

The Spire

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



Dear Members and Friends of NPC,

As we enter into the fall, and another year of ministry at NPC, there are several things that I would love to draw to your attention . . .

First, the summer has been wonderful. Highlights include, but are not limited to, Vacation Bible School, the Mission Trip to West Virginia, a Mission Trip to Kenya, worship on the beach, breakfast on the beach, and a visit from the men of Pivot Ministry on the beach. Many thanks to our talented staff and members for making these ministries happen this summer.

Second, as we enter September, there are a few changes that you need to know. As we return from the beach, we will have one service on **Sunday, September 10** at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. This will be immediately followed by an all-church picnic, from 11:00 till 2:00 utilizing the playground and the lower parking lot. (See details on page 2.) So come dressed for a picnic!

Beginning on **September 17** we will be having three worship services on Sundays -- 8:30 in the Chapel, 10:00 in the Sanctuary, and 5:00 in the Chapel. This proposal came from the Worship Team after several months of conversation and prayer. In late Spring, the Session approved this new schedule. The morning services will be much the same in terms of content. Childcare and Sunday School through elementary grades will be provided at both 8:30 and 10:00. In addition, the 8:30 service will feature special music (vocalists and instrumentalists) and the 10:00 service will feature the Chancel Choir. The 5:00 service will provide time for singing, reflection, a message, prayer and include The Lord's Supper each week. (Also, there will be child care through kindergarten.)

Finally, the Nominating Team has been working hard over the summer months to gather slate of people to serve as a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). I am sure that you can appreciate the challenges of this task in the summer when people are in and out of town. It is my hope that shortly after you receive this Spire an announcement will be made about a congregational meeting to elect a PNC.

In closing, I look forward to continuing to serve this faith community as your interim pastor. I know that the Lord will continue to guide, mold, and shape NPC as we seek to follow faithfully.

With much anticipation,
Pastor John H. Seiders
Interim Pastor

Summer Worship Schedule

September 3
8:00 am Weed Beach
10:00 am Chapel

Fall Kick Off Celebration

September 10
10:00 am Sanctuary Service only

Fall Worship Schedule

begins September 17
8:30 am Chapel
10:00 am Sanctuary
5:00 pm Chapel

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

Sermon Series: Summer Playlist
9/3 - Revelation 4
Guest Preacher:
The Rev. Dr. Ruthie Seiders

Sermon Series: A Grand Plan
9/10 - Creation
9/17 - Fall
9/24 - Redemption

10/1 - World Communion Sunday
Guest Preacher:
The Rev. Dr. Scott Sunquist

Sermon series: I Am NPC
10/8 - "Abundantly Blessed"
10/15 - "A Faulty Focus"
10/22 - "Having Good Eyes"

Sermon series: The Five Solas
10/29 - "Sola Scriptura"

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All Church Fall Kick Off Celebration Sunday, September 10



One Worship service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.
All are welcome to join us in the church playground and lower parking lot
from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
for a picnic, with games, live music, mechanical bull,
a petting zoo and pony rides... along with a few surprises!



Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 17 New service times

8:30 am in the Chapel

Full hour with Sunday school/child care and special music

10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Full hour with Sunday school/child care and Chancel choir

5:00 pm in the Chapel

Reflection, scripture, child care, and weekly Communion

We hope that you will join us for
one of these special services each week!

New Members



Fall New Members Class

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:45 am - 12:00 pm



Want to learn more about what makes NPC tick?
Come join us for a morning of exploration!

Child care provided up to age 5.
Register at www.norotonchurch.org.

Adult Spiritual Formation



The start of a new school year marks the season when students head back to the classroom—to learn and grow. The same holds true here at NPC, with the fall being a time when young disciples will once again participate in Horton Huddles and youth group gatherings—each with the same goal of seeing young disciples learn and grow in the faith. But what about adults?

