

The Spire

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



The New "Village Square"

The first church I served was located on the main street in the center of a small rural village in southern New Hampshire. It sat next to the one bank in town and was across the street from the Post Office and *Wayno's* (the proprietor's name) Supermarket. Somewhere into my first year I discovered that if I walked over to *Wayno's* around lunchtime, I would bump into three or four parishioners and learn what was happening in their lives. It didn't take long to learn that this form of "pastoral visiting" was more spontaneous, timely and efficient than scheduling a house call. I might see young mothers, store clerks on their lunch breaks, or senior citizens just strolling the aisles. Plenty of joys or prayer concerns were shared with me at *Waynos* between 12 and 1.

In my next town, that sort of casual visiting happened more on the ball field or at school events. Folks were coming and going and usually in a short conversation or longer sideline chat, I would hear about an illness, a child's school problem, an aging parent's cancer or a marriage crisis

brewing. Pastors tend to be seen as confidential listeners and we love to help our flock carry their "loads", so we often have the privilege of hearing honest issues more than most.

Not having school age children, do you know where I bump into most folks today? (Maybe if I exercised more it would be at the YMCA) **It's on FACEBOOK!** The Internet is now the "grocery store" or "village square" that many of us stop at, or the ball field from which we are all coming and going. I know not everyone shows up there, but enough of our members are sharing their travel photos, celebrating a birthday, remembering a lost loved one or sharing about a college acceptance so I have some idea what to pray for and what to celebrate the next time I see them in person.

We can still linger in *Palmers* or go to town events, but the next generation (and plenty of my peers) are checking into Facebook – often daily. In a day and age when more and more people are drifting away from the church and don't have a spiritual community, are you willing to help me connect your family and friends to our church? **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.** Noroton Presbyterian has a page

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

5/3/15 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 "Knowing our Triune God"

5/10/15 - **Mother's Day**
 Pastor Jimmy McPherson
 "Knowing our Loving God"

5/17/15 - Pastor Brandi Drake
(Last Open Doors service)

5/24/15 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 "Knowing God the Holy Spirit"

5/31/15 - Pastor John Seiders

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(and many of our ministries like choir, children's, youth and missions have pages too) and you can "like us" or even "retweet" a post (if you are on twitter) so that many more people might be exposed to what we have to offer. Social media is more important than the "yellow pages" (remember putting an ad there?) in helping folks find a church home. Your "like" of our page will raise our profile and share our messages to the generation that hangs out on the Internet "village." The ministry of Forman Christian College has been working at reaching its alumni and friends all over the world through the Internet and after a few years it has over 60,000 "likes"! With more than 6,000 students attending each year, that number will double before we know it.

Facebook is a great place to see pictures from our mission trips, learn about a weather closing, or see progress on our new construction. In order for our posts to show up in your "newsfeed" when you sign on, you have to "like" our page. If you use Facebook at all, be sure to connect with us there and if you see us posting something your friends would like, share it on your page as well. This is one simple and yet important way you can help NPC become a spiritual home to more of our friends and neighbors. And yes, pastors still make hospital and house calls so call us if you need us.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend
– in life and on Facebook,
Sam Schreiner



Foundations for the Future



**FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE FUTURE**

May 2015

Progress Report

Brick by brick, window by window....

Spring has finally joined the party! We are all grateful that God's seasons of warmer weather have arrived. The months of February and March were tough ones to work outside or in lightly enclosed areas as our builders did. They fought through all the nasty weather and made steady progress toward our end-of-summer completion target. However, to help make up for weather related delays, they will be taking advantage of the good weather of spring and summer and working on Saturdays when there are no church schedule conflicts. We trust that our congregation will understand and we are very grateful for our contractor's efforts.



With the advent of spring, our masons were able to begin their phase of work. As you have seen, brick now adorns the walls of the new building blending the new center core with the Sanctuary wing on one side and the Children's Education wing on the other side. Meanwhile the wall around the new green space/Nursery School playground area is finished with stone. The stone matches the stone base of the Chapel, fusing the old with the new in a cohesive look.

Foundations for the Future



The windows are also going in, bringing a whole new perspective to the exterior and interior. The new center core is literally bathed in light. Coming soon: the Skylight! With the brick in place, the windows in, and the mansard roofs atop the CE wing, the entire structure blends together seamlessly.

As a congregation we have been hugely blessed by the prayerful pledges and faithful giving of so many of our members over the last three years. To date we have received roughly 90% of the \$13.6 million pledged! As we approach completion of the building project we will incur significant cash outflows to cover the remainder of the building expenses. Collection of all pledges is important to cover the building costs. If you have not yet completed your pledge and are in a position to do so, please consider fulfilling your pledge in the next two months. Or if you haven't given previously and are inspired to do so now we will gratefully accept and use your gifts to complete the project. Thank you.

