

# The Spire

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



## Our Foundations for the Future

Last summer I had the chance to visit some of the wonderful older churches of London. Deb and I attended an organ concert in Sir Christopher Wren's great masterpiece – St. Paul's Cathedral. We also attended Sunday morning services at two historic 19<sup>th</sup> century churches – Holy Trinity Brompton (where the "Alpha" program originated) and All Souls – where Dr. John Stott was once the rector. In St. Paul's (which represents Anglican traditionalism) we found many empty seats. In Holy Trinity and All Souls, on the other hand, we found multi-ethnic congregations packed with worshippers of all ages. These were churches moving into modernity by adding computer projection screens and, in HTB, comfortable seating as pews had been removed and replaced with padded chairs. The object lesson was pretty clear – churches don't need to change their **message** but they better be open to changing their **methods** and **means** to reach this next generation.

Speaking of change - Darien has been updating itself lately. Since I moved here in 2004, we have constructed a new High School, built a new Library, modernized downtown stores and

we are now expanding the YMCA. We recognize that new teaching methods, reading technologies and family programming needs all call for improved facilities accommodating the internet, computers and room for greater community interaction. Churches will soon need to follow suit. In 2008 St Luke's embarked on an extensive remodeling campaign. Now it's Noroton's turn to address some critical needs and to encourage changes to our methods and means to more effectively teach our faith to the next generation.

Welcome to our first major capital expansion effort in 21 years – *Foundations for the Future!* We have been working on and praying over this plan since 2006. Many of the changes you have seen around our church are a result of this plan. Back in 2006 and 2007, a study group that was appointed by the session asked What do we need to strengthen or change to effectively serve our church family and community in the next 10-15 years? We recognized that our historic strengths in ministry were our Biblically centered **worship** services, our energetic programs of teaching and discipleship for **children and youth** and our deep and broad

### Worship Schedule:

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

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 2/5/12 - Noroton Lectures**  
 Mark Buchanan, Guest Speaker  
*"Shoot the Moon: Becoming Holy Risk-Takers"* Matthew 25:14-30
- 2/12/12 - Pastor Sam Schreiner**  
*"Foundations for our Future"*  
 Ephesians 2:19-21
- 2/19/12 - Pastor Sam Schreiner**  
*"Pass the Pepto"* Acts 4:32-37
- 2/22/12 - Ash Wednesday**  
**Imposition of Ashes Service**  
 12 noon and 7:30 pm Chapel
- 2/26/12 - Pastor Sam Schreiner**  
*"Welcome to the Family"*  
 II Corinthians 8:1-7

### Upcoming Baptism Dates:

**2/19/12 and 3/18/12**  
 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service  
 To schedule a Baptism please call  
 Leslie Ezzo at 203-655-1451, ext. 33.

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commitment to **missions** - here and abroad. We broadened our programs with new staff members who helped us launch a new worship service called Open Doors, the addition of family mission trips, local community missions like "Feed my Starving Children", and outreach programs like Mom to Mom (now Oasis) and the Alpha Marriage course. We have already been working on the "foundations" of teaching and reaching the next generations of saints using power point presentations and video teaching in more of our classes and programs. These were easy first steps to take as our ministry evolved to embrace 21<sup>st</sup> century realities.

Now we need to address the "foundations" of our facilities which house this growing ministry. Many "systems" and components need repairs - we have outdated wiring, old heating systems, ancient windows, failing sound systems, old AC units, leaky flat roof systems, and buildings that aren't allowing us to grow or work well together. The mid-section of our building, which connects our Sanctuary to the CE wing, has so many "issues" that it makes more sense to tear it down and rebuild rather than repair it. We have put our hard-working staff in tight offices in the children's wing, tying up space that our growing children's ministries need. Re-grading

and reworking the parking lot around a new central entrance would bring our playgrounds next to the building (a BIG safety improvement) AND give each level a ground floor exit. A welcoming lobby in the center of our worship and CE buildings will allow us to gather together as a church family, just as the kitchen or living room becomes the central gathering place in our family homes. Adding more video screens and modern heating and cooling systems will give our historic buildings important modern upgrades. This plan will truly lay a strong foundation for our future.

Of course the core of this effort is not about bricks and mortar. It is about faith and families - seniors and infants and everyone in between. To pass on our Christian faith to the next generation, we need to have buildings that are safe and comfortable and capable of sharing the gospel with excellence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also want to build the kingdom of God as we reach out to assist our mission partners in this venture. We look forward to sharing with you more about this journey in the next two months as we work together to follow the Lord's leading and lay the *Foundations for the Future*.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,  
Sam Schreiner

## **Date of Team Night has been moved to:**

**Tuesday, Feb. 14th**

7:30 p.m. Fellowship  
7:45 p.m. Presentation  
8:00 p.m. Team Meetings

**NPC SENIOR  
FELLOWSHIP**  
**Thursday, February 16,  
2012**  
**from 2:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**in the Parlor**

Pastor Stuart will discuss  
'Sticky Faith' -- Being the  
Family the Church  
Calls Us to Be."

For more info, please call  
either Marlene Moffett  
(203 655-1451, ext 49) or  
Rita Hornlein (203 357-1504)

### **Weekly Prayer Meeting:**

**Thursdays 1:15-2:15 p.m. in  
the Parlor.** Come and pray for

the needs of our church family.  
Everyone is welcome - no prayer  
experience necessary. For more  
info contact Marlene Moffett at 203-  
655-1451, ext. 49 or email  
[marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org).

