

# The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)  
2011 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 ■ 203-655-1451



## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

I want to thank Noroton for such a

special Sunday on

December 7 where we remembered our ten years together. It seems like only a short time ago we moved from chilly New Hampshire to sunny Southern Connecticut and found ourselves loving some of the nicest Yankee fans we ever met as we started together on the journey of 40 Days of Purpose. Where have the years gone? I can't believe how fast this decade flew by.

I'm especially appreciative to the Worship Team, who planned much of the celebration and gave me the very thoughtful gift of golf lessons (along with the cake, pie and flowers), the PNC who came back together for the occasion and shared warm, humorous and undeserved compliments, the choir who sang one of my favorite Christmas anthems, the children's ministry who decorated Horton Hall with pictures of our children, and the staff who gave me a new purple stole (which I wore in Advent and will wear again in Lent). Thanks to all who joined in the celebration and to those who wrote personal notes. Deb and I feel very fortunate to serve this loving flock of God's people. As I said

on Sunday, I'm only 1/2 way through the time of service that Rev. Ed Danks gave this church and less than 1/3 of the time Dr. Pete Horton gave, so I guess I have a long way to go to catch up! May the Lord continue to bless our partnership for the Gospel.

I also want to thank Dwayne and the whole music department – from our Children to our Adult choirs – for the beautiful musical leadership in all of our services this Advent season. Smiles of joy accompanied our children's performances and tears of inspiration flowed after Vespers. Open Doors and Christmas Eve services were glorious. Truly God was at work through the church's musical offerings this season.

Thanks too, for all of our generous givers who have helped us bless the men of Pivot House, given gifts through the Dove and Angel Tree programs and just generally made this one of the most generous seasons in the life of the church. Noroton is one of the most generous churches I know and it is a privilege to see us help so many needy families at this time of the year.

As we look ahead to 2015, we are all grateful that Rev. Jimmy McPherson and his wife Andrea are here to begin

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### Worship Schedule

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

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 1/4/15 -Pastor Sam Schreiner  
Remembrance Sunday - During worship, we will remember those who went home to be with the Lord in 2014
- 1/11/15 - Pastor Brandi Drake
- 1/18/15 - Pastor Greg Doll
- 1/25/15 - Pastor Jimmy McPherson

### Upcoming Baptism Dates:

1/18 at the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.

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his work with our youth. Thank you Mickie and Sarah for doing so much with our teens. A huge debt of thanks is owed to the APNC for all of their time, hard work and diligence in finding such an outstanding addition to our pastoral staff. We also give thanks for the progress of the building project and the finishing of the *Foundations for the Future* campaign. Your generosity will bless not only our current congregation, but also the families who will come to NPC in future generations.

Finally, I know folks are wondering, "how will we replace Pastor Greg Doll?" Let me say that we will never "replace" Pastor Doll. God has given him unique and wonderful gifts that have greatly blessed us in this season of his ministry here. We'll enjoy these last months serving together, celebrating all he has brought to the NPC family. After we say good-bye on March 1st, releasing Greg to his new ministry, we will find an Interim Pastor to handle many of his responsibilities (and Pastor Jimmy will begin to take over Confirmation in the New Year). Eventually we will elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to lead us to the next Associate Pastor the Lord will call to serve among us. So let's all continue to pray with thanksgiving, and trust that as the Lord has provided in the past, he will continue to meet our needs into the future.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,  
Sam Schreiner

**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.**

## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

### January 2015 Progress Report *Blocking & Tackling*



FOUNDATIONS  
FOR THE FUTURE

January brings many things: among them a month of exciting college and professional football. For the sports enthusiasts among us the heading for this progress report will be very straight forward. In football coaches always talk about teaching and executing the basics: blocking and tackling. Simply put, the runners can't run without blockers to lead the way, and the most elemental part of defense is tackling. Similarly, right now the Foundations building program is working through the essentials that form the basis of a successful project.

In December the new parking lot was almost completed when the two sections were connected. The shape of the new parking lot gives you a good indication of the look the property will have and highlights some key points of the final design. The curved inside edge of the parking lot frames the space for the Nursery School playground and lawn that will now be safely located next to the CE Wing and away from parking lot traffic. The sidewalk running along the edge of the parking lot to the west end of the CE Wing indicates the significant size of the new Tot Drop playground that will also be safely inside the traffic flow. The sweep of the parking lot with rounded edges and multiple levels featuring green spaces around and throughout will handle water runoff and be far more attractive than the prior rectangular sprawl.

