

The Spire

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



Pilgrimage Reflections and May 4 Groundbreaking

I have a confession to make. The longest commute I ever had to work was a whopping **3 miles!** I know this won't bring any sympathy from readers who routinely travel over 50 miles into New York City or beyond, but just as commuting is a reality for many business people, living and working locally is part and parcel to being a pastor. My commute was ALWAYS to an office at THE CHURCH or on the grounds of a church. So for the first time EVER, I'm now commuting to an office building where we have moved our pastoral and business office to mix with other commercial enterprises at 22 Thorndal Circle. This has been a **radical** change for me. I've never worked before where other business offices were located. The sacred and the secular have never been in the same building. Since coming to Noroton, we have never had so many personnel so close together (come by and see how we have fit three pastors, four administrative assistants, two IT folks, a business manager, three part-time directors and all our duplicating equipment into 2,000 square feet).

It is both exciting and challenging as we work together, find lost files, work with less than perfect internet connections and rub shoulders with our new neighbors. There are a lot of new lessons God has for us in this "pilgrimage" our whole church is on towards a new and improved facility for the 21st century. Let me just share a few lessons I'm learning along the way.

1) I know this is obvious - but it was a hassle to sort through things, toss many old files out and pare down to what we need to make it through the next year we will be in transition. We had a shredder truck come to the church four times as all of our staff sorted through things. Even ministries that stayed at the church sorted and tossed and boxed things up to move to new locations (Mickie, Liz and Eileen will be in my old suite of offices; David Lee and Julio will move into the CE wing). Moving is never fun but it acts as a spiritual discipline to force us to lighten our loads. I also reminded the staff that dealing with change will deepen the practice of our faith as we draw upon God's help for the challenges ahead. That may be a good word for our whole church to remember

continued on page 2...

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

5/4/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Matthew 5:13-16;
 Colossians 4:5-6
 "Seasoned Greetings"

5/11/14 - **Mother's Day**
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Galatians 6:9-10
 "Doing Good, Better"

5/18/14
8:00 a.m. - Pastor Brandi Drake
9 & 10:30 a.m. - **J.A.M Musical**
 "Testify to Love"
5:00 p.m. - **Open Doors**
 Pivot Ministries Choir

5/25/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

June 15th at the 10:00 a.m.
Chapel service; June 22nd at the 8 a.m. Beach service.
To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.

Table of Contents

Foundations for the Future	2-3
Adult Spiritual Formation.....	4-5
Caring & Women's Ministry	6
Children's & Youth Ministry	7-8
NPNS.....	9
Music & Fine Arts.....	10
Tot Drop	10-11
Membership Ministry	11
Congregational Life Ministry	12-13
Mission Ministry	14-15
NPC Calendar of Events	Insert
NPC Phone Directory.....	Insert
NPC News & NPC Staff	16

continued from front page...

when change affects parking and our building layout this month.

2) I find I am excited to rub shoulders with new neighbors in our new office location. I like going to work off the church grounds. This is a new day and age when the church can't expect folks to come to us. We need to go and find them. I was joking with one of our elders sharing that, "maybe you should expect us to convert 1/2 of our neighbors." We at least will be praying for them and working to be a good witness. Who knows how many spiritual conversations will start in the elevator or around a picnic table we have outside our building.

3) If this transformation is opening my eyes and heart to new things from God, imagine what our new facility changes will do for our church? I can't wait to see how God will use our new layout and spaces to shape our ministry together. More gathering space, easier to find offices, practice rooms for music with children and

adults and more teaching space for classes. We already serve the community well with our Nursery School, AA meetings and blood drives. What else does God have in store?

May 4 we will hold our official groundbreaking ceremony between the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. That will signal the start of the demolition/construction phase of our renovations. Some parking will be available during construction but we will need to park and enter from the Post Road very soon. Please pray for this whole project to be a witness to those who work on it. And thank you for being open to what God has to show us as we continue on this pilgrimage together.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



**FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE FUTURE**

Spring has finally sprung and soon the beautiful trees all across our towns will be budding and blossoming. The greening of our world after so many months of winter is one of God's great blessings.

