

# The Spire

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



## A New Year, A New You

I have a friend who still uses a paper day-timer calendar. We all make fun of him when he pulls out his datebook to see when we can meet again, but I have to say that there is a moment I am secretly jealous. First, he can find a date and write down an appointment faster than any of us using electronic devices. Secondly, he gets to toss out last year's book and put a new, fresh calendar in his leather folder each year. I miss that "ancient" habit of starting another year with a blank calendar that I could fill in with the family birthdays (and my anniversary), significant church events and other priorities and appointments. Now it is a few key strokes, hit return and the event pops up on the screen. Efficient but not as satisfying!

All of us - paper pushers or button pushers, have a chance to make new priorities on our "calendars" as we enter the New Year. Might I suggest a few that would be good for your soul? Here are my suggestions.

1) Make a goal to read through the Bible (or even just the New Testament) and try to do a portion

every day. Daily Bible reading will do more to shape one's heart, mind and character than a daily dose of news or Facebook. *Youversion.com* will give you a daily email on your personal computer or tablet or you can buy a print version of the "One Year Bible." This is a great way to let our lives be shaped by the life-giving Word of God. If you want to learn more about the background of the Bible - join our Adult class on Sunday mornings in January (see Pastor John's article). This will enhance your reading, especially if you are unfamiliar with the Scriptures.

2) Consider joining us for "Alpha." Alpha is a short course on the Christian faith and life that only takes two hours (with dinner included) a week for 10 weeks. Millions of people have enrolled in Alpha and it is universally appreciated by new and experienced believers. It is a great way to explore the faith. If you can make most Mondays, consider this an investment in your soul for 2016 and, please do us a favor, bring a friend.

3) Join us each Sunday at one of our worship services as we move into Matthew's Gospel for "Together in the Story." Regular worship,

*continued on page 2...*

### Worship Schedule

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

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 1/3 - Remembrance Sunday  
Pastor Sam Schreiner
- 1/10 - Pastor Brandi Drake
- 1/17 - Pastor Jimmy McPherson
- 1/24 - Pastor John Seiders
- 1/31 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

### Upcoming Baptism Dates

1/17, 2/21, 3/20 at the  
 10:30 am Sanctuary service.  
*To schedule a Baptism please call  
 Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

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prayer, the giving of our gifts and sharing in fellowship are great habits that ground our lives in the reality of God's love for us found in Jesus Christ. Regular worship attendance improves health, adds to longevity and deepens the family bond. It is good for the heart and soul!

4) Consider joining one of our community groups studying the text of "Together in the Story." Sharing life and faith together with some new found friends in the setting of a home is a great way to explore your questions of faith. Jesus formed his disciples in a small group and it is still the most effective way to deepen your faith. Why not try one that is offered in the New Year? (see page 4)

Blessed New Year from  
Your Pastor, Partner and Friend  
-Sam Schreiner

The new year gives us all a chance to try new habits and even new spiritual practices. This year I encourage you to try one or all of these offerings for increased soul care in 2016.

# Noroton Lectures 2016

## February 6 & 7

**Featuring Guest Speaker:**  
**Dr. Lynn Cohick, Ph.D**

**Professor of New Testament**  
**Wheaton College**  
**On Faculty since 2000**

### Saturday, February 6

**8-9:30 am Men's Breakfast**

**Topic: "*I can do all things': The trap of self-sufficiency and the lesson of Phil 4:10-20*"**

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

**10-11:30 am Women's Coffee**

**Topic: "*Their Names are Written in the Book of Life*" (Phil 4:3)**

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

**7-8:30 pm - Keynote Address**

**Topic: "*Paul, the Imperial Cult and Politics Today*"  
(Phil 3:20-21)**

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

### Sunday, February 7

**Topic: "*Rejoice in the Lord Always*" (Phil 4:4)**

**Worship Services**

**8:00 am - Chapel**

**9 & 10:30 am - Sanctuary**

Join us for any of our Sunday morning services.