The building construction has also reached a key milestone with the work on enclosing the new center core walls and roof. We were blessed with good weather through much of the Fall which allowed the construction team to stay on schedule with the building plan. With the building enclosed, work can continue inside through the Winter months with little impact from the weather.

We have been greatly blessed to have many members of our congregation give so much of their time and talents to work on the *Foundations* Building Committee, as well as teams for Interior Design, Landscaping, and the Nursery School and Tot Drop Playgrounds. Their hard and very thoughtful work is making the success of the *Foundations* construction possible. Please keep these people and our construction workers in your prayers.

Jean Ann & Dick Bollman and Tom Taylor  
*Foundations for the Future Progress Team*



# Adult Spiritual Formation

## Noroton Lectures



What a gift and blessing it will be for NPC to host one of the leading Christian teachers and thinkers in the world, Dr. John G. Stackhouse, Jr. John currently holds the prestigious Sangwoo Youtong Chee Chair of Theology and Culture at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Dr. Stackhouse has published more than 600 articles, book chapters, and reviews in the history, sociology, and philosophy of religion, in ethics, and in theology. He has authored seven books and co-authored, edited, or co-edited seven more. Dr. Stackhouse's commentary has been featured by *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Time*, and *Reader's Digest*. He serves as an advisory editor at *Christianity Today* and a contributing editor at *Books & Culture*.

He frequently lectures on how to navigate the contemporary intellectual landscape. He does this by offering Christians a basic, "portable" guide to thinking responsibly and thoroughly about everything in life: from art to bioethics, from globalization to groceries, and from picking out a DVD to electing a politician. He surveys the place of the Bible, Christian tradition, human reason, our experience, the Holy Spirit, Christian community, and more—and how each plays a part in the properly-functioning Christian mind.

He also speaks widely about Christian engagement in public life, viz., how Christians can properly engage in public life today, whether as a parent concerned about a local school, a voter concerned about federal politics, or a citizen concerned about the ways Christianity is presented in the media. These ideas can be found in his book, *Making the Best of It: Following Christ in the Real World* [Oxford University Press].

He will be offering us a series of weekend lectures with the following provocative titles:

**Men's Breakfast: *The World Is Not Enough: Lessons on Masculinity from James Bond and Jesus Christ***

**Women's Breakfast: *Why Women Don't Lead...and Why All Women Should Care***

**Keynote Address: *Doesn't Anyone Care about the Big Things? How to Commend the Gospel to a Busy Neighbor***

**Sermon: *"Is He Saved?"—and Other Questions Christians Shouldn't Ask***

To prepare for these lectures, we will be offering several small group opportunities each week as forums for discussion. Topics for our discussions will come from essays in Dr. Stackhouse's books (*Church: An Insider's Look* or *The Evangelical Landscape*).

The small group discussions will be held in the SHAC on the following dates:

### Week 1

Sunday, January 11 from 3:30–5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 14 from 7:30–9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, January 15 from 7:30–9:00 p.m.

### Week 2

Sunday, January 18 from 3:30–5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 21 from 7:30–9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, January 22 from 7:30–9:00 p.m.

### Week 3

Sunday, January 25 from 3:30–5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 28 from 7:30–9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, January 29 from 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Come to as many as you can/want; you do not need to commit to the series. You can also change the day you attend week-to-week. Hope to see many of you at these meetings preparing for our guest speaker.

Pastor Greg Doll,

Associate Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation & Outreach

### Small Group Ministry

We continue to review the survey results filled out in 4th Quarter to help us formulate plans for 2015.

We hosted several Small Group Gatherings in November to glean in-person comments/experiences to add to our thinking. Thanks to those who participated; the information is very valuable to our planning.

We will hold a series of 'small group discussions' in January in preparation for our Noroton Lecturer, John Stackhouse. And, we hope to continue to organically roll out more opportunities in the coming months for our members/friends to get to know each other and the Word in these more intimate environments.