This year the spring will also bring the beginning of the demolition and site work at NPC. As with so many other things in life, the process will begin with tearing down before we can build up. One of the hardest decisions the Building Committee had to work through was the site plan and impact on our trees. We have old trees, new trees, tall trees, short trees, healthy trees, failing trees and memorial trees.

Inevitably decisions have to be made whether to compromise the design or compromise the trees and in the end, it is a balance. The new center core and

May 2014 Progress Report

"For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again and that it's shoots will not cease"

Job 14:7

parking lot layout will require the removal of some of our cherished trees. In preparation for this necessity, a new landscape plan has been developed that includes planting twice as many trees on our property as we remove. This plan has been reviewed by our neighbors and approved by Darien's Planning & Zoning Board.

Multiplying the Memories:

We are saddened that we will lose some of our memorial trees. We have memorial trees that have been generously donated by missionaries and trees dedicated in memory of children, nursery school teachers and devoted members. We have taken extra steps to preserve these trees. We investigated the possibility of transplanting these trees. Unfortunately the root balls are too large and too extensive to make that possible. We consulted with the families

continued on next page...

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

of these memorial trees and they were gracious and understanding.

And then we discovered Mike Johnson of Summer Hill Nursery in North Madison, Connecticut. Some of you may recall that after 9/11, miraculously a lone pear tree somehow survived among the rubble and devastation of that tragic day. Mike has propagated "siblings" from the surviving pear tree and a program has been launched to spread these trees as memorials in many places. The "survivor's tree" will live on. So, last fall we decided to test the possibility of propagating our memorial trees. A few cuttings were provided to Mike and in December he reported that some of them had taken with success!



Thus on a snowy, January day we cut an additional 50 scions from our memorial trees and delivered them to Mike in Madison, CT. It is important to take these cuttings during the dormant, albeit frigid and snowy, season. Each scion was carefully labeled so we know which memorial tree it came from. As Mike has explained, perhaps half of the scions will succeed as strong trees ready to plant in 2-3 years. This means that we may be able to multiply our memorial trees! Just imagine, instead of 5 memorial trees, we may have 25 memorial trees to plant and spread around our property. What a wonderful way to honor the individuals for whom these trees were originally dedicated.



For Mike Johnson, propagating memorial trees is a labor of love. It is not the focus of his nursery and he is not aiming to profit from this venture – he simply delights in being able to see treasured memories and trees honored and continued for the future. The pictures show our scions, Mike's nursery and his staff hard at work propagating trees!

It will be sad to see some of our trees cut down. But try to remember what God is planting in their place. The new trees will be just another part of the foundation we are building for His future.

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



Adult Spiritual Formation



Just a reminder that May 1st is our country's *National Day of Prayer for 2014*

I learned the following from the NDP website.

It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer...to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families.

Because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition.

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state

governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

It is estimated that over two million people attended more than 30,000 observances – organized by approximately 40,000 volunteers. At state capitols, county court houses, on the steps of city halls, and in schools, businesses, churches and homes, people stopped their activities and gathered for prayer.

I hope you will consider setting aside time in your day on May 1st to join with millions of other Americans who believe in the power of prayer to pray for our nation and our families.

Could there be any greater miracle than the God whom the heavens, not even the highest heavens can contain (1 Kings 8:27) hears our voices and responds. What a wonder and a grace! Let us celebrate it on May 1st.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Greg Doll

Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach



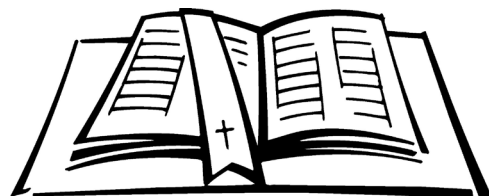
Men's Bible Study:

"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, May 15th at 2:00 p.m.
at Maplewood*, Darien.

Ken Reiss, local author will speak about
"What Darien Was Like at the Time
NPC was Established."

