

The Spire

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



A Weekend You Will Not Want to Miss

How many 150 year olds birthday parties have you attended?

Not many, if any, I'm guessing. November 4, 1863, Noroton Presbyterian Church (which began as the First Presbyterian Church of Darien and then changed it's name at the annual meeting in 1930) will be 150 years old. That's amazing! With God's help and the great dedication some very committed founders, our church weathered the aftermath of the Civil War, the 17 year long depression of the late 1800s, World War I and II, The Great Depression and several coastal hurricanes. Faithful members gave sacrificially to establish a house of worship on the west end of the Post Road for the preaching of the gospel and the ministry of the Word and Sacraments. Once we had laid a solid foundation, we became great supporters of local and international ministries that shared the love of the Lord around the world. As Psalm 100 reminds us, God has blessed us and we have experienced His faithfulness, "through all generations".

Our history committee, under the wonderful leadership of Rosemary Mace, has done an outstanding job preparing for this yearlong celebration. Their diligent study of our past

(including the reading of all of the past session minutes!), the wonderful display of the pictorial timeline in our hallways, the sharing of snippets of our history in various venues, the invitation of former Associate Pastors to return, the choir anthems this fall representative of each decade of our past, has reminded us of our roots. Last month, Rosemary gave an outstanding lecture on the founders of our church and how, over 90 years of planning and giving, the gifts that they gave brought our Post Road property together. If you were not able to attend, don't worry, we captured it on video and made a DVD. You may check out a copy from our office or buy a copy of her inspiring presentation. We have even worked with the local Boy Scouts and neighbors and cleaned up the Weed Cemetery where many of our founders are buried. This team has done an outstanding job of helping us remember our roots and God's goodness to us.

So now we will culminate our year of celebration on the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd. On Saturday the 2nd we begin with a wonderful Hymn Sing at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary, where our returning Associate Pastors, Mark Orr, and Connie and David Jordan-Haas will join us and bring

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:

- 11/3/13 - 150th Church Anniversary Celebration
 9 & 11 a.m. Services Only
 No 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. Open Doors Services
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 11/10/13 - Pastor Greg Doll
- 11/17/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 11/24/13 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

11/20 and 12/15 at the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service. To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-655-1451, ext. 33.

Table of Contents

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

continued from front page...

their greetings. Then, on November 3rd, to try and bring us all together, **we will hold just two Sunday morning worship services with a reception in between.** Worship will be at **9 and 11 o'clock** - with special music from our choir, our children and a brass quintet. Communion will be served, I will be preaching on our past and our future, and elements of the service will be borrowed from our 125th anniversary worship service. Please come early and park at Hindley School, if you are able. At 10 a.m. - between the services - we will have a special reception and cake cutting in Horton Hall. The committee has planned an assortment of food with historical significance. Like a full or even crowded Thanksgiving Day celebration, we look forward to coming together to give thanks to God for our past and rededicate ourselves to God's purposes for our future. In a word, this is a once in 150 years type of Sunday you won't want to miss. See you there.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ and My Parents in the Faith,

I must voice my praise that God has blessed us with one hundred fifty years of faithful service through Noroton Presbyterian Church! Never would I have imagined when I was confirmed at the church fifty years ago that God would use you to bring me to now 40 years of ordained ministry. But that is just one of countless outcomes of your dedicated service to Christ.

Now as you embark on even greater endeavors for Christ in the years ahead, I rejoice that our God has formed you into the largest Presbyterian Church in New England and an anchor for the Presbytery of Southern New England. And I count as one of the greatest blessings of my life that I can be counted as part of the great cloud of witnesses for Christ that grew out of Noroton.

I invite you to join me in continuing to run the race of the faithful holding in your hand the trumpet that proclaims the wondrous reign of our risen Lord.

In His Name,
The Rev. Dana Lindsley
Presbyter to the Spiritual Community
Presbytery of Southern New England

150th Anniversary Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Saturday, November 2nd, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Special Guest Speakers:

Mark Orr	Associate Pastor	1985-2005
Connie Jordan-Haas	Associate Pastor	1991-2008
David Jordan-Haas	Assistant Pastor	1997-2008

Come sing! Come hear from our former Pastors!
Refreshments follow in the Parlor.



150th Anniversary of Noroton Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, November 3rd
Worship at 9 and 11 a.m.**

with a special
reception in
Horton Hall
between
the services.