If you would like us to specifically contact you to join a more regular small group NOW, please contact either Valerie ([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org)) or Marlene ([marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org)).

# Caring & Women's Ministries

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This month, Amanda Craig, LMFT\* and her husband, Doug, are facilitating a course called *Staying in Love* by Andy Stanley- it'll be a 4-week session beginning on January 4 that meets during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday mornings, in the SHAC. I'm so excited about this! Here are some reflections from Amanda:

## Staying in Love Series

You got a ping from Christ. Did you notice it? It was a moment to share with your love the fact that he/she is your love. It might have been last night when she made a great dinner and you raved about it. Or maybe it was this morning when he left for work before dawn and you told him, "Don't you look handsome this morning!" The ping was an intention that might have come in the form of a thank you, an apology, a compliment, a greeting, a question, an answer, etc. These moments are all gifts from Christ, and are opportunities to make a big impression on our partner. When we take advantage of them our partner feels loved and connected. When we miss them our partner feels underappreciated and farther apart. The most interesting part of this is that it takes more effort to *avoid* these intentions than it does to participate in them.

In January we are starting an exciting couples study with Andy Stanley entitled *Staying in Love*. This four-week

workshop will take us through the important elements of nurturing love. Each week we will watch a brief video session led by Andy, then follow up with couples, small and large group discussions. The goal is to discover an enhanced approach to your relationship. This group is meant for those happy in love, those overwhelmed with life, couples who want to learn how to bring Christ into their marriage more intentionally, and for those who are hoping to one day find their love. No, you don't have to be in love or even in a relationship in order to attend. The only requirement is an openness to be more intentional about bringing Christ centered love to a relationship.

Can't attend? Join us for the chats. Log into [www.Rightnow.org](http://www.Rightnow.org) (ask Pastor Brandi to invite you!) and look for Andy Stanley's *Staying in Love* four-week series. Weekly postings from the group will be added online.

\* LMFT: *licensed marriage and family therapist*- Amanda even has a PhD!

**Staying in Love: Jan. 4, 11, 25 and Feb. 1.**

[Click here to register.](#)

## Women's Retreat

Save the Date! March 6-8, 2015

Theme: "Come As You Are"

Guest Speaker: Tammy Letts

Retreat Leaders: Judy Phillips & Holly Jespersen

## Noroton Lecture 2015

Guest Speaker  
Dr. John G. Stackhouse, Jr.



### Event Schedule

Saturday, February 7

8-9:30 a.m.

#### Men's Breakfast

Topic: *The World Is Not Enough: Lessons on Masculinity from James Bond and Jesus Christ*

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

10-11:30 a.m.

#### Women's Coffee

Topic: *Why Women Don't Lead... and Why All Women Should Care*

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

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

Topic: *Doesn't Anyone Care about the Big Things? How to Commend the Gospel to a Busy Neighbor*

All are welcome to the evening lecture in our fellowship hall.

Please register for these events at [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org) (click here to register)

### Sunday, February 8 - Worship Services

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

Sermon: *"Is He Saved?"—and Other Questions Christians Shouldn't Ask*

Join us for any of our Sunday morning services.

### Wellness and Worship Together!

Take care of yourself with Christian yoga in a safe, nonjudgmental space at NPC. Please arrive 5-10 minutes early so you have time to settle and begin with a quieting meditation. All ages and abilities are welcome. Suggested donation is \$5-10/class. We meet in Horton Hall on Fridays at 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will meet Friday, January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Questions may be directed to certified yoga teacher Jenny Voelker (RYT-200) at [mjtvoelker@yahoo.com](mailto:mjtvoelker@yahoo.com). Please dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat.



### Prime Timers

Thursday, January 15th at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Pastor Greg will speak about a timely event.

For more information, call Marlene Moffett at (203) 309-5620.

## Men's Studies

### Men's Bible Study

- Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in NYC at The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of 44th across from the west entrance to Grand Central. Study resumes Jan. 6.
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in Horton Hall with continental breakfast. Study resumes Jan. 8.

### Men's Study at the Sugar Bowl:

- Wednesdays 7:00 a.m. Led by different men from the group gathering for breakfast, fellowship and reflection on a passage of Scripture.

