

The Spire

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



Who Have You Been Following Lately?

When I wrote this article in the middle of February, some of us were following the happenings in Punxsutawney, PA to see if the old furry fellow Pete would give us a clue about winter. Then all eyes went to New Hampshire to see which politician would be leading the pack for his or her party's nomination to run for President. Finally, this month of March, many crazed basketball fans will look to their college team to make it to the final four and become the victor of the NCAA March Madness tournament. We can be followers of many things these days.

This Lent, I invite us to pay heed to the one invitation Jesus gave to us **all** – “Follow Me.” What was his first request to his disciples? “Follow me.” What was his last word to Peter on the seashore after Resurrection Sunday? “Follow me.” Leonard Sweet, Professor of Evangelism at Drew University, reminds us in his book, *I am a Follower*.

There may be more to being a Christian than followership. There certainly

cannot be less. The life story of all Christians should be, “they left all and followed Jesus.”

Following Jesus is never easy. I would rather nurse a grudge than forgive. I would like to judge others rather than display mercy. Sometimes I'm tempted to blame the poor rather than roll up my sleeves and help them. My first instinct isn't always to follow Jesus. At times it seems like indulging my all too human and sinful tendencies is what comes *naturally*. If we deny ourselves anything in Lent it should be self-indulgence. If we pick up anything with renewed zeal in this Lenten season it should be a close reading of the gospels to follow Jesus and his ways more completely. When I try to follow Jesus I find greater peace and strength in my soul. It has a benefit - but that isn't the only reason I do it. I do it because I love the Lord and want to please Him. Do you "follow" what I'm saying here? I surely hope so.

Yours for a Holy and Blessed Lent,
 Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
 Sam Schreiner

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

Continuing Together in the Story with Matthew

3/6 - Pastor Brandi Drake
 Matthew 16:13-26

3/13 - Pastor John Seiders
 Matthew 17:1-17

3/20 - Palm Sunday
 Pastor Jimmy McPherson
 Matthew 21:6-13

3/24 - Maundy Thursday
 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary
 Pastor John Seiders
 Matthew 26:26-30

3/26 - Open Doors Easter Vigil
 Pastor Jimmy McPherson

3/27 - Easter Sunday
 6:00 am Weed Beach
 Pastor Brandi Drake
 8, 9:30 and 11 am Sanctuary
 Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Matthew 28:1-10

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Adult Spiritual Formation



Dear Friends:

Briefly, during this season of Lent, I would like to share three things with you.

First, I am grateful for your response to the Bible Survey classes that were taught on Sunday mornings in January and February – due the weather and the Women's Retreat. Many of you attended and asked for more of this type of offering by the pastoral staff. This information has been passed on to the Adult Spiritual Formation team for their consideration.

Second, I was so encouraged to join you for the Noroton Lectures this past month with Dr. Lynn Cohick. Thank you for being willing to have your mind and your faith stretched and challenged by the Scriptures and the Spirit as Lynn taught. Thanks also for your insightful questions.

Third, I would like to announce that the speaker for Noroton Lectures 2017 will be the Rev. Tim Keller of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. Tim is a respected teacher and preacher and we look forward to welcoming him here. Save the dates – March 4-5, 2017. (Our devotional guide for this Lent was written by staff/friends of Redeemer, and shared with NPC with their permission.)

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

Men's Studies

Men's Bible Study: *Meandering with Matthew: Men's Musings on a Meaning-filled Message*, led by Pastor John. Tuesdays at 7:30 am in NYC at the Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue. Thursdays at 7:00 am in Post Rd/Mission Room, Darien.

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.



Small Group Curriculum... on NPC Website

Check online for weekly *Together In The Story* Discussion/Discovery Questions for each Sunday's Scripture. At-home small groups have the added benefit of building community, but these study guides are also a great way for individuals to 'go deeper' in the Scripture alongside each other on-your-own.

March Scriptures, rounding out our Lenten Season:

March 6th - Matthew 16:13-26 - Peter's Confession of Christ

March 13th - Matthew 17:1-17 - Transfiguration

March 20th - Matthew 21:6-13 (Palm Sunday) - Entry to Jerusalem/Temple

March 24th - Matthew 26:26-30 (Maundy Thursday) - Communion

We continue to work towards having everyone who has asked be assigned to a group; we still have a handful of non-assigned folks.