(No 8:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m.
services that day)



Foundations for the Future

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

November 2013 Progress Report

Supporting Missions:

In September the Session approved two additional *Foundations for the Future* mission grants. First, we will be providing funding to assist in construction of a women's dormitory at Forman College in Pakistan. Forman has had difficulty attracting and keeping women students due to a lack of housing for women. The new dormitory will help address this. Incidentally, the Forman College Infirmary Health Clinic, which was built using our earlier *Foundations* grant, has been named "Jesus the Healer", a wonderful statement in that non-Christian country! Second, we will be providing support for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as they work to establish a presence in Fairfield County. FCA brings God's message to coaches and athletes at high school and college levels.

Praise God for these wonderful new blessings possible through your gifts!

Strengthening our Foundation:

The Building Committee is working through the process of getting our building plan approved by the town of Darien. The response so far from the Planning & Zoning board has been positive, and we are hopeful that we will have final approval in November. Our neighbors have been informed throughout the process and their concerns have been addressed.

In the meantime, you may have noticed work proceeding on the Post Road side of the church. This project will install natural gas heating to replace our old oil-fueled boilers. The replacement should enable NPC to realize significant savings on its heating expense going forward. To prepare for this project, the Properties Team reconfigured the Nursery School space over the summer to move the office, classrooms, and to create a new mechanical room.



God's Grace Through Your Giving:

As of October 22nd, we are blessed to have received \$7,445,359 of the \$13,548,771 that we pledged. As noted in the October Spire, we received a new \$1,500,000 gift in September, which raised our total pledged amount to over \$13,500,000. Including this pledge increase, the amount received so far represents 57% of our total pledges. We are so grateful to our faithful and sacrificial givers.

As we approach the end of the year, we encourage you to consider your *Foundations for the Future* commitment. If a year-end gift is within your means, it will be gratefully received. If you have not pledged, but would like to do so, please contact Dan Rosa (dan.rosa@norotonchurch.org). May the Lord be glorified in all we do to strengthen His foundation at NPC!

Tom Taylor, Jean Ann and Dick Bollman
FFF Progress Team Leaders

Adult Spiritual Formation



I hope it is okay that I use the space allotted to me this month to say "thank you so much" for pouring out an incredible amount of love and kindness upon my family and me after my father's passing. We couldn't have possibly anticipated how much it would mean to us and how much it would buoy us emotionally to receive cards and texts and e-mails and food from so many friends. Thank you.

My father taught me so many lessons over the years about how to live as a man of faith in Jesus Christ that I guess I never really expected that he would also teach me how to die as a man of faith. But he did. Like any good teacher, he was still offering lessons until the very end, even when he couldn't speak.

He taught me to trust in the goodness and love of God even when his body was wracked with pain and suffering. He taught me to love until the very end and never miss an opportunity to express it. He taught me to face death with triumphant faith in the promises of God. He taught me about courage and dignity and humility.

When I was a teenager and would complain about something he used to torture me with the passage from 1 Thessalonians 5:16 by telling me that it was God's will to *give thanks in all circumstances*. Used to drive me crazy.

In the days leading up to his death my father began spending more and more hours of the day asleep at the Hospice facility. It was beginning to sink in with all of us that he wasn't going to wake up again. But then he did.

He surprised all of us by suddenly waking up, lucid and alert. My mother asked the caregivers to roll his bed out into the great room so she could sit at the grand piano and they could worship together. They spent an hour worshipping God. Several hours later he went to sleep and didn't wake up again. His last act of open cognition was to *give thanks AT ALL TIMES*. Even at the point of death. Because as he would say, "God is always worthy of our worship."

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise will be continually on my lips (Psalm 34:1).

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Greg Doll
Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Men's Bible Study:

"Moses and Mark: A Modern Conversation."

This fall we will continue our concurrent study of the Book of Deuteronomy and the Gospel of Mark. It will take 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.

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.

Weekly Prayer Meeting:

Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m. in the Parlor.

Come and pray for the needs of our church family. Everyone is welcome – no prayer experience necessary. For more info contact Marlene Moffett at 203-655-1451, ext. 49 or email marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

Small groups are a great way to get

involved and make friends in the church.

Join a group this Fall by contacting Marlene at 203-655-1451, ext 49. Visit www.norotonchurch.org for more info.

Caring & Women's Ministries



It's that time of year again. You know the time I mean: Time when we're supposed to be happy, open our homes, attend parties... bake, wrap gifts, sing songs... decorate, dress up, light candles... Or, time to feel guilty if you don't do these things, or don't feel like doing them.