May God continue to bless this congregation and our dedicated craftsmen.

In His name,
Jean Ann & Dick Bollman and Tom Taylor
Foundations for the Future Progress Team



Adult Spiritual Formation



Men's Bible Study Resumes *Essentials of Discipleship* *According to Jesus*

There are many ideas about what a disciple is and what the life of discipleship entails. But did you know that there are specifically four passages in the Gospels in which Jesus uses the word “disciple” and then gives it content? Over the next several weeks we will look at Jesus’ call to his disciples – then and now – and the implications for our lives. Come join us!

What is a disciple? What is discipleship?
Mark 12:28-34

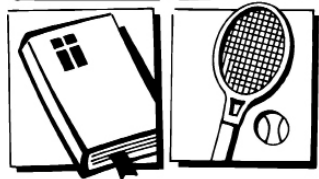
Essential #1 – The teachings of Jesus
John 8:31-32

Essential #2 – The love of others
John 13:34-35

Essential #3 – The bearing of fruit
John 15:1-8

Essential #4 – Considering the cost
Luke 14:25-34

Pastor John Seiders,
Interim Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach



MEN'S
RETREAT

Pastor David Zuidema to Speak at the Men's Retreat

Gents - Save the date of October 9-11 for the Men's Retreat at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton. Joining us this year as our speaker is Pastor David Zuidema. After a successful business career and raising his family as a member at Noroton, David went to seminary and entered the ministry. For the last 10 years David has been an Associate Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming in Ohio. David has a deep faith and a winsome way of sharing it that his friends at the Sugar Bowl remember well. We look forward to his ministry with us and the men of Macedonia who will join us once again on our retreat.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Join with us and the National Day of Prayer Task Force and others coast to coast to **PRAY** at noon, wherever you are, on May 7, 2015

National Day of Prayer Task Force Writes:

The 64th annual National Day of Prayer, **May 7, 2015**, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.

Our theme for 2015 is **Lord, Hear Our Cry**, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to place their faith in the unfailing character of their Creator, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities, and men. To further highlight our theme, we've chosen I Kings 8:28 as our Scripture for this year: "*Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.*" For the May 7th observances, Dr. Jack Graham, the 2015 Honorary Chairman, wrote a [Special Prayer](#) to be simultaneously read throughout the nation at noon (EDT). This recitation will create a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other, illustrating the unity of God's people and acknowledging His dominion over the circumstances facing us. Millions of people will gather to pray at thousands of events facilitated by our volunteer coordinators and people just like you! We hope you'll join with our staff again as we seek to bring more communities than ever before together in prayer.



[Special Prayer](#)

Heavenly Father,
We come to You in the Name that is above every name—Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts cry out to You. Knowing that You are a prayer-answering, faithful God—the One we trust in times like these—we ask that You renew our spirits, revive our churches, and heal our land. We repent of our sins and ask for Your grace and power to save us. Hear our cry, oh God, and pour out Your Spirit upon us that we may walk in obedience to Your Word. We are desperate for Your tender mercies. We are broken and humbled before You. Forgive us, and in the power of Your great love, lift us up to live in Your righteousness. We pray for our beloved nation. May we repent and return to You and be a light to the nations. And we pray for our leaders and ask that You give them wisdom and faith to follow You. Preserve and protect us, for You are our refuge and only hope. Deliver us from all fears except to fear You, and may we courageously stand in the Truth that sets us free. We pray with expectant faith and grateful hearts. In Jesus' name, our Savior.
Amen.

– 2015 National Prayer by Dr. Jack Graham



Adult Spiritual Formation

Men's Studies

Men's Bible Study

Essentials of Discipleship According to Jesus, five week study Led by Pastor Seiders.

- **Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. at The Yale Club**, Clarence Day room, 50 Vanderbilt Ave., NYC.
- **Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in Horton Hall** with continental breakfast.

Men's Study at the Sugar Bowl

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

Women's Studies

Tuesday morning Bible Studies

- **6:15 a.m. in the Parlor:** Group breakfast 5/5. Starting 6-week study on *Grace* on 5/12. Summer extension study information to be announced soon. Join us early Tuesday mornings for some spiritual nourishment. Come when you can.
- **9:30 a.m. in Horton Hall:** We are currently studying the Psalms of Ascent together. Interested? Contact Marlene (marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org). Join us anytime! Childcare is limited so contact Tot Drop at 203-309-5605. **Study ends on 5/19 with a brunch.**

Moms of Teens

- Thursdays 12:00-1:15 p.m. in the SHAC. We are discussing "*The Overlooked Generation*" by Shannon Perry. We invite you to join our group and come as often as you are able. This group is led by Sallie Schmidt, sallieschmidt@gmail.com and Laurie Bessey, thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com.

