not passive. Standing is not a posture of attack. It's assertive without demanding one's own way. It's remaining clear and calm in the midst of any chaos that surrounds. Hmm.

With this phrase in mind, I did a little “Bible Gateway” lookup. I found treasure!

*I will declare that your love **stands firm** forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. (Psalm 89:2)*

*If you do not **stand firm** in your faith, you will not stand at all. (Isaiah 7:9)*

*Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who **stands firm** to the end will be saved. (Mark 13:13)*

***Stand firm**, and you will win life. (Luke 21:9)*

My prayer for us as we walk through this season of Lent, is that we each find ways to stand firm in Christ. Whether in conversation or prayer: Action or rest.

Did you know? There is a group exploring the possibility of bringing a “Recovery Ministry” to NPC? It will address all kinds of hurts, hang-ups and habits. Interested in being a part of the conversation? Contact me!

In Joyful Anticipation~
Pastor Brandi Drake

Associate Pastor of Caring, Mission, Outreach & Women's Ministries

Women's Studies

6:15 am Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:15 am in the Parlor
Topic- *Forgiveness*

9:15 am Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:15 am in Horton Hall
Topic- beginning now - *The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller* (Childcare available- registration required.)

MOPs is at NPC!
Meets: March 8, 22, April 5 and 19. Mothers Of Preschoolers meet every other Wednesday from 9:15-11:30 am. What to expect: Breakfast (snacks for the little ones), Speakers, Small Groups, Crafts and Childcare. Email darienmops@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.

Moms of Teens book study group. The group meets on **Thursdays** from 12-1:30 pm in the SHAC. We invite you to join this group and come as often as you are able. The group is led by Laurie Bessey and Sallie Schmidt.

Women's and Caring Ministry

Monthly Adult Fellowship

(for those in their 50's, 60's, 70's +)

Adult Fellowship is committed not only to fellowship, but also to providing information, fun and friendship.

Many thanks to John and Marilyn Parker for their presentation in January on their Mission Trips to Africa and to Seana Turner who shared her "Seana Method" in February for decluttering and tips for downsizing.

Plan to join us for the following scheduled events:



March 23, 2:00-3:30 – Stella Clarke will present "NPC Service Day 2017." We are beginning preparations for Service Day this year which will take place on Sunday, April 30. Thanks and praise to God for the wonderful day of service which took place last April. Hundreds of our members participated in 25 community projects around Darien on this first annual NPC Service Day. Everyone is invited to participate on the day and we will need a large team of planners, and team leaders to make this day a success.



April 20, 2:00-3:30 – We will bring our fellowship to Maplewood Senior Living in Darien. Maplewood generously hosted our Adult Fellowship in 2014 during the *Foundations for the Future* construction. Many of our church members live there and many new friends were made. We would like to take this opportunity to return and enjoy time of fellowship with the residents and staff.

For more information contact Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org, phone 203-309-5620 or Marion at marion.smith@norotonchurch.org.

Prayer Team

Faithful in Prayer

A group continues to meet every 10 days or so to specifically pray for the needs of our church. Scripture promises that our petitions will not only be heard, but acted on! ...

Matthew 18:18-20 (NIV)

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Here are the upcoming dates:

Tuesdays (8-9 pm)

February 28

March 21

April 11

May 2

Saturdays (7:30-8:30 am)

March 11

April 1

April 22

May 13



These meetings are open to all. We use Scripture, our voices, and our silence. We encourage you to consider joining in, even if only occasionally.

Children's Ministry



Minute with Mickie – Whazup with Children's Ministry?

2017 is moving along rapidly and I'm excited to tell you about the wonderful experiences we are planning for you and your children on Sunday mornings and beyond! Here's what you have to look forward to:

