

# The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)  
 2011 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 ■ 203-655-1451



## Where it all began – Israel Pilgrimage in 2016

**S**unday, September 20th when we rededicated our new and updated facilities was a day of incredible JOY. For eight years we had been planning towards this day, first assessing our needs, hopes and dreams, then consolidating a plan, raising the funds and finally starting to build. The members of our building team Dale LeMasters, Jean Ann Bollman, Ed Barksdale, Mark Bielstein, Jerry Byrne, Karen Calby, David Claiborne, Steven DeMott, Allegra Erickson, Tom Geraghty, Roger Knight, Jed Lawrence, Elizabeth Queally, Bill Reedy, Brian Smalley, Ginna Yerrall. Our design and construction partners were: Dennis Kowal of Dennis Kowal Architects; Frank Mullaney, Owners Rep, Beacon Projects Group; Gus Pappajohn, General Contractor, A. Pappajohn Company; Craig Flaherty, Civil Engineer, Redniss & Mead; Bruce Hill, Attorney; Joel Mikell, President, Pursuant Group had served so faithfully and creatively on our behalf that they deserve all of our thanks. I'm also deeply grateful to our Properties Director David Lee who gave so much of himself to complete so many

facets of this project that went on for several years. Cooperation from all segments of our church - from Nursery school to staff members who had to move, to parents and seniors was phenomenal.

And look at the result! Behold God gave us "new wineskins" for ministry in the 21st century. New windows all over, new utilities (with great cost savings), new roofs, air conditioning throughout, new playgrounds, new rooms for ministry with modern technology, new offices for productive work by our staff, renewed Sanctuary and Chapel – all debt free. What a gift from God. Please watch the calendar for the "50 Days of Celebration" and please take some time to grow familiar with our new and renewed church home. I can't wait to see where God takes us as a church as we use this new home to serve Him even more.

So what is next after we have completed this journey of renewal for our church home? What about joining me on a spiritually enriching journey to Israel and Jordan? *"A trip of a lifetime."* *"This was just what my faith needed."* *"Now I can read the Bible and*

*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

**"Together in the Story"**  
 Sermon Series continues

**10/4 - Confirmation Sunday**  
 Pastor Jimmy McPherson  
 Exodus 19: 3-7, 20:1-17

**10/11 - Pastor Brandi Drake**  
 Joshua 24: 1-15

**10/18 - Pastor Sam Schreiner**  
 I Samuel 8:5-22

**10/25 - Golden Senior Sunday**  
 Pastor Sam Schreiner  
 I Kings 3:4-15

### Upcoming Baptism Dates

**10/18, 11/15, 12/20 and 1/17/16**  
**at 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service.**  
*To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

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see the scenes so clearly.” These are some of the responses pilgrims have had when they return from a trip to Israel. To walk the ancient streets of Jerusalem, to stand on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to visit Jericho and Bethlehem, are some of the richest experiences of faith we can experience. After not doing Pastor-led spiritual tours for a few years, I’m happy to announce that I will be hosting a trip to Israel and Jordan in 2016 over the April school break. Our ten-day tour of Israel leaves Friday night, April 8th and returns on the 17th, or the 20th, if you sign up for the three day trip to Jordan. Roman ruins, Jewish settlements, the hill country of the prophets and the places of Jesus’ birth and death, will all be part of this visit. Nothing will bring the sites, sounds, and even smells, of the Biblical story alive like a trip to the Holy Land. It is truly a life changing experience.

We are holding this trip right after Easter, over the school Spring break for parents who want to bring their middle school or older students with them. Pilgrim

Tours will arrange our 4 and 5 star hotels, all air and land transportation, two meals a day and an Israeli Christian guide to accompany us throughout our journey. I’ll be adding some color commentary and we hope to connect with our mission partner, Hanna Massad when we visit Jordan and the ruins of Petra. The bargain rate for this tour is \$4,159, with airfare included for Israel only. The Jordan extension is an additional \$1,019. To learn more about the trip, please come to an information meeting in our new Post Road Mission room the evening of October 26th at 7:30. You may also email Leslie Ezzo ([leslie.ezzo@norotonchurch.org](mailto:leslie.ezzo@norotonchurch.org)) for a brochure that will describe the details of our daily itinerary. May the spring of 2016 be the time that many of us have a chance to walk the Promised Land and experience our faith in Jesus anew where it all began.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,  
Sam Schreiner



## MEMORIAL FUNDS

Memorial Funds which are given to the glory of God in loving memory of loved ones, have contributed in 2014 -2015 to the following projects:

Opening of the Chapel Balcony with lights and pews	\$ 12,315.00
Seed money for the Sanctuary piano	\$ 25,000.00
L.M. Horton Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,135.00
The Endowment Fund	\$ 5,840.00

# Rededication Sunday (September 20th)

Photos tell the story best ...



Chancel & Children's J.A.M. Choirs led worship, with Brass.



