

The Spire

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



Dear Friends at NPC,

This fall at NPC we are experiencing a change of seasons – in two ways. The first, and most familiar, is the gradual change of seasons from summer to fall. The temperatures begin to change, the leaves on the trees turn color and eventually fall. We are all too familiar with this change as it happens each year. The second, and probably less familiar, is the change in leadership at NPC. It is this second change of seasons that I would like to address at this point in the life of this wonderful congregation.

The change of a pastor, and the subsequent transition which accompanies it, is not as familiar as the change of the seasons each year. It is an important time in the life of a congregation. While it may be tempting to sit back and see what happens or to disengage for a time, this time is one which is critical to the life of our congregation. It is a time to consider who we, as a congregation, have been, who we are, and who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do in the future.

As the days of the fall get shorter, the temperatures get cooler, and the leaves change color and fall we know that the seasons are changing. In a similar way, this congregation's leadership has changed and is now in transition. As God has been faithful to provide leadership in ministry and mission in the past through faithful pastors, I am convinced that God will be faithful in the future.

I am honored, humbled, and privileged to have been called to serve alongside Pastor Brandi and Pastor Jimmy during this interim. As I write these words, I have barely been in the office for a week. While I do not know what the future holds, I ask that you would pray with me that the Lord who holds the future would guide us and direct us in ministry and mission for such a time as this.

With much anticipation,
Pastor John H. Seiders
Interim Pastor

Worship Schedule

8:00 am - Chapel
9:00 & 10:30 am Sanctuary
5:00 pm Service Horton Hall

Upcoming Baptism Dates

10/16, 11/20 and 12/18
at the 10:30 am
Sanctuary service.

To schedule a Baptism please call
Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.

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Help Welcome Pastor John back to NPC!

As your brothers and sisters in Christ, the members of your Transition Team give thanks to God to be able to welcome Rev. Dr. John Seiders as Noroton Presbyterian Church's Interim Pastor.

Please plan to attend a
Reception in the Skylight Lobby
after BOTH the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on

Sunday, October 2nd

to help welcome Pastor John
by introducing yourselves to his wife Ruthie,
who will be attending that day.



Transition Team
Stacy Arevalo, Kevin Bannerton, David Mace,
Sue Smirnoff, George Vogel, Sally Vosburgh, Morgan Whittier



Please join this EPIC group for once a month
Thursday afternoon gatherings



Adult Fellowship Opportunities

For those 50's - 60's - 70's+

2:00-3:30 pm, every third Thursday of the Month
in the Schreiner Mission Room.

October 20: Pastor Brandi will present, "Sabbatical Nourishment."
a talk about her sabbatical from June-August this year.

November 17: "NPC Reminiscing" a wonderful afternoon sharing
memories. We have three speakers on tap.
Please let us know if you would also like to share.
Opportunities will be available!!

December 15: 12:30 to 2:30 "Festive Christmas Luncheon"

Contact Marion Smith at 203-273-1422 or
marion.smith@norotonchurch.org or Marlene Moffett at
203-309-5620 or marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org
for more information or transportation.

Remember to...



Daylight Savings Time ENDS
(We lose an hour ... 'Fall Back')

Sunday, November 6
(e.g. Saturday Midnight)

Spiritual Formation



We have some incredible opportunities being planned for the next couple of months at Noroton, which include:

READING GENESIS—A Two-Week Class Beginning October 2

Adults of all ages are invited to be part of a special two-week class, entitled *Reading Genesis*, which is designed to explore important themes in the book of Genesis and to help attendees better understand the biblical text. Class will be held in the Schreiner Mission Room during the 10:30 am worship hour on October 2 and 9. The class will be led by Pastor Jimmy (10/02) and Pastor Brandi (10/09).

FALL FAMILY SERIES—A Three-Week Class Beginning October 30

The Adult Spiritual Formation Team is finalizing plans for a three week series designed for parents of children and youth that begins on 10/30. Additional information about the classes will be available in Noroton Notes and online beginning in early October.

THE MAN EVENT---Saturday, November 12, Beginning at 8:30 am

Men of all ages are invited to be part of an incredible day of fellowship and spiritual growth at The Man Event this fall. The day includes teaching from Dr. David Williamson, a member of the steering committee for the Theology of Work Project (www.theologyofwork.org), along with breakout sessions and an incredible BBQ lunch. There will be an optional afternoon fellowship activity for men attending the event. Additional information about The Man Event and [online registration](#) will be available beginning October 1st.

