

# The Spire

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

## Best Practices of Caring Churches



Folks I've talked to seem to have one of two views about what it must be like to be a minister. One group only observes the

superficial aspects of the job and says, "It must be nice to have such a short commute, time to read, and a manageable schedule with only a weekly sermon to produce." I usually smile and agree knowing that little I would have to say in protest would change their mind that somehow a minister gets to live the life of Riley. The other group is a bit more knowledgeable and usually says, "I don't know how you do what you do. All the people in crisis who come to you, the constant sense of being "on call" for emergencies, meetings, fund raising, volunteer recruitment, staff management, expectations to be perfect in every setting and on top of that, a weekly sermon to produce that is inspired, interesting, relevant and fresh delivered 3 or 4 times in one day must be demanding." I agree with them too, because they are, of course, much closer to the truth. A recent New York Times article (August 1, 2010) mentioned the growing rate of depression, hypertension and obesity suffered by members of the clergy. A Duke

University study of Methodist pastors found that ministers reported significantly higher rates of arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma. The pressures of the call, and the growing complexities of ministry, today are eating away at the health and longevity of pastors. These studies are merely documenting the fact that we who are called to care for others generally don't do a very good job of caring for ourselves.

That is one of the reasons our Presbytery has recommended, and our session has adopted, a policy of giving full time clergy members a three month sabbatical after six years of service. Three months is considered a reasonable time to disengage from the demands of ministry to recharge one's emotional batteries and to retune one's soul. Sabbaticals really harken back to the Old Testament concept of leaving a field fallow one year in seven, preserving that land's productivity for many generations. Sabbaticals allow pastors to do some mind-stretching, soul-caring, health-restoring activities which makes them a gift to our clergy which pays dividends to the church as well. Pastors who experience a sabbatical return to the parish life rejuvenated, inspired and re-energized.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Worship Schedule:

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

**NO Open Doors service on Feb. 6th**

## Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

2/6/11 - Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes  
 2/13/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner  
 2/20/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner  
 2/27/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner

## Upcoming Baptism Dates:

10:30 am Sanctuary service:  
 2/20/11 and 3/20/11  
*To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 655-1451, ext. 33.*

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That is why the Alban Institute, a leading church consultancy, has said that the secret of a healthy church is a long-term pastorate and the secret of the long-term pastorate is a sabbatical at least once every seven years.

This summer the Session has graciously approved a plan that will allow me to take a sabbatical from mid-June to mid-September (yes, I've been here six years and we are starting our seventh year together) when our church calendar is lighter. I have given to the Session the goals and plans I have for this wonderful gift of three months away. Two weeks will be spent in Oxford and Cambridge at the C. S. Lewis Symposium held there once every three years. Some of my time in England will be looking at Reformational history and the archeological treasures of the British Museum. I'm hoping that I can exchange housing and maybe preaching duties with a minister in England but, if that falls through, I'll be looking for housing in or around London, Oxford or Cambridge. The rest of the time will be spent on reading and writing projects and improving my exercise routines. I look forward to some extended family time which is often shortchanged in the weekly demands of ministry.

So thank you, Noroton for affording me this opportunity for the care of my own body and soul. Once again, you are a model church, observing the best practices of healthy churches and showing great care for those who care for you.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,  
Sam Schreiner

## Adult Spiritual Formation

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### **Women's Luchtime Study, Mondays 12:15 p.m. in the Parlor:**

Gina Blaze, co-director of the NE Prayer Center in Easton, CT, will speak to us for 9 weeks on God's Order for us. Please bring your lunch and join us. Contact Lori at 203-655-1451 x. 44 or [lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org](mailto:lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org).

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### **DivorceCare, Mondays:** Refreshments at 7:15; Program 7:30-9:00 p.m.

in the SHAC. Contact Lori at 203-655-1451 ext 44 or [lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org](mailto:lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org) for more information.

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### **Moms of Young Adults Book Group, Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.**

**-1:00 p.m. in the SHAC:** Questions? Call Claudia at 203-253-6795 or Linda at 203-536-6110.

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### **Women! Tuesday Morning Happenings:**

**6:15 a.m. in the Parlor:** We are reading *Hustling God* by M. Craig Barnes.

**9:30 a.m. in Horton Hall:** We are starting with lesson 1 of *Hustling God*. Books available for \$14 in the Main Office and on Tuesday mornings. Pastor Brandi Drake and lay leaders teach, then we break out into small groups. Childcare available but you must pre-register for Tot Drop with Lori. Contact Lori at [lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org](mailto:lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org) or 203-655-1451 ext. 44 with questions or to purchase a book.