A bagpiper led the congregation from Sanctuary to Skylight Fellowship Lobby for series of 'Thank you's' to the many involved in the building process, and the Ribbon Cutting Rededication and Blessing of the facility.



Celebration in new fellowship lobby.



Ribbon cutting by NPC's eldest stateswoman Maude Pettus, and 'best attendance' first grader Anna Keehlwetter, assisted by JeanAnn Bollman and Pastor Sam.



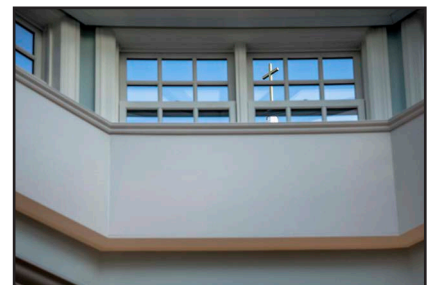
Children mingled amongst the crowd handing out Christian fish key rings.



Building keys were accepted by Jean Ann Bollman, on behalf of the Building Committee.



Ceremony was concluded with Kathleen Amyotte leading the congregation in the *Gloria Patri*.



One can see the cross on top of the spire looking up through the ceiling, while standing on the Compass Rose in the floor of the Skylight Fellowship Lobby.



**Skylight Chamber  
Music Concert**  
**Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 7-9:00 p.m.**  
**will be held in the new**  
**Skylight Fellowship Lobby**

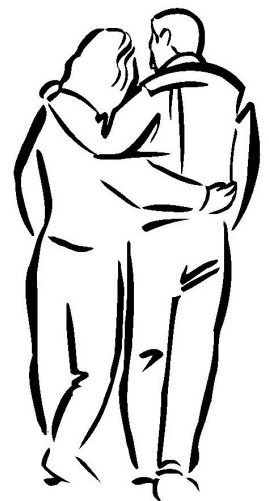
Featuring Norton Presbyterian's talented vocal soloists in an evening of favorites from Opera and Broadway. The evening's performers have been heard on motion picture and television soundtracks, and have graced local and international Opera and Musical Theater stages.

The evening will be directed by Dwayne Condon, a nationally known conductor and pianist, and currently the Director of Music at Norton Presbyterian Church. Please email [music@nortonchurch.org](mailto:music@nortonchurch.org) for reservations. Enter from the rear parking area; doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

**Looking for a powerfully positive date night attend**  
**“A Map to the Landscape of Love”**  
**on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9:00 p.m.**

Whether you have been married for decades, just a few months, or are single, join guest speaker, George Faller at Norton Presbyterian Church in the new Skylight Fellowship Lobby for a couples event focused on exploring the language of love. George will discuss the power of connection and ways for couples to maintain their positive cycle of responsiveness and improve negative patterns of interaction.

Topics will include ways to foster productive communication, to notice and share your partner's "wins", and to find time and energy for passion. When partners find their positive cycle of responsiveness, they fall in love all over again. The speaker, George Faller, is a retired Lieutenant of the NYC Fire Department LMFT, (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist) and an Approved Supervisor for AAMFT. Light refreshments will be served.



[Click here](#) or call 203-655-1451 to register.

# Adult Spiritual Formation



## Fall in New England

I love the fall in New England! There is no other place like it – the colors, the cooler temperatures, fresh apples, and cider. I am excited to be here for it.

I am also excited about the wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth that are offered here at NPC. It is a privilege to worship together each week as we are looking at the major themes of the Scriptures (#togetherinthestory), to see small groups studying these major themes, and to lead men's studies each week. It is also a joy to be able to be in the new building and to live into the new possibilities that God has for this congregation and its ministry in the community and the world.

Please do take the time to do three things. First, check out the special events planned to reach out to the community in our new building. Second, I encourage all the men to sign up for the Men's Retreat. And, third, consider joining one of the newly forming Small Groups for the 'Together In The Story' scripture study series.

With much anticipation,  
Pastor John Seiders,  
*Interim Associate Pastor of Adult and Outreach Ministries*

## Men's Bible Study



### Men's Studies

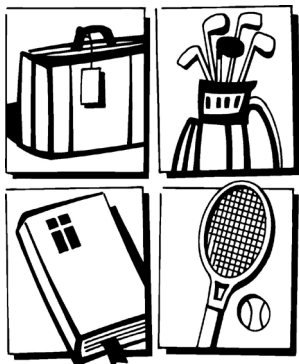
#### **Men's Bible Study Fall 2015**

*Critical Challenges for Christian Men:  
Living with Character in  
a World of Characters*

- Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. at the Yale Club, Clarence Day room of New York City, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017; ending on December 8th.
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in NPC Horton Hall, Darien; ending on December 10th.

