

# The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)  
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## With A Grateful Heart

Was it really just 12 years ago when Deb and I first drove to Darien to interview with your Pastor Nominating Committee? We were received so warmly and felt so immediately at home, that we hoped we would get another phone call to come and preach. That call came, and on September 11, 2004, I preached at all three services and was confirmed by vote to be your twelfth Senior Pastor.

What a great honor it has been to serve the Lord together. What a great adventure we began together that day! After 12 years of soul stirring memories I'm full of thanksgiving to God for the friendships formed here, the ministries we have done together in Christ's name, the mission partners we have empowered and the many kindnesses you have showered upon our family. Noroton families blessed our son Sam and his wife Chantal with many gifts, when as newlyweds, they lost everything in an apartment fire. Our mission committee backed our son Jack and his wife Svea's call to the poor of West Virginia. Time and time again you

have supported us with your love and prayers and Deb and I will always give thanks to God that we were blessed to share this season of ministry with our "Noroton Family."

Please know that anything meaningful we have accomplished as a church came from a **team effort**. Programs like *40 days of Purpose*, *Foundations for the Future*, *Service Day* or the wonderful worship services at Christmas and Easter couldn't have happened without the behind the scenes work of our fine support staff, child care workers, musicians, Associate Pastors, elders, deacons, directors, and volunteers. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Leslie Ezzo, my assistant, who kept us all organized and always made me look better than I deserved! I'm sure Pastor John will be grateful to have this outstanding team to lean on when he returns this month to serve you. I know I will miss being a part of this caring, Christ-centered "family."

Some of you have wondered, "what will you be doing now? Are you moving to Pakistan?" I will not be moving to Pakistan! I'll be the Executive Director of a small organization that raises funds (mostly in America)

*continued on page 2...*

### Summer Worship Schedule through September 4

8:00 am Weed Beach  
 10:00 am Chapel

### Fall Worship Schedule starting September 18

Chapel - 8:00 am  
 Sanctuary - 9:00 & 10:30 am  
 Open Doors - 5:00 pm

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 9/4 - Pastor Brandi Drake (Last Beach service)
- 9/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner **(One service only at 10 am)** "Mission Accomplished?"
- 9/18 - Pastor John Seiders **Fall Worship Schedule Begins**

### Upcoming Baptism Dates

10/16 at the 10:30 am Sanctuary service.

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

### Table of Contents

Spiritual Formation .....	3-4
Caring & Women's Ministries .....	5-7
Music and Fine Arts .....	7
Prayer Team .....	8
Children's Ministry .....	9-10
NPCC .....	11
Youth Ministry .....	12
Congregational Life Ministry .....	13
Welcoming .....	14-16
Horton Scholarship .....	16
Mission Ministry .....	17-18
NPC Event Calendar .....	19
NPC News .....	20

*continued from front cover...*

for Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan. This has been a mission of Noroton since 2007 - supporting interfaith education in the second largest Muslim nation in the world. I will travel once a year to the college in Lahore, but I will also travel extensively in this country, sharing the story of what God is doing at the college and helping to raise funds for scholarships – especially for Christian students who are some of the poorest people in the country and greatly need our help. We will be moving to Southern New Hampshire to be near most of our family and I will still be a minister, albeit without a parish.

As we leave our beloved Noroton family in September, please know that we will be praying for you, your pastors and staff and for your faithfulness in bringing the love and light of Christ to future generations. We know that you will be well served by the ministry team here, and we look forward to learning how God is using you through the Spire. Please pray for us as we answer this next call from the Lord. After September 15, we can be found at 3 Circle Drive, Derry, NH 03038 or [sschreiner@friendsofforman.org](mailto:sschreiner@friendsofforman.org) (Deb is at [dcschreiner@aol.com](mailto:dcschreiner@aol.com)). May the Lord watch over us all as we do His work, in His world, in His way!

Much love, from your (almost former)  
Pastor, Partner and **Constant Friend**,  
Sam Schreiner



## Join In Celebrating the Schreiners



**ONE Worship Service**  
**September 11 at 10 am in the Sanctuary**

**Reception in Skylight Lobby**  
**Immediately afterward**

Pastor Sam and Deb have served our NPC community well over the dozen years they were called to shepherd us. Let's make sure to provide them with a celebratory send-off that embraces their new venture!

Sam has now heard a call to join Forman College as Executive Director of the Board. He will travel to Pakistan from a home he and Deb will be establishing in New Hampshire. This will allow them to be conveniently located near most of their children/grandchildren, while continuing to do the work God has called them to do in this juncture of their lives.

If you would like to bless Sam & Deb with a personal note or financial gift, you may place these in the Sunday offering plate, OR they may be left in baskets next to a 'Schreiner Sentiments' sign in the Ministry Center East, on the welcome table next to the refreshment table at the beach service, or in the entrance to the chapel. (Checks should be made payable to NPC, with 'Schreiner Gift' in the memo area. They can be mailed to Dan Rosa, Business Administrator if you prefer.)

Notes and gifts will be presented to Sam/Deb on their final Sunday with us, September 11th.

To quote our Goodbye Recognition Team ...

*'Let's send Sam and Deb off with bountiful appreciation  
for all they have done to enrich our church community  
and with prayers for a smooth transition.'*

**God speed, and God bless!**

# Spiritual Formation



The month of September not only marks the beginning of autumn, but also the beginning of a new program year. And *new* will be a big word for us headed into this coming year—and that newness does not merely reside with us welcoming in a new pastor. In the coming months we welcome:

## NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS AND NEW MEMBERS

The 2016-2017 confirmands have already been busy registering for class, and will begin their journey together at a kick-off session that begins the evening of **Friday, September 23**. In early October, we welcome participants from the 2015-2016 class into membership—new members. Many of these will be finishing up faith statements early this month in preparation for membership. Please join me in praying for these confirmands and their families—both those who are beginning the journey, and those who are completing this part of it.