### **Wanna Stay Connected and Join Our Email List??**

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

# Adult Spiritual Formation



This weekend we will welcome pastor/author/speaker Mark Buchanan from the opposite end of North America (British Columbia) to deliver our annual Noroton Lectures. I remember reading his book, *Your God is Too Safe* and thinking to myself, "This is the one book that I wish I'd written. It is the most insightful assessment of the North American Church that I've ever picked up." I was very excited to learn that ten years later he has produced a follow-up work entitled, *Your Church is Too Safe*. We will be privileged to hear Mark lecture on that topic before the book is actually released at the end of February. Please join us for this special weekend of teaching. For more information or to register, please go to our website at [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org).

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Greg  
Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation

## Noroton Lectures 2012

### Featuring Mark Buchanan, Guest Speaker



Register on-line at [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org) for the following events on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> in Horton Hall

8:00-9:30 am- Men's Breakfast

Topic: *Break the Roof: Becoming Holy Vandals* - Mark 2:1-12

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

10-11:30 am - Women's Coffee

Topic: *Break the Roof: Becoming Holy Vandals* - Mark 2:1-12

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

7-8:30 pm - Keynote Address

Topic: *Turn the World Upside Down: Becoming Holy Terrors* - Acts 16:6-17:8

All are welcome to the evening lecture.

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Worship Services

8:00 am - Chapel / 9 & 10:30 am - Sanctuary

Sermon: *Shoot the Moon: Becoming Holy Risk-Takers* - Matthew 25:14-30

Join us for any of our Sunday morning services.

All 3 themes are taken from chapters in his upcoming book *Your Church is Too Safe, Turning the World Upside Down* (releases Feb. 17, 2012), "sequel" to *Your God is Too Safe*.

## Men's Studies

### Men's Bible Study: Fridays 7:15 a.m. in Darien.

*"Life Along the Post Road and the Book of Revelation: An Alternate Reading of Reality"*. Led by Pastor Greg. Fridays, at 7:15 am in Horton Hall. We will enter the bizarre world of the Apocalypse with its dragons, beasts, horsemen and bowls of wrath. We will allow John to unveil his mysterious vision of the spiritual realm. For more information please contact Marlene at 203-655-1451 ext 49 or [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org).

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

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

# Caring & Women's Ministries



When I think of a foundation, I think of a slab of concrete. How important it is to have a solid slab of something on which to build! And I think of how much work it takes to get the concrete just right.

When I was growing up in Southern California, every Spring Break I would go with my youth group to a hillside community outside of Tijuana to build small modest homes. This was in the '80s, and at the time we were there electricity was scarce, and equipment was expensive. It was all about manual labor. My fondest memories of these weeks are of taking a shovel and mixing concrete the old fashioned way: building a volcano with sand and rocks and cement, filling it with water, and shoveling away to make it just the right consistency. It was hard, satisfying work, and I always felt like we were really accomplishing something when we had those shovels in our hands.

Fast forward several decades, and here we are at Noroton Church talking about Foundations for the Future. We're talking about lots of shovels!

But more important than any shovels full of concrete or sand are lives full of prayer. I have come to believe that our commitments and decisions are borne out of an attentiveness to what the Holy Spirit is already doing. Prayer is a way to tap into the activity of God in our midst... it's a

way of surrendering ourselves to a mutual discernment and committing ourselves to honor Christ with every action. Hard, satisfying work!

During our time of discernment in this season, the Prayer Team of the Foundations movement will send out daily prayers to your email inboxes. Also, as a symbol of this foundation of prayer, each person in the NPC family will receive a river stone in worship on February 12 and then any Sunday afterward.

It's our hope that you will carry the stone in your pocket each day as a reminder to pray. On commitment Sunday (March 18), we're asking each one to bring his or her stone to the sanctuary, where we will collect them all together as a sort of 'ebenezer'—witness to all the prayers that are poured into the life of this church. And here comes the best part! When we pour our first foundation for whatever it is we agree to build together, those stones will be mixed in with the concrete—representing that our actions are borne out of prayer. And prayer will be poured into the very foundation of our physical life together.

As we enter this time of discernment, let's be intentional about seeking Christ and submitting ourselves to listening in prayer. Pray about what He would have each of us commit for the foundation of the future of this congregation.

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

## Women's Studies

**MONDAY Women's Lunchtime Study:** Mondays - noon in the Parlor.  
**No meeting Feb. 20**

**Women! Tuesday Morning Happenings:** 6:15 am Bible Study: in the Parlor. Up for an early challenge? **No Meeting Feb. 21.** The discussion is always relevant and thoughtful in this group! Join us. Coffee's on!

9:30 am Bible Study: in Horton Hall.  
**No Meeting Feb. 21.** We worship in song, receive teaching from one of our leaders, and then break off into small groups to apply what we've learned to our lives. Contact Lori Nelson.

**Moms of Young Adults Book Group:** We meet two Tuesdays each month in NPC's SHAC from 11:30am-1:00pm. We will study Nancy Ortberg's book, *Looking for God: An Unexpected Journey Through Tattoos, Tofu & Pronouns*. A typical meeting includes time for fellowship, book discussion and prayer for our young adult children (and their parents!!). For questions and sign-ups, please call the leaders: Linda Russell (203) 536-6110 or Claudia Roux (203) 253-6795.