Some years in our lives are easier than others for this kind of merriment. Some years we're more aware of loss than other years. Perhaps you have an empty chair at Thanksgiving this year. Maybe you find yourself in a different financial situation than you had expected. Perhaps you're acutely aware of loss, and will find it a challenge to enter the celebrations around you.

This month, we will have two Monday evenings set aside for those of us who will need some support and quiet worship as we embark on the Holiday Season.

Surviving the Holidays: DivorceCare -The holiday season can be especially difficult for people who are separated or divorced. *Surviving the Holidays* features practical suggestions, guidance and encouragement through video interviews with counselors, experts in divorce-related care and people who have experienced the holidays after separation or divorce. Topics to be discussed include "Why the Holidays Are Tough," "What Emotions to Expect," "How to Plan and Prepare," "How to Handle Uncomfortable Situations" and "Using the Holidays to Help You Heal." Those who attend will receive a free book with over thirty (30) daily readings providing additional insights and ideas on holiday survival. This will be on **Monday, November 18th from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the church parlor.**

A Service of Prayer and Reflection - for those grieving or experiencing loss in this season, will be held on **Monday, November 25th in the Chapel at 7:30 p.m.** This will be a prayer and worship service especially designed for those of us who are entering this season of festivity with heavy hearts. We will reflect, pray, and consider ways to approach grief in this season. Please consider joining us.

Please feel free to invite others to either of these times of preparation and reflection. It is a powerful witness that as we walk through these seasons of grief and celebration, we stand together.

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

Did you know?

We have a Youth Ministry Task Force

Our job is listening to families here at NPC and researching various models of Youth Ministry. We need your input! All are welcome to attend.

- **Two Sunday sessions for feedback:**
November 10th at 4 p.m. &
November 17th at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Please fill out the online survey**
at www.norotonyouth.com.

Team members: Elliott Etheredge, Sandy Henry, Burt Palmer, Kalie Riordon, Cindy Smith, Seana Turner, Sally Vosburgh and Bobby Winsor. Pastor Brandi is resourcing this team.

Women's Ministry 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: This Fall we will take a look at something most of us know on a surface level: the Ten Commandments. Join us anytime!

6:15-7:15 a.m. in the Parlor: We always have coffee, and the circle of women is filled with insight, support and prayer!

9:30-11:15 a.m. in Horton Hall This is a larger group, with music, a lecture/reflection, and small group discussion.

OASIS Moms Ministry: Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Horton Hall. This is a study especially for moms with young children. Need childcare? Register early Online or with Lori at lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451 ext. 44.

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! byo 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 Growing in Faith through Wondering,
Exploring and being Transformed*

This past month has been a wonderful time of Growing in Faith for the children and youth of NPC. In Horton Hall we have been concentrating on the book of Exodus. Learning about Moses and the Hebrew people has been an interesting adventure. We have been wondering about what God's plan of salvation is for us and how it is revealed through God's activity in the world. We love to wonder about these things. It helps us grow in our faith. If you have children who attend **Sunday School** in Horton Hall, please ask them to tell you the stories they are learning. Ask them about the water and pepper and how it reminds them of the parting of the Red Sea. Open your Bible at home, go the www.npckids.com to download the lessons we do on Sunday morning and ask the Wonder questions at dinner time, then re-read these wonderful narratives God has given us to learn about God's love for the Hebrew people and us. As we move our way through the Old Testament we will use Lego's to build and destroy Jericho, act out various stories, make very

authentic looking 10 Commandment Tablets, and enjoy the fun of learning with "What's in the Bible with Buck Denver!" November is a time of Thanksgiving. And, while I hate to mention it already, we start to get ourselves ready for Advent Season and Christmas.

Our **JAM ministry** is going great too. Children are not only singing and sharing in Worship, they are working on learning about The Fruit of the Spirit with art projects and puppetry that engage their imaginations. They also made special angels that our Deacons will take to those in our congregation who need a little extra tender loving care. Made with love by our children as a way of demonstrating fruit of the Spirit, we are praying that these bring joy and peace to the recipients.

In our **Youth Ministry**, Middle schoolers are exploring God's Word, studying Proverbs and learning to hear God's voice in prayer. High School teens have been learning from JD Geer what it means to live transformed lives and how to share faith in Christ with peers. Video lessons from Francis Chan add depth to what they are experiencing and spending time in prayer has been a

continued on next page...