This is but a small sampling of the many opportunities available in the coming months. If you would like more information about these or other opportunities for adults at Noroton this fall, contact Pastor Jimmy or visit: www.norotonchurch.org.

Grace be with you,
Pastor Jimmy McPherson
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation



● **Men's Paddle Event @ Middlesex Club**

Saturday, October 15, 3:00-6:00pm

Cost: \$10

Men of all skill levels (and even with no skill at all) are invited to join us for a great day of paddle and fellowship. We'll be enjoying some great food, epic play, and of course good times—a great way to meet other men at Noroton, and to invite friends. Online registration is available on the NPC website, under Men's Ministry. Questions about the tournament can be directed to Ted Sanborn (ted@sanbornconsulting.com) or Eric Emel (eric_emel@yahoo.com)

[click here to register online](#)

Midweek Studies for Men

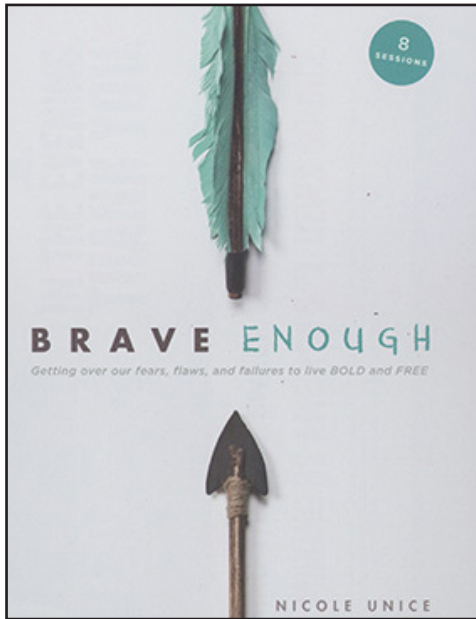
**Wednesdays 7:00 am
at the Sugar Bowl:**

Led by different men from the group gathering for breakfast, fellowship and reflection on a passage of Scripture

Thursdays on Campus:

Doors open at 6:45 am Thursdays; study is from 7:00 -7:45 am in the Schreiner Mission Room. Topic: *FIRST THINGS*, a study of the Johannine Epistles (1, 2, and 3 John) led by Pastor Jimmy.

Spiritual Formation



Brave Enough ... Fall Small Group 'Drop-In' Session

**Building on the summer
'Courageous Faith' sermon series ...**

How do we discover 'courage to be who we are ... who we were created to be'?

Join us for a four-week session this Fall.

Light refreshments – DVD study – discussion break-out groups

- ▶ Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9 pm
- ▶ October 17 & 24 // November 7 & 14
- ▶ Schreiner Mission Room → various rooms for discussion

In the *Brave Enough* series, author/counselor Nicole Unice, helps us look at foundational elements of courage as revealed in Scripture. She helps us discover how to intentionally cultivate courage, show grace in our daily lives, and be intentional in avoiding conformity. Scriptural texts point to Jesus' recognition that we need to be constantly taught to 'take courage'.

Join others as we together unpack God's invitation to 'make space for Him to make us brave.' Let's continue to explore together how God intends us to live our daily lives.

This is a 'drop-in' series ... which simply means you are encouraged to come to as many (or few) as your schedule permits. The sessions themselves are stand-alone in their teaching elements.

We hope we will see you this Fall, as we look to continue building community with each other ... sharing discussion and experiences.

If you find yourself unable to commit to a longer-period in-home small group at this time, BUT ... still want to participate in community at NPC ... this might be your answer!

Contact Marlene (marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620) or Valerie (valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650) with questions.

Valerie Muller,
Director of Small Groups



Women's and Caring Ministries



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:5

Once again, our airways are filled with bad news. I am no longer shocked by it. Are you?

What is our job in this culture at this time? I believe it is our job to be faithful to the call of Christ. It is our job to represent the love and joy of following a God who loves us, and in whose presence is joy. It is hard work.

I was reminded of Martin Luther King's contract from the 1963 Alabama Christian Movement for Civil Rights. Important in his time, and important in our time. I've got it on my wall, and I remind myself daily that I strive to be this committed to pursuing peace and justice in the sight of Christ. Perhaps it could be of use to all of us?

