

The Spire

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



As the Summer Days Fade Away...

Do returning students still have to write that initial essay – “What did you do on your summer vacation?” Our vacation was spent on a lake in NH and it was the usual routine of guests and golf and grandchildren. But this summer at NPC **was anything but routine.** Here are a few of the things that went on this summer, just in case you were traveling or out of the “loop.”

- In July the Session voted to make A. Pappajohn our General Contractor of the *Foundations* project. They have already supervised our CE Wing massive utility upgrades and renovations and they are now managing the new construction and site work. We hope that the first half of our new parking configuration will be open in October.
- The Dolls moved to our manse on Nickerson Lane as a break from the summer site work which was happening right in front of 23 Noroton. This allowed our Property team to upgrade the wiring in this historic home.

- Our summer study of C. S. Lewis', *The Screwtape Letters*, was a big hit. Liz and John Anderson opened their home and gave us a wonderful place to gather and to share a final meal at the end of our six week study.
- The youth trips to West Virginia and the Dominican Republic kept staff and students on the road in July. It is great to see so many volunteers giving their time and talents to these great mission projects. Ask a young person you know if they went and what their experience was like.
- In July we closed Tot Drop for the month to carry out extensive remodeling of the CE Wing. While we still have more to do, a new entrance, new Tot Drop Office and new adult bathroom were all added to the first floor.
- Kalie Riordan, an experienced NPNS teacher, was hired to be our new Director of the Noroton Nursery School and Valerie Muller was promoted to full time Director of Community and Communication. Keep praying for our Youth Ministry Director/Pastor search which is still in process.

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Summer Worship Schedule until September 7

Weed Beach Service - 8:00 a.m.
 Chapel - 10:00 a.m.

Fall Worship Schedule begins September 14

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

9/7/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Proverbs 22:6 “Training for the Long Haul”

Sermon Series “The Great Triad (Solus)”

9/14/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 II Peter 1:6-21 “Scripture Alone”

9/21/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Ephesians 2:1-5 “Grace Alone”

9/28/14 - Pastor Brandi Drake
 Ephesians 2:8-10 “Faith Alone”

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

10/19, 11/16, & 12/21 at the
 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
*To schedule a Baptism please call
 Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

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As we look ahead to the fall we will have one Sunday in September at Weed Beach (Lord willing) and return to our full Sunday schedule with early Chapel services, two Sanctuary morning services and evening Open Doors (back this year in Horton Hall) on September 14th. We will also kick off a three week sermon series on the three rallying watch words of the Reformation – Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, and Faith Alone. Join us for this rich time of worship and fellowship as we move into the fall together.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner



Noroton Presbyterian Church
Fall Worship Services
Begin Sunday, September 14th

The Great Triad (Solas Sermon Series)
“Scripture Alone”

8:00 a.m. Chapel
childcare and Sunday school are not provided

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
childcare for 3 months - 2 years
Sunday School for 3's, 4's and K-8th Grade

5:00 p.m. Open Doors in Horton Hall
a family friendly casual service. Please stay for dinner.



Prime Timers

Thursday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m.
at Maplewood*, Darien.

Mickie O'Donnell - *“Bibletelling - Oral Tradition and the Power of God’s Spoken Word”*

For more information contact Marlene Moffett (203-309-5620)
or Rita Hornlein (203-357-1504).

*DIRECTIONS - NPC TO MAPLEWOOD/CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND BACK

1. Travel 2 mi. east on Boston Post Rd/US-1 through town.
2. Maplewood 599 Post Rd on left across from Congregational Church.
3. Park under Maplewood or in parking lot for Congregational Church. **Please do not park right across from Maplewood in the parking area for the Center For Hope.**
4. If at Congregational Church parking lot, wait for someone to shuttle you across street.
5. Shuttle available to return to church parking.
6. Travel 2 mi. west on Boston Post Rd/US-1 to NPC.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



September 2014 Progress Report Prayer Stones Anchor New Building

“The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is His creation by water and the word”. These words from an inspirational hymn we frequently sing never seemed more appropriate than the day in August when YOUR prayer stones were planted in the concrete of our new foundation. These precious stones and all the prayers they represent have been patiently waiting since early 2012 to anchor our new building. And now they are in place to hold up His creation for generations to come! Praise God!



You can be forgiven if you kicked back to enjoy the summer and haven’t been keeping a close eye on the work at NPC. A glance from Noroton Avenue will tell you that much progress has been made on raising the level of the property to provide a new main entrance that will not require stairs or elevator. It is also easy to see the future parking layout that will include more parking close to the Sanctuary in the back and a much safer playground area next to the CE Wing (importantly, no longer across the driveway from the Nursery School, Tot Drop, and Sunday School classes). The building crew is focused on completing the east end of the parking lot (nearest Noroton Avenue) as a first step.