# Adult Spiritual Formation



Dear Friends:

I trust that you had a joyful Advent and meaning-filled Christmas!

Each year when I enter into January I do two different things.

The first is to reflect on the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This is true in terms of our calendar year, but it is true each day in our relationship with Jesus Christ. The second thing I do is begin a new Bible study/reading plan. I have done this for more years now than I can remember – my goal is to read through the entire Bible each calendar year.

In our sermon series, #TogetherInTheStory, we have been following God's story through the Old Testament. We will now turn our attention to the New Testament. As the Adult Spiritual Formation Team has been reflecting on this, they have identified two "tools" to help you engage on a journey to read through the Scriptures.

- The first is called "Listening For God Ministry" ([www.listeningforgod.org](http://www.listeningforgod.org)). It has been created by our own Ted Sanborn. In it he combines the reading of the Scriptures with music, art, history and noted commentators.

- The second is called M'Cheyne's Bible Reading Plan. It is available online through Bible Gateway ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)) or simply by entering [www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf](http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf) into your web browser.

Also, in January for four Sundays beginning on **January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 am in the Post Road/Mission Room, the pastors will each give an overview of the major sections of the Bible:

- **Pentateuch and History** (Pastor Sam)
- **Prophets and Poets** (Pastor Brandi)
- **Epistles and Revelation** (Pastor Jimmy)
- **Gospels and Acts** (Pastor John)

This promises to be a rich time together.

One last item, please mark your calendars for **Noroton Lectures 2016** on **February 6 & 7**. Dr. Lynn Cohick, Professor of New Testament from Wheaton College will be with us.

Pastor John Seiders,  
*Interim Associate Pastor of Adult and Outreach Ministries*

## Men's Studies

### **Men's Bible Study**

- NYC study resumes Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am at the Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue.
- Darien resumes Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 am in Horton Hall.

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

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

# Adult Spiritual Formation

## Resuming 'Together In The Story' Study Curriculum



As you know, we took a break in providing Small Group materials during the Advent period, so that we could all focus on 'waiting and anticipating the birth of Christ'.

We'll be starting up again now that it's January, as the sermon series takes us into the New Testament. We will begin the Small Group materials with the

January 10th Sunday Scripture ... Matthew 3:1-17, with John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism.

We plan to have materials by January 4<sup>th</sup> for the weeks of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>.

- **Participant Discussion Questions** will be posted on the NPC website ([www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)) for any who wish to follow along with the studies on an individual basis. They will also be available in hard copy upon request.
- **Leader Guides** available upon request for those who will be facilitating groups.

(We will then take a week's break for our Noroton Lecturer, and be back with materials again, for February and March up to the Lent season.)

**Not 'in a group' yet?**  
(Or, requested, but 'not yet assigned' ...)

First, apologies to those of you who have indicated interest that we were not able to place in the Fall. With moving back into our new offices, Rededication, First Fifty Days activities, etc, we were not as focused as we had hoped to be in the Fall in getting NEW small groups orchestrated.



We want to use shifting into the New Testament in 2016 as a new opportunity to re-visit organizing NEW groups and/or ADDING to those already in existence!

We have enough interest to form a new group or two ... just need to coordinate your varying time availabilities. We are committed to getting you CONNECTED!

We have been collecting names and times during the holiday weeks, and would love to add you to a group starting now in January!

Please contact me directly ([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org), 203-309-5650) or Marlene in the Main Office ([marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org), 203-309-5620) so we can get you started!

Taking our journey 'together',

Valerie Muller  
*Director of Community and Communication*  
(Including ASF's Small Group Ministry)



# Caring & Women's Ministries

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*You will seek Me and find Me,  
when you search for Me with all your heart.  
And I will be found by you."*

**Jeremiah 29:13-14a**

It's January! A whole new year, and a return to tradition. Women- I hope you are planning to join us at the end of this month (January 29-31) as we return to our rustic roots in Ivorytown, CT.