- **Wednesday, March 1 is ASH WEDNESDAY** – the beginning of Lent. It is our tradition to hold a Family Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Chapel at 5:00 pm. This year not only will we explain the meaning of Ash Wednesday, we will do an activity called "Hide the Alleluias" to help us all prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten Season.
- **Saturday, March 25** – Congregational Life is holding a **PI DAY Bake Off** – where everyone is invited to make a pie of any kind (pizza pie, cherry pie, shepherd's pie, chocolate pie . . .) to bring to the church to share. What a tasty treat. Children's Ministry will help make this a great Family Fun Night so don't miss it.
- **Sundays during Lent** we will study the same topic in Sunday School that the pastors are preaching in the service at both 9:00 and 10:30. Your children will learn the stories and parables that Jesus told AND, at the same time, they will do creative science experiments to make the concepts come to life! We are very HANDS-ON in Horton Hall. Come join us anytime!
- **April 14 – Good Friday from 10:00-11:30** - Children's Ministry is offering our **2nd Annual Good Friday Family Activity and Worship experience**. Come to Horton Hall for a light breakfast and coffee. Create a Good Friday/Resurrection Craft and then close the time with reflective worship in the Chapel. A perfect way to prepare for Easter.
- **Sunday, April 16 – EASTER SUNDAY** – EVERYONE IN THE SANCTUARY - What a great day of praise and worship with your family.
- **WE NEED YOU TO HELP WITH VBS** – see more from Ms. Liz.

"Vals with Pals" a huge success! Just to recap a past event, we had a great time making Valentine Cards for school, eating pizza, learning about the history of Valentine's Day and just hanging out as a church family. Thank you everyone for coming! It was a really fun night.



Don't forget that every week, you can find the Bible stories and the fun activities on www.npckids.com. You can watch the videos, download the lessons, use the "Take-Home Story Book" and stay connected with us even on those Sundays when you can't make it here. We do this FOR YOU so check it out – it's a mobile friendly website – your kids can watch the story video in the car on your phone and never miss a beat! It makes for great conversations any time.

As these next few months begin to unfold, I do hope that you will let me know when and where your children are competing on the various sports fields, or starring in the various plays and musicals, or singing or playing in the various concerts. I LOVE to attend and be that surrogate Gramma to encourage them. Your children are important to me. I look forward to watching them grow in their faith on Sundays and I would honor the opportunity to share in their lives on every level. That's what it means to be part of a church family. Invite me in when you can. I'm here for you and for them any time!

See you Sunday!
Mickie O'Donnell,
Children's Ministry Director

Vacation Bible School!

MONDAY, JUNE 19 - FRIDAY, JUNE 23

from 9 am -12 pm

GO TO WWW.NPCKIDS.COM TO LEARN MORE.

Both camper and volunteer registrations are open!

So sign up!

New this year: register by March 31 and get
early bird pricing of \$45/child.

Price will increase on April 1.



The next 3 months are going to be FILLED with planning and flexing our creative muscles because we'll be planning for....VBS!!!

WOOOOHOOOOO! WE NEED YOU TOOOOOO!!!!

Being of a creative mind...I am particularly looking forward to this year's VBS theme...



Doesn't that sound incredibly COOL?! At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too. Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences

kids see, hear, touch and even taste! Sciency-Fun projects, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call "God Sightings." Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Our kids will also participate in a mission project that will allow them to show God's mighty love to others in need.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us at the Funshop Finale for each day around noon, a daily exploration of our Maker-God!

Go to www.npckids.com to register for this life-changing adventure!

As always – please feel free to contact Mickie or me with any questions or concerns you may have!

*I look forward to talking to you soon
to see where you can volunteer –*

*Liz Morelli,
Children's Ministry Associate and Admin*

NPC FAMILY CAMP

Spruce Lake
Pointing People Toward Christ

FAMILY CAMP IS COMING IN 2017!

Registration deadline is April 1st.

www.norotonchurch.org/familycamp

Join us as we head to Spruce Lake Retreat Center
in Canadensis, PA on **August 4-6, 2017.**
Cost : Ages 12-Adult \$150, 6-11 \$120 and 0-5 \$80.

Youth Ministry



Registration at
www.norotonyouth.com
Deadlines are March 1!



Bridge to City Mission Trip:
April 8-10
(grades 8-12 and parents).



West Virginia Mission:
July 8-16
(grades 6-12 and their families).

For the Least of These



Each year the youth ministry goes to New York City for a trip called Bridge to City. It is a 48 hour missions experience where students and their families are given the opportunity to serve people that many would consider marginalized. Students are given an eye opening experience about poverty and homelessness in the city. Ben Huffman, a freshman in the High School Ministry has said, "Going on Bridge to City has taught me about the place I come from but also the position I am in to serve others. Growing up in New York I never noticed some of the things pointed out to me, but now I can do something about it. It has taught me to serve others where ever I go." We invite you and your family to come and join us this year to Bridge to City on April 8-10. You can find more information at www.norotonyouth.com.