Women's Lunchtime Study

- Gina Blaze from the New England Prayer Center (NEPC) is back for the Women's Lunchtime Study. The group will meet in the church parlor the second Monday of every month, instead of every week. Study begins at 12 p.m. to chat and catch-up with a hard start at 12:15 p.m. and will end promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Small Groups Ministry

Spring (De-Cluttering) Study Series

Discussion will be led by the Small Group team and ASF Ministry... 3:30-5p.m. in the SHAC. Remaining meetings are: 5/3, 5/17 (skipping Mother's Day). We are using Bill Hybel's *Simplify* study, viewing a DVD followed by discussion. **Exhausted? Overwhelmed? Overscheduled?** If this sounds familiar, consider joining us for the last two sessions as Bill leads us on a journey to discovering a simpler life. Each session is stand-alone, so come as your schedule permits. We'd love to know you're coming, but also welcome walk-ins. Questions? Call Val Muller at 203-309-5620 or valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org.

prime timers

Thursday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m.
in Horton Hall

Sgt. Keri Isaacs, Officer Luke Adams & Detective Jeremiah Marron will share ideas for assuring our safety as we age.

For more information, call Marlene Moffett at 203-309-5620.



Wellness and Worship Together!

Take care of yourself with Christian yoga in a safe, nonjudgmental space at NPC. Please arrive 5-10 minutes early so you have time to settle and begin with a quieting meditation. All ages and abilities are welcome. Suggested donation is \$5-10/class. We meet in Horton Hall on Fridays at 9:30-10:30 am. We will meet Fridays, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22 & 5/29.

Questions may be directed to certified yoga teacher Jenny Voelker (RYT-200) at mjivoelker@yahoo.com. Please dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat.

Caring & Women's Ministries



'learn the unforced rhythms of grace.'

Jesus, in Matthew 11:29

Grace has been chasing me a lot this year. I see it in the beauty of worship. I hear it celebrated at recovery meetings. It is evident at funerals. I love to watch as individuals I meet with realize the profound truth that the Grace of God is indeed *enough* (2 Corinthians 12:9). It is the grace of God that "crowns us with love and compassion" (Psalm 103). How beautiful. Some of you in the congregation know that I have a motto from this past academic year for myself, and also for all of us:

Grace: It's not just for other people.

But here's the thing. We all talk about how much we yearn for grace, but I believe that we "Darien-Types" value competition and achievement over all: the forced rhythm of 'accomplishment.' Wake up early for that 5:30 train to the city. Make sure your children are on the road to an academic or athletic scholarship. You *deserve* the best. You *earned* the right to your comforts. There isn't enough room at the top for everyone. You have to *take* what you want: it will definitely not be *given* to you. If it isn't excellent, don't bother. This drive is implicit and explicit in our schools, on our sports fields, and it knocks on the doors of our Sanctuary. Where's the grace in this? It's a life-draining rhythm. We will never be good enough. We will never accomplish enough. We will never be deserving enough...

Eugene Peterson's *Message* translation of Matthew 11:29 is *learn the unforced rhythms of grace*. Indeed, the rhythm of Grace is not forced. Nevertheless, the Grace of Christ is perhaps the most irresistible force of life.

How do we enter this unforced rhythm of grace? I think we have to surrender. I have realized in this 'year of grace' that I am actually not as good/skilled/deserving as I would like to believe that I am. I don't know that any of us can be open to noticing God's grace without at least acknowledging that we may have an issue with pride. Ouch. Pride. I said it. Sometimes we think we can handle things on our own. Okay- most of the time we think we can handle things on our own. Please don't misunderstand me: I don't mean we shouldn't work hard or attempt excellence in our endeavors. I mean we need to realize that we are not always in charge, and that we are not perfect.

So, my prayer for us this Spring, as a church family, is that we find ourselves able to receive grace... the unforced rhythm of Grace.

May God have mercy on us as we lean in.

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



Divorced? Separated? Know Someone going Through It?

NPC is offering DivorceCare on
Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m.
now-May 18 in the SHAC.

For more information visit divorcecare.org or
call Marlene at 203-309-5620 or email at
marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

Register online at www.norotonchurch.org/divorcecare/.

Children's Ministry



Minute with Mickie - Wondering about Children's Spiritual Growth

Hi – it's Spring-time – we HOPE!! What a crazy extended winter we have had this year. Even as I write this it is dreary and rainy and cold. Brrrrr – we are all tired of it. But as you read this – it is the MAY Spire so, Lord willing, we have turned a weather corner. The seasonal development has hopefully moved us into the next stage of weather leading us into a spectacular spring and summer. As I was thinking about this seasonal development, it reminded me of the different stages of development in our children's lives, and our own for that matter. So I thought I'd remind us all of what we are doing at NPC in Children's Spiritual Educational Ministry that keeps in mind their various stages of development. First of all, Tot Drop and NPNS nurture our Early Childhood age children with the appropriate mix of play, rest and mental stimulation. Seeing what these children create as a result of the methodology that allows for free expression, is the best kind of learning and preparation for school and community contributions. I have missed being closer to that side of the NPC Family and building this past year. Thank goodness for weekly Chapel and story times with these children.