#### **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.



## **MEN'S** RETREAT

### **Men's Retreat**

**October 9, 10 & 11, 2015**

**"Daring to be Better Than Good"**

The Men's Retreat will be returning to the rustic, rugged beauty of the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. We will be joined again by our brothers of Macedonia Church. We are pleased to have Rev. David Zuidema, Associate Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming (in Cincinnati, Ohio) as our guest speaker. David was at NPC years ago before attending Yale Divinity School. Those who know him are looking forward to re-connecting and we're all excited to learn from him as the Holy Spirit continues to work in him, his family and community. Registration is available on our website [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org). If you have questions, please contact Erik Schroeder at [erik.schroeder@mac.com](mailto:erik.schroeder@mac.com), Eric Emel at [eric\\_emel@yahoo.com](mailto:eric_emel@yahoo.com) or Marlene at [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org) or 203-309-5620.

# Adult Spiritual Formation

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## Are you participating in the conversation around 'Together In The Story' yet?



Pastor Sam started a new sermon series on the beach which will continue as we worship together in our new facility this Fall and forward. Some Bible studies are also following the thread of the sermon Scripture in their respective times during the week.

And, Small Group Ministry is also embracing the theme ... encouraging our members/friends/neighbors to share your own

stories with each other using the Scripture 'story of the week' as backdrop and for reflection.

If you are already 'in' a home small group, perhaps your leader/facilitator has suggested the 'Together in the Story' curriculum as one of your possible choices. You can pop into it at any time throughout the sermon series ... whether you meet 'weekly' or 'bi-weekly'. If bi-weekly your group can even choose to study the week prior or the week coming up.

If you are 'not yet' in a home small group, and would like to be ... you're in luck! We've been talking about starting some new groups for a while now, and finally have a mechanism/study that makes sense to do so. We have a handful of members who have offered to 'host' (e.g., open their homes and greet others with a smile) and/or 'facilitate' (e.g., review the 'Discussion Questions' and provided 'Leader Study Guide' prior to meeting with others) as we as a church communi-

ty work our way through the story presented in the Bible. We have openings on several different days/times/frequencies, so if you would like to participate please contact me ([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org)) and we'll get you connected!

And to make it even easier for you to be with us in the conversation ... we will offer a 'drop in' discussion series at the church site for those who are only occasionally available during the Fall months! We plan to meet for four weeks starting mid-October following the Columbus Day weekend (which is also when the men are away on Retreat!), possibly on Sundays, from 3:30 to 5pm, so you can still attend the casual evening Open Doors worship service afterwards if that is your normal time! Details to be confirmed/announced.

So ... no excuses ... if you want to be 'together in the story' we've got lots of ways for you to participate!

We truly hope you WILL!

Valerie Muller  
*Director of Community and Communication*  
(Including ASF's Small Group Ministry)



## Small Group Studies

[Click here to register online!](#)

# Caring & Women's Ministries



*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*

**Romans 12:1-2**

I was with a group of people last month, and we were talking about prayer. We were wondering how it would look if we really and truly expected the actual Holy Spirit to enter our lives and our community, and guide us into being something beyond what we could be on our own.

Actually, it was rather scary. "I just don't want to be weird." One of us said.

Yup.

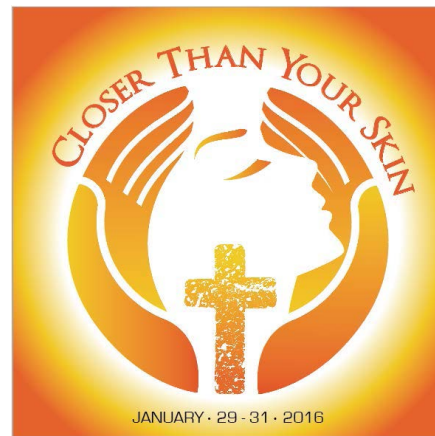
I just don't want people to think I'm a 'whack-a-doo' Christian. I just don't want to be unhinged. I want to be respected and admired. I want to remain in control.

But that doesn't seem to be how it works in scripture.

- What did the neighbors say when Noah was building that ark?
- Why would an old shepherd named Moses go up against the Pharaoh?
- How weird did David look to Goliath with that slingshot and stones?
- And Jonah? Eaten by a fish? Really?
- Imagine the ridicule endured by Mary as she revealed her pregnancy before marriage.
- Peter. Where to begin? He certainly looked and felt undignified quite a bit in scripture.
- Jesus himself risked looking 'weird' as he followed the mission laid before him.

And I don't want to look 'off' to others? I wonder why this is? Could it be that I prefer what the world has to offer over and above what God might have to offer? Could it be that I'm a little too comfortable? And yet don't we long to be a part of the big picture? Together In The Story? My prayer for us as a congregation in this coming year is that we actually find ourselves embracing a little of the weird: Looking with joyful expectation toward ways that the Holy Spirit is molding and leading us.

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



## Women's Retreat

January 29-31 at  
Ivoryton Retreat Center

We're excited to have Susan Hill, author of the book *Closer Than Your Skin*, as our speaker this year. We're in for a treat as we go away together to notice the presence of God!

If you have questions, would like more information, or would like help with registration, please contact Marlene at [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org) or 203-309-5620.

## Prime Timers October 15, 2015, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Maude Pettus will delight us with talking about the adventures from her trips to China.