September and October also mark important opportunities for adults in our congregation, and includes:

Reading Isaiah: A Three-Week Class on Reading the Book of Isaiah Beginning October 8

The book of Isaiah is considered by some to be the fifth gospel—which is due in large part to the way in which early Christian writers interpreted it throughout the ages. We encounter quotes and references to Isaiah in the gospels, and we hear sermons preached during the season of Advent from this important piece of Hebrew Scripture. But have you ever read Isaiah? In its entirety?

Beginning October 8, we'll be holding a three-week "Reading Isaiah" class. Attention will be given in the class reading Isaiah, and even more to understanding what we are reading. Classes will be scheduled to begin after the 10:00 am worship Sunday each week, along with a second "encore" presentation to be offered during the week. See Noroton Notes beginning in September for exact times and location.

Bible Art & Church Architecture Study Tour - November 4

Sheree and Ted Sanborn will be leading a 1-hour "mobile classroom" where participants will be invited to learn about, examine, and discuss Bible inspired artwork and architecture—and will include pieces currently on display at NPC along with examples that Sheree and Ted will bring to share with the class. As a "mobile classroom," the class will gather at a specified location and will then travel to several locations on the NPC campus.

The Bible Art & Church Architecture Study Tour will be held on November 4 following the 10:00 am Worship Service. A second "encore" presentation will be offered later that same week. See Noroton Notes beginning in October for exact times and location.

Looking ahead—as you read this, there are a number folks who have been participating in our special **95-Days to Reformation** reading group over the last month+, and September marks a move to the halfway point—with the group concluding at the end of October. As we get closer to Reformation Sunday in late October—we'll be announcing a couple of special guest presenters who will be teaching in early November that you will definitely not want to miss. More information on these coming soon!

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.

THURSDAY MEN'S STUDY

Thursdays beginning
Sept. 14 at 7:00 am in the
Mission Room,
led by Pastor John.
Study: *How did Mark End?*

Women's and Caring Ministries



I pray that... you may know the hope to which he has called you.

~Ephesians 1:18

Hope.

Big word.

Big need.

What do you say to one wading in deep grief? To one whose cancer is back?
To one without a home or a job? To one trapped in a cycle of addiction?

As we walk into a new year of ministry together this Fall, I've been thinking a lot about hope.

My grandma's mantra is *this too shall pass*. Recently I heard of an older woman who was asked her favorite Bible verse. "And it came to pass," she said. When asked why she only had a fragment of a verse/sentence for a favorite, her response was "well, it doesn't say 'and it came to stay.' This means that difficult seasons are not permanent. That I can trust and hope in a God who will continue to grow me and move me close regardless of circumstance." Wise woman.

So, what is this *hope to which he has called us*? I believe it's the confidence that we can rest in the assurance of the love of God: That we are not ever separated from this love. That even though it's a difficult story, it's a good story. Our lives point beyond ourselves.

To quote Gary Morello (of FCA) **Hope** stands for **Hold On- Pain Ends!**

Our hope isn't dependent on circumstance or outcome: Our hope isn't optimism. It's not '*pie-in-the-sky—things will be better by Christmas...*' Our hope is woven into the suffering and redemption that we have in Christ. Ultimately, we are told in scripture, that the *hope to which he has called us* has everything to do with the ultimate joy- the constant presence of the Love of God.

May we be able to relate in our core to this hope, written about in Hebrews 6:19:

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and steadfast.

Thanks be to God for this beautiful community.

Pastor Brandi Drake

Associate Pastor of Caring, Mission, Outreach & Women's Ministries

Women's Retreat: January 26-28, 2018

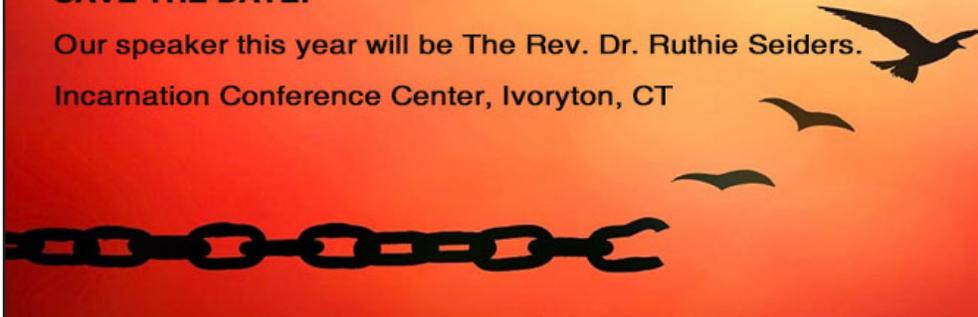
I pray that you may know the hope to which he has called you

Ephesians 1:18

SAVE THE DATE!