JAM children making Angels



Children's & Youth Ministries

continued from page 6...

truly significant time at Ignite. With various small group Bible studies that meet during the week we know our teens are exploring God's Word and being transformed by it.

So do you notice a pattern here?? Growing in faith involves wondering, exploring and being transformed by God as we are steeped in God's Word and praying. NPC's Children and Youth Ministry is focusing on these three. Wonder, Explore and Transform. So what's coming for November?

Help to transform the lives of others by joining us for the **Midnight Run** on **November 8th**. Be ready to donate food to the Thanksgiving Boxes we will be providing for the Carver Center and/or join us to collect at the Noroton Stop and Shop in November. (For more Youth activities see Tom's article).

Mark your calendar for **December 6th** for **Caroling by Candlelight** at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel to help set the Advent Season off to a Worshipful start. Encourage your children and youth to participate in the events

and studies we make available to them every week and support what they are learning by talking about these things at home.

November 17th at 4 p.m. is the next **"Take it Home"** event for families with four-five year olds. Join me in the Parlor and then stay for Open Doors Worship. We will help you teach your children about their church and how to pray together.

Wondering what's next? Well, come Explore God's Word here at Noroton Presbyterian Church and watch how God Transforms your life, your family and your future. This is how we Grow In Faith!

For the Love of Wonder,
Mickie O'Donnell
*Director of Children's Ministry
& Interim Director of Youth Ministry*

Upcoming Youth Events

During November we have some incredible opportunities to continue to Explore and Transform in our programming. We have been working hard to make sure we keep our activities up to date and fun for youth and families!

November 5th, we have our annual Paintball Outing! We will be going to **Extreme Paintball** in Waterbury for the day to play. The cost for the event is \$65 and this covers equipment rental, paintballs, lunch, and bus rental. This is an exciting and fun event we hope you can join us on!

On **November 8th**, we will have one of our many **Midnight Runs!** We will be meeting at the SHAC at 6 p.m. to sort clothes and food before heading into New York City to distribute the food and clothing to the homeless population there.

The **Carver Food Drive** is taking place on **November 16th**. We are collecting food for the families who would not be able to have a Thanksgiving dinner otherwise. We

will be doing this from 9-1 p.m., and it's a great way to spread God's love! Sign up for one hour shifts at www.norotonyouth.com.

We hope you can join us and remember that friends are always welcome to all our events!

Weekly Meeting Dates for November:

H6: 12th and 26th
Harbor: 6th, 13th, and 20th
Ignite: 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th



Tom Fagan
Student Ministries Coordinator

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



October was such a fun month. Our students have gotten settled in to their classes and have begun amazing learning projects. Our first field trip of the year, started with the Pre-K visiting the Darien Police Department.

This trip was planned as a result of the children's interests in the police and what they do. The Pre-K class then created a police department in their own classroom. Our 4's visited the Stamford Nature Center and learned how to make Apple Cider and learned about the animals that are cared for there.

Our specials have also begun with Ms. Emily's Junior Naturalist program, Mr. Robert's music class and weekly Chapel with Ms. Mickie. Extended Day is in full swing with Karate, Athletics, Spanish, Little Scientists and Lunch Bunch.

Our staff continues their training with a visit from Nature Explore Educator, Heather Fox and Playground Architect, Jeff Lindstrom. They presented on the advantages of outdoor classrooms in children's learning and development. They also attended the Darien Director's Group training day and heard from speaker, Paul McGhee. The focus of the training was developing humor and using its benefits in playing with and teaching children.

Our parent-led Board has been busy with monthly meetings, preparing for our annual fundraiser, hosting the NPNS Movie Day at the Darien Playhouse, and attending several Family Photo Days. Parents have been busy at school, as well. They have attended Parent-Teacher conferences, been Mystery Readers in the classroom, headed up cooking projects, helped students making play dough and carving pumpkins, attended birthday celebrations and chaperoned field trips.

The weather has blessed us with the opportunity to really enjoy and experience fall with the children. They are fascinated by the leaves changing, the acorns dropping and watching the squirrels store their food away for winter. We are keeping our fingers crossed for many more weeks of this lovely weather and can hardly wait to see what next month has in store for us.

It's hard to believe, but it's already time to start thinking about the 2014-15 school year. You can sign up for Orientation Tours by visiting our website at www.npns.org. The sign-up page is under the Registration link. Please pass this information on to any young families looking for a quality, Christian preschool.