Women's and Caring Ministries



*Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is not here. He is risen!
Luke 24:5*

I have found a new favorite Easter poem, by Walter Brueggemann. I'd love to share it with you as we walk toward Resurrection Sunday. It is from his collection of prayers entitled *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth.*

You who stalk the earth with new life

Christ is Risen... He is risen indeed!

You Easter one

you who stalk the earth with new life,
you who soar the heavens with fresh governance,
you who traipse the seas with off authority,

You life-giver,

you a strange anomaly among us,
for everywhere are signs of death:
...Benjamin taken in his youth,
our tax dollars at work in Serbia,
endless diagnoses among our friends,
people made redundant in all our euphemisms of
'downsizing,'
Too much money and too little health care,
Your church here and there
nearly consumed with anxiety for itself.

And yet you appear here and there, now and then:

you say "Fear Not," and we are comforted,
you say "Peace I give you," and we are less restless,
you say "Go and sin no more," and we glimpse a new innocence,
you say and we listen,
you act and we are healed,
you...and us,
you and life,
you and newness,
you for us,
you with us,
you,
you,
you...and we are dazzled in our gratitude. Amen.

From After Easter/April 13, 1999.

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

Women's Studies

Tuesdays:

6:15 am Bible Study - Study on Romans

9:15 am Bible Study - Study on Matthew by N.T. Wright

Thursdays:

9:30 am Oasis Mom's Group -

This is a special group for women with children* who range in age from infancy through elementary school. We meet from 9:30-11:00 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 on Thursdays from 12:00-1:30 pm. We are reading, *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go so Their Children Can Succeed* by Jessica Lahey.

*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 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.

Caring Ministry

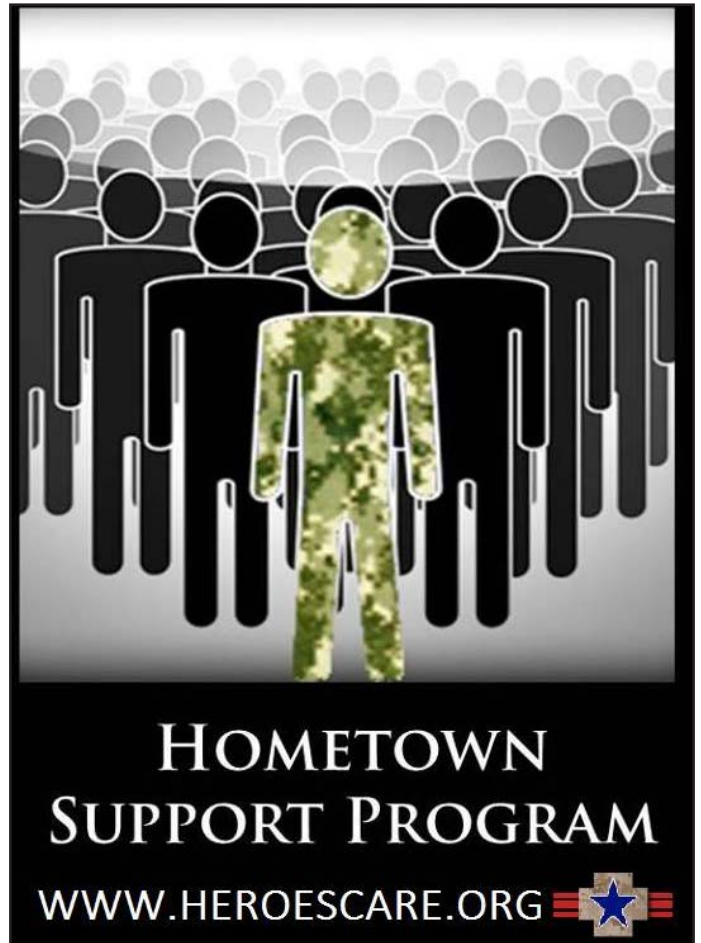
H.E.R.O.E.S. Care: Stories of God's Goodness

Over the last 18 months, God has blessed the H.E.R.O.E.S. Care team time and again with evidence of His love and faithfulness. We are excited to share some of our stories with you!