Our speaker this year will be The Rev. Dr. Ruthie Seiders.

Incarnation Conference Center, Ivoryton, CT



Tuesday Mornings with the Gospel of John

This year, our women's bible studies will be digging into the gospel of John. Did you know that in traditional icons of John, the apostle is often pictured with an eagle? This is because John's gospel is considered to give a 'bird's eye view' of Christ.

Come and feed your soul with scripture and friendship. We'll keep a place for you! (and it's great to expect you- so register)

Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 am in the Parlor
Tuesdays, 9:15-11:15 am in Horton Hall



Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) begins again this fall and we would love to have you! Our first meeting of the fall semester will be **Wednesday, September 13** from 9:15-11:30 am in Horton Hall. Childcare is provided, but you must pre-register and space is limited. Please email darienmops@gmail.com for more information and the registration form.

Moms of Teens book study group. The group meets on **Thursdays** from 12-1:30 pm in the SHAC. We invite you to join this group and come as often as you are able.

Caring Ministry



Prime Timers

(for those in their 50's, 60's, 70's +)

Join us September 21 at 12:30 pm for a "welcome back" luncheon.

Our lunch will be a fall back to favorite summer salads.

We are hoping Fikrat, the grandmother of the Bablees' family, from our Refugee co-sponsorship ministry, will join us as our special guest. We will also use this time to share prayer concerns.

Join us **October 19** at 2:00 pm with Susan Demark, a member of our church who is an occupational therapist. Her goal is to promote safe engagement and independence in life as we age. She has worked with in-patient rehabilitation for people who are recovering from illness as well as in assisted living facilities. We look forward to seeing you then!

We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with many blessings!

For more information contact Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org, phone 203-309-5620 or Marion at marion.smith@norotonchurch.org.

New Ministry at NPC: Celebrate Recovery

An opportunity to bring our hurts, habits and hang-ups to Christ

Starts October 16!

Monday nights from 7:00-9:00 pm in Horton Hall



Celebrate Recovery is a ministry to help people find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups including addictions, compulsions and other dysfunctional behaviors. Who among us is immune to hurts, habits or hang-ups that hold us back? This is a good opportunity to grow in a safe, Christ-centered space. We hope you will consider joining us.

Every Monday night, this ministry will meet with a large-group gathering, followed by small group. We will have music, social time and teaching followed by a confidential group time to share our experiences, strengths and hopes with one another. Our prayer is to provide a Christ-centered recovery option/community for those hurting and in need of healing. Initially there will be gender-specific groups that will be led by a trained group leader (NPC member) who has been through the Celebrate Recovery process.

Celebrate Recovery is open to all inside and outside of NPC.

If you have further questions please contact Pastor Brandi or Stacy Arevalo (stacy.arevalo@yahoo.com).



Wondering about Sunday School and Worship with Ms. Mickie and Ms. Liz

It's time to take a look at what it means to be part of the NPC Family now that the Fall schedule is here. We have so much great stuff to offer you and your children in September and October to help you all grow in your faith in Jesus. Isn't that why you're here on Sundays and special days? It's because we are Christians and we all want a safe place to learn, worship, and make friends who share our faith, values and principles. So let's take a look at some **Questions** you may have about Children's Ministry and explore the answers as **Truths** of **why** what we offer is so important.

Question: What's a Huddle Leader? Maybe you do not know what a Horton Hall Huddle Leader is or does...or what even happens in Horton Hall for Sunday School. Are we right? Let us enlighten you.