## Women's Studies

### Tuesday morning Bible Studies:

- 6:15 a.m. in the Parlor. We will resume Jan. 6. Join us early Tuesday mornings for some spiritual nourishment. Come when you can.
- 9:30 a.m. in living rooms around town: We will resume Jan. 6 with a new study. Interested? Contact Marlene ([marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org)) to receive your "location." Join us anytime! Childcare is limited so contact Tot Drop at 203-309-5605.

### Thursday morning Moms Oasis:

- Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in Horton Hall. We will resume Jan. 8 with a new topic. Childcare is limited so contact Tot Drop at 203-309-5605.

### Moms of Teens:

- The group is reading *Bonding with your TEEN through BOUNDARIES*, by June Hunt. Thursdays 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. in the SHAC. Come as often as you are able. This group is led by Sallie Schmidt and Laurie Bessey. For more information contact Sallie at [sallieschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:sallieschmidt@gmail.com) or Laurie at [thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:thebesseyfamily@yahoo.com). Study resumes Jan. 8

# Children's Ministry



## Minute with Mickie Wondering about Simplicity without “dumbing down”

What a wonderful December we have had in Children's Ministry at NPC. From Sunday School and Worship to Caroling by Candlelight, the Pageant and Christmas Eve, we have truly celebrated the Incarnation as a church family with our children. The Pageant on Dec 14 was so much fun because it was the simplicity of the story; a simplicity that allowed for the power of the message to be proclaimed. Our Children's Team, a plethora of NPC Volunteers, our early childhood teachers (Ms. Marlene, Mrs. B and Ms. Lucia), the JAM singers and Liz Morelli are to be thanked for making this such a Worshipful experience as the story unfolded before our eyes and ears.

As we head into 2015, we will continue the key objective of simplicity in Children's Ministry here at NPC. But keeping it simple does not mean that we make it cheesy or 'dumb down' the message. Quite the contrary. Keeping it simple means that God's Word alone can have the power to do the work in our hearts and minds – this transforms us! We tell and learn the stories of Scripture so that people of all ages will be able to re-tell them. We teach without lots of glitz, busy work, useless craft projects or modern day stories that just muddy the understanding. We believe that the Bible is God's Word. God gave it to us in the simplicity of stories so it would be easy to tell and retell and remember. Hebrews 4:12 says: *“God's Word is alive and powerful! It is sharper than any double-edged sword. His word can cut through our spirits and souls, and through our joints and marrow, until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts.”* (CEV) If we truly believe this we need to really and truly know how to tell the stories that God gave us. We need to know the simplicity of God's Word. In our ministry with children we include the simplicity of the Apostles' Creed, our foundation for helping them build a Biblical World-view. We use words like “Theophany” and “Incarnation.” We experience the Feasts of the Hebrew people that God used to celebrate His Grace. We talk about “God's great redemption plan” and our children are making personal connections with the stories – simply and powerfully. We don't need to dumb it down for kids. They get it. I love that!



We make it simple for you to participate as a Horton Hall Huddle Leader, but not so simple that you don't learn something yourself. Understanding busy lifestyles and yet knowing that parents are the most spiritually influential people in your children's lives, we give you all the tools you need at [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) to read and learn the stories yourself. This website allows you to download lessons for doing it simply at home if you can't get to church on a Sunday. You can also see ahead of time what you can do before you take your turn in Horton Hall and how you can grow in your relationship with God while telling the stories to your children. It's

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# Children's Ministry

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simplicity at its best, but there is nothing dumb about it. God's Word is powerful.

This New Year, I am asking you to continue to participate in this simple, yet powerful experience of training up this generation of children in the knowledge of God's Word through Bibletelling and the use of [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) This is going to simply be a wonderful year in God's Word! I can hardly wait.

See you on Sunday!!  
Mickie O'Donnell  
*Director of Children's Ministry*



# Youth Ministries

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## Just one more Minute with Mickie

It is so exciting to be welcoming Pastor Jimmy this year and yet a little sad for me to say goodbye to being involved with our teens as I have these past 18 months. I have loved sharing vision and Bibletelling techniques with both Tom and Sarah and seeing the incredible effect it has had on our teens' understanding of Scripture. I loved preparing the tribute to our 2014 graduates and getting to know those students and staying in touch with them while they are away at school. I loved moving our fifth graders up to Middle School and still being able to hang out with them at Harbor. We have had some incredible, tough Q&A sessions together as they bring their deepest questions to me for answers. I have loved the Mission trips, the retreats and the opportunity to make the SHAC makeover a reality.

