

# The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)  
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## All Things New

One of the great promises of our faith in Christ is that the old and worn are made new. Once we join the faith we are told that “in Christ’ we are a “new creation” (II Cor. 5:17). The end of time will culminate with the revelation of a “new heaven and a new earth.” (Rev 21:1). The worn out is gone, the new has arrived. As much as we resist change at times, isn't it good to know that our faith reminds us that we are becoming someone who is “new and improved?” This is our great hope, especially if we have been stuck in a rut or in a self-defeating pattern. The Old Testament is the story of Israel constantly needing a renewal of purpose and faith, which God provided through the prophets.

Seven years ago, our Session started a planning process with an architect (possibly a modern day "prophet") to address some places where our ministries had become “stuck” due to poor performing facilities. We knew that many of the systems of the church facilities (the roofs, windows, electrical, sewage, air conditioning, to name

a few) were past their useful life while some had even been in service for 60 years. Multiple levels throughout our building made for stairs everywhere and tight hallways, which made moving from one end to the other difficult for our seniors and for those with babies in strollers. Our playgrounds located across our traffic flow to the parking lot made our situation quite dangerous. We had a lot to address.

Our first “renewal” project was the replacing of our historic steeple in 2008. We then began a thorough planning process which determined that it was time to redo the layout of our property and parking with great improvements to the building. A plan was purposed to take out the, "poor performing" 3,000 square foot, “center core,” and replace it with 14,000 square feet of central offices, fellowship and educational spaces (freeing up the CE wing to be used more fully for children 7-days-a-week). In 2010, our architect, Dennis Kowal noted that we had, “an over performing ministry in an under performing building.” His design became our master plan and the basis for the funds that we raised as we began our transformative *Foundations for the Future* journey.

This month, we are ready to finish

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### Summer Worship Schedule

#### September 6 & 13

8:00 a.m. Weed Beach

10:00 a.m. Chapel

### Fall Worship Schedule

#### Begins September 27

Chapel - 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Open Doors - 5:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule

9/6 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

9/13 - Pastor Brandi Drake

#### 9/20 - Rededication Sunday

Pastor Sam Schreiner

One service only -

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary,

Child care 3mos -3yrs

No Sunday school

#### 9/27 - Fall Worship Begins

(See above)

Pastor Sam Schreiner

9&10:30 a.m.

Child care 3mos-3yrs

Sunday School Pre-k - 5th Grade

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that journey of remodeling and discover how God will use us to serve Him here and around the world in the next 20 years. Your building team, led by Dale LeMasters, Jean Ann Bollman and Ed Barksdale, is very excited about sharing with us many of the new features of our extensive renovations. Due to the fantastic generosity of our members we were able to renew the majority of our ministry spaces, not only building the new entrance at the center core, relocating the playgrounds and parking lot, but also by adding AC and a fresh coat of paint to the Sanctuary (hint, the dusty peach color gives way to a new fresh look for this century), AC and new entrances for the CE wing, a return of the balcony to the Chapel and many system upgrades that will serve us well into the future while using modern technology to conserve energy. We will now have new opportunities to run innovative programs and even host the community again. May God be glorified through all of this and thank you one and all for your patience with these extensive renovations.

Of course what isn't visible on our church site are all the wonderful ways we were able to **build up God's work around the world** through the grants given to our mission partners from *Foundations for the Future*. Macedonia Church has a new home in Norwalk, Forman Christian College in Lahore has a new medical clinic called "The Mercy Center" and their women's hostel has new

furniture. Pivot House received new vans and several repairs were made to their resident facility. InterVarsity started two new chapters at Connecticut colleges. Evalyn Wakhusama's Nambale School added dormitory space to include more students, as will the City of Hope in Tanzania. Students in Kenya, Gaza and Brazil have received scholarships and the Foundations for Peace house in the DR was renovated. So much was done through Noroton's generous response to this vision. Thank you one and all.