Heroes Care, an offshoot of Stephen Ministry, has provided me an opportunity to serve, one veteran at a time. My veteran is disabled and occasionally needs help with understanding his health insurance, his banking, legal dealings and an occasional ride to an appointment. He is most appreciative of Heroes Care, expressing wonder that there is such a giving organization. He and I both look forward to our meetings, as I have come to care about him and his wife (she also has a disability, though not a veteran). His terrific sense of humor and generally positive outlook on life, make him a welcome visitor wherever we go. He always ends our visits with "God Bless You!" No, I say, God Bless You, and all veterans. Thank you for serving our country!

Jim Haffner

*Jim Haffner is a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader here at NPC, as well as a H.E.R.O.E.S. Care Hometown Support Volunteer (HSV). For more information about H.E.R.O.E.S. Care, please feel free to chat with anyone on the H.E.R.O.E.S. Care team: Bruce Baggaley, Cleve Cleveland, Jim Haffner, Evie Knight, Leslie Lloyd, Tom Mao, Pete Roux, Sheree Sanborn, Emily Shute, Cindy Terry
Evie Knight Outpost Leader, H.E.R.O.E.S. Care*



Prime Timers

March 17, 2016

2:00 pm in the Post Rd/Mission Room

Guest Speaker from the Darien Land Trust, which permanently preserves and restores open space, providing the community with environmentally rich habitats, scenic vistas, and the quiet enjoyment of nature.

We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Birthdays (January–March).

If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Marlene at 203-309-5620 or marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.



Caring Ministry continued...

Prayer Matters

*The next in an occasional series on answered prayer,
offered by an anonymous member of our congregation:*

In my version of religion, I just don't spend much time thinking about the devil. I'm wired to think more about the positive than the negative. The devil is Captain Negative, so I don't give him much attention. Or so I thought.

About a year ago, in a breakout group at Men's morning study, an 80-year guy named George, shared with us that he tries to avoid getting cross . . . "because when you let yourself get angry, you're opening a window for the devil to come into your thoughts." I'd stored that idea on my mental back-up drive, not that useful on a daily basis to a guy wired like me.

This past Monday I was trying to have a meditative conversation with my Maker. Okay I was quietly praying. Unfortunately, my mind kept being drawn back to a situation at work about which I was rather annoyed. Okay I was mad. One of my project leaders, while very gifted in technical competency, had severely alienated almost everyone on the team (two dozen folks) because he missed all the clues on how to influence the team's culture. *How could God gift this person so generously in*

valuable competencies, yet given the person so few skills in understanding the work culture? Really God, you can do better than this.

My anger was holding my mind hostage, or according to George, I'd let the devil into my thoughts and thus blinded me to seeing God's plan in this situation. Once I pushed the devil back out the window, God's plan was an amazingly clear gift to me. I discovered on Tuesday I had a major technical project, not requiring cultural influencing skills, much better suited for this person to lead. God's plan also allowed me to lift up a young person with a healthy balance of competency and culture to lead the project the other person was mishandling. With a minor shift in my perspective, or improved listening skills to my Maker, three lives were made richer -- the prior manager was better applied, a new manager elevated, and my calm restored and appreciation for seeking God's plan for me reinforced. Thank you our Father. Amen.

Marriage Support: Save Monday Nights!

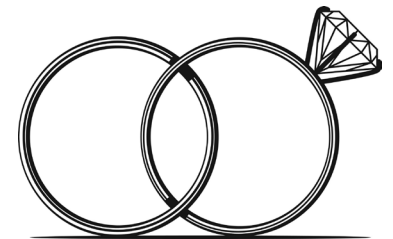
April 18-May 16, 7:30-9 pm

Join us for a 5-week course to feed your marriage.

April 18: Our own **Amanda Craig**, PhD, will speak on "*Emotional Connection in a Marriage and Family*." Amanda is an NPC member, Darien resident, licensed marriage and family therapist with a practice in NYC, mother, and wife. She is a sought-after expert with an approachable speaking style.

April 25 – May 16: Amanda Craig will lead a four-session study on marriage for couples. She will be using Andy Stanley's video series "*Staying in Love: Falling in Love Is Easy, Staying in Love Requires a Plan*" and will be accompanied by her husband Craig. Couples from this course last year gave rave reviews.

More info coming in the April Spire and Noroton Notes.





Minute with Mickie – Kids' table, Adult table, or Family table?

