

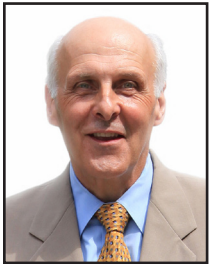
Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

March 2012

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



In a recent Children's Message during worship I related the following conversation between a father and his son at the Guggenheim Museum that was recorded in the Metropolitan Diary section of the *New York Times*.

Son: Why is this stuff a big deal?

Father: Because artists are different from the rest of us. They help us see things we didn't know were there.

Son: Why is that important?

Father: What you learn from artists stays with you forever. It can help you to be a better person.

Son: OK, Dad.

It was a very condensed lesson in why art is so central to our lives. If he is lucky, the young boy will remember this lesson for a long time.

We are now in the season of Lent, the forty days, not including Sundays, that precede Easter. For Christians, Lent is a time to repent, or turn around; a time to turn from our selfish, sinful ways (those things that separate us from the awareness of God) and toward that which is good, and right, and holy, and healthy, and just and affirming.

Einstein once said that our task as human beings is to widen our circle of compassion to include not only all people, but "all living things and the whole of nature in its beauty." That is a pretty tall order, to be sure. But he didn't say we had to do it all at once. Our task is to widen our circle of compassion, and that is done one little bit at a time.

Lent is a time to consciously and intentionally pay attention to the effect our choices have on ourselves and others. It is a time to reflect on our goals and on those things that serve to make us better persons. It is a time to remember the words of the wise. That is why many people use a daily devotional during Lent.

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MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Opera Composers in the Church

Works by two composers traditionally associated with the opera stage will be presented during Sunday morning services in Lent. **The first section of Rossini's *Stabat Mater* will be presented on March 4.** The text, depicting Mary at the foot of the cross, was a subject radically different from Rossini's usual comic opera plots, and the music was criticized as being more appropriate for the theatre than the church. Despite the fact that the work is markedly different from his secular compositions, northern German critics, as reported by Heinrich Heine in an essay on Rossini, criticized the work as "too worldly, sensuous, too playful for the religious subject."

In response the French music historian Gustave Chouquet has remarked that "it must not be forgotten that religion in the South is a very different thing from what it is in the North."



On March 25, Jenna Hintz will sing one of the most poignant arias in all the Verdi operas. In Desdemona's "Ave Maria" from Desdemona is praying for all the people who suffer as much as she does. But her prayers won't stop the jealous Otello from murdering her in her bed. It's a key moment in the last act of Verdi's great opera.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“A child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lit.”



Church School

This past month, the Church School completed a unit titled Calling the Disciples. Our final guest speaker was Nancy Mazzoli, who talked about a time she volunteered to do a certain activity for the first time. She was unsure of herself but discovered in the end that it was a good experience and worth doing. The children learned from this that following Jesus could mean being asked to do things they have never done before, but they should not worry – it could turn out to be a good experience.

We then began a unit called “The Four Friends.” It is based on Mark 2:1-12, where Jesus heals a paralytic who was lowered through a roof by his four friends. This story provides opportunities for the children to:

- see things from the perspective of those who are differently abled (disabled)
- learn that we can be of help and support to those who are shut in
- consider the difference between healing (bringing to wholeness) and curing
- be encouraged that it is okay to ask for help
- be reminded that we as friends can help others to know Jesus better

The children designed and made “Thinking of You” cards for RHCC members who are recovering from illness or who are shut in. We also visited with the Rev. Bonnie Brown, an ordained UCC minister who has been in a wheelchair most of her life, having contracted polio as a child. And on March 4, we will have a guest speaker, Dr. Alexandra Heerdt, RHCC

member and a medical doctor (surgeon). She will be available to the children for questions they may have after our visit with Bonnie Brown, and to talk about Jesus and healing miracles.

For the rest of March, we will be learning about The Lord’s Supper. We will be reading the story of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples, and learning how the cup and bread are now important symbols that help us to remember Jesus. In the process, we will actually make our own grape juice and bread.

Middle School Youth Group

RHCC now officially has a youth group for middle school age children (grades six, seven, eight). On February 3, an enthusiastic group of three boys (two others were ill) met to organize and plan the youth group’s activities.

We will try to meet twice a month on a Friday night, beginning with pizza at 6:30 p.m. and ending at around 8:00 p.m. There may be occasional special activities at other times. Kids of all faiths are welcome.

Here is the schedule for the Middle School Youth Group:

Movie Night: *Babe*

Friday, March 9

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. , Meeting Room

Mystery Trip

Friday, March 30

6:30 to 10:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group

There is a great deal of interest from RHCC high schoolers for a summer mission trip. I am hoping that in March, we will be able to meet together (for the first time) and decide where and when this mission trip will be. If you want to be included, please let me know: georgette@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

Also, if you are interested in volunteering to help with Church School, please contact me.

– Georgette Huie



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Family Game Night

On a rainy Friday night in February, 60 people came out to the Community House for a high-spirited evening of food, music, fun, and games. The 30 children and 30 adults shared a pasta dinner at tables in front of a roaring fire, built by Alexander Piper and his dad.



