

The Spire

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



Thanksgiving Reflections

Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. Falling between the high caloric celebration of Halloween and the overly commercialized extravaganza of Christmas, Thanksgiving arrives as a casual reminder that we have a lot to be grateful for. When you look at all the conflict and woe in the world today, we Americans should be grateful we live in this country. It isn't perfect, but it is remarkably blessed. I'm also grateful for our church. What a wonderful fellowship we have of talented, tireless servants of Christ. We pray, we work, we give, we learn, we worship, we laugh, we cry together. I treasure this community I have the privilege of serving and the great staff I share this ministry with. I'm also grateful for a patient wife, a faithful dog and the love of a growing family. I'm thankful for friends to call and friends who call me. I'm even grateful for a long straight drive and a rare birdie putt! Things simple and profound, deep and superficial, can spout an attitude of gratitude if we take time to reflect. I'm grateful that we can pay our bills and support the

charities we believe in. I'm grateful for travel and the chance to make friends in other cultures and sample the savory food of a different culture's cuisine. I'm thankful for functioning eyes, ears and legs. Gratitude doesn't cost a nickel, but its affect on our souls can be **priceless**.

The longer I live the more I discover that my deepest gratitude is for God's greatest gift to us - His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. He loves us, shepherds us, forgives us, prays for us, heals us, helps us, blesses us, died for us, and even defeated death for us. Nothing we can do would make him love us more and nothing we can do would make him love us less. It takes a lifetime to even begin to understand how deep and wide and high and long the Lord's love is for us. I'm grateful for more time on this earth to learn that and I'm grateful I have the promise of forever in heaven to learn that even more.

These are some of the things I'm grateful for as we approach Thanksgiving this year. What are you thankful for?

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
 Sam Schreiner

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 11/2/14 Pastor Sam Schreiner
 "Finishing Well in the Final Decades" - Ecclesiastes 3:1-14
- 11/9/14 - 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.
 Pastor Brandi Drake
 9 & 10:30 a.m. - Guest Preacher
 11:30 a.m. - Congregational Meeting
- 11/16/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 11/23/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 11/30/14 - 1st Sunday of Advent
 Pastor Greg Doll

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

11/16, 11/30 & 12/21 at the
 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
*To schedule a Baptism please call
 Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

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Questionnaire about Small Groups

Please take 3 minutes to respond to this survey about Small Groups at NPC.

Whether or not you plan to personally participate in a small group, we would appreciate your responses to this BRIEF (6-question) survey. As we develop options we want to make sure we are providing formats/timing that allow anyone who is interested to comfortably enjoy the benefits of knowing a smaller group of people much more specifically.

This same survey is available for online response: www.norotonchurch.org under the Ministries/Adult Ministries/Adult Spiritual Formation/Small Groups menu tab or **CLICK HERE**, as well as in the Narthex outside the Sanctuary at church. Thanks for helping us design this ministry to best serve YOU!

The ASF Team: Pastor Greg, Deb and Lou Deloma, Audrey Hutter, Jeff Marston, Valerie Muller, Jeff Myers, Sheree Sanborne, Sally Vosburgh

Please answer the following questions to help us to manage the small group program:

1. Which book or topic in the Bible are you most interested in studying?

2. How comfortable are you with the idea of participating in a small group of 10-16 people?

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Comfortable
- Not comfortable
- Very uncomfortable

3. A typical small group meeting includes:

- Social Time and Refreshments
- Devotional Time
- Bible Study and Discussion (bulk of time)
- Sharing Concerns and Praises for Prayer
- (Confidentiality is critical to the success of group sharing.)*
- Participating in Group Mission Service



Please put check marks next to the parts of the small group meeting that are most interesting to you. Check as many as you like.