The team is getting really excited to have Susan Hill join us this year, she wrote a very beloved book *Closer Than Your Skin*, and she will be bringing us some thoughts on being present with Christ. I can't wait!

This weekend is always a gift to my soul. There is something about being together with sisters, for times of silence and reflection- as well as times of goofy laughter that I find so very restorative. I love to see what God does on these weekends.

In Joyful anticipation~  
Pastor Brandi Drake,  
Associate Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministries

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stephen  
MINISTRY®

*Behold the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a  
Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which  
translated means, "God with us."  
Matthew 1:23*

Christ caring for people through people.

## **Being the hands and feet of Jesus**

On the very first Christmas, God gave the ultimate gift of his son so people could experience the healing touch of Immanuel – God with us. Christ is still with us, and he is also with others through us. Stephen Ministry is a beautiful reflection of this teaching. We are his hands and feet – those who represent Jesus with gentleness, with humility, and above all, with compassion.

This January marks the beginning of Noroton's Stephen Ministry training for the Class of 2016. We are blessed to have 14 uniquely qualified individuals who are willing to spend 50 hours over the next 6 months nurturing

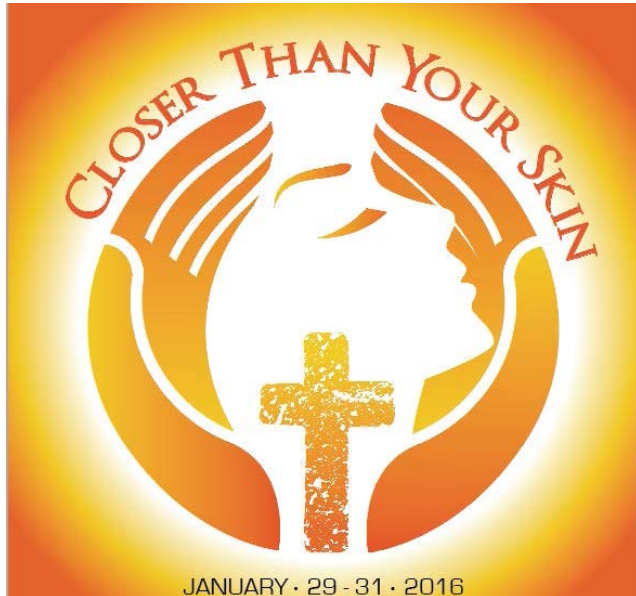
their gifts and acquiring new skills so that they may bring Christ's healing love and care to hurting people.

Stephen Ministry at Noroton has been going strong for over 25 years. Over the life of our ministry, we have trained more than 200 Stephen Ministers and touched our community with over 500 caring relationships.

Please be sure to keep our past, present and future Stephen Ministers in your prayers. And most importantly, if you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Brandi Drake in complete confidentiality at [brandi.drake@norotonchurch.org](mailto:brandi.drake@norotonchurch.org).



# Women's and Caring Ministries



## Women's Retreat

**January 29-31 at  
Incarnation Conference Center**

**REGISTRATION IS FULL!**

**For a spot on the waiting list,  
please contact:**

**co-chairs:**

Holly Jespersen

[HollyJespersen@gmail.com](mailto:HollyJespersen@gmail.com) or 646-334-1024

Liz Byrne

[byrne.lizzy@gmail.com](mailto:byrne.lizzy@gmail.com) or 203-273-9292

Church Office: Marlene Moffett at 203-309-5620  
or [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org)

We're excited to have Susan Hill as our speaker this year. When you register online or with Marlene, there will be a copy of Susan's book, *Closer than Your Skin*, a gift to you, available for pickup from Marlene at NPC. We are in for a treat as we go away together to notice the presence of God!

*"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me  
with all your heart. And I will be found by you."  
Jeremiah 29:13-14a*

## Women's Studies

### Tuesdays:

#### 6:15 am Bible Study in the Parlor

Resumes on **January 5<sup>th</sup>** with a study on Romans using Tim Keller guides.