Prime Timers meet the third Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated. If you have questions, would like more information, please contact Marlene at 203-309-5620 or [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org).

# Caring & Women's Ministries

## Women's Studies

### Tuesdays:

#### 6:15 a.m. Bible Study in the Parlor.

Come and join a circle of wise women as we spend an hour Tuesday mornings unpacking and applying scripture to our lives. Open to any and all women! We have coffee, and you don't have to be completely awake to join us.

**9:15 a.m. Bible Study** - Online registration is requested\*. This Fall we will be exploring a few women whose lives are written about in the "Old Testament: Women of Valor." We will come together in the NEW Fellowship Lobby.

### Thursdays:

**9:30 a.m. Oasis Mom's Group begins October 8** - Online registration is requested\*. This is a special group for women with children who range in age from infancy through elementary school. We meet all together from 9:30-10:15 a.m. for reflection and teaching about a common interest, and then break into small groups with moms who have children at the same stages: Mentor moms are the secret ingredient! Who doesn't want a wiser woman as a mentor and 'shepherd' through these years? Come once and check it out! We think it will be a great gift for you!

**Moms of Teens** - We will meet in the SHAC from 12-1:30 p.m. each Thursday and will be discussing the book "Be a Parent, Not a Pushover" by Mary Ann Rosenthal. Come as often as you can! If you have questions, please contact Laurie Bessey at [thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com) or Sallie Schmidt [atsallieschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:atsallieschmidt@gmail.com).

*\*Child care is provided from 9-11:45 a.m. for children 3 months to 4 years. Registration, including a CT Early Childhood Health Assessment form, is requested three weeks prior to your child's attendance and can be found on our website [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org) or by contacting Marlene. Note, medical form must be signed by a doctor. Once completed, child care and medical forms should be sent to Marlene Moffett at NPC, 2011 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820.*

# Children's Ministry



## Minute with Mickie –

### Wondering about #TogetherInTheStory

We've barely just started and here we are in October. Isn't it exciting to be in the new building space? We have been blessed thanks to the incredible sacrificial and gracious giving

from all of our Church Family. We are

blessed as well by those who have poured hours and hours of prayer into each step in the process. We are continuing to pray that God would be honored in this place. I pray that what we do here with our children would bring God glory, and that our children would grow in faith, not just IN this place but THROUGH this place into the community and into the world.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

This is an exciting year too because the NPC teaching and sermon focus will be on taking a journey through some key stories of Scripture. We are going to be Together in the Story. This means that together we are going to learn the same stories in the Worship Services that we learn in Sunday school classes. We are going to focus on the Wonder and Power of The Story that God has given us throughout time, showing God's great rescue plan for humankind. The children and I have been doing this already for three years in Horton Hall. Many of our children can already tell you their favorite stories of Scripture. We wonder about them together and they come up with some of the greatest questions that keep them digging into the Bible for clarification. I love it!



# Children's Ministry

This year, all our Elementary Sunday School children, who have registered for Sunday school, will be given a special Together in the Story Booklet to encourage them, with parental help, to know the stories from the Bible that we will be doing in Horton Hall. Using this booklet will help everyone in your family remember what you heard in the Sanctuary as well as reinforce what each child heard in Horton Hall. In November, ten students will be asked to re-tell their favorite story to other children in Horton Hall as part of our Together in the Story experience. We want your children to see themselves in the pages of Scripture so they know and feel that God's Rescue Plan is for them, personally!

75% of the Biblical text is written in story form; 15% is written as poetry and song; only 10% is theological, didactic material and even that is wrapped in a story. Stories must be important to God since that's how God wrote the Bible. So let me tell you a quick story. In Joshua 23-24 we read that God allowed Israel to live in the Promised Land peacefully, but then at the end of Joshua's life Joshua saw that the people were taking on the idols and the views of the pagan cultures around them. Joshua warned them that God would remove His presence from them if they didn't obey God's Laws but followed man's instead. And do you know what Joshua did to remind people of who God is? He told them the stories of their history. He reiterated the stories of God's work in their lives starting with Abraham. Stories! The people listened and were moved to pledge to walk with God. Yet, at the beginning of the book of Judges, the story of what happened after they made this promise and Joshua died is this: "Joshua, son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance. . . . After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served Baals." (Judges 2:8-11):

We are in a new wonderful space where the good news of Jesus Christ can be proclaimed to the world even better than before, but we must tell the story of God's Great Rescue Plan from the Bible so that no one forgets. The message of the Gospel must not die with the older generation. We don't want to be the church that forgot and then our children would choose to "do evil in the sight of the Lord." Our children are the ones that need to carry this story into the next generation

after them. At NPC we want to be together with you in this marvelous story of God. Let's be "Together in the Story." Read the Bible with your family. Learn to tell and retell the stories with your children. Join us in Horton Hall. Register for Sunday School and receive our special Story Booklet. Then take some pictures of your family reading and telling God's Story. Post it on Facebook. Share it on Instagram. Tweet it to the world using #TogetherInTheStory - I'm going to.