Do you remember the “Kids’ Table at family gatherings for holidays? You know, the big fancy table where the adults ate and then a card table where the kids ate? I hated sitting at the kids’ table. The kids’ table never seemed to have good plates, nice glasses, pretty flowers or, well, frankly, it just wasn’t the cool place to sit. We would eat fast, play with our food, get silly, were scolded and in the end we just longed to be old enough not to have to sit there anymore. By the time I was a teenager, and old enough to join the adult table, I didn’t really want to. I just wanted to sit with my older cousins who weren’t at the adult table either. We would rather not even BE at the event, let alone at any table. This tradition of separating the kids from the adults has been going on for generations. Sound familiar?

When my children were younger, we did away with the kids’ table. We just had a Family Table. They learned how to use the dishes, the crystal, the cloth napkins, and how to enter into conversation. As a result we enjoyed a variety of contributions to our family meals. Oh, of course the kids were excused early to go do kid things, while adults continued their adult things, but what I found interesting was that the teenagers, as time went by, lingered longer at the Family table. My grown children now have their own children at their Family Table. Community happens. Traditions are understood and everyone WANTS to be at the table together. We all know what is expected and everyone participates.

We have this issue of separate tables at Church. We use words like “Adult Worship” and “Children’s Church.” When kids grew too old for “Children’s Church” they didn’t want to join the Adult service. They hadn’t been welcomed there before, so why would they want to go there now? They didn’t have a clue what was expected of them. Many churches today are suffering great loss in attendance. Their adult ‘table’ has become very old. Teens and young adults are making new tables for themselves somewhere else. Churches complain about this phenomenon, but we did this to ourselves by always making separate tables.

At NPC, our Family “Table” is our Sunday morning Sanctuary experience, as well as our community activities as a church family. Our elementary children are with us from the beginning. NPC kids know how to sit in silence, how to pray the prayers, how to sing the hymns and praise songs. They feel comfortable with the liturgy. They know what to expect and they know they belong with everyone. Oh, sure, they leave early to do what is best for them in another setting for learning, but they will always know they are welcomed at the Family Table.

At NPC, we will often see teen musicians and JAM Singers leading worship or joining with the Chancel choir. Elements of our service are geared for all ages. Our Community events, like the Chili Cook-off, Family Fun Nights, Service Day (April 3) are intended for the whole family. We do NOT have a separate kids’ table on our Congregational Life or Family Fun night experiences. All ages worship, play, talk and enjoy one another. We need all the ages to be a true church family.

Now don’t get me wrong, NPC offers events that are specific to various ages. After all, Mom and Dad need their date nights without the kids, and kids need time to be kids too, but our intention at NPC is to have the Family Table so that we are preparing our children to always participate at the Table of our Lord. Won’t you join our Table?

Looking ahead – don’t forget to plan on **Vacation Bible School: Cave Quest – following the Light of Christ.** Begins **Sunday, June 26** in the afternoon for an intergenerational family event as our kick-off, then mornings 9-noon June 27-30. When the 2016 VBS Team contacts you for involvement please say “Yes.” Want more information? Watch this preview video about Cave Quest at www.npckids.com under Upcoming Events.

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



Last month I shared about NPC's long partnership with the Cabwaylingo Chapel/Community Center in Dunlow, West Virginia. Hearing of their need for a reliable vehicle to transport children and youth to outreach and community programs held at the Center, our ministry donated one of the vehicles from our fleet to help meet this need. Over the course of the next couple of months, our ministry will be engaged in a series of collections aimed at helping the people in Dunlow, including:

Water Proof Spray-On Sunscreen. One of the opportunities that we are able to make available to children and youth in Dunlow during the time that our mission team serves in that community each summer is the chance to go swimming each afternoon in a local pool. Many of the families in the community cannot afford this luxury, so we go ahead and cover the cost for the pool rental for an entire week (and last year we donated additional funds to the Community Center so that they could rent the pool for a week later in the summer). In addition to not having enough money to cover entry fee to use the pool, many of the children and youth don't have the funds to purchase sunscreen—so they end up getting burned, or have to sit out of the activity altogether. This year we would like to see something different happen here—so beginning in March, the youth ministry will be collecting new water proof spray-on sunscreen (Spf 50) to be given to families in Dunlow.