In the midst of all the staff changes, I must say that my greatest pleasure actually came from being able to participate in the decision to hire Sarah Swible. She has been the most incredible gift to your students. She bravely and quietly does an exceptional job ministering and connecting with teens from 6th-12th grade. Sarah's knowledge of God's Word is deep and meaningful. Her ability to relate one on one with teens is exceptional. In the midst of all of the transitions, Sarah has been forced

into leadership beyond her years but she has done an exemplary job - and all with a smile and a teachable spirit. Her ministry with Harbor Middle school students has been amazing. On any given Wednesday night you can find her with a couple of adult volunteers leading anywhere from 25-40 6th-8th graders and mostly BOYS!!

I believe in all this excitement in looking for a Youth Pastor, her ministry might have flown under the radar a bit and so I just want to say publicly "Well done, Sarah. We are blessed to have you here." I hope you will let her know too.

Thank you for trusting me to wear a larger hat by letting me oversee Youth Ministry these past 18 months. I loved every minute of it and am looking forward to finding more things in the children and family ministry area to put under that hat in its place.

With you in God's Service,  
Mickie O'Donnell  
*Director of Children's Ministry*



## God is Faithful

As we start in 2015- it's time to reflect on God's faithfulness to us in 2014. Where was God at work in your life? How about in the lives of your children and family?

In Joshua 3 and 4, we are reminded that God parts the Jordan River in the middle of flood season, so that Joshua and the Israelites can cross over it. Not only was it another miracle, but a chance for God to exalt Joshua in the eyes of the Israelites so they could see that God was with Joshua, just like he was with Moses. Joshua gave specific instructions to the twelve leaders of Israel to pick up twelve stones. He gave these instructions so that they could later construct a structure of twelve stones, remembering what God did for them. Joshua says specifically in verses 21-24, to the Israelites, *"In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord*

*your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."* Just as we read that Joshua instructed the Israelites to construct a structure of stones to see God's faithfulness, it's important for us to reflect what those stones are in our own lives. What were some of the life lessons you learned in 2014?

As we start this new year, I am looking forward to 2015 and all God has planned. I am excited to join you in welcoming Pastor Jimmy to the Youth Ministry team. Check in with the youth team for exciting events, programs, and small group information as we start off 2015!

Sarah Swible,  
Youth Ministries Coordinator  
[sarah.swible@norotonchurch.org](mailto:sarah.swible@norotonchurch.org)

## Winter Summit

March 6-8, 2015  
at Camp of the Woods.

We are joining several churches in Fairfield County on a retreat.

Sign-ups are available at [www.wintersummit.org](http://www.wintersummit.org).  
SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. Cost is \$160 plus transportation.  
Go to the Youth Ministry web page for more details.



# Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



2014 ended with many exciting activities. We once again had a hugely successful Thanksgiving food drive for Person-to-Person, and continued in that spirit of giving, by collecting hats and mittens for the children in our area.

The NPNS Christmas tree stood tall at the end of our hallway for all of our families to see. The month of December is a short one for us, but was filled with anticipation for Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus. The children acted out the Nativity story in their classrooms, and listened to Miss Mickie and Miss Susanne share the Advent story with them. They practiced Christmas songs, which could be heard filling the hallways with holiday spirit. The 2's searched for the Gingerbread Men cookies, they had made, that had run through out the school. It is such a delight to see the excitement in their eyes and hear the giggles as they hunted.