Here's the Truth: Pretty much every time a person takes a turn at being a Horton Hall Huddle Leader (HHHL) for the first time...their response is, *"If I'd known it would be THIS easy I would have signed up a long time ago!"*

Here's what you DO:

- You read the Bible story at home before Sunday (usually the same text being used in the Sermon) and our plans for that particular Sunday.
- You come in on Sunday (8:30 or 10 am).
- You join us in Horton Hall for Large Group Time as someone else leads us through a short Worship time.
- You listen as someone else tells the Bible Story to the kids and teaches the lesson.
- You do one of the activities (usually a variety of science, coloring, a game etc.) with the kids under a tent.
- You help them wonder about the story.
- You have fun, you make relationships, you set the example and you may learn a little right along with them.

- You DO NOT have to be a parent or a sibling to be a Huddle Leader (but you can be).
- You will have to take literally a 2 minute online screening process and complete a volunteer form.
- You DO NOT have to be anything special, have any special talent or knowledge...Just be YOU. Nothing more. Nothing less. God made you. That's special enough (more than enough).
- Come. Bring a friend. See. Learn. Ask questions. Take an interest in our future. You will not be disappointed. We promise.

Question: Why come to Worship/Sunday School?

Our new Sunday School year will be under way officially on **September 17** at both the 8:30 and 10:00 am worship services... along with the insanity of a new school year, sports schedules, PTO meetings, and various school events.

FIVE TRUTHS that put Worship/Sunday School in perspective help us all to understand why it's SO VERY important to come on Sundays.

1. **We can't do the Christian life alone:** A healthy Christian can't grow alone. God did not intend for us to be alone. Kids need Christian teens and adults, teens need Christian adults and kids, and adults need Christian kids and teens. Sunday school is the biggest way all of us can connect together.
2. **We need to know God's Big Story:** The Bible is God's special Word for us. He wrote it as a series of events and stories about regular people who don't always do the right thing, yet God always loves and rescues them. This is the Big Story: God's passionate rescue of sinners. We ask you... HOW will your child learn the BIG story? Sunday school does just that - see Psalm 78:5-6 – *God gave his Law to Jacob's descendants, the people of Israel. And he told our ancestors to teach their children, so that each new generation would know his Law and tell it to the next.*

Children's Ministry

3. We all need mentors (Yes.We.Do.). As parents, God has called you into a VERY important role to raise your children to love God. We have a very short time to actually do this! Just like having coaches and school teachers, we all NEED one another to help children learn to love God. That's why the whole Church, including you, need to participate.

4. You've got a friend. It can be very isolating for a child when they don't know of other Christian kids in their school. Liz has asked her own daughters how many Christian friends they have at their schools. They said "MAYBE 1 or 2." SO Scary!! Where can we find Christian friends? Each Sunday, your child is surrounded by children and adult Christians who are also looking to be in fellowship with...well...other Christians!

5. We never stop learning. Often we hear our Sunday School children say – "I KNOW that story!" And we give them the chance to tell it. The stories aren't isolated stories. They belong to the BIG picture, they are learning more deeply about the God behind the story, and there is no end to that knowledge. No matter what your degree, there's always something new to learn.

What you are doing is one of the MOST important jobs a person can do. We know it's not easy. We see you with your arms overflowing, and we know you came to church already tired.

Questions: Is this worth it? Why do I bother?

Truth: Again, we say, what you are doing is very, very important. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this church thing we do isn't just about stories or personal, quiet contemplation, but about coming together as a community where all are welcome, where we share our experience of God with each other. When you are here, we have hope that these pews won't be empty when *your* kids are parents. We know they are learning how and why we worship and attend Sunday School now... *before* it's too late.

Truth: We see them learning. In the midst of the cries, wiggles, and giggles, we see a little girl who insists on being first upfront to hear Words of Wonder. We hear a little boy begging his mom to come up with

him. We watch a first grader just learning to read sounding out the words in the bulletin. We see a 2nd grader count his way to Hymn 235. We hear the kids of all ages recite from memory the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed at a Baptism. Awesome!



Truth: We want you to know it matters.

It matters to us. It matters to the older members to know that families still care about faith. It matters to your children.

We want to thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family — with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy — are a vital part of our wonderful church family, the eternal family of God. With you in this – *Ms. Mickie and Ms. Liz*

Question: What else besides Sunday morning?

Truth:

JAM Choir (1st-5th grade)

starts October 4, 4:00 pm in the Fine Arts Center.

Cherub Choir (Kindergarten)

starts October 4, 4:45 pm in the Fine Arts Center.

Family Events:

All Church Fall Kick Off Celebration: September 10
There will be Nursery-Preschool Classes and Elementary students start in the Sanctuary and will be dismissed to Horton Hall for a special Creation project time.

Fall Worship Schedule Begins (1st Sunday School):
September 17 – 8:30 and 10:00 am.

Playground Social: October 1, after the 10:00 service.

Third Grade Bible Sunday: October 15,
at the 10:00 am service.

Trunk or Treat: October 29, from 3-5:00 pm.

See you Sunday!
Mickie O'Donnell,
Children's Ministry Director
and
Liz Morelli,
Children's Ministry Associate and Admin



Fall Is My Favorite Season

I love the change in weather, outdoor activities, and of course, pumpkin spice lattes. Along with the start of fall comes the start of the new school year. I'm excited to tell you about a few different things coming up in the fall months of September and October:

MS Kickoff: Join us **September 8** at Hindley School from 7:30-9:00 pm for Bubble Soccer, food, fun and so much more. This event is guaranteed to be a good time as we mark the beginning of the school year. Cost for the event is: \$15. A portion of the admission will be donated to World Vision to purchase new soccer balls and mosquito nets. Registration can be found online.

Harbor (our weekly Middle School Youth Group), returns **Wednesday, September 13** and will meet weekly through out the school year.

Middle School Sunday School kicks off **Sunday, September 17** at the 8:30 am and 10:00 am services.

Goin' Outdoors: Fall Edition - get your cameras ready for some epic pictures. We are going to Talcott Mountain on **September 21**.

The Corn Event is coming- for all things corn related- you won't want to miss this on **September 27** during the regularly scheduled Harbor Program.

Looking forward to this new season ahead!

Sarah Swible,
Middle School Ministry Coordinator

MSM Save the Dates:

Oct. 14 - Corn Maze
Oct. 22 - #darienunited
Oct. 25 - Harbor Spooktacular



Some Semi-Big, But Doable Changes for the HSM:

Hello everyone!

I want to make you aware of two changes coming this fall for the High School Ministry, and then at the end give you some save the dates for the beginning of the school year.

1) The last two years HSM has held SnapShot series classes during the I I am service for three times throughout the year. In an effort to make this class more consistent for students, we will be offering a new program this year called **HSM A.M.** It will be held during the 10:00 am service weekly starting on **September 17**. Students are asked to join us in the SHAC at the start of worship and will be released at the end of service. We are so excited for **HSM A.M.** and what God will do in this time.

2) We are making a short time adjustment to High School Ministry regularly held at 6:00 pm on Sunday nights. Originally we ended at 7:30 pm but now we are ending at 7:15 pm. This change is to accommodate busy homework schedules and family dinners.

I hope this helps in the preparation of your fall calendars. Thanks everyone!

Jack Hein,
High School Ministry Coordinator

HSM Save the Dates:

Sept. 16 - "M" Night
Sept. 17 - HSM weekly programs start
Sept. 21 - Goin' Outdoors: Fall Edition
Sept. 29 - Feed My Starving Children
Oct. 22 - #darienunited

What's New at NPCC

NPCC Welcomes 6 Families

This September, NPCC welcomes 8 new families into our program. We are honored by the trust they have placed in us to care for and educate their children.

NPCC Welcomes Back 38 Families

We welcome back 38 families. As our families continue to grow, we have the privilege of caring for their new additions. In fact, all but one child in our Infant Room is a sibling of an NPCC family.