Jack Hein,
High School Ministry Coordinator

Thinking Missionally



Each year, we have the incredible opportunity to serve the community of Dunlow, West Virginia. Year after year, students and families come back and tell us first hand the life changing impact serving in Dunlow has made in their lives. It changes their perspective and outlook on life and the world. Marshall Bessey, a sophomore, shared his reflection from his experience attending last year saying, "I used to think that if a person was in poverty they had failed in some way, but I quickly realized that these people hadn't failed whatsoever, but hadn't been given the same opportunities I have been afforded."

Our main focus while in West Virginia is running a Vacation Bible School Program. This year's theme will be Maker Fun Factory. We look forward to returning there this July.

Sarah Swible,
Middle School Ministry Coordinator



The Hundred Languages of Children

At this start of his poem, *The Hundred Languages of Children*, Loris Malaguzzi observes:

The Child is made of one hundred.
 The child has
 a hundred languages
 a hundred hands
 a hundred thoughts
 a hundred ways of thinking
 of playing, of speaking.
 A hundred.
 Always a hundred
 ways of listening
 of marveling, of loving
 a hundred joys
 for singing and understanding
 a hundred worlds to discover
 a hundred worlds
 to invent
 a hundred worlds to dream.

At NPCC, we have the privilege of observing the magic of “one hundred” on a daily basis. We watch the varied and unique ways that the children explore and learn... and it inspires us. We want to encourage that “one hundred”... to provide the children with a hundred ways to engage in and express their experiences. In doing so, we find that when they are allowed to speak in their chosen language - whether it is hugging, imagination, fingerprinting, or delight - children become confident in their point of view. They retain their wonder of the world as well as their belief that they can attempt anything. We do not limit them in their adventures, but rather we give them multiple opportunities in their journey, as builders of knowledge and seekers of meaning.

Peace and Joy,
 Beth Aparicio
 Director of NPCC



The language of hugging.



The language of finger painting.



The language of imagination.



The language of delight.

New Members

Please Welcome Our Newest Members!



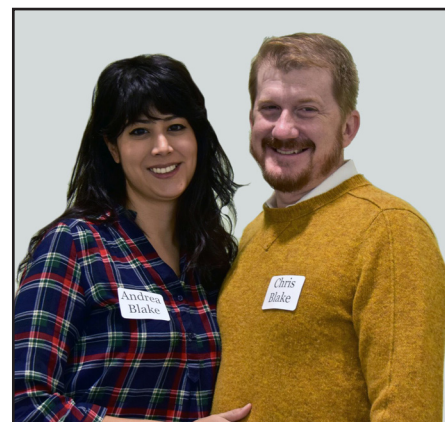
Pete Appel

Pete and his wife Sarah (already a member of NPC) have lived in Darien since 2006. They have three children: Lucy (kindergarten), Molly (3 yrs.) and Gus (18 mos.). He works at AQR capital in recruiting. Pete grew up in Maplewood, NJ and went to Gettysburg College. He was raised Roman Catholic and is pleased to have officially become a member of NPC after a number of years of attending. Pete's interests include sports, photography and videography.



Kevin (KC) and Danielle Becraft

KC resides in Norwalk with his wife, Danielle (already a member of NPC) and 7 month-old daughter, McKenna. He grew up in New Canaan, attended the University of Denver and works in the commodities industry. In his spare time, he enjoys snowboarding, paddle boarding, traveling and spending time with his family.



Chris & Andrea Blake

Chris and Andrea met in the Empire State Building where they both worked at the same charity. Together they have built a life full of everyday adventures with their two-year-old daughter Olivia. They recently moved to CT after many years in Manhattan where they attended Brick Presbyterian Church. Chris continues his work providing leadership to a number of children's charities around the world. Andrea works as an occupational therapist at a skilled nursing facility in Stamford.



Brian & Daria Chase

Brian and Daria live in Darien with their young son, Alex. Brian is originally from California and grew up attending the La Canada Presbyterian Church, then led by Rev. Dr. Gary Demarest. Daria comes from Russia, but spent much of her adult life living in Paris. She was recently baptized at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Daria is a psychotherapist and Brian works for BlackRock Alternative Investors. They both share a love of travel and good books.