Spray Insect Repellent. We have heard recently in the news about yet another disease that is transmitted by mosquito bites, which is not only tragic but also

difficult to guard against. Whether or not a particular biting insect carries disease or not, I think most of us experienced at the very least the annoyance of being bit—let alone bit repeatedly. Now imagine if you have little or no defense to keep these biting nuisances away—and you live amidst a variable breeding ground of such insects (in addition to the presence of a number of bodies of water, Dunlow is located in a forested area). Many of the children and youth that we meet in West Virginia don't have the means to provide for themselves a ready supply of insect repellent. And just as the summer months move people outdoors, so does the summer heat accelerate the growth of these insect populations. This year we would like to provide the people we serve in Dunlow with much needed insect repellent resources—so beginning in April, the youth ministry will be collecting new cans of spray insect repellent to be given to families in Dunlow. More information about what kinds of repellent we will be collecting will be available closer to the start of collections.

You have been quite generous over the years in your support of families of Dunlow, which I know they so greatly appreciate. I hope that as our mission team prepares for the coming summer you will join me in generously continuing that friendship and support. Grace be with you all.

Grace be with you,
Pastor Jimmy McPherson
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry

Mission Ministry



“Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”

Matthew 5:16

Sunday April 3

Serving the community with Joy!

Service Opportunities for all ages and abilities

Serve for 1 hour or all day!!

Signup online now on our website or after services on March 13
in the Skylight Fellowship Lobby

Schedule for Sunday April 3

8:00 am - Worship in the Sanctuary with communion

8:45 am - Commissioning in the Skylight Fellowship Lobby

9:00 am-4:00 pm - Time of Serving the Community

5:00 pm - Service of Celebration in the Sanctuary!

Including worship, testimonies and communion.



How Can You Support NPC Service Day?

Pray – Please pray that this day will bring great glory to God and will shine the light of Christ throughout our community. Pray that our church will rally together to serve with great joy! Pray that everyone will participate!

Donate – Items needed for baking, carepackages, craft, and funds to help cover costs of landscaping/maintenance projects for the needy. (Details online)

Volunteer – Full details of all the activities and schedule are posted online. We hope you will participate in a service activity and join the commissioning and celebration!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Service opportunities include:

Off site

- Work Teams at Open Door Shelter, Pivot, and around Darien
- Delivering baked goodies/soup to homebound and emergency responders
- Choir visit to Waveny Life Care Network
- JAM visit to Maplewood
- Green Team – litter pickup
- Delivering refreshments to sports fields
- Darien Land Trust project
- Cooking soup and baking brownies

On Site

- Care packages for College Students (InterVarsity)
- Childrens' craft project for mission partners
- Prayer ministry
- Knitting for Hopeline PRC
- Children's singing project for mission
- Ministry of encouragement – letter writing to missionaries
- World Vision Promise Pack Event

Mission Ministry continued...

Coming up :

March 5: Serve at the Open Door Shelter

Please contact Holly Hough at hhough7@optonline.net if you would like to sign up to serve lunch at the Norwalk Shelter.

March 13: Signup Sunday!

The excitement is building! Our first NPC Service Day will take place on Sunday, April 3, 2016 with opportunities for all of us to be involved in loving and serving our community and our mission partners. Service Day team leaders will be on hand after services on March 13 to advise on activities and help you sign up online. (You can also signup anytime via the NPC website).



Stella Clarke Promoted to Director of Missions

In a recent action of the session, the elders acted on a recommendation of the Mission Team and HR team to name Stella Clarke as our Director of Missions. Stella has been our primary contact with all of our missionaries and mission partners for the past 4 years. She has also supervised our budgets, communications, volunteers and special offerings for missions. Stella did a great job coordinating much of the work of our *Foundations for the Future* Mission grants. This new title is a recognition of the leadership she has given and will give to a major facet of our ministry. Congratulations Stella!

Stewardship

NPC Financial Forums Sundays, March 6 & 13

The Pastor and Elders are offering a short informational forum after each Sunday service March 6 and 13. As we emerge from a season of great generosity that led to our new construction, regular pledges, gift indications and offerings are now lagging behind 2012 giving levels by about \$500,000. Members may not know the real extent of our needs or may have questions about possible cuts we will have to make if this trend is not reversed. Members are welcome to stay after the Chapel service at 8 am or come by the Mission Room off the Skylight Fellowship Lobby after the 9 am, 10:30 am and 5 pm services to hear a short presentation and to ask any questions. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Pastor Sam and the Session

Congregational Life Ministry



Have you registered yet?