The *Foundations* project also calls for significant upgrading to the CE Wing to improve the use of the space for the Nursery School and Tot Drop. Director offices have been relocated on each floor to provide improved monitoring of the traffic flow, and there is now a new entrance on the west end of the building for Tot Drop. The coming months will see the development of a playground exclusive to Tot Drop (a regulatory requirement) beyond that west end entrance.

And on that note, we will end this month’s update with another quote from another great hymn: “How firm a foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word.”

Tom Taylor, Jean Ann and Dick Bollman
Foundations for the Future Progress Team

[Click here for more photos!](#)



Adult Spiritual Formation



Men's Retreat

Gentlemen,

In the June SPIRE we announced that our annual **Men's Retreat** will be returning to the rustic, rugged beauty of the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. The retreat will be **Friday, October 31 to Sunday, November 2, 2014**. We will be joined again by our brothers from Macedonia Church.



The lovely wooded location offers us a chance to experience a quiet retreat in a natural setting while also enjoying a range of recreational activities. As usual, we will have golf, basketball, and hiking. We are also planning to offer skeet shooting, photography, fishing, biking, and of course, a peaceful afternoon doing absolutely nothing.

Ministry. We hope you will register early and indicate your likely recreation choice (for some there may be participation limits). Registration will be handled by Marlene Moffett, Administrative Assistant to Pastor Greg. Communication regarding the Retreat will be by email, so please make sure Marlene has your current email address.

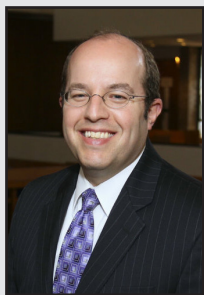
Our featured speaker and leader for the weekend will be one of our most popular Noroton Lecturers, Dr. Jerry Root. Jerry plans to teach us about **"Another Sacrament."**



If you have questions, please contact Clay Colbath at clayhamiltoncolbath@gmail.com or Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5620. We look forward to seeing you in Ivoryton.

Online registration and payment options are available on our website www.norotonchurch.org under Men's

Pastor Greg Doll,
Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach



Men's Bible Study: Begins Thursday, September 18

in Horton Hall at 7:00 a.m. with a special breakfast followed by **GUEST SPEAKER, RABBI DANIEL COHEN**

All men are invited!

Please RSVP to Marlene at 203-309-5620 or marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

Men's Bible Study :

Resumes Tuesday, **September 23** at 7:30 a.m. at The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of 44th across from the west entrance to Grand Central.

Resumes Thursday, **September 25** at 7:00 a.m. in Horton Hall with continental breakfast.

Men's Study at the Sugar Bowl: Wednesdays 7:00 a.m.

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



Adult Spiritual Formation



The late summer saw an important reorganization of the NPC staff. Val Muller accepted the position of full-time **Director of Community and Communications**. In this position Val will take over leadership of the Small Group Ministry. A 2013 review of best practices among fast-growing churches in the Fairfield County area indicated that small group ministry is a key element of their growth and cohesion as congregations. We are delighted that Val will be bringing her considerable talents and energy to leading this ministry at NPC. In addition, Val will be coordinating the many types of communication, both internal and external, at NPC. In an age where communication media and techniques are changing so fast, we are fortunate to have Val step into this role. Please congratulate Val on her new position and pray for her success.



Small groups: are a great way to get involved and make friends in the church. Small groups are made up of 8 to 12 adults who meet weekly or every other week on various days or evenings of the week for friendship and Bible study, or to read a book together. Contact Val at 203-309-5650 or valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org to get plugged into a group that fits your schedule and interest. You can also visit the church website www.norotonchurch.org for more info.

Weekly Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday in the Parlor from 1:15-2:15 p.m. Come and pray for needs of our church family. Everyone is welcome – no prayer experience necessary! For more information please contact Marlene at 203-309-5620.

Would You Like to Stay Connected and Join Our Email List? We send email blasts to the congregation with general church updates, prayer requests, special events and more. If you're not receiving these email notices and would like to, please contact Claire Bragdon in the church main office, 203-655-1451 or email claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org to be added to the list.

Caring & Women's Ministries



But now, O Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.
Psalm 39:7

Are you like me? Have you felt the weight of hopelessness this Summer? Ebola. ISIS. Palestine and Israel. Boko Haram. Ukraine. Not to mention things close to home: Sickness, grief, petty disagreements.

Sometimes I find myself praying the following prayer: "Really? Really God?"