#### 9:15 am Bible Study

Resumes on **January 5<sup>th</sup>** with a study on Matthew by N.T. Wright.

### Thursdays:

#### 9:30 am Oasis Mom's Group

Resumes **January 7<sup>th</sup>**. Online registration is requested\*. This is a special group for women with children who range in age from infancy through elementary school. We meet from 9:30-11:30 am for reflection and teaching about a common interest, and then break into small groups with moms who have children at the same stages: Mentor moms are the secret ingredient! Who doesn't want a wiser woman as a mentor and 'shepherd' through these years? Come once and check it out! We think it will be a great gift for you!

#### Mom's of Teens

We gather in the SHAC from 12:00-1:30 pm. We are discussing "Be a Parent, not a Pushover" by Mary Ann Rosenthal, Ph.D. Come as often as you are able.

*\*Child care is provided from 9-11:45 am for children 3 months to 4 years. Registration, including CT Early Childhood Health Assessment form, is requested three weeks prior to your child's attendance and can be found on our website [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org) or by contacting Marlene. Note, medical form must be signed by a doctor. Once completed, child care and medical forms should be sent to Marlene Moffett at NPC, 2011 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820.*

# Women's and Caring Ministries

## Prime Timers

The Prime Timers Christmas Celebration on December 10, 2015 began with a wonderful presentation by John Howard Sanden on his great portrait of Jesus, "Come Follow Me." The portrait is a gift to NPC from John and his wife Elizabeth. John has been one of the nation's leading portrait artists for more than four decades.

We also celebrated the gift of a beautiful credenza that perfectly complements the painting. This gift was given to NPC from our architect, Dennis J. Kowal, AIA.

Stop by the entrance of the Parlor to see both!

A delicious lunch in a beautiful setting, a birthday cake to celebrate October, November & December birthdays and Pastor Brandi leading us in joyous caroling topped off the afternoon. What a delight to be amongst some of our more senior members as they enjoyed their monthly time of fellowship!

Join us **January 21, 2016** at 2:00 pm when Gina Blum, Executive Director of *At Home In Darien*, will talk about helping Seniors live independently, comfortably and with dignity in their own homes.





# Children's Ministry

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## Minute with Mickie – Wondering What Epiphany Means?

It's 2016 and Children's Ministry is continuing this wonderful journey of learning the Bible stories and seeing ourselves in them. We begin on January 3rd with the wonderful story of The Wisemen – the Epiphany. What IS this word Epiphany? One of the definitions for this word says it is a "moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way." It is also used to signify the day when the Christian Church celebrates the coming of the Wisemen, visiting Jesus as a child, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. So how are these two definitions related? In the Church's liturgical calendar the season between Christmas and Lent is called "The Season of Epiphany." I tell the kids that it is the season for "AhHa!" Here's how I explain it.

Men who studied stars believed that events on earth were mirrored by events in the heavens. Earth and heaven were connected so this kind of great star must mean that something really amazing was happening on the earth. We could say that God was using his heavenly lights to announce the birth of the Messiah, putting God's great Rescue Plan in action. The Wisemen believed that a great King had been born and they wanted to offer their gifts and their worship. This announcement seen by these special astrologers was a huge "AhHa" moment for the whole world since it meant that God's rescue plan wasn't just for the Jewish people but for all of humankind. The world was being invited to see and understand something in a new way. The Wisemen were most likely Gentiles and not Jews, but they were invited to participate in God's great story of the Messiah. So do you see how the simple definition of seeing something in a new way and the coming of the Wisemen are connected? Ah Ha! You just had an epiphany.