4. Which part is the least interesting?

5. Which of the following group demographics would be most interesting to you:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couples Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Male Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed couples, singles, genders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Open to any demographic |

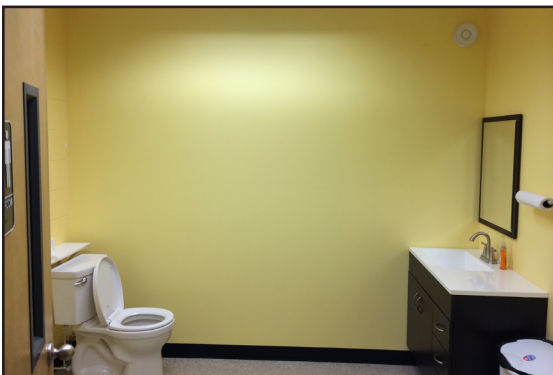
6. In your view, what would be the characteristics of an ideal small group Bible Study?

Please return electronically (norotonchurch@norotonchurch.org), place in offering plate, drop in box in mailroom, or mail back to us.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

November 2014 Progress Report

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly.. 1 Corinthians 9:26



The crisp days and nights have brought the majesty of God's autumnal creation to our towns. As we go through this spectacular season and move toward Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for in the race we are running at NPC.

In October we achieved several noteworthy milestones for *Foundations for the Future*. Construction was completed on the upper section of the new parking lot. This new section brings parking for Sunday services closer to the Sanctuary. At the opposite end of the CE Wing construction was completed on the new Tot Drop entrance (across from the Memorial Garden). This entrance, which is next to the Tot Drop Director's office provides a "stairless" entry for little legs or parents with full arms, not to mention better monitoring of those coming and going. Finally, construction was completed on a new adult rest room on the lower floor of the CE Wing, a much appreciated addition for our teachers and caregivers.

These milestones are emblematic of the progress being made by your *Foundations* team. Every week the new church building comes more into focus thanks to the construction work, planning, and design efforts of so many people. We are truly blessed to have talented construction partners and dedicated congregational volunteers. Thanks be to all. Like St. Paul we are not running aimlessly. There are specific goals ahead and we are pushing on to achieve them. An important part of finishing this race is financial, and we are hoping to finish strong. If you have not fulfilled your *Foundations* pledge, please prayerfully consider whether you can do so as this calendar year draws to a close. Thank you.

More to come ... God bless you!

Tom Taylor, Jean Ann
and Dick Bollman

Foundations for the Future Progress Team



Adult Spiritual Formation

Noroton Lectures 2015



February 7 & 8 we will be welcoming one of the premier Christian thinkers in the world to our Noroton Lectures. I am very pleased to announce that theologian Dr. John G. Stackhouse, Jr. will be our Noroton Lecturer in 2015.

Born in Canada, and raised in southwestern England and northern Ontario, John Stackhouse was educated in history and religious studies at three of North America's leading institutions: Queen's University in Ontario (B.A., First Class Honors), Wheaton College Graduate School in Illinois (M.A., with Highest Honors), and The University of Chicago (Ph.D.).

Formerly a professor of European history at Northwestern College in Iowa and a professor of religion at the University of Manitoba, currently John holds the Sangwoo Youtong Chee Chair of Theology and Culture at Regent College, an international graduate school of Christian studies at one of Canada's premier universities, the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. He has served also as Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies at McGill University and UBC, responsible for supervising Ph.D. students.

Dr. Stackhouse has published more than 600 articles, book chapters, and reviews in the history, sociology,

and philosophy of religion, in ethics, and in theology. He has authored seven books and co-authored, edited, or co-edited seven more. Dr. Stackhouse's commentary has been featured by major North American television networks, many radio stations, and print media as diverse as *The New York Times*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Atlantic*, *Time*, and *Reader's Digest*. He serves as an advisory editor at *Christianity Today*, a contributing editor at *Books & Culture*, a columnist for *Faith Today*, and a blogger for *The National Post*. He has given lectures at leading universities, including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Edinburgh, as well as at institutions as varied as Seoul Theological University, the Elijah Institute in Jerusalem, Tyndale House in Cambridge, Brigham Young University, and the ACTS Institute in Bangalore.

Married for more than thirty years and the father of three sons, John enjoys skiing and hiking the Vancouver-area mountains with his family and hitting the road on the motorcycle he inherited from his father. He is also a jazz musician, and gives the occasional performance on piano, guitar, trumpet, or electric bass. (His instruments include a Grotrian piano, Martin D-35 flat-top guitar, Godin electric guitar, Olds Super trumpet, and Fender 5-string electric bass.)