I hereby pledge myself—my person and body—to the nonviolent movement. Therefore, I will hold to the following:

1. Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
2. Remember always that the non—violent movement seeks justice and reconciliation — not victory.
3. Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. Pray daily to be used by God in order that all men might be free.
5. Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all men might be free.
6. Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.
9. Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.

In Joyful Anticipation~
Pastor Brandi Drake
Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministries

Women's Studies

6:15 am Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at

6:15 am in the Parlor

Topic: *I Corinthians - Love and Admonition.*

9:15 am Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays,

9:15 am in Horton Hall

Topic- John Ortberg's, *Soul Keeping*. (Childcare available- registration required.)

MOPs is at NPC!

Mothers Of Preschoolers will meet every other Wednesday from 9:15-11:30 am. What to expect: Breakfast (snacks for the little ones), Speakers, Small Groups, Crafts and Childcare. Email darienmops@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.

Mom's of Teens book study group. The group meets on **Thursdays** from 12-1:30 pm in the SHAC. We invite you to join this group and come as often as you are able. The group is led by Laurie Bessey and Sallie Schmidt.



NPC Christian Yoga!

Start your week off right with a Monday morning yoga practice linking body, mind, and spirit amongst a supportive community of new and old friends at NPC. Please bring a yoga mat and join us on Mondays, October 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 9:30-10:30 am in the Fine Arts Center. This class is open to all levels. Suggested donation \$5-\$10/class. Any questions, please contact certified yoga teacher Jenny Voelker at mjtvoelker@yahoo.com.

Prayer Team

Prayer Triplets

Several years ago three women decided to get together to pray for their children, their spouses and themselves. They have been meeting weekly since.

Together, they have prayed their way through arrests, deaths, chronic diseases, real estate adventures and new ideas for ministry. Along the way they shared support, nurture and humor.

"This is what our faith is all about," said one member. "The more we meet, the more layers are peeled away. I have found it to be a period of quiet in the midst of the raging storm."

Their weekly agenda remains the same today as it was when they first began: gather around refreshments, share concerns, pray and try to remain faithful. Their gatherings last about an hour, but have been known to stretch to two when times are particularly troubling for a member.

"The Holy Spirit comes to suggest ideas and solutions," offers one member. "Even for problems I have not shared, it is amazing how often someone else's prayer will help me straighten out misperceptions about myself. The answers remind me that God is always present; He is always faithful."

The group has found three members is a magic number. If one of the group cannot attend, there are still two members to be faithful to their common commitment.

"I want this experience for everyone," one member said. "My triplet is my lifeline... my air hose. I cannot imagine what life would be like without them!"

Faithful in Prayer

A group has been meeting (faithfully) every 10 days or so in the church Parlor to ...

PRAY - PRAY - PRAY

... specifically for our congregation!

This prayer time is an 'open' meeting. That means that **you too** can join in praying for our church if you want to!

Our pattern has been to meet alternately between Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. The time is facilitated by one of the group.

You do not need to do anything except 'show up' and pray. (Listening and/or praying silently counts too!)

Here's the schedule for October and November:

Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m.

October 11th, November 1st and 22nd

Saturdays, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

October 22nd, November 12th

If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can always pause at these times and pray from wherever you are!

Please consider joining us in this *JOYFUL* activity.



Exciting Things Afoot



What a wonderful start to the year! The Chancel Choir knocked it out of the park on their first Sunday back at the September 11th service. If you sing, there is still room for you in this amazing group of loving singers.

It's not very often that one gets to meet a living serious composer whose music will be performed hundreds of years from now, but that is exactly the opportunity that is coming up for the NPC choir and congregation. On Saturday, **October 29**, at 7 pm, NPC will be hosting a **Festival of Church Music**, featuring the choral music of Bob Chilcott, one of the most widely performed choral composers in the world. Mr. Chilcott's composition, *The King Shall Rejoice*, was featured in the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey. In addition to a successful career as a composer, Mr. Chilcott has performed professionally as a singer and conductor. He was a tenor with the King's Singers for many years, conductor of the chorus of the Royal College Music from 1997 until 2004, and, since 2002, Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers.

Tickets for the festival are available online at churchmusicinstitute.org. Please plan on coming for an evening of spiritually and beautifully uplifting music of Christian worship.