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

*DIRECTIONS - NPC TO MAPLEWOOD/CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND BACK

1. Travel 2 mi. east on Boston Post Rd/US-1 through town
2. Maplewood 599 Post Rd on left across from Congregational Church
3. Park under Maplewood or in parking lot for Congregational Church
PLEASE do not to park right across from Maplewood in the parking area for the Center for Hope.
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 Group Studies

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



Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

John 7:38-39

In John Ortberg's book *The Me I Want To Be*, he talks about life in the Spirit as a life lived in the flow of a river.

What if God really is at work in every moment, in every place? What if your job is just to jump into the river? What if your job is to figure out, from one moment to the next, how to stay in the flow? How to keep yourself aware and submitted to God's Spirit so that rivers of living water flow through your belly, through the core of your being?

How can you tell if you are overflowing with this living water—swimming in this river? Well—here are some questions to ask yourself:

- Is there evidence of the *fruit of the Spirit* in my life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control)? Would those closest to me be able to see this?
- Am I interested in serving and noticing the Grace of God around me? Is it easy for me to encourage others?
- Am I growing more easily discouraged these days?
- Am I growing more easily irritated these days?

It does seem simple, but it certainly isn't always easy to live in this flow. At the core of a soul that is thriving are the love of God and the peace of God. If peace is growing in me, I am less easily discouraged. If love is growing, I am less easily irritated. Hmm.

May we each come to this river with a desire to jump in! May we each learn what it looks like to *go with the flow* of the Spirit. May we each learn how to be present to the Grace of God- working in and through us.

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:

Breakfast on May 6. New Study on "The Me I Want To Be" begins on May 13th and goes through June 24th.

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.



Children's & Youth Ministries

Minute with Mickie Wondering About God's Kingdom



Can you believe it? We are in May. The summer is right around the corner, and ministry at NPC with children and youth is getting even more exciting. Let me tell you about our magnificent

Spring Break Mission Trip. This year

our Confirmation and High School students joined with students from Illinois' Lincoln Christian College and students from Mount Zion Christian school in New Hampshire to do home repairs for people of misfortune, illness or disaster. We were divided into 8 different work crews to build wheelchair ramps, rebuild roofs, paint inside and outside, tear down a shed and more importantly, meet the homeowners and sharing community. Here are just a few of the phrases we have heard our students express about their experience:

"We definitely have to come back next year. This is awesome!"

"I love getting to know so many other kids and work with them."

"We should have more NPC people here. This is way better than I thought!"

"I wasn't expecting to get to know the resident we were helping. That was so cool."

"This experience has brought me closer to God."

"The talks and praise time after dinner helped me look for God in the transitions in my life."

"I love that this trip was so organized. I love to have a feeling of purpose and meaning even when we are just hanging out."

Needless to say, this was a life altering trip and you should ask our teens about it. Stephanie Bragg, Lizzy Bradley, Ella Mead, Gillian Riordan, Kaela Buggy, Natalie Hartokolis, Matt Hedges, Connor Gonzales-Falla and Carter Ashcraft will be happy to tell you themselves.

This is the Kingdom of God at work right here.



Now let's wonder about how NPC kids and youth are going to further the Kingdom of God even more. On **May 18th** our JAM students will be presenting their own testimonies of God's work in their lives through music and words at the 9:00 and 10:30 Worship services. This is more than a "musical" - it is in their own words. You will be blessed.

In June, God's Kingdom work will be evident in Darien as we partner not only with St. Luke's for VBS **June 23-27th**, but also with a special Early Childhood Ministry to Preschoolers three days in early June with First Congregational Church. Check the NPC website for details. How wonderful is that?

Then in **July** and **August**, our students will be sharing the Good News of the Kingdom in West Virginia and the Dominican Republic. We are currently accepting applications for these trips but don't wait too long to apply. This year, we really want those attending these trips to apply for the spots as we have limited space. If you have been before we still need an application so that we know how much this trip means to you and why you want to come again.

The Children's Ministry Team has spent the past 18 months researching and developing a "Safe Child/ Youth" Policy for our Church. Knowing that there will be various changes happening in our building and taking into consideration the number of volunteers that

continued on next page...