Pastor Greg Doll,

Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Event Schedule

Saturday, February 7

8-9:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Topic: *The World Is Not Enough: Lessons on Masculinity from James Bond and Jesus Christ*

All men are invited to join us for a continental breakfast, fellowship and a lecture.

10-11:30 a.m. Women's Coffee

Topic: *Why Women Don't Lead... and Why All Women Should Care*

All women are invited to join us for coffee, refreshments, fellowship and a lecture.

7-8:30 p.m. - Keynote Address

Topic: *Doesn't Anyone Care about the Big Things? How to Commend the Gospel to a Busy Neighbor*

All are welcome to the evening lecture in our fellowship hall.

Please register for these events at www.norotonchurch.org

(go to ministries menu > Adult Spiritual Formation > Noroton Lectures)

Sunday, February 8 - Worship Services

8 a.m. - Chapel / 9 & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

Sermon: *"Is He Saved?"—and Other Questions Christians Shouldn't Ask*

Join us for any of our Sunday morning services.



Caring & Women's Ministries



I can't believe it's already November. Here come the holidays!

This month, 'my' article is written by one of our DivorceCare leaders: Lise Chase. The Holidays can be rough when you're working your way through a difficult separation or divorce. We'll have a *Surviving the Holidays* evening on **Monday, November 17th from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Horton Hall**. Maybe you know someone who could benefit from this evening. Please feel free to invite them, or offer to attend it together!

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

Grateful for Grace

By Lise Chase

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." ~Luke 6:37

I counted 25 different Bible verses utilizing the word "judge," and there are surely more! It is easy to casually read Luke 6:37, but then not apply it in every-day life.

I was inspired to write this article by something I experienced in another state, miles from NPC, but as a member of the DivorceCare Leadership Team, I thought it prudent to remind people of the judgment trap.

To couples married 30 years or more, it is easy to think, "Marriage is hard work. People need to work harder to reduce the divorce rates." Yes, we are human, each with our weaknesses, and accepting that and continuing to love one another in spite of these weaknesses is a good thing. However, if a good marriage is hard work, one can imagine how much harder a bad marriage is. The end of a marriage doesn't necessarily mean neither partner worked. In fact, it takes two people to make a good marriage, not one. In DivorceCare I witness with regularity the devastation that surrounds divorce. Not only does a person lose a spouse, they often lose financial security, their home, friends, family members, their dreams, their place in community, as well as their self-esteem. Even though divorce occurs often now, most people do not divorce easily.

In 1999 when I first realized I was headed for divorce after 25 years, I went first to our Pastor Connie to

consult. At the time, I was not even prepared to share details. "Connie, I think I may be headed for divorce, but I thought marriage was a commitment for a life-time," I said. With compassion she looked at me and replied, "God intends for marriage to last a life-time, but He also knows there are circumstances which make it impossible."

As a person with strong faith and Christian beliefs, I felt tremendous gratitude to her, and I still do. I regularly share her statement with people suffering through the trauma. Numerous circumstances destroy a marriage: abuse, addictions, mental illness, polygamy, perpetual adultery, homosexuality, etc. You may think you know the couple involved, but as an outsider, you cannot. Victims often choose not to share circumstances in order to protect their children. Sometimes they also need to protect the offending spouse. Divorce is an earthquake.

We forget to apply God's advice to "judge not." Our judging attitude need not be blatant, but comes across in polite unfriendliness rather than loving acceptance and openness. Where we are called to love our neighbors, we too often fail simply because our own shortcomings/circumstances are different. Fortunately, NPC is a place where God's love shines through. Let's continue to open our hearts, welcome His grace into our lives, and offer it to others.

Adult Studies

Prime Timers

Jim Rumsey, noted Darien Physical Therapist will speak on
“Fitness to Prevent Falls”
Thursday, November 20 at 2:00 p.m.
at Maplewood*, Darien.

*599 Post Rd on left across from Congregational Church Park under Maplewood or in parking lot for Congregational Church.
Please do not park right across from Maplewood in the parking area for the Center For Hope.

For more information contact Marlene Moffett
(203-309-5620).



Surviving the Holidays

Monday, November 17 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Horton Hall.