## NEW ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Late this month we are kicking-off four weeks of classes designed for adults that will be held during the 10:30 worship hour at NPC. Our first class, scheduled for **Sunday, September 25**, is entitled “Christians in the Marketplace” and will include a panel of presenters from our congregation sharing from their experiences in the workplace and helping us consider the question of what faith looks like in the workplace. We follow this class in October with a two-week series entitled “Reading Genesis” and the fourth week we have scheduled a sermon talkback following the 10:30 worship service. Come join us!

## NEW MEN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We'll be kicking off a new men's weekly study beginning **Thursday, September 22** at 7 am here at NPC. This first series is entitled FIRST THINGS, and will be a study of the Johannine Epistles (1, 2, and 3 John). The Men's Weekly meeting includes coffee, pastries, and fruit for those who need to grab a quick bite before work. In addition, we're opening the doors at 6:45 am each week for guys to fellowship and grab a bite, will begin the study promptly at 7:00 am, and then concluding the formal presentation by 7:45 am so you can get to your 8 o'clock appointments, trains, etc. We'll be rolling out additional opportunities for men being planned for the fall throughout this month - including a paddle tournament in October and a one day event in November.

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

### **Midweek Studies for Men**

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

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



**Thursdays on Campus** beginning Thursday, **September 22** in the Post Rd/Mission Room. Doors open at 6:45 am, study is from 7:00 -7:45 am.

# Spiritual Formation



As we continue to 'move into' our new spaces, we have identified the currently unused 'pastor office' in the East Wing as a particularly convenient location to house our Small Group Curriculum materials.

Marlene has organized the books, DVDs, and study guides, and 'cataloged' them to make it easy to come in and browse, and sign out materials of interest to you ... either for individual or group study.

We ask that you fill in the Sign Out Sheet, giving us your contact info, and indicating the length of time you expect to be borrowing/using the materials. Simple as that.

Here's **a sampling** of the types of study materials you'll find if you visit:

Studies of books of the Bible

Topical Studies

- Sermon on the Mount
- Lord's Prayer
- Financial Peace

Favorite Authors

- Bill Hybels – *Just Walk Across The Room; To Busy Not To Pray*
- Nicky Gumbel – *A Life Worth Living; The Jesus Lifestyle*
- John Ortberg – *Get out of the Boat; Grace; Soul Keeping*

Past and upcoming Noroton Lecturers

- Craig Barnes – *Hustling God; Sacred Thirst; Searching for Home*
- Mark Buchanan – *The Rest of God; Things Unseen*
- Tim Keller – *Gospel in Life; Reason for God; The Prodigal God*

Materials range from the more traditional Bible studies to the more contemporary ... like Rob Bell's *NOOMA* series and Andy Stanley's *Deep & Wide*.

We ALSO want to encourage you to consider using DVD studies available via an online service we subscribe to: RightNowMedia. We used this service for our most recent summer study programs ... *Unstuck* (for the Tuesday women's group), and *If, from Regrets to Possibilities*, by Mark Batterson for the Monday night series.

- There are literally hundreds of authors to choose from, covering a wide range of topics and levels of study. Contact Valerie to learn more.

And, finally ... stay tuned as we work our way into the Fall season.

We're hoping to start up some NEW groups, as well as considering a Fall 'drop-in' series that seems to work well for a number of you based on recent Spring/Summer offerings.



## NPC Christian Yoga!

Start your week off right with a Monday morning yoga practice linking body, mind, and spirit amongst a supportive community of new and old friends at NPC. Please bring a yoga mat and join us on Monday, September 12th, 19th, 26th, October 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 9:30-10:30 am in Lower Level Classrooms A/B. This class is open to all levels. Suggested donation \$5-\$10/class. Any questions, please contact certified yoga teacher Jenny Voelker at [mjtvoelker@yahoo.com](mailto:mjtvoelker@yahoo.com).



# Women's and Caring Ministries

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*My Lord God, give me once more the courage to hope; merciful God,  
let me hope once again, fructify my barren and infertile mind.*

~Søren Kierkegaard

*I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured,  
deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience  
difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.*

~ Jesus, in John 16:33 (MSG translation)

I've been thinking a lot in this season about Courage and Hope. It seems to me that fear and despair are having a moment in the public discourse. I'm tempted to give in to it. Every day. But Jesus didn't!

There is nothing I could write about this that has not been written before: So I'm going to share a prayer/poem by Walter Brueggemann, written after reading Jeremiah 23, on October 29, 2001.

## ***Ours is a Seduced World***

God of all truth, we give thanks for your faithful utterance of reality.

In your truthfulness, you have called the world 'very good.'

In your truthfulness, you have promised

"I have loved you with an everlasting love."

In your truthfulness, you have assured

"This is my beloved Son."

In your truthfulness, you have voiced, "Fear not, I am with you."

In your truthfulness, you have guaranteed that

"Nothing shall separate us from your love in Jesus Christ."

It is by your truthfulness that we love.

And yet, we live in a world phony down deep  
in which we participate at a slant.

Ours is a seduced world,

where we call evil good and good evil,

where we put darkness for light and light for darkness,

where we call bitter sweet and sweet bitter (Isa. 5:20)

where we call war peace and peace war,

So that we rarely see the truth of the matter.