NPCC Introduces a New Website

Our new website, www.npchildcare.com, not only provides prospective parents with the information needed to register, it also gives them an overview of our program as well as a glimpse into our classrooms. Check it out!

NPCC Focuses on Professional Development

In our efforts to provide high quality care and education, our staff has taken a number of steps this year to learn and grow, including visiting other child care programs as well as attending safety trainings and educational workshops.

NPCC Offers Full-Year Registration

We are pleased to announce that we have completed the final transitional step from a part-time babysitting service to a full-time child care program by implementing a full-year registration process.

Peace and Joy,
Beth Aparicio
Director of NPCC





Calling All Artists Of Any Kind!

The NPC Music & Fine Arts Department wants you. We need to know about you! Every once in a while I find out that a congregant sings, plays an instrument, paints, writes, dances, or is an artist of any other kind. I usually think, “why didn’t I know this”? One of the ways we live out having been created in the Image of God is, well, to CREATE! This artist often creates in isolation, but we, as the Body of Christ can do a better job of supporting each other. That’s what I want to start doing at NPC and I have some ideas about how to do that, but first, I need to know who is out there. Please contact me at the email address below and introduce yourself.

Chancel Choir rehearsal starts on **Thursday, September 7** from 8:00 to 9:30 pm in the Fine Arts Center. This room is located downstairs in the center core. Please let me know if you come, so we can put together a music package for you. Auditions are not required.

Instrumentalists are needed for our worship services. One of the favorite parts of my job is to write and orchestrate arrangements for our wonderful instrumentalists and I would be thrilled to be able to include more players. Please contact me if you play a musical instrument.

J.A.M. and Cherub Choirs begin again on **Wednesday, October 4**. The Cherub Choir is open to kindergartners, and the J.A.M. Choir is for kids from 1st through 5th grades. We often have a 6th grader or two that would like an extra year and that’s perfectly fine.

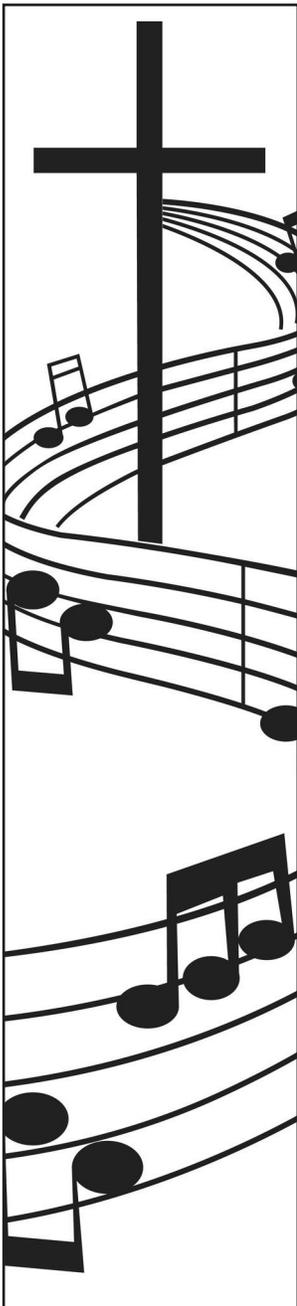
J.A.M. Choir meets from 4:00 to 4:30 pm, in the Fine Arts Center.

Cherub Choir meets from 4:30 to 5:15 pm, in the Fine Arts Center.

Parents of returning and prospective members are encouraged to contact me regarding the registration process.

That’s about it for now. There is no reason that this coming season can’t be the best NPC has ever seen, but it all depends on you! Please join us in giving our artistic gifts back to God and His people.

Blessings,
Dwayne Condon
Director of Music & Fine Arts
dwayne.condon@norotonchurch.org



Mission Ministry



Mission Ministry Service and Events

NPC continues to prepare and serve meals at the **Open Door Shelter**, Norwalk once a month. Please contact Holly Hough hough7@optonline.net if you would like to take a turn serving (16 and older). Next service dates are **September 16** and **October 21**.