In other exciting news- J.A.M. Children's Choir is starting up again on Wednesday, October 5. Rehearsal takes place in the Fine Arts Center every Wednesday at 4 pm until 4:45. Please sign up your children on the J.A.M. Choir page located on the NPC website, or contact jamchoir@norotonchurch.org.

Dwayne Condon
Director of Music and Fine Arts

Festival of Church Music

Featuring combined choir from churches in Fairfield County

Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Hosted by Noroton Presbyterian Church



Bob Chilcott
Festival
Conductor

Ticket Prices-\$15

**Children 12 and under admitted free
with purchase of adult ticket**

Ticket Purchase Options

- 1) Order online at www.churchmusicinstitute.org
- 2) Call (214) 751-7669
- 3) Purchase at the door *

*Tickets available at Will Call in the
Skylight Lobby beginning at 6:15 p.m. on Oct. 29.



J.A.M. Children's Choir

Starts Wednesday, October 5

4 until 4:45 pm in Fine Arts Center

Requirements: Just be a kid in K-6!

Duration: October through mid-May

Contact Jen at

jamchoir@norotonchurch.org.

Children's Ministry



Minute with Mickie – Wondering about Children's Ministry at NPC

Children's Ministry at NPC is more than just a class under a tent on Sunday morning. It's more than the curriculum, the ritual, the prayers, or the devotional books.

Children's Ministry is a multi-faceted ministry. Liz and I are privileged to lead a team of wonderful people who love Jesus, love this church, love kids and want to see us all grow in our relationship with God and with each other. First, let me introduce our TEAM to you:

- Ruth Lettera, Mark Thompson and Susan Kwun are Elders currently serving on the Session of NPC. Elders are the spiritual leaders for our church as a whole and these 3 have willingly agreed to focus their guidance and expertise in the Children's Ministry arena.
- Volunteer Team Members are made up of a collection of moms and dads with kids of various ages and includes Sara Hesselsweet, Chris Childs, Jennifer Keehlwetter, Rochelle Chamin, Shana Miller, Dave Hedges, Kelly Orban and Amy Barber. Talk with them any time.
- While I am the Children's Ministry Director, the other NPC Staff members are Pastor Jimmy (our Pastoral supervisor), Ms. Liz (Children's Ministry Associate and Administrator), three amazing Preschool Sunday school teachers, Marlene Moffett, Lucia Hyatt, and Mary Campagna, and Music ministry staff Jen and Dwayne Condon (JAM).

Second, let me share all the various things that Children's Ministry (CM) provides for you to help your family grow in faith.

- CM at NPC spills over into offering Chapel services and Bible story reading to Noroton Presbyterian Child Care (NPCC) and Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School (NPNS). Liz and I work side by side with Kalie and Beth, and their staff, to reach out to the many families from our community who use these wonderful child care and educational programs.

- CM to children and moms reaches out through the MOPS Ministry that is now meeting here on alternate Wednesday mornings.
- CM works closely with Congregational Life as we encourage our families to attend various all-church functions like picnics, cook-outs, the Chili Cook-off, etc. We partner with Missions to help our children understand the wonderful ministry that God is doing around the world.
- CM offers worshipful and creative parent-child events throughout the year to help families connect with other families who are trying to incorporate a living faith into their daily lives.
- CM intersects with Youth Ministry by having teens serve as Huddle Leaders and VBS leaders. It's a great leadership/educational training ministry for them as well as a way of connecting kids and teens to each other.

Thirdly, I am personally committed to you and your family. I eagerly visit sports fields and watch your children play competitive sports. I will attend school concerts and plays to support your children in their extra-curricular events. I will spend Monday mornings at Whole Foods sitting in the café area reading and writing just waiting for you to interrupt me as you do your shopping so that we can grab a few minutes to talk. Invite me for dinner at your house – or I'll grab a sandwich with you at a pizza joint or McDonalds as you go from activity to activity with or without the kids – I'm flexible – take advantage of me!!

Finally, but hardly lastly, Children's Ministry at NPC provides web based and mobile resources to use every week to learn the Bible stories and understand together what it means to be a Christian in today's society. Have you visited www.npckids.com lately? Our weekly e-blasts will send you there every week because we know you are on the move and need mobile resources at your fingertips!

Children's Ministry continued...