The Holidays can be rough when you're working your way through a difficult separation or divorce. Maybe you know someone who could benefit from this evening. Please feel free to invite them, or offer to attend it together!



Wellness and Worship Together!



Carve out an hour to strengthen your body, calm your mind, and nourish your soul with Christian yoga in a safe, nonjudgmental, supportive space at NPC. Please arrive a few 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 will meet in Horton Hall on **Fridays at 9:30-10:30 a.m.** with certified yoga instructor Jenny Voelker (RYT-200). In the month of November we will meet **9:30-10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 7th, 14th, and 21st (no class the 28th due to the holiday)!** Please dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat. Blocks are wonderful too if you have them. Anyone with serious injuries or medical concerns should discuss practicing yoga with his or her doctor.

Men's Studies

Men's Bible Study

- Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in NYC at The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of 44th across from the west entrance to Grand Central.
- 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. Join us early Tuesday mornings for some spiritual nourishment! Current study is on Psalms of Ascent.
- 9:30 a.m. in living rooms around town: Current study is on Philippians. Interested? Contact Marlene (marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org) to receive your "location." Join us anytime! Childcare is limited so contact Tot Drop at totdrop@norotonchurch.org.

Thursday morning Moms Oasis:

- Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in Horton Hall. Childcare is limited so contact Tot Drop at totdrop@norotonchurch.org.

Moms of Teens:

- The group is reading *Bonding with your TEEN through BOUNDARIES*, by June Hunt. **Thursdays 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.** in the SHAC. Come as often as you are able. This group is led by Sallie Schmidt and Laurie Bessey. For more information contact Sallie at sallieschmidt@gmail.com or Laurie at thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com.



Minute with Mickie Wondering About “Whose job is it?”

When I was a busy mom raising my children, I gave the kids jobs to do around the house, you know, chores. We didn't give an allowance for normal chores, we just tried to instill in them that as a member of this family the job of taking care of the house and yard was everyone's responsibility. We shared the goal of being able to open our home to friends, extended family and out of town guests with pride as we all worked on our chores to get things ready. Sharing the responsibility helped to develop a sense of ownership. Doing things together on those occasions with fun gave us a sense of unity too. If anyone saw something needed to be done and asked “Whose job is it?” the answer was always “Everyone's.” One of the ways that we showed that we loved each other was also when we would work together, argue about how it should look, pick up the slack when needing to give each other a break, and then, when we would stand back and look with satisfaction and joy at the goal accomplished – it was such a good feeling. The Church is called “A Family” and like your family and my family, we share the responsibilities of how this local church functions. We also have the responsibility and privilege of loving each other and sharing the load of work.

One of the ways we can show our community that we are not just an organization but a family is by the way we do things together and by how much we love each other, from the youngest to the oldest. Isn't that what Jesus said? “They will know you are my disciples by the way you love each other.” So how can we demonstrate this love for one another at NPC? - By doing things with each other and actively loving each other.

NPC does a really great job with all the people on various Teams, as Deacons, Elders, Choir, Stephen Ministry, etc. What I appreciate too are all the Huddle Leaders and the adults involved with our Youth Ministry. We are not a company where the hired help do all the work. We are a church, a place where the love

of Jesus should so shine out of us that everyone in Darien and beyond would hear about how we love and care for each other. So let's answer the big question about “Whose job is it” to work with our children and youth at NPC? Children's and Youth Ministries is really everyone's job.

The challenge is to be available, to be present with one another, so that we take the time to get to know each other so that we can really care. That's why in Children's and Youth Ministries we provide lots of opportunities for adults to be involved. It's everyone's job to facilitate, pray for, encourage and hang out with your kids. We want your kids and youth to know that NPC is filled with adults who know their name, understand their struggles, rejoice in their successes and who shower them with attention and love in Jesus' name.

Whose job is it? It's everyone's job. WE are the church. WE are the people whom God has given gifts to for the encouraging of one another. WE are the arms of God reaching out and showing love and mercy and grace to all we encounter. So the next two questions are these: Do you feel the love? And, are you sharing the love?