On Sunday mornings for our Early Childhood children, we have a paid staff that uses the best Sunday School material crafted just for these specific ages. Babies and toddlers have stories from the Bible read to them and our teaching staff for three year olds through Kindergarten work their way through Gospel Light

Curriculum that present the key Bible stories with relatable crafts, games and songs. Plenty of age-appropriate activities that combine creativity, free play and Biblical stories to help these ages know about God and His great love for us. The Take-Home Pages are meant to help families keep the learning going because ultimately our Sunday morning time just initiates what you are doing at home – helping your child grow spiritually. Consistent teaching staff provides this age-group the needed safety and consistency appropriate to their stage of development.



For our Elementary age children, we know that they are developmentally ready for more shared experiences with their Family of Faith. That's why they start with you in the Sanctuary at 9:00 and 10:30 or participate fully in Worship with you at 5:00 for Open Doors. Being in the Worship Service allows our children to experience classic Hymns, Scripture, Confession and the Assurance of Pardon, Praise Songs and a Word of Wonder which stimulates critical thinking and inquiry (not Object Lessons which are totally inappropriate for children) before heading to their own time of ritual, routine and storytelling complete with various creative activities to reinforce their ability to re-tell what they have learned. We don't have paid staff in Horton Hall because at this stage of your child's development they need to see, meet and have relationships with the wider church community. You, all members of NPC, are privileged to take turns as Huddle Leaders. The more people that participate in our children's lives the more opportunities they have to see the validity of the Christian faith being

Children's Ministry

lived out in front of them. How wonderful is it to run into each other in public places and be able to say "Hey, I recognize you – you were in my Horton Hall Huddle!" ? That's pretty cool huh?

We also have a wonderful musical community experience for your children too. Wednesday afternoons Ms. Jen, Mr. Dwayne and Ms. Claire give your children the opportunity to move and groove to music and drama as J.A.M Singers. Our J.A.M. Singers participate in the Worship services all year long. Didn't you just love "American Ideal"??

Then, to top it all off during the summer, we offer Vacation Bible School. This is an amazing experience for you as well as your children and our teens. Developmentally appropriate activities for all the different ages are incorporated into this incredibly creative week.

Now here's the challenge about your child's developmental stages: - we only see your children *at the most* for one hour a week. You get to be with them so much more. As they grow and develop mentally, physically and spiritually our job here at NPC is to give you the tools you need to help them with that spiritual development. We can only do so much one hour a week and one week of VBS a year. That's why we try to provide you with effective spiritual tools via the website. At www.npckids.com YOU, as a family, can download the Sunday morning lessons, watch the video explanations, and do the activities at home. There are parenting helps, website links, and wonder questions to stimulate spiritual thinking for the whole family. EVERY WEEK, all school year long, YOU can sign up to take turns modeling your faith journey with our children. They NEED you to do this. They need to broaden their understanding of what it means to be part of the Christian community. Your children will develop spiritually just like they will physically and mentally – you can't stop them from growing. However, what you and I give them to feed this development will either help them or hinder them. Just as you wouldn't think of letting your children develop mentally without sending them to school or develop physically without feeding them healthy food and providing appropriate exercise, let's not starve them spiritually. Join them in this spiritual developmental journey. Spiritual growth is going to happen but who do you want feeding them? Join hands with me and the NPC educational staff. Let's grow together.

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



"A TASTE OF INDIA"

Friday, May 8, 6:30-8:00pm

**A Family Fun Night for the
Entire Church Family**

Come take part in this multicultural event. Mickie will share with NPC what it was like to be a Christian in India. We will also experience authentic Indian food and eat with our hands!! Fun for the Children of God ages 1 to 101.

Click here to RSVP online.



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Children's Ministry

**Join us for
Vacation Bible School**

SAINT LUKE'S PARISH
NOROTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Journey
to the Holy Land**

THE 2015 VBS
ADVENTURE

**Monday, June 22
to Thursday, June 25**
9 a.m. to noon

Friday, June 26
9 a.m. to 1:00

For ages 3-9

Register online
www.saintlukesdarien.org/vbs2015

Questions?
Lisa.nelms@saintlukesdarien.org
mickie.odonnell@norotonchurch.org

I ♥ VBS

Vacation Bible School *Journey to the Holy Land*

June 22-June 26
for ages 3-9

VBS REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!
We will be partnering with St. Luke's Parish
again this year for VBS.

Register online at www.saintlukesdarien.org/vbs2015.

Questions?