Phil and Mia Kim

Phil and Mia have lived in Darien with their boys William (5) and James (3) for nearly three years. They were previously members of First Presbyterian Church of Englewood (NJ). Phil is originally from Honolulu, Hawaii. He works in Manhattan as a corporate attorney. Mia is originally from Houston and works in Stamford at a private trust company. William and James attend St. John's Preschool in Darien.



Sandy McPherson

Sandy and her husband, Bob, relocated to Stamford from Ohio. She attended Dublin Baptist Church where she was blessed to serve on the Executive Council, as team leader of the Ministry Placement Team, and in the music, missions and children's ministries. Sandy was responsible for the renovation of the DBC Youth Ministry hang-out space. Sandy and Bob raised four sons and have one granddaughter. Sandy is a retired interior designer and enjoys volunteering and traveling.

New Members



Sean and Cassie Mecsery

Sean and Cassie found NPC in 2016 when they moved to Darien. Sean was raised in Greenwich and graduated from Vanderbilt University. He owns Cos Cob TV & Audio, which was started over 70 years ago by his father but has evolved to keep pace with new technologies. Cassie graduated from Wesleyan University, and her career has focused on digital marketing and ecommerce. After the birth of their daughter Calista (18 mos.) she decided to stay at home and takes on limited short term clients. They also have a second daughter, Abigail (6 yrs.). They are grateful to have found NPC.



Jes and Danielle Santoro

Jes and Danielle moved to Darien from NYC in November 2014. Jes works for Adobe Systems in software sales. Danielle stays home with their two children, son Chase (almost 4) and daughter Sloan (almost 2). Jes grew up in Califon, NJ where he was raised Catholic. Danielle is from Southern California and comes from a Protestant background. Both are excited to plant roots at NPC. In their free time, Jes likes golf, paddle tennis and running, and Danielle likes to cook, practice yoga and play tennis.



Sarah Swible

Sarah originally grew up in the seacoast area of New Hampshire. Born and raised there, she remained active in church and youth ministry. She studied Spanish and Youth Ministry in college and developed a love for all things coffee. She currently works at NPC with the Middle Schoolers. When she's not at work, you can find her at the beach, a local coffee shop, or in front of a good book.



Andy VonKannel

Andy grew up in Dallas and is a graduate of Kenyon College and Southern Methodist University (MBA). His family moved from NYC to Darien in 2008. Andy and his wife Ali have two children, Harry (6th grade) and Anna (4th grade), and a golden retriever. The family loves being involved in sports in the community. Andy enjoys country music, wine, the Dallas Cowboys and working with start-ups. He has been part of several Presbyterian and Methodist churches around the US, and contributes attending an all-male Catholic high school as an important step in his journey as a Christian.



Fellowship at a recent New Member Class.

Next New Members Class

Saturday, April 22 - 9 am to Noon



Use your Gift of Warmth and Hospitality: Serve as a Greeter on Sundays!

GREETER SHORTAGE!

Greeters welcome worshipers as they come in the door before the 9 and 10:30 services, and are extra helpful to visitors before and after the services.

It's a short time commitment, and you can volunteer at a regular time each month or step in when you are available. Do it with a friend or as a family.

Sign up NOW! Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

Outreach to the Community – Does this Interest You?

The Outreach Team wants to focus more on the greater community outside NPC in the hope of introducing people to Christ and into fellowship at NPC. We have some new ideas to create a more outward-looking and welcoming culture but need more creative input and hands to launch these endeavors.

We can plug you into the team for a short-term commitment on a project that you feel called to. We are especially looking for input from new and younger members and couples with young children, but all are welcome.

Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or approach any member of the Outreach Team on a Sunday or whenever you see them (Lynn Haffner, Scott Holcombe, Chris Mead, David Mettler).

New to NPC? "Get Connected" on March 12 (following the 9 and 10:30 service, in the Mission Room)

- Are you new to NPC and curious to know more?
- Have you been attending, but desire to be more engaged?
- Do you have friends and neighbors you'd like to introduce to NPC?

Please join us for a short program followed by conversation and light bites. Informally chat with pastors, staff and members about our mission, and ways to get more connected to your faith and others in the NPC community.

Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org for more information.

The New Member Class has been Shortened!