**So what do we have planned for September 20th and the rest of the Fall as part of our grand opening and rededication of this church and ourselves to God's work?** Come and see. There will be a bagpiper and choirs, worship and celebrations, tours and new spaces to explore. We have prayers of thanksgiving to be prayed, songs to be sung, stories to be shared, ceremonial ribbons to cut. This will be a memorable day in a memorable chapter of God's work in and through us. Come and be a part of the One who promises to make "all things new" for this generation, and all who come after us.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend  
-Sam Schreiner

## **Famous Portrait Artist, John Howard Sanden, To Reveal His Painting Of "The Noroton Christ"**



Inspired by the construction and remodeling at our church, and wanting to make a lasting contribution to our new gathering space, the highly acclaimed portrait artist, John Howard Sanden, approached the Session about painting a portrait of Christ. Known for his portraits of Billy Graham, Isaac Stern, President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush for their White House portraits, along with many business and educational leaders, Sanden proposed painting a portrait of Christ by the sea. His most famous portrait of Jesus has hung in the chapel of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church for 35 years where he and his wife Elisabeth were members before coming to Noroton. This would be a life-sized oil painting for our church community which loves to worship by the sea. The Session readily accepted the proposal and raised the funds for the frame. On Sunday, September 27, the new portrait of our Lord will be presented by the artist after the morning services (11:30 a.m.) in the Parlor entrance to the Skylight Fellowship Lobby. Please join us for this historic unveiling of a truly inspirational work of art.

# Rededication Series of Events

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## ‘First Fifty Days’

### **Ribbon Cutting**

**Rededication Sunday - September 20th**

One service 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
(Child care only)

Theme: "God's Part & Our Part" (I Corinthians 3:5-11)

Featuring Chancel Choir and Children's Choir

Reception following service in the new  
Skylight Fellowship Lobby.

### **Center Core - Opening Week**

**September 20-27th**

Guided tour – during pre-arranged times only.

### **Portrait Unveiling**

**Sunday, September 27th at 11:30 a.m.**

Parlor entrance to the Skylight Fellowship Lobby  
Painting done by John Sanden, Portrait Painter

### **Neighbor Open House**

**(By Invitation Only)**

**Sunday, September 27th, 3-4:30 p.m.**

Invited guests will include adjacent neighbors,  
Hindley principals, area clergy & local mission partners.

### **Playground Social**

**Sunday, October 4th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

(between worship services IF playground is done)

Families with Preschool-Kindergarten children are invited  
to get to know each other

Come out to play after 9am service;  
come early to the 10:30 service or stay late

### **Church Fall Cookout**

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

### **Skylight Fellowship Lobby Music Concert**

**Saturday, October 24th, evening**

Featuring our wonderful NPC vocal soloists  
singing selections from Opera and Broadway

### **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 cos-  
tume. No scary costumes please!

### **Fall Festival**

**Saturday, November 7th, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Celebrate being thankful  
Crafts, music, games and a Bible story  
Come when you can and stay as long as  
your child can manage

### **Mapping the Landscape of Love**

**Monday, November 9th, evening**

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

# Adult Spiritual Formation



## Pressing On

I am not sure that I am ever really ready for the fall to arrive. I love to savor every minute I can get of the summer – the sun, the beach, time with family and friends, vacation in Maine. Labor Day, even when it is late, arrives much too soon. I love having Labor Day off, but I always seem to be caught off guard on the next day. That is when I really begin to feel the “press” of the urgent issues of the fall.

This fall is going to be a full one as we will move back into the building and begin to live into the new opportunities that God gives us to grow in our lives with Him and with each other. One of the passages of Scripture that has been significant for me over the years is Philippians 3:12-14 where Paul speaks about “pressing on.” I desire to “press on to take hold of

that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” I want to continue to make space for Him in my life to listen to His voice and to learn what He desires for me to learn as I seek to grow as a follower of Jesus Christ.

As we enter into the fall, I invite you to consider how Jesus Christ is inviting you to “press on” in your life. It isn’t about simply filling our lives with as much as possible. It is about making time for what is truly important.

I am especially excited to see how God desires to work in and through Men’s Ministry this fall. Morning studies will begin on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the latter half of September and the Men’s Retreat will be in early October.

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

### Men's Studies

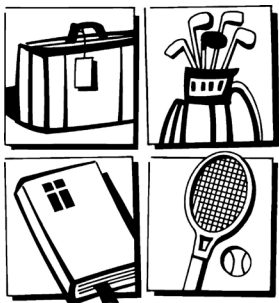
#### **Men's Bible Study Fall 2015 - 11 Week Study**

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

- Beginning on Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 a.m. at the Yale Club, Clarence Day Room, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017 and ends on December 8.
- Beginning on Thursday, September 24, 7:00 a.m. in NPC Horton Hall, Darien and ends on December 10.

#### **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. **Sept. 9 and Sept. 16, we will be meeting in the SHAC.**



**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 about discovering how 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

## "Together In The Story"

### Small Group Scripture Study for Fall 2015

Pastor Sam and our pastoral staff will begin a sermon series that looks at the 'story of the Bible', hitting the highlights of God's encounters in ordinary lives.