We are excited for the New Year and all that it will bring. There is a hope for snow, as we all love to play in it. Orientations for the 2014-2015 school year will continue in early January, so if you know of any families looking for a nursery school, please direct them to our website at [www.npns.org](http://www.npns.org), where they can sign up for an orientation.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

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



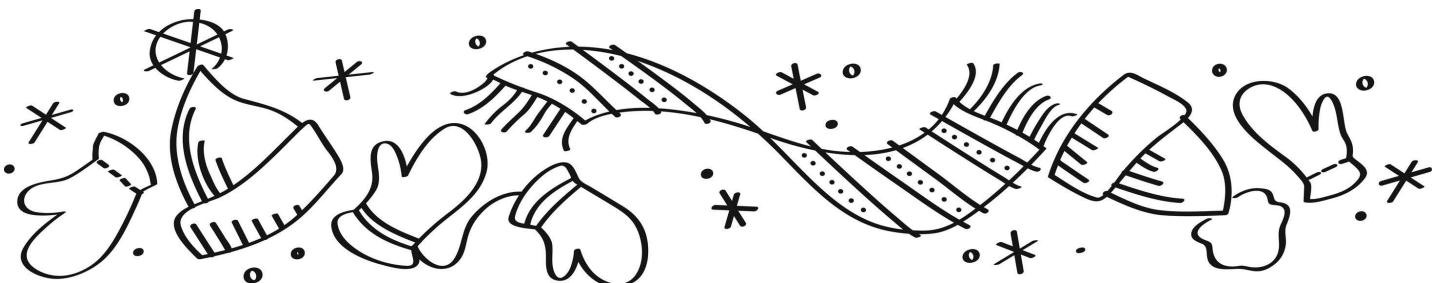
Advent story with Miss Susanne.



Nativity Story Dress-up



Christmas wreath construction in room 19.



# Tot Drop



## It Takes a Village

You've all heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." That certainly is the case at NPC Tot Drop.

We welcomed many visitors through our doors during the month of December. Some of them worked directly with the children, telling stories and singing songs; others worked indirectly, training teachers and improving classrooms.

Listed here are a few of the people that have, in one way or another, touched the lives of our children.

- Musician Robert Markowitz brought Tot Drop some holiday cheer, engaging 36 children and 12 teachers in a joyful selection of music and movement.
- Naturalist Emily Ciffone visited from the Darien Nature Center. She brought along several animals for the children to hold and touch. The rabbit was definitely a crowd favorite.
- Children's Ministry – Mickie O'Donnell and Liz Morelli – visited. They told the Christmas Story to an enthralled group of older children.

Take some time in this new year to be part of the village, either directly or indirectly. Your efforts will no doubt be rewarded with smiles and laughter.

Peace and Joy,  
Beth Aparicio  
NPC Tot Drop Director



Mr. Robert, as he is affectionately known, entertains the children, and the teachers, of Tot Drop.



Tot Drop teachers Pilar Yika, Cynthia McHargh and Veni Peter, along with several two year olds, during one of Mr. Robert's silly songs.



Miss Emily introduces Jelly the Rabbit to one of our infants and teacher, Amarilis Morataya.



The easiest way to pet a turtle is obviously to get down to its level!

# Congregational Life Ministry

## A Joy-filled Evening ...



As we celebrated the *GIFTS* that our volunteers are to the ministry done at NPC!

Our annual gathering in December to honor and thank those who make the many programs/activities we offer possible was held on the first Tuesday of the month to kick off the holiday season.

The evening provides the opportunity for those who work throughout the year in their respective ministry areas, to come together and have an evening of conversation and song together, sharing memories of past weeks/months as well as talking about their upcoming holiday plans.

As the photos indicate, a good time was had by all!

As you participate in activities in the coming year and encounter volunteers, please take a moment to notice and give thanks for their servant hearts. The staff and leadership of NPC are certainly well aware of their contributions and thankful for their steadfastness and longevity.

If you would like to be part of the year-end fun next year, as well as be blessed by your participation throughout the year, please think about where your gifts/talents might best be used, and let us know. Use the contact info below to get in touch with me, and I will direct you appropriately. Or, contact a specific ministry team directly (info at [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org), or through the main office). We would love for you to experience the joy and fellowship that results.

In fellowship with you,  
Valerie Muller

*Director of Community and Communications*  
(Including Congregational Life Ministry activities)  
[valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org) & 203-309-5650



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# Membership Ministry



## Join us for the Next New Member Class on January 31

There will be a half-day class, Noon to 5:30 p.m., on Sat., Jan. 31 for those wishing to join NPC. New members will be welcomed into the congregation the next day, usually at the 10:30 service.

Free care is available for children 3 months to 4 years. It's also an option to attend the class for information only, and take your membership vows within one year of the class.