Become a member of the Congregation by attending the next New Member Class: **Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to Noon** (only 3 hours instead of 5).

New members will be welcomed into the Congregation at the 10:30 service the next day, April 23. Free professional nursery care is provided for children 3 months to 4 years.

Here's what members of the February 2017 class had to say about their experience:

- Three hours was the perfect amount of time. Really appreciate that you provided childcare. Loved learning more about the various ministries that the church offers.
- Fantastic overview of the church and pastors. It was great that Elders came to welcome the new members and lead discussions.
- Comprehensive.
- The small group discussion was wonderful.

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) or contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

Working our Faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership

Flower Team



The flower team will be decorating for Easter on **Friday, April 14** and creating the flower cross on **Saturday, April 15** at **9:30 am.**

We welcome others to join us.

Contact Meredith Schoff and Marion Smith at flowersnpc@gmail.com for more information.



2017 Easter Flower & Music Memorial Donations

To make a donation (in the amount of your choice) in memory of a loved one, please put your check in an envelope with this form and place it in the offering plate, or return to the church office. Please mark in the memo section: Easter flowers. Please indicate whether you would like your donation to go to flowers or music (see below). We will continue to list the memorial names in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Schoff or Marion Smith at FlowersNPC@gmail.com.

Donations Should Be Received No Later Than: Monday, April 3

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

Given in love by: _____

Donation to: _____ Flowers _____ Music

Congregational Life Ministry



Spring 'Member Participation' Event

Saturday, March 25

6:15 to 8:00 pm – Horton Hall



- ★ For the past five years, members have participated in a Chili Cook Off.
- ★ Prior to that we hosted Comedy Night and Talent Shows.
- ★ This year, we're honoring Pi Day hosting a **Pi€ Bake Off!**

Some Background ...

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi), observed around the world on **March 14 (3/14)** since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant digits of π .

π The Greek letter Pi represents a constant used in mathematics — the ratio of the circumference of 3.1415... a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point. A 'p' was chosen for 'perimeter' of circles, and was first used in 1706.

Pie History: a baked dish, which is usually made of a pastry dough casing, that covers or contains various sweet or savory ingredients, in a variety of sizes and shapes, and crusts... pastry, shortbread, biscuits, mashed potatoes, crumbs.

How will the Pie Contest work?

Categories (and examples) for competition:

- J **Savory:** Bacon/egg, Fish, Poultry, Beef, Shepherds', Vegetable (homity pie), Quiche
- J **Sweet (Fruit):** Apple, Berries, Cherry, Peach, Rhubarb, Strawberry
- J **Sweet (Creamy):** Boston cream, Chiffon, Chocolate, Custard, Key lime, Lemon, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato
- J **Mixed Medley:** Ice Cream, Mince, Pecan, Raisin, Shoofly
- J **Pizza:** all varieties
- J **Most Unique Presentation:** across ALL categories

Prizes!



Awarded based on audience-participation 'favorites' in each category!

1st, 2nd, (possibly 3rd) prizes awarded, depending on number of entries in categories. (If there are insufficient entries in any category ... we will 'combine'.)

Since guests must taste-to-judge, **please consider bringing TWO pies** for your entry so there will be enough for MANY tastes.

Entering/Registering

You can enter as an individual, a family, a group of friends (small group? dog-walkers? bowling buddies? etc.). Be creative ...

We are asking for registrations by/before **Monday, March 20.**

Please help us with our set up by registering early!

- **Click here to register online.**
- Use form in this Spire.
- Pick up form from Church Office.

We hope to have a good balance of savory and sweet pie entries. We will provide salad, and some 'kid-friendly' chicken nuggets and mac cheese. Should it become 'dessert-heavy', we'll make sure to provide some 'dinner element' for the evening. **So get out your recipes and/or put on your thinking caps... and have some FUN planning what your entry will be!**

Contact for Questions: valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org, or 203-309-5650.



Congregational Life Ministry

Pi€ Day



BAKE OFF

March 25 6:15 pm

Early Registration
(by/before March 20)
helps us with setup.