The Davols supplied the music, which got most of the kids dancing happily and pretty wildly, and proved to be a good way to build up an appetite. There were some from the older set joining in (Marty Bitner and her granddaughter, Isabella, are quite the dance pair), but the energy level left many panting on the sidelines.



Georgette Huie had the group gather for some games that had everyone giggling and getting to know each other. After several of these hilarious activities, she invited everyone to pick a board game and to play with some friends and/or new acquaintances. It seemed like everyone had a great time and didn't want to leave.



The committee hopes to schedule similar events quarterly to provide another kind of fellowship for families of our congregation, along with reaching out to friends and new families.

– Mary Ann Debnar and Diane Davol



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Kristina Leigh Copeland

RHCC member and filmmaker

presents her latest film

The Wall Street Conspiracy

followed by a panel discussion including

Dr. Kathryn Tanner

Professor of Systematic Theology, Yale Divinity School

Friday, March 16

5:45 to 6:30 p.m.	Reception
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Film
8:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Panel and Q & A
9:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Dessert

Please contact the church office at 203-869-1091 or at church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org if you plan to attend.



The Wall Street Conspiracy explores a pernicious form of fraud called illegal naked short selling that had an enormous impact on the 2008 collapse of the U.S. economy. For more information, or to purchase the film on DVD or “streaming online,” go to www.brownsaddlefilms.com or www.thewallstreetconspiracy.com.

Kristina Leigh Copeland created Brown Saddle Films to expand upon her desire to raise awareness about issues she feels are important in our world today. Kristina hopes her films’ subjects bring awareness to a global audience and stimulate the necessary changes required to provide a fair world now and for our future generations.



Kathryn Tanner, the Frederick Marquand Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School, sees vital connections between Christian doctrine and the world’s economic endeavor. Both assert vigorous responses to the concepts of risk, security, value, abundance, the circulation of goods, and other challenges of the human condition. Tanner’s most recent work, an analysis of current-day financial markets, aims to show that Christian faith and practice can speak to the global economic system, its values, and malfunctions. She says it’s time to muster the theological imagination to offer an urgent Christian critique of current financial excesses and propose an alternative “social architecture” that can nurture the human spirit beyond competitiveness and fear.

– Michael Sandifer

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

ColorSoundGrammar_3 is a symphony of colors and forms presented by **Ellen Hackl Fagan** at Les Beaux Arts Gallery. The exhibit opened on Sunday, February 26, and runs through March 29.



An interdisciplinary abstract painter, Fagan uses synaesthesia, digital media, and interactive

performance as tools for developing a corresponding language between color and sound in her paintings.

ColorSoundGrammar_3 depicts a visual equivalent for each musical note in the “ABC Song,” or “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” melody. This series of 27 paintings crystallized a body/mind connection as the artist sustained and emitted each sound over the course of each panel’s production. Some panels took up to two months to complete. A heightened awareness of the shape of the mouth, the tension in the diaphragm, and pushing air through the larynx developed into a meditation, seeking to conform an intangible, ephemeral entity like sound into a concrete object.

Fagan believes that there is an innate color/sound grammar that we all possess, perhaps used more consistently at an earlier phase of our evolution. Her work walks the balance between randomness and intention, and, like jazz music, continues to reveal limitless possibilities for improvisation.

Fagan is an active member of the local arts community. She earned a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Painting and Interdisciplinary Media in 2005 from Hartford Art School and became a RADIUS artist at the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in 2004. She maintains a painting studio in Harlem and a ceramics studio at the Clay Art Center in Port Chester, New York. She has exhibited her work extensively throughout New England and New York City.

Currently, Fagan’s paintings are included in an exhibition called **Sound Influence** at the Crosby Gallery in New Haven through March 2, 2012, www.newhavenarts.org.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Gaining Self-Sufficiency

In 2011 RHCC gave a grant to the Family Centers' RITE (Reaching Independence through Employment) Program. The goal of the program is to provide comprehensive vocational support to low-income families in Greenwich and Stamford. It is important for the congregation as well as the Benevolence and Outreach Committee to learn about the outcomes of the grants. Some success stories follow.

A.V. (Became a RITE Program Client in 2009)

A.V. has been working with the RITE Program Coordinator to stay motivated, and as a result, he has been successful in completing the final classes needed to earn his high school diploma. He currently attends computer training classes, both at Family Centers and at Norwalk Community College. In 2011, once on the RITE Program "Project Acceleration" track, he began to pursue earning his Commercial Driver's License and his Professional Driver's Certificate. He successfully completed earning both licenses and very quickly found success in this field. In August 2011 he was hired as a full-time laboratory driver for White Plains Hospital. He works full-time, successfully picking up test results from different sites and bringing them to White Plains Hospital. A.V. reports that he loves his job and he is constantly meeting new people. His income is now high enough for him to make a significant contribution to his family, and together, they are now able to meet their mortgage responsibilities.