## October Opportunities for #TogetherInTheStory with your NPC Family.

**October 1** – Family Fun Night – 5:30-7 p.m. Communion Preparation Class. Would you like your children to understand the Sacrament of Communion? We will share a simple meal together and then participate in some creative activities to help you and your children prepare for Communion in advance of World Communion Sunday the following Sunday.

**October 18** – 3rd Grade Bible Presentation Sunday during 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. services. Contact the Children's Office if you haven't received information for your Third Grade child to participate. We don't want to miss anyone.

**October 30** – 4:30-6:00 p.m. NPC's 4th Annual TRUNK or TREAT Parking lot party. With our huge new parking space we can really have a blast. Decorate your kids, yourself and the trunk of your car (nothing scary please). Bring your lawn chairs and big bushels of candy and then let the kids roam from trunk to trunk "trick-or-treating"

**Yet to be Determined** – A Playground Party on the new NPNS Outdoor Learning Center on a Sunday morning following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. Especially for Preschool aged children and their families. Watch your email for updates.

Go to [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) and sign up for all the various things we have planned for you and your children. Follow us on Facebook at npckids.

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

# Youth Ministries

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**NOROTON  
YOUTH  
MINISTRY**

The month of October is a big month in the life of our congregation, particularly in the lives of families with youth entering the Confirmation process—but even more for those who will be completing this process this month. Their completion marks the end of a 13-month journey with the promise that this journey will be but one part of a lifelong journey of faith. Let me invite you to join me as we together help to mark this special occasion with celebration alongside our confirmands and their families during a special reception that will follow the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 4th. Your participation will help to make the day all the more special for these young disciples and their families.

In addition to celebrating confirmands, this month marks the start of our Sunday morning youth programming. Sunday evening and midweek programming has already been underway, but beginning this month we introduce our weekly Sunday morning programming for middle school students (beginning October 11th during both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship hours) and for high school students (beginning October 18th during the 10:30 a.m. worship hour). These classes do not meet every week, so be sure to visit our online calendar at [www.norotonyouth.com](http://www.norotonyouth.com) for these and all our program offerings during the coming year and beyond.

One last note—as we continue our journey in this new school year (as well as in this new building), I want to introduce you to a new ministry logo that was developed for our ministry to youth late this past summer. The new logo, pictured above, has already appeared online and at our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages—but now appears here in the Spire for the first time. In having a logo developed for this ministry, we asked the artist to develop something that was reminiscent of both our own community as well as our close proximity to the much larger New York city—where many in our community work, and even more go to shop and play. I think the logo does a great job of capturing both.

Wherever your journey may take you in the coming month—whether that be around town or down into the city—grace be with you all.

Correction: I incorrectly noted in last month's Spire (September 2015) that our midweek Harbor program for Middle School students meets at 3:00 p.m. That program actually meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the SHAC.

Pastor Jimmy McPherson  
*Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries*

# Noroton Presbyterian Child Care



Noroton Presbyterian  
CHILD CARE

## Learning Moments at NPCC

One of the joys of working with children is observing their learning moments... the moments when children -- individually or collectively, accidentally or purposefully, rapidly or slowly -- make a discovery or explore a new phenomenon. Here are a few learning moments that we have observed at NPCC:



**Exploring Gravity.** In the ones class, Luke, JJ and Blaise take turns placing an upside down Lego block at the top of the climbing wedge. Together, with Caroline, who is sitting on the top of the climbing structure, they watch the block slowly slide down the ramp, over and over again.

Alejandro knocks over the tower, and children shout, "Aaaaaaa!" They repeat the game three or four more times before heading off to other discoveries.



**Exploring Waves:** When children in the threes class move long ropes side to side, they discovered that they can create cool patterns called transverse waves. Teddy says to no one in particular, "It's going in different directions... at the same time!"

It is true that learning moments cannot be forced. Not even the most outstanding parent or teacher can summon a learning moment. What we can do, however, is fashion a context for them. We can provide a variety of experiences, foster a sense of playfulness and surrender to serendipity.



**Exploring Force.** In the twos class, Alejandro, Luca, Sarah and Morgan build a tower in the sensory table. 1-2-3-4-5-6! As soon as Sarah has placed the very last Lego block,

Peace and Joy,  
Beth Aparicio  
NPCC Director



## Welcome Back!

The 2015-16 school year is now in full swing, and the halls are filled with such joy and laughter. Our transition back into school has been smooth and everyone, children and teachers alike, have settled into the routine of school.

October will bring the start of our enrichment programs, Music with Mr. Al, Junior Naturalist with Miss Emily and Miss Nina, and Chapel with Miss Mickie and Miss Liz. We are very excited about the start of these programs and how they enhance and enrich our students learning.