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### **Men's Study Tuesdays in NYC 7:30 a.m. -**

**Fridays in Darien 7:15 a.m.:** For more information contact Pastor Greg Doll at [greg.doll@norotonchurch.org](mailto:greg.doll@norotonchurch.org).

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

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

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### **Moms of Teens - Parenting Book Group:**

Thursdays from 10-11:15am in the SHAC. We have chosen our next book to read for our Thursday morning class. It is "*Parenting Your Teen and Loving It: Being the Mom Your Kids Need*" by Susie Davis. Copies can be purchased from NPC in the main office for \$6.00.

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### **Senior Fellowship - Thursday, February 17th, 2:00 p.m.:**

For more info contact Marlene, [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org) or 203-655-1451, ext. 49. Pastor Sam Schreiner will present on a topic of his choice.

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

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**Wanna Stay Connected and Join Our Email List??** We have email blasts to the congregation with general church updates, prayer requests, special events and more. If you're not receiving these email notices and would like to, please contact Claire Bragdon in the church main office, 203-655-1451 x. 40 or email [claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org](mailto:claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org) to be added to the list.

# Adult Spiritual Formation continued...



## Noroton Lectures 2011 Presents Guest Speaker Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes February 5 & 6, Saturday & Sunday



NPC is pleased to welcome The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes as our guest speaker. Each year this endowed lectureship brings a leading Christian writer, thinker or teacher to the Darien community.

Craig was raised on Long Island, NY. After graduating from The King's College and Princeton Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in The History of Christianity from The University of Chicago under the supervision of Martin E. Marty.



In 1981 he was ordained into the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has served parishes in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C. Dr. Barnes has an innovative dual position and serves as the Robert Meneilly Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the Senior Pastor of The Shadyside

Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA.



He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior decorator. They have three delightful children and a hairy dog named Esau.

He is the author of several books and articles that center on the struggle of contemporary people making sense of God's grace. His published books include **Yearning**, **\*When God Interrupts**, **\*Hustling God**, **\*Sacred Thirst**, **Extravagant Mercy**, **Searching For Home**, and most recently, **The Pastor as Minor Poet**.

\*Available for purchase during the series of events.

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

Register on-line at  
[www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)  
for the following events on  
**Saturday, February 5**  
in Horton Hall

8:00-9:30 am - Men's Breakfast  
**Topic: *Insight from Jacob and Rachel***  
All men are invited to join us for a continental breakfast, fellowship and a lecture.

10:00-11:30 am - Women's Coffee  
**Topic: *Insight from Rachel and Jacob***  
All women are invited to join us for coffee, refreshments, fellowship and a lecture.

7:00-8:30 pm - Keynote Address  
**Topic: *Spirituality for Grown-ups***  
All are welcome to the evening lecture.

### Sunday, February 6 Worship Services

8:00 am - Chapel  
9:00 am & 10:30 am - Sanctuary  
**Sermon: *Living With a Dream***  
(Genesis 17:1-5, 15-18)

Join us for any of our  
Sunday morning services.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2011 MEN'S RETREAT

March 25, 26 & 27

The Men's Retreat will again be held at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT

This year our guest speaker will be **Bay Forrest**

Visit our website  
[www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org) and click on the  
**Men's Ministry** link to download the  
registration form.

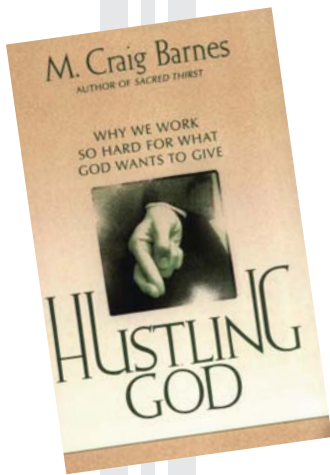
Please make your checks payable to NPC

# Caring & Women's Ministries

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For a while now, the Tuesday morning women's Bible Studies have been 'chewing' on the book *Hustling God* by our Noroton Lecturer, Craig Barnes. He'll be with us this first weekend of February, and I can't wait to hear his more current thoughts on Jacob—on Jacob's marriage to Leah and Rachel, his struggle to 'hustle' blessing out of the one who gives so freely. I am looking forward to a rich time together on Saturday and Sunday, February 5th and 6th. I thought I'd spend my space in this month's Spire to share some of the quotes from *Hustling God* that have led to vibrant discussion in our Tuesday morning groups. My prayer is that some of these nuggets will encourage you to make time to attend one or more of the talks that Dr. Barnes will share with us.