But that's not all. Jesus, God himself, lived on earth among us and taught God's Word. With Jesus here, people could suddenly see and understand God in a new and clear way. So, the church season before Lent is when we study the teachings of Jesus; we study his life, his miracles, his stories, how people were changed by knowing Jesus and we see, in a new way, again, how God wants us to live. Today, we too live

in a season of Epiphany. We are the people who are invited into Jesus' story. We get to live in God's world and have incredible "AhHa" moments where we see God. We can be like the Wisemen and bring God our gifts and tell everyone that we are in the presence of the greatest King. This Epiphany Season culminates at the story of the Transfiguration and we are then led into the Season of Lent, Holy Week, Resurrection Sunday, the 40 Days of Resurrection Appearances, the Ascension and Pentecost. What wonderful stories we have to study in 2016. Lots of opportunities to be #TogetherInTheStory.

We will be covering all these stories as we go through the Book of Matthew together in Horton Hall and through the sermons in the Sanctuary. Another Take-Home Story Booklet will be prepared so that you and your children can be #TogetherInTheStory from January-May 2016. You don't have to miss a thing even if you are unable to join us on any Sunday morning. How great is that? AhHa! ~ I'm offering you a new way to grow in your faith. Do it at home together. I look forward to seeing you all in Horton Hall on Sundays for our many "AhHa!" experiences. See you then.

- Did you enjoy "Eat Your Way Through Handel's Messiah?" Then watch [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) and the NPCKids Facebook page for dates for our 2016 Family Fun Nights!! Intergenerational events are fun for the whole church family.
- Did you enjoy "Caroling By Candlelight?" Than watch for details about our Ash Wednesday Family Worship Experience – **February 10, 2016.**
- Wondering about VBS? We are doing it HERE! Save the dates – **June 26-30, 2016.** We are starting on Sunday, June 26th in the afternoon for a whole Church Intergenerational Kick-off. June 27-30 (Monday-Thursday) mornings as usual. Visit [www.norotonchurch.org/index.php/ministries/children-youth-ministries/children-ministry/events/](http://www.norotonchurch.org/index.php/ministries/children-youth-ministries/children-ministry/events/) and watch the video. Registration details will come later.

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





2015 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 in our new entryway where the children could stop by and add hats and mittens for children in need.

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 throughout 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 2016/17 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!

Blessings,  
Kalie Riordan and the  
NPNS teachers and staff



Wreath making in room 15.



Reed Sedlock working on his Christmas gift for Mom and Dad.



Katie Powell decorating the class' Christmas tree.

# Youth Ministry



Last month the local high school celebrated a state football championship, which is quite an accomplishment and something that will be celebrated for years to come. There is a lot to be celebrated in such an accomplishment, and recognition is due for all of the hard work and determination of the players, coaches, and managers—as well as the support and encouragement of family members and countless supporters. Championships like this one require a commitment to excellence.

It probably comes as no secret that you and I live in a community that values excellence—perhaps even more so than other similar sized communities across the nation. Whether we find ourselves at work, school, on the field, stage, or even in our homes—we strive to not only compete at a high level, but also to win. And with such striving has come great levels of achievement. At the same, this striving for excellence can give rise to unanticipated and altogether unwelcome consequences. One of these unanticipated consequences is a determined need to appear successful, even perfect, no matter the cost.

Earlier this fall, I attended a presentation at Town Hall that detailed the significant rise in drug abuse in our community. One of the panelists shared that our community's commitment to excellence has, in some cases, contributed to our community's real and present problem with drug abuse, addiction, and in a number of related cases—premature death. In most of these cases, those who found themselves caught in the jaws of

addiction did not set out to become drug abusers but were rather simply looking to manage pain.

Our youth ministry has a particular interest to encourage and resource parents in their efforts to raise healthy families. One way in which we do this is by hosting guest speakers who have expertise in working closely

with families in our community. For this reason, I am pleased to welcome Nicole Zasowski from the Greenwich Center for Hope and Renewal on Saturday, **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** beginning at 7pm to NPC. Nicole will be sharing from her experience as a therapist working with youth and families in this community, and will be identifying healthy and life-giving family practices for a community like our own. Admission to the event is FREE, so I hope you are able to be part of this important conversation—and please feel free to invite friends and other members of the community to join us for this. A fun program for youth in grades 6-12 is being planned that same evening to run concurrent with this presentation.