This provides the perfect opportunity to provide curriculum and encourage the NPC community to engage in conversations about the scripture passages used as background to the Sunday sermons. Small Group Ministry will use the Sunday scripture and design a study series (think '*His Story ... History ... & Our Story*'), using the Bible stories as models to share more of our own stories with each other.

*The study is NOT a review of the sermon; it is a guide to going deeper into each week's scripture passage via an exploratory process:*

- *Observation*
- *Interpretation*
- *Application*

Discussion questions will be available on our website or by calling the office to *ANYONE* who wants them ... whether to participate in an organized small group (existing or new), or to use with several friends, or even as a personal Bible study on your own.

For those who wish to lead or facilitate a group for this Fall season, we are also providing Leaders' Guides to accompany each week's scripture study discussion.

The Fall series will be comprised of ten passages, all stand-alone, starting mid-September.

- If your existing group meets every other week, you can use the scripture passage of the past week or the upcoming one ... your choice.
- You might choose to start a new group\*, and meet for a month of four consecutive weeks, or meet for all ten weeks, or meet every other week. Each group can decide their own frequency and start times of meeting.
- For those who prefer a 'topical' study, we will be suggesting one or two studies 'themed' to the stories of the scripture in the Fall, 4-6 weeks in length, and DVD-based.

We will also be offering a 'drop in' small group time (available Sunday or a weekday evening) for those who find committing to a full series inconsistent with their Fall schedules. These 'come to as many as fit your schedule' offer maximum flexibility while still encouraging everyone to be engaged as much as possible.

**Our Goal:** that everyone in our church family has the chance to be involved in the same scripture conversation on any given week, and to incorporate God's word into our lives beyond Sunday worship.

Journeying together,  
Valerie Muller

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

\* If you have questions or are interested in either 'hosting' (e.g. opening your home) or 'facilitating' (e.g. leading the discussion using the Leader Guides), or both, please contact me at 203-309-5650 or [valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org).



# Small Group Studies



# Caring & Women's Ministries

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*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... God has made everything beautiful in its time... God's gift is that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil...that which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is, and God seeks out what has gone by... Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11, 13*

My Grandpa Wolf died this summer. He was 95 and thriving right until the end, when he died peacefully in his sleep. A very good man. A life well lived. I admire, respect and love him. And I've been thinking a lot about his legacy to our family. Without a doubt, it is the legacy of a strong character: humble, loyal, hard-working and wise. My prayer is that such traits are forming in my own life and the lives of my boys, his great-grandsons.

When I went back to Indiana for his memorial service, I found myself thinking about both my Grandpa and my widowed Grandma in the context of a book I've been reading: David Brook's *The Road to Character*.

Brook's main argument is that we live in a culture that celebrates the "Big Me"- It's the age of the selfie! When I think of myself in my own mind, do I see myself as a 'portrait' or as a small part of a larger 'landscape'? It's natural to approach the world as if you are the center of it. My Grandpa knew he was not! I believe he saw himself as a small part of a landscape painting: perhaps a painting of his beloved farm or mattress factory- perhaps a painting of WWII or the Indiana Philharmonic—or a painting of himself nestled into the generations that came before him and the generations that follow him.

Here's how Brooks put it: *...the world existed long before you and will last long after you... In the brief span of your life you have been thrown by fate, by history, by chance, by evolution, or by God into a specific place with specific problems and needs. Your job is to figure certain things out: What does this environment need in order to be made whole? What is it that needs repair? What tasks are lying around waiting to be performed?*

Later in the book, he observed *Alice had to be small to enter Wonderland*. John the Baptist said it well in John 3:30- *He must increase, but I must decrease*. Basically, Brooks argues- the greatest virtue may just be humility. I hope you have a chance to pick up the book for yourself. It's well worth the read.

This is why we open scripture together. This is why we worship. This is why we pray! We need to remember who we are- beloved children of God, who has called us to be our best selves in the context of God's greater creation. Our character matters. Let's expose ourselves to have it shaped and molded by the one who loves us and who has given us gifts in order that we offer them to this beloved world!

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



## Did you ever think about becoming a Stephen Minister?

We'll be training a new class in 2016!

Do you have a passion to bring Christ's love and care to individuals in need? Come and learn how to be a listening and prayerful presence. Applications accepted through October 1. Class runs from January – May, 2016, and a two-year commitment is required. Talk to Pastor Brandi if you are interested.