- *It is only when we see the goodness of what God has formed that we will be content to receive our lives with gratitude. Until we believe it is God who created our lives, and has called all creation 'good' we will continue to judge our lives as being not good enough.. Page 18.*
- *The thing for which you are really striving is self-esteem. Ironically, though, you keep trying to get it from the esteem of everyone but yourself. Page 31.*
- *People become victims only when their goal is to avoid suffering. Page 50.*
- *Like Abraham and Jacob before us, tithing is a way of telling God, "this is not the life I had planned. It certainly isn't the life I would have made for myself. It is so much more, because it has come from your hands. Page 71.*
- *When we have someone figured out, we are in control, and humans are incapable of loving the things we control. Page 79.*
- *God does not convert you by modifying your behavior through a lot of religious activity. Rather conversion begins with opening your heart to believe the voice from heaven calling you beloved. Page 119.*
- *Theologian Karl Barth once claimed that all sin is simply an expression of ingratitude. Page 156*
- *The most striking thing about God's dreams is that we can only receive them. We can never make them happen, no matter how good the plan is. Page 170.*
- *Faith is demonstrated not in what we accomplish, but in how we respond to the unpredictable drama of life. Page 181.*

**Hope to see you there!**

Pastor Brandi,  
Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry

# Children's Ministry

We hope everyone is enjoying the new year and all the wonderful snow that has fallen upon us. Children's Ministry would like to thank everyone who made our Christmas Eve service a huge success! The 3pm and 5pm family services were very well attended, and our children helped share the Christmas story through song, drama, scripture and a live nativity. For many of those in attendance, this service is their only experience in church for the whole year. We know that God's word, told through the eyes of our children, ministered to many of those people. In addition, for those who are already believers, it's nice to be reminded of the most basic message: Christ, a Savior is born!

In the midst of all this New England snow and packing up Christmas decorations, it's hard to believe that Children's Ministry already has VBS on our radar! This year's theme is "PandaMania." We're excited to begin preparations for CM's biggest event of the year! As always, we are seeking volunteers for all aspects of VBS from music to coordinators to those willing to donate time and creativity in decorating. Participating in VBS is a great opportunity to minister to our kids and get to know them on a personal level. Throughout the year we often get bogged down with sports, homework and other activities, but this week is a chance to focus completely on our children's relationships with God, with their peers

and with those volunteers from our church community. If you are interested in being part of VBS this year please do not hesitate to contact either myself at [stefanie.deleo@norotonchurch.org](mailto:stefanie.deleo@norotonchurch.org) or Samantha Theoret at [samantha.theoret@norotonchurch.org](mailto:samantha.theoret@norotonchurch.org).



Stefanie DeLeo  
Director of Children's Ministry



# Tot Drop



In February, Tot Drop will be sending out information and enrollment packets to parents regarding their needs for summer care and also for day care for the 2011-2012 school year (September to June). Actively participating families and those on the current waiting list will have priority, followed by inactive registered families seeking future child care; families who are not currently registered at Tot Drop but with future child care needs in mind should request an information

packet. All requests will be considered in the order received and with consideration of priorities based on current participation.

As most are aware, space is limited by state licensing requirements and the process is a bit like putting a jigsaw puzzle together without being able to look at the box top to know what the end result should be! Further complicating the process is the need to consider ministry activities that provide care for children of participating moms and the need to reserve sufficient space for them on their meeting days. (This year has provided us with additional insights and resources to be more effective in this regard.) Hopefully we

can continue to meet all needs as successfully as we have in the past and still save sufficient opportunity for “as-needed” reservations each month. This provision makes Tot Drop completely unique—and very helpful—to families in the surrounding communities.

Families with questions should contact me as soon as possible in order to plan for summer needs and for the 2011-2012 school year. Even though we have just launched 2011, we need to start looking ahead to 2012 to be fully prepared!

Blessings,  
Carol Scott,  
*Director of NPC Tot Drop*

# Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



January was very busy with visitors attending orientations and tours of the nursery school.

