

The Spire

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



New Year, New Resolutions?

A New Year is a time for some new resolutions. Yes, I'm one of those guys who likes to make a few New Year's resolutions. They help me to focus my time and energies in the year ahead. I am a firm believer that first we make our priorities and then they make us. But I do have to admit that I've grown rather repetitive in my annual resolutions. Each year I find the same goals making the list – lose those same 10 to 15 pounds, read another 20 books, save more, spend less, pray more, watch less TV. Every year some progress is made, with the exception of those 10 to 15 pounds - they seem to come back to visit again between Thanksgiving and Christmas. So what should I resolve to do in 2014? I'm ready to get a bit more creative this year. Anyone care to join me?

May I make some suggestions for spiritual growth? I'll let you and your financial advisor work on the career and fiscal goals. Some years I've committed to reading through the Bible. Rick Warren (Pastor and author of, *The Purpose Driven Life*) does this every year.

One of the most helpful tools to use is a "Through the Bible in One Year" edition. You simply open to the appropriate date and read the selections. The best versions will give you an Old Testament passage, a New Testament Passage and either a Psalm or Proverb for the day. With this method, you're not as likely to become "bogged down" in Leviticus and lose your motivation, and, you are more likely to find something spiritually stirring each day. Another great resolution could be to make a significant investment of time in your spiritual development and in fellowship with others. Try joining a small group for a season (we have them for all ages – contact Pastor Greg's assistant, Marlene), go on the women's retreat in March or our men's retreat in October. Maybe the time has come to travel with our church family on one of our yearly pilgrimages to Christian Heritage sites.

Or think about volunteering in one of our many ministries or singing in the choir. Although it's difficult to add one of these habits without giving up something else in your schedule, the trade off is always worthwhile. Another goal could be to do more to help those around us this year.

continued on page 2...

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 1/5/14 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
Remembrance Sunday -
During worship, we will remember those who went home to the Lord in 2013.
- 1/12/14 - Pastor Greg Doll
- 1/19/14 - Pastor Brandi Drake
- 1/26/14 - Rev. Dr. Heather Wright, Guest

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

1/19 and 2/16 10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary service. To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-655-1451, ext. 33.

Table of Contents

<i>Foundations for the Future</i>	3
Adult Spiritual Formation.....	4-5
Caring & Women's Ministry.....	6-7
Children's & Youth Ministry	8-9
NPNS.....	10-11
Tot Drop	12
Congregational Life Ministry	12-13
Music & Fine Arts.....	13
Membership Ministry	14
Mission Ministry	15
NPC Calendar of Events	insert
NPC News & NPC Staff	16

continued from front page...

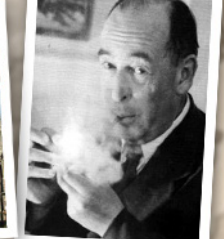
We could resolve to pray every day for our family, or pray for the families in the neighborhood as we walk or drive by. How about inviting one new friend into the wonderful fellowship of Sunday morning services or to attend one of our special events, such as the Noroton lectures? Invite a coworker to the men's study or a new mom to the Oasis ministry or Moms of Teens group. Encourage your children to ask a friend to join them at Sunday school or our Wednesday JAM music ministry. These are resolutions that will bless you and those you invite as well.

I know some of us are hesitant to make resolutions because come February, we often have little "resolve" and lots of guilt. Here's my strategy: I don't obsess over the ones I break, I just celebrate the ones I make. So let's resolve to start a new spiritual discipline in 2014. Remember what Paul said to his protégé, Timothy – *physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (1 Timothy 4:8).*

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

The English Roots of Our Faith: From John Knox to C.S. Lewis

10 Day Inspirational Tour with Pastor Sam Schreiner



July 12-21, 2014

Please join Pastor Sam and other church members on the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism in Scotland, to explore our Presbyterian roots in the Scottish Reformation and the blossoming of Christianity in England. Enjoy the great company of fellow pilgrims as we explore together inspirational church architecture and informational tours of the historic cities of St. Andrews, Edinburgh, York, and London. Join us in strolls through the famous university towns of Oxford and Cambridge as we explore the legacy of C. S. Lewis, one of the most influential Christian writers of the 20th century.

Come to a trip information meeting on
January 27, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room and
to learn more about this trip and a possible trip
extension to the Oxbridge conference on C.S. Lewis.

For more information and registration visit www.norotonchurch.org.