Give us courage to depart the pretend world of euphemism,

to call things by their right name,

to use things for their right use,

to love our neighbor as you love us.

Overwhelm our fearful need to distort,

that we may fall back into your truth-telling about us,

that we may be tellers of truth and practitioners of truth.

We pray in the name of the One whom you have filled.

with "grace and truth." Amen.

In Joyful anticipation~

Pastor Brandi Drake

Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministries

# Women's and Caring Ministries

## *Sabbatical Reflections*

Pastor Brandi and the Drake family will share some photos and stories of the three months they spent away from us ... rejuvenating on summer Sabbatical.

### **Dinner + Photos + Stories**

**When: Wednesday evening  
September 21  
6:30 – 8:00 pm**

We've missed them these last months. And, we're all anxious to 'hear all about it'. So, rather than have Pastor Brandi (or any of the family members) repeating themselves time and again, we thought we'd gather together for dinner and have them share some of their adventures to us as a group!

We hope you can join us.

We'll serve a simple dinner in the Skylight Fellowship Lobby and have the Drakes share some pix/adventures!

- Pasta
- Salad
- Bread
- Dessert
- Beverage



We would appreciate 'reservations' by the week prior (Wed, September 14), so that we can plan for food preparation accordingly.

-Register online (under Events menu tab), or by phone/email ([marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org), 203-309-5650)

Let's give the Drakes a big  
**WELCOME HOME!**



## **Not Just For Prime Timers . . .**

**All "Over 60" NPC members, non-members, friends and guests are encouraged to attend. You are never too young or too old.**

Welcome to a wonderful new year of  
**Adult Fellowship Opportunities.**

Our goal is to provide opportunities –

- For fellowship
- To celebrate and deepen our faith
- To become better acquainted with NPC staff and programs
- To share useful information

We especially hope you join us on **September 22** from 12:30-2:30 for our "**Welcome**" Luncheon and opportunity to hear from Interim Senior Pastor John Seiders about his new role at NPC.

This fellowship program is usually held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June in the Post Road Mission Room from 2:00-3:30 pm, unless otherwise stated, like our "Welcome" Luncheon. Please check the Spire and weekly Noroton Notes for reminders and updates.

**Coming Up: October 20** from 2:00-3:30 pm, Pastor Brandi will present, "*Sabbatical Nourishment*." She will talk about her sabbatical from June-August this year.

We have a wonderful group of people that help to make these events happen. If you are interested in being part of this team please contact Marion Smith at [marion.smith@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marion.smith@norotonchurch.org) or Marlene Moffett at [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org) or 203-309-5620 for more details on how you can assist.

# Women's and Caring Ministries continued...

## Women's Studies



**6:15 am Women's Bible Study** will resume **Tuesday, September 13** in the Parlor with curriculum to be announced post Labor Day.

**9:15 am Women's Bible Study** will resume **Tuesday, September 20** (location to be announced) with John Ortberg's, *Soul Keeping*.

**MOPs is at NPC!** Mothers Of Preschoolers will meet every other Wednesday from 9:15-11:30 am, beginning **September 21**. What to expect: Breakfast (snacks for the little ones), Speakers, Small Groups, Crafts and Childcare. Email [darienmops@gmail.com](mailto:darienmops@gmail.com) to RSVP or for more information.

**Mom's of Teens** book study group resumes **September 29**. The group meets on **Thursdays** from 12-1:30 pm in the SHAC. We invite you to join our group and come as often as you are able. The group is led by Laurie Bessey and Sallie Schmidt. The curriculum will be listed in Noroton Notes on a future date.

## Music and Fine Arts



### It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Well, one of the most wonderful times at any rate. I love the fall with everything starting up again. The Music Department has many opportunities for you to serve God and your church. Among them are:

**Chancel Choir-** Chancel Choir rehearses on **Thursday nights** from 8:00 pm until 9:30 pm in the Fine Arts Room. We have a very special opportunity to host a **multi-church choral festival** with internationally acclaimed composer and conductor, Bob Chilcott, **October 28 and 29**. If you can match pitch fairly well, and love to sing, please consider joining us and becoming a member of the Chancel Choir.

**Instrumentalists-** We are looking for you! Please let us know if you play an instrument. We would love to get you involved.

**Praise Band Singers and Instrumentalists-** Our Open Doors Service is looking for more contemporary singers and instrumentalists. We have openings in all categories.

**J.A.M. Children's Choir-** We've had some great groups and expect this year to be just as good. J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Choir meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4-4:45 pm in the Fine Arts Room starting **October 5**. Children from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible. Please contact Jenifer Condon at [jenifermenedis@gmail.com](mailto:jenifermenedis@gmail.com) for more information.

For all other question about how to get involved in music or any other arts, please contact Jen H. at [music@norotonchurch.org](mailto:music@norotonchurch.org).

# Prayer Team

## Faithful in Prayer

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

**PRAY - PRAY - PRAY**

... specifically for our congregation!



Did you know that this prayer time is an 'open' meeting, and that you too can join in praying for our church if you want to?

We meet alternately between Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, and the time is facilitated by one of the group. You do not need to do anything except 'show up' and pray. (Listening and/or praying silently counts too!)

Here's the schedule for September and October:

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

September 3rd (yes, it's a holiday weekend)

September 24th

October 22nd

**Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m.**

September 13th

October 11th

And, if you are unable to attend the meetings, you can always pray from wherever you are! Please consider joining us in this *JOYFUL* activity.