## Winter Family Series

featuring guest speaker,  
**Nicole Zasowski, L.M.F.T.**

**Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**7 pm, Post Rd/Mission Room**

For more information about our speaker, Nicole Zasowski and the Greenwich Center for Hope and Renewal, visit [www.hopeandrenewal.org](http://www.hopeandrenewal.org).

As we begin this New Year together, my prayer is that you will not only be blessed by resources like this upcoming presentation, but that you would all the more experience and share the blessing of the Good News in your family and in our community. Grace be with you all.

Pastor Jimmy McPherson  
*Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry*



# Congregational Life Ministry



## Volunteer Celebration in Skylight Fellowship Lobby

The place ... the food ... but, *mostly the people* ... helped our congregation kick off the Advent/Christmas season! Close to a third of the 400+ 2015 volunteers were able to clear their calendars for Tuesday evening, December 1st, to join in an evening of refreshments, fellowship, caroling, and fun as we met to **CELEBRATE and THANK** NPC's volunteers without whom ministry-as-we-know-it here could not happen.

What fun it was to hear about many of the blessings experienced in ministry this past year!

Thanks to Marilyn Parker, we can share pictorially some of the **J OY** of the evening here for those not in attendance to enjoy.



**Special thanks** to the Congregational Life Team (Jerry Bryne, Gwynne Campbell, Eric Emel, and Cheryl Huffman) whose joint efforts pulled the evening together! Thanks too to the Flower Team who expanded their holiday decorating to the Skylight Lobby (as well as the Sanctuary and Chapel). And also to Dwayne who takes time annually from his holiday composing to lead us in song at this event.

**2016:** As we turn the corner into the new calendar year, we invite you to consider where you might find a place to serve that will bring you joy and contribute to your spiritual journey. The Congregational Life Team

is committed to helping you sort through where your interests/skills/availability might be the best fit. Please contact me at any time to ask questions and explore the opportunities. We'd love to see YOU in the photos this time next year!

May you begin this year knowing the blessing Christmas promises,

Valerie Muller

Director of Community and Communications

(including Congregational Life)

[valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org)

203-309-5650

# Membership Ministry

**How can my life have more meaning and purpose?**  
**Should I be doing something different?**  
**How can I find happiness?**  
**How do I deal with guilt?**  
**Does God guide us?**                      **Is forgiveness possible?**

Beginning Monday, **January 25<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>** from 7-9pm, Alpha will explore questions like these from the perspective of the Christian faith during 10 interactive sessions.

Each evening includes a delicious dinner, a thought provoking talk on a key aspect of the Christian faith and small group discussions where people are free to discuss thoughts, questions and doubts. It is low key, friendly, fun and completely non-judgmental!

Anyone of any background or belief is welcome. You do not have to be a Christian to attend this course.

**Not sure?** Come to the **Alpha Introductory Dinner** on **January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm, a “no obligation” opportunity to experience a typical Alpha evening...then decide if you like it. There is no charge for the course. A free will donation is taken for the dinner. Babysitting vouchers are available to partially offset the cost of a sitter for those in need.

**Register for Introductory Dinner or Course:** [www.npclink.com/alpha](http://www.npclink.com/alpha)

Food allergies? Contact Julie ([julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org))  
or Claudia ([croux28@gmail.com](mailto:croux28@gmail.com)).



## **Be part of the “7-Minute” Welcoming Team... we really need new volunteers!**



Did you know it takes just 7 minutes for visitors to form a first impression of our church? We have a beautiful new space and want to warmly and helpfully welcome newcomers and regular worshipers to it!

Volunteers help for 20 minutes on Sunday mornings. Sign up as your schedule allows:

- Just once to try it out
- A few dates you select
- Regularly once a month

Be part of a stronger welcoming team!  
Contact [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).



Pam Zangrillo has been greeting once a month for more than 5 years and say she really looks forward to it. She enjoys it so much she is telling friends at church to give it a try!



# Membership Ministry

## Becoming a Member of NPC... Join NPC in the New Year!

YOU ARE INVITED: New Member Class,  
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, 12:30 to 5:30 pm.

The class is interesting and enjoyable! Here's what recent new members had to say:

- *I loved the experience and the time flew by. I feel better informed about NPC and the devoted staff, and my own budding faith was reinforced.*
- *I am looking forward to becoming a part of this community.*
- *I thought it all made for a well-rounded experience and it was very meaningful to me.*
- *Thanks for a lovely learning experience. Five hours have never flown by so quickly.*



During the class you will have an opportunity to:

- Explore what it means to be a Christian and to follow Jesus
- Discuss the significance of membership and being a Presbyterian
- Learn about NPC ministries/programs, and how to get involved
- Meet others joining and expand your faith community.

It's also an option to attend the class for information only, and choose to join within the following year. Free professional nursery care is provided for children 3 months to 4 years.

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

Working our faith,  
Julie Colbath  
Director of Membership

# Mission Ministry

## Ways to Serve and Learn about Mission



### NPC Service Day Sunday, April 3, 2016

Please mark your calendars for a very special day! Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our very first all church service day! We will have a wide range of service opportunities both on and off site for all ages and abilities. We will launch the day with worship and commissioning at 8am and will return to celebrate and praise God together at 5pm. If you are interested in joining the organizing team please contact Stella Clarke.

### Serve at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk

The next NPC service date will be February 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are over 16 and interested in helping set up or serve the lunch at the Open Door Shelter please contact Holly Hough to sign up [hhough7@optonline.net](mailto:hhough7@optonline.net).

### Welcoming Refugees to Connecticut

If you are interested in helping refugees as they resettle in Connecticut please contact Stella Clarke.

### Questions? Please contact Stella Clarke (Mission Associate)

You can find me in the East Wing Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday or contact [stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org](mailto:stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org) or 203-309-5645.

# Mission Ministry

## NPC Mission Spreading the Gospel in South Carolina

Wes Roberts grew up in Darien and at NPC and has received special mission gifts to support his work as a Pastor and worship leader on the team launching the Mission Collective in Charleston. This is exciting kingdom building work and below you can see a glimpse of how the ministry is growing and moving towards self-sufficiency.

### PLANTING CITY CENTRIC HUBS OF MISSION FOR NORTH AMERICA

"For a year and a half we planted seeds here in Charleston, officially launching our church plant (The Daniel Island Fellowship) and ministry space (The Holy City Collective) in September of this year. I am happy to share how God has moved since our launch.

Young Life's vision gathering (pictured here), we are able to provide free space for these gospel specialists.

**Daniel Island Fellowship:** At the heart of our ministry is the local church, where I serve as the Executive Pastor. The Daniel Island Fellowship officially launched on September 13, 2015. With a weekly attendance already averaging 175 people, we have over 250 people who regularly attend Sunday Worship. As a growing, local and personal church plant for Daniel Island and Charleston, we seek to create community and culture on mission with Christ. Our church is young, but it has quickly become a vibrant community of faith. Over half of our church is under the age of ten!



**Coworking and Meeting Space:** During work hours Monday through Friday, The Holy City Collective is designed to impact the City of Charleston by incubating the good works of local startups, entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders and gospel specialists. HCC members all pay a monthly fee.



**Nonprofit and Ministry Event Space:** We have played host to a number of different ministries. From the Life Resources counseling center fundraiser to Charleston

With Thanks  
In Christ,  
Wes, Bri, Charlotte (7) and Juliette (5)

# 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 Brandi Drake, Jimmy McPherson, and John Seiders, who serve our congregation with vibrant commitment, thoughtfulness and love. This past year we have welcomed Interim Pastor John Seiders who is serving Adult Spiritual Formation and Outreach ministries.