Contact Mickie at mickie.odonnell@norotonchurch.org
or Lisa at lisa.nelms@saintlukesdarien.org.
Interested in volunteering? Contact Liz Morelli at
liz.morelli@norotonchurch.org.

Youth Ministry



There is a poignant scene in Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* where Jesus stumbles to the ground, crushed by the weight of the cross. Witnessing his suffering, Jesus' mother is reminded of earlier days from his childhood when she would come to the aid of her son, and now instinctually runs to his side to care for the now grown Jesus. As she does, he looks into her concerned eyes and says, "See mother, I make all things new," echoing the words we hear in Revelation 21:5. Indeed Jesus has, is, and will make all things new. And so as we move further from our celebration of Easter and toward the coming of Pentecost, we not only rejoice and celebrate this present and coming newness in the life of the church, but also witness renewal as we participate in mission.



At the end of March and the beginning of April, we held program events for youth that included a Wrestlemania viewing party for High School students, a Middle School event based around the theme "Build," and wrapped up our NCAA Basketball Bracket for youth and friends of the youth ministry. In addition to being great communi-

Youth Ministries

ty events for participants to connect with one another, each also served as a gathering point for food donations that were then given to a local feeding program (see information on the monthly food offering below). As students were thoughtfully challenged to consider the foundation on which their lives are built while others were invited to “wrestle with God,” each also participated in God’s renewing work to feed the poor and hungry in our community.

New Hampshire

M I S S I O N 2 0 1 5



In addition, last month a small team of students from NPC served during their Spring Break week in the communities of Manchester and Salem, New Hampshire—serving in partnership with Work Camp New England. The team served in a variety of ways, including: painting, installing insulation and flooring, demolition and repair, and light construction that included installing a wheelchair ramp. But transformation through construction is not the only renewal that took place during this week. Team leader and youth ministry coordinator Sarah Swible notes, “It is amazing to see the transformation happening on the work sites, as well as in the lives of the students.” Kaela Buggy, a student participant, noted this transformation in her own life when sharing, “I continue to grow in my faith here at Work Camp New England.”

The youth ministry has some big things planned for the month of May, including a special event for students in grades 5-8 (not a misprint—the event is for fifth graders and middle school students) on May 29, the coming announcements of the 2015 VVAP Mission Team on

May 5, High School Girls ColorRun in Queens on May 23, and a whole lot more. For all the latest program updates, visit us online at: www.norotonyouth.com, follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram, or contact Jimmy McPherson or Sarah Swible in the main office.



Monthly Food Offering. We collected a large quantity of canned soup (pictured) at youth ministry events during the month of March that was delivered to a local feeding program. Each month, the youth ministry identifies a specific food item to be collected at program events during that month as a food offering to be shared with the poor.

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



Tot Drop



The 1-2-3s of NPC Tot Drop!

Sometimes it's refreshing to think in terms of numbers. It helps us to learn a little more about each other and our achievements. Here a few numbers to help you get to know the teachers at Tot Drop as well as their accomplishments...

Number of Teachers That Work at NPC Tot Drop Five Days a Week: 14

Average Number of Years Teaching: 17

Average Number of Years Teaching at NPC Tot Drop: 7

Total Number of Countries Represented: 8

Total Number of Children: 28

Total Number of Grandchildren: 7

Total Number of Pets: 8

Total Number of Miles from Home to Work: 63

Average Number of Children Cared For at Tot Drop Per Day: 45

Estimated Number of Baby Food Jars/Pouches Served Per Day: 28

Estimated Number of Bottles Served Per Day: 24

Estimated Number of Sippy Cups Served Per Day: 36

Estimated Number of Diapers Changed Per Day: 138

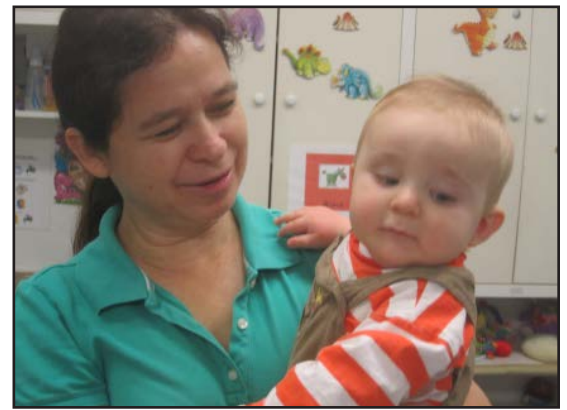
Estimated Number of Lullabies/Songs Sung Per Day: 60

Estimated Number of Books Read Per Day: 40

Estimated Number of Art Projects Per Day: 30

Estimated Number Hugs Per Day: More than we can count!

Peace and Joy,
Beth Aparicio
NPC Tot Drop Director



Amarilis with Ryan in the infant room.



Pilar and Veni sorting cars with the two year olds.



Kathleen and Cynthia at an in-house workshop.