Our staff continues to meet weekly for Staff Development on Wednesday afternoons, and our parent-led board meets the second Tuesday of the month. They are currently busy planning our fall socials and our fundraiser. This year we are trying something new, and rather than holding a big party we are throwing a Phantom Fundraiser, where you can donate to NPNS but don't have to leave the comfort of your home! If you are interested it hearing more about it please contact our fundraiser team, Kat Sakara, [Katherine.sakara@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.sakara@gmail.com) or Lauren Leahy [Lauren.Leahy@gmail.com](mailto:Lauren.Leahy@gmail.com).

The goal of NPNS is to help nurture children to be confident and eager learners. Our staff works tirelessly to insure that attention is placed on every area of development in an age appropriate way. I look forward to sharing with you over the year, this growth and development as the children build a foundation for a love of learning.

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



Hailey Anderson



Nora Theder and Madeline Thistle



Will Lenich



## Welcoming And Membership Activities For The Fall

### Meet the Pastors

**Sunday, October 4th,  
11:45 to 12:30 p.m.**

Are you curious about NPC, and would like to know more about what we believe? Would you like to meet some church members and staff? Would you like some ideas on how to get involved?

Please join us for an overview of NPC's mission, a chance to chat with the pastors, and light refreshments. Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

### Be Part of the 7-Minute Team

Did you know it takes just 7 minutes for visitors to form a first impression of our church? We have a beautiful new space and we want to warmly and helpfully welcome newcomers (and regulars) to it. The commitment can be as little as 15 min. on a Sunday morning. You can greet inside or out, or help at the new Welcome Station. Be part of a stronger welcoming team. Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

### Hold the Date for "THE ALPHA COURSE" January 2016

The Alpha Course is an opportunity to explore your unanswered questions about Christianity in a safe environment.

There will be an Introductory Dinner (no-commitment) on January 11th to learn more. The course will meet for 10 weeks, January 25th through April 4th. Each meeting begins with a delicious dinner, followed by a thought-provoking talk on an aspect of the Christian faith and then a discussion in small groups.

Mark your calendars now and tell others! If you've already been to Alpha, think about who you'd bring to the Introductory Dinner. Many volunteers will be needed for the Alpha Team. Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

Working our faith,  
Julie Colbath  
Director of Membership

### Becoming a Member of NPC

Perhaps you've thought about membership at NPC and wondered what it means to choose to join. People seek out a church for many reasons – deepening their faith, service opportunities, fellowship, religious education for children, and answers to important life questions. Joining a church is another step in the journey.

Members have made an intentional commitment to bond to each other and the church in a faith community – a home church to belong to, and a place to share burdens and joys. Membership also expresses a two-way commitment; the church, congregation, pastors and staff make a commitment to the member, as well, to provide support and resources.

### Fall New Member Class

**Saturday, Oct. 17, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

For those considering membership, please come to this class. Those joining will be welcomed into the congregation at the 10:30 worship service the next day, Sunday, Oct. 18th. It's also an option to attend the New Member class for information only, and to join within the following year. Free professional nursery care is provided during the class for children 3 months to 4 years.

Pre-registration is needed. To register online and for more class information, see the membership ministry page on the NPC website ([www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)). Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

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

Here's what recent new members have said about the class:

"I thought it was a great introduction to the church. It was a very enjoyable experience, and 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."

# Congregational Life Ministry

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## Fall Cook Out in NEW Playground!

**When: Sunday, October 18th 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
(immediately following 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service)

**Hosted by: Congregational Life Team**

We would love for ALL our members/friends to experience/enjoy the NEW (adult) GREEN SPACE of our brand new Playground adjacent to our new facility! So for those of you currently 'without children' of your own ... here's your excuse to be there!



This annual event has become a tradition for 'extended families' to hang around our site following morning worship, have some adult conversation while the kids have a safe place to play (in sight of you), and have some good grilled burgers/dogs and homemade potato salad and cole slaw!

In the past, many have found this a great 'extension' of our beach service time together, and often also invite a neighbor or friend to join them. We encourage you to do so this year as well. (Perhaps you have a friend who is 'curious' about our new facility. Great time to invite them for a bite and a tour!)

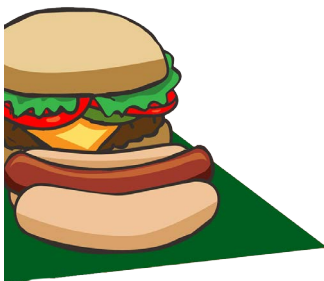
While no registration is needed, it is always helpful to get a feel for how large the crowd will be. A quick email to me ([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org)) is appreciated, IF you know...

Hope to see you in our new Playground 'green space'!

In fellowship together,  
Valerie Muller

*Director of Community and Communications  
(including Congregational Life)*

[valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org) or 203-309-5650



## NPC Gives Hope in Kenya

NPC has seven mission projects in Kenya – and Marilyn and John Parker visited all of them during their recent time there. They made videos which are being edited and will be shown soon. All of the students and missionaries expressed their gratitude for the prayers and financial support of Noroton Presbyterian Church.

