

The Spire

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

Q&A's About Our Faith



This past January, I read a book that fascinated me. It was Mark Mittelberg's, *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask Them*. Mittelberg and his publisher surveyed 1,000 Christians and asked them, "What questions would they be most uncomfortable being asked?" Some of them were predictable questions like, "How do you know that God exists?" or "How could a good God allow evil and pain?" Others were more personal like, "Isn't the church just full of hypocrites?" or, "Is there really a heaven and a hell?" These questions may not keep us up at night, but most of us have a friend or two who wonder about such things and deserve a thoughtful answer to an honest question.

G.K. Chesterton, the 20th century apologist for Christianity, once said, "the point of having an open mind, like having an open mouth, is to close it on something solid." So this month and next, we will try to close on some solid answers we can give to friends and relatives who have an open mind about the faith. As we move through Lent, during March and April, we will look at the hard questions about suffering, the truth of Scripture, miracles and what about those hypocrites in the church? How do we lovingly and patiently share with others our reasons for our faith?

Just as Jesus was happy to meet doubting Thomas on his own terms, I look forward to sharing with you each week honest answers to questions about our faith.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
 Sam Schreiner

Worship Schedule:

Chapel - 8:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Open Doors - 5:00 p.m.
 (service in Horton Hall)

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

3/6/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Psalms 19:1-3
 "Does Science Make God Irrelevant?"

3/9/11 - Ash Wednesday
 Pastor Brandi Drake
 12 noon & 7:30 pm - Chapel Services

3/13/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 II Peter 1:16-21
 "Isn't the Bible Full of Contradictions?"

3/20/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 John 20:24-29
 "Was Jesus God or Just a Great Teacher?"

3/27/11 - Pastor Brandi Drake
 Matthew 7:1-5
 "Isn't the Church Just a Bunch of Hypocrites?"

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

10:30 am Sanctuary service:
 3/20/11 and 4/17/11
 To schedule a Baptism please call
 Leslie Ezzo at 655-1451, ext. 33.

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Adult Studies

REGISTER NOW!

Men's Retreat 2011, March 25-27, Ivoryton, CT:

This year our guest speaker will be Bay Forrest, former NBA pro. Bay shares his stories and testimony in a powerful, relevant and passionate way to all age groups. For more information on our guest speaker, cost, and to register for this event, visit www.norotonchurch.org. Scholarships are available by contacting David Mettler, Retreat Leader. David is looking for some help, so if you would be willing to assist with some activities please contact him at dmettler7@hotmail.com.

Experiencing transition in your work life?

Barnabas 1/2 Day Workshop

Thursday, March 24
12-4:30 pm

Contact Lori at
203-655-1451 x. 44
or
lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org.

Women's Lunchtime Study, Monday 12:15 p.m. in the Parlor:

Gina Blaze, co-director of the NE Prayer Center in Easton, CT, will speak to us on God's Order for us. Contact Lori at 203-655-1451 x. 44 or lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org.

DivorceCare, Monday 7:15 p.m. in the SHAC:

Refreshments at 7:15; Program 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the SHAC. Contact Lori at 203-655-1451 ext 44 or lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org for more information. Register online at www.norotonchurch.org.

Moms of Young Adults, Tuesday 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in the SHAC:

The group is reading *The Me I Want to Be* by John Ortberg. Questions? Call Claudia at 203-253-6795 or Linda at 203-536-6110.

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays in NYC 7:30 a.m. and

Fridays in Darien 7:15 a.m.: Resumes on Friday, March 4 in Darien and Tuesday, March 8 in NYC. Pastor Greg will begin a new study, "*Making Sense of the Old Testament*." For more information contact Pastor Greg Doll at greg.doll@norotonchurch.org.

Women! Tuesday Morning Happenings: Please Join Us!

6:15 a.m. in the Parlor: Our new book is *Ephesians* by N. T. Wright.

9:30 a.m. in Horton Hall: We are reading "*Hustling God*" by M. Craig Barnes. Contact Lori at 203-655-1451 x. 44 or lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org. Look for "Women's Ministry" on the NPC website.