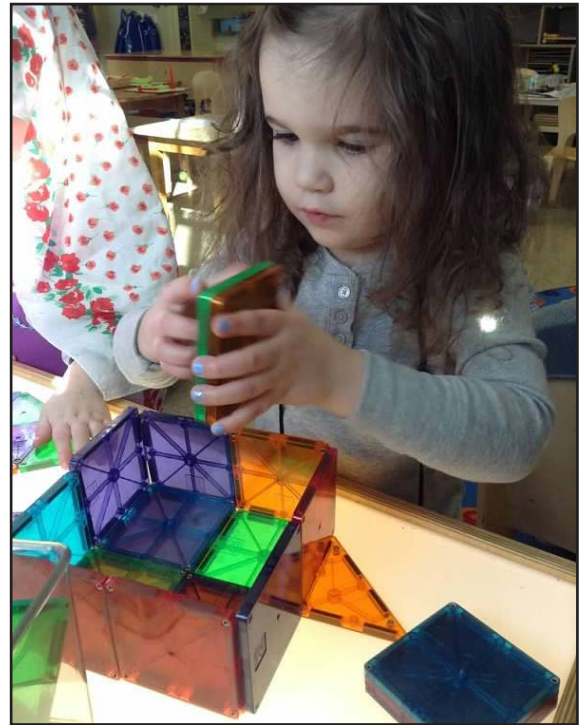


Veronica and Indira on the playground.



After a very long winter SPRING has finally arrived at NPNS. The classrooms are growing seeds and watching their caterpillars prepare for their change into butterflies. The birds are busy with activity outside our windows, and the flowers have finally popped up. 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. There were baby chicks in our Pre-K class that held a captive audience on a daily basis. Room 14 took a field trip to The Peabody Museum, where they continued to learn more about the human skeleton as well as dinosaur fossils, which always bring squeals of delight. All of the 4's ventured to Earth Place, where they hiked and letter boxed and enjoyed the warm spring air.

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



Emma Robert builds a church on the light table.



Room 19 blasts off in their new rocket ship.



Tierney Overbeck working diligently on her skeleton.

Membership Ministry

JOIN NPC ON JUNE 6th *You are warmly invited to the next New Member Class!*

The Saturday half-day class on June 6th will meet from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., and new members will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, June 14. Free professional nursery care is provided for children 3 months to 4 years.

Membership classes are “enriching”, “relevant”, and “thoughtful”. Here’s what else recent new members have said about the class:

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

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

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

During the class you will:

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

Pre-registration is needed. To register on-line and for more class information, see the membership ministry page on the NPC website. It’s also an option to attend the New Member class for information only and – if you choose – join within one year. No classes are offered over the summer.

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

Seeking Volunteers: many talents are needed for each class such as hospitality, photography, and small group facilitation. 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 14 through Sept. 6. Sign up for one or more dates. Contact Julie Colbath to serve in this simple but important way.



Please Check Your Record in the On-Line Church 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 me 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). Copies are still available of the print directory, which is getting a bit dated but is still very handy and interesting to look at.

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership

Congregational Life Ministry



Welcoming Newest Members AND Others You May Not (yet) Know ...

We encourage you to 'step out of your comfort zone'!

It is the practice of the Congregational Life team members **to be intentional** in reaching out to individual members who have recently joined NPC. We actually align our team members with members of the new member class ... with hopes of being available for sharing of information to help folks acclimate to NPC, as well as introducing them to others in our community -- at service, coffee times, and/or other activities.

We also encourage all members of the church community to be on the look out for those unfamiliar to you.

- Perhaps they are some of our newest members, who would love for someone to offer a smile and introduce themselves.
- Perhaps they are a new or infrequent visitor who is looking for a connection.
- Perhaps they have been coming for some time, but to a different service or sitting in another part of the Sanctuary.

I believe it is safe to say that regardless of the circumstance ... **we all are appreciative** of someone unfamiliar to us taking the risk to acknowledge that they do not have our name at-the-ready, and would like to make us feel welcome and comfortable.

I would like to suggest some **language of hospitality that works in ALL the circumstances** above, while also protecting each of us from being embarrassed by 'welcoming' a long-standing member of many years. (... which in truth shouldn't matter anyhow if they are 'new-to-us'.)

- "Hi. My name is _____. I don't remember seeing you at this service before."
- "Hi. My name is _____. I normally attend the _____ service, so am new to this one. Is this the service you usually attend?"
- "Hi. My name is _____. Your face is not familiar to me? I don't always attend this service (or, sit in this section), so I am always 'seeing new faces. Are you new to the area (or NPC), or have I just not noticed you before?"

Let's (unofficially) make May 'hospitality month' for our church community.