Children's & Youth Ministries

continued from page 7...

come and go throughout our ministries, your Children's Ministry leaders felt it was time to prepare a safety and protection policy to keep our kids safe. Session has approved it and we are now in the process of its implementation.

Therefore this spring and summer NPC's Children and Youth Ministries will begin implementing this new volunteer policy. The primary intent of this policy is to help ensure the safety of our children and youth, in part by keeping account of volunteers. The new policy will be available on the website in May, along with more details on our process.

Just wanted you to be aware that there might be a step or two added to your volunteer sign up process

in the future, all done with your child's (our children and youth) safety in mind. More details in the coming months.

Everything we do in our Children's and Youth Ministry is intended to further the Kingdom of God, not only for those we minister to, but in our own lives. We want to put God first in our hearts and lives so that God's love shines through us and God's Kingdom grows. This is exciting. We want you to be a part of this too.

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



Youth Summit

On **April 6th**, we had our second Youth Summit event, and it was phenomenal! Over 170 students from all over Fairfield County came together to participate in worship, dodgeball, board games, and hear a lesson on dating and relationships.

The Summit events are organized by the Youth Worker Network of Fairfield County, and we are pleased at how well they have been going. Stay posted to learn about our next Summit event this summer!

The next huge thing we have coming up is **VWAP (Vacation With A Purpose)**! This will be our 20th year heading down to West Virginia to run a VBS and have fellowship with each other for a week! The dates of this adventure are **July 6th through 12th**, and you won't want to miss this year's excitement. This year, we are incorporating a more thorough application process so we can get to know all the participants better before we head on the trip together. It will allow us to cultivate more meaningful experiences for everyone! Look for more information and a description of all the awesome events of the week on the website!

Tom Fagan
Youth Ministries Coordinator

Mark your Calendars

Attention all current 5th graders, this is the moment you've been waiting for. We are planning a super fun move up event that you won't want to miss. We are excited to introduce you to all the ins and outs of Harbor and what it means to be involved at NPC as a middle schooler. Ultimately, we are going to have a lot of fun!

Meet us in Horton Hall, Sunday **May 18th** after the 10:30 service. There will be lunch. We look forward to meeting you all.

Sarah Swible,
Youth Ministries Coordinator



Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



We are beyond excited to see spring finally arrive. The classrooms are growing seeds and watching their caterpillars prepare for their change into butterflies. The daffodils around the music garden are blooming and classes are being held outside.

We have had a lot of visitors this month.

Miss Carly came to teach the children about proper brushing and gave every child a new toothbrush to practice with. Animal Embassy came with local and exotic animals. The children held them, fed them and learned about their needs. Field trips were taken to the Beardsley Zoo, the Stamford Nature Center, the SUNY Purchase Theater and Earth Place. Jonathan Kruk returned to share more stories and hand plays and the Darien Police Department, Fire Department and EMTs came to teach the children about staying safe.

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



Room 10 fours loved climbing on the fire truck.



Sloane holds one of the baby chicks they are studying.



Zoe feeds the Red Footed Tortoise.



Room 14 threes posed with Captain Bush of the Darien Fire Department.



Patrick shows the Darien officers how to ride in style.



Big sister, Brooke and little sister, Paige are Mystery Readers in brother, Cole's class.



The Pre-K class had a fun day at the Beardsley Zoo.



George practices writing the letters in his name.

Music & Fine Arts



Testify to Love

This year our children's J.A.M. Choir will be presenting a different kind of musical called "Testify to Love". Unlike the scripted, plot based musicals that the children have performed every year, this program

will feature the children's own testimonies about how they see God at work in their world, and in their lives.

The children will also be singing a good number of delightful, heartfelt songs, and reading relevant scriptures. They are very excited about presenting this program to you, so please mark your calendars for **May 18th**, at the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.

Dwayne Condon,
Director of Music & Fine Arts

J.A.M.
JESUS AND ME

Testify to Love
A Musical!