**Women's Evening Bible Study:** Meets Wednesdays, 7:00 -8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. **No Meeting Feb. 22.** We are reading *Spiritual Rhythm: Being with Jesus Every Season of Your Soul* by Mark Buchanan. All are welcome. For information contact Nancy McGuire at [nancymcg@optonline.net](mailto:nancymcg@optonline.net) or 203-856-8844.

**Moms of Teens Parenting Book Group:** Thursdays, 12:00-1:15 pm (brown bag lunch) in the SHAC at NPC. Contact Seana ([Seanagt@aol.com](mailto:Seanagt@aol.com)) or Lisa ([lisherwo@optonline.net](mailto:lisherwo@optonline.net)) for more information. **No Meeting Feb. 23.**

**Moms' Oasis Ministry:** Oct 6-April 12, Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:00 am in Horton Hall. **No Meeting Feb. 23.** A group for moms of children from birth to elementary school-age. Come and be refreshed with other moms! Childcare provided but limited; registration required. Please contact Lori at 203-655-1451 ext 44 or [lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org](mailto:lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org).

# Caring & Women's Ministries continued...

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## A Word About Stephen Ministry

If you are a parent or grandparent like me, you have probably replayed the news of the tragic events of December 24<sup>th</sup> on Shippan Point over and over in your mind, trying to make sense of the enormity and horror of that tragedy. To understand, we may feel guilt, anger, helplessness or a loss of faith. Even Jesus Christ cried from the cross "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

As Stephen Ministers, we are taught that grief is a journey – "a natural process that must be worked through in order to rebuild a new life." Like grief, faith is also a journey. Stephen Ministry marries the grief journey of a suffering soul with the faith journey of a Christian lay person. After the funerals, flowers and delivered meals have long disappeared, when everyone else has left, a Stephen Minister is there to meet the deepest, spiritual needs, compassionately listening to and validating the pain of a fellow mortal.

One thing is certain – in this life, we will all experience some form of suffering. Stephen Ministry is not the solution to this suffering. Instead it is a comforting, loving process. Rather than avoiding the subject, Stephen Ministers come up right along side that suffering and embrace their brother or sister. While serving as Stephen Ministers, we discover what a complete honor and privilege it is to be able to share the journey and Christ's love with another. And out of that love, joy miraculously appears.

*"[W]eep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15) and "bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).*

*Stephen Ministry will begin a new training session in January, 2013. In coming months, we will be asking congregants to prayerfully discern whether this might be a call to service in their own lives.*

## Children's Ministry

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**W**ith a fresh start to a New Year, we are thrilled to announce that the Lord has led us to a woman of great gifts and she has agreed to serve as our permanent Children's Ministry Director beginning February !! Mickie O'Donnell is a talented, bright, loving, dynamic and

seasoned children's pastor, with great depth and breadth of experience in children's ministry, all of which will greatly benefit the children of NPC, their families and the entire congregation.

Mickie brings nearly 35 years of ministry experience, many of which were spent in the Chicago area. In addition to focusing on children for most of her career, she has also served as a minister of spiritual formation, Christian education, and family ministries and as a Bible study leader.

In addition, Mickie is a motivational speaker at ministry conferences and has been a consultant, published author

and adjunct faculty member at various colleges in and around Chicago. Mickie holds two masters degrees, one in Philosophy (University of Aberdeen, Scotland), the other Religious Education (Trinity Divinity School, Illinois). We eagerly anticipate that her undergraduate studies in drama and music will also shine through her ministry here at NPC.

Mickie and her husband, David, enjoy the blessings of a blended family that includes six grown children and seven grandchildren. We are confident that Mickie will be a champion for our children and an invaluable resource to all who attend NPC. Please join us in lovingly welcoming Mickie O'Donnell! Be sure to reach out to Mickie early this year as she transitions to Connecticut.

DCM Search Team- Martha Duff, Missy Fiorita, Kelly DeGennaro, Brandi Manisalco, Iris Mix, Lucy Moore, Susie Shelton, Stuart Smith, Seana Turner, and Ginna Yerrall

# Children's Ministry

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One day, I will fully embrace the fact that God just doesn't do 'random'. Maybe then, I will have the courage to sit back and wait for what I know is coming. On that day, I will wait with faith and trust; love and hope for the 'beautiful collision' that is God's plan.

These collisions are often a long time in the making and they tend to lead us to a place we never could have anticipated or imagined. A place so perfect, it could only have been conceived by the Holy Spirit. We are nearing one of God's glorious collisions in Children's Ministry, and I would like to share the journey with you.

There have been three 'balls up in the air' in Children's Ministry for the past few years. At first glance, these three 'balls' seem completely unrelated, running on parallel tracks toward a conclusion of our own design. I am astonished to realize, as I sit here to write this article, that these are not three random events. These three events are destined for collision: a beautiful collision of God's perfect design.

The first 'ball', of course, is a permanent Director of Children's Ministry. I'm sure by now, you have all heard about our new Children's Director, Mickie O'Donnell. To say she will be amazing is an understatement... sort of like saying that the sun is toasty, or that Jesus was a good guy.