D.R. (Became a RITE Program Client in 2011)

D.R. has found success working as a consultant and independent contractor in her professional field of technical writing. In early 2011 she earned her certificate as a paralegal from Norwalk Community College. Additionally, D.R. obtained a certificate as a Personal Fitness Trainer from the Tully Center and has been working part-time in this field. D.R. has not only been able to pursue new career paths but has been working in jobs that are providing her fulfillment and match her independent life style.

A.D.J. (Became a RITE Program Client in 2011)

After three months as a client in the RITE Program, A.D.J. secured employment as a receptionist at New York Sports Club and was admired by staff and customers for her incredible ambition and enthusiasm for her work. This resulted in a managerial position, which is rare, considering her young age of 18 years old. A.D.J. also earned her High School Equivalency diploma through the Greenwich Public Schools in May 2011. Although her plan is to continue her education and eventually pursue a career related to administration, her plans have temporarily taken a slight turn due to becoming pregnant just after earning her diploma. Upon discovery of her pregnancy, she has been receiving support from the RITE Program in order to receive necessary prenatal care. She is continuing to work at New York Sports Club and intends to return on a part-time basis once her child is born. She is continuing to receive assistance from the RITE Program and hopes to continue to pursue her educational and vocational goals.

C.E. (Became a RITE Program Client in 2011)

Within two months of becoming a RITE Program client, C.E. secured full-time employment as a Teacher Aide at Childcare Learning Centers in Stamford. As a result, her financial situation has improved and she is becoming increasingly self-sufficient. She plans to further her education by enrolling in college once her youngest daughter enters kindergarten (in the fall of 2012). She plans to pursue a Teaching Degree in Early Childhood Education.

– Sandy Motland

SAVE THE DATE

**Join in the Greenwich/Port Chester
2012 CROP Walk for Hunger**

**Sunday, April 22, 2:00 p.m.
Downtown Greenwich**

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Mission Trip to Belize

Sixteen souls arrived in the hurricane-ravaged (Iris 2001) village of Monkey River (MR), Belize, on February 8, 2012, many after two full days of travel. Thirteen arrived by bus and three by boat. We ranged in age from 15 to 80 with a variety of skills and lots of eagerness. Eight greeted old friends made on prior trips. Those of us who were new were folded quickly into the town.

The work we undertook divided into six major strands. Jan and “Teacher Susan” worked with the women on making bead jewelry and sewing bags, quilts, and other items, helping the women gain skills and motivation to make goods to offer for sale to the increasing number of tourists who visit MR. Tourists typically come for a quick lunch, the view of a gibnut – known locally as the Royal Rat since Queen Elizabeth declared it good to eat – and a boat ride up the river to see birds and crocodiles and to take a walk in the jungle to see and hear – yes! – howler monkeys. The craft show held on the last day displayed the women’s improved abilities in design and needlework.

Jen and Eric, fifteen-year-old cousins, photographed and interviewed people for the new website being developed to increase the tourist trade. They covered every possible category of resident, including students in the school. Eric also challenged the youngsters to hoops contests on the one piece of concrete in town and played soccer with the adult males. They photographed the game against Punta Gorda, which MR won! Many of us had fun throwing Frisbies with the barefoot kids in front of our simple hotel.

Drs. Walt and Joe were in the clinic every weekday treating any and all ailments. This is vitally important because no doctor lives in town and one has to go to Independence, some distance away, for doctors, and farther for a hospital. The main chronic ailments are hypertension and diabetes, for which many have a genetic predisposition. Too much rice and beans, and sugar – a grandma put five(!) teaspoons in a cup of tea for a six-year-old – don’t help.

Walt and Joe also spearheaded the “cure” for the twelve computers, given to the St. Stephens School by the estate of a friend of Ted Hoskins. They are to be used by students, grades Nursery 3 through our eighth grade, so that the younger children can join the computer age as quickly as possible. The high school students who go to classes in other towns had been using them in the evenings for homework, and,

despite supervision, had gone to Facebook and less savory sites that contain viruses. A new system was installed blocking all such sites and giving password access to different groups of users: teachers (for the children), administrators, and high school students who are assigned to specific computers. In a meeting of students, parents, and teachers, Ted gave everyone a stern talking-to about abusing the computers. Walt will go down soon again with Ted to see how things are going.



A very visible and arduous task was the building anew of two palapas, the palm branch sheds that create shade and cover the lunch tables for the children at the school. The poles, trunks of mangrove trees, had been cut ahead of time. Led by Jack S. and Jeff, and aided by Waylen, Rick, Doug, and Jack W., bark was scraped from the poles and the largest were set in the sandy ground. The men climbed around nailing the others to them to form a frame. This was hot, sweaty work! They were helped significantly and guided by local men, Lloyd and Godwin. The palm fronds for thatch had been cut earlier in accordance with ancient tradition regarding phases of the moon. They were brought by boat to the site. Lloyd and Godwin skillfully wove the shelters. Ben was photographing. Our crew also completely redid the screening on the Teachers’ House, which takes a mighty beating as it is next to the soccer field. It looks beautiful and will be durable. A new seesaw was made of rough-hewn white mahogany boards, planed, sanded and bolted together. The townspeople mowed grass and spruced up the playground, which had been planned and built by prior groups led by Ted and village women who wanted a place for the children to play.