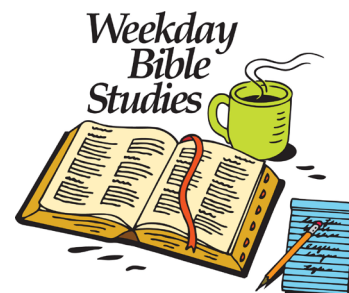
# Caring & Women's Ministries

## What's happening for Women this Fall/Winter?

### Tuesdays:

**6:15 a.m. Bible Study begins September 8** in the SHAC (then moves to the Parlor at a later date). 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 begins September 29** - 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 Skylight 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 9:30-11:30 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!



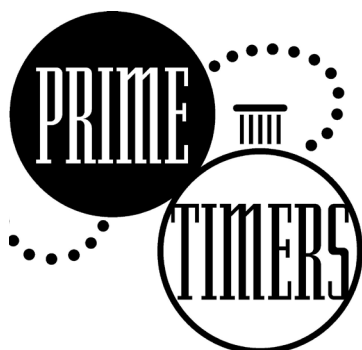
**Moms of Teens begins September 24** - 12:00-1:30 p.m. We gather in the SHAC. We will be discussing a new book which will be announced by Sept. 15. Come as often as you are able.

### Women's Retreat: January 29-30-31, at Ivoryton Retreat Center

We're excited to have Susan Hill as our speaker this year: writer of the book *Closer Than Your Skin*. 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 203-309-5620 or [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org).



\*Child care is provided from 9-11:45 a.m. for children 3 months to 4 years. Registration, including 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.



### Prime Timers: Thursday, September 24, 2015

We begin 12:30 p.m. in Horton Hall with a "Welcome Back Luncheon" and will celebrate birthdays (July-September). Pastor Sam will present: "Why We Made All These Improvements" which will be held in the NEW Post Road Mission Room. Prime Timers meet the third Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

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

# Children's Ministry



## Minute with Mickie - Wondering about What's Ahead. . .

One more week on the beach! How great is that? We are so blessed to have Weed Beach as our alternative "Sanctuary" all summer and now even through September 13. It allows us to maintain that summer feeling even after the children have returned to school.

Did your child get his/her backpack blessed? Don't you love this year's focus verse? "*Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young. But set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*" | Timothy 4:12

At NPC, our Children's Ministry goal is to help our children know God's Word so well that their speech and conduct is guided by their love and faith in Jesus Christ, keeping them pure from the sin that is so tempting in this world, and able to set an example to the entire church family. There is much ahead of them this year and NPC wants to be a significant part of helping them grow.

So what's ahead this year? Here's what we've got coming up:

**September 20** - One great big worship service in the Sanctuary and then a walk through of the new building. Child Care only (No Sunday school)

**September 26** - Special Cookout party for Horton Hall Huddle Leaders

**September 27** - First Sunday of Sunday School and the Fall schedule resumes

Chapel Service at 8:00 a.m.

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. with Child care and full Sunday school classes, following Words of Wonder in the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Open Doors Service in Horton Hall

**October 2** - Family Fun Night, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Let's learn about Communion. This interactive Last Supper/Passover experience will prepare parents and children to participate with the worshipping community in the Sacrament of Communion

**October 4** - Communion Sunday & Playground Social

**October 18** - 3rd grade Bible Presentation Sunday and special family class for families with 3rd graders at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**October 30**, 4:30-6:00 p.m. TRUNK OR TREAT in the church parking lot

Pretty great huh? But here's what really excites me about what is ahead for us this Fall. This year our classes in Horton Hall will be matched with the sermon text preached from the pulpit. You AND your elementary aged children will be learning the same thing. In Horton Hall, 1st-5th graders will learn how to tell the story from the Bible using all kinds of fun activities that you can repeat at home to help you remember what the Pastor preached that morning. Imagine all the great conversations you all can have after church. This year's focus will be on the way God's Word is His story and Our Story - the Wonder of God's great rescue plan. What a wonderful story the Bible is for us.

We are so excited about what we are going to be teaching that we will have a special "Take-Home" Booklet with the stories and activities available for every student officially registered for Sunday School. These booklets will be personalized and handed out September 27 during Sunday School as a way of saying "Thank you" for registering. So please go to [www.npc.kids.com](http://www.npc.kids.com) right away and make sure your child is registered for our Sunday School year. If you forget, you can do it later and we will make booklets available with your child's name the following week.

It's going to be a great church year and I'm excited to be sharing it with you and your children. And there is more ahead this Fall. Wondering what it will be? Just you wait and see!