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



Wes, Whitney and Grayson act out the Alphabet. Can you guess their letter?



Sloane and Jane make cookies for special celebration day.



Three year olds loving music class with Mr. Robert.



Pre K students pose with NPNS safety Officer, Beth Dilorio.



Shannon, Timmy and Ryan work at the "Police Station" in their classroom.



Arjun cuts apples for baking project.



Noroton Presbyterian Church



Family Friendly Flexible Daycare



Usually I like to share news about Tot Drop that most readers of the Spire probably don't know about since we are not that visible unless you have reason to be in the CE Wing. Today, however, I would like to write this specifically to those readers who do find their way through the security doors into our area.

Safety is always a key concern when you work with young children. When I started my teaching career (Oh, so-o-o long ago!) building security issues were much more back burner concerns. It was a much simpler, smaller world. Today, the cruelty of a few deranged minds has brought security to the front burner, and is even requiring a fire extinguisher to be kept at arm's reach because it is such a hot topic. Following the horror of Sandy Hook, so close to home, all of NPC became much more conscious of vulnerable points. Both NPNS and Tot Drop have made significant changes at considerable expense to ensure as safe an environment as possible.

Here is where each one reading the Spire can help. Some of you have needed to know the code for the security doors at the entry point to NPNS or Tot Drop in order to take care of your church needs. There is no problem with that! The problem arises when you allow others whom you don't know and who don't have the code to enter these secure areas along with you. Many times people show up in the Tot Drop hallway or at the door of my office who have no appointment and no one actually knows who they are. When asked how they got in through the security door, they invariably respond, "Some nice lady/man let me in because s/he knew the code." On the surface it seems the most polite, even Christian, thing to do! But it is not the safest option to take.

I am training staff and Tot Drop parents to say to unknown visitors, "I am sorry, I can't let you in, but I will let the director know that you are waiting." (I was really grateful one day recently to have a Tot Drop parent, who knows me well, exit from the West entrance door—where the keypad is on the outer door. I was entering from the parking lot. As she left the building, she closed the door before I could come in, winked at me, and said the golden words, "I am sorry, I can't let you in, but I will let the director know that you are waiting." I was most appreciative that she had the message! Then she remarked how grateful she and her husband were to know these efforts were being made for the safety of their child.)

In addition, if you have children who accompany you into the CE Wing, they should NOT know the code, nor be the ones to enter the numbers on the keypad at your direction. From our point of view, there are no acceptable exceptions to this policy. Please join with us to do everything reasonable to protect these wonderful, innocent children and the staff who loves them!

In His service,
Carol Scott
Director of NPC Tot Drop



Music & Fine Arts



Transitions

The dictionary defines transition as “change or passage from one state or stage to another”. I often struggle with transitioning into a state of worship as our church services begin. Last minute details, rehearsing, technical issues, all can hinder my ability to turn on a dime and enter into a spirit of worship as the clock strikes 9 or 10:30 on Sunday morning. I imagine others have the same sort of difficulty after getting the family ready, finding a parking place, and greeting friends. These are all necessary and good things, but they do little to prepare us to enter into the presence of a God who desires to meet with and delights in a community gathering together to praise Him.

I would like to invite you to take advantage of a means of transition we already have built into our services, the prelude and the postlude. Our organists do a great job of leading us into and out of our services, but I think we often miss this great opportunity to prepare ourselves for worship. I'm going to make an effort to wrap up everything I need to do just a little bit earlier each Sunday so I can sit and pray for our services and ask God to do great things through His Word, the music, and all the other elements of our service.

Please consider joining me in this. Who knows, maybe we will be surprised.

Blessings,
Dwayne Condon
Director of Music

Membership Ministry



MD ISO Warm C 2 GRT

If you need a translation: Membership Director in search of warm Christians to greet!

Did you know it takes just 7 minutes for newcomers to form an impression of NPC? You can help a visitor's first experience to be a positive one by serving as part of a stronger welcoming team. If you'd like to serve as a greeter for 15 min. before the 9 or 10:30 service, and/or work with me on some new ideas for welcoming, please give me a call or send an email.

OTHER MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

We will be **welcoming many new members on November 3rd**, the same day we celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Please go out of your way to introduce yourself to them that day. Their pictures and biographies will appear in the December Spire.

In November we will also **highlight membership as part of the Focus on Ministry initiative**. On the third Sunday of the month there will be a testimony given in worship, and displays and people involved with the ministry to talk to in Horton Hall.