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH



Irfana, Principal of a Head Start program in Brooklyn, and I spent all our time in the Pre-School room, where Teacher Susan spearheaded the cleanup of the room. It had been stripped by a preceding teacher and was in a shambles. The new, young teacher, Aerilee, had been there only two weeks. She was overwhelmed and also had to attend training sessions most of the time that we were there, so we three became the “teachers.” Aerilee came back on the weekend and we helped her to clean the room and arrange what materials she had into Learning Centers suitable to three- and four-year-olds. Susan had the women make bright curtains for the room and husband Jack S. painted a crumbling wall. The children loved their new space on Monday. They have very little English, as mostly Kriol is spoken in the homes. The children from Esperanza, an orange growing town some distance away, know only Spanish. We taught them letters, shapes, colors and one-to-one correspondence – a difficult concept for children that young – using games, stories and drawings. We will stay in touch with Aerilee and the principal, Mr. Petillo, to offer information about child development and suitable school materials.

Sound busy? We were, but we had a day of snorkeling around one of the cays of the Mesoamerican barrier reef, boat rides up the river, one for a few of us at night arranged by Doug. Percy, the boat owner who had picked us up at the airport, showed us many birds and animals and brought a small crocodile into the boat for us to handle. Yikes! We also had a hike in the jungle to see the monkeys. We ate our meals in a rotation of homes, two or three to a home. The cooking was quite good – we have their cookbook, a

collaboration by some of our group and of the micro-finance women’s groups. Meals depended on rice and beans, stewed chicken, eggs, and some seafood. There was also tasty plantain, some sweet desserts, powdered coffee, and Kool-Aid. We got to know the cooks quite well and learned a lot about the town and its people from talking with them.

Jack (Williams) and I found this a very rewarding experience. The people were very friendly and open to our suggestions and help. We took a long step back to try to absorb their culture and understand why they value what they do before we tried to move ahead to help them to progress. There was an amazing contrast to see the scrubbed, uniformed school children sitting obediently in class or chapel, and then the same children – even a four-year-old in heels – gyrating like the most sensuous pop singer to the drums and recorded music at the farewell party we threw for the town. This is mainly a matriarchal society, but the women still have too many babies too young and too little entrepreneurial impulse. Education is seen by parents and kids as something you have to do and not yet as the opportunity maker it is. Ted’s leadership in providing scholarship money for the kids to go away from the town for high school and even college has been most important, and if the graduates will continue to return to MR and share their knowledge, the town will slowly progress. His work in developing fishing as an industry is vital. Ted has gathered a caring and thoughtful group of workers who want to make a difference in this remote village in Belize. It was an inspiration to be with them.

– Diana Deacon





MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

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On Sunday, March 11, oboist Mark Snyder will be the solo instrumentalist in two movements from John Rutter's Requiem: *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, and *Lux Aeterna*.

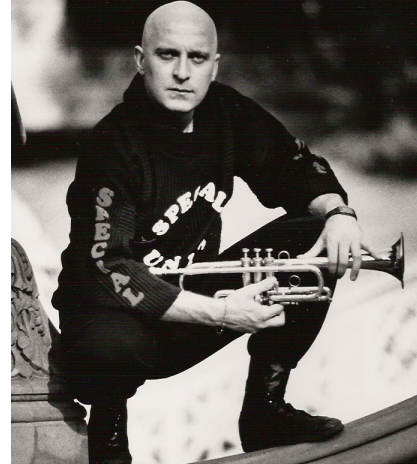
Mark Snyder presented his New York recital debut to critical acclaim in March 2002 at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as a prizewinner of the Artists International Competition. Active as a freelance artist, he has toured throughout the United States and Asia, performing with various orchestras as a member of the oboe section and as a soloist. Some of his performances have included appearances with ensembles such as the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra, Key West Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional (Dominican Republic), Festival Musical de Santo Domingo, Binghamton Philharmonic, Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas, North Eastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Albany Symphony, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Symphony, Princeton Symphony, New England Symphonic Ensemble, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, and the Westchester Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Snyder's Broadway credits include *Les Miserables*, *Little Women*, *South Pacific*, *Tale of Two Cities*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The Requiem of John Rutter (born 1945) is regarded as his greatest contribution to the world of serious choral music. The Requiem was written in 1985, and dedicated to the memory of his father, who had died the previous year. This gifted composer who has given us so much exceptional choral material

shows his eminent skill and virtuosity in the creation of this monumental work, which is considered his most beautiful and exquisite composition.

It employs a nontraditional approach, including movements based on scriptural texts – Psalm 130 (Out of the Deep) and Psalm 23 (The Lord Is My Shepherd), and excerpts from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. The seven sections of the work form an archlike meditation on the themes of life and death.