Registration is required and can be completed online at the NPC website using the membership ministry page (or we have a paper form). If you have questions or concerns, *please* feel free to contact me!

Membership classes are faith-strengthening, interesting and fun. Here's what three families that just joined had to say about their experience with the New Member Class:

*"We LOVED the membership class! It was very thorough and the staff was extremely welcoming."*

*"Overall I thought it was a great introduction to the church. It was a very enjoyable experience and it was much better than I expected it to be. I think I learned things that would have taken me a long time to find out. Both my husband and I thought it was much better than the orientation we had to our prior church."*

*"All the leaders were very friendly, knowledgeable, and hospitable."*

Working our faith,  
Julie Colbath  
Director of Membership

203-309-5615 or [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org)

### Please Serve Once a Month as a Worship Greeter!

The commitment is just once a month for 15 minutes, and something you can do as a family. With construction at the church, it is even more important to have greeters in place to both welcome visitors and regular worshipers, and to help everyone navigate the parking lot and building. Please contact Julie Colbath.

## Congregational Life Ministry continued...

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## Thanks and Praise to God!

With your prayers, generous service and giving we as a church are making a difference all around the world, as we work alongside and support and encourage our mission partners as they share Christ's love.



### World Vision Palmera Dominican Republic

You may remember that last June our church family gathered after morning services to assemble special Promise Packs... backpacks with various school and hygiene items and also including a personal note of encouragement and love which we wrote in Spanish. These packs have now made it to Palmera and were distributed to children sponsored by NPC members. Please go to [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org) under Mission ministry to see video.

#### Message from Palmera Community

Dear Noroton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for this meaningful donation. As you can see in the video, children and their mothers were happy and thankful for your presents. They all send you their greetings and gratitude on behalf of their children and mothers.

Odyls Mendoza  
World Vision Staff Palmera, Dominican Republic



### Message from Open Door Shelter, Norwalk

Thank YOU for all the gifts you gave us from the heart during the last year.

- Because of your giving 399,599 meals were provided.
- Because of your giving 381 people including families were sheltered.
- Because of your giving 758 people received counseling to address their crisis.
- Because of your giving 123 people trained for employment.
- Because of your giving 55 homeless children were safe, tutored and in school.



# Mission Ministry

## Message from Nambale Magnet School

Dear Noroton Presbyterian Church,  
We have not enough words to thank you for the invaluable support we receive.  
Blessings,  
Rev Evalyn Wakhusama  
Nambale Magnet School



NPC gave a special *Foundations for the Future* Mission Grant to build this much needed dormitory.



## Message from The Van Scivers – Campus Outreach

Artie Van Sciver shared the encouraging news of how God is at work through the ministry of Campus Outreach at University of North Carolina. Over the past two months there have been almost 30 professions of faith made.

Dear NPC Family,  
Please know that we are so grateful for each of you for your generous partnership!  
With Love,  
Artie, Kittery and Adele

## Message from Jen Gros – Darien Young Life Darien

Dear NPC Community,  
Countless thanks to your amazing response to the need for leaders for this month's Young Life Winter Weekend trip to Lake Champion! As a full cabin of high school girls and another of high school guys from DHS signed up for the annual trip, the reality of rebuilding the leadership and volunteer foundation of this ministry sank in. We were praying Jesus' words in Matthew 9:38 for the Lord to send workers into His field! Unsolicited, Stella and your missions team invited you to reply to the need for leaders and you did! Thank you to David Claiborne, Priscilla & Steve Hartokolis and Hannah Bergman--all from Darien--courageously jumping into the weekend with these kids. 30 students and leaders from Darien had an incredible weekend. Thank you, NPC, for being a partner in the community and in the lives of Darien kids. Let's continue together.

In Him,  
Jen Gros & The Young Life Metro North Leadership Team



Serving our Savior together,  
Stella Clarke  
Mission Associate  
203-309-5645 or [stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org](mailto:stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org)

# A Word from the Nominating Team

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## ***Becoming an Ordained Officer at NPC:***

For 151 years, Noroton Presbyterian Church has stood as a beacon of hope bringing the good news of Jesus Christ's transforming love to Fairfield County. Carrying on a tradition of strong leadership and caring ministry, our parish is blessed to have Pastor Sam Schreiner at the helm, supported by Pastors Greg Doll and Brandi Drake, who serve our congregation with vibrant commitment, thoughtfulness and love. This past year we have welcomed Pastor Jimmy McPherson who will serve Youth Ministries. We look forward to working and serving with Jimmy.