## Prayer Testimony

### Faithfully Fit

God has a plan for your life: often it may not coincide with your ideas. That is the lesson Tracy Balderach accepted four years ago. After having her fourth baby in six years, she had not intended to enter the field of Coaching.

Abandoning her previous business career as an area representative for an IT company, she opted to combine the four cornerstones of her life: Faith, Family, Food and Fitness. The result: Faithfully Fit, a consultancy dedicated to helping individuals savor life's sweet moments.

"Soon after I had our fourth baby (in under 6 years), I realized that my life was one big FOG," Tracy recalled. "I was overweight, lethargic, cranky and wasn't truly savoring any of the sweet moments that were passing by so quickly. After praying about my situation, I made a commitment to make a change!"

During the next 90 days, she lost 30 pounds, but she gained more focus and energy. Her cloths fit again, but more importantly, her new lifestyle was impacting her family in ways she had only previously hoped it would.

"At 41, I have never felt or looked better." Tracy re-

called. "I decided I wanted to help others who are on the same journey and struggling the same way I did."

Tracy effectively uses Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest and Snap Chat to spread the message that she is "Mama to 4 little ones, joy seeker, grace receiver, lover of life and health and fitness coach!" It connects. More than 2,300 Facebookers follow her.

One of her followers recalls: "I was stuck in a non-exercise rut. I could not motivate myself. Once I connected with Tracy, I was inspired. I really like low impact Tai Chen and a dance program called CIZE. They are for me."

Tracy builds a personal relationship with her clients. Spend a few moments and her engaging personality become evident. She is not afraid to share her own vulnerabilities.

Citing Phil 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,*" as inspiration, Tracy learned to be bold in proclaiming her faith.

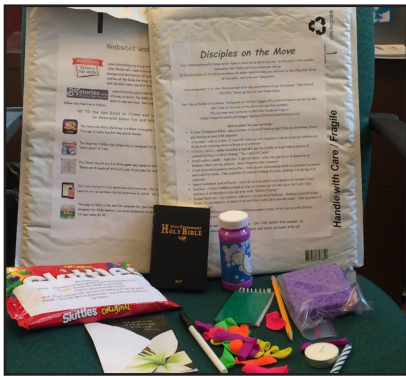
"She keeps pointing you back to Jesus," testifies her follower. "She overcame her challenges. She inspires you to believe that God will help you too!"



## Minute with Mickie – Wondering about What's Happening Next?



It is actually July, as I write this article because, Lord willing, I will be teaching in India during the month of August when the deadline for this article is due. So, I am writing it now. As I look so far ahead into September, it makes me wonder about what's happening next. So let's look at what has happened up until now when you are reading this:



When **Sunday School** ended last June, all of our children (and their families) had the chance to become "**Disciples On The Move**" with special learning, praying and ministry bags to take with them all summer long. Supplies to remind kids

to pray, read the Bible, do acts of kindness for others, as well as review the stories they had learned all year were in those bags. It was our hope and prayer that, as excited as they might be about finding and capturing a Pokemon GO character, our kids would also see God in their lives wherever they went, and be ready to capture those God moments in their hearts and minds and share Jesus with others.

**But what happened next?** Well, at the end of June we had a fabulous VBS - *Cave Questing to Follow Jesus, the Light of the World*. BOY, did we have a blast! A great team of adults and teen leaders made the stories, songs and activities come to life for the over 120 VBS Campers. The message of salvation through Jesus Christ was clearly shared and we collected goodies for those in need in our community. It was particularly wonderful to actually pray for the kids who were in VBS as special circumstances arose.

**What happened next?** Everyone went on vacation - that's what happened! NPC still had fabulous worship services on the Beach and in the Chapel, but Ms. Liz and I missed seeing kids on a regular basis.

**SO then what happened?** First Ms. Liz went on a Mission trip to West Virginia and then I went on a mission trip to teaching in India. I also helped to dedicate a new well, bringing much needed water to a Bible College. I'll tell you all about it when Sunday School starts again.

**What happened next?** We all got our Backpack's Blessed on **August 28** and received our new Bible verse key chain tags for our bags. A great way to show our friends that we are followers of Jesus right here in Fairfield County!

**Now what's going to happen NEXT in September?** First, we are going to say goodbye to Pastor Sam on **Sunday, September 11**, one service only at 10:00 am. We will all be together for Worship and having special time with Pastor Sam. There WILL be Sunday School and Nursery for our babies through Kindergarten that week. Elementary students will stay in the Sanctuary.

**Then** Sunday School for Elementary students will officially begin on **September 18** at both 9:00 and 10:30 am, after **Words of Wonder** in the Sanctuary. We will be focusing our teaching this Fall on the *Stories of the Old Testament* that tell us about the Kings of Israel. We will start with the Story of Samuel, then learn about Saul and finally concentrate on the story of the life of David. As we enter a politically charged season this Fall, it is important that our children know that Kings come and go, Presidents come and go, and even Pastors come and go. What we need to remember is that Leaders who love God and obey the Lord are the ones who leave a good legacy for the next generation. It is essential for us all to remember that ultimately God is in charge and God's purposes will win in the end.

**Then what happens NEXT?** Just you wait and see!!! See you at Church.

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

# Children's Ministry continued...

## Speaking Of Leaving A Legacy....

Mickie's got me wondering what will happen next with our incredible Huddle Leading in Horton Hall this year. Some should be getting a call (if you haven't already) from one of our Children's Ministry team members asking you to prayerfully (and seriously) consider being a Huddle Leader for our 1st – 5th graders in Horton Hall. If you've led in the past and found it rewarding I encourage you to encourage others (and send an email for us to share!).

### Why serve in Children's Ministry?

**1. Children are important to God.** There is no wondering about that! The Bible itself tells us that children are a blessing from God. Psalm 127:3 *Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord.*

**2. Serving in Children's Ministry is a legacy in and of itself.** There are few ministry opportunities that allow you to leave a legacy for our children so directly. When you love and lead kids, you are also influencing generations to come. These children may one day be mothers and fathers – perhaps even church leaders themselves. Either way, they will definitely be the future. Want to begin changing the world long term? Serve in Children's Ministry. Deuteronomy 4:9 *You must be very careful not to forget the things you have seen God do for you. Keep reminding yourselves, and tell your children and grandchildren as well.*

**3. Teaching and showing our young children about Christ should be a top priority.** Time has proven that most people who will come to Christ do so starting in childhood. The childhood years are the years of

greatest opportunity for the Gospel. If you want to see people come to Christ, if you want to help secure the future of your children and church then you should serve in Children's Ministry. Proverbs 22:6 *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

**4. Serving children will build humility into your character.** Often, those who work hard in Children's Ministry are unintentionally overlooked. Sometimes this is discouraging but really, it's a blessing. It reminds me that what we do is for the glory of God, not our own. The reward is in Heaven. As for the here and now? It is a wonderfully humble place to serve. Colossians 3:12 *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

**5. The #1 qualification is love.** As a young Christian, I discovered that many avenues of church service were beyond my abilities. You may never sing a solo or preach a sermon in church, but God wants you to find a place of ministry. Serving in the Children's Ministry is open to almost all Christians. If you love God and his children, then you are qualified to serve in Children's Ministry. Deuteronomy 10:13 *So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—*

Liz Morelli  
Children's Ministry Associate  
Children and Youth Admin



VBS Summer 2016



## Growth and Change at NPCC

This time of year is a busy and exciting one for NPCC. We are growing and changing, perhaps as quickly as our children:

**NPCC Welcomes Back 32 Families...** This fall we welcome back 32 Families. Eight of the children from these families will also attend NPNS.

**NPCC Welcomes 17 new Families...** We are honored by the trust that 17 new families have place in us to care for and educate their child.

**NPCC Welcomes 2 New Educators...** Marie Hennessy is an experienced caregiver and teacher of toddlers, who has taught at a variety of early childhood programs, while Kristen Burleson brings an extensive background in caregiving, coaching and teaching children of all ages. Both were educated at the Early Childhood program at Norwalk Community College.

**NPCC has Rotated Classrooms...** Five of our six classrooms have changed locations within NPCC. The changes provide our:

- 1) Infants with a larger classroom to practice their crawling and walking,
- 2) Younger and Older Toddlers with their own separate classrooms which, as you can imagine, helps to reduce the overall noise level,
- 3) Preschoolers with a mixed age group arrangement which has been proven to foster stronger social and emotional development and sharpen communication skills.

Thank you, especially, to the NPC sextons who helped us to move the heavy furniture, to clean every crevice, and to ensure that we are in compliance with all state and local regulations!

Peace and Joy,  
Beth Aparicio  
Director of NPCC



The Preschool Classroom



The Older Toddler Classroom



The Younger Toddler Classroom



The Ones Classroom



The Infant Classroom

# Youth Ministry



## Attention Middle Schoolers!

We are kicking off the school year in a BIG way! Get ready for water games, a slip and slide, and other fun things as we come together, **Friday, September 9**, for our **MS Late Night** from 6-10pm at the SHAC. Register at

[www.norotonyouth.com](http://www.norotonyouth.com), and friends are welcome!

With school starting, a few dates to make you aware of:

**Harbor** (our Middle School Youth Group) begins **Wednesday, September 14**, from 7-8:30 pm and meets Wednesdays at the SHAC. Students grades 6-8 and their friends are welcome to join us as we spend time together having fun in community, worship, and studying the scripture together.

**Middle School Sunday School** begins, **Sunday, September 18** and will meet during the 9 and 10:30 services in Lower Level Classroom A.

**What a great summer we have just finished at Noroton!** Joined by our intern, Faith Argeroplos, we had a great time in West Virginia, and Going Outdoors. We also spent our time together at our Summer Nights Program focusing on what it means to serve others as



Jesus exemplified. Some of our projects have included, cleaning up the Middle School, cleaning Woodland Park, making backpacks for the Nambale Magnet School, visiting some of the Seniors in our Congregation, and weeding for them.



Sarah Swible  
Middle School  
Ministry Coordinator



## High School Ministry

Why I Love My Cool Intelligent Older Cousin: I remember when my cousin first asked me if I wanted to go. At the time she was a high school senior and I was just a

lowly sixth grader. The idea that she would ask me to join her for the night was unfathomable in my mind. Cool intelligent high school seniors didn't ask weird little sixth graders to come with them anywhere, even if they were cousins. Nevertheless though, she asked me and I went with her to my first ever time to youth group. Making a very long story short her invitation changed my life. The friends I made and the experiences I had radically changed my life for Jesus Christ. As we start this new

year and fall programs begin, let me encourage you to invite a friend or relative to come along with you. You never know if it might just change a life.

### Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Sept. 8 - HSM Parent Meeting (7-8:00 pm)
- Sept. 11 - Fall Kickoff/Parent Meeting (6-8:00 pm)
- Sept. 18 - HSM back at the SHAC (6-7:30 pm)
- Sept. 25 - HSM (6-7:30 pm)
- Oct. 1-3 - Bridge to City (Mission Experience)

For more information about upcoming events please check out [www.norotonyouth.com](http://www.norotonyouth.com) and head to the google calendar!

Jack Hein  
High School Ministry Coordinator

# Congregational Life Ministry



## Grilled Goodies in the Playground!

**When: Sunday, September 25th  
11:45 am to 1:00 pm**

September is a month full of many celebratory activities, so we thought we'd round out the month with a church-wide Cook Out the final Sunday of the month.

We'll hold the Cook Out in the Playground adjacent to the building and main parking area. This provides easy-access for all, and safe play for children while parents enjoy some adult conversation with friends.

Guessing we all have a lot of summer stories to share!

*All you need to do is 'show up'!*

We'll do the rest.

We'll have traditional cook out fare:

- Hamburgers (cheese if you want!)
- Hotdogs (beef and chicken!)
- All the fixin's for the above
- Potato Salad
- Desserts
- Beverages

This year we're meeting earlier in the Fall ... so hopefully NO snowflakes or heavy winds!

Would be great to get an approximation on headcount ... for food prep.

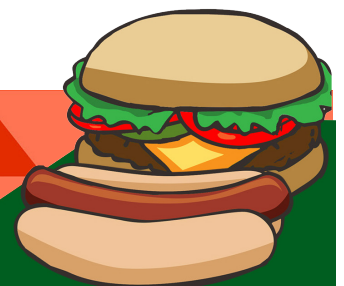
- If you know you will be attending, please do let us know.
- But not worries if you don't know ... drop-ins that day are certainly welcome!

So, mark your calendars NOW, and plan to join in the fun!

Hoping to see MANY of you at the Cook Out!

Making connecting easier,  
Congregational Life Team

Jerry B, Gwynne C, Eric E, Cheryl H, Valerie M



# Welcoming Ministry

## *Welcome Our Newest Members!*



Genna Blackman resides in NYC with her husband, Seth, and ten-month old daughter, Elizabeth (Ellie). She grew up in Darien, attended Gettysburg College, and is now employed as a communications professional. In her spare time, Genna enjoys skiing, golfing and spending time with her family.



Kate Coyle lives in Darien with her husband, Ryan, and their three children: twin boys, Ryan and James (both 3) who attend NPNS, and a girl, Julia (5 mos.). Kate works at a public relations agency in NYC with healthcare companies and non-profit organizations. She served on the NYC regional board of the American Heart Association for eight years and founded their Young Professionals group. Kate graduated from U Penn, and prior to moving to CT attended Redeemer Presbyterian.



Chris and Katie Grambling reside in Darien with their one-year old son, William, and two dogs. Katie is a 4th grade teacher at Greens Farms Academy in Westport and Chris works for A&M Capital in Greenwich. Their family enjoys traveling, long walks with their dogs, and playing tennis.



Julia Blackman lives in Rowayton and is employed as a fashion merchandise planning director in NYC. She attended Villanova University graduating with a BS in Accountancy. Julia enjoys yoga, running, playing tennis and spending time with her nieces Carleigh, Cate, and Ellie.



Danielle Cummings resides in Darien with her husband, Dennis. She works as a special education teacher in New Canaan. Prior to living in Darien, Danielle lived in NJ and attended United First Presbyterian in Ringoes.



Joshua and Yamila Hall, and their son Max (3), are new residents of Darien. They recently moved from Manhattan where they attended Redeemer Presbyterian for several years. Both work as executives in the fashion industry. They thoroughly enjoy an afternoon at the beach.



Sutzie Canzonetti lives in Rowayton and is a retired occupational therapist. She is very active with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization. Sutzie has three grown children including Amy who also joined NPC in June, and Charlotte who joined with her husband Andrew three years ago.

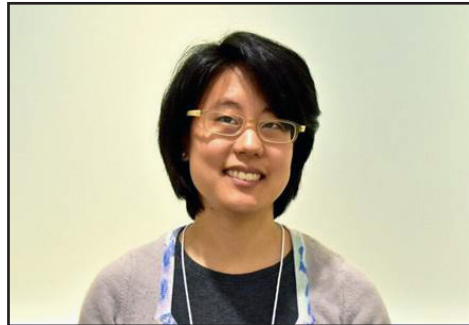


Jack Hein lives in Oxford, CT with his parents. He has worked as the High School Ministry Coordinator here at Noroton for the last year and a half. When he isn't working with students, he loves to go fly fishing and rock climbing.

# Welcoming Ministry



Chris and Holly Mitchell moved to Darien three years ago after living in NYC for more than a decade. They were members of Brick Presbyterian. Chris, who attended Virginia Tech, is the CEO of Chicken Soup for the Soul Pet Food. Holly, who attended Notre Dame, is the Executive Director of W.O.M.E.N. in America, a mentoring and networking program for young professional women. They have three children, Jack (6), Maddie (5) and Brynn (22 months). Most of their free time is spent at gymnastics, soccer games or birthday parties, but Chris manages to squeeze in some tennis and Holly loves to run.



Michelle Moh lives in Wilton. She is taking science classes at Norwalk Community College and volunteers at Norwalk Hospital in the nursing department. She enjoys ice skating and helping people. Her parents also joined with this class.



Kenny and Emily Nocton live in Greenwich. NPC was Emily's home church growing up, and they are very pleased to both officially become adult members. Kenny is a Business Relationship Banker for Chase and Emily is a Sales Manager at Tegu Toys.



Sungwon and Sangwook Moh have three children, Alex (31), Michelle (29), and Jessica (23). Sangwook is an attorney practicing in NY/NJ/CT. Sungwon is a senior fellow in an engineering firm in CT. Alex is an attorney and married to Jess, and they live in NYC. Michelle (who also joined in June) and Jessica are students. Their family enjoys reading and traveling.



Kevin and Amy Young grew up in Darien and are happy to be back in their hometown. Amy is a special education teacher in Greenwich and Kevin works as a financial advisor. They have a baby boy, Jack (6 mos.). They enjoy golfing, playing tennis, and spending time as a family at the beach.



## Interested in Becoming a Member of NPC?

### Register now for the Fall New Member Class

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

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

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

# Welcoming Ministry continued...

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## "Get Connected"

**Sunday, Sept. 18**, after both the 9 and 10:30 services  
(in Post Rd/Mission Room)

- Are you new to NPC and curious to know more?
- Have you been attending, but desire to be more engaged?
- Do you have friends and neighbors you'd like to introduce to NPC?

Please join us for a short program followed by conversation and light bites. Informally chat with pastors, staff and members about our mission, and ways to get more connected to your faith and others in the NPC community.

Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org) for more information.

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

*Sunday Greeters and Helpers Needed*

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

We are in great need of volunteers to:

- Greet for 15 minutes before the 9 and 10:30 services, and stay helping for 10 minutes after the services to assist late-comers
- Help at the Welcome Station for 15 minutes after the 9 and 10:30 services

Sign up as your schedule allows:

- Pick a regular Sunday of each month (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) that works with your schedule OR serve for a stretch of time when you know you are available.
- Volunteers needed Sept. 11, 2016 through mid-June 2017.
- Substitutes are available if you have a last minute conflict.

Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

Working our Faith,  
Julie Colbath  
Director of Membership

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## Horton Scholarship

### Support Request

As our students head off to college for the first time or return to college, we, as a congregation, can support them with our prayers. We can also help with financial gifts. In June we were able to award generous scholarship aid to two seniors, Britton Bartold and Jennifer Previte, through the Lawrence McColl Horton Scholarship. Each year we help NPC seniors with gifts that you, the congregation, have given. Each year we give what has been given which means we rely on your generosity to help next year's applicants. Please send a gift to the church designated for the Horton Scholarship so that we will be able to help next year's applicants. The cost of a college education goes up each year and our families have been impacted by job loss and illness. We, the committee, thank you for your support.

Joan Barksdale, Sue McGraw, Eleanor Palmer  
Laurie Valandra, Alison Vanderbilt, Pam Zangrillo  
Rosemary Mace, Chairman





## Mission News



While the majority of NPC Mission funding is allocated to our long term mission partners we are sometimes blessed with additional funds and hear of new ministries that we can help launch and encourage.

In early 2014 Mission team met with Jack and Svea Schreiner who were feeling called to step out in faith to serve the people of McDowell County, W Virginia. After prayer and discernment NPC made a special gift to help launch their ministry.

You can read below some excerpts from their letter written at the end of their two years of ministry, how God has blessed and used their time and talents for his glory.

Stella Clarke  
*Director of Missions*

Dear friends at NPC,

There are many lessons that we learned from living in one of the most impoverished regions in the United States. Mainly, that not everybody is dealt the same hand at birth. There are so many complicated systemic problems in a place like this, and overcoming them is almost impossible without help. Addiction, health issues, poor educational opportunity, utter lack of employment options, and a general air of hopelessness all contributed to the poor outcomes for most residents of this county. The lack of infrastructure and dwindling population, as well as the geographical isolation, make it an undesirable location for future economic prospects, thus continuing the downward spiral that's been occurring for generations. We learned that so many of these problems are interconnected, and it is incredibly difficult to solve one without encountering another and another.



### Warrior Creek Development

(WCD), the nonprofit organization that Jack co-founded with Craig Snow, worked to address a number of these issues. The first priority was to provide quality jobs and

skills for young people in the county, and we saw that goal come to fruition in Timmy, PJ, and Curtis - our first three interns. Together they constructed WCD's first project, the Teachers Village: three homes split into two apartments each to be rented out to teachers in time for this coming school year. This provides for a desperate need in a county that has had major staffing difficulties for decades, and provided an arena in which Jack could teach valuable, marketable skills to these young men, as well as coach them through personal and professional triumphs and trials.

Warrior Creek Development recently received a \$200,000 grant, which is a huge boon that will enable the organization to continue to grow. They have taken on three new interns, in addition to the three existing workers. If you are interested in supporting the ongoing mission there, you can do so by contacting Craig directly ([snow@warriorcreekdev.org](mailto:snow@warriorcreekdev.org)) for details.

Another exciting legacy of our efforts is occurring at the schools, where Svea's emphasis on recognition and support for new teachers seems to have finally made an impact. When she started, there was absolutely no orientation or guidance for the new teachers. Her second year, she implemented her own New Teacher Orientation, and helped support the new people in her building. The county is now intending to do its own two-day orientation before school starts each year. This could be a huge step toward reducing the roughly 40% turnover and poor retention rates for teachers in the county.

As mentioned above, we learned a lot of hard lessons

# Mission Ministry continued...



in our life in WV. However, there were still plenty of positive lessons to be gained as well. Resourcefulness, friendliness, community and interdependence, kindness and patience - all of these were traits we found in abundant supply from our friends and neighbors. With few people making much money and even fewer places to spend it, there is little opportunity for consumerism and excess to take hold. People find new functions for old materials, and work with what they have instead of constantly buying something new. The pace of life is slower, quieter, and more contained, and people actually have both the time and the inclination to simply sit on each other's porches and talk. There isn't the constant rushing and striving we see so often in middle class life; there is a peaceful contentedness in the neighborhoods and hollers. It was a valuable lesson to learn how to sit down and relax, without having an agenda or a timeline.