**Nambale Magnet School** in Western Kenya was awarded a *Foundations for the Future* grant to build a new dorm. The first floor is now finished and is home for 64 sponsored girls - who would not be in school without the help of many donors in the US.



**Caroline King'ori** has been supported by NPC since joining Life Ministry Kenya in 2009. She has had the joy of sharing Christ with young people in Kenya, Nigeria and Swaziland. She now serves at United States International University. She conducts Bible studies off campus because the university is highly secular and religious activities are discouraged. "USIU is a hard ground", but she knows that the students are "God's creation and that His desire is that they hear the gospel." Caroline will be visiting NPC in mid October.

**Joyce Aoko Aruga** received a *Foundations for the Future* grant. She currently teaches in Mathare, a Nairobi slum, and has just completed the requirements for a Bachelor's in Education. She has an amazing story: sent far from home to be a housegirl when very young; led to Christ through a chance encounter with a stranger as she was sick and sleeping under a tree; completing her secondary education and then teachers college and now university.



**Mercy Kilel** has a *Foundations for the Future* grant to pursue a degree in Psychology and Counseling at Daystar University in Nairobi. When she finishes her studies, she would like to work with the children at City of Hope, in Tanzania. She reads the Bible every day to get answers to many things she faces in life, and has ".. noticed that actually, we find everything we need in the Bible."

# Mission Ministry

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**Vivian Wambui Koigi** has an NPC scholarship, and is a third year law student at Riara University. She hopes to join the Kenya School of Law to enable her to get admitted to the bar – and then to engage in International Law, and to practice locally, and to volunteer in Women’s and Children’s organizations. She believes this will give her a platform to educate people about their rights, and to fight injustices in society.

**Patterson Mwakio** has an NPC scholarship and is now an intern in Clinical Medicine. He was motivated to go into medicine in 2006 when he visited his mother in a government hospital and noticed the severe lack of medical personnel. Not many years ago, he was a street boy in Mombasa. A nun sponsored his secondary education, he got the NPC scholarship and now he’s delivering babies in Nakuru Provincial Hospital.



**Bob and Jennifer Chedester** have been supported by NPC for the 15 years they’ve been in East Africa – first in Uganda for 10 years, and then in Kenya at Rift Valley Academy. RVA is over a hundred years old – it is one of the best schools in Africa – and there are 500 students there, most of whom are children of missionaries who are serving throughout Africa.

## Mission Opportunities

**October 10 - Hopeline Knitting:** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the SHAC.

**October 14 - Feed My Starving Children Joint churches Prayer Service:** location to be announced.

**October 17-18 - FMSC MobilePack:** hosted jointly by the Churches of Darien at Middlesex Middle School. Sign up for a two hour shift to help pack meals for starving children or to help with set up/teardown or other event support activities. Offers of help with fundraising prior to the event also welcomed! Please return filled M&M tubes to the offering plate or the new church office. All donations appreciated towards the \$44,000 goal. Donations can be made with cash, checks to FMSC with event number, or online on the Darien event page. Thank you! Contact Ginna Yerrall [gmdar@optonline.net](mailto:gmdar@optonline.net) for more information.



**October 31 - Hopeline Knitting:** 9:30 -10:30 a.m. in the SHAC.

**November 7 - Open Door Shelter service:** please contact Holly Hough ([hhough7@optonline.net](mailto:hhough7@optonline.net)) if you would like to volunteer and are over age 16.

**November 8 - Pivot Visit:** morning services and kick off our annual food/toiletries drive.

**Late November and early December** we will participate in Angel and Dove programs: more details nearer the time.

For more information about NPC mission please contact Stella Clarke [stella.clarke@nortonchurch.org](mailto:stella.clarke@nortonchurch.org) or check the NPC website



## *TogetherInTheStory - Noticing God in Prayer*



*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks, finds, and the one who knocks it will be opened."* **Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV)**

Did you know that as we prepare to enter our new building, a group of people have been meeting to think about how Christ may be calling our congregation to use this building to bless our community? Did you know that they came up with a list of about 50 ideas? And that this felt very exhausting? So, back to the drawing board. They decided to pray. And a crazy thing happened. Each person, without consulting the others on the team, got the same message. "Pray more."

Pray more? Is that it? Pray more?

It seems so. Because only as we open ourselves up to listen and surrender to Christ can we really enter joyfully into whatever we are called to do.

When it comes to prayer, we identify ourselves along a spectrum from 'prayer warriors' to 'extremely uncomfortable' with many of us falling somewhere in between. In Tim Keller's recent book, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, he quotes, "Prayer must be, then, one of the hardest things in the world. To admit that prayer is very hard, however, can be encouraging. If you struggle in this, you are not alone."

So now we have a group of people who are committed to praying more. And prayer seems to be changing us. We hope it's contagious and that some of our experiences in prayer will inspire even more of our beloved community to join in and pray more, too! What a gift

to be open to the surprising ways that God answers prayer and blesses us. We thought it would be fun to share some of our experiences: and we'd LOVE to hear some of the ways you're encountering Christ in prayer! We'll spend time in each Spire with a "Pray More" report!