Mickie is a dynamo with 31 years of experience and ideas that will transform our Children's Ministry program. She literally wrote the

book about the Rotation Model of Sunday School. Her eyes get bright when she speaks about the potential at NPC, and it's infectious! I find myself looking forward with great hope, and ambition to the many changes that are in store for all of us.

The second air-borne ball here in Children's Ministry is the question of how we, as a faith community, nourish a lasting faith in our children. How do we create a faith that is not based on a 'to do' list of right or wrong, pride or shame, but a faith where our kids learn to trust God and to let Him lead the way. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:4 "*You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.*" He goes further in Galatians 6 to say "...*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*"

This is a conundrum in Children's Ministry. We teach the gospel. Our kids learn through skits, music, activities and bible stories. If, as Paul says, the only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love, then our current method of teaching is falling short of the mark. We are missing a critical, overwhelming, human component of faith.

Don't worry! All is not lost! Unbeknownst to us, we are on course for a 'beautiful collision' with each path orchestrated by our heavenly father.

The final 'ball in the air' is the new building plan and subsequent capital stewardship journey. The architect's drawings have caused much ado among the various ministries of

the church. I, myself, have been anticipating a glorious new space for Children's Ministry, and, have (not) subtly lobbied for real estate. Children's needs a place to call its own, by golly! Certainly, fund raising from families with children will be dependent on the space we provide for their kids. Right?

These three things seem separate from one another at first glance. I am thunderstruck as time goes on, to watch each scenario become inextricably woven together to create a fabric in our Ministry that could only be crafted by God's masterful hand. I simply do not have the capacity to come up with this. Check it out....

Mickie is amazing. She knows how to build a living, thriving, Christ centered Children's Ministry, and she has the energy to do it.

Paul tells us a lasting faith expresses itself through love. We can't teach our kids about love and faith by proxy. We have to get in there, roll up our sleeves, and model faith through love and respect for our younger brothers and sisters in Christ. It's time to welcome these kids in to our lives, and in to the life of the church by working together and by learning together. That's a big shift from our 'together but separate' paradigm of ministry.

Finally, the issue of designated space becomes moot when we consider Paul's challenge to express our faith through love and not through works. The old vision of Children's Ministry does not work under the new model. Securing real estate

# Children's Ministry

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for children's ministry implies silos, competition for resources, and insular thinking. It implies a Members Only club where anyone over 4 feet need not apply.

I see overlap and integration when I envision the church through Paul's eyes. The space becomes something we can all enjoy together, maybe cooking a meal or playing a board game. Wouldn't it be amazing for several generations of Christians to have a space to gather together to watch the Super Bowl? I get chills!

'Foundations for the Future' takes on a whole new meaning when we look at the church through Paul's eyes. The church truly is a foundation for our young

believers. You and I are the church. We become a faith family rather than a school for Christian education. We become a place of refuge, rather than a place of rules. Finally, we become a community that gives our kids the gift of lasting faith, to be passed on to the next generation.

May the grace of Christ lead you all to your own beautiful collision as you ponder your role in the future of our church.

Warmest Blessings to all of you,  
Linda Yim & Liz Morelli  
*Children's Ministry*

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## Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School

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January was an exciting month at the nursery school. Our staff and students were thrilled to see to each other again after the Christmas break. Many classes

started author and artist studies. The hallways are filled with beautiful creations from these studies. We held orientations for the 2012-13 school year. We had over 150 people come through the school for tours. Our registration period concluded on January 20<sup>th</sup> and new contracts will be sent out this month. We were so honored to have the Darien Times print an article about our school in the January Education Section. We ended our month with one of our favorite days – Pajama Day! It is always fun to see the nursery school and church staff join in the fun.

God Bless you,  
Martha Duff and the  
*NPNS teachers and staff*



Ms. Sarah and Ms. Cynthia's threes act out the nativity story



William DeMott, John Fay and Evan Anavy act out the letter J

# Tot Drop



Noroton Presbyterian Church



Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

Last month I shared the “growing pains” currently facing Tot Drop because we have more three year olds or almost-three year olds than we currently have space for in our “Three and Up” room. In some ways, it is a big challenge and in other ways a happy problem to be solved!

Our current/temporary solution is working out well. You may remember that we decided to turn one half of our Two Year Old (currently called the “Toddler Room”) into a space for children who have just turned three or are about to turn three in the next few months. The pictures below show you how our clever caregivers, Pilar Yika and Veni Peter have transformed the space.



We have installed a portable sink for the children so they don't have to disturb the program on the two year old side when hands need washing during many parts

of the day. Many of the threes/almost-threes are in the wonderful stage of potty training, so we have installed a previously unused changing table in the hallway girls' bathroom to accommodate those in the group who are still using diapers, those who may need an “unexpected” change of clothes, while simultaneously those who are ready to use the toilet facilities practice their new skills. This maintains the changing table in the Toddler Room just for the two year old group and eliminates further interruptions to their activities.

We have also altered our playground schedule to support both the Three and Up children and the “New Threes” group to have some overlapping playtime to get to know each other.

Pilar and Veni are engaging the children in fun and meaningful, developmentally-appropriate activities; currently they are hard at work helping the children explore shapes and extend their learning. The room hums with enthusiasm and joy.

While we are grateful for the happy way this has unfolded, we look forward to a time when each group has sufficient space and opportunity both indoors and outdoors to play and learn without curtailing the opportunities of another group.