During the months of October and November, we have some wonderful experiences planned for you and your entire family. Every Sunday morning there is Worship and Sunday School. Then there are these extra events planned to fit your ever changing schedule. So mark these events in pencil on your calendar and join us for Family Fun! *This is what Children's Ministry IS at NPC.*

- **Oct. 2: Playground Social** - 9:45 - 10:45 am in NPNS playground, stay after 9:00 service or come early for 10:30 service.
- **Oct. 16: 3rd Grade Bible Sunday** - during 9:00 am and 5:00 pm worship services.
- **Oct. 22: Feed My Starving Children Packing Event** (See Mission Ministry for more details.)
- **Oct. 30: Trunk or Treat** - 3:00 pm in the Church parking lot. Dress in costume and decorate your trunk.
- **Nov. 18: Movie Night** - 6:30 pm Special movie and popcorn in the Fine Arts Center. (Film to be announced; ideas welcome!)



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

A Children's Ministry Leader Testimonial

Although I'm not a professional athlete, or a life-long scout myself, I have enjoyed years of coaching each of my children's little league teams and serving as a Y-Guides Chief. I was a bit surprised, however, years ago, by my daughter's request - "Daddy could you please teach my Sunday School class?"

My initial feelings of affection, excitement and gratitude at her wanting me to be with her on Sunday, quickly turned to fear, doubt and angst. I was suddenly aware of my own insecurities, feeling like a casual Christian unfamiliar with Scripture. However, I wanted to respect my daughter's request and Ms. Mickie graciously engaged, encouraged and inspired me, (and other dads and moms), through a turn-key approach for becoming involved as a Horton Hall Huddle Leader.

Each week I found myself learning something new, laughing and enjoying the relationship with my daughter

and her friends. Words hardly seem adequate to describe the love, joy, and peace I experienced participating with my child as she chose an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through her learning the Bible on Sunday mornings. I was there for this and it's just something every dad needs to experience personally.

I want to encourage and personally invite the parents of NPC to explore and discover this unique opportunity. Become your child's spiritual coach, like you would if he or she asked you to be a sports coach. You don't have to be a "pro" to do that! This special 45 minutes of quality time with your child, on any given Sunday, is irreplaceable. Won't you please prayerfully consider serving as a 2016-2017 Horton Huddle leader?

Dave Hedges,
CM Team Member and Huddle Leader

A Day in the Life of a Toddler



Toddlers are known for their growing vocabularies, including overuse of the word “No!” They are also known for their fierce desire to be independent, especially while eating and dressing. This is what a day in the life of a toddler looks like at NPCC:

8:00 - Arrival. Jack, Teddy and Ronan are the first to arrive in the classroom. Ms. Marie sees that Jack is holding a train, and invites him into the building area to assemble train tracks for his train; the other boys join in the team effort.

9:30 – Snack & Conversation. Snack time is an ideal time for children to demonstrate their independence. Ms. Janice encourages them to wash their own hands, sit next to their friends, eat their snacks, and clean up after themselves.

10:00 - Outdoor Time. After playing on the playground, with the help of their teachers, the children take a nature walk around the grounds of NPC. They discover the oval-shaped slate that connects the chapel to the sanctuary, and gleefully run back and forth across the pathway.

11:15 - Circle and Story. After reading *I Know An Old Lady That Swallowed A Fly*, Ms. Johana gives each child a chance to recreate a portion of the story on a felt board. Repetition is the proven key to brain development in young children.

1:00 - Nap. All is quiet; minds and bodies are rejuvenating after a busy morning. Did you know that toddlers need up to 14 hours of sleep per day?

3:30 - Free Play. The children are working with the Magna-Tiles. Teddy asks Cece, “May I have one too?” while Ella asks Marren, “Will you open this for me?” After using every last Magna-Tile, Emma notices “We made a barn!” Sure enough, it resembles the colorful barn of a Lois Ehlert book in their classroom library.

4:30 – Playground. You don’t really need a playground to encourage toddlers to move around, but they are an open invitation to speed down a slide, cycle around a bike track, or explore the shifting terrain of a sandbox.

5:15 - Pick-Up. At the end of every busy day at NPCC, you are guaranteed to witness the most joyful reunions between the children and their parents.



Ronan plays with the trains.



Storytime with Ms. Johana.



Together, using the Magna-Tiles, the children build a one-dimension barn.



Jack and his mom, Megan, during pick-up.

Peace and Joy,
Beth Aparicio
Director of NPCC



The 2016-17 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. It will also bring the start of our Extended Day programs, Little Chefs, Little Scientists, Lunch Bunch and Little Creators.