The **next New Member Class** will be the half-day format, Saturday, January 11, 2014, Noon to 5:30 p.m. Contact me for more information and to register.

New volunteers are always needed for the membership classes. We have two new small group leaders for the current class and they are finding their service to be fulfilling and fun. In addition to small group facilitation, there are opportunities for hospitality, photography and music. Please join in!

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership
julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org
or 203-655-1451 ext. 14



New Member Class

Congregational Life Ministry



150th Anniversary/Birthday Celebration is upon us!

The first days of November find us at the climax of our anniversary year celebration!

This provides several opportunities for extended fellowship for all our current members/friends ...



Saturday evening, November 2nd, we will gather for a **Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary** (at 7 p.m.) ...

We will also be blessed by visits from former pastors of NPC. In between times of lifting our voices together in song to congregation (or choir)-chosen 'favorites', David and Connie Jordan-Haas and Mark Orr will share thoughts of their respective time here and/or bring us up-to-date with their current journey.

Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parlor so folks can hang around for fellowship, and to catch up with these beloved pastors.

Sunday morning, November 3rd, we will have (only) two worship services (9 a.m. and 11 a.m.) ... separated by an hour-long anniversary/'birthday' celebration in Horton Hall. This will allow our whole church family to be together in the same place, catching up with those who attend other services during the year.

Refreshments will be served ... using recipes from NPC's historic cook books, or honoring foods with particular New England history ... along with the traditional birthday fare of cake of course!

Fall Fellowship Cookout

So happy to see so many gather on the church lawn the last Sunday in September for some grilled food and fellowship. Be sure to check out the website for pictures of the event. (Go to Congregational Life ministry tab >Participation > Fall Lawn Cookout tab >photos)

Here's a sample of the fun that occurred ...



Congregational Life Ministry continued...

Annual Volunteer Celebration ...

Only a month away!

In fact ... it will be held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving weekend ...



We love having the opportunity to celebrate those of you who keep the wheels of all our programming offerings turning throughout the year! You number just over 500 in 2013! And, the staff of NPC could NOT keep the programming running without you!

Whether you have helped out one time for 15 minutes or regularly volunteer in some capacity, we want to say 'Thank you!'. So, be on the lookout for a 'snail mail' invitation to **Tuesday night, December 3rd, from 6:15 to 8 p.m.** ...

We hold this event on Team Night in December ... and ask that you come to Horton Hall an hour or so earlier than most months ... to spend time with other teams of the church celebrating all that God has provided for us to do this calendar year on this corner in Fairfield County!



Food and beverage are provided, so you can come straight from the train or office if need be. And Pastor Sam is rumored to be cooking up a surprise too!

So, make sure to mark your calendars now, and join in the fellowship and fun!

(If for some reason we 'miss' sending you an invite and you have served in 2013, PLEASE just let me know, and we'll get an invite to you pronto!)

A Special Welcome ...

To our newest members ... both those two dozen+ adults and the two dozen+ confirmands ... who joined NPC during the month of October!

We look forward to worshipping with you, and invite you to get involved with at least one of NPC's activities. I would love to help you determine which might suit your needs best!



Enjoying fellowship with you,
Valerie Muller
Director, Congregational Life
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org
203-655-1451, ext. 48



On **November 17th**, you can learn more about what's involved in the Ministry of Membership at NPC.

There will be a pulpit testimony from someone recently involved in this ministry (either a class attendee or a volunteer) and folks in Horton Hall after the morning sanctuary services to respond to inquiries.

So, whether you are interested in joining, or you want to be involved in this ministry, stop by the table for information. You'll find displays, signups, and perhaps even videos.

REACH Youth New England Champions for Youth Ministry in NE!

www.reachyouthne.org

Dear Friends and Family at NPC!

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of REACH Youth New England over the past several years and for this opportunity to share with you how God, in His mercy and grace, has continued to bless and expand our ministry. I hope that this report will be an encouragement to you for the investment you have made and are making in the lives and ministries of hundreds of New England Youth workers and the thousands of teenagers they serve!

REACH Youth New England, Inc. is a nondenominational Christian nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization designed to strengthen and encourage youth ministry endeavors throughout the New England Region.



OUR VISION

Our vision is to share the life-saving message of Jesus Christ with every teenager in New England by *equipping youth ministry workers to reach the next generation!*

OUR MISSION

Our mission is twofold:

a) Training and supporting youth workers.