This year's annual Chili Cook Off is just days away ...

**Saturday, March 12th
6:15 to 8:15 pm**

Registration requested:

Space is limited in Horton Hall ... both for Chef Entries and for Tasters/Judges.

We would appreciate having advance notice so we can plan appropriately.

- Register online ... under Events.
- Use registration form included here.
- Via email ... valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org.

Categories:

- Beef, Poultry, All Other Meat-Based, Vegetarian
- Indicate Spicy, or Not-Spicy
- Cornbread (Traditional Southern and Sweet Northern)

Chefs:

- Solo
- Family unit
- Friends group
- Other

Be creative and have fun!

All who attend are considered tasters/judges, and receive ballots for each category. Prizes are awarded based on 'best liked', so chefs should consider how they will 'campaign' for votes!

See you on March 12th!

Contact me with any questions at valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org,

Valerie Muller

Director of Communications and Community
(including Congregational Life)



**CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER ONLINE**



CHILI COOK-OFF! REGISTRATION



Saturday,
March 12th
6:15-8:15 pm

Name of Individual, Family or Group: _____

Individuals Attending: _____
(# and Names)

Contact Person Info

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Chili Dish Name (If Known): _____

Check here if you haven't decided yet []

Type of Chili: [] Beef [] Vegetarian [] Poultry [] All-Other Meat

[] Also Spicy! [] *Eating/Judging ONLY!*

Cornbread: [] Sweet [] Traditional

Questions?: valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or 203-309-5650

Music and Fine Arts



Choir Open House

On Thursday, March 3rd the NPC Chancel Choir will be hosting an Open House rehearsal. We invite all who have ever thought of singing with the choir to join us for fellowship and music making. Auditions are not required, we welcome the merely curious and even the timid. Our choir is a wonderfully warm and welcoming representation of the Body of Christ. You don't need to read music or have what might be considered a solo quality voice even though our choir has a beautiful tone and a polished delivery it is made up of people with a wide range of musical and vocal abilities.

There is no obligation to join the choir but we invite you to learn the moderately easy anthem and sing with us in the morning Sanctuary services on Sunday, March 6th. If you like you can continue singing with us through Easter, the end of the year, or forever.

We will begin the evening with a time of fellowship and snacks at 7:30 pm followed by rehearsal at 8 pm until 9:30 pm. The rehearsal will take place in the Fine Arts Center downstairs in the new center core.

For any questions please contact Jen H. at 203-309-5614 or music@norotonchurch.org or try to catch me on Sunday morning between or after services. I hope to see many new faces on March 3rd!



Blessings,
Dwayne Condon
Director of Music

Flower Team



The flower team will be decorating for Easter on **Friday, March 25** and creating the flower cross on **Saturday, March 26** at **9:30 am**.

We welcome others to join us.

Contact Meredith Schoff and Marion Smith at flowersnpc@gmail.com for more information.



The flower team is in need of small vases for rearrangements of Sanctuary flowers each Sunday. Please drop clean vases in the flower room or contact us for pick up.



2016 Easter Flower & Music Memorial Donations

To make a donation (in the amount of your choice) in memory of a loved one, please put your check in an envelope with this form and place it in the offering plate, or return to the church office. Please mark in the memo section: Easter flowers. Please indicate whether you would like your donation to go to flowers or music (see below). We will continue to list the memorial names in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Schoff or Marion Smith at FlowersNPC@gmail.com.

Donations Should Be Received No Later Than: Monday, March 21st

In loving memory of: (1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____

Given in love by: _____

Donation to: _____ Flowers _____ Music

Welcoming Ministry

Want to Become a Member? Register Now for New Member Class on March 19

YOU ARE INVITED: Saturday, March 19, 2016,
12:30 to 5:30 pm. New members will be welcomed
into the congregation at the 10:30 service the next day,
March 20.

Here's what recent new members said about the class:

- *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.*
- *Looking forward to becoming a part of the 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 gone so quickly.*

The class is interesting and enjoyable! 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.

Free professional nursery care is provided for children 3 months to 4 years. Pre-registration is needed. To register on-line and for more class information, see the membership ministry page on the NPC website (www.norotonchurch.org). Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.