We will miss our dear friends and neighbors so much, as well as the pace of life that allowed us to enjoy them. The wilderness was truly breathtaking and the trips we took out onto the trails often left us speechless and grateful. There is truly no other place like it. We poured a lot of ourselves into our various callings in McDowell County. The schools, our neighborhood, the job sites, and the interns; we left so much of ourselves "out on the field," so to speak, and we don't regret any of it. There was incredible stress and strife, and incredible beauty and love. Thank you for participating in this amazing journey with us, and please keep McDowell County in your thoughts and prayers, as we will, today and always.

Love,  
Jack & Svea Schreiner

## Mission Opportunities Pray, Serve, Learn

**Sept 3:** Serve at the  
**Norwalk Open Door Shelter** -  
contact Holly Hough  
([hhough7@optonline.net](mailto:hhough7@optonline.net)) to sign up.

**Sept 25: Feed My Starving  
Children M&M Fundraiser** -  
pick up an M&M tube and return  
filled with quarters or larger  
donations to fund this years joint  
churches Mobilepack event  
which takes place Oct. 22-23.

Check the website for details of  
prayer requests, more  
opportunities and to learn about  
our mission partners.

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



# September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	3
				1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			7:30 am Faithful In Prayer
4 <b>Summer Worship Schedule Ends</b> 8:00 am Weed Beach Service 10:00 am Chapel 11:30 am Confirmation Class Parent Meeting (Option 3)	5 <b>Labor Day</b> <b>NPC Offices Closed</b>	6 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	8 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 pm High School Ministry Parent Meeting 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	9 6:00 pm Middle School Late Nigher		10
11 <b>Pastor Sam's Final Service</b> <b>10:00 am Sanctuary One Service Only</b> 10:00 am Classes for 3's-K 6:00 pm High School - Fall Kickoff Parent Meeting (Bessey House)	12 9:30 am Christian Yoga	13 6:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	14 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	15 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			17
18 <b>Fall Worship Schedule Begins</b> 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's - 8th grade 10 & 11:45 am "Get Connected" 5:00 Open Doors 6:00 pm High School Ministry	19 9:30 am Christian Yoga	20 6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Session	21 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:30 am MOPS 6:30 pm Pastor Brandt's Sabbatical Reflections 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	22 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:30 pm Adult Fellowship Luncheon 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	23 7:00-9:30 pm Fall Youth Retreat Day One		24 7:30 am Faithful In Prayer 8:00 am -12:00 pm Fall Youth Retreat Day Two
25 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's - 8th grade 10:30 am "Marketplace" 11:45 am Fall All Church Cookout 5:00 Open Doors 6:00 pm High School Ministry	26 9:30 am Christian Yoga	27 6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	28 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	29 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Mom's of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	30		

## In Loving Memory of...

**May 26:**

Nathen P. Edwards

**June 18:**

Lois Ahern Bortone

**June 21:**

H. Paxson Gifford Sr.

**June 25:**

Margaret Jean Leet

**July 1:**

Ann L. Graham

**July 5:**

Sally B. MacMannis

**July 20:**

Jim Rusiackas

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

*If you would like to submit an article for the October 2016 issue please submit it before September 15 to Rose Cunningham by email at [rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

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

**June 19:**

Maggie Abigail Hall, daughter of Christopher and Alexandra Hall

**June 26:**

Cadence Anne and Madeleine Elizabeth Mettler,  
daughters of David and Betsy Mettler

Brynn Margaret Mitchell, daughter of Chris and Holly Mitchell

Madison Tamzon Peters, daughter of Phil and Barbara Peters

**July 17:**

Mckenzie Rose Moeller, daughter of Peter and Julie Moeller

**July 24:**

Augustus Lawrence Appel, son of Peter and Sarah Appel

Eleanor Elizabeth King, daughter of Michael and Tracy King

**August 14:**

William James Grambling, son of Christopher and Katherine Grambling

Madeline McKenna Ferris, daughter of Patrick and Kate Ferris

**August 21:**

Elizabeth Snow Chernin, daughter of Seth and Genna Chernin

Gibson Knox Monroe, son of Cory and Julie Monroe

Jackson Walter Vredenburgh, son of Bill and Renee Vasey-Vredenburgh

**August 28:**

McKenna Cecilia Becraft, daughter of Kevin and Danielle Becraft

Charles Whiting Stuart, son of Peter and Allison Stuart

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

**June 18:**

Lise Chase and Nathaniel Paschall

**August 20:**

Katie Samsen and Patrick Beaudoin

## NPC Elders and Team Leadership

### Session Officers

President: Tom Taylor

Treasurer: Shawn Seale

Secretary: George Vogel

**Adult Spiritual Formation:** Lou DeLoma, Mike Turner, co-chairs

**Children's:** Mark Thompson, chair

**Congregational Life:** Jerry Byrne, chair

**Church Relations:** Tom Taylor, chair

**Finance:** Tom Taylor, chair

**Human Resources:** Morgan Whittier, chair

**Mission:** John Gill, Doug Campbell, co-chairs

**Nominating Committee:** Mark Thompson, chair

**Outreach:** Scott Holcombe, chair

**Properties:** Joe Orban, chair

**Stewardship:** Rhonda Sherwood, chair

**Worship:** Sue Smirnoff, chair

**Youth:** Melissa Fiorita, chair