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:

David Mettler (chair)  
Beth Gardella  
Phil Kwun  
Kim Kristof  
Mark Thompson  
Sarah Zagrodzky

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 David Mettler at [dmettler7@hotmail.com](mailto:dmettler7@hotmail.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.***

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

December 20<sup>th</sup>

Miles Scott Dawkins,  
son of Jeffrey and Sarah Dawkins

*If you would like to submit an article for the February 2016 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

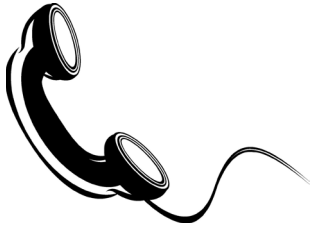
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Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III 203-309-5618 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Valerie Muller..... 203-309-5650 <i>Director of Community and Communications</i>	Kalie Riordan ..... 203-655-3223 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi 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 Jimmy McPherson ..... 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Youth</i>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Dan Rosa..... 203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Pastor John Seiders..... 203-309-5619 <i>Interim Associate Pastor Adult and Outreach Ministries</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>Director of Noroton Presbyterian Child Care</i>	



# January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	2
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's-5th grade 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 5:00 pm Open Doors Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm JAM Choir 7:00 pm Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:30 am Prayer Mtg. -Substance Abuse Crisis 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	<b>New Year's Day NPC Offices Closed</b>	8:30 am Officers Retreat	9
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's-8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 10:30 am Adult Bible Overview 5:00 pm Open Doors Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:00 pm Alpha 'No Obligation' Introductory Dinner	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm JAM Choir 7:00 pm Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Darien) 7:30 am Prayer Mtg. -Substance Abuse Crisis 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			16
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's-8th grade 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 10:30 am Adult Bible Overview 5:00 pm Open Doors Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	<b>Martin Luther King Jr Day NPC Offices Closed</b>	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm JAM Choir 7:00 pm Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Darien) 7:30 am Prayer Mtg. -Substance Abuse Crisis 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Prime Timers 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			23
<b>Women's Retreat (1/31)</b> 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's-8th grade 9:00 am Confirmation Class (1/24) 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 10:30 am Adult Bible Overview 5:00 pm Open Doors Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:00 pm Alpha - 1st Session	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Session	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm JAM Choir 7:00 pm Harbor 6th-8th Grade	7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Darien) 7:30 am Prayer Mtg. -Substance Abuse Crisis 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	<b>Women's Retreat</b>		30



# Noroton Presbyterian Church STAFF PHONE DIRECTORY

For your convenience,  
please use these direct dial numbers

## **Pastor & Head of Staff**

Pastor Samuel Schreiner – 203-309-5618  
Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings  
Leslie Ezzo – 203-309-5618

## **Adult Ministry**

Pastor John Seiders – 203-309-5620  
Marlene Moffett – 203-309-5620

## **Business Office**

Daniel Rosa – 203-309-5608  
Claire Bragdon – 203-309-5606

## **Caring Ministry/Women's Ministry**

Pastor Brandi Drake – 203-309-5620  
Marlene Moffett – 203-309-5620

## **Children's Ministry**

Mickie O'Donnell – 203-309-5622  
Liz Morelli – 203-309-5619

## **Community/Communications**

Valerie Muller – 203-309-5650

## **Membership**

Julie Colbath – 203-309-5615

## **Music Ministry**

Dwayne Condon – 203-309-5658  
Jen H. – 203-309-5614

## **Properties**

David Lee – 203-309-5609

## **Youth Ministry**

Pastor Jimmy McPherson – 203-309-5619  
Jack Hein – 203-309-5660  
Sarah Swible – 203-309-5647  
Liz Morelli – 203-309-5619

## **NPCC (Child Care)**

Beth Aparicio – 203-309-5605  
Elizabeth Watson – 203-309-5652

## **NPNS (Nursery School) 203-655-3223**

Kalie Riordan – 203-309-5625  
Susanne Frank – 203-309-5621  
Jessica Hoyt – 203-309-5603