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

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

Senior Fellowship - Thursday, March 17th, 2:00 p.m.:

Sarah Wright, M.A. in Exercise Physiology, Fitness Specialist at Stamford Hospital Health and Fitness Institute (Tully Center) will present regarding Senior Fitness. For more info contact Marlene, marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451, ext. 49.

Weekly Prayer Meeting:

Every Thursday in the Parlor from 1:15-2:15 p.m. Come and pray for needs of our church family. Everyone is welcome – no prayer experience necessary! For more info contact Marlene, marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451, ext. 49.

Wanna Stay Connected and Join Our Email List??

We have email blasts to the congregation with general church updates, prayer requests, special events and more. If you're not receiving these email notices and would like to, please contact Claire Bragdon in the church main office, 203-655-1451 x. 40 or email claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org to be added to the list.



The Great Grace of Repentance

By the time this edition of the Spire arrives in your mailboxes we will be moving toward the season of Lent. I imagine many of you who did not grow up Presbyterian are thinking, "What in the world is Lent? Don't the Roman Catholics have exclusive rights to impute ashes and observe that season?" Actually, there is a burgeoning number of Protestants (including Presbyterians) who are discovering the spiritual benefits of this ancient call to prayer, fasting and reflection.

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday. It was established by the early Church as a day for sober reflection, self-examination and repentance. It was understood, quite literally, as a day to cleanse the soul before the forty-day Lenten fast. The ashes on the forehead draw on the ancient Biblical practice of covering one's head with ashes, wearing sackcloth, and fasting as signs of grief, sorrow, & repentance. The ashes also remind us of our

mortality. From dust we have come and to dust we shall soon return. Ash Wednesday calls us out of the maelstrom of our lives to silently wait in the presence of our Holy God so that we can be reminded of who we are.

This is where our crucial identity is found.

This is where we become keenly and painfully aware of our need for forgiveness and cleansing and healing and reconciliation.

As difficult as it is for us to imagine in 2011, a day and age existed when there was only one Church, one option. The latest estimates on the number of denominations in the United States alone lie somewhere in the 30,000 range. In the days of the early Christian communities, Church discipline was taken seriously and had some teeth. For unrepentant sinners, a last, loving measure was to separate them from the Body of Christ. Excommunicated (I know, we despise this term), if you will. And there was no other church down the street to find sympathy, to find acceptance, and to transfer your membership.

That was the point.

Separation from the Body of Christ was a stark and painful reminder that sinful patterns of behavior separate us from God (Isaiah 59:2). Ash Wednesday was the service that allowed those who had been put out of fellowship to be reconciled through repentance and forgiveness. That included those who denied their faith in the face of persecution or the threat of death. The beautiful thing about this service was that the priests and all the others believers kneeled with them at the level ground of the cross, received the same ashes, and expressed their own ongoing need for cleansing and forgiveness.

May we all be reminded during this Lenten season that only through Christ's death and resurrection are we now free from the clutches of sin and held in the embrace of our loving, Heavenly Father. Thanks be to God!

All God's Richest Blessings,
Pastor Greg
Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation

Men's Bible Study with Pastor Greg *"Making Sense of the Old Testament"*

Is the God of the Old Testament the same as the God of the New Testament? What about the Ten Commandments, are they still valid today? Why are Christians referred to as Sons of Abraham? Why don't we have a Temple? What happened to the sacrificial system? Did all those prophecies really come true? Is it true that you can't make proper sense of the New Testament without understanding the Old Testament?

If you've always wondered, "how do you make sense of the Old Testament?" then please plan to join Pastor Greg for a 14-week journey into the often misunderstood terrain of the Hebrew Scriptures. The classes will begin on March 4th in Darien from 7:15am - 8:15am on Friday mornings in Horton Hall, continental breakfast included and March 8th in NYC from 7:30am - 8:30am at 144 East 44th St. Suite 710 (steps from Grand Central). For more information, please contact Marlene at 203-655-1451, ext 49 or email marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.



Caring & Women's Ministries



Be calm, Martin. You have been baptized.
~Martin Luther.

This is my new favorite quote! If you've been around me much the past month, you've probably heard me recite it.