- If you see someone in the parking lot (Especially if they have little ones in tow... And, especially now while we finish construction...) – ask if they need help determining which door to enter to get where they are going.
- On Sunday mornings, greet not only those in your immediately adjacent pews, but step out into the middle aisle, and greet someone sitting on the other side!
 - Consider sitting in a different part of the Sanctuary or Chapel, so that you are automatically placing yourself around new faces.
- Actively seek out someone during coffee time who seems to be standing alone ... and go over and get to know them. Then, introduce them to a friend or two, and help expand their community while having conversations you were going to have anyhow.

We invite you to try this experiment along with us! Let's see how many opportunities to smile we can provide!

Working towards building community,
Valerie Muller

Director of Community and Communications
(Including Congregational Life Ministry activities)
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org & 203-309-5650



Congregational Life Ministry

'Save the Date ... for Beach Breakfast' Sunday, June 28th



Picnic Table Area

9-11 am

Following 8 am beach service.

No Beach Sticker needed IF enter beach area BEFORE 9 a.m.

Hosted by Congregational Life Ministry

Mission Ministry

Mission Opportunities



Knitting! Would you like to help knit baby blankets or squares to be made into blankets for babies at Hopeline PRC? If you have any knitting needles or wool that you would like to donate to new knitters or would like to participate please contact Stella Clarke at stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org.

Open Door Shelter: next NPC service dates are Saturday, May 2, Sunday, May 10 and Saturday, June 6. If you are over 16 and interested in volunteering please contact Holly Hough (hough7@optonline.net).

Open Door Shelter: will have their annual Gala Dinner at Dolce in Norwalk on May 14. If you are interested in supporting the Shelter in this way please contact Chuck Richardson at chukr@optonline.net to order tickets (\$175 per person).

Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser May 10: Look for M&M tubes at worship services on Mother's Day. Please take a tube, eat the candy and return filled with \$14 in quarters. This will pay for the cost of 63 special FMSC meals which we will pack at the joint churches FMSC MobilePack over the weekend of Oct 17-18 2015. Cash and checks are also welcome (made payable to FMSC) to help reach the fundraising goal of \$44,000 for 200,000 meals. You can also donate online at www.fmsc.org and please specify Darien MobilePack. For more information contact Ginna Yerrall at gmdar@optonline.net.

WorldVision family backpack assembling event May 31: You are invited to help assemble backpacks for the children in Palmera, DR. The event will take place in Horton Hall at 11:30am after morning services. [Click here to signup.](#)

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

June 28 Hanna Massad (missionary to the people of Gaza and Iraqi/Syrian refugees): will be visiting with his family at both the 8am and 10am services.

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



NPC Mission
Sharing Christ's Love

Stepping out in Faith during Spring Break

For several years NPC has been supporting Lionel Nyange at Connecticut College and Joyce Wong at Trinity College, who both work for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, or IV. IV is an evangelical campus mission which for 70+ years has been involved in establishing witnessing communities on university campuses. Both Lionel and Joyce Wong led student groups on a service based alternative spring break called ServeUp and both report it was a resounding success.

On Lionel's ServeUp trip there were 15 students who joined 48 others from campuses around New England for a 10-day service trip to Tampa, Florida. One freshman Chinese international student, Liang Jing said this about her experience: "Coming to Tampa, FL for Spring Break is the most meaningful trip I've ever been on. It's been incredible to see God's presence in all His children everywhere. I witnessed such amazing connections happen during these 10 days and had a life-changing experience. Seeing the Underground's work and IV staff's commitment for social justice and equality, I know for certain that some decisions that I will make in the future will be different because they will be based on God's will. Wherever I am, I will nurture that seed and share life with people around me in my community." Jing became a follower of Jesus during a High School exchange program in Wisconsin and since her very first days at Connecticut College she has been apprenticing with Lionel, learning how to be missional and live incarnationally.

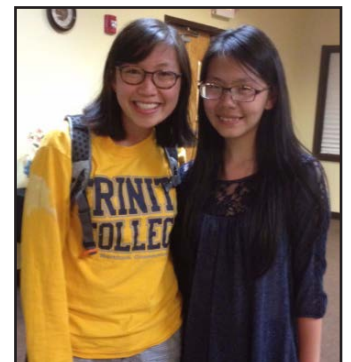
As a missionary, Lionel invites students to follow Jesus by practicing missional living so that they would become agents of transformation among their friends. "Though I devise curriculum, create activities, God is the one who makes the seeds grow. Thus, when Christ-likeness springs out of students, in words and deeds; it is a sign that indeed the Kingdom is coming at Connecticut College. It brings me tremendous joy."