Sunday morning Sunday School in Horton Hall, you have the opportunity to love on our kids. As staff, we tell the stories, we prepare the activities and we give it all to you on the website and in the easy to use bins under the tents. All we need from you is a little time and your love that kids can feel. We are so thankful for the plethora of adult and teen facilitators who do help - there are too many to name. Our older teens are helping with younger children too – it's a wonderful thing to experience. We could use more.

In the gym on Sunday morning and in Harbor on Wednesday nights our Middle school students need role models to discuss the questions we prepare after we tell the story. Our teens need to know that there are adults at NPC who pray for them and are interested in them. I'm so thankful for the wonderful adults who have stepped forward to support Sarah in both Middle School

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Children's & Youth Ministries

and High School ministries during this season while we anticipate a new Youth Pastor. We are having a fantastic time doing Small Groups and our teens are learning from other adults, like Melanie Evans, Cindy Smith, Eric Emel, Tori and Andrew Barnett, Burton Palmer, Sally Vosburgh, Evan Drake, Phil Wwon, Lea Ann Roberson, and Dave Hedges, just to name a few. We need our new Youth Pastor to know he/she has dedicated adults involved in this ministry. People who believe it IS everyone's job.

In Horton Hall, my prayer is that your children will feel that I love them. I love their questions, I love their energy and I love helping them learn the stories from God's Word. But I'm not enough. They need to know there are others who feel the same way.

As we head into November and the Holidays, please remember to say thank you to those who helped shape your faith when you were growing up and then think about how you can pick up that mantle and do the job for the next generation. Whose job is it? Everyone's.

See you on Sunday!!
Mickie O'Donnell
*Director of Children's Ministry
& Interim Director of Youth Ministry*

Wondering about what your kids are learning?

Go to www.npckids.com.

Download lessons, watch the videos and have fun learning Bible stories at home.

Nov. 2nd - Ruth, Naomi and Boaz - a Movie day
Nov. 9th - Samuel - Called by God as a boy
Nov. 16th - Esther
Nov. 23rd - Feast of Purim

Upcoming dates: Advent will be here soon. So please put these wonderful events on your calendar.

Caroling by Candlelight – Dec. 5th

Christmas Pageant Sunday – Dec. 14th at both 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services

Christmas Eve Family Services – Dec. 24th 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

What Stories do we need to Share?



We all love stories; that is a part of who we are. We love hearing stories about when we were children, when our parents were children, and most importantly sharing them. We love fictional stories in print or movies. We love stories about the underdog having to achieve and overcome several circumstances to succeed.

As I've prepared to teach for Sunday School, Harbor, Ignite, or in small groups, I've noticed the importance of sharing stories in the Old Testament. Specifically, the stories of what God has done for the Israelites. In Deuteronomy 11:18-21, Moses tells the Israelites the importance of not forgetting what God has done for them. He tells them to "Fix these words of mine [God]

in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth." Don't forget what God has done. Share those stories so that your children and children's children will know what God has done. Reflecting on that, I've been thinking, what are the stories that I need to tell of how God has been at work now, here in Darien, in the lives of our students? Those stories need to be shared.

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Children's & Youth Ministries

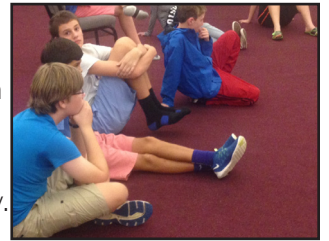
So, where has God been at work in the lives of our youth?

Let me share with you a few stories of where I have seen God at work in our students lives:

- On Wednesday morning, I was invited by one of our high school students to join with those who wanted to pray around the flagpole at DHS. They were gathered together to pray for their school, teachers, friends, community, and country as a part of See You at the Pole (SYATP). It was exciting to see the students gather together as they were all NPC students, praying for God to be visible in the high school and in our community. There were more students than last year, so that even is growing. Praise God for the opportunity to meet at DHS and pray!
- Again on Wednesday night, the middle schoolers gathered together for Harbor. While they had a lot of fun playing games and hanging out, when it came time to teach the lesson, you could have heard a pin drop. The students were so attentive as they learned about Moses and all that God did through him.
- Our Middle School students are getting it! What do I mean? Each week in our Sunday school class we have been exploring questions such as Why can I trust God? What's in it for me? Is believing in God lame? As we ask these questions we have some discussion questions that lead into the Bible stories that prove why we can trust God, or why believing in God is worth it. This week the discussion question was, can you name someone in the Bible who was made fun of for following Jesus? They took that answer and related it to the stories we have been learning in Sunday School and

Harbor. They remembered Moses being in front of Pharaoh, Elijah on the Mount in front of the people and the prophets of Baal just to name a few.