Martin Luther, the great father of the Reformation, was a man who knew what it meant to worry. All you have to do is pick up a biography on the man to read about his unusual anxiety. He worried incessantly and obsessively about how one could become worthy to receive the grace of God. It is said that his fellow monks grew weary of hearing what they considered lengthy, trivial and frequent confessions. I believe one could make a strong case that, had Luther lived in another era, he quite possibly would have been prescribed medication for anxiety and depression.

But this all changed when he began to dive into Romans, and perceive that grace is a gift from God, not to be earned. When he found himself succumbing to anxiety and fear, he would trace the sign of the cross on his forehead and say Calm down, Martin. You have been baptized.

Indeed.

I see this quote as a good ritual for all of us, particularly as we enter the season of Lent. Calm down, Brandi. You have been baptized. To me, this serves

as an aid to remembering who I am—that reminds me to hold a broader and truer perspective than any circumstance may have me believe. What does baptism mean?

- That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself, but to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ... (Heidelberg Catechism)
- That my life is in Christ... that I am able to die to myself in order to live more abundantly in him. (Galatians 2:20)
- That no one gets to tell me who I am. God does that. And God tells each of us that we are precious and honored in his sight. (Isaiah 43:4)
- That the community of believers is my family: the church is a gift—a place to belong, with others who wrestle to receive blessing that God freely gives.

Thanks be to God for this beautiful reminder: Calm down. Rest in the grace that Christ has poured into your life. You are beloved. May we know the mercy and love of Christ as we inhabit the rhythms of Grace this season of Lent.

Pastor Brandi,
Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry

The Barnabas Project

NPC's ministry for those in professional/vocation transition, will resume with a half-day session on **Thursday, March 24**. It will begin with lunch in Horton Hall, and then move to the Parlor for a teaching from Pastor Brandi and practical presentations on using this wilderness experience to draw closer to God and find His will for your life.

We will use member Doug Campbell's book, **Where to go from Here**, as our basic text. Books will be available for free for those who sign up, and it will be important to read the first 3 chapters before the session. Other topics will include networking, the role of executive recruiters, transition resources in Fairfield County, and relations with spouse and family.

For further information, please contact Lori Nelson lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org.
Reservations preferred.

Children's Ministry

We've braved a snowy winter, and now as we wait for the promise of spring, our ministry continues to serve the children in our community. Serving our children is naturally the focus of Children's Ministry, however the approach of VBS presents an opportunity for us to minister to the adults and teenagers as well. I know what you're thinking: that this is another shameless plug for VBS volunteers! It is a plug, indeed, but it's far from shameless. While serving at VBS is a time commitment, and quite a bit of work, it's the type of work that reaps benefits long beyond the week of Pandamania! Working at VBS as a volunteer is an opportunity to get personally acquainted with each child while growing in your own relationship with God all while having fun. We are still hoping to fill roles ranging from decorating coordinator to those helping out with devotionals for our

crew leaders. If you are in any way interested in taking part at VBS, no matter what your talent or time constraints, we have a way for you to minister! Please contact Stefanie DeLeo at stefanie.deleo@norotonchurch.org.

We are also gearing up for a time to appreciate and celebrate the volunteerism of all of those people who make Sunday mornings possible. This ranges from our Sunday School teachers who serve us faithfully in the classroom week after week to those who have contributed to Sunday morning worship. As you see our volunteers, whether in passing or intentionally, please be sure to extend your appreciation to them!

While living in Africa for two and a half years, I often prayed for the comfort of snow, something I didn't see while there. Feel free to blame me for all these snow days! God has blessed me

abundantly in my pursuit of snow, and I now excitedly wait for the warmth of spring. As seeds are planted in the harsh, winter earth, we remember that in the spring, the seeds become beautiful flowers. Just as God works within our lives, sometimes in harsh conditions, we know that His promise is always faithful. There is a season for everything, as we are so kindly reminded in Ecclesiastes. Let this be a season of joyous servitude to our church, our children and our God.