John Rutter's thoughts on his Requiem: "The Requiem was written in 1985 and dedicated to the memory of my father, who had died the previous year. In writing it, I was influenced and inspired by the example of Faure. I doubt whether any specific musical resemblances can be traced, but I am sure that Faure's Requiem crystallized my thoughts about the kind of Requiem I wanted to write: intimate rather than grandiose, contemplative and lyric rather than dramatic, and ultimately moving towards light rather than darkness – the 'lux aeterna' of the closing text."



On Palm Sunday, April 1, Dominic Derasse will return to Round Hill to perform Baroque works with organ on the piccolo trumpet – a trumpet often used in baroque music that is pitched an octave above the normal B-flat trumpet. Most recently serving as Principal Trumpet with the New Jersey Symphony, Dominic Derasse was born in Paris and grew up in Nice, France. Derasse studied trumpet with Gaston Cagnon and solfege and theory at the Nice Conservatory of Music.

After graduating from high school, Dominic



MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

spent the summer of 1976 studying at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute Young Artists' Orchestra, where he was involved in daily orchestra rehearsals as well as chamber music and private lessons with Roger Voisin. Some of the conductors that summer were Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, and Klaus Tennstedt. Upon his return to France, Dominic fulfilled his national duties in the military service and was enlisted in the band of the 8th Infantry at the "Mont Valerien" just outside Paris. While in the service, he studied with Roger Delmotte at the Versailles Conservatory before entering the Paris National Conservatory of Music in autumn 1977 in Pierre Thibaud's class. During his years at the Paris Conservatory, Dominic became very active professionally in Paris, freelancing in recording sessions, shows, symphony orchestras, and operas. He graduated from the Paris Conservatory with First Prize in 1979.

In the summer of 1979 he toured South Africa, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and Mauritius Island with a brass quintet that included Roger Delmotte, Pierre Dutot, Michel Becquet, and Jacky Fourquet. Mr. Derasse received a Fulbright scholarship from the "Commission Franco-Americaine" in Paris that fall and went to Boston to study jazz at Berklee College of Music for two semesters.

In the summer of 1984, Dominic Derasse was invited by Roger Voisin and Gunther Schuller to participate in the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, where he met Charles Schlueter. The seeds for Dominic Derasse's decision to move to the United States were planted there that summer.

Mr. Derasse has performed as a classical soloist and has presented master classes and lectures in Europe, the U.S., Japan, Africa, and South America. His career on Broadway includes over 25 shows. The most recent show was the revival of *South Pacific* (only one ever!) at Lincoln Center, where he played first trumpet. This revival earned the show several Tony awards and was telecast on *Live from Lincoln Center* in August 2010.

– Christopher Kabala

Chamber Players Sunday, March 4 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary



The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony will return on Sunday, March 4, at 4:00 p.m. for the third concert of their 40th anniversary season. The program is described by violinist Krystof Witek as "festive and diverse – rich in content and in the number and variety of musicians."

The Austrian composer Franz Hasenohrl has rearranged Richard Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel* in a witty, masterful nine-minute "frolic" that he named *Till Eulenspiegel Einmal Anders!* (Another Way), for violin, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and bass. "All the players shine," Witek promises.

Next is the String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major by Brahms, considered to be one of his finest creations. It is filled with folk melodies.

Last on the program is the Septet in E-flat major by Beethoven, of which the composer himself said, "This septet has truly delighted me." And the work has continued to delight all who hear it since 1799.

Audience and musicians will join each other in a spirited wine and cheese reception after the concert. Tickets at the door are \$25 for adults and \$5 for students (cash or check, please).

Please call Suzy Simpson at 203-622-6611 for further information.

– Carrie Finlayson



WORSHIP

At a well-attended Forum after Church on February 26, Acting Worship Chair Charles Lee and members of the Committee reviewed changes that have taken place in our Order of Worship over the past year and welcomed members' comments on them. While there have been no changes in language or theology, various elements of the service have been rearranged with the intent of making worship as spiritual an experience as possible. To that end, the scripture reading and the sermon have been moved closer to the beginning of the service. The Concerns of the Church were moved from the middle to the very beginning so that they would not interrupt the flow.

The Worship Committee discussed these changes last spring and proposed them to the Board. In June, the Board voted to adopt them on a provisional basis. We are at the end of that period, and the committee sought member input now that we have all had a chance to experience the new order and before a final recommendation is made to the Board.

There followed a thoughtful discussion of the pros and cons of the new order. One member observed that if we'd had this forum six months ago and understood the rationale for the changes, we'd have had a much more positive response from the beginning. The general sense of the meeting was that the most important thing is to focus on whatever it is . . . order or words or music . . . that results in the most meaningful, spiritual Sunday Worship experience. Those in attendance expressed general support for the changes, especially moving the sermon closer to the beginning of the service. The Worship Committee will carefully consider the comments made during the meeting and welcomes any other thoughts about the revised Order of Worship from our members.

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Doug Miller, ex-officio,
douglas.miller@roundhillcommunitychurch.org

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has reconvened to resume looking for a permanent senior minister for our church. Four members have decided not to continue, and Dick Bergstresser and Tim Wright are joining us on an ex officio basis.

The plan for 2012 is as follows:

- Review search materials (Church Profile and Job Description) for adjustments and updates, which is in process.
- Contact friends and associates of RHCC who may help to identify candidates.
- Reach out to seminaries for contacts.
- Consider use of a search firm, which has been approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Reconnect with top prospects from a year ago to determine interest and fit.
- Place ads in magazines and websites.

As always, we seek your input in this process, especially with leads to candidates we might consider. We encourage you to contact any of us with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you.

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Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@optonline.net

The aim of art is not to represent the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.

– Aristotle



MEMBERSHIP

New Member Samira Loschiavo



A long-planned vacation in the U.S. in the 1970s while war broke out in my homeland, Lebanon, landed me a job with the United Nations, which ended up extending to a 28-year career.

During my childhood, attempts by my parents to march us, five daughters (no male, much to the distress of my father), to mass on Sundays failed as we grew up and spread our wings far from church in defiance of any religious doctrine. The only five years I spent in the capital, Beirut, during the 15-year civil war, changed my life drastically. I realized what was really important in life. How a simple bottle of frozen water was precious when many people had none. There was no running water or electricity while our section of the city was under siege. The weather was very hot in Beirut in the summers and because of my faith, I was able to travel to a more privileged part of town for supplies. I brought water back for my neighbors, since they were not allowed to set foot there. A cold bottle of water was all they wanted.

A vacation steered my destiny to a job in New York, a U.S. citizenship, retirement in Greenwich, a search for spiritual sustenance, and an invitation by a friend to attend a wonderful concert at RHCC. The Women's Gathering was another event where I was warmly welcomed by church members, and it did not take me long to recognize that this was a community that I wanted to be part of. I am happy and honored to be part of our church family.

— Samira Loschiavo

Recruiting New Members

The membership committee continues its work on recruiting, receiving, and retaining new and current members of our congregation. In addition to our new resident mailings, we have been working on an outreach project to determine why non-active members have fallen away in the last ten years. In early December, we sent Christmas greetings inviting these people to attend our Pageant and Christmas services. Brook Calkin and Julia Boysen sent personal cover notes specific to each person's situation, and we received many responses. We have concluded that there are various reasons, but there is no clear picture to help us determine how to bring these people back. Some have moved away, others have busy lives with many family responsibilities, some are ailing, others prefer specific denominations, and some will continue to come to special holiday services only.

We ask that our congregation help by inviting friends and family to our church services and special events. Personal relationships and word of mouth seem to work best in this process.

We believe that recruiting new members is most important and we are working closely with Mary Ann Debnar of the Children and Youth Christian Education Committee and Helen O'Malley of the Transition Committee in this process. We ask that our congregation help by inviting friends and family to our church services and special events. Personal relationships and word of mouth seem to work best in this process. If anyone knows of a new family in town, please let us know so we can send them a letter introducing our church and programs. Our next membership meeting will be held after church on March 4.

— Grada Fischer Herrick

The News Letter is edited by Nancy Mazzoli, Claire McKean, Suzy Simpson, and Lynda Kinney



TRANSITION

At its meeting on Monday, February 6, the Trustees approved the following:

The Round Hill Community House

The Round Hill Community House was given to the Round Hill Community Church many decades ago by the Round Hill community. Now that the Community House has been so beautifully renovated by the Church, it is the goal of the Church to increase the usage of the Community House in ways that enhance both the life of the Church and the life of our surrounding community.

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The Church also rents out space in its Church School wing (to the Round Hill Nursery School and other groups) and also occasionally the Church's Sanctuary. When "Community House" is used below, it is meant to include rental of the Church School wing and Sanctuary.

Principles

The Community House shall be managed in accordance with the following principles:

- The Community House will be managed in ways consistent with the Church's mission.
- The Church's own activities take priority over other uses of the Community House.
- The Community House will be made available on both a rental and non-rental basis to other non-profit organizations, to for-profit companies, and to families for private use.
- Rental rates charged for use of the Community House will be set in a manner that covers all fixed and variable operating costs and a portion of the Community House's capital costs. Capital costs will be covered in part through an annual capital reserve expense.
- Rent will be charged according to a published rent schedule. Tenants will be divided into three categories: tenants that are non-profits, tenants that are

for-profit companies or families who rent for their private use, and tenants that do not pay rent. Rents for non-profit tenants will be different from and lower than rent charged to for-profit companies and to families for private use.

- Day-to-day management of the Community House will be by Church staff, overseen by a standing committee of the Board of Trustees.

Standing Committee

The Board of Trustees shall revive a Community House Committee as a standing committee of the Board. The Community House Committee shall be empowered by the Board of Trustees to act in accordance with and to advance the principles set forth above. The Community House Committee will (i) oversee Church staff management of the Community House, (ii) annually establish a rent schedule for the Community House, determined with reference both to rents charged by similar facilities in Greenwich and to the costs of operating the Community House, (iii) approve Community House marketing materials, (iv) approve standard forms of lease for the Community House, (v) serve as both a generator of and a clearinghouse for new ideas for use of the Community House, and (vi) resolve management conflicts as they arise (deciding what category tenants fall into, deciding which tenants can use the Community House rent-free, deciding what tenant takes priority if there is a scheduling conflict, for example).