This year the **Darien Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event** will take place on **September 30** and **October 1**. You can now sign up online at www.fmssc.org. There are several different 2 hour shifts to choose from.

Please consider supporting the **M&M fundraiser**. Tubes of M&M's are available at the church office. Please fill tubes with \$14 in quarters or bills or checks (please include event number 1709-253MI) to help towards the goal of \$44,000 to pack 200,000 life-saving meals! You can also donate on the FMSC website. For more information contact Alison Smith at gerstall@gmail.com or Ginna Yerrall at gmdar@optonline.net (Darien FMSC Team leader).

Saturday, October 21 - Help a Neighbor: If you are interested in helping out with some yard work or other acts of service in our local community please contact Stella. In response to people's enthusiasm for Service Day we want to provide an opportunity on a smaller scale for our church family to love and serve others.

October 28 is "Make a Difference Day" Food Drive at Palmer's Supermarket to benefit the Open Door Shelter. For more information contact Amy Maccarrone at amy.maccarrone@gmail.com.

Update on the Bablees Family

It is now almost 5 months since the Bablees family arrived to begin their new life in America. We have much to be thankful for and celebrate with the Bablees!

Luqman is working at an auto body business in Norwalk and Zainab has started a part-time job at Palmers. Fikrat has been enjoying attending the Senior Center and taking Tawfik to school on the days that Zainab is working. The family attended English classes over the summer and continues to make progress in learning to speak and understand English. The family is very thankful to all our NPC volunteers and supporters who continue to provide encouragement, practical help and advice when needed. As the family becomes more self-sufficient and independent our role will evolve in accordance with the IRIS resettlement program. We will gradually provide less support as we draw closer to the end of our official commitment that ends April 2018, and transition to a role purely as friends.

NPC Mission Ministry

If you are interested in playing a role in planning and organizing our mission and outreach ministry, please join the team at the next meeting on **September 5 at 7:45 pm**. All are welcome - including teens.

Stella Clarke,
Mission Director
stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org



A Life-Changing Experience

By Craig L. Howe

I cannot count the number of annual church budget meetings I have sat through during the past 37 years and wondered why we were sending money overseas. Weren't there enough problems nearby?

Two weeks visiting mission partners in Kenya and Tanzania altered that. Seeing what our dollars accomplished was insightful, but witnessing recipients' spontaneous displays of gratitude and the students smiling faces was life-altering.

This past June I traveled with Rev. Brandi Drake and ten other Noroton Presbyterian Church members to visit The City of Hope, Nambale Magnet School and the Rift Valley Academy. Our *Foundations for the Future* (FFF) gifts to The City of Hope built a new dormitory for middle school boarding students. The small tuition payments by these students will place this 10-year-old mission well down the road to financial self-sufficiency. Our FFF gifts to Nambale built two housing units for teachers.

It was impressive to watch residents from around the City of Hope arrive on Monday to perform much-needed chores for the medical clinic. The residents, most of whom are subsistence farmers, brought their children while they cut the grass in the surrounding fields.

Dr. Ben runs the clinic for the City of Hope. He treats infectious diseases and delivers six babies a month. For the services, patients pay little or nothing.

One memory stands out: The children and their smiling faces.

Many were orphaned or abandoned, yet their faces expressed pure joy. It did not matter where we went along the dirt roads or in the schools and orphanages we visited, they gathered. Many simply wanted to have their pictures snapped. Others wanted to capture an image of my wife, Cindy and me. Whatever their motivation, their smiles were contagious.

They were grateful for what they have: love, meals and shelter. It is a lesson I will not soon forget.