On Joyce's ServeUp trip there were 8 Trinity students, and two of the eight were not Christian. One student, Tina, became a Christian on ServeUP while working together in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans at the Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG). She testified



to the group saying "She was in love with Jesus". Tina's witness reminds us that following Jesus is sometimes as simple as being in love with Jesus and loving what and who Jesus loves! The students all found deeper connections, faith and love despite the devastation that still lingers in Louisiana, almost ten years post Hurricane Katrina which hit in 2005. Back at school, Joyce helps lead student InterVarsity gatherings on the Trinity campus and has between 12-15 regular students attending. She hopes that number grows as she invites all, believers and non-believers, to her small groups, bible studies, discussions.

Volunteer based spring break alternative trips provide the opportunity for both the participants and recipients involved to explore the intersection of Christian faith and service. James 2:17 says, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."



Please keep both Lionel, Joyce and their students in your prayers as they help spread the Gospel.

*Sarah Winters Papsun
Sarah is a member of NPC and
also serves on the Mission team* 17

Mission Ministry

NPC Mission Partner – Dr John Chacha – City of Hope, Tanzania



We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Dr John Chacha on April 16 in an automobile accident in Kenya. Dr Chacha lived an amazing life from growing up one of 10 children in a mud hut in Tanzania to establishing Teamwork, a worldwide ministry in which the City of Hope has been a centerpiece for the last few years. Chacha was a dynamic speaker, teacher, and true visionary. A memorial service was held on April 25 in Greensboro, N.C. and there will be services during May in Tanzania. Pastor Sam has sent the following message to the family:

Dear Family and Friends of our Brother in Christ, Dr. John Chacha,

The Psalms remind us that, "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Dr. Chacha was precious to so many people his faith and life impacted including his friends at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, CT. We also know that he is even more precious to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We grieve with you the loss of this great man of God and we treasure our memories of his teaching and visits with us in Connecticut and in his hosting many of us at the City of Hope in Tanzania. May the Lord bless the great work he began and may God's peace, which passes understanding, comfort your family as you mourn his passing from this life into his glorious inheritance in Christ.

For your many friends at Noroton Presbyterian Church,
Pastor Sam Schreiner

Please pray for Dr Chacha's family and for the wider family of Teamwork Ministries and the children at City of Hope, for God to bring them comfort and peace.



May 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5h Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 3:30 p.m. Study Series- Simplify 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. High School Ministry | 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare | 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study Breakfast 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 | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M Choir - Ice Cream Party 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | National Day of Prayer 7:00 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. | 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga 3:45 p.m. Mother and Others Dinner at Carver Center | 9:30 a.m. Knitting for Hopeline |
| 10 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. High School Ministry | 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare | 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 | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh. | 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga | 16 |
| 17 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 3:30 p.m. Study Series- Simplify 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. High School Ministry | 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare | 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 | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh. | 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga | 23 |
| 24/31 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study(NYC) 9:08 10:300 a.m. (5/31 only) Confirmation Class 11:45 a.m. (5/31 only) World Vision Family pack Event 6:30 p.m. High School Ministry | Memorial Day NPC Offices closed | 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) | 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh. | 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga | 30 8:30 a.m. Officers Retreat |

In Loving Memory of...

April 1st:
Jackson S. Conroy

April 5th:
William Vollenweider

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

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

April 19th:

Amelia Grace Allen, daughter of
Arthur and Amanda Allen

Harper Shuluan Loeffel, daughter of
Michael and Emily Loeffel

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

5/17 at the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service: *To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

The congregation is invited to attend the wedding ceremony joining Noelle Vinson and Terry St. Jean. The wedding will be held on Saturday, May 9th at 10:30 am in the NPC Sanctuary. Pastor Mark Orr will officiate.

HORTON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available for those wishing to apply for the Lawrence McColl Horton Scholarship and may be picked up at the new church offices, 22 Thorndal Circle, Darien, third floor. The application is also available on the [church website under "Resources"](#). Those applying must be members of Noroton Presbyterian Church and seniors in high school or preparatory school. Basis for the award is a written form showing need for financial assistance and an interview with the scholarship committee. The scholarship is a grant toward room, board and/or tuition and is sent directly to the college. Deadline for the return of the application is May 8, 2015.

DANKS SEMINARY APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available for the Edward R. Danks Seminary Scholarship and may be picked up in the church office or [downloaded from the church website under "Resources"](#). Those applying must be or have been members of NPC and/or have served on the NPC staff. Basis for the award is a written form showing need for financial assistance and an interview with the scholarship committee.

If you would like to submit an article for the June 2015 issue please submit it before May 15 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-309-5618 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i> | Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Community and Communications</i> | Kalie Riordan 203-655-3223 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i> |
| Pastor Brandi Drake.....203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry</i> | Dwayne Condon.....203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i> | Julie Colbath203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i> |
| Pastor Jimmy McPherson 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Youth</i> | Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i> | Dan Rosa.....203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i> |
| Pastor John Seiders.....203-309-5620 <i>Interim Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach</i> | Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i> | David Lee.....203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i> |
| | Beth Aparicio 203-309-5605 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i> | |