PI(€) BAKE OFF REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Group Members: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I am (We are): Baking Judging Both

Name of Pie: _____

Type of Pie: _____

Category of Pie: (please check one)

- Savory:** Bacon/egg, Fish, Poultry, Beef, Shepherds', Steak
Vegetable (homity pie), Quiche
- Sweet (Fruit):** Apple, Berries, Cherry, Peach, Rhubarb, Strawberry
- Sweet (Creamy):** Boston cream, Chiffon, Chocolate, Custard, Key lime,
Lemon, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato
- Mixed Medley:** Ice Cream, Mince, Pecan, Raisin, Shoofly
- Pizza:** all varieties

Music and Fine Arts



Be a Choir Trier!

Why should you?

- ♪ It will allow you to participate in the ministry of leading worship.
- ♪ You will learn some inspired anthems that will become part of your own spiritual journey.
- ♪ Many studies have concluded that singing makes you happier.
- ♪ You don't have to commit to being there every week.
- ♪ The Chancel Choir is a supportive and loving community.
- ♪ From St. Augustine: "To Sing is to pray twice!"
- ♪ Auditions are not required for membership.
- ♪ It's fun!
- ♪ You'll have a great reserved seat for Easter.
- ♪ It's a special way to express your love for God.

Please come and join us. You have nothing to lose, and much to gain! Let me know if you have any questions at dwayne.condon@norotonchurch.org.



Dwayne Condon,
Director of Music and Fine Art

Mission Ministry



Missionaries We Support

NPC provides funding to help support the ministries of the missionaries listed below, please keep them in your prayers. All of these families have been in relationship with our church for more than 10 years.... some for decades!



Tom and Dora Becker
REACH Global Europe, serving
the Roma people of Europe.



Caroline and Paul Maina
Life Ministry serving college students in Kenya.



Bob and Jennifer Chedester
Rift Valley Academy, serving the
children of missionary families in Kenya.



Scott Brill
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship,
serving college students
in New England



Artie and Kittery Van Sciver
Campus Outreach, serving college
students in North Carolina.



Hanna Massad

Christian Mission to Gaza, serving the people of Gaza and refugees in Jordan.

Please continue to provide encouragement, support and prayers for all our NPC partners and continue to serve where you feel called. If you would like to learn more about a particular ministry that NPC supports and would like to explore opportunities please get in touch.

There are always more ways to connect if you find you have a passion to give more time to serve our local mission partners.

Detailed information can be found on the NPC website under the Serve heading on the home page.

Contact Stella Clarke, Mission Director for more information or to volunteer for opportunities mentioned above.

Mission Ministry Events

Open Door Shelter meal ministry - continues monthly and our NPC team always welcomes new volunteers age 16 and above. Contact Holly Hough hhough7@optonline.net to sign up. Service dates are **March 18** and **April 15**.

Open Door Shelter will have their annual **Gala and Auction** on **April 27** at Woodway Country Club. Contact Julie Magrath (NPC Open Door Shelter liaison) jmagrath@optonline.net.

NPC Service Day will take place on Sunday, April 30 - if you have any questions about this ministry please don't hesitate to speak to one of the leadership team; Eleanor Palmer, Andrea McPherson, Ginna Yerrall or Stella Clarke. Signup information will be announced at the beginning of April and will be on the NPC website. All are invited to participate in one of the many service projects which will be going on throughout the day. There will be worship in the morning and afternoon and a chance to take a break and eat together at lunchtime. (Times/Details at signup).

Wednesday, April 26 7:30 pm - Service Day Final Planning and Prayer Meeting in the Mission Room – All Welcome!

Our Refugee co-sponsorship ministry - We will let you know when we have news of a family arriving.

Sunday, March 19 Evalyn Wakhusama – Founder of Nambale Magnet School, Kenya will be visiting us. Come and learn more about the ministry at a special presentation after morning services at 11:45 am in the Mission Room.