In His Grace,
Stefanie DeLeo
Director of Children's Ministry

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



February at the Nursery School was another busy and fun-filled month. With the deep snow on the ground we were grateful for the use of our indoor gym. The children sledded and took nature walks whenever possible. We celebrated Valentine's Day with handmade mailboxes and cards for our friends, teachers and parents. The fours attended the performance of Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and other favorites at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

Our Naturalist, Emily Ciffone, began a six week study on animals and their winter habitats. She focused on senses and how they are used for survival. The month ended with Darien's Winter Break. We are all looking forward to seeing grass again and watching for the children's tulip bulbs to pop through the earth.

Martha Duff
Director of NPNS



Tot Drop



In mid-February the registration process for standing reservations for the 2011-2012 school year began by sending packets to current and actively participating families, those families that are wait-listed and those registered but not yet attending Tot Drop; as March

goes forward, family requests will be confirmed depending on availability. It is challenging to maintain a balance between the requests for standing reservations and for “as-needed” reservations that are made month by month. Both are in great demand. (Those who only want reservations on an as-needed basis do not need to do anything at this time.)

If your family needs standing reservations for the fall or you need to line up summer care and you need a registration packet, please contact me by email (carol.scott@noroton-church.org) or call 203 202-9441.

January was a tough month at Tot Drop with snowstorms requiring four days closed, one delayed opening and two early closings. February followed along with another snow day and early closing. The pictures below show how some of our older Tot Droppers enjoyed the “white stuff” that most of the grown-up population wished would disappear!

Carol Scott,
Director of NPC Tot Drop



Sledding!



Thigh high fun!



Waist-high fun!



Even the “big kids” had fun!

Summer 2011 Youth Mission Opportunities!



We are excited to offer some excellent opportunities for students to serve this summer.

For each service opportunity there is an application available online that you will need to complete; the West Virginia and Dominican Republic trips require payment of the deposit and completion of the application to hold your spot.

Vacation Bible School- June 19-23, is an excellent opportunity to serve the children of Noroton without leaving home. Students grades 6-12 have the opportunity to serve as crew leaders, assistant crew leaders, station leaders/helpers, meal preparation, skits, music, and many other opportunities during the morning or evening VBS sessions. In addition, current students in grade 5 have the opportunity to serve as Counselor In Training (CIT) for the morning session. Volunteers will need to attend a mandatory training session either Sunday, June 5 at 12:00 pm or Friday, June 10 at 5:00 pm. CITS will need to attend a mandatory training session either Sunday May 15 at 12:00 pm or Friday June 10 at 4:00 pm. All applications will be online and confirmed through Student Ministries. We typically have more applicants than opportunities, so make sure to get your application in early. The deadline for applications is May 2, however, we will likely fill-up before the deadline.

Vacation With a Purpose (VWAP)- July 10-16, open to current 6-12 grade. Over 15 students from Noroton have been serving children in Dunlow, West Virginia. We will drive down in the church vans Sunday and Monday morning to prepare to lead VBS for children and youth in Dunlow. The afternoons are spent with the kids at the local pool. This trip is a fantastic way to build relationships with students and peers in a very different part of America. Students are given a wide variety of responsibilities in leading VBS; there is something available for everyone. We sleep in cabins at a nearby state park. The evenings are spent at the state park, sharing meals, playing games, and cobbler at the camp fire. The cost

for this trip is \$210 and that includes everything except meals on the road. Make sure to fill-out the online application. The deadline to sign-up is June 12. We will have a pre-trip meeting on Monday, June 20 at 7:00 pm in the Shac.



Dominican Republic- July 27-August 5, open to current 8-12th grade. Last year was our first summer to partner with Foundation for Peace in serving the people of the Dominican Republic. Last year we dug the foundation for a school. The local Dominicans have completed the walls and this summer we will be pouring the concrete roof. In addition to pouring the roof; we will serve in a medical clinic, worship with the Dominicans, spend an afternoon on the beach, and build relationships with both Dominicans and Americans. Please visit www.foundationforpeace.org for more information about our trip or talk with someone who went last year, it is a wonderful trip. To sign-up you will need to fill out an application on line and pay the deposit of \$500. The cost of the trip is \$1,500 per person. This is a significant increase from last year due to the fact that last year the trip was significantly funded by the church as we were exploring a new ministry. There is scholarship money available for those who need assistance. We will also offer assistance in how to write support letters for those who need additional financial help. Your online application is due by **June 13, 2011** along with your non-refundable deposit. Final payment is due July 1st.