In His service,  
Carol Scott  
Director of NPC Tot Drop

# Student Ministry



When I was growing up in Dallas, Thanksgiving was shared with the Harriett family who was from the same town in Illinois as my parents. My mother and Mrs. Harriett had been friends since elementary school and we always had a good time together as they had daughters about my age. We would alternate every year between our house and the Harriett's. The celebration was similar between the two houses, except for one significant part. At our house we had a large dining room table where we always made room for everyone, at the Harriett's home there was a kid's table. There was the adult table with china plates, crystal glasses, sterling silver utensils, and adult conversation. At the kids table we had the same food but we had plastic plates, plastic cups and the conversation would evolve into a contest of who could eat the most gravy and would usually end with a significant spill. Looking back I never disliked one feast more than the other depending on the table we sat at, but recently Kara Powell, a professor at Fuller Seminary, has drawn a connection between the separate tables at a family feast and what churches have done to separate adults, children, and youth.



For over 50 years the Shac has been a great place for middle and high school students to gather for fellowship, games, Bible study, and incredible events. But research indicates that when we as a church only connect students to a youth ministry and not the church

over 50% of students will not "stick" with their faith once they leave for college. Connecting students to the church is a big task that many of the elders and deacons are engaged in exploring, but I look forward to see how parents and others in the NPC family can help to connect our students to the body of Christ at NPC.



Over five years of research, study, and dialogue by Kara Powell, Chap Clark and others is part of a great book called "Sticky Faith." I have mentioned it several times and shared some of the most relevant aspects for our church at the January Officers Retreat. One of the core ideas for helping students develop a Sticky Faith is for students to have a 5:1 ratio. That is that each student has five adults within the church active in their lives. These are adults who talk regularly with students, know them by name, are able to celebrate milestones in their lives together, plus much more. I strongly encourage all parents to take time to read this book and explore how we can develop a more sticky faith in our students.

As we embark on the Capital Stewardship Journey I am excited to see how student ministry being part of the main church building will not only be a physical message to including students, but also a reality that more and more adults, children, and students will have more opportunities to be at "one table" as we worship, serve, and learn together.

Pastor Stuart  
*Pastor of Children's & Student Ministries*

# Student Ministry continued...

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## 843 Well-Tended Acres



In 1853, a sizable parcel of land was opened in Manhattan for the enjoyment of its' residents. At the time, New Yorkers had been flocking to any available open spaces to find a moment of peace and quiet; unfortunately these spaces were often cemeteries! With this clear desire and public outcry for green space in the city, the landscape designers Frederick Olmsted and Calvert Vaux won the competition for imagining the new space, and Central Park was born.

Could there be any parallels in this story for us during this season of the "Capital Stewardship Journey"? Could a church learn from Central Park? Absolutely.

Many times my wife Anne and I have walked through the park, admiring the seamless integration between the natural features of the land, and the design and foresight of the planners. We appreciate the beauty of the architecture, the trees and plants, and the layout of the park, it's actually hard to believe that this vast manicured space lies in the middle of a bustling metropolitan city.

Under the leadership of the Central Park Conservancy, the park has continued to be refined and reworked. From the intricate walking paths, bodies of water, Poet's Walk and Great Lawn, countless features and improvements have made the park more usable and more attractive to the millions of people who consider it their backyard.

While I can explore the park today with my family, sometimes taking for granted the wonderful features all around me, I am reminded of the long-term vision under which the park was born. The passion for this vision allowed for the original designs, funding, and ongoing renovation that have enabled the park to survive and thrive into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While there were certainly obstacles, financial stresses, periods of

decline (as well as eager developers trying to convert the park to skyscrapers), the park remains today as one of the most celebrated and utilized urban spaces in the world.

It all could have been very different though...

What if people could just "make do" with the green spaces they already had? What if the plans were never drawn up? What if there was no financial backing? What if procrastination was king? What if the land had not been cared for over the years? What if short-term thinking won out? Well, thankfully it didn't.

While a park and a church have their differences, the idea of long-term thinking and vision for the future are present in each. In this season at NPC, may we be inspired by projects like the creation of Central Park. Great things are not accomplished easily or without trepidation; big visions demand sacrifice, human energy, and a heaping portion of patience.

May we remember and learn from the long term vision of our own church members in generations past, those who, early on, had the vision, creativity and generosity to see big dreams accomplished, and give gifts to projects they may never have been able to enjoy themselves. In the days ahead, may we steward what we have been given, building on that foundation and continuing to pave the way for the next generations.

Blessings,  
Ben Valentine  
*Student Ministry Coordinator*



# Student Ministry continued...



## Super Bowl Party



Happy February! An important part of Christian life is community and fellowship with other believers. Anytime we gather and enjoy life together, it's a blessing for us and to God.

One way we enjoy great fellowship in Student Ministries is coming up this month. Student Ministries is once again hosting its annual **Ignite Super Bowl Party!** On February 5<sup>th</sup> we'll be at the SHAC watching the big game, and all High School students are invited to join us. The game will be on the big projector screen and there will be

delicious food prepared by Student Ministries alum and culinary student Kelsie Bickford!

This is sure to be a great event. So if you're in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade: wear your team apparel, come watch the game and the crazy commercials with us, and please bring your friends! Even if you don't care about the game, at least come for the commercials! We can't wait to see you there.