Our own students were happy to be back with their teachers and friends. The snow fall allowed for a lot of sledding and studies of winter weather and animal habitats. Many classes started author and artist studies. The hallways are filled with examples of the students own creations from these studies. We ended the month with one of our favorites - Pajama Day! It's always fun to see which NPC employees join in the fun.

We thank you all for the wonderful holiday cards and well wishes for the New Year.

Martha Duff  
*Director of NPNS*



*Grace Liu adds to the pattern on the paper chain that reached from one end of the hallway to the other.*



*The Hurst family starred as Jesus' family in the Christmas Chapel.*



*Bryan Demyan, Phoebe Tunnell, Ryan and Liza McIntire are having fun in the snow*

# Student Ministry



As college students “sail” away for college we often think we are sending them off on a large cruise ship when often college students feel like they are in a dingy. No matter where the reality lies college students need the ongoing support of their church family. Unfortunately, we have not done a very good job of keeping up our connection with college students. I hope we can begin to make some changes in supporting our college students.

Sometimes the connections can be challenging. To help connect with individual students I hope to find groups within our church to “adopt” some college students. It could be your small group, Bible study group, or others in the church to come together to support a few college students. This “adoption” would involve praying for your college students, sending them emails letting them know you are supporting them, and sending them a care package during finals. This is one small way that I believe we can continue to support and connect our church family together. Second we need to be able to contact our college students. So if you are a college student or parent of a col-

lege student we would like to know where you are going to college, your email address, physical address, and when your spring semester finishes up. If you have information for a college student or have a group that would like to adopt a student please contact Kara Thompson.

Pastor Stuart  
*Pastor of Student Ministries*



Isn't it funny how time flies when you're having fun? I cannot believe this June will mark 3 years since I moved to Connecticut and began doing ministry at NPC.

It seems like only yesterday that I was frantically learning faces and names of students and their family members. But at the same time, what a difference all this time has made! Today NPC feels like more than a workplace or a ministry field, it feels like I'm home. I have seen God work in countless ways in my life and in the lives of students I have encountered. I have been

poured into by some wonderful women in the church through one-on-one mentoring, the Women's Retreat, and attending a Bible study. This has in turn enabled me to mentor and lead 6-12th grade students on a much deeper level. The highlights of my week are my Tuesday MS girls small group and my Wednesday HS girls small group, as well as the “contact work” I do over Robeks/Starbucks/Panera, etc. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT) says “So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us.” I am so thankful that God has made me one of His ambassadors in Darien. I can't wait to see what 2011 will bring!

Abby Young  
*Student Ministry Coordinator*

## Spring Break Family Mission Trips:

This year we taking two trips to New Mexico to serve the Navajo and Zuni Native Americans. Dates: Private School Break: 3/20-25/2011 and Public School Break: 4/17-22/2011. Each trip costs \$525 plus airfare.

The March trip's final date to register is **Feb. 6** and participants are required to make their own travel arrangements to New Mexico keeping in mind the arrival and departure times published on our website and in email blasts. The Final payment of \$525 (or balance of \$325) is due on this date which is our first training date for the March trip.

The April Trip is \$525 without airfare and \$1100 with airfare under the NPC Group rate. The deadline to fly under the group rate is **Feb. 4**, otherwise, participants will need to make their own travel arrangements for either trip. There is a \$200 deposit due by **Feb. 4**.

To sign up, each participant will need to complete two applications and pay either the deposit or full amount. Payment plans and scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Smith if you have any questions and call/email Kara Thompson to register.

# Congregational Life Ministry



**'Dinner & A Movie'**  
(Saturday, March 5th, 6-9:30pm\*)  
Mark your calendars NOW for a fun evening of fellowship with friends and family members ... in our very own Horton Hall!

What better way to spend a cold winter evening... than joining others for a family-style meal and family movie!

## Chili Cook-Off ...

We'll start the evening at 6 p.m. with a meal.

We invite you to pull out a favorite family recipe (or create a new one!) ... and share it with others!



A chili or a stew-type dish is preferred.

Congregational Life team members will provide several favorites, and we encourage others to do so as well. (It is NOT required that you bring a dish; only IF you like cooking and have a favorite to share.)

Please let us know in advance ([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org)) if you plan to bring a dish so we can plan accordingly.

**We will provide complementary dishes:** rice and/or noodles, salad, bread, beverages, etc.

## Movie (and Discussion) ...

We'll have a discussion time about the film during dinner. Highlights will be things to look for, and/or be prepared for, during the film.