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



# Youth Ministries



This past summer was an exciting season of ministry to youth in our congregation and community. With the help of summer intern Tori Hoff, the youth ministry offered weekly programming throughout the summer for youth in middle and high school. Coordinators Sarah Swible and

Jack Hein assisted in leading what turned out to be an excellent week of mission and service in Dunlow, West Virginia as part of the VWAP: West Virginia mission experience. And all three met one to one with youth throughout the summer months—building relationships, talking about life and faith. Because of their excellent work this summer, I am all the more excited about what this new year will bring.

In preparation for the new school year, let me encourage you to note the following important dates:

**Sunday, September 6th.** Registration deadline for the FYR (pronounced “fire”, Fall Youth Retreat) Weekend at Camp Shiloh. This is going to be an incredible weekend of fun activities and meaningful conversations for students in grades 6-12. Registration materials are available online at: [www.norotonyouth.com](http://www.norotonyouth.com).

**Wednesday, September 9th.** Fall Kick-Off Event for students in grades 6-12 and their parents. Come learn about what is being planned for the new school year, including retreats, mission experiences, our Harbor (middle school) program, and High School Ministry. The Kick-Off will be in the SHAC beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 13th.** This is the evening that we will be kicking-off High School Ministry for the school year. Join us in the SHAC each week at our new start time—6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 16th.** Our weekly middle school program—“Harbor”—begins meeting for the new school year at a new time—3:00 p.m. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to come be part of fun activities and meaningful teaching from the Scriptures each week. Van pick-up from Middlesex is available for those who are interested (more information about this service will be available at the Kick-Off event).

**Sunday, September 20th.** Confirmation (2016) registration deadline. The Confirmation process is a 13-month journey where students entering eighth grade in the fall will be led through a guided exploration of the Christian faith through in-class sessions, mentor meetings, take-home assignments, and field studies. The class culminates in the presentation of personal faith statements by our confirmands.

**Friday, September 25- Sunday, September 27th.** FYR Weekend at Camp Shiloh for students in grades 6-12 (see information under 9/6 registration deadline above).

Looking forward to what is sure to be a great year ahead.

*Grace be with you all,  
Pastor Jimmy McPherson  
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries*



# Noroton Presbyterian Child Care



## New Beginnings at NPCC



September brings the start of a new school year, and the start of new beginnings. This year we are please to announce:

### **NPC Tot Drop has Changed its Name!**

NPC Tot Drop is now known as Noroton Presbyterian Child Care (NPCC). The name reflects our connection with Noroton Presbyterian Church as well as Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School. It also describes our purpose. NPCC is no longer a part-time babysitting service, it is full-time childcare for surrounding communities.

### **NPCC has a New Logo!**

Kate Reed, one of our teachers who is also a talented graphic artist, designed the new logo which draws elements from the NPC masthead, as well as the NPNS logo and the NPC Tot Drop logo.

### **NPCC has Central Air Conditioning!**

The NPC *Foundations for the Future* renovations has brought NPCC a new teacher workroom, a new office, a new adult bathroom, and most recently, central air conditioning!

### **NPCC has a New Playground!**

By the start of October, we will be enjoying our new playground, which features a new playhouse and stage, slide, sandboxes, and bike track. All the playground structures were custom built by Tom Bush, a talented playscape architect and industrial designer from Canton, Connecticut.

### **NPCC Welcomes Back 36 Families!**

This September, we welcome back 36 families. Over 20 children of these returning families will also attend NPNS.

### **NPCC Welcomes 10 New Families!**

NPCC welcomes 10 new families into our program. We are honored by the trust they have placed in us to care for and educate their child.

Peace and Joy,  
Beth Aparicio  
NPCC Director



Amanda with her one-year old daughter, Vivian, and her five-year old daughter, Samantha.



Kristen with her two-year old daughter, Sarah.



Darryl with his two-year old daughter, Morgan.



Mirellise with her son, Oban.

## Welcome Back!

Our staff started the year off with our annual retreat, where we spent the morning exploring and discovering who we are as a staff, and how we can continue to make NPNS the best pre-school for our students and surrounding community. It was a true joy to see the enthusiasm and excitement rise in each of the teachers as they prepared their rooms for the coming year. Our classroom visit day brought the excitement of the children into our hallways again as they met their teachers and spent time with new and old classmates, exploring the classrooms. It truly makes my heart sing to have the hallways filled with little ones again.