May 18th

at the 9 & 10:30 a.m. Services

Tot Drop



Noroton Presbyterian Church

TotDrop

Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

Excavators and all sorts of interesting pieces of equipment continue to festoon the open space between the parlor and the Chapel on the Post Road side of the church. It might be considered the kick-off for more visible *Foundations for the Future* changes to NPC. Tot Drop children continue to use their classroom windows to keep updated on what's happening...and they should! It directly impacts them!

They are watching a temporary playground take shape. Before anything else can get underway, the existing

NPNS and Tot Drop playgrounds need to be relocated to make room for the initial phases of redesigning the parking lot to better serve the needs of this very active church.

Happily we are able to reuse some of Tot Drop's current playground equipment and much of the Nursery School's. By early May, NPNS and Tot Drop children will share the new space together. It has not been a simple process as the Nursery School and Tot Drop directors work together with a playground consultant, David Lee, the owner's rep, Frank Mullaney, reps from the contracting company and members of the building



committee to meet the specifics of state and town regulations and provide appropriate activities for children from one year old to five.

With less space and more children playing together than we are used to, it will be great practice in sharing, cooperation, scheduling and punctuality—all things we value and teach every day in many ways. We're ready for the challenge!

In His service,
Carol Scott
Director of NPC Tot Drop

Membership Ministry

Membership News

June New Member Class!

Last chance to join before the fall...

You are warmly invited to consider membership at NPC. The next class will be held on Saturday, **June 7, 2014**, Noon to 5:30 p.m. New members are welcomed into the congregation the next day, June 8, at the 10:30 a.m. service. Others who have recently joined say the class is "enriching", "relevant", and "thoughtful"! You can also take the class for information and join within the following year. Free childcare is provided (3 months to 4 years). For more information and to register, please contact Julie Colbath at julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615. No classes are offered over the summer.

Seeking Volunteers: many talents are needed for each class such as hospitality, photography, small group facilitation, and leading music. I encourage you to contact me to find out the different ways you can grow your own faith through service to new members.

Spend More Time on the Beach this Summer!

Welcome newcomers at the Visitor Station...

If you enjoy lingering at the beach on Sundays after 8 a.m. worship, please consider taking just 15 minutes to welcome newcomers to our Visitor's Station following the service. Volunteers will be needed each Sunday, **June 15 through Sept. 14**. Contact Julie Colbath to volunteer.

Please Check Your Info in On-Line Directory!

Let's make sure it's up to date...

It takes less than 5 minutes to sign in and check your contact information. Use the link from the church home page. Contact Julie Colbath if you don't have the required user name and password. Let us know if your record needs changing, including the addition of a photo if you are missing one.

The online directory is useful in so many ways: quickly look up contact information for those you know, learn new names and faces, and reach out to volunteers. Please remember that both the on-line and print directories are for fellowship purposes only (not promotional or commercial uses).



Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership
julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org
or 203-309-5615

Congregational Life Ministry

Passover Seder celebrated ...

Members/friends gathered in Horton Hall on Maundy Thursday for an evening of fellowship and worship as Pastor Greg and John Sanden led us through the teachings of the Passover Seder, which consists of ceremonial portions and a dinner. The ceremony specifically embraces children and encourages their participation in learning the significance of this event.

The traditional Seder meal was lovingly prepared and served by several small groups of the church.

Many attending the Seder also joined others for the traditional Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service from 8-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Congregational Life Ministry

100th Birthday celebrated ...



Many NPC members joined multiple generations of Maude's immediate family in an exciting celebration of her 100th year! It speaks to her enthusiasm for life that she also numbers multiple generations among her friends.

The flower team (on which Maude still serves!) graciously provided magnificent flower arrangements beautifying the event.

On Sunday, Pastor Sam presented Maude with a cascading bouquet, and the



church sang Happy Birthday accompanied by Dwayne on piano.

A joyous occasion to be sure!

As an aside ... You may recall that it was just months ago that Maude helped the church celebrate our 150th year ...



Join us as we congratulate Maude on a life well lived, and say: 'God bless!'



Beach Breakfast in JUNE this year!