Here's our first one:

*I've been praying for clarity and guidance on how to be a better mother, because I can see that I need to make some changes. There's so much advice available on the subject of parenting that it gets very overwhelming. I wanted to know God's will for me. Then, just the other day, as we were hurrying to get ready to leave the house, my daughter was instead standing in front of the mirror making all kinds of funny faces. Usually my response would have been to say "Stop goofing around, we need to go." This time, I look at her and laughed so hard. She was so pleased. She hugged me and said "Mommy, I love when I can make you laugh. Usually you have a frowny face." I am sure that was God sending me a clear message in response to my prayers that what my children need above all is my attention, my love, and the best parts of who He created me to be.*

With praises to the God who calls us each by name,  
Faith for the Future, Prayer Task Force  
(Pastor Brandi, Julie Colbath, Sheila Haskell, Chris Mead,  
Valerie Muller, David Norman, Claudia Roux, Cindy  
Smith, George Thacker, George Vogel)

# Rededication Series of Events

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## ‘First Fifty Days’

### **Meet the Pastors**

**Sunday, October 4th, 11:45 - 12:30 p.m.**

Please join us for an overview of NPC’s mission, a chance to chat with the pastors, and light refreshments.

### **Skylight Chamber Music Concert**

**Saturday, October 17th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Featuring our wonderful NPC vocal soloists singing selections from Opera and Broadway in the Skylight Fellowship Lobby

### **Church Fall Cookout**

**Sunday, October 18th, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Held in new playground area ...  
to encourage members and friends who do not have children to enjoy the ‘adult green spaces’ of the new playground facility  
Will include outreach to neighbors and neighboring churches

### **Golden Senior Sunday**

**Sunday, October 25th**

Reception after both services  
Honoring those who have been members for 50+ years;  
families from afar often attend

### **Trunk or Treat**

**Friday, October 30th, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Join us at the new NPC parking lot for a safe and fun environment for your children  
Decorate your car, bring candy and put the kids in costume. No scary costumes please!

### **A Map to the Landscape of Love**

**Monday, November 9th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Date night evening for couples  
Guest Speaker George Faller  
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy

# October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	3
<p><b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-5th grade 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 11:45 a.m. Meet the Pastors 5:00 p.m. Open Doors Service 6:00 p.m. High School Ministry</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study(NYC) 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Mtgs</p>	<p>7 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade</p>	<p>8 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 Reh.</p>	<p>9 <b>Men's Retreat</b></p>	<p>10 <b>Men's Retreat</b></p>	
<p>11 <b>Men's Retreat</b> 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th grade 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 5:00 p.m. Open Doors Service</p>	<p>12 <b>Columbus Day</b></p>	<p>13 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study(NYC) 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>14 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade</p>	<p>15 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 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.</p>	<p>16 <b>Men's Retreat</b></p>	<p>17 12:30 p.m. New Member Class 7:00 p.m. Skylight Lobby Chamber Music</p>	
<p>18 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th grade 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 11:30 a.m. Church Cookout 5:00 p.m. Open Doors Service 6:00 p.m. High School Ministry</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study(NYC) 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session</p>	<p>21 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade</p>	<p>22 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 Reh.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	
<p>25 <b>Golden Senior Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th grade 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 5:00 p.m. Open Doors Service 6:00 p.m. High School Ministry</p>	<p>26 7:30 p.m. Israel Trip Info Meeting</p>	<p>27 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study(NYC) 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>28 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade</p>	<p>29 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 Reh.</p>	<p>30 4:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat</p>	<p>31</p>	

## In Loving Memory of...

September 5th:  
Ralph Costanzo

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

## Join us in celebrating the following Weddings...

September 12, 2015

Danielle Claiborne and Kevin Becraft

September 26, 2015

Margie Priest and Kevin Bollman

*If you would like to submit an article for the November 2015 issue  
please submit it before October 16 to Rose Cunningham by email at  
[rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

## NPC Program Staff

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Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-309-5618  
*Pastor and Team Leader*

Pastor Brandi Drake.....203-309-5620  
*Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry*

Pastor Jimmy McPherson ..... 203-309-5619  
*Associate Pastor Youth*

Pastor John Seiders.....203-309-5619  
*Interim Associate Pastor Adult and Outreach Ministries*

Valerie Muller.....203-309-5650  
*Director of Community and Communications*

Dwayne Condon.....203-309-5614  
*Director of Music & Fine Arts*

Mickie O'Donnell.....203-309-5622  
*Director of Children's Ministry*

Stella Clarke.....203-309-5645  
*Mission Ministry Associate*

Beth Aparicio .....203-309-5605  
*Director of Child Care*

Kalie Riordan .....203-655-3223  
*Director of Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School*

Julie Colbath .....203-309-5615  
*Director of Membership*

Dan Rosa.....203-309-5608  
*Business Administrator*

David Lee.....203-309-5609  
*Director of Properties*