Abby Young  
*Student Ministry Coordinator*

## Music & Fine Arts

### Choir Temps Needed Less Time- Just as Fulfilling

Every January, church choir directors scratch their heads and wonder, "Where did everybody go?". We ask for a lot from our choir members during Advent and Christmas, so it's natural that people take a bit of a break during January and February. Sometimes we worry that the situation will continue for too long and we always come to the same conclusion- We need more choir members!

I know that choir membership can seem like an overwhelming time commitment but usually it's just one and a half hours on Thursday night and about two and a half on Sunday morning. Since you are already there on Sunday morning anyway, it's really just adding about an hour.



NPC is blessed with an excellent choir and many faithful members, but like everyone, life sometimes gets in the way of choir participation. If we have, say, 40 fairly active members and 50 percent of them have conflicts on a given week, we won't quite have the 'critical mass' we need to be as effective as we should be. If we can increase to 50 or 60 active members we will always have a strong showing on Sunday morning. So, I would like to ask everyone reading this to prayerfully consider being a part of our wonderful choir and would like to propose the following scenarios for you-

1. Guilt-free! Come when or as often as possible. Try to make it to rehearsal and Sunday morning even if you don't feel like it. I know that I'm often too tired to exercise but afterwards I'm always glad I did. Choir is like that.



2. Commit to singing with us for Holy Week and Easter. We will begin rehearsing for this special season on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Try to make 5 of 7 rehearsals and you will be in great shape.

I look forward to seeing some new faces this year! Let me know if you are interested by speaking with me on Sunday morning or emailing me at: [dwayne.condon@norotonchurch.com](mailto:dwayne.condon@norotonchurch.com)

Blessings,  
Dwayne Condon  
*Director of Music and Fine Arts*

# Congregational Life Ministry

## Happy February!

A great month to celebrate building relationships ... !



### *'Foundations for the Future' ...*

As we continue as a congregation on our journey of faith in discovering what God is calling us to do for His kingdom both now and in the future ... the Congregational Life Team is excited about the possibility of considering an ever-broadening menu of church-wide activities! We are very eager to see how God wants to grow fellowship opportunities for us to help initiate for our members and community.

If you have any ideas/suggestions for us to consider in the coming months/years, we'd love to hear from you.



May we all be wonderfully surprised at what God has in store for us at NPC!

Growing with you in Christ,  
Valerie Muller  
Director of Congregational Life



### SAVE THE DATE: March 3rd (Saturday)



Mark your calendars NOW ... for a fun evening with friends...

We're planning on hosting a 'Chili Cook-Off' on that date.



This is in large part a result of last Spring's Dinner & A Movie evening, where we had a chili-specific potluck dinner in Horton Hall prior to showing a movie appropriate for all ages. A number of members asked why we weren't doing a 'cook-off' ...

So ... this year we are!

Chili is such a good wintry days meal ... and it seems that many members have 'favorite recipes' that they wish to share.

We will need a MINIMUM of ten-twelve participants to really make this event sizzle ... so we encourage you to SIGN UP to participate in the cook-off as early as possible! (Look online for a registration form, or call/email Valerie ... 203-655-1451, ext 48, [valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org).)



You can participate as

- an individual
- as a family
- small group
- a group of friends
- We'll encourage pastors and their families to submit an entry.

Judging will be by popular vote amongst those in attendance. And, a surprise 'Best of Chili' prize will be awarded at the end of the evening.

So whether you are participating **by cooking**, or **by sampling**, your attendance is important!

We encourage you to come and enjoy ... the food, and the fellowship with others!



# Membership Ministry

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## Membership Classes: What Does it Take to Make It Happen?

Membership continues to be a vibrant, active area at NPC! About 100 people join each year: around 60 through the New Member Classes and about 40 students through Confirmation.

So, what does it take to make membership classes happen 3 to 4 times a year?

First, we need a place to hold the classes. We all know that David Lee and his staff do a great job of maintaining our church, but even they are not magicians that can create space out of thin air (although they have tried that too). Each time I make the class arrangements, I jockey and negotiate with other staff so we can all fit in our programs. Pastor Stuart and I have had to compromise several times. There's also a very funny story (I guess it depends on who is telling it!) of how, during a particularly busy time in membership, I chased Dwayne and the choir out of all the possible rehearsal spaces right before they had a major concert. I'm excited about our Capital Stewardship Journey and where it will take us: perhaps more options for holding membership classes and a visitor's center?

Second, each membership class involves about 25 volunteers to help with the small groups, music, food, shopping, check-in, set up, clean up, ministry presentations, and faith testimony. Almost every class I worry that I will not have enough volunteers, and yet (no surprise) God provides each time with enough enthusiastic and effective volunteers that come forward with their time and talents. That said, I do feel that I am usually dipping into the same pool of volunteers and would very much welcome new faces and contributions. Please contact me if you are interested in supporting me in expanding the Membership Team.

Third, the Holy Spirit and God's sure love as expressed through Christ make possible our human efforts and give meaning to them. I see Him at work when people are willing to share with me their faith journey and decision to commit to a church family. I know He is at work in the volunteers whose faces light up with warmth and welcoming when the new members come in the room. I personally feel Him moving in my life as I and other staff serve the new members and seek to always improve on our efforts.

Before the summer, the next New Member Classes are as follows:

- **January Class (canceled due to snow) will be rescheduled; date TBD**
- Four Sundays, March 4, 11, 25 and April 1 (skipping March 18), 10:15 – 11:30 a.m., except the last class, which goes to noon followed by a luncheon.
- Saturday, May 19, noon to 5:30 p.m. (if there are sufficient registrations)

Please join me for a class – either as a new member or a new volunteer!