Both **VWAP & Dominican Republic** applications will be online at www.npcstudentministries.org.

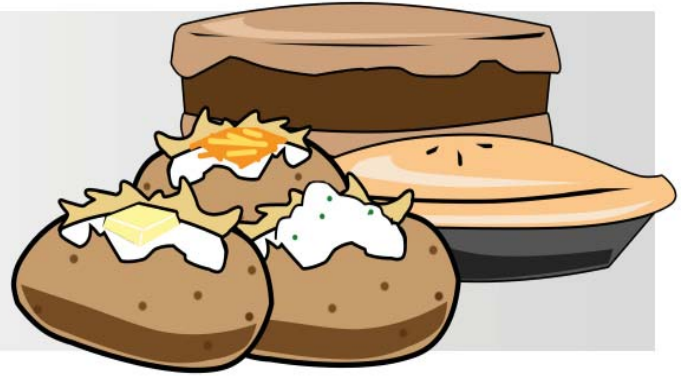
I am grateful for so many students who make service a significant part of their summer and pray that more of you will take advantage of these great service opportunities. Please contact anyone on the Student Ministries staff for questions.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Stuart

Student Ministry continued...



Fifth Annual Potato Lunch and Dessert Auction!



Fellowship, food, and supporting a great cause...what more could you want after worship? Come join us for the Student Ministries 5th Annual Potato Lunch and Dessert Auction Sunday, April 3 following the 10:30 service in Horton Hall. We will serve mouth-watering baked potatoes with all the fixing's, a donation is the cost for the lunch. Then see the incredible desserts baked by the men of NPC. These desserts will be auctioned off to

the highest bidder. Also, there will be a table of cookies and brownies available for a fixed donation.

Please come and support the Student Ministries by eating, baking, and/or bidding on a desert! All the proceeds from the auction will help fund the Student Ministries mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Bring your appetite and checkbook and you'll enjoy a great time of food and fellowship.

*We are in need of volunteers to help prepare/serve potatoes (this is a great way to get some service hours, confirmation students!).

Also, we need men and boys who like to bake! If you're interested in serving either way, please contact Kara in the Student Ministries Office ASAP.

Abby Young
Student Ministry Coordinator



A New Season



A new year always brings us unexpected turns in life, but I never imagined that a 3,000 mile roadtrip to Connecticut would be in store for 2011. As we traveled across the country, we reflected on where God had brought us, and the adventures in store for us at NPC.

After three and half years of living in Pasadena, CA and graduating from Fuller Theological Seminary, I was invited to join the staff of NPC as a Student Ministries Coordinator. My wife, Anne (pronounced Ah-na) and I have greatly appreciated the warmth and hospitality we have been shown during this first month at NPC. I am

surrounded with incredible co-workers who share my passion for ministry and building relationships.

There has been one statement that I have heard over and over while meeting people during the past month. "The weather usually isn't like this!". While I will miss the very mild winters of Southern California, I have come to appreciate the beauty that seasonal change can bring at this time of year in Connecticut.

In the days ahead, I pray that Anne and I will become deeply integrated into the life of this church, and earn your trust and friendship in the process.

NPC has a rich tradition of ministry in this area, and I pray that I can take the baton and keep the legacy alive in my ministry with students. I look forward to the year ahead, and trust that God will guide us as individuals and as a community to fulfill his purposes through our lives.

If I haven't met you yet, I hope it happens soon.

Ben Valentine
Student Ministry Coordinator

Membership Ministry



SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASS – TELL ME MORE!

When is the next class?

We have slightly changed the dates and times that were previously announced for the next New Member Class. The class will be held on four Sundays: March 13, March 20, April 3 and April 10, from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. (We are skipping March 27 because it coincides with the men's retreat and starting the class 15 minutes earlier.)

Why have a New Member Class?

I'm often asked why we have a new member class and require people joining the church to take it. The short answer is that in deciding to become a member of NPC you are making a commitment, and becoming part of a church fellowship and family. We think it's important that you know the values and faith of that family that you are joining!

The longer answer adds three additional points:

- Churches that ask more of members coming in the door find fewer leaving. Rather than just a church overview and meet/greet, we want to challenge people to think about their faith and discipleship!
- We have people joining from many different faith backgrounds and at different stages of their faith journey. The class creates a common starting point for all joining. Churches have historically had a practice of teaching "converts" before they join!
- Presbyterian churches differ in the way we follow Christ. We want to make sure members are okay with our beliefs about Scripture, spiritual practices, and history. As Pastor Sam says, Presbyterian churches are not like McDonalds – the same all over the country!

What can you expect from the New Member Class?

The membership class is a great way to:

- learn more about NPC
- build connections with other new members
- understand how the church can help you
- discover how you can be of service
- deepen your faith and discipleship

As a Christian, what can you expect if you become a member of NPC?

A very simple answer is that NPC is a vibrant and welcoming harbor for those seeking to:

- Start their faith – a place people can explore Christianity in a safe, loving context.
- Strengthen their faith – we provide all sorts of opportunities to build faith (small groups, Bible study, worship, retreats and mission trips).
- Share their faith with others – through word and deed.

Whether you are sure you want to become a member, or are noticing a gentle nudging from the Holy Spirit, please call me to discuss your interest and questions.

If you are already a member, please pass the word to friends, neighbors and family who might be considering membership that a class is about to start. Let them know they should feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 203-655-1451, ext. 14 or by email julie.colbath@noroton-church.org.

In Faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership



Mission Ministry

Note: Ernest is a third year journalism student at USIU in Nairobi, and also the eldest son of Rev. Evalyn Wakhusama, founder & director of WIKS (Women's Initiative on Knowledge and Survival) and Nambale Magnet School.

GIVE ME HOPE, GIVE ME LIFE

By Ernest Wamboye Wakhusama

What is life without hope? Hope gives us reason to live, to love and to make life worthwhile. Even kings find it vanity if in all their lifetime they gain wealth but have no hope for living to use it.

In a little town in Western Kenya, hope has been rekindled where it was once fading fast. In a village near the town, a middle aged lady from the farm carrying arrow roots demonstrates gratitude for the hope that one has put in her. She watches Evalyn Wakhusama's white Toyota Caldina drive along the murrum road of her village. With a wave of her hand she asks the lady in the Caldina to stop and buy her arrow roots. Poverty is common in this part of the country. The money she makes is important to her family. She hopes the lady in the Caldina promotes her farming. Evalyn stops. She likes the arrow roots so she picks a few for her relatives in the village. The lady from the farm quotes a price higher than the market price. She is convinced she is justified because the lady is driving a Caldina, and so she must be rich. Evalyn begins to bargain. She almost gets it at a good price when suddenly the unexpected occurs.

"Bukula, sindenya mapesa," the lady speaks in the local dialect which means; *Take them for free.*



Nambale Magnet School teacher with kindergarten students learning to count, add & subtract with bottles caps.

Evalyn is baffled at the sudden turn of events. The lady then affirms that she wants Evalyn to take the arrow roots at no charge. The lady narrates to Evalyn how she recognizes her as the founder of the two year old Magnet primary school near the town shopping centre. She exudes joy as she explains that her son now has the opportunity to an education as strong as the one offered in Nairobi, Kenya's modern capital city. Her son can now learn English and speak it because of Magnet school, she continues. Her son can now get equal opportunity to get into a national high school and there after university. The long term possibilities for her son are no longer a poor lady's dream but a reality. She finishes by stating that Evalyn has brought hope to them and for this reason cannot charge for the arrow roots.

This is one of many beautiful stories in the town of Nambale in Western Kenya. In the year 2002, free primary education was introduced by the government of Kenya. It proved to be quite a gift until the quality of education dwindled. Schools were filled to capacity with poor learning taking place. Nambale town was not left out in this misery. It is for this reason that a girl who grew and was brought up in this town decided to change the situation of her home.

Having studied at Yale for her masters in divinity, Evalyn returned to Kenya empowered intellectually, socially and culturally. With great power comes great responsibility. Evalyn understood that too well. Being the founder and chair of a mini-NGO called WIKS (Women's Initiative on Knowledge and Survival), she combined efforts with her Kenyan counterparts and friends she made in the US to begin a primary school that offers quality education just like the reputable ones in urban Kenya. She aimed, she threw and she hit the target



Ernest with his parents Rev. Evalyn & Sam Wakhusama, his older sister Wendy, John Parker of NPC and friends celebrating his 21st birthday.

right on. WIKS identified a social problem in Nambale; orphans, many whose parents were claimed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The majority of these children lacked basic education.

Now celebrating two years, Nambale Magnet School boasts of 20 full time staff and faculty and 120 students. Of these 70 are sponsored orphans. The assistant chief of the Nambale area together with many other residents are witnesses of the marvelous opportunity provided by the Magnet school.

"A landless widow abandoned by her family has hope in her child who is getting an education," she allowed us to know.

The vision of the school is inspired to excellence. With all the support received from foreign donors and Kenyan citizens the school will grow to be just exactly that; a school of excellence in all its endeavors.

Continued on page 11...



Nambale Magnet School teacher with primary students climbing the bars that they had very creatively painted by themselves.

Congregational Life Ministry



First Saturday in March ...

The next church-wide fellowship event is **Saturday, March 5th.**

'Dinner & A Movie' night!

Dinner: Starts at 6pm (Horton Hall opens at 5:30)

Movie: Starts at 7pm (runs 140 minutes)

- **Child Care** for '6 months to Under 5'
Requires advance registration.
- **Rides for Seniors** who might otherwise not come out for an evening activity

Look for posters at various spots around the church, as well as BROCHURES in information kiosks in close proximity to the posters. These include a TEAR OFF Registration Form for various items.

Come join in this easy-night-out for the family.

Dinner will be a **Chili (or stew) Cook-Off**, which we encourage/invite those who like to cook to participate in. This is NOT required, but fun for those who have a favorite recipe to share, or a new one they're anxious to try. Congregational Life team members will provide various types, as well as toppings, side dishes, beverages and etc.



If you do choose to bring a dish, we'd love to know in advance so that we can plan accordingly. Email me (valerie.muller@norotonchurch.com), or fill out a 'Chili Participation Form' available in the brochure as well as on the Noroton website.

The movie will be C.S.Lewis-inspired **Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader**. This film is engaging for adults and children alike. Themes include: facing fears, family relationships, teamwork, cooperation, imagination, etc. There will be discussion of what to look for during dinner.

Pick up a brochure, or check online, for more details and/or to register (for child care, chili/stew participation, senior ride needs). **Friends and neighbors are welcome too!**

Hope to see many of you 'at the movies' ...

* * * * *

Help Welcome New Members

We'll be facilitating a Sunday morning four-session class, starting on **March 13th**. So, if you see some new faces in our hallways and sanctuary, be sure to greet and welcome them, as well and see if they need help.

Valerie Muller,
Director of Congregational Life

Mission Ministry continued...

Continued from page 10...

Note: Nambale Magnet School is a mission project of NPC. In 2010, NPC contributed \$10,000 towards the operating costs of the school.

All photos were taken by Marilyn Parker. The two of the children at Nambale Magnet School were taken in July, 2010 when she and John visited NMS.

To view Ernest's Nambale Magnet School video, and for more information about the school, please see www.nambalemagnet.org – and if you have questions, please contact Marilyn or John – parkerma@juno.com and parkerj@asme.org or Evalyn – e.wakhusama@gmail.com



Rev. Evalyn Wakhusama with Ginger and Reed Morgan at the supper in Fellowship Hall January 27th.

NPC News

In Loving Memory of...

February 13th

Gail Whiteside

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

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

February 20th:

Vivienne Hines Bickmeyer,
daughter of
Todd and Laura Bickmeyer

It's Easy to be of Service!

Got 15? Minutes, that is, just once a month! Your smiling face and warm handshake will help make our church a welcoming place. Greeters are needed before the 9 and 10:30 services. Please contact Julie Colbath, ext. 14 or julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

If you would like to submit an article for the April 2011 issue please submit it to: Rose Cunningham by email to rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

Register Now for the Spring New Member Class

The next New Members Class will take place on four Sundays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.:
March 13, March 20, April 3, and April 10. To register or for questions, please contact Julie Colbath, 203-655-1451, ext. 14 or julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Staff here to serve you!

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III.....ext. 11 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Valerie Muller.....ext. 48 <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Martha Duff.....ext. 35 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Leslie Ezzo.....ext. 33 <i>Session, Weddings & Baptisms</i>	Claire Bragdon.....ext. 40 <i>Assistant</i>	Barbara Magee.....ext. 37 <i>NPNS Office Manager</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....ext. 21 <i>Pastor of Caring and Women's Ministry</i>	Dwayne Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Julie Colbath.....ext. 14 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Gale Baldwin.....ext. 47 <i>Parish Associate</i>	Jenifer Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Music Associate</i>	Dan Rosa.....ext. 43 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Lori Nelson.....ext. 44 <i>Assistant</i>	Jen Hanley.....ext. 22 <i>Assistant</i>	Claire Bragdon.....ext. 40 <i>Assistant & Bookkeeper</i>
Pastor Stuart Smith.....ext. 28 <i>Pastor of Student Ministry</i>	Josiah Armes..... <i>Sanctuary Organist</i>	David Lee.....ext. 26 <i>Director of Properties</i>
Ben Valentine.....ext. 24 <i>Student Ministry Coordinator</i>	Bunny Ericsson..... <i>Chapel Organist</i>	Julio Yika, Luis Toro.....ext. 26 & Brian Wood, <i>Weekday Sextons</i>
Abby Young.....ext. 25 <i>Student Ministry Coordinator</i>	Stefanie DeLeo.....ext. 34 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Tony Dimeglio, Giovanni Morle, Herold Robert & Lenin Vargas.....ext. 26 <i>Night & Weekend Sextons</i>
Kara Thompson.....ext. 19 <i>Assistant</i>	Samantha Theoret.....ext. 31 <i>Children's Ministry Coordinator</i>	
Pastor Greg Doll.....ext. 23 <i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	Liz Morelli.....ext. 15 <i>Assistant</i>	
Marlene Moffett.....ext. 49 <i>Assistant</i>	Carol Scott.....ext. 46 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	
	Claire Bragdon.....ext. 40 <i>Assistant</i>	

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	5
		6:15 a.m. Women's Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grd Harbor 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7:15 a.m. Men's Study Darien 2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	6:00 p.m. Dinner and a Movie	
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - K's. 1st - 12th grades remain in worship. 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 7:00 p.m. Ignite Night	12:15 p.m. Women's Study 3:00 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Study NYC 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults 6:00 p.m. Tres Dias 7:00 p.m. 6th Grade Harbor 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp. 8:00 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting 8:00 p.m. Nominating Meeting	Ash Wednesday 6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 p.m. Worship Service 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grd Harbor 7:30 p.m. Worship Service 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 7:15 p.m. Alpha Training 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7:15 a.m. Men's Study Darien 2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	8:00 a.m. Alpha Course	12
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - 12th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:15 a.m. New Member Class 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 7:00 p.m. Ignite	12:15 p.m. Women's Study 3:00 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Study NYC 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp. 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grd Harbor 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7:15 a.m. Men's Study Darien 2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.		19
Private School Break Mission Trip 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - 12th Grades 10:15 a.m. New Member Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 7:00 p.m. Ignite	Private School Break Mission Trip 3:00 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	Private School Break Mission Trip 6:15 a.m. Women's Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Study NYC 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 7:30 p.m. 6th Grade Harbor 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	Private School Break Mission Trip 6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grd Harbor 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	Private School Break Mission Trip 9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	Private School Break Mission Trip Men's Retreat 2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	Men's Retreat 7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast	26
Men's Retreat 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - 12th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 7:00 p.m. Ignite	12:15 p.m. Women's Study 3:30 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Study NYC 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grd Harbor 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			31