The details of the Community House Committee's revival may be further amended by the governance recommendations the Transition Committee will make in the spring.

Finances

The Finance Committee of the Board shall analyze annually the direct and indirect costs of operating the Community House, and shall establish a capital reserve designed to recover a portion of the capital costs of the Community House. The Finance Committee will provide these cost data to the Community House Committee to assist that committee in establishing Community House rents.

Marketing

The Community House shall be marketed through the Church's website, a printed brochure, social media such as Facebook, and through such other means



TRANSITION

as Church staff and the Community House Committee may determine. All marketing materials will be updated periodically. Marketing outreach will focus not only on the backcountry, but on all of Greenwich and indeed on surrounding towns – our proximity to the Merritt Parkway makes the Community House a viable venue for organizations or families throughout much of Fairfield and Westchester Counties.

Consideration shall be given to broadening the base of Community House renters, in particular renters that are non-profit or otherwise provide a community service.

Forms of Lease

All Community House tenants shall sign a standard form of lease with the Church. There will be two forms of lease; a short-form lease for one-time renters (such as a private party on a Saturday night), and a long-form lease for longer term renters. (Note: these forms of lease are substantially complete.)

New Uses

Consideration shall be given to broadening the base of Community House renters, in particular renters that are non-profit or otherwise provide a community service. Ideas we like include equipping the Community House to be an Emergency Warming Center (note: this will require the Church to install a generator at the Community House), approaching the United Way to encourage the agencies the United Way funds to use the Community House for annual or other meetings, and various forms of educational outreach.

Following the meeting, Dick Bergstresser asked Caroline Lazzara to chair the newly revived Community House Committee; Martina Halsey, Craig McKibben, and Ted Thaxter all have agreed to join Caroline as members of this committee.

– The Transition Committee

Ken Bartels, Chair

Mary Ann Debnar, Steve Fuzesi,
Caroline Lazzara, and Helen O'Malley

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN



We have had a busy January/February. The ongoing work of the Transition Committee has been my key focus. As you can see, the Transition Committee has proposed, and the Board has accepted, the revival of a committee

to oversee the management of the rental of the Community House and Church facilities. This is an important step to ensure that our policies are consistent and fair and that exceptions are acceptable and in the interest of the Church. I have appointed Caroline Lazzara as Chairman, and she has recruited Martina Halsey, Craig McKibben, and Ted Thaxter to join her. Suggestions and concerns should be communicated to them for consideration.

Everyone is welcome to contact the Church Office to read copies of the minutes of Board of Trustees and Committee meetings.

On another topic, some of you have expressed interest in current actions and concerns of the Board of Trustees and the Committees. Everyone is welcome to contact the Church Office to read copies of the minutes of their meetings. Since approval of minutes usually occurs at the following meeting, there is a time lag. To get more current information, contact the Chairs or members of the committees. A reminder to the Chairs, please ensure that copies of your minutes are filed with the Church Office when they are approved.

– Dick Bergstresser, Chairman



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

Whether it is poetry, scripture, inspirational prose or art, it is good to feed the mind and soul wholesome food on a regular basis. Lord knows they are fed a lot of junk food, wittingly or not. So just in case you haven't read your poem for the day yet, here is one entitled, "Ash Wednesday."

Once in winter,
I stood,
White flakes brushing my face
With white fingers,
I waited with others.
We shivered on the steps –
Stuck out our tongues to catch snowflakes
So cold they would burn.
Soon the big doors would open
On smoke and candles
And a cold thumb would brush
My forehead with a cross of ashes.
"Dust to dust," he would mutter
While snowflakes melted in my hair.

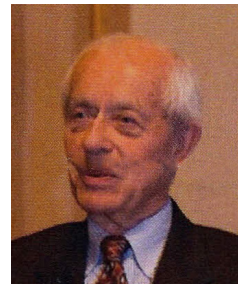
I like this poem because it invites us to simply pay attention to what is right in front of us . . . to simply pay attention without judgment or comment of any kind. With that kind of focused attention we are brought into the present moment, away from our random musings in mind, the critical thoughts, selfish desires, fears, worries . . . all those things that capture our attention and consume our energy much of the time. That is what the spiritual disciplines of prayer and meditation, service, artistic appreciation, and so forth are designed to do . . . to help us receive life as it is given, one moment at a time.

May this Lent be a time when we embrace the challenge and seek the help we need to be the people we want to be, with ever widening circles of compassion.

– Douglas Miller

The Meditation group, led by Rev. Douglas Miller, meets every Thursday evening at the Church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

REMEMBERING RICHARD GRIFFIS



Richard Griffis served as interim minister at RHCC between the ministries of Ralph Ahlberg and Bob Culp. On December 6, 2011, at the age of 77, he died suddenly in Washington, D.C., after a massive stroke. For those of you who remember him from his time with us, here is a portion

of his obituary that was printed in the *Washington Post*.