I was so impressed to see their comprehension of the stories they have been learning, and then apply it! They are remembering these stories from beginning to end and seeing the life applications.



- For our high schoolers, a few of them were invited this past weekend to speak at the Mission team's retreat. They shared their reflections on VWAP (Vacation with a Purpose) and our mission trip to the Dominican Republic. I was so proud of them, hearing their reflections, how God moved, challenged, and taught them, and the impact these trips have had here in Darien and Fairfield County in their personal lives. Praise God for the difference He is making and all that our students are learning!!
- We had 36 students confirmed this year.
- A couple reports of High School students getting involved with Elementary and Middle School Sunday School as Huddle leaders. Not only are they doing a great job, they are using their gifts well. They are so good, and students are learning so much!



What Stories do you need to Share?

If you have any stories of God working in the life of your student, please let us know! Scripture tells us to share those stories to encourage one another. Let's look for where God is at work and join Him!

Sarah Swible,
Youth Ministries Coordinator
sarah.swible@norotonchurch.org 9

Children's & Youth Ministries



2014 Confirmation Class

Tot Drop



Noroton Presbyterian Church

Tot Drop
Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

For the past six years, Tot Drop has been under the loving and experienced direction of Carol Scott.

During that time, Tot Drop has grown tremendously, from a two-room operation to a five-room ministry. What was once a six-teacher endeavour is now an 18-teacher venture. Dedicated and hard working, Carol maintained a warm and caring childcare center that has grown along with the needs of our changing community. She (and her husband Phillip) are now looking forward to a long-coming and well-deserved retirement; they will be living near their grandchildren in upstate New York. We wish her all the best!



NPC has replaced Carol with not one, but two hires. Elizabeth Watson was named Assistant Director. Previously a two-teacher at Tot Drop, Elizabeth holds a Master of Social Work. Coming from NPNS as a Pre-K teacher with a Masters in Education, I have been named the Director. Elizabeth and I are looking forward to continuing the tradition of the warm and individualized care that was associated with Tot Drop when it was under the direction of Carol Scott.

Peace and Joy,
Beth Aparicio
NPC Tot Drop Director

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 local shops around the church. This developed from a conversation about community, and what the local community looked like. 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 and Mr. Robert's music class. Extended Day is in full swing with Little Athletes, Super Science, Fitness Fun, Little Chef's and Friendship Lunch.

Our staff continues their training with a visit from Patricia Reinhardt, Jennifer Carvajal from New Beginnings in NYC, and the Darien Directors Group speaker Jeff Cordulack from the Greenwich Audubon Society who came and spoke on the benefits of exploring nature with 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. There are also many projects about construction, as the children have loved watching the new building taking shape just over the playground fence. 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.



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



Liam Kelly and Virginia LeVeon



Pre-K



Hailey Reitz

Membership Ministry



How Many Houses Have Sold in Darien in 2014? *(That is, there are always new people for us all to greet!)*

In the first 8 months alone of this year, ownership of almost 150 houses changed hands in Darien. A few are relocations within town, but you know from your own experience that there are always plenty of new neighbors in this family-friendly suburb, and in the surrounding towns.

Many of these new residents are seeking to find, and perhaps join, a church. They come to NPC as visitors to see how it feels and whether it's the *right fit*. All are hoping – expecting – to be welcomed warmly in our house of worship, to find a connection to others, and to have a moving spiritual experience.