Jesus said, "The Harvest is plentiful but the WORKERS ARE FEW." This fact is no more evident than here in the New England Region.

b) Connecting youth workers and youth ministry organizations for the purpose of sharing best practices, encouraging longevity to the call, and achieving synergy through collaborative efforts.

Here Are Some Highlights Of How God Has Blessed Us Since Our Launch In 2005:

In 2005 we began with one local youth ministry network serving 20 Fairfield County Youth workers. We now have thirty youth ministry networks across the six New England States serving more than 350 network members.

In 2005 we were working alone to serve local youth workers. Today we have a national platform serving as the National Network of Youth Ministries New England Regional Coordinators and have partnerships with 45 national and regional ministries and foundations such as the Willow Creek Association, GROUP Publishing, Youth Specialties, and the Chick Fil-A Winshape Foundation.

In 2005 we had no website or regional communications tools. We now have a part-time communications director, a regional website, Facebook page, Twitter, and twice monthly newsletters which connect and resource more than 850 youth workers.

In 2005 we had no training, equipping and support programs for youth workers. Today, we sponsor or co-sponsor:

- The RECHARGE Youth Worker Overnight Retreat
- The Youth Ministry and Marriage Retreat
- The Open Boston Youth Leader Equipping Conference
- The New England Youth and Campus Ministry Leader's Summit and Networking Lunches
- The Jesus Focused Youth Ministry Leaders Forums
- The monthly Youth Leader network gatherings across the region
- And coming this September, The Equip Conference for training next generation leaders

But maybe most importantly, those on the **FRONT LINES** in ministry often express it best:

Mission Ministry continued...

TESTIMONIALS

...Make no mistake- our county (Fairfield County, CT) is a unique area, and the youth of this area are also unique. I know that I'm getting old now, but I started out in youth ministry, and had a very successful youth ministry both in New Jersey and in Baltimore. Having said that, I also know that what works in other areas, doesn't work here, and for those who come into this area from other parts of the country, they do encounter culture shock. That's why REACH and this network ministry is so needed. I am excited about Mark's vision and what a difference this ministry could have in Fairfield County and beyond.

**Rev. Dr. Robert Childs
Stamford, CT**

Friends at REACH Youth New England, I am writing in behalf of our Elders, Deacons and Children's Christian Education Team to let you know what a blessing Mark and the Network have been to Evangelical Community Church in helping us find a Director of Children's Christian Education. Mark, there is no way of expressing our appreciation and gratitude for the way you have ministered to us here at ECC. May the Lord continue to bless you as you serve our community!

**Pastor Cliff Lee
Evangelical Community Church, Stamford CT**

Most youth workers don't make it past their first 2 years in ministry, growing discouraged and burning out. Mark came into my life during this period and he has been God's blessing and encouragement to me in times of uncertainty, doubt, and frustration. When I've needed a prayer warrior he was on his knees, when I needed wise counsel he was speaking softly over a cup of coffee, when I needed to be reminded why I do what I do he was there to speak the deep truths of God into my life. I can't say enough good things about him and his ministry."

**Chris Hemmerich, Pastor of Family Ministries,
Trinity Baptist Church, Fairfield, CT**

...The sacrifices that we make, and that our families make to support us in this very demanding ministry is huge and I found that I could never have done this work without the love and support of the network. Spending time with other leaders in prayer and worship was a very powerful experience for me... Mark you and your team leaders are so

loving, caring and supportive. Those meetings would fill me up and keep me centered on the real mission of working and reaching out to our youth. I know that I could have never been the kind of youth leader God was calling me to be without all of you and all of your support....

Leslie Beard, CT Youth Worker

I know that REACH and the Network has been a lifeline for me, and I feel the Lord calling me to pursue these relationships and cherish the strength we can have when we are all united. Thank you once again Mark for all you do!

**Tucker Currie, Youth Pastor,
Church of the Apostles, Fairfield CT**

Mark is a true faithful friend who tirelessly invests in our staff as friends and partners in ministry. We are extremely grateful for the ways our mission to reach kids for Christ has directly benefitted from his heart to network Young Life chapters, churches and other organizations. Mark has played a key role in the development of a youth ministry environment that focuses on unity, prayer, and collaboration. The entire region is definitely more like the Kingdom of God due to the ministry network. As a fellow networker and overseer of youth ministers, I am so thankful for Mark and his networking team.

**Bryan Reaume, Director of Training and
Operations, Young Life
New York Metropolitan Region**

Driving home from 'Recharge,' my co-worker and I could say just one thing. WOW. I came expecting a great time but nothing could have prepared me for how much the weekend would exceed my expectations. From amazing times of worship with Andy Needham to 'spot on' messages from the speakers, healing prayer with the We Want More team, divine connections with the body of Christ...I truly cannot remember the last time I felt so completely immersed in the love of Jesus. This weekend was more than just a recharge. It was a re-awakening of my heart to the love of a Savior who is completely irresistible! I am SO thankful to the Mark, the REACH New England Team & Monadnock Staff for this incredible retreat. Your labor & shepherding of youth workers in New England is a priceless gift!

**Emily Larkin, RECHARGE attendee and Development
Director, The Fold Family Ministries, Lynnfield, VT.**

Mission Ministry continued...

Youth Leader RECHARGE Retreat, April 2013



Without the support of NPC and other faithful partners like you, this ministry would not be possible. **THANK YOU** so very much for your generosity in sharing the blessings that God has given to you, so that we can continue to support youth workers as they reach thousands of teenagers across the New England Region.

On behalf of the REACH Youth New England Board and with sincere appreciation in Christ,
Rev. Mark D. Orr, Executive Director

Mission News

Thank you to all who prayed, donated, packed meals or helped setup/staff/cleanup this year's 5th annual Darien Joint churches Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. The weekend was a time of great joy and service with over 900 volunteers working together to hand pack 202,176 special MannaPack rice/soy meals for starving children around the world.



Mission Upcoming Events

Friday, November 1st - Young Life Prayer Meeting - 9-10:00 a.m. at the home of Lisa Hadlow, 4 Leeds Lane. You are invited to join this gathering to lift up the youth of our town in prayer.

Saturday, November 2nd & December 7th - Serve at the Open Door Shelter If you are interested in signing up to set up or serve lunch at Norwalk Open Door Shelter please email Holly Hough at hough7@optonline.net.

Friday, November 8th - Midnight Run to NYC
Youth Ministries will be taking a group to serve sandwiches and distribute clothing to the homeless of New York. Please bring donations of gently used men's clothing and new undershirts/underwear to the donation bins around the church.

Sunday, November 10th - Pivot Ministries Choir will be worshipping with us at the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Launching the Pivot Ministries Annual Toiletries and Food Drive - Please bring donations to church .

Saturday, November 16th - Youth Ministries Food Drive for Carver Center at Stop and Shop Noroton Heights
signup via Youth Ministries.

Angel Tree Program December - provide a Christmas gift to the child of an incarcerated parent on their behalf - more info to follow. **Dove Program December** - provide a holiday meal to a needy family - part of the P2P program - more info to follow.

To volunteer or for more information about NPC mission ministry contact Stella Clarke Mission Associate at stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org 203-655-1451 ext 18.

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

September 25th:

John G. Davis Jr.

October 9th:

Frank W. Doll Jr.

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

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

October 20th:

James William Ekiss III,
son of James and Gretchen Ekiss

Annabelle Lena Reitz,
daughter of Roland Kei Reitz

Prime Timers

November 21st at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Pastor Brandi Drake will share a meaningful theme.

Did you know? We have a Youth Ministry Task Force

Our job is listening to families here at NPC and researching various models of Youth Ministry. We need your input! All are welcome to attend.

- **Two Sunday sessions for feedback:**
November 10th at 4 p.m. &
November 17th at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Please fill out the online survey**
at www.norotonyouth.com.

Team members: Elliott Etheredge, Sandy Henry, Burt Palmer, Kalie Riordon, Cindy Smith, Seana Turner, Sally Vosburgh and Bobby Winsor. Pastor Brandi is resourcing this team.

If you would like to submit an article for the December 2013 issue please submit it before November 8 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III.....ext. 11 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Dwayne Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Martha Duff.....ext. 35 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....ext. 21 <i>Pastor of Caring and Women's Ministry</i>	Mickie O'Donnell.....ext. 34 <i>Director of Children's Ministry & Interim Director of Youth Ministries</i>	Julie Colbathext. 14 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Greg Doll.....ext. 23 <i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	Stella Clarke.....ext. 18 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	Dan Rosa.....ext. 43 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Valerie Muller.....ext. 48 <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Carol Scott.....ext. 46 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	David Lee.....ext. 26 <i>Director of Properties</i>