In faith,  
Julie Colbath  
*Director of Membership Ministry*



# Mission Ministry

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The Nambale Magnet School (NMS) has been through a journey that is larger than life! How far the school has come is attributed to excellent and diligent efforts of reliable men and women who have been faithful with what God has put in their hearts. Over ten years ago, God put a vision in a woman from the Nambale community. She seized the opportunity whilst studying at Yale University and ran with the vision. Evalyn Wakhusama, with the support of her husband, Samuel, began a course to change the lives of the residents of the small town in Western Kenya. The memory lane is familiar to all those affiliated with her.

On August 18, 2007, NMS broke ground. What was a barren piece of land off the highway soon grew to enrich the minds of many children. The event that was graced by the District Commissioner, Mr. Ole Kepas, was the nascence of a premier school in Western Kenya. Construction began in October 2007 and was completed in December 2008. January 12, 2009 saw the opening of the Magnet School. Eight months later the school was dedicated to the Lord.



Milestones, such as electricity connection and the premier prize giving day, charted the path to greater events such as acquiring dairy animals (Guernseys), a green house in 2010 and a fishpond

in October 2011. A competent and excellent head teacher was hired in 2011. The Founder's Day and the Sports Day were new additions to the development of NMS last year. The Magnet School also had its first volunteers, Kate and Nallely, in early July. The two young women from Connecticut witnessed the changes in the lives of families in the town of Nambale. Enlightened children and hopeful and ambitious parents and guardians spoke volumes of the work of God alive in the school.

The series of successful events topped each other, and in no time, it was impossible not to notice the tower of achievements. Evalyn's alma mater, Yale University, caught wind of the remarkable work. On October 11, she was adorned with the Lux et Veritas award for her

14 concern for humanity through the NMS.



Later in December 2011, the school acquired two more assets: a school store and a chicken coop and hay storage facility. From strength to strength, the school keeps growing! The prayers and contributions of many are greatly appreciated for how far the Lord has brought the NMS.

Ernest Wamboye

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For more information view the documentary by Bertrand Schafer of zeworldadventures on YouTube. (<http://youtu.be/AlilHU9Z6rug>).

Ernest Wamboye is the son of Rev. Evalyn Wakhusama. He recently completed his studies in journalism at the U. S. International University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Photos were taken by Marilyn Parker when she and John visited the NMS in July 2011.

Nambale Magnet School is a Mission Project of NPC.



# Mission Ministry



I am very thankful and excited to serve NPC as part time Mission Associate. Thank you for making me feel so welcome! I am here to help you make connections that will allow our faith to deepen and develop through the transforming power that mission has on our own lives and those of others. NPC has many mission partners both locally and globally and I hope to help each of you find opportunities to grow in your faith through being involved in NPC mission work. Maybe the Holy Spirit is prompting you to step out in faith with an existing ministry or get involved with something new that NPC can support? Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss ideas.

I will be working from the church office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-2pm and will also be flexible to meet with you at other times. Please feel free to drop by or send an email [stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org](mailto:stella.clarke@norotonchurch.org)

Stella Clarke  
Mission Associate



Carver Career Fair David Norman



Carver Career Fair Jan 12 Jerre Skeats

## How can You Serve?

**Prayer...** I encourage you to pray for our missionaries many of whom work in difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances, and also to pray about how you might get involved in mission this year. In my experience one of the effects of stepping out of your comfort zone and serving others is that despite challenges God gives you an amazing sense of peace and joy.

### Pray for the Missionaries our church supports

Scott Brill (InterVarsity) Artie Van Sciver (Campus Outreach), Brandon Neike (Darien Young Life), Mark Orr (Reach New England) Bob and Jennifer Chedester and Caroline King'Ori (Kenya) Tom and Dora Becker (Czech Republic) Hanna Massad (Jordan and Gaza) Jairton de Melo (Brazil).

### Local Opportunities

**St Lukes Life Works, Stamford** Monday – Friday 10am-3pm Tutoring in the computer lab. Time commitment to suit your schedule. Contact Jerre Skeats (203) 216-5236 [jskeats@optonline.net](mailto:jskeats@optonline.net)

**Open Door Shelter, South Norwalk** Help prepare and/or serve a meal to the homeless at the ODS with other NPC volunteers. Two hour time commitment. Volunteers must be 18 years to serve meals, 16 years old to help with set up. Contact Chuck Richardson, [chkr@optonline.net](mailto:chkr@optonline.net) or Shepard Halsch [skcakes@mac.com](mailto:skcakes@mac.com)

**George Washington Carver Center, Norwalk** We need After School Program Volunteers to work directly with Carver youth on a one-time or ongoing basis. Help with academics, reading, computers, college applications, sports and games, crafts and celebrations. Contact Jane Malcolm (203) 655-0649 [jkmalcolm1@gmail.com](mailto:jkmalcolm1@gmail.com) For more information about these and the global ministries we support please look at the NPC website under the Mission tab.