And then I remember this verse. My hope is in you. Hope. The assurance that Christ did conquer the grave, and that because of this great sacrifice, we don't have to swim in hopelessness. We can breathe in Grace, and swim in Mercy. Belong to Christ in the midst of it all. Great is this mystery of faith: That we might know joy, regardless of circumstance.

May we learn to be steadfast in prayer as we hope in the one who is worthy of our very lives.

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

Women's Ministries for Fall

Moms of Teens:

- This study begins on **September 25**. Thursdays 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. in the SHAC at NPC. (feel free to bring a lunch) led by Sallie Schmidt and Laurie Bessey. For more information contact Sallie at sallieschmidt@gmail.com or Laurie at thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com.

Tuesday morning Bible Studies:

- 6:15 in the Parlor will start up again on **September 9!**
- 9:30 will begin on **October 7**. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in Horton Hall and the remaining Tuesdays we will meet in homes (schedule will be provided). We will be working our way through the book of Philippians. Professional childcare is provided.*

Thursday morning Moms Oasis*:

- Resumes October 2 and will be held in the Sanctuary. Professional childcare will be in Horton Hall*

*Professional childcare is provided from 9-11:30 a.m. based upon availability and pre-registration is required by **September 12**. A current, signed by a doctor, immunization and health record is necessary. Please contact Tot Drop at 203-202-9441 or email totdrop@norotonchurch.org with further questions. To obtain forms go to www.norotonchurch.org and click on Tot Drop for child-care registration and health assessment forms. All forms go to Carol Scott.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Minute with Mickie Wondering About Fall 2014? Here's what you need to know



Welcome back to the school routine! I know it's hard to say goodbye to summer but time marches on and here we are in another school year. At NPC we are going to be offering some amazing opportunities for you and your family.

- **September 14** we are back in the Sanctuary. Sunday School begins for [Preschool, Elementary](#) and [Middle School students](#) at both 9:00 and 10:30. Preschool students go directly to their classrooms in the NPNS Wing and Elementary students start out in the Sanctuary with you and come to Horton Hall after Words of Wonder. Along with our routine of

SUNDAY
SCHOOL
KICKOFF



Offering, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed and the Doxology, we will be adding the Nicene Creed and learning how to retell Bible stories from the book of Judges, I and II Samuel, and Esther before we head into the Advent Season.

- Parents of Elementary children – **September 14, 21, and 28** will be considered "OPEN HOUSE" Sundays in Horton Hall. YOU are invited to join your children and participate in what we do each week so that you can reinforce these experiences at home. Please come!
- **September 25** – the first of FIVE special Family Fun Nights for you and your family on alternate Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. A lite meal, games, fellowship and an interactive teaching time geared for all ages. **Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 6 and Nov. 20.** Come once, come often, just come when you can. September 25 we will all learn about Communion. Many of our grade school children have experienced this lesson so they will help me teach it.

- **September 28** during the 10:30 Worship Hour only (following Words of Wonder) at the SHAC but lasting until 12:30, our [High School students](#) have the option of attending a special Sunday School class for 8 weeks. Lite lunch snacks will be served and we will be doing an Apologetics Class called "Anchorsaway" helping students understand how to live out their faith in today's world. This class will meet **Sept. 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 23.** Another class will start again in January 2015.
- **October 5** is Confirmation Sunday, welcoming the class of 2013/14 (World Communion Sunday) at the 10:30 Worship Services. There will be no Sunday School so that all ages can celebrate this milestone in the life of our students.

Coming up:

- **October 25** – Trunk or Treat (depending on the parking lot)
- **December 5** – Caroling By Candlelight
- **December 14** – Children's Worship Service Pageantry (9:00 and 10:30)
- **December 24** – 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Services

Ok – that's it for now. During the past two years our educational ministry has focused on fully coordinating children and youth lessons. Studying the book of Mark last spring for kids and youth was a great way to keep us all connected. Our key verses: Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord your God goes with you wherever you go;" and James 1:22: "Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves, do what it says;" have helped to guide our children (and hopefully you as well)

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Children's & Youth Ministries

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to choose to live as Jesus followers in this world. This year Jeremiah 29:11 will be our verse of encouragement and strength: *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

It is my prayer that you will write these Words of the Lord on your hearts and in your homes, reciting them to each other and encouraging each other to be Jesus followers. At NPC our educational ministry is here to help you do just that! Be sure to visit

www.norotonchurch.org to register your children and youth for Sunday School and other activities, as well as volunteer your time to be a Small Group or Huddle Leader for children and youth. YOU are needed to model your faith for your children.

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

Set Free From Insecurity

It has been a great experience working with students who attended NPC youth events and mission trips this summer, just like I did growing up. I remember well how difficult it can be socially at their age. Growing up I sometimes wondered if my friends actually wanted to be with me, or if they were just being nice. I worried I wasn't funny enough, athletic enough, masculine enough, or interesting enough. Other times, when I could see my friends laughing at my jokes or having fun with me, I could be a bit more comfortable with who I was. Admittedly, my self-esteem was very dependent on the acceptance of my peers. I saw this among my classmates too. I could see it in the way the boys and the girls wore the same type of clothes, went to the same parties, and watched the same shows. We all want to be liked, and one of the most devastating phrases to leave any kid's mouth is "I have no friends."

Yet there is one whose opinion matters more than that of our friends. In 1 John 4:8, Jesus's disciple John says, *"God is love."* The apostle Paul gives us insight into what this means in a beautiful passage about love in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. I'll pick out my favorite parts: *"Love is patient, love is kind ... it keeps no record of wrongs ... love never fails."* Keeping this idea that God is love in mind, Paul is describing a patient and kind God who never fails to love. Yet Paul acknowledges that he can not yet totally capture the amazingness of God: *"Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known"* (1 Corinthians 13:12).

What does it mean to be fully known? Is there anybody in our lives that we fully know? Of course not! I don't

fully know my brother, my mother, or my best friend. And my peers don't fully know me. I don't know all their experiences, or completely understand how they think. But God, unlike any one of our friends, fully knows us. And instead of disliking us for all the messed up thoughts we have, or the ways we have failed, he "keeps no record of wrongs," and his "love never fails."

What if, instead of drawing confidence from awards, success, and peer approval, we drew it from how the Creator of the Universe fully knows our flaws and still loves us? It is a difficult task. I still am very much dependent on the approval of others. Yet the confidence God offers can set me free from the way I chain myself to peer approval, and thus God's approval is greater than any other.

Thank you to all the students who helped me have a good time this summer, and I hope you all can enter into this school year feeling confident that you are fully known and loved.

Charlie Salmans
Youth Ministries Summer Intern



Children's & Youth Ministries

Summer Review



It's hard to believe we are already looking into fall planning. It seems like just yesterday, summer officially began. It must be because summer is the busiest season in youth ministry.

when they leave home. We had a group of 40 adults and students who led Vacation Bible School for children, and a youth program for the older students, as well as a few construction projects in the area. What wonderful ministry is taking place in Dunlow! Our students left with full hearts as we lived life among the community of Dunlow.



This summer we had the opportunity to help at Vacation Bible School at St. Luke's in the Bible telling station. What a joy it was to see students, college students, and staff participate in telling the stories of the coming of the Holy Spirit, as well as watching students take the counselor role as they brought students from room to room.

Ten days later, it was off to Zumbon in the Dominican Republic. A group of ten, we were handed pickaxes and shovels on day one as we began to build a wall around the school and church building. This wall would enable the current school to move their status from private to public. Once the wall is finished, the government will provide teachers for the public school AND students will no longer have to cross an eight lane highway to get to school each day. While it was a lot of hard work, everyone did their fair share. Foundations for Peace's mission statement is "Hand in Hand". Everything we do, we work together hand in hand. How awesome it was to see the body of Christ, each bringing their own gifts, both from NPC, and Zumbon, to further their work in God's kingdom. Once again, we left with very full and grateful hearts.



These are just a few of the snapshots of our summer together for both Middle School and High School. What a privilege it has been to watch these students grow in their faith, their understanding of God, who He is, and in turn go out and serve others.

Soon after VBS, we left for Vacation with a Purpose (VWAP) in West Virginia. I'm always amazed to see the community that forms among a group of students

As we begin this school year, please remember to pray for our students. Pray that they would continue to see

Children's & Youth Ministries

God work in tangible ways in and through their lives; that the lessons and experiences they have learned this summer would not be quickly forgotten, but continue to be a part of their everyday lives.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the students here at NPC,

Sarah Swible,
Youth Ministries Coordinator



Events and Happenings for Middle School and High School Students:

High School Bible Study - Starting **September 8th**, all High School students are welcomed to join us at the SHAC for a small group Bible study that focuses on Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel. We would love to have you. This Bible study will run every Monday from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

High School Girls, you are invited to join us for a sleepover in the SHAC, **Friday, September 12th at 5:00 p.m. until Saturday, September 13th, at 9:00 a.m.** Come hang out with us and bring a friend. There will be pizza, crafts, a movie, and so much more. We will hear from Meaghan Graham, who works with Sorority and Fraternity Students through Greek Intersivity at the University of New Hampshire. You will not want to miss out! [click here for more information](#)

Fall Kick off for Ignite is **Sunday, September 14th** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We cannot wait to see all you High School Students!

Harbor will begin, **Wednesday, September 17th** in Horton Hall from 7-8:30 p.m. Join us for our Vampires VS. Zombies Capture the Flag Event that you won't want to miss!

Confirmation Orientation for 8th Graders and Parents! **Sunday, September 7th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Confirmation classes will begin on **September 21st** and are held in the Parlor during the 9:00 and 10:30 Services (unless otherwise indicated on the class schedule). Makeup classes will be held on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Please visit www.norotonyouth.com for **registration** and class schedule. [click here for more information](#)



Noroton Presbyterian Church



Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

What a difference a month makes! Returning to NPC after the construction-necessitated closing from July 3 to August 4, it was a special pleasure for me to return to a brand new director's office replete with additional space, comfort and grace. The original Tot Drop office had been sandwiched between two classrooms. Its one-way-glass windows allowed line of sight into the Two-year old classroom and what once had been the Infant and One-year old classroom, (but is now the utilities room for FFF additions). The first comment from children and parents walking into my new office is often, "You now have a real window!" I do, and it is wonderful!

The new space for Tot Drop is the former Children's Ministry offices, from which has been carved a new entry hallway which eventually will provide dedicated access and egress to and from Tot Drop from the parking lot. The glass wall separating the hallway from the office will allow ready identification of anyone entering the building. The eventual-exterior doorway will also be the way to get to

our future playground and sidewalk; happily there will be no steps to navigate for parents pushing strollers.

Another much-appreciated new space is the staff workroom/lounge. Prior to this, my hard-working staff had to wander the building at their lunch break, looking for a room that wasn't being used for a meeting by one ministry or another. Now they can use their room for a more relaxing lunch time or grab a cup of coffee, fill a water bottle or prepare materials or plan.

Foundations for the Future has made Tot Drop in the present time much more functional and gracious and we are grateful!

Here are a few photos from some of our special summer events when we reopened in August.

In His service,

Carol Scott

Director of NPC Tot Drop



Storytime visit from Darien library



Water day - chillin' under the sprinkler



Outdoor art day - Mom, aren't you glad I wore a smock?



Beautiful Marcia shares her music and joy

Membership Ministry



What's The Significance Of Membership At NPC?

Why Become a Member

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 such as 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.

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 tells us we are all spiritually connected to one another. Members have made an intentional commitment to bond covenantally to each other and the church in a faith community – a home church to belong to, and a place to share burdens and joys.

A person's commitment to one church is made official through membership. A faithful member accepts Christ's call to be involved responsibly in his church – to join hearts together in ministry and hands in service.



New members singing praises

But membership also expresses a two-way commitment; the church, congregation, pastors and staff make a commitment to the

member as well. Joining NPC starts a relationship with the pastors and provides connections to programs for a family. The church commits to sharing in the Christian nurturing of children of all ages through Sunday school, nursery school, youth groups and service opportunities. We also support member's children through college scholarships and those who enter the missionary field.

Members may present children for baptism, receive preferential consideration for Nursery School acceptance, and vote on matters brought before the congregation.

Also, while our programs and services are open to all who wish to attend, some roles and even services are restricted to members (e.g., serving at certain levels of lay leadership, consideration for the Horton Scholarship, and burial in the Memorial Garden).

Why Have a New Member Class

If you are making a commitment to a faith and a church family, it's important to know the values and principles of the fellowship you are joining!



Volunteers facilitate small group discussions

- The class creates a common starting point for people joining from various faith backgrounds and at different stages of their faith journey.
- We want members to hear how they can deepen their faith in Christ at NPC. This may be new or different from the emphasis of your previous church (Presbyterian or other).
- Churches that ask more of members coming in the door find fewer leaving.

What Happens at the New Member Class?

Classes are interesting, faith-deepening and fun! Each class offers an opportunity to:

- Strengthen faith and knowledge through teachings by the Pastors on what it means to be a Christian, a disciple of Christ, a Presbyterian and a member of NPC.



Pastor Sam teaching

- Build community with others in small group discussions, where you can ask questions and

Membership Ministry

share your faith journey.

- Enjoy fellowship with all the participants, pastors, volunteers and staff.
- Learn more from Elders and team leaders about NPC's ministries and how to get involved.



Katie Cooling introducing herself to the class

If you choose to join the church, you will take your membership vows with the Session (Elders) at the end of the class. You will also be introduced to the congregation in worship on the Sunday following the last class, usually at the 10:30 service.

Sign up Now for the Fall Membership Class

If you are interested in joining NPC, hold the date for the next New Member class: four consecutive Sunday mornings on **Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 and 9**. Free childcare is provided for infants and toddlers, and older children can attend Sunday school.

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

"We were extremely pleased with the new member class. It was very warm and inviting."

"We very much enjoyed our new member class and feel it was a great introduction to the church. I think it was an invaluable experience."



Enjoying fellowship and making connections

Classes are offered 3 to 4 times a year. For registration and information, contact Julie Colbath.

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership
julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5615

Worship Greeters Needed

Did you know it takes just 7 minutes for newcomers to form an impression of NPC? You can help a visitor's first experience to be a positive one by serving as a friendly worship greeter for just 15 min. once a month before the 9 or 10:30 services. Please contact Julie Colbath (203-309-5615 or julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).



New Baby? Be sure to Tell Us!

When a church member has a new addition to their family, please be sure to contact the church so we can celebrate the event and share the news with others. An announcement will be included in the Sunday bulletin and a rose will be placed on the Communion table. If you notify us, a pastor will also gladly visit at the hospital or home. Call or email the church office at 203-655-1451 or norotonchurch@norotonchurch.org.



Membership Ministry

*Please Welcome our
Newest Members!*



Eric and Erika Allen moved from the UK to Darien this past year. They both work as attorneys. The Allens have two children: Buck, a 10th grader at DHS, and Grady, an 8th grader at MMS. The Allen family loves music, art and their two excellent English bulldogs!



Jeremy and Julie Jennings have resided in Darien for the past four years. They have two children, Jack (5) and Maxwell (1). Their family enjoys traveling and outdoor activities.



Chris and Kelly Powers live in Darien with their son, Crosby. Chris was born in NYC and attended Boston College. He is an independent Equity Trader. Kelly graduated from West Chester University and worked at Pfizer in Marketing & Sales Operations for 10 years; she is now pursuing a Nursing degree. They enjoy outdoor activities and love to travel.



Jim and Carol Charling recently relocated to Stamford to be closer to their only grandchild. Currently retired, their adult life has been spent in Iowa. Carol enjoys reading and Jim enjoys do-it-yourself projects. Both enjoy golf, their two sons, and traveling.



Carolyn Plath moved to Norwalk in Nov. After growing up in the Midwest and graduating from Northwestern University, she moved with her husband to AZ. There she raised a daughter (now in Westport) and 2 sons, and pursued a career in radio and television news. In 1988 she moved to New England and was very active in Boston's historic Park St. Church. She has 2 granddaughters, both 5 years old -- one of whom is the reason for her relocation to CT.



Chris Woschenko and Karen Nishida recently relocated to Darien from Milford, NJ and Miami Beach, FL. They have two sons, Kyle (1) and Tyler (born in June). Karen is a physician, and Chris is in finance. Both are avid equestrians.

Congregational Life Ministry

Looking back a few months ...

We celebrated the beginning of Summer as a congregation at NPC's annual

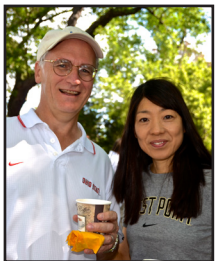
Beach Breakfast Celebration!

on Sunday, June 22nd!

We were blessed with a beautiful summer morning of bright sunshine and warm (but not hot!) temperatures. Many members/friends wandered over from the beach service to enjoy good food (homemade breakfast breads, deviled eggs, fresh fruit, sweet cinnamon 'bagelettes' and donut holes), laughter, and fun time with each other! Kids delighted playing with a variety of sand toys, and adults indulged in extended conversations over coffee and munchies ...

It was a great way to kick off what has proven to be a great summer!

[Click here to see more photos!](#)



Congregational Life Ministry

Looking forward ...

End of September: Watch for details for a *Fall Kick Off Gathering ... a Church-wide Patio Cook Out!*

While all of our various ministries are initiating their respective Fall programming ... we want to make sure that we provide an opportunity for the WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY to come together and re-connect after our various summer activities!



Save the Date: We have tentatively 'reserved' **Sunday, September 28th**, as the date we will gather members/ friends together right on the corner of Noroton/Post Roads. We will use the sunken garden space as well as part of the front lawn outside the Sanctuary and close to the temporary playground ... so that kids can play safely while parents enjoy the company of other 'adults'.

Please note that this event is contingent not only on good weather, but also on what is happening with our construction project ... so stay tuned and watch for 'confirmation announcements'.

Our 'rain date' is currently set for the following week (October 5th).

Here's a 'reminder' of the fun we all had last Fall:



In fellowship with you,
Valerie Muller

Director of Community and Communication
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650

Music & Fine Arts

....And, We're Back



It's that time again. My favorite time of year when everything restarts. The NPC Music Department offers many opportunities for serving the church, edifying the body of Christ, and glorifying God. Please consider joining us!