We will KICK OFF the summer by holding our annual post-service breakfast fellowship celebration *our second week on the beach this year.*

Our team will provide breakfast foods and beverages. You need just 'come across the parking lot' after the 8:00 a.m. beach service, and enjoy elongated conversations with your friends! (Some might want to bring their beach chair too.)

When: Sunday, **June 22nd, 9a.m.-11a.m.**
Where: Picnic Table Area, Weed Beach

Mark your calendars now! And pray for a beautiful day ...

We will catch families before everyone heads off in various directions for vacations. This is a great opportunity for fellowship with your church family, as well as a wonderful chance to invite neighbors/friends to join you.



Continuing in fellowship,
Valerie Muller
Director of Congregational Life
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org
203-309-5650 direct dial

Mission Ministry

Mission News



After a lengthy, prayerful and thorough process of evaluation and review of our mission ministry partnerships and strategy, the Mission Team has decided to engage in a new partnership with World Vision in the Dominican Republic. This new partnership will be an investment into the community of Palmera, just outside Santo Domingo. You may remember that a small team of NPC members/elders went on a Vision Trip to this area in January as part of the discernment process. NPC's long term investment in the community of Palmera will take various forms. The Mission Team has allocated funds for both Microfinance work and also Christian witness programs and there will be a churchwide Child Sponsorship campaign, along with other opportunities to support the churches in the community with prayer and encouragement. There will also be a World Vision Caregiver kit packing event June 1st which is an opportunity for all families to help assemble kits that will go to Palmera for use by World Vision Aids Caregiver volunteers.

NPC member, Maria Orr was part of the team who visited the Dominican Republic to see the work of World Vision. Please see below her reflections on the experience.

It's been just over a week since we came back from the DR trip and yet it seems far, far away. As I write this email from my sunny and quiet kitchen table, looking at the beautiful fallen snow, with my girls at

school and my husband at work, it is hard not to feel overwhelmed at the immensity of blessings God has bestowed upon myself and my family. The invitation to join the trip took place in a moment of my life when I was searching for a new path and renewed purpose beyond motherhood (as if that wasn't enough!). Once again, I was blessed this time with the privilege of being part of a team of remarkable and inspiring Christians who led by example and showed me their commitment to Christ.



Maria Orr with the fish farmer's family.

The visit to the Dominican Republic was a very impactful experience. It was not only life-changing, but also so profound that I have found it quite hard to share the message, no matter how many times I have tried to retell the events to friends and family.

World Vision described the journey as a "Vision Trip": an educational visit where we meet the local field officers, connect with people living in poverty and witness the impact of World Vision in the ADPs. A quite clear and accurate description of our travels... but it wasn't until we were in Barahona, Neiba or Santo Domingo, that I fully understood the true meaning of it:

— When hope was lost, friendship and support came from where it was least expected - a loan officer. Ricardo's Christian message helped Dania and her husband Guillermo in moments of doubt and hardship, thus allowing them to continue and grow their furniture business.

— Where there seemed to be despair, trust in God's provision took over for the lime farmer, who day after day tended to his trees waiting for the fruit to help him support his family.

continued on next page...

Mission Ministry

— Where I only saw poverty, the feeling was soon replaced by the abundance of faith, strong-will and dignity shown to us by the 28 hard-working women of the Cheese Factory Co-Op.

— In an area where impoverishment and scarcity seem to be the norm, we saw honest gratitude and true generosity by Francisco Nunez, the fish breeder. In my mind and my heart, I believed his heartfelt words of appreciation. Francisco had received a microfinance loan for a pump and was now sharing the clean water he has access to with his neighbors, an affirmation of the transformational work of WV and its Christian witness leadership.

— WV goal “is to improve children’s well being and provide them with the tools they need to build a brighter future for themselves.” This never became more evident to me than the afternoon in the Batey where we interacted with a few children who instead of being at school were all alone in the streets, illiterate, with a grim future ahead and possibilities for a better life so limited to them. I could not help comparing their reality to that of the children touched by the various WV programs; the daughter of the furniture

maker, a sponsored girl who wants to be a doctor; the sponsored son of Lucy Sanches (the baker) who is now in college studying to be an accountant, or the beautiful dancers at Tesoro ADP, or the students at the Vocational Training Center and Music School in Palmera ADP.