Be part of the Welcoming Ministry: Share God's Love through Service to Others

If you feel you have a gift for hospitality and outreach, please join the Welcoming Ministry (aka the 7-Minute Team because it takes that short a time for people to form a first impression of a church).

We are in great need of volunteers to:

- Greet in the lobby for 15 minutes before the 9 and 10:30 services, and/or
- Help at the Welcome Station for 15 minutes after the 9 and 10:30 services

Sign up as your schedule allows:

- Pick a Sunday of the month (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) that works with your schedule OR
- Help regularly for a stretch of time when you know you are "around"
- Volunteers needed through mid-June when beach service starts
- Subs available if you have a last minute conflict

Contact julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org, with questions or to sign-up.

Working with Faith,
Julie Colbath
Director of Membership

Holy Week Service Schedule



Palm Sunday, March 20:

Preaching: Pastor Jimmy McPherson
8:00 am Chapel
9:00 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services
5:00 pm Open Doors



Maundy Thursday, March 24:

7:30 pm Communion & Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary
Pastor John Seiders. All are welcome.
There will be no Simple Supper this year.
(Childcare not offered for service)



Walk with the Cross, Friday, March 25:

10:30 am Meet at 1st Congregational Church, Darien.
Join others in our community as we walk down
the Post Rd. to St. Luke's.



Good Friday Ecumenical Service, March 25:

12:00-3:00 pm St. Luke's Church
"Perspectives on the Passion"
(You are welcome to come and go as needed.)



Open Doors Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26:

5:00 pm Horton Hall - Pastor Jimmy McPherson
Childcare 3mos. to 3 years



Easter Sunday, March 27:

6:00 am Sunrise Service at Weed Beach
Preaching: Pastor Brandi Drake
8:00 am Sanctuary Service with Choir & Brass
Preaching: Pastor Sam Schreiner
No childcare or Sunday School
**9:30 & 11:00 am Sanctuary Services with
Choir, JAM Choir & Brass**
Preaching: Pastor Sam Schreiner
Childcare up to 3 years
3's-K: Regular Sunday School classes
1st-5th grades: Chapel
6th-12th grades: Remain in Sanctuary
(No Open Doors Service Today)



March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	5
		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (NYC) 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm JAM Choir 7:00 pm Harbor 6th-8th	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 pm Choir Open House 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			
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	7:00 pm Alpha	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 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		6:15 pm Chili Cook-off	12
NPC Service Day Sign-up Sunday 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 5:00 pm Open Doors Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:00 pm Alpha	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 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.	7:00 pm Epic Capture the Flag		19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Palm Sunday 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9:00 am Confirmation Class 5:00 pm Open Doors Service 6:00 pm High School Ministry	7:00 pm Alpha	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	Maudy Thursday 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 7:30 pm Communion & Tenebrae Service in Sanctuary 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.	Good Friday 10:30 am Walk with the Cross 12:00 pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service	5:00 pm Open Doors Easter Vigil	
27	28	29	30	31			
Easter Sunday 6:00 am Sunrise Service - Weed Beach 8:00 am Sanctuary 9:30 & 11:00 am Sanctuary 9:30 & 11:00 am Classes for 1st -5th grade - Chapel Child Care available No Open Doors Service	7:00 pm Alpha	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 9:30 am Oasis 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:15 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			

A Thank You from the Jordan-Haas Family

To a most beloved Noroton church family, Connie and I thank you for your steady heartfelt care and prayers for us as we're living now into the huge loss and sadness of missing my Dad. You have been Christ's gentle presence of peace and strength in this tough time (Psalm 29:11). We are clinging to Christ's promise of New Life and to the sweet memories of my father; and we're grateful to know that we are not alone because of the sisters and brothers of our Good Shepherd (Isaiah 53:4).

Peace and Grace,
David and Connie, Julia and MaryGrace

In Loving Memory of...

January 28th:
Sanford Young

February 23rd:
Jeanne Toth

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

Upcoming Baptism Dates

3/20 & 4/17 at the
10:30 am Sanctuary service.

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

If you would like to submit an article for the April 2016 issue please submit it before March 15 to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Program Staff

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 & Women's Ministry</i>	Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Julie Colbath 203-309-5615 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Pastor Jimmy McPherson 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Youth Ministry</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>Director of Missions</i>	David Lee..... 203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i>
	Beth Aparicio 203-309-5605 <i>Director of Noroton Presbyterian Child Care</i>	