NPC CHANCEL CHOIR - Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 8:00-9:30 p.m. beginning **September 4th**. Auditions are not required. The choir sings during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary services. Come join us on **Thursday, September 25th**, 7:30-9:15 p.m. for a Chancel Choir Open House! There will be food, fellowship, and singing. You can try us out, no strings attached, learn the anthem and sing with us on Sunday morning the 28th. Contact the Music Department for more information.

OPEN DOORS SERVICE SINGERS - We have openings for singers to help lead worship at our Sunday afternoon Open Doors Service. Singers will be scheduled on a rotating basis if possible.

OPEN DOORS BAND - We are always looking for good players! Guitar, drums, keyboard, bass, and even strings, woodwinds, or brass.

INSTRUMENTALISTS OF ALL KINDS - Let me know if you play an instrument. I'd love to get you using your gifts at NPC.

J.A.M. CHOIR - Open to kids Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-4:45 p.m. beginning **September 24th**.



[Click here for more information.](#)

If you have any questions about being involved in the NPC Music Department feel free to contact me at dwayne.condon@norotonchurch.org.

Blessings!
Dwayne Condon,
Director of Music & Fine Arts



Summer Recap and Thanksgiving!

We are thankful to have had visits and ministry updates from Scott Brill (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship) and Artie Van Sciver (Campus Outreach) when they visited us over the summer. Both shared “Moments for Mission” with the church and met with the mission team for a more indepth update. This was very encouraging to us as we heard testimonies of how our mission dollars are being used to grow God’s kingdom on university campuses in New England and North Carolina.

We are also thankful for the ongoing support our church has been able to give to the work of the Open Door Shelter, continuing to connect you all with the opportunity to provide and serve meals, to help with their kitchen

renovation project and to gather school supplies for the children living at the Shelter as part of our church-wide summer drive.

It was also fascinating and inspiring to hear about the work of Forman Christian College and share this presentation not just with our church, but with the community at large. You can read more about this wonderful ministry in the article below by NPC mission team member John Marr.

Serving our Savior together,
Stella Clarke
Mission Associate
203-309-5645
stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org

Friends of Forman

On July 27th NPC hosted Dr. James Tebbe and Rev. Dr. Robert Johnson for a presentation in the Chapel about Pakistan and Forman Christian College (“FCC”). They were in Darien because NPC hosted a board meeting for the US-based fund raising organization “Friends of Forman Christian College,” of which Pastor Sam and NPC member John Marr are members of the board.

FCC is a Presbyterian-sponsored college in Lahore, Pakistan and has been an NPC Mission Partner since 2007. NPC has provided student scholarship funds and funds for a capital project.

Dr. Tebbe, who was born and raised in Pakistan and speaks Urdu, is the Rector of FCC and Dr. Johnson is the former chaplain and heads the US-based fund raising organization for the college.

Our speakers described the dismal state of education in Pakistan, a country of 190 million where only 2% of the population receive a high school education and the important role that FCC has in educating young men and women in Pakistan.

FCC was returned from government control to the Presbyterian Church in 2003 and provides a broad liberal arts education to both Christian and Muslim students. The school was founded 150 years ago and has a student

body of 6,347 students from all backgrounds and regions in Pakistan. Need-based financial aid is given regardless of religion, ethnicity, domicile or gender. The student body is 88% Muslim and 12% Christian and 34% of the students are female. FCC has the largest number of Christian students in higher education anywhere in Pakistan. The school has educated many senior government, military and business leaders in Pakistan and is well known and well regarded in Pakistan.



The evening concluded with a question and answer session and attendees gained an appreciation of the important role that FCC has in Pakistani education.

John Marr



*The H.E.R.O.E.S. Care Hometown Support Program
has come to Southern CT!*

NPC is our Outpost--our Home Base of Activity

Born out of Stephen Ministry, **H.E.R.O.E.S. Care** is a community-based program designed to provide complete and proactive support for members of all branches of the military and their families/significant others. Included in this circle are active duty service members, veterans, reservists, and members of the National Guard.

Are you a trained Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister? You can become an Outpost Leader or Hometown Support Volunteer. Not involved with Stephen Ministry? You are not disqualified; there are many ways to be involved! To learn more about this way of honoring and caring for those who have served our country, please come to the Information Session that best fits your schedule:

**Thursday evening, September 4th, 7:30-8:30 p.m.,
Horton Hall, or**

**Saturday morning, September 6th, 8:30-9:30 a.m.,
the Knight's home, 7 Old Field Road, Rowayton**

RSVP to Evie Knight, Stephen Leader and Outpost Leader for NPC* at Evie@optonline.net; 203-854-9299 (home office)

***Are you a veteran yourself? A special invitation is extended to you. Evie would like very much to meet you!**

"We love, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (ASV)

Mission Opportunities

Open Door Shelter Service Opportunities

Prepare and Serve the Lunchtime Meal –

September 6th & October 4th.

Set up shift : 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 16 and older.

Serving Shift: 12:30 -1:45 p.m. 18 years and older.

To sign up please contact Holly Hough

(hhough7@optonline.net).

Darien Feed My Starving Children MobilePack October 18-19th

Preparations are underway for the joint churches FMSC MobilePack. Online Signup for the 2 hour packing shifts will open in late September. Volunteers from age 8 and up are welcome; invite a friend or organize a group!! Last year some people brought along their children's hockey/ basketball teams, or small groups and had a great time serving together. (Signup in advance!!)... if you are interested in helping with setup on the night before the event or helping with running the event over the weekend please contact Ginna Yerrall (gmdar@optonline.net).

We still have some way to go to reach our fund-raising goal of \$44,000 to pack 200,000 meals for starving children around the world. Please return any M&M tubes filled with quarters or checks to FMSC #1410-160 to the offering plate or the church office.

There will be a "Joint churches service of prayer and dedication for the FMSC MobilePack Ministry" which will take place **October 15th** at 8:00 p.m. hosted by St Paul's Darien, (471 Mansfield Ave) All are welcome to come and celebrate the body of Christ in Darien working together in unity.

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Labor Day NPC Offices Closed	7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Presentation 8:00 p.m. Team Night Meetings	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 p.m. H.E.R.O.E.S. Care Information Meeting 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal		
7 8:00 a.m. Weed Beach Service 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation	8 6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study	9 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study	10 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	11 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 5:00 p.m. High School Girls Sleepover in the SHAC	13
14 Fall Service Schedule begins 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	15 6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study	16 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	17 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	18 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Breakfast with Guest Speaker Rabbi Daniel Cohen 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers - Maplewood, Darien 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th 9 & 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	22 6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study	23 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC)	24 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Make-up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade	25 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Open House	26	27
28 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th 9 & 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. High School Sunday School 11:30 a.m. All Church Patro Cook-out 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	29 6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study	30 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC)				

NPC News

Join us in celebrating the following Weddings...

August 23rd:

Sarah Grant and Henry Ludwig

OPEN DOORS

WILL BE BACK IN
HORTON HALL
STARTING

SEPTEMBER 14!

JOIN US FOR
DINNER AFTER
THE SERVICE!

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

June 8th:

Erika Tyner Allen, Karen Joy Nishida (adults)

June 22nd:

Gavin Crew Martinez, son of
Wilson & Elizabeth Martinez

July 13th:

Maxwell Archer Patrick Jennings,
son of Jeremy and Julie Jennings

Gerrit John Krediet and Caitlin Quinn Krediet,
children of Chris & Courtney Krediet

July 20th:

Charlotte Cosby Long and Grace Brosnan Long,
children of John and Ashley Long

Patrick Nicholas Pritchatt, son of
Alex and Sarah Pritchatt

July 27th:

Bruce Andrew Swenson, son of
Harris and Lauren Swenson

August 24th:

Henry Robert Apy and Grace Mitchell Apy, children
of Stephen and Elizabeth Apy

Blake Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of
Peter and Allison Stuart

Finn Charles Sweeney, son of Bill and Julie Sweeney

If you would like to submit an article for the October 2014 issue please submit it before September 12 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Elders and Team Leadership

Session officers: President Steve Evans
Treasurer: Mindy Stewart
Secretary: George Vogel

Adult Spiritual Formation: Jeff Myers,
Lou DeLoma

Building Committee: Dale LeMasters

Children's: Sue McLean, Ruth Lettera,
David Mettler

Church Relations: Tom Taylor

Congregational Life: Laura Smalley,
Cheryl Huffman

Finance: Steve Evans, Mindy Stewart,
Shawn Seale, Dale LeMasters

Human Resources: Morgan Whittier,
Craig Howe

Mission: Paul Williams, Doug Campbell

Nominating Committee: Laura Smalley,
David Mettler

Nursery School: Mindy Stewart

Outreach: Mike McGuire, Peter Riordan

Properties: Ed Barksdale, Joe Orban

Stewardship: Jeff Myers, Tom Taylor

Worship: Diane Gilliam, Mary Crawford,
Tomoko Nara

Youth: Iris Mix, Cindy Smith,
Bobby Winsor