The end of September will bring the start of our extended day programs. Our offerings this fall are; Friendship Lunch for our 3's, Little Chef's, Introduction to Karate, Little Athletes & Good Sports, Super Science and Fitness Fun for our 4's.

We anticipate the opening of our new playground early in October. Construction and approval from the state has taken a bit longer than we had anticipated, but the

excitement grows daily among the teachers and children. We welcome you all to come and explore the playground when it opens.

I look forward to sharing with you the growth of our program and students over the school year.

We thank the NPC Pastors, staff and church members, NPNS families, teachers and support staff for their dedication to this program and our precious students.



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



## Music & Fine Arts

### We Are Back in 5,4,3,2...

The countdown phrase. Used on live broadcasts, the countdown alerts announcers, anchors, and actors to begin speaking when the count reaches zero. We've all seen a news anchor who seems to have missed the count and clearly isn't ready to be "on the air".

As I'm writing to you in August it feels as though the count has reached 2 and by the time you read this, we will have reached 1. Are you ready for opportunities to serve God and the NPC congregation through the NPC Music Department? We have many needs and places for you to give of your time and gifts.

**CHANCEL CHOIR-** The choir sings during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary services from mid September through May. **NO AUDITION** is necessary. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the new Fine Arts room downstairs in the Center Core. Feel free to come anytime but try to let us know ahead of time so we can have a music package ready for you.

**INSTRUMENTALISTS-** Play an instrument fairly well? I would love to know about it! We have opportunities to serve in any of our services, from the traditional to the blended to the contemporary.

**J.A.M. CHOIR-** Our children's choir invites any child in Kindergarten through 5th grade to come sing with this vibrant group of kids. Your children will learn some great music and wonderful spiritual lessons with the J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays between 4 and 5 p.m., also in the Fine Arts room.

These ministries offer rich rewards to both the participants and to the congregation at large. When the count reaches zero I would love to see some new faces joining us this season!

Dwayne Condon  
Director Music & Fine Arts





# Membership Ministry

## Welcoming And Membership Events For The Fall



**Meet the Pastors:** Sunday, October 4, 11:45 to 12:30 p.m., following fellowship in the Skylight Fellowship Lobby.

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?

Then please join us for an overview of NPC's mission, a chance to chat with the Pastors, and light refreshments.

**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 on Sunday, Oct. 18. 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)).

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."*

If you have questions or concerns about membership, please contact Julie Colbath ([julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org), or 203-309-5615).

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

*Explore your unanswered questions about Christianity in a safe environment...*

The Alpha Course is an opportunity to consider the meaning and relevancy of the Christian faith to one's personal life through ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. Regardless of faith background or belief, it's for anyone who wants to grapple with spiritual questions in a low-key, no-pressure, non-judgmental atmosphere.

There will be an Introductory Dinner (no commitment) on January 11 to learn more before the course starts later that month. The course will meet for 10 weeks, January 25 through April 4.

Each weekly meeting begins with a delicious dinner, followed by an entertaining talk on an aspect of the Christian faith and then a discussion in small groups. Some of the topics are:

- *Who is Jesus?*
- *Why did Jesus die?*
- *How does God guide us?*
- *Who is the Holy Spirit?*
- *What does the Holy Spirit do?*
- *Does God heal today?*

Mark your calendars now and tell others! If you've already been to Alpha, think about who you'd bring to the Introductory Dinner. The course is open to anyone in the surrounding community.

Many volunteers will be needed for this very well-received, meaningful course to help with promotion, meals and small group facilitation. If you'd like to be part of the Alpha Team, please contact Julie Colbath.

Working our faith,  
Julie Colbath  
Director of Membership



# Congregational Life Ministry



As we begin our new 'school year' with our new center core facility, we have much to be thankful for. Workmen and our Properties Team have been working at a feverish pace to get all the construction and related projects finished in time for our building to re-open as we come off the beach. Please join me in thanking them for their gargantuan efforts! We are blessed indeed.



## Have Ideas for Fellowship? Be sure to contact us.

We would love to use our new Skylight Fellowship Lobby and/or other spaces to provide fellowship activities of interest to our members/attenders/neighbors. The Congregational Life team welcomes your thoughts. We love to brainstorm ideas that will encourage folks to get together, and want to make sure we are using our facility wisely.



## Save The Date ...

Our Church wide Cookout is scheduled for October 18th, immediately following the 10:30 service!

While individual ministries are initiating Fall programming often relative to a specific age/stage ... the Congregational Life Team wants to make sure that we provide an opportunity for the WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY to come together and re-connect after our various summer activities!