We have helpful ushers and greeters in place but it truly takes all of us to create a culture that says **“we embrace you and there is a place for you here.”**

Here are some suggestions to use before and after the services to help create this engaging, safe atmosphere at NPC:

- ★ Say hello to everyone. (After all we don't always know who the visitors are.)
- ★ Look around and see who looks unfamiliar, then walk over and engage them. (Don't worry if it turns out to be someone who simply goes to another service and you've just never met them before!)
 - ☆ Some churches employ the 10 foot rule: if you are within 10 feet of someone you don't know, go talk with them.
 - ☆ Other churches encourage the 3 minute rule: refrain from talking with someone you know for the first 3 minutes after the worship service.
- ★ Introduce yourself and learn their name (and try to remember it!)
- ★ Show interest in them – inquire about their family, how long they've been in the area, what they do, what brings them to NPC.
- ★ Share about yourself and your NPC experience - how long you've been coming, how you got involved, what you're active in now, highlight a ministry program you think would interest them.

- ★ Make introductions to others standing nearby.
- ★ Be sensitive to people who are guarded and respect their wish to blend in.

There are additional opportunities to engage newcomers at Bible studies, Mom's Oasis, and Children and Youth Ministry events.

Let's all intentionally commit ourselves to greeting visitors!

Next New Member Class: Half-day, November 15

A half-day class, Noon to 5:30 p.m., will take place on Sat., Nov. 15 for those wishing to join NPC. If you have questions, please contact Julie Colbath. Registration is required and can be completed online at the NPC website using the membership ministry page (or we have a paper form you can complete). It's also an option to attend the class for information only, and then take your membership vows within one year, if you so choose.

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath

Director of Membership

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



Congregational Life Ministry

All Church Lawn/Patio Cookout



We were blessed with a BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY for this year's Lawn/Patio Cookout!

We took advantage of the fact that everyone was exiting the sanctuary through the rear Post Road doors, and were perhaps able to encourage a few more members/friends to linger a while, have a bite of lunch and conversation with friends.

It is typically a good time for those who find themselves attending different services to re-convene and catch up on what's been happening in each other's lives. What fun to see friends and families gather around tables and on blankets to enjoy freshly grilled meats and homemade picnic salads. And, the playground was opened to provide safe play for our littlest ones too.

As the photos show ... a good time was had by all!



Opportunities to Bless Others

November is a great time to remember, and share, our many blessings.

We encourage you to check elsewhere in this Spire, Noroton Notes, our website, and posters for the many ways we partner to help others in need in our community.

In fellowship with you,
Valerie Muller
Director of Community and Communication
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org
or 203-309-5650

Mission Ministry



Growing the Kingdom

It is encouraging and exciting to see how children of NPC members and staff have stepped out in faith to help grow the Kingdom of God. NPC recently made special one time gifts to support the ministry of Wes Roberts, Priscila Podesta and Jack and Svea Schreiner. We are thankful for these missionaries and other members of the NPC family near and far who are serving God on the mission field.

Jack and Svea Schreiner – HopeForce International, McDowell, West Virginia



Jack and Svea are spending a year serving the people of McDowell, West Virginia. (Jack is Pastor Sam and Deb Schreiner's son). This is one of the poorest places in the U.S. with many living in desperate generational poverty. Jack will be leading short term mission construction teams for HopeForce International and developing relational ministry, supporting and encouraging the people in this area many of whom have turned to drugs to escape their hopelessness. Svea is working in a nearby town teaching language arts in the middle school, hoping to help provide what may be many children's only exit out of poverty: education.

Priscila Podesta – Arab Baptist Theology Seminary – Beirut, Lebanon

Priscila Podesta, daughter of Gus and Adriana Podesta is serving in Beirut Lebanon teaching English to the students of the Arab Baptist Theology Seminary (ABTS). Through this ministry Priscila is helping to train and empower new leaders for the church in this region and supporting the mission of the ABTS whose vision is "To see God glorified, people reconciled, and communities restored through the Church in the Arab world". Priscila also serves in her local church in Beirut in an outreach program to Iraqi women and children who have had to flee from their homes and seek shelter in Lebanon away from the war.



Serving our Savior together,
Stella Clarke
Mission Associate

203-309-5645 or stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org

Wes Roberts - Mission Collective and Daniel Island Fellowship

Wes Roberts grew up at Noroton Presbyterian Church, and after several years as a youth pastor in North Carolina, he is now an active charitable leader and church planter in Charleston, SC. He has many fond memories of being loved and led in Christ by NPC and feels strongly that he would not be the man or pastor he is today without many of the dedicated people at NPC. He was very involved in NPC youth programs and shared his well-honed musical talent at the church.