**There is no regular
Team Night in January.
Individual teams will meet
at their discretion.
Please contact your team
leaders to see if your team
is meeting and when.**

Prime Timers

Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
Pastor Greg Doll will share a meaningful theme.

For more information contact
Marlene Moffett (203-655-1451, ext 49)
or Rita Hornlein (203-357-1504).

Foundations For The Future

January 2014 Progress Report

Strengthening our Foundation:

APPROVED!! All our prayers and hard work have come together resulting in Planning & Zoning approval of the *Foundations* building plan. In the coming months the Building Committee will be working hard to identify and select a general contractor as our partner in constructing the new building and grounds. Please continue to pray for wisdom and discernment as the Committee deals with an endless series of decisions.

As we write this you can see construction equipment in front of the church and tape closing the front walk to the Chapel. You may also have encountered some inconvenience from closed driveways when arriving at the church during the week. While this is not the beautiful view we are all used to enjoying from the Post Road or the warm, inviting entrance we want, it is the price we have to pay for the wonderful new building to come.

God's Grace Through Your Giving:

As of December 9th we are blessed to have received \$8,180,000 of the \$13,548,771 that we pledged. The amount received so far still represents 60% of our total pledges. We are so grateful to our faithful and sacrificial givers.

As we look toward the second anniversary of the *Foundations for the Future* campaign and the beginning of the building process, we encourage you to keep your commitment on track. Your faithfulness strengthens the Building Committee as it plans construction expenditures. If you have not pledged, but would like to do so, please contact Dan Rosa (dan.rosa@norotonchurch.org).

May the Lord be glorified in all we do to strengthen His foundation at NPC!

Dick and Jean Ann Bollman
Tom Taylor

Foundations for the Future Progress Team



Adult Spiritual Formation



Noroton Lectures 2014

This year our Noroton Lecturer is a C.S. Lewis scholar (see bio below). It is my conviction that Lewis is the most influential Protestant of the 20th Century. It is not hard to imagine his writings continuing to guide and influence the Church for centuries to come. In anticipation of our speaker's arrival, I am recommending several resources for your consideration. These materials could be used in small groups or read individually. They will all in some way prepare you and whet your appetite for Dr. Root's lectures.

Adult Books by C.S. Lewis

1. *Mere Christianity*
2. *The Problem of Pain*
3. *The Screwtape Letters*
4. *Surprised by Joy*
5. *Till We Have Faces*
6. *The Abolition of Man*
7. *The Great Divorce*
8. *The Weight of Glory*
9. *A Grief Observed*

Children's books and videos by C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia (both book and video form).

Books and videos about C.S. Lewis

1. *The Shadowlands* (biographical film about Lewis' life).
2. *The Question of God* (4-part PBS series featuring Harvard professor Armand Nicholi discussing Lewis and Freud).
3. *C.S. Lewis* (biography of Lewis by authorized biographer Walter Hooper).
4. *Between Heaven and Hell* (Boston College Professor Peter Kreeft created a fictional dialogue between three famous men who all died on the same day -- C.S. Lewis, John F. Kennedy and Aldous Huxley).

Dr. Jerry Root

Dr. Jerry Root is an associate professor at Wheaton College where he teaches graduate courses in the MA in Evangelism and Leadership Program as well as courses in the undergraduate Christian Formation and Ministry Department. In addition, Jerry is a visiting professor at Biola University and Talbot Graduate School of Theology (La Mirada, Calif.). He is also the director of the Evangelism Initiative at Wheaton College and associate director of the Billy Graham Center Institute of Strategic Evangelism.

Jerry has written *C. S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil: an Investigation of a Pervasive Theme*, co-authored *The Sacrament of Evangelism*, and also co-authored and co-edited *The Soul of C. S. Lewis: A Meditative Journey through*

Twenty-six of His Best Loved Writings.

He is co-editor, with Wayne Martindale, of the best-selling and award-winning *The Quotable C. S. Lewis*. Jerry has authored numerous articles and contributed many chapters to other books on topics related to C.S. Lewis. Jerry is also the consulting editor of the new Harper Collins *C. S. Lewis Bible*. He has lectured on C. S. Lewis at 52 college or university campuses and in 15 countries around the world. He has taught college and graduate courses on C. S. Lewis for 32 consecutive years.



Peace and blessings,
Pastor Greg Doll

Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Adult Spiritual Formation

Noroton Lectures 2014

Featuring Guest Speaker: **Dr. Jerry Root, renowned C.S. Lewis scholar**

February 8 & 9

8:00-9:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 8 in Horton Hall

All men are invited to join us for a continental breakfast, fellowship and a lecture.

10:00-11:30 a.m. - Women's Coffee

Saturday, February 8 in Horton Hall

All women are invited to join us for coffee, refreshments, fellowship and a lecture.

7:00 -8:30 p.m. - Keynote Address

Saturday, February 8 in Horton Hall

All are welcome to the evening lecture.

Sunday, February 9 - Worship Services

8:00 a.m. - Chapel / 9 & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

Join us for any of our Sunday morning services.

Registration through our website www.norotonchurch.org or by contacting Marlene Moffett at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451, ext. 49.

Setting New Year's Resolutions?

How about committing to read through the entire Bible in a year (for the first time or once again)? You can find a daily online companion through Bible 365, which begins its study of Genesis on January 1, 2014 and ends with the Book of Revelation in December 2014. You can sign up at www.listeningforGod.org to receive daily emails with links to scripture, reflections, and applications. The mail arrives in the early morning, but you can open it at your convenience.

Bible 365 is produced by Ted Sanborn and family with insights from biblical experts such as C.S. Lewis, Eugene Peterson, William Barclay, and others. "Let there be light (Genesis 1:3)." Shalom.

Men's Bible Study:

"Moses and Mark: A Modern Conversation."

We continue our concurrent study of the Book of Deuteronomy and the Gospel of Mark. It takes place in NYC on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. at The Yale Club (Clarence Day Room), 50 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of 44th St., across from the western entrance to Grand Central Station and in Horton Hall on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.

For more information please contact Marlene at marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

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

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

Small groups: are a great way to get involved and make friends in the church. Small groups are made up of 8 to 12 adults who meet weekly or every other week on various days or evenings of the week for friendship and Bible study, or to read a book together. Contact Marlene at 203-655-1451 ext. 49 to get plugged into a group that fits your schedule and interest. You can also visit the church website www.norotonchurch.org for more info.

Weekly Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday in the Parlor from 1:15-2:15 p.m. Come and pray for needs of our church family. Everyone is welcome – no prayer experience necessary! For more information please contact Marlene at 203-655-1451 ext. 49.

Would You Like to Stay Connected and Join Our Email List? We send email blasts to the congregation with general church updates, prayer requests, special events and more. If you're not receiving these email notices and would like to, please contact Claire Bragdon in the church main office, 203-655-1451 ext. 40 or email claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org to be added to the list.

Caring & Women's Ministries

~*My cup overflows.* Psalm 23:5b



Okay. Deep breath. Another year.

How goes it with your soul? Are you feeling poured out, or filled up these days? Let's face it: We're constantly being asked to give. Time. Resources. Energy. And it's marvelous to be able to participate actively in what Christ might be up to in the world—through giving. But if you're pouring out on your own strength, from your own finite resources, you'll grow weary. And empty. Guaranteed. I don't know about you, but when I find myself trying to 'pour out' on my own, I grow weary, and sometimes even resentful. My kids want to be nowhere near me when I get this way.

What to do? How does one 'pour out' from the abundance of what they've received, a-la David, in Psalm 23 who says my cup overflows.

I have an idea! Put yourself in places where you can receive gifts from God. God wants us to live in abundance, and he has indeed prepared a feast for us (also Psalm 23!).

What can we feast on? Times of encouragement from other believers. Prayer. Scripture. Worship. Study or mission trips. It's all so rich and relevant to us. If you haven't tried a Bible Study or a Small group yet at NPC, now's the time! And I'm continually astounded at the way we can notice God together in worship. Our Stephen Ministers and Prayer team are steadfast and present for those who ask for intercession and presence.

My prayer for our church family is that we can be a place where spiritually hungry people get fed, and dry people walk away with cups overflowing. God has done marvelous things. Indeed.

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

Women's Studies

Monday Lunchtime Study: resumes January 13, 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Join this thoughtful group of women as they pour through scripture and support one another in prayer! Led by Beth Peelle: 203-856-7092.

Tuesday Morning Bible Studies:

6:15-7:15 a.m. in the Parlor: resumes January 7. We will study the Book of Hebrews right up until Easter.

9:30-11:15 a.m. in Horton Hall: resumes January 7. We will be working on the book of James until the beginning of March.

OASIS Moms Ministry: We resume on January 9th.

Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Horton Hall. This is a study especially for moms with young children. How can you honor God as you love and raise your kids? Come to learn, meet other moms, and be comforted. This morning is led by a team of veteran moms—what a beautiful group! Childcare waiting list only.

Moms of Teens: We will be reading a new book *Parenting Teens with Love and Logic* by Foster Cline and Jim Fay, starting January 9th which will be available January 2nd. Thursdays 12:00-1:15 in the SHAC. This group of moms have lots in common as they walk through the adolescent years of their kids together! B.Y.O lunch, and we spend time praying and reading relevant books! Led by Sallie Schmidt and Laurie Bessey.



NPC Women's Retreat

March 7-9, 2014 Warwick, NY (New month this year!)

"Shaped by God"

Scripture uses the image of God as potter from the Psalms through to the early Christian church.

What does it mean for us to be like clay in the potter's hands?

There is always a lot of laughter, mingled with silence and reflection.

Co-Chairs are Pam Zangrillo and Judy Phillips.

This year we are limited to 110 women so sign up early to guarantee your spot!

Online registration is on the NPC website under Women's Ministry.

DIVORCE Care[®]

DivorceCare is a confidential weekly seminar for people who are separated or divorced. It is a safe place where people can be around others who understand what they're experiencing, and where they can learn valuable information about healing from the hurt of divorce.

Come once or often for support and care. Join at any time! Non-members welcome.

Mondays, January 6 – April 7, 2014 in the Parlor, 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.

No meetings on January 20 and February 17.

\$15 for workbook with scholarships available.

Children's and Youth Ministries



Minute with Mickie wondering about 2014

Wow. Did this year ever go fast for me. Here we are in the New year and it is almost time to celebrate my 2nd anniversary with you all. So much has happened in

Children's and Youth ministry. I get excited just thinking about it. Now we look to what we can do together in 2014. There will be some challenges facing us with the renovations, offices moving and parking lot rearranging, but it will be a wonderful adventure. Like pregnancy, we endure the discomfort knowing that the "birth" will be so totally worth it.

For the immediate future, January through May our Sunday school ministry will remain intact. Horton Hall will still be checkered with Tents, JAM will use Horton Hall for rehearsal on Wednesdays and there will continue to be Take it Home Events in our effort to equip families with the tools you need to share faith with your children. In the Youth Ministry area, Confirmation will keep going with Pastor Greg, Middle School Sunday school will be offered during 9:00 and 10:30 services under the capable teaching of Sarah and Tom, and our Youth group ministries will still have access to the SHAC. Youth Mission Trips will still happen both April Spring Break and during the summer. How great is that?

As we project out into the summer for Children's ministry, we will need to start thinking about a fresh way to do Vacation Bible School. Won't that be fun? I love challenges as I have always viewed them as opportunities to see God doing new and creative things. I get excited thinking about all the possibilities for God to surprise us in 2014.

So, what's ahead? My goal is to intentionally move us all smoothly through these transitional months with purposeful ministry experiences that will deepen our relationship with God and each other. I will be working with both the Children and the Youth Ministry teams to develop an intentional educational plan that will help us be unified in what we are teaching our children from ages three to eighteen. This plan will include Sunday morning classes, mid-week programs, Small groups, Bible studies and intentional integration with other ministries like Missions, Deacons, Worship and Music, and Congregational Life just to mention a few. The purpose is to deepen our relationship with Jesus through involvement in our church with one another.

I'm hoping this excites you too and that you would like to get involved. Want to know what is already planned in 2014? Go to www.norotonchurch.org and check out the Children and Youth pages. Call me with your ideas too. It's going to be a great adventure in 2014. I get excited just thinking about it!

For the Love of Wonder,
Mickie O'Donnell
*Director of Children's Ministry
& Interim Director of Youth Ministry*



I am so happy to call NPC my new home!!

Hello! It is great to finally be here and a part of the NPC Family. You all have made me feel welcome, whether by dinner invites, welcome parties at Middle School/ High School meetings, or short notes on Facebook, it has been a joy to form new relationships.

One of my favorite verses is Proverbs 3:5-6 which says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." When I first heard about the opportunity here at NPC, I was reminded how important it was to trust God as I considered where God may be calling me to go. Who would have thought God was calling me to Darien, Connecticut (from New Hampshire) to do my dream job. How true it is, when we seek God for his plan, He makes that path known to us. It's a joy and an answer to prayer to be here with you all doing full- time youth ministry. I look forward to getting to know you all better, planning new events, and more importantly, joining in the mission of sharing the gospel here in Darien.

8th grade Retreat

With the Christmas season coming to an end and a celebration of the New Year, we encourage all current 8th graders to join us for an exciting 8th grade retreat, **January 10-12**. Besides getting to hang out with Tom, Mickie, and I, it is an opportunity to grow in your faith, hang out with friends, and have a really great time. Some highlights include: the ropes course, KGB Game, and of course, really delicious food. We would love to have you and your other 8th grade friends who may not attend NPC, join us. **Cost is \$165** and sign-ups can be done online. We hope you will join us for an unforgettable weekend. Always check the website www.norotonchurch.org for on-going activities and special events!



Blessings,

Sarah Swible,
Youth Ministries Coordinator

Ski Trip



The Youth Ministry just celebrated the season with our annual Progressive Dinner and gift exchange event, and it was splendid! A great big thank you to all the students who participated and the families who hosted us!

With the new year here, it's time for us to fulfill the resolution we all made to ski/snowboard more! Come join the NPC Youth Ministry staff on our annual **Ski Trip**. We will be heading to Okemo from **January 31st to February 2nd**. This is a wonderful trip for anyone who enjoys the popular down-hill snow sports such as skiing, snowboarding, sledding, and, my personal favorite, sitting at base camp drinking hot cocoa! This trip will be an awesome time of fellowship and fun, getting to know each other, and hitting the slopes. Hopefully there is some sweet powder, and no run

rubbish or vermin, so we won't slam or yard sale while traversing tree wells and hypercarve or jibb some righteous inverters (I don't ski or snowboard and have no idea what any of that means).

This trip is open to families and children of all ages. All youth who are currently in 9th grade and up are welcome to come without their parents. The cost is \$350 per person, and \$250 if you don't need lift tickets. More information and sign up is online. Space is limited so don't wait! See you on the slopes!

Tom Fagan
Youth Ministries Coordinator



Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



2013 wrapped up with so many exciting activities. After the amazing success of the Thanksgiving Food drive, the children started collecting mittens, gloves and hats for children in our area. The NPNS Christmas Tree was decorated with the items they collected and was a beautiful

display at our annual Christmas Chapel. The month of December is a short one for us here, but was stuffed full of celebrating Jesus' birthday. The children acted out the Nativity story in their classrooms, listened to Ms. Mickie share the Advent story with them, practiced singing lots of Christmas songs, and searched for Gingerbread Men cookies that had escaped and were hiding in the school. One of my favorite moments is when the two year olds visit classrooms and offices, looking for the Gingerbread cookies they made.

We are eager for the new year and all the wonderful experiences we will have with the children. Of course, we are always hoping for snow too. The children love to sled on the hill behind Pastor Doll's house. Orientations for the 2014-15 school year will begin in early January. If you know of any families looking for a nursery school ask them to visit our website at www.npns.org and sign up for an orientation.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.

God Bless You,
Martha Duff and the
NPNS teachers and staff



Mrs. Jalakas visits Heili's classroom and reads a favorite book.



Marlo is making playdough cookies for Christmas.



Ms. Mickie shares the Advent story with room 15 three year olds.



The Pre-K class performs Christmas carols for the NPC Prime Timers' luncheon.



Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



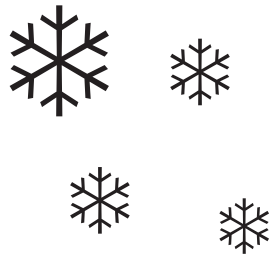
Eliza and Fred dress as Mary and Joseph for their class nativity performance.



Lilly plays out the nativity story with her classroom's creche.



Arjun, Blake, Ben and Liam decorate gifts for their parents.



Mrs. Blake visits Alexander's classroom and helps make gingerbread.



Emma and Graham read bible stories together in class.



Madeline and Stellan decorate their classroom's Christmas tree.



Room 13 four year olds act out the Nativity story.

Congregational Life Ministry

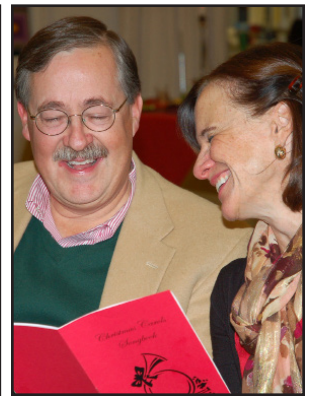


We finished 2013 with a flurry ... !

We held our annual Volunteer Celebration at the beginning of December ... allowing us to say 'Thank you!' to the hundreds of members/friends (over 500 in 2013!) who help throughout the year, taking care of the many details necessary to keep our programs running smoothly.

Pastor Sam and members of the NPC staff regaled those present with some specially written lyrics to 'Twelve Days of Christmas' and 'Deck The Halls' ...

Below are some photos of the event ...



Congregational Life Ministry

Welcome 2014 ... !!!

We invite you to get more involved

As we begin another calendar year, our team would like to encourage ALL members/friends to explore some new possibilities, make some new friends, and deepen friendships and faith. We are here to help you make contact, and explore new ways to be involved in the work of the Church.

Please contact me at any time. We can talk on the phone, email, or visit in person. I/we would love to help you become more involved.

In fellowship together,
Valerie Muller
Director of Congregational Life
valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org
or 203-655-1451



Music & Fine Arts



Thank You

Thanks to all our NPC singers and instrumentalists. You truly made this Advent and Christmas season one to remember. Well done!

Blessings,
Dwayne Condon
Director of Music



Membership Ministry

Focus on Ministry: Membership



Alphyn Moore, who joined NPC two years ago, gave her membership testimony at three of our four Sunday services on November 24. Please take a few minutes to read about her remarkable journey of faith and how NPC members supported her on that walk.

"It is my honor and pleasure to tell you about my experience in becoming a member of this church in Feb. of 2012.

"As a brief personal background, I was the second eldest of 4 children living in Chappaqua with a mother who twice divorced. My reaction to this disorganized family, punctuated by alcoholism, was to study hard and earn some college scholarships.

"My faith background was mixed, including being a Catholic, Quaker, Congregationalist, Episcopalian and now, of course, a Presbyterian. My personal relationship with Christ began in 1983 when my 29-year old brother died suddenly. I did not want to be bitter and knew that I needed more than my strength alone. I've learned that 'I can do the natural, and God does the supernatural.'

"I was introduced to NPC in 2009 when I met with a Stephen Minister who was introduced to me by a friend and longstanding member here. At the time, I was deeply depressed because I could not find work after my job loss in April 2008. My Stephen Minister gently introduced me to the church.

"First, she suggested I try the Women's 6:15 Tuesday morning Bible Study. In advance, she had asked a church member and good friend to welcome me. This detailed care is what I have found continually in this church.

"I next studied the Alpha Course and learned the extraordinary value of small group discussions which permeate NPC's teaching and fellowship. Then I joined a Divorce Care group.

"My Stephen Minister's next suggestion was to join the Choir. The same wonderful greeter at the early Bible Study welcomed me into the Choir.

"I also attended two Women's Retreats. After the first one, in Jan. 2012, I participated in the New Members Class which was instructional, inspiring and enjoyable.

After the class, I joined NPC.

"In June of this year, I was ordained a Deacon. Earlier this month, I helped with our amazing 150th Anniversary celebration and, on Dec. 15, I get to sing in the Chapel's beautiful Vespers Services.

"I remember hearing a Bible story long ago of Peter who, while in prison, was visited by an Angel who told him to teach to the nations. He was incredulous because, not only was he behind bars, he didn't know other languages. The Angel said 'Put on your sandals.'

"I took my first step at NPC when I received the Lord's Care through a Stephen Minister. NPC continues to teach me how to walk with our Lord."

- Alphyn Moore

Next Opportunity to Join NPC

The Membership Team extends a warm invitation to attend the next New Member Class on Saturday, **January 11, 2014, Noon to 5:30 p.m.** New members will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, January 12 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Free childcare is provided for children 3 mos. to 4 years.

The class is interesting, faith-deepening and fun! It offers an opportunity to:

- learn more about NPC's great ministries and programs, and how to get involved
- build community with others in small group discussions
- enjoy fellowship with all the participants, pastors, volunteers and staff
- strengthen your knowledge and faith through teachings by the pastors

If you are considering taking the class, but have questions, concerns or would like additional information, please let me know. To register, email me so I have your name, and then return the registration profile found on the Membership page of the church website before January 3rd, if possible. You can also attend the class for information now, and then take your vows later (within a year of the class).

Working our faith,
Julie Colbath

Director of Membership

julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org or 203-655-1451

Mission News



Often we highlight the various activities we do to help support the work of mission in our church... serving at the Shelter, buying groceries for the needy, etc. Serving and giving in this way is crucial, Matthew 22:39 "love your neighbor as yourself", however as followers of Christ we are also called to "pray continually," 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and to gather to pray, "where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them," Matthew 18:19. During our annual mission retreat the Mission team sensed a renewed call to become more prayerful and in response to this we are launching a call to encourage you to become an active part of the Mission prayer ministry. We are thankful that many of you incorporate prayers for NPC mission work in your daily prayers, and for the Thursday lunchtime prayer team, but we would like to develop a prayer initiative that will really energize our Mission ministry and ask that the Holy Spirit is poured out on the ministries we support. Praying for our ministries is also a great way to be involved if you are unable to go away on mission trips or get involved in other ways.

You can sign up for a weekly update with specific prayer requests from our missionaries and the ministries we support on our NPC website in the Mission section on Prayer, or you can call or email me. Participating in this new initiative will also be a great way to learn more about the ministries and grow in faith as we celebrate answered prayer.

You could also let us know if you feel called to meet with a small group and pray for a particular mission ministry. We have recently formed a small group to pray for Kittery Van Sciver during her pregnancy and to pray for Artie and Kittery's ministry with Campus Outreach. (meeting 11-11:30 p.m. one Thursday each month) We would like to see more focus groups like this develop.

As Pastor Brandi often says, "lets do the work of the church.... Let us pray together"....and see what amazing things God will do!

In Christ,
Stella Clarke
Mission Associate

Ways to Serve

Open Door Shelter, Norwalk - January 4, 26 and February 1. Contact Holly Hough to sign up hough7@optonline.net.

Carver Career Fair – End of January date to follow If you are interested in participating (telling the Norwalk students about your profession) at the fair, please contact Trish Ryan at pmr49@att.net.

New Prayer ministry

If you are interested in joining a small group meeting monthly on a Thursday morning at 11-11:30 a.m. (right after Oasis finishes) to pray for Kittery Van Sciver (Campus Outreach and wife of Artie) as she goes through the final months of her normal pregnancy, please contact stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org.

If you are interested in starting a similar small group to pray for any of our other missionaries and mission partners please contact stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org.



Delivering Dove Gifts



Angel Tree Gifts

Dove

Thank you to all who donated or delivered Dove packages last weekend! Through your generosity NPC served 35 families with holiday meals!

Angel Tree

Thank you to all who donated or delivered Angel Tree gifts! 61 families (119 children) received gifts sent on behalf of their incarcerated parents. What a blessing!

Open Doors

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK? So are we! "Like" our page - "Open Doors at Noroton Presbyterian" - for updates on sermon topics, links to cool sites, and to find out what's for dinner. Questions? Contact Seana (Seanagt@aol.com).

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Anyone who wishes to give flowers to the glory of God and in honor or memory of a loved one should call Claire Bragdon at 203-655-1451 in the Church Office. The cost is \$50 and the donor may request a date for the flowers.

A check payable to NPC may be placed in the Flower Team mailbox in the Mail Room. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

If you would like to submit an article for the February 2014 issue please submit it before January 15 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner IIIext. 11 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Dwayne Condonext. 45 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Martha Duff.....ext. 35 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....ext. 21 <i>Pastor of Caring and Women's Ministry</i>	Mickie O'Donnell.....ext. 34 <i>Director of Children's Ministry & Interim Director of Youth Ministry</i>	Julie Colbathext. 14 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Greg Doll.....ext. 23 <i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	Stella Clarke.....ext. 18 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	Dan Rosa.....ext. 43 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Valerie Muller.....ext. 48 <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Carol Scottext. 46 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	David Lee.....ext. 26 <i>Director of Properties</i>

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			New Year's Day NPC Offices Closed			8:30 a.m. Officers Retreat
5 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-5th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	6 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	7 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	8 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade	9 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	10 8th Grade Retreat	11 8th Grade Retreat 12:00 p.m. New Member Class
12 8th Grade Retreat 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	13 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	14 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	15 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade	16 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	17	18
19 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	20 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	21 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	22 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade	23 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	24	25
26 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's-8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 4:00 p.m. Take-It-Home Event 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	27 12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 7:00 p.m. Roots of Our Faith trip Information Meeting 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	28 6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	29 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade	30 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis Moms 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	31 Okemo Ski Trip	