### First Choice ...

We're hoping that the popular C.S. Lewis inspired Chronicle of Narnia latest release, **'Voyage of the Dawn Treader'**, will be available in time for this all-age-friendly evening.



These Narnia movies, based on C.S. Lewis' classic book series, include themes of: facing fears, family relationships, teamwork, cooperation, and imagination ... and are appropriate for adults and children\*\* alike. This engaging film navigates treacherous waters, as each cast member is tested en-route to restoring peace in Narnia. True to Lewis' previous works, there are allusions to Christianity throughout.

Our goal is to provide a means for families who have seen the movie in the theatre to have an opportunity to see it **together** a second time ... AND have a forum to discuss the relevant themes! We'd also like for those who have not yet seen it, to enjoy it for the first time.

If you'd like to read the book prior to the evening, you can borrow it from me. I've purchased the 7-book **Narnia** series and I'm happy to lend it out.

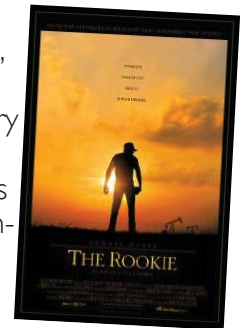


### Alternative Plan ...

Should the Narnia release not be available, we have selected another 'classic', released in 2002 ...

### The Rookie.

This film deals with a gift and a dream, in a baseball setting. Based upon a true story, **The Rookie** tells the story of loss of heart and restored hope in baseball and the game of life. There is much symbolism interspersed throughout the movie, e.g. the dirt field being transformed with grass which begins to grow as hope is restored in the individuals and team.



Christian themes of love, hope, faith run throughout the film... encouraging the characters to live the life they were meant to live, surrounded by those who believed in and encouraged them. It is a story of unconditional, sacrificial love.

\* We will conclude the evening no later than 9:30 p.m. - Dinner will be about an hour. The film will begin at 7 p.m. (*The Voyage ...* runs 140 minutes; *The Rookie* runs 128 minutes.)

\*\* **IF we have sufficient interest/need, we will provide child care for children under 5. Please make sure to communicate your interest/needs ([valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org)) before March 1st so that appropriate arrangements can be made.**

**Also any seniors who wish to come and need a ride are encouraged to phone me. We will arrange transportation so you can join us for the evening.**

Hoping to see MANY of you 'at the movies',  
Valerie Muller,  
Director of Congregational Life

# Membership Ministry



## New Church Directory to be Completed this Spring – Send in Your Pictures!

Thank you to the almost 300 families, couples and individuals that had their photo taken in November, December or January for the new church directory! It was a lot of work but so worth it. I've peeked at many great photos and it will be good to see all your smiling faces as we flip through the pages.

**For those who were not able to come in for a photo, you still have a great opportunity to have a picture included by submitting one to me now.** Perhaps you had a great shot taken over the summer or while on vacation. We want to make sure you are included so send it in! **Please submit photographs to me by Friday, February 25. Photos should be reasonably up-to-date and of good quality.**

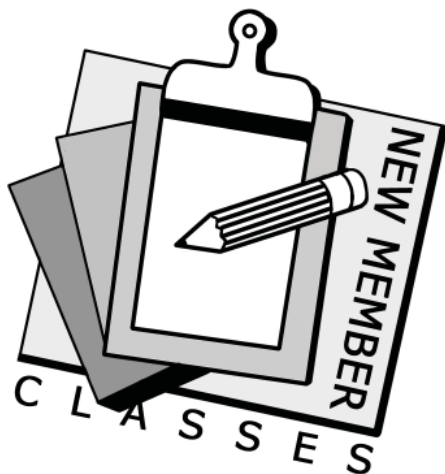
To help ensure good quality, I would greatly prefer that you email me a digital copy (to [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org))

([norotonchurch.org](http://norotonchurch.org)) with the highest resolution possible, but you can also leave a hard copy in my mail box at the church. Be sure to include your name(s) and all contact information, including email if you have one (but this will not be published in the directory). It's helpful to us if you also include dates of birth.

**As has been done in the past, if you have a photograph included in the directory you will receive a copy of it for no charge.** However, if your photo is not included, there will be a fee of \$10 to receive a copy.

All the other parts of the directory – such as photographs of special worship services, the many ministries, and staff – are coming together. I hope to have the printed directories in hand by the end of April.