A minister in the United Church of Christ for 51 years, Richard was a unique human being who touched the hearts of all that knew him, and he will be deeply missed. Born in Beloit, Wisconsin, Richard earned his BA at Beloit College, his MDiv from the Chicago Theological Seminary, and his doctorate from the New York Theological Seminary.

Richard marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., at Selma, Alabama in 1965, while he was senior minister at First Congregational Church in Minneapolis. He helped to organize the anti-Vietnam war movement of Clergy and Laity Concerned in Minnesota. In 1970, Richard and Anne moved with their two sons, Roger and Geoffrey, to Lagos, Nigeria, where they served as Co-Directors of Quaker Service Nigeria, a relief and reconstruction project of the American Friends Service Committee.

From 1972 to 1979 Richard served on the staff of the national UCC office in New York City. In 1980, he and Anne moved to Connecticut, where for thirteen years, Richard was Senior Minister at Immanuel Congregational in Hartford. He also served as interim minister at Round Hill Community Church in Greenwich, the Congregational Church of Union, and was on the staff of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. He was the founder of the Connecticut Committee for Interreligious Understanding.

At Richard's core, and in all of the work he did throughout his life, there was a quiet determination to create a more just and peaceful world. Richard and Anne moved to Washington, D.C., in 2002 to be near their sons Roger and Geoffrey and their families. Richard became deeply engaged in this community. Recently, Richard was working on behalf of mediation efforts between the Occupy D.C. demonstrators and local officials. He was on his way to a Washington Interfaith Network meeting when he suffered his fatal stroke.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Benevolence and Outreach

Sandy Motland, scmot@aol.com

Buildings and Grounds

Frank DeNicola, stoneridgedev@aol.com

Tim Wright, twright@entecworks.com

Center for Faith Development

Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@optonline.net

Children and Youth Christian Education

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Mary Ann Debnar, maryannd27@gmail.com

Church Activities

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Sok Nam Park, hkuplesky@gmail.com

Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@optonline.net

Communications

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Finance

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History

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Les Beaux Arts

Mirella Hajjar, Mira153@aol.com

Membership

Grada and Bill Herrick, frgstaff@earthlink.net

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Win Adkins, wradkins@optonline.net

Lloyd Hull, lloydnhull@aol.com

Music

Hadi Hajjar, mirtex@aol.com

Nominating

Art Landi, alandi@displayproducersinc.com

Pastoral Relations

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Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@optonline.net

Round Hill Cemetery Association

Lyn Kaufman, lynk12@yahoo.com

Round Hill Community House

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Ron Wilson III, ron.wilson@roundhillcommunitychurch.org

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Marty Bitner, martybitner@optonline.net

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Nancy Mazzoli, nancy.mazzoli@gmail.com

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Transition

Ken Bartels, kbartels@PaxtonProperties.com

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Dee Lewis, dlew176@juno.com

Women's Gathering

Libby Cryer, libbyc@pax.org

Bunny Prokop, Prokat2@aol.com

Worship

Charles Lee, cleec@andersonkill.com

– Richard Bergstresser, Board of Trustees Chair
rvbergstresser@verizon.net

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers for Easter Sunday, April 8



Remember a loved one with commemorative flowers on Easter Sunday. To dedicate flowers, please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by Friday, March 30.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donation: \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____

Other _____

Message for Bulletin: _____

Make check payable to RHCC and mail to:
Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich, CT 06831

Thank you.

The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Road
Greenwich, CT 06831
(203) 869-1091

Visit our website, roundhillcommunitychurch.org, to view more pictures, listen to past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

MARCH 2012 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PAINTINGS BY ELLEN HACKL FAGAN				1 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	2	3
4 2nd Sunday in Lent Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Membership Mtg., 11:15 a.m. Chamber Players Concert, 4:00 p.m.	5 Trustee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	6	7 Craft Studio, 1-4 RHA Mtg., 5:30 p.m. Lenten Series: Gospels Lives, 6:30 p.m., Parlor	8 Meditation 6:30 p.m. RTM Dist. 10 Mtg., 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	9 Private School Break - 2 weeks Middle School Group Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.	10
11 Daylight Saving Time 3rd Sunday in Lent Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	12	13 RHA Board Mtg., 5:30 p.m.	14 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m. Lenten Series: Gospels Lives, 6:30 p.m., Parlor	15 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	16 Film: Wall Street Conspiracy, 5:45 p.m.	17
18 4th Sunday in Lent Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	19 Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	20	21 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m. Lenten Series: Gospels Lives, 6:30 p.m., Parlor	22 Newsletter Deadline Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	23	24
25 5th Sunday in Lent Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	26 Transition Mtg. Open to all 8:00 p.m. Meeting Room	27	28 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m. Lenten Series: Gospels Lives, 6:30 p.m., Parlor	29 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	30 Middle School Group Mystery Trip, 6:30 p.m.	31