November will bring our annual Person-to-Person food drive and walk to deliver all we have gathered. It is one of the highlights of the fall season. It is also a month filled with giving thanks for all we have!

I look forward to sharing with you over the year, the growth and development of the children as they build a foundation for a love of learning.

Blessings,
Kalie Riordan and the
NPNS teachers and staff



Snack time in the 2's



Carson and Morgan enjoying the sun.



Play-dough fun in room 15

Youth Ministry



Middle School Ministry

We had a lot of fun celebrating the start of the school year at our Middle School Late Nighter, which included several water themed activities. By attending this event students contributed \$180, which was then matched by the Youth Ministry for a total of \$360 towards clean drinking water to World Vision, one of NPC's Mission Partners.

On Wednesday, **October 12**, Harbor Presents: Battle of the Bands as part of our *Rocktober Series*, which is a music themed event. (In this series we are looking at themes communicated in today's music with a biblical lens.)

As Thanksgiving approaches, Middle Schoolers are invited to join us for our Harbor Thanksgiving Special, which will take place on Wednesday, **November 23**, from 12:30-1:30pm at the SHAC. Fun thanksgiving themed activities are being planned as we kick-off the holiday weekend together!



Middle School Late Nighter

What a blessing it is to be a part of the ministry happening here in Darien!

Sarah Swible,
Middle School Ministry Coordinator

High School Ministry

Why I Stopped Crying on My Way to Church: I remember thinking "if I cry she won't make me go." I then proceeded to let out a blood curdling temper tantrum filled with tears and red cheeks from the moment my mom woke me up till the very moment we stepped into church on Sunday morning. My plan for evading church had failed. As a fourth grader I was upset and had to go. But looking back, I am so thankful my mom made me go kicking and screaming no matter what. ***My mom's determination to bring me to church means so much now.*** As we continue our time in the fall, when it begins to get colder and November gets much darker let's remember to stick with it, red cheeks and all.

Don't miss these exciting things coming up:

- ◆ **High School Ministry** - Sundays weekly in the SHAC, 6-7:30pm
- ◆ **SnapShot Series** - Oct. 16 - Nov. 13 in the SHAC during the 10:30 service
- ◆ **Party Night!** - Oct. 28 from 7-9 pm
- ◆ **The Cloisters** - Nov. 19 from 9:30 am-5:00 pm



Jack Hein,
High School Ministry Coordinator

Welcoming Ministry



Next "Get Connected"

Sunday, Nov. 13
after both the
9 and 10:30 services
(in the Schreiner Mission Room)

New to NPC and curious to
know more?

Been attending, but desire to be
more engaged?

Have friends and neighbors you'd like to introduce to NPC?

Please join us for a short program (followed by conversation and light bites):

- Learn from the pastors about NPC's rich history and strong mission
- Enjoy a photo presentation highlighting the breadth and depth of our ministries and programs
- Hear one member's testimony of becoming involved

Get to know Noroton Church, and get more connected to your faith and others in the NPC community!

Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org for more information.

Join the 7-Minute Team ??? (aka Welcoming Ministry)

Sunday Greeters and Helpers are needed...

If you enjoy making people feel special with your smile and warmth, please join the Welcoming Ministry (aka the 7-Minute Team because it takes that short a time for people to form a first impression of a church).

We are in great need of volunteers to:

- Greet for 15 minutes before either the 9 or 10:30 service, as well as 10 minutes after the service start to assist late-comers.
- Help at the Welcome Station for 15 minutes during the coffee time following either the 9 or 10:30 service.

Sign up as your schedule allows:

- Pick a regular Sunday of each month (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) that works with your schedule OR serve for a stretch of time when you know you are available.
- Volunteers are needed through mid-June 2017.
- Substitutes are available if you have a conflict.

Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

Working our Faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership



Interested in Becoming a Member of NPC?

Register NOW for the October New Member Class

Saturday, October 15, 12:30 to 5:30 pm. New members will be welcomed into the congregation at the 10:30 service the next day, October 16. Free professional nursery care is provided for children 3 months to 4 years.

A recent new member said this about the class: "I loved the experience and the time flew by. I feel better informed about NPC and my own faith was reinforced."

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

The next class will be in February 2017.

Congregational Life Ministry



FALL ... a time of thanksgiving



If you walk down Memory Lane ... What occurs to you as you think back on this time of year?

A year ago, our church family had just re-dedicated our facility, with a new 'center core' section and improvements throughout. And we were beginning to discover how ministry might change given our re-newed resource.

Take a minute to think about what changed for YOU!

For Congregational Life, it meant hosting a 'safer' All Church Cookout, utilizing the Playground area adjacent to the building, protected from the cars moving in the parking lot. ... We are grateful.



How might we express our thanks this season?

As we move quickly into the Fall months ... we find ourselves at the time of year we traditionally think about others as well. NPC offers MANY opportunities for us to think beyond ourselves and our immediate family units. (Watch for announcements!)

If you have new ideas, please communicate them to someone on staff or a ministry team. Contact information is available elsewhere in the Spire, on the back of Sunday Noroton Notes, and on our website (www.norotonchurch.org). We'd love to hear from you as we together work to share our resources with others.



As we journey together,
Valerie Muller

Director, Community and Communications
(including Congregational Life)
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org

Schreiners' Farewell Service and Thank You

What a Grand “Benediction!”

Deb and I have such very full hearts after the glorious send off our Noroton Family gave us on our last Sunday with you. The flowers, music, cards, smiling faces, prayers of the children, food, pictures, love gifts - and to top it all off – the honor of having the mission room named for us, were just outstanding! We had to pinch ourselves to make sure we weren't dreaming. Thank you all for your many, many kindnesses and warm words to Deb and me. Our family was deeply touched by this outpouring of love and we give thanks to the Lord for allowing us to spend these twelve years in this vibrant body of Christ.

Please know that as we return to be near our family in New Hampshire, we will always hold our Noroton family in our hearts and in our prayers. We also would covet your prayers as I begin my work for the Friends of Forman Christian College. If you would like to be a part of my prayer team you can reach me at sschreiner@friendsofforman.org. Deb and I would love to hear from you or see you someday if you are in the neighborhood of our new home – 3 Circle Drive, Derry, New Hampshire (03038). May the Lord bless you and keep you and may his face shine upon us all as we do His work and remember these twelve wonderful years we shared together.

With Christ's Unfathomable Love,
Sam and Deb Schreiner



Mission Ministry

City of Hope



Dawn peeks over the horizon, the chill of morning and smell of woodsmoke drifts through the open window. Faint strains of a song drift through the window as well, punctuated by the clunk of empty plastic water buckets. Broad leaves of banana trees are illuminated as the strong sun rises. It's morning at the City of Hope.

Eight years ago, this landscape was much different. Rolling countryside has been transformed into a well-tended banana farm, cornfields, and a well. A large dormitory for the children is flanked by a dining hall, a primary school, cisterns, adequate latrines, a work shop, a coffee house, guest house and administrative offices. Life is full and secure for over 110 children who make their home here.

Down the road, in a field where tribal skirmishes once occurred, a hospital and staff quarters have been built. A place of rivalry is now occupied by peace and healing. Among the children themselves, there are stories of forgiveness, reconciliation and cooperation. Young girls formerly abused through local FGM practices find refuge here. Children who lost their parents to disease or warfare now live together and consider each other family.

In less than a decade, God has worked to transform the lives of these children from Ntgacha and beyond. The work continues at a fast pace, especially thanks to Norton Presbyterian Church's generous support! In addition to City of Hope residents, over 300 other students now attend Destiny Primary School. Just this year, special support from the church helped fund a new truck. Students

and staff at the school are grateful for this much-needed resource!

God has a plan for each of these children. We celebrate their growth in character, education and an understanding of Jesus' love. We have now reached the next level of opportunity and need for the students. Thanks to a partnership with Mountain Mission School in Grundy, VA, 33 City of Hope students will now complete their education in a loving, high-quality learning community in the USA, opening up wonderful opportunities for college study. Finally, ground has just been broken on the Dr. John Chacha Secondary School and Institute of Leadership. This was a vision of Dr. John Chacha – to use the City of Hope and education to build the future leaders of Tanzania and our world. We continue to seek partnerships that will help provide the next step for the development of this growing group of students!



Mission Ministry continued...



The children and staff of Teamwork City of Hope are thankful for you. Your support in prayer, resources and relationships is multiplying as their lives continue to flourish. May God bless you!

For more information about Teamwork City of Hope and how to get involved, visit www.teamworkcityofhope.com or talk to City of Hope leaders who visit on Oct. 16.



Feed My Starving Children M&M Fundraiser

M&M tubes distributed in October.

Participate by filling with quarters
(or cash/check donations).

So far \$30,000 has been raised towards the \$47,000 goal. \$17,000 still needed to pack 200,000 meals.

Feed My Starving Children Packing Event Oct. 22-23.

Sign up online www.norotonchurch.org
under Mission Ministry for 2 hour shifts.

For more information contact:
Alison Smith gerstell@optonline.net
or Ginna Yerrall gmdar@optonline.net.

Mission Opportunities Pray, Serve, Learn

Oct 1 and Nov 5: Serve at the
Norwalk Open Door Shelter -
contact Holly Hough
(hhough7@optonline.net) to sign up.

Visit from City of Hope, Tanzania:

Schreiner Mission room after the
10:30 am service on **Oct. 16.**

Our Africa mission partners, Hudson Mahare
(Director) and Regina Chacha (co-founder) will
present. All are welcome.

Refugee Co-sponsorship team:

Would you like to join the NPC team preparing
to make a newly arrived refugee family
welcome? Ways to help include, transportation,
accompanying family members to health appts,
shopping, furnishing an apartment, homework
help, hosting a family outing.

November Annual Pivot Food and Toiletries Drive

Please bring contributions to bins
around the church.

Pivot Choir will visit 9am and 10:30 am services
on **November 13.**

November/December Dove Program

(provide a holiday meal for a local family) and

Angel Tree Program

(provide a Christmas gift for the child of an
incarcerated mom or dad).

More details to follow...

Check the website for details

of prayer requests, more
opportunities and to
learn about our mission partners.

Please contact Stella Clarke
(Director of Missions) at
stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org or
203-309-5645.

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Bridge to City (Youth) Oct 1-Oct 3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Reception to Welcome Seiders (after 9 & 10:30 services) 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9:45 am Playground Social 10:30 am Reading Genesis 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall	9:30 am Christian Yoga	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	6:00 pm Confirmation Celebration	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 10:30 am Reading Genesis 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	Columbus Day 9:30 am Christian Yoga	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		12:30 pm New Member Class 3:00 pm Men's Paddle Event
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am High School SnapShot 11:30 am City of Hope 11:45 am Sermon Talkback 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	9:30 am Christian Yoga 7:30 pm Small Group - Brave Enough	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 8:00 pm Session	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Adult Fellowship 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		FMSC Packing Event Oct. 22 - Oct. 23 7:30 am Faithful in Prayer
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm Darien United Event (Youth)	7:30 pm Small Group - Brave Enough	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		7:00 pm Festival of Church Music

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	5
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class 9:00 am Family Series 10:30 am High School SnapShot 3:00 pm Trunk or Treat 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	Halloween	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		7:30 am Faithful In Prayer	
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -5th grade 9:00am Family Series 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:30 pm Small Group - Brave Enough	Election Day 11:30 am Chicken Run (Youth)	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		7:30 am Faithful in Prayer 8:30 am The Man Event	12
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class 9:00 am Family Series 10 & 11:30 am Get Connected 10:30 am High School SnapShot 5:00 pm Service Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:30 pm Small Group - Brave Enough	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 8:00 pm Session	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Adult Fellowship 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	6:30 pm Movie Night	10:00 am High School SnapShot - Cloisters	19
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:30 pm Harbor Presents: A Thanksgiving Special	Thanksgiving Day NPC Offices Closed	Thanksgiving Holiday NPC Offices Closed		26
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)				
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study					

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

August 17th
Marshall F. Kenyon

September 18th
Lee. A. Colbath

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

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

September 18:

Edward McArtor Boyle, son of Hugh and Heather Boyle

Max Girard Hall, son of Joshua and Yamila Hall

If you would like to submit an article for the December 2016 issue please submit it before November 4 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

Pastor John H. Seiders.....203-309-5618 <i>Interim Pastor</i>	Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Community and Communications</i>	Kalie Riordan 203-655-3223 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry</i>	Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Julie Colbath 203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Jimmy McPherson 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Spiritual Formation</i>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Dan Rosa..... 203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i>
	Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Director of Missions</i>	David Lee..... 203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i>
	Beth Aparicio 203-309-5605 <i>Director of Noroton Presbyterian Child Care</i>	