We are planning to hold the Cookout in the 'green space' of the new playground just adjacent to the rear of the building and in sight of our new parking facility. This will allow kids to play safely while parents enjoy the company of other adults. This activity will also allow exploration of the play area (designed to enhance education of our littlest ones in both Nursery School and Child Care programs) by those who do not have children and might otherwise not have reason to visit this new space.

This might be a good time to invite a friend to join you at church and then stay for lunch afterwards, and perhaps have a peek at other portions of our new space too.

This event of course requires good weather, with a rain date likely the following Sunday. Location is contingent on playground readiness ... so stay tuned and watch for 'confirmation announcements'.

To the left is a 'reminder' of the fun we all had last Fall when we gathered on the lawn along the Post Rd/Noroton Ave. Looking forward to a year filled with fellowship!

*In our faith journey together,  
Valerie Muller and Congregational Life Team  
([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org) or 203-309-5650)*



# Mission Ministry

## NPC Mission Ministry –

### Loving and serving a broken world in the name of Christ

As part of our goal to help our church community participate in Mission ministry and in obedience to God's call to each of us to be his hands and feet, locally and around the world, NPC has developed long term strategic partnerships with a number of missionaries and ministries. There are various ways you can support these partners. First and foremost please pray for our partners. You might want to pray for all of them in rotation or decide to focus on a missionary or ministry that particularly interests you and concentrate on praying for them. There are various other ways you can support the ministries, by engaging in service and finding ways to encourage and bless these partners and the people they serve.



As a reminder, listed below are the current NPC mission partners who are supported with the tithe that comes from your weekly giving. You can find more information about each of these partners and ways to serve with, and support them, on the NPC Website under Mission. You can also find other service and ministry opportunities at NPC which will bless others, through participating in Youth, Children's, Congregational Life, Music and Outreach ministries...the list goes on!

#### Missionaries

- Tom and Dora Becker, Reach Global Europe, working with the Roma people in the Czech Republic, Spain and across Europe
- Scott Brill, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in New England
- Bob and Jennifer Chedester serving at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya
- Jen Gros, Young Life Darien
- Caroline and Paul Maina, Life Ministries, Universities in Kenya
- Hanna Massad, Mission to Gaza and Syrian/Iraqi Refugee work in Jordan
- Mark Orr, REACH Youth New England
- Artie Van Sciver, Campus Outreach, Charlotte, North Carolina

#### Ministries

- Open Door Shelter, Norwalk
- GW Carver Center, Norwalk
- Pivot Ministries, Bridgeport
- Macedonia Church, Norwalk
- Hopeline PRC, Stamford
- City of Hope, Tanzania
- Nambale Magnet School, Kenya
- Forman Christian College, Pakistan
- World Vision Palmera ADP, Dominican Republic
- Feed My Starving Children – Darien MobilePack
- Cabwaylingo Chapel, Dunlow West Virginia



Caroline and Paul Maina, Life Ministries, Universities in Kenya

Other ministries we have supported with special one-time gifts, include Wes Roberts and the new church plant Mission Collective in Charleston, SC and the work of Jack and Svea Schreiner with Warrior Creek Development in West Virginia.

We welcome ideas and suggestions for new ministries which we can adopt or support in the future given enough resources. If you are interested in learning more you are invited to join us at our annual NPC Mission Retreat on Saturday, September 26, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please contact Stella Clarke [stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org](mailto:stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org) if you are interested.



Scott Brill, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in New England



# Mission Ministry

## Dates for your calendar

**September 17 - FMSC MobilePack online signup** opens [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) For more information contact Beth Gardella ([bethgardella@yahoo.com](mailto:bethgardella@yahoo.com)).

**September 18 - NPC Day of Service.** An informal coffee meeting to discuss plans for our first NPC Day of Service which will take place April 3, 2016. If you are interested in helping to organize volunteer opportunities and liaise with local ministries and community organizations please come to this meeting 10 a.m. at 14 Woodland Place, Darien. For more information contact Eleanor Palmer ([edppalmer@yahoo.com](mailto:edppalmer@yahoo.com)).

**October 3 - Open Door Shelter Service Date**  
If you are over 16 and interested in volunteering, please contact Holly Hough ([hough7@optonline.net](mailto:hough7@optonline.net)).

**October 14 - Feed My Starving Children Joint churches Prayer Service** hosted this year by NPC.

**October 17-18 - FMSC MobilePack** - hosted jointly by the churches of Darien at Middlesex Middle School. Sign up in September for a two hour shift to help pack meals for starving children or sign up 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 code 151019AU, or online on the Darien event page. Thank you!