September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00 am Beach Service 10:00 am Chapel Service	Labor Day NPC Offices and Building Closed	7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 pm Parent Presentation - Youth (Online)	1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:30 pm MS Kickoff (Hindley Field)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 am Sanctuary Service 11:00 am Fall Family Kickoff		6:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		6:00 pm The "M" Event - Youth (9th-12th grade)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 am Chapel Service 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3's-8th grade 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 10:00 am HSM A.M. 5:00 pm Chapel Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Session	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Goin' Outdoors: Fall 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 12:30 pm Prime Timers Luncheon 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	7:00 pm Confirmation Class Kickoff	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 am Chapel Service 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3's-8th grade 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 10:00 am HSM A.M. 5:00 pm Chapel Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade) The Corn Event	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		FMSC MobilePack Event

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	7
FMSC MobilePack Event 8:30 am Chapel Service 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3-5th grade 10:00 am HSM A.M. 11:00 am Playground Social 5:00 pm Chapel Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			
8 8:30 am Chapel Service 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3-5-8th grade 10:00 am Confirmation Sunday 10:00 am HSM A.M. 11:15 am Reading Isaiah 5:00 pm Chapel Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 pm Reading Isaiah - Encore 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	12 13	14 9:00 am MSM: Corn Maze (offsite)	
15 8:30 am Chapel Service 8:30 am Confirmation Class 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3-5-8th grade 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 10:00 am Third Grade Bible Sunday 10:00 am HSM A.M. 11:15 am Reading Isaiah 5:00 pm Chapel Service	7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Session Meeting	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Monthly Adult Fellowship 7:30 pm Reading Isaiah - Encore 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	18 19	20 21 Help a Neighbor Service Projects 8:45 am New Member Class	
22 8:30 am Chapel Service 8:30 am Confirmation Class 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3-5-8th grade 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 10:00 am HSM A.M. 11:15 am Reading Isaiah 5:00 pm Chapel Service 6:00 pm #dareunited	7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor Spooktakular (6th-8th grade)	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh. 7:30 pm Reading Isaiah - Encore	24 25 26	27 28 Make a Difference Day Food Drive at Palmer's Supermarket	
29 8:30 am Chapel Service 8:30 am Confirmation Class 10:00 am Sanctuary Service 8:30 & 10:00 am Classes for 3-5-8th grade 10:00 am HSM A.M. 3:00 pm Trunk or Treat 5:00 pm Chapel Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study					

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

July 4:

Richard W. Artis

August 15:

George Cammann

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

Join us in celebrating the Baptism of...

July 9:

James Alan and Noah David Jones, sons of Simon and Stefanie Jones
Chase Nicholas and Sloan Madison Santoro, son and daughter of
Jes and Danielle Santoro

July 16:

Alexander Hines Bickmeyer, son of Todd and Laura Bickmeyer

August 13:

Virginia Day Bullock, daughter of Ben and Sydney Bullock
Calista Kedron Rose Mecsery, daughter of Sean and Cassie Mecsery

Upcoming Baptism Dates

September 17 - 10:00 Sanctuary service

October 15 - 10:00 Sanctuary service.

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

Join us in celebrating the Marriage of...

June 17:

Heidi Steen and Ken Stocker

If you would like to submit an article for the November / December 2017 issue please submit it before October 6 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Elders and Team Leadership

Session Officers

President: Stokes Moore
Treasurer: David Jacobsen
Secretary: George Thacker

Adult Spiritual Formation:

Mike Turner, chair
Sally Vosburgh
David Chamin

Caring

Stacy Arevalo, chair
Susan Kwun

Children's

Mark Thompson, chair
Lisa Isherwood

Congregational Life

Jerry Byrne
Sarah Papsun

Finance/Stewardship

David Jacobsen, chair
Walt Travers
Rhonda Sherwood
Erik Schroeder
Linc Schoff

HR

Ken Lang, chair
Marylou Wililams

Mission/Outreach

John Gill, chair
Rhonda Sherwood
Sarah Papsun
Lynn Haffner

Nominating Committee

Cindy Peiser, chair

Nursery School

David Chamin

Properties

Stokes Moore, chair
Tom Geraghty
Mitch Roberts

Worship

Sue Smirnoff, chair
Tom Geraghty
Kim Lewis

Youth

Melissa Fiorita, chair
Cindy Peiser
Judy Phillips

Clerk of Session

George Thacker