# NPC News

## In Loving Memory of...

**January 1st:**  
Dorothy (Dottie) Yarnall McGrath

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

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

**January 15th:**  
Connor James Cataldo,  
son of Keith and Kara Cataldo

**January 22nd:**  
Noah Paul Bozzuto,  
Son of Nicholas and Carolyn Bozzuto

**January New Member Class  
will be rescheduled; date TBD  
(canceled due to snow)**

**March New Member Class!**  
Four Sundays, March 4, 11, 25 and April 1  
(skipping March 18), 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.,  
except the last class, which goes to noon  
followed by a luncheon.  
Childcare available 3 mos. to 4 yrs.  
Contact Julie Colbath,  
203-655-1451 ext. 14 or  
[julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

**Serve as a Worship Greeter  
Just 15 Minutes a Month!**  
Greeters are needed for 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. service  
on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays, and before the 10:30 a.m.  
service on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays. Welcome regulars and  
newcomers to worship with a warm smile and friendly "Good  
Morning!" Please contact Julie Colbath, 203- 655- 1451, ext. 14  
or [julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org](mailto:julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org).

*If you would like to submit an article for the March 2012 issue please submit it to  
Rose Cunningham by email at [rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

## 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>	Carol Scott.....ext. 46 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>
Leslie Ezzo .....ext. 33 <i>Session, Weddings &amp; Baptisms</i>	Claire Bragdon .....ext. 40 <i>Assistant</i>	Claire Bragdon .....ext. 40 <i>Assistant</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>	Martha Duff.....ext. 35 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Lori Nelson.....ext. 44 <i>Assistant</i>	Jenifer Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Music Associate</i>	Barbara Magee.....ext. 37 <i>NPNS Office Manager</i>
Pastor Stuart Smith.....ext. 28 <i>Pastor of Student Ministry</i>	Jen Hanley.....ext. 22 <i>Assistant</i>	Julie Colbath .....ext. 14 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Ben Valentine.....ext. 24 <i>Student Ministry Coordinator</i>	Ken Miller <i>Sanctuary Organist</i>	Dan Rosa.....ext. 43 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Abby Young.....ext. 25 <i>Student Ministry Coordinator</i>	Bunny Ericsson <i>Chapel Organist</i>	Claire Bragdon .....ext. 40 <i>Assistant &amp; Bookkeeper</i>
Eileen Manhart.....ext. 19 <i>Assistant</i>	Linda Yim .....ext. 34 <i>Interim Director of Children's Ministry</i>	David Lee.....ext. 26 <i>Director of Properties</i>
Pastor Greg Doll.....ext. 23 <i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	Liz Morelli.....ext. 15 <i>Assistant</i>	Julio Yika, Tony Dimeglio.....ext. 26 & Brian Wood, Weekday Sextons
Marlene Moffett.....ext. 49 <i>Assistant</i>	Stella Clarke.....ext. 18 <i>Mission Associate</i>	Neal Dalziel, Giovanni Morle, & Lenin Vargas.....ext. 26 <i>Night &amp; Weekend Sextons</i>

# February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:30 p.m. Kidz Choir 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 7:00 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 8:30 p.m. HS Boys Small Group	9:30 a.m. Moms' Oasis Ministry 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -5th Grades 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:00 p.m. Ignite - Super Bowl Party	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 2:30 p.m. MS Boys Small Group 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare 7:30 p.m. Nominating Committee	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:15 a.m. Co-ed HS Breakfast Gp. 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m. MS Girls Small Group 7:30 p.m. Leadership Meeting	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:30 p.m. Kidz Choir 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 7:00 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 8:30 p.m. HS Boys Small Group	9:30 a.m. Moms' Oasis Ministry 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	Family Ski Trip  7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study	Family Ski Trip
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Family Ski Trip 9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 2:30 p.m. MS Boys Small Group 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:15 a.m. Co-ed HS Breakfast Gp. 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults 4:30 p.m. MS Girls Small Group 7:00 p.m. H6 7:30 p.m. Team Night Fellowship 7:45 p.m. Team Night Presentation 8:00 p.m. Team Night Meetings	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:30 p.m. Kidz Choir 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 7:00 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 8:30 p.m. HS Boys Small Group	9:30 a.m. Moms' Oasis Ministry 12:00 p.m. Moms of Teens 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	Presidents' Day NPC Offices Closed	February Recess Darien Public Schools Closed 8:00 p.m. Session Mtg.	Ash Wednesday February Recess Darien Public Schools Closed 7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	February Recess Darien Public Schools Closed 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.	February Recess Darien Public Schools Closed 12:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive	
26	27	28	29			
9 & 10:30 a.m. Classes for 3's -8th Grades 5:00 p.m. Open Doors 6:30 p.m. Ignite	12:00 p.m. Women's Luncheon Study 2:30 p.m. MS Boys Small Group 6:30 p.m. Invitation Team Training Mtg. 7:30 p.m. DivorceCare	6:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:15 a.m. Co-ed HS Breakfast Gp. 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Moms of Young Adults 4:30 p.m. MS Girls Small Group 7:00 p.m. H6	7:00 a.m. Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:30 p.m. Kidz Choir 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Reh. 7:00 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Harbor 7th-8th Grade 8:30 p.m. HS Boys Small Group			

# A Word from the Nominating Team

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

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:

Mary Thompson (chair)  
David Claiborne  
Mary Richardson  
Peggy Barthold  
Debbie Lang  
David Mettler  
Ginna Yerrall

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 [mmasb@optonline.net](mailto:mmasb@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.***