Contact Ginna Yerrall at [gmdar@optonline.net](mailto:gmdar@optonline.net) for more information.

**November 7 - Open Door Shelter Service Date**  
If you are over 16 and interested in volunteering, please contact Holly Hough ([hough7@optonline.net](mailto:hough7@optonline.net)).

**November 8 - Pivot Visit** - 9 & 10:30 a.m. morning services and kick off our annual food/toiletries drive

**Late November and early December we will participate in Angel and Dove programs** more information to come.

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



Bob and Jennifer Chedester serving at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya



Artie & Kittery Van Sciver,  
from Campus Outreach



Jen Gros,  
Young Life Darien



Mark Orr, REACH Youth  
New England



Hanna Massad, Mission to Gaza and  
Syrian/Iraqi Refugee work in Jordan



Tom and Dora Becker, Reach Global Europe, working with the Roma people in the Czech Republic, Spain and across Europe

## In Loving Memory of...

**June 5th:**

Helen E. Shields

**July 8th:**

Howard S. Tuthill

**July 22th:**

William G. Cooling

**August 1st:**

Christopher Blackman

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

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

**June 6, 2015**

Kenneth VonKohorn and Dana McBride

**July 25, 2015**

Heather Hanson and Timothee Rousseau

*If you would like to submit an article for the October 2015 issue please submit it before September 9 to Rose Cunningham by email at [rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

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

**June 21, 2015**

Quinn Annabel Saverine,  
daughter of Justin and Mackenzie Saverine

**June 28, 2015**

Luna Kai Bartolotta,  
daughter of Sebastian and Ashley Bartolotta

**July 26, 2015**

Ava Michelle Cobb and Bridget Louise Cobb,  
daughters of David and Lauri Scoran Cobb

**August 9, 2015**

Seth Michael Keehlwetter,  
son of Michael and Jennifer Keehlwetter  
Charlotte Evelyn Fe Friedman,  
daughter of David and Becky Friedman

**August 23, 2015**

Kate Williams Dauk,  
daughter of John and Sandy Dauk  
Henry Wynter Heppermann,  
son of Mark and Liz Heppermann

## Upcoming Baptism Dates

**10/18 at 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service.** To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.

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## NPC Elders and Team Leadership

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NPC Elders and Team Leadership

### Session officers

President: Dale LeMasters

Treasurer: Shawn Seale

Secretary: George Vogel

Adult Spiritual Formation: Lou DeLoma,  
Audrey Hutter, Mike Turner

Children's: Ruth Lettera, Mark Thompson,  
David Mettler

Congregational Life: Cheryl Huffman, Jerry Byrne

Church Relations: Tom Taylor

Finance: Tom Taylor, Walt Travers, Shawn Seale

Human Resources: Morgan Whittier, Craig Howe

Mission: Paul Williams, Doug Campbell

Nominating Committee: David Mettler,  
Mark Thompson

Nursery School: Audrey Hutter

Outreach: John Gill, Rhonda Sherwood

Properties: Ed Barksdale, Joe Orban,  
Dale LeMasters

Stewardship: Craig Howe, Rhonda Sherwood

Worship: Sue Smirnov, Mary Crawford,  
Tomoko Nara

Youth: Cindy Smith, Melissa Fiorita,  
Tom Geraghty



# September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 a.m. Weed Beach 10:00 a.m. Chapel	<b>Labor Day NPC Offices Closed</b>	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night	7:00 a.m. Men's Study- SHAC 7:00 p.m. Youth Fall Kick Off Event	1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	3:00 p.m. Harbor Back to School Bash	12
8:00 a.m. Weed Beach 10:00 a.m. Chapel 6:00 p.m. High School Ministry		6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-SHAC 3:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir	1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.		19
<b>Rededication Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service 6:00 p.m. High School Ministry		6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study- NYC 8:00 p.m. Session	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 3:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 12:30 p.m. Prime Timers Welcome Back Lunch 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	<b>6:00 p.m. FYR Fall Youth Retreat</b>	26
<b>FYR Fall Youth Retreat</b> 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -K 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 1st-5th grades 9 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Services 11:30 a.m. Portrait Unveiling 3:00 p.m. Neighbor Open House 5:00 p.m. Open Doors Service		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	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 3:00 p.m. Harbor 6th-8th Grade 4:00 p.m. JAM Choir			