On a related note, if you have not met with the photographer to select your photo for inclusion in the directory, please contact Joyce to make an appointment to do so ([joycelaitman@yahoo.com](mailto:joycelaitman@yahoo.com) or 203-912-4445). Also, if you ordered pictures from the photographer they will notify you when they are ready. You can pick them up at the church from a table right outside my office next to the Choir Room.



## Spring New Members Class

The next New Members class will be held on four consecutive Sundays, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**New Dates: March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10.**

This new format was very well received in the fall.

The membership class is a great way to:

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

If you are feeling a nudge toward exploring membership, please call me to have a no-pressure, open conversation to discuss your questions. If you are already a member, please pass the word to friends, neighbors and family who might be considering membership that a class is being held in the spring and they should feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 203-655-1451, ext. 14 or by email [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

Julie Colbath  
Director of Membership

# A Word from the Nominating Team

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What an exciting time to be a member of NPC, and even more so to be in leadership as an Elder or Deacon! We are truly blessed by our pastoral staff: Pastor Sam Schreiner, and Associate Pastors Greg Doll, Stuart Smith and Brandi Drake, who minister among us preaching, teaching, serving and loving this congregation. We have been equally blessed by the very talented Dwayne Condon, Director of Music and Fine Arts, and his wife, Jenifer. We have so many programs available for a wide range of ages and interests.

With the strategic plan going forward to the next phase this is an exciting time to think and pray about becoming an officer of this church. At this blessed time, the faith of church officers will stretch and grow when we join in sharing the leadership and caring of the congregation with our excellent pastoral staff! What an awesome responsibility and a holy joy!

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, Student, Worship & Fine Arts, Adult Spiritual Formation, Properties, Missions, Congregational Life, Evangelism & 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 are Homebound, Flower Outreach, Sunday Fellowship, Hospitality, Welcoming/Ushers, Media and Care giving. 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:

Martha Duff  
Missy Fiorita  
Burt Palmer  
Chuck Richardson  
Claudia Roux  
Linda Russell  
Renee Vasey

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 Claudia Roux at [croux@optonline.net](mailto:croux@optonline.net).

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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.

# February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	5
		6:15 a.m. Women's Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 12:00 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp. 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night meeting	6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. 8th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grad Harbor 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	Noroton Lectures 2011 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. - Women's Coffee 7:00 p.m. Keynote Address	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - K's. 1st - 12th grades remain in worship. 6:00 p.m. High School Super Bowl Party (SHAC)	12:15 p.m. Women's Study 3:30 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 6:00 p.m. Tres Dias 7:00 p.m. 6th Grade Harbor 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.	6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. 8th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grad Harbor 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	12:45 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - 12th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 7:00 p.m. Ignite	12:15 p.m. Women's Study 3:30 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults Book Group 7:00 p.m. 6th Grade Harbor 7:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp. 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting	6:30 a.m. 10th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. 8th Grd Girls Grp. 7:00 p.m. 7th/8th grad Harbor 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry 8:30 p.m. Ignite Band Reh.	9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom 10:00 a.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	2:30 p.m. 9th/10th Guys Grp.		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - 5th Grades 6th - 12th Grades remain in Service. 5:00 p.m. Open Doors	Presidents Day NPC Offices Closed	6:15 a.m. Women's Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.			
27	28						
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's - 5th Grades 6th - 12th Grades remain in Service. 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 7:00 p.m. Ignite	12:15 p.m. Women's Study 3:30 p.m. MS Guys Group 7:00 p.m. Alpha Course 7:15 p.m. DivorceCare						

# NPC News

## In Loving Memory of...

January 10th:

Dorothy Arrison

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

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

January 16th:

Brenna Alice Miller,

daughter of

Richard and Shana Miller

## It's Easy to be of Service!

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

*If you would like to submit an article for the March 2011 issue please submit it to: Rose Cunningham by email to [rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

## Spring New Members Class

The next New Members class will be held on four consecutive Sundays, ~~March 13, 20, 27~~ and ~~April 3~~, **New Dates: March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10**, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. To register or for more information, contact Julie Colbath (203-655-1451, ext. 14, or [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org)).

## Send in Your Picture for the Church Directory

If you did not have your picture taken for the new directory, please submit a photograph by **Friday, February 25**. Photos should be reasonably up-to-date and of good quality. It is preferably to email them with the highest resolution possible to [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org). Or you can leave a hard copy in her mailbox at the church. Be sure to include complete names and contact information.

# NPC Staff here to serve you!

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