The work carried out by David Coates, Maria C. Uruena, Claudia and the many other people we met during our short visit continues day after day, long after we are back into our daily lives and over-scheduled routines. I pray that God will not let me forget, and that He will lead me into becoming His instrument of change, hope and faith in the hands of NPC.

Maria will be part of the leadership team which has been formed to bring this project to life along with Liz Kirkpatrick, Carleton Cleveland and Renee Vasey. Please feel free to contact any of them, or myself for more information about how to get involved.

Stella Clarke
Mission Associate
203-309-5645
stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org

Dates for your Calendar

May 2- Carver Mothers and Others Dinner

NPC volunteers will organize and provide a special dinner for the families who are served by the Norwalk G.W. Carver Center.

May 3- Open Door Shelter

NPC volunteers will set up and serve lunch, to sign up please contact Holly Hough, hhough7@optonline.net.

May 11- Mother’s Day – Hope Sunday

This will be the launch of our church wide Child Sponsorship Campaign. Our goal is to sponsor 150 children in the community of Palmera in the Dominican Republic, making a significant and long term investment. Contact Liz Kirkpatrick (kirkpatrick4@optonline.net) or Maria Orr (orr_maria@yahoo.com) if you would like to help with this new initiative.

May 18 - Pivot joining us for Open Doors Service

The men from Pivot Drug and Alcohol Rehab Ministry will be coming with their choir for worship and fellowship with us.



In Loving Memory of...

April 9th:

Dorothea Hamilton

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

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

April 13th:

Wyatt Leo Brindley, son of
Sam and Rebecca Brindley

May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	3
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:00 a.m. Groundbreaking Ceremony 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Presentation 8:00 p.m. Team Night Meetings	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Officer Training	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			10
11 Mother's Day 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	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:30 p.m. Officer Training	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC)	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 7:30 p.m. Officer Training (Make-Up)	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers - Maplewood, Darien 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	16		17
18 JAM Musical 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -K 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	23		24
25 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	Memorial Day NPC Offices Closed	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC)	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	30		31 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Officer's Retreat



Noroton Presbyterian Church

Phone Directory

Phone: 203-655-1451

Fax: 203-655-6638

Pastoral Staff:

- Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-309-5618
Pastor and Team Leader
- Pastor Brandi Drake.....203-309-5620
Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry
- Pastor Greg Doll.....203-309-5620
Associate Pastor Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Administrative Staff:

- Claire Bragdon.....203-309-5606
Assistant: Business, Tot Drop, Congregational Life
- Leslie Ezzo203-309-5618
Assistant: Senior Pastor
- Eileen Manhart203-309-5610
Assistant: Youth, Membership
- Marlene Moffett.....203-309-5620
Assistant: Adult, Outreach, Women, Caring
- Liz Morelli.....203-309-5619
Assistant: Children
- Jen.....203-309-5614
Assistant: Music

Technical & Graphic Support:

- Rose Cunningham.....203-309-5646
Publications/Graphic Design
- Marc Fraioli.....203-309-5646
Technical Support

Program Staff:

- Stella Clarke.....203-309-5645
Mission Ministry Associate
- Julie Colbath203-309-5615
Director of Membership
- Dwayne Condon.....203-424-9725
Director of Music & Fine Arts
- Martha Duff.....203-655-3223
Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School
- Tom Fagan.....203-309-5647
Youth Ministries Coordinator
- David Lee.....203-309-5609
Director of Properties
- Valerie Muller.....203-309-5650
Director of Congregational Life
- Mickie O'Donnell.....203-309-5622
Director of Children's Ministry & Interim Director of Youth Ministry
- Dan Rosa.....203-309-5608
Business Administrator
- Carol Scott.....203-309-5605
NPC Tot Drop Director
- Sarah Swible203-309-5647
Youth Ministries Coordinator