Stella Clarke,
Mission Director

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Ash Wednesday 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 5:00 pm Family Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	Winter Summit (Youth) Fri-Sun, March 3-5	Winter Summit (Youth) Noroton Lectures 10:30 am Morning Session 12:00 pm Break out Discussion 7:00 pm Evening Session
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Winter Summit (Youth) Noroton Lectures 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -5th grade 11:30 am Congregation Focus Group 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade) 7:00 pm Congregation Focus Group	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:30 am Faithful in Prayer	18
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 10 & 11:30 am Get Connected 10:30 am High School SnapShot 6:00 pm High School Ministry	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		25
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer 8:00 pm Session Meeting	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Monthly Adult Fellowship 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		Pie Day 6:15 pm Pie Bake Off
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class Make-Up	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:30 am Faithful in Prayer		

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	8
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's 5th grade 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Baseball Palooza - (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			15
Palm Sunday Bridge to City Mission Trip 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's 5th grade 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall	Bridge to City Mission Trip	8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	School Break 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	Maundy Thursday 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	Good Friday 10:00 am Good Friday Family Experience - Light Breakfast, Family learning and a worship service 10:30 am Walk with the Cross 12:00 pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service (St. Luke's)	5:00 pm Easter Vigil	14
16 Easter Sunday 6:00 am Sunrise Service at Weed Beach 8:00 am Sanctuary Service with Choir and Brass 9:30 & 11:00 am Sanctuary Services with Choir, JAM Choir, and Brass No 5 pm Service	17	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Session	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Monthly Adult Fellowship 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			22
23 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	24	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			29
30 NPC Service Day 8:00 am Sanctuary Service 5:00 pm Service							

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

December 28th
Charlotte Timbers

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



Congregation Focus Groups

Added due to inclement weather.

We had a small turnout at our Sunday group. To make sure we can accommodate all those who want to participate, Pastor John has added two more dates:

Sunday, Mar. 5 - 11:30 - 1 pm

in the Mission room, and

Wednesday, Mar. 8 - 7:00 - 8:30 pm

in Horton Hall.

Please RSVP to

norotonchurch@norotonchurch.org.

In Case of Inclement Weather:

If Sunday morning services are delayed or cancelled, the church office phone message and website (www.norotonchurch.org) will reflect info by 6:00 am. Call 203-655-1451 to hear the recorded message. If unsure about weekday events or meetings, please call the church office to find out the latest information.

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

January 15, 2017:

William Putter Klein, Finn Beckett Klein, sons of Craig and Polly Klein

Alice Rose Webb, daughter of Kevin and Catherine Webb

Upcoming Baptism Dates

**3/19 and 4/23 at the 10:30 am
Sanctuary service.**

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

If you would like to submit an article for the May/June 2017 issue please submit it before April 7 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

Pastor John H. Seiders..... 203-309-5618

Interim Pastor

Pastor Brandi Drake..... 203-309-5620

Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry

Pastor Jimmy McPherson 203-309-5619

Associate Pastor Spiritual Formation

Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650

Director of Community and Communications

Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614

Director of Music & Fine Arts

Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622

Director of Children's Ministry

Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645

Director of Missions

Beth Aparicio 203-309-5605

Director of Noroton Presbyterian Child Care

Kalie Riordan 203-655-3223

Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School

Julie Colbath 203-309-5615

Director of Membership

Dan Rosa..... 203-309-5608

Business Administrator

David Lee..... 203-309-5609

Director of Properties

Holy Week Service Schedule

Palm Sunday April 9

8:00 am
Chapel

9:00 & 10:30 am
Sanctuary

5:00 pm
Horton Hall

Preaching:
Pastor John Seiders

Maundy Thursday April 13

7:30 pm
**Communion & Tenebrae
Service in the Sanctuary**
Pastor Brandi Drake

All are welcome.

*(Child care not offered
for service)*

Good Friday April 14

10:00 am
**Good Friday
Family Experience**

Light breakfast, family learning
activity in Horton Hall,
and a worship service
in the Chapel.
For ALL ages!

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

12:00-3:00 pm
**Good Friday
Ecumenical Service**
St. Luke's Church

**"The Seven Last
Words of Christ"**

*(You are welcome to come
and go as needed.)*

Saturday April 15

5:00 pm
Easter Vigil
in Horton Hall

Pastor Jimmy McPherson
Childcare 3mos. to 3 years

Easter Sunday April 16

6:00 am
Sunrise Service
at Weed Beach
Preaching:
Pastor Brandi Drake

8:00 am
**Sanctuary Service
with Choir & Brass**
Preaching:
Pastor John Seiders
No child care or Sunday School

9:30 & 11:00 am
**Sanctuary Services with
Choir, JAM Choir & Brass**

Preaching:
Pastor John Seiders
Child care up to 3 years
3's-K: Regular Sunday
School classes
1st-12th grades:
Remain in Sanctuary

(No 5 pm Service Today)