In addition to our wondrous staff, NPC is further blessed to have a dynamic, committed roster of church officers, (aka Deacons and Elders) to assist in the leadership and continued growth of NPC. These ordained church members are charged with the joy and responsibility of sharing leadership with our staff, offering directly to the continued growth of our church family and the development of our church programs. Please pray and consider the prophet who, when he heard

the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah said, "Here am I."

Elders are chosen by the congregation to exercise leadership in the governance of the local church. They are individuals of faith, dedication and good judgment, who on occasion, assist with Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Elders at NPC serve on the Session as ministry team members. Session teams are Children, Youth, Worship, Adult Spiritual Formation, Properties, Missions, Congregational Life, Outreach, Finance, Human Resources, and Stewardship. Time involved includes an evening Session meeting and an evening Team meeting each month in addition to other duties as determined by each ministry team.

Deacons are chosen by the congregation to minister to those who are in need or may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. Deacons are persons of love, sympathy and sound judgment; they form a fellowship of compassion and welcoming. Deacon ministry teams include Homebound, Flower Outreach, Sunday Fellowship, Hospitality, Welcoming/Ushers,

Media and Caregiving. The time involved includes a monthly meeting and work within a team ministry area.

The congregational Nominating Team is currently working to select candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon and we want YOU to assist us by providing names of people who would welcome service at NPC.

You are also encouraged to recommend yourself!

Nominating Team members are:

Laura Smalley (chair)  
David Mettler  
Beth Gardella  
Phil Kwun  
Kim Lewis  
Mark Thompson  
Bill Lovell

We welcome your questions and comments and invite you to fill out the form on this page to forward your recommendations to us. Place the form in the offering plate, send it to the office, or email your suggestions to Laura Smalley at [laurasmalley40@gmail.com](mailto:laurasmalley40@gmail.com). There will also be brochures with forms in the church pews during the months of January and February.

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## ***I suggest the following persons for the office of Elder (E) or Deacon (D)***

Name	E or D
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

***We cannot promise that every person suggested will be nominated to the congregation for an office of elected leadership. However, we do promise that every person suggested will be carefully and prayerfully considered.***

# NPC News

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## In Loving Memory of...

December 7th:  
Susanna Sickinger

December 9th:  
Timothy Sickinger

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

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

December 13th:  
Rita Hornlein and Mark Ratti Sr.

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

December 21st:  
Gracyn Marie Winsor, daughter of  
Robert and Christina Winsor

*If you would like to submit an article for the February 2015 issue please submit it before January 15 to Rose Cunningham by email at [rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

## NPC Program Staff

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Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-309-5618 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Community and Communications</i>	Kalie Riordan ..... 203-655-3223 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor of Caring &amp; Women's Ministry</i>	Dwayne Condon.....203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music &amp; Fine Arts</i>	Julie Colbath .....203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Greg Doll.....203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor Adult Spiritual Formation &amp; Outreach</i>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Dan Rosa.....203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Pastor Jimmy McPherson ..... 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Youth</i>	Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Mission Ministry Associate</i>	David Lee.....203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i>
	Beth Aparicio ..... 203-309-5605 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>	



# January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	3
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Marriage Course 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study - all groups in Horton Hall	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade	<b>New Year's Day</b> NPC Offices Closed 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga	8:30 a.m. Officers Retreat	
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Marriage Course 3:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC) 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12	13	14	15	16	17	
		6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Mission Book Study 7:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC)	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Prime Timers 7:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC) 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga		
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 3:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC) 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> NPC Offices Closed	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Make-Up 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC)	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC) 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga		
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		6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (NIC) 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 8:00 a.m. Session	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Make-Up 4:00 p.m. J.A.M. Choir 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 7:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC)	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Oasis 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Small Group - Pre- Noroton Lectures (SHAC) 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	9:30 a.m. Christian Yoga	12:00 p.m. New Member Class	