The Mission Collective (MC), a new nonprofit organization is focused on launching citycentric hubs of mission in North America. It was started by Paul Sorenson who came to Connecticut from Florida to launch The Center for Hope and Renewal in Greenwich. Proverbs 24:27 "Prepare your work outside, get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after build your house." is an inspiration.

On September 28, 2014 the Daniel Island Fellowship (the first church plant) was launched with a core group of 65 attending including many families in Charleston, SC. The Mission Collective team is actively creating a charitable network of gospel-centered organizations around Charleston for greater collaboration and Kingdom service. They have done everything from marching to raise money for a free medical clinic for severely impoverished people to helping start a leading faith-based counseling center for marriages and families. In addition to NPC, MC is partnering with Tim Keller's church planting organization, Redeemer City to City. Other initial partners include Trinity Church (Greenwich) and Mission Chattanooga in Tennessee.

MC has been actively involved in putting together a Charleston Leadership Breakfast which attracted 700 people in mid October. The event included many business leaders who are excited about supporting MC.

The Mission Team and the entire NPC community are excited to fund and support this growing new non profit and fellowship. Wes lives in Charleston with his wife, Brianna, and their two daughters, Charlotte (6) and Juliette (4).

For more information or to provide additional support, contact Wes at wroberts@missioncollective.org.

Doug Campbell,
Mission Team Elder

Mission Opportunities

Opportunities to Bless Others

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches we have several ways we can bless others through gifts of food, toiletries, and Christmas gifts to needy children. Through the gift of giving we can share Christ's love in a tangible way. You are welcome to participate in any of these opportunities.

Pivot Annual Food/Toiletries Drive: November 9-30

Please bring shaving products/shower gel/toothpaste, etc., or canned tuna/pasta/chunky soup, etc., to services during the month of November. Items will be collected in bins near the entrance.



Angel Tree and Dove Programs

will kick off on **Sunday, November 23** and are a fun way to involve families with young children in some Christmas shopping. Go to Horton Hall after services to sign up.

Angel Tree provides an opportunity to purchase a gift chosen by a parent who is incarcerated, for their child, which will be given on their behalf to their child. There is also an opportunity to help with delivery of these gifts early in December. Questions? Contact Dom Lettera at dominicll@yahoo.com.

Dove Program provides an opportunity to purchase all the components of a holiday meal for a needy family. Questions? Contact Sandra MacVicar at smacvicar40@gmail.com.



NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

October 5th:
Velma B. Brindley

October 7th:
William J. Flatley

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

Join us in celebrating the following Weddings...

October 18th:
Elizabeth Blair Dysenchuk and Ethan Shoemaker

Please Serve Once a Month as a Worship Greeter!

The commitment is just once a month for 15 minutes, and something you can do as a family. With construction at the church, it will be even more important to have greeters in place to both welcome visitors and regular worshipers, and to help everyone navigate the parking lot and building. Please contact Julie Colbath.

If you would like to submit an article for the December 2014 issue please submit it before November 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>	Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</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>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry & Interim Director of Youth Ministry</i>	Julie Colbath 203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Greg Doll..... 203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach</i>	Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	Dan Rosa..... 203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Community and Communications</i>	Beth Aparicio 203-309-5605 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	David Lee..... 203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i>

November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	I
2 Men's Retreat 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	3	4 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Presentation 8:00 p.m. Team Night Meetings	8 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	6 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga	8	
9 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th 11:30 a.m. Congregational Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	10	11 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	12 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Mission Book Study	13 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga	15 12:00 p.m. New Member Class	
16 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th 3:30 p.m. Club 8 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	17 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare - Surviving the Holidays	18 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	19 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	20 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers - Maplewood, Darien 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga	22	
23 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th 9 & 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	24	25 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC)	26 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Make-up 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 Thanksgiving NPC Offices Closed	28 Thanksgiving Holiday NPC Offices Closed	29	
30 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite							