



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

May 2012

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Pastor's Message



One of my divinity school professors told his students that they should read at least one poem every day. I think that is good advice. This is a poem by Robert Frost, *The Pasture*:

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):
I shan't be gone long – you come too.
I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother. It's so young
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.
I shan't be gone long – you come too.

This sensitive little poem is an invitation to go into deeper places of the mind and heart to clear away the accumulated debris; an invitation to go down to the depths of the soul and understand more clearly the source of love and compassion, without which life is mere existence.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro recently wrote an article entitled "My Religion Is Love," in which he says things about Judaism that many of us could say about our Christian faith. "Judaism does matter," he wrote, "but not in any self-reverential way. Judaism matters for the only reason any religion matters: it makes us more loving, or it should." He defines love as "the capacity to feel another's pain without guilt, share another's joy without envy, and work with others to uplift the fallen, free the wrongly imprisoned, and

continued on page 10

Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 29, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

The Annual Meeting will be held after the coffee hour on Sunday, April 29. We will have reports from the Search Committee, the Transition Committee, and my annual State of the Church report, as well as election of officers and trustees. In addition, we will hear a report from those who attended a recent symposium held by the CT Conference UCC. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

With the Spring Fling (page 5) happening on May 12, the Board of Trustees decided to postpone the Annual Dinner to avoid having two functions so close together. The Spring Fling is sure to be a good time for all. I hope everyone will attend and invite friends to join us in this fun evening.

– Dick Bergstresser, Chairman



Theology and the Financial Crisis

Dr. Kathryn Tanner

Sunday, May 6

4:30 p.m., Reception, Community House

5:30 p.m., Lecture and Q&A, Sanctuary

6:30 p.m., Reception, Parlor

The educator and historian Jacques Barzun described the Gifford Lectures as virtuoso performances and "the highest honor in a philosopher's career." For over a hundred years the Gifford Lecture series, held at the four Scottish universities (Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and St. Andrews), has been one of the foremost lecture series in the world dealing with religion, science, and philosophy. Past lecturers include William James, Albert Schweitzer,

continued on page 4



CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH

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



Last month, I wrote about a talk at Yale Divinity School given by Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. One of the statistics he cited involves group formation – that it takes at least seventeen contact hours for a group

of people (same people) to feel that they are a group. If even one or two people change, the contact hours go back to zero. Nishioka stated that this number has increased over the years and is expected to increase again because of our very busy schedules and reliance on electronic communications. All of us in the room understood the implications of this statistic for our ministries. When children and youth are not able to be together regularly in church activities because of such things as sports, it will be a very long time – maybe years – before a feeling of “group-ness” develops. And for young people, feeling part of the group is important.

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The best way to achieve seventeen contact hours is through extended activities and overnights. As the youth groups at RHCC begin to form, I will be planning activities that will help us get to seventeen contact hours more quickly. All of us in the Church might think through how we can create seventeen contact hours with others in the Church, and how this could enhance and strengthen our common witness and ministry.

Church School

In April we learned the Easter story and looking at ways people were changed because of it. Part of the lesson includes doing a mission project, and I am thrilled that all eight of the children who somewhat regularly attend Church School walked in the Greenwich CROP Walk to raise awareness of and money for hunger issues, locally and abroad. Their parents deserve a great deal of credit for clearing the family schedules so they all, as families, could walk together. What a wonderful way to model and teach how Christians are people who think of others and help others. The Church School children also designed lunch bags to be given to homeless people served by the Pacific House in Stamford.

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In May, we will be studying a unit called “Acceptance,” based on the story in Acts 10:1-48, when the early church was deciding whether or not Gentiles could be included, and eventually did decide so. The children will learn:

- We are all created in the image of God.
- We believe God’s love is for all people.
- God’s love is also for us – we need to accept ourselves.
- When we recognize our diverse and unique gifts, we can work together to serve God and others.
- It is important not to prejudge people.
- We can work to accept others.
- We can be sensitive to our own behaviors or language that may show prejudice.
- We can learn about and show appreciation for other cultures, countries, and peoples.



CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH



Middle School Youth Group

On March 30, a total of eight middle school youth went on a Mystery Trip, which ended up not being much of a mystery because one of the kids peeked at his mother's email. We drove one hour to the Coco Key Indoor Water Park in Waterbury, CT. A good time was had by all.



On April 20, we spent time learning about hunger issues in preparation for the CROP Walk, and then played Sardines and Manhunt (hide-and-seek games).

Next Middle School Group Event!

**Friday, May 11
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Geocaching
(Hide and Seek with GPS)
Nature Center, Westport**

High School Youth Group

Plans are under way for a summer mission trip. We will be coordinating with RAMP America, an organization headquartered in Old Greenwich. Amy Guerrieri, a busy mother of four and entrepreneur, founded the Rockin' Appalachian Mom Project last year after she was inspired by watching a television special entitled "The Hidden America."

Guerrieri's unique approach to the community was felt immediately – instead of trying to solve the huge problem of poverty, Guerrieri took the initiative to work community-to-community, family-to-family, Mom-to-Mom, and kid-to-kid. By mentoring several families that were truly in need, and aligning RAMP with the schools and a food pantry that served a large, but manageable group of families, RAMP has made a measurable difference in the lives of these families in a short period of time.

**RAMP invests in the local residents
for today and the future.**

The one thing RAMP does is it keeps coming back – and this is something the community notices. Previously, people would come to help – once, maybe twice – and then they would be gone. RAMP invests in the local residents for today and the future.

RAMP America serves the poor in Martin County, Kentucky, in the Appalachian Mountains. An initial project will be doing home repair for a mom and her four children, to help ensure the safety and well-being of the children. The dates of the trip are Sunday, August 12, through Saturday, August 18.

If you or anyone you know of high school age is interested in participating, contact Georgette.

– Georgette Huie
Director of Christian Education



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 1

Paul Tillich, and Karl Barth. In 2015-2016, the honor will go to Dr. Kathryn Tanner, Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School.



Active in many professional societies, Professor Tanner is a past president of the American Theological Society, the oldest theological society in the United States. For eight years she has been a member of the Theology Committee that advises the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops. In 2010-2011, Dr. Tanner was awarded a Luce Fellowship to research financial markets and the critical perspectives that Christian theology can bring to bear on them.

Please join us for this important and timely event to meet and hear Dr. Kathryn Tanner.

– Michael Sandifer and Georgette Huie

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

Les Beaux Arts Gallery

Les Beaux Arts Gallery is wrapping up its season with “View from Above,” a fine modernist art exhibit by Greenwich artist Hazel Jarvis. The show opens on Sunday, May 6, and runs through June 21.

Through the years, Jarvis's style has evolved from dainty botanicals to bold, colorful organic paintings. “View from Above” features a series of paintings from the last two years and pays homage to the artist's most personal inspiration, her home and studio space on the Mianus River and her recent travels in the American Southwest. Some paintings are transformed into maps of a bird's life resulting from the hours the artist spent birdwatching. Others are intimate landscapes of New England and local scenes.



The artist's travels in New Mexico are reflected in landscapes depicting the region's wide open space and high bird's-eye views. These works are complemented by other studies featuring the bright colors and unique light characteristics of the Santa Fe area.

Jarvis teaches art classes as well as painting. Her work has been included in “Branching Out,” an invitational show organized by the Greenwich Tree Conservancy in 2011 and “Winter Brushstrokes: The Sketchbooks of Hazel Jarvis and Her Students” at the River Gallery in the Westport Library (2009-10). She is represented by Phyllis Wrynn Gallery in New York City, where her work is currently displayed in “Spring and Summer Show.”

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Report on Governance Matters

RHCC was incorporated in 1952 and is chartered under Connecticut law as a nondenominational church non-profit corporation. The core governance documents of RHCC are (i) the Articles of Incorporation filed in 1952 and amended once by vote of the Congregation in 1995 (the “Articles”), and (ii) the By-Laws last revised as of March 2, 1992 (the “By-Laws”). In addition, in late 2008/early 2009 Bob Culp prepared a Draft “Handbook for Round Hill Community Church” (the “Draft Handbook”). Although it was discussed by the Board of Trustees in late 2008/early 2009, the Draft Handbook has not been adopted.

RHCC has been governed as a faith community under its short-form Articles and equally short-form By-Laws. Authority for action has been (when required) through a vote of the Congregation and otherwise through action by the Trustees and Trustee-delegated authority to committees, officers, and the pastor.

The Transition Committee concluded that RHCC’s governance documents have proven both forward-looking and well-suited to the mission and character of our church.

The Transition Committee concluded that RHCC’s governance documents have proven both forward-looking and well-suited to the mission and character of our church. They have been durable and flexible over a very significant length of time.

Our Pastoral Transition is the highest priority facing the Church today. The By-Laws address the pastoral transition process clearly and specifically. It is noteworthy that final selection of a permanent pastor is one of the specific powers vested by the By-Laws in the Congregation. The process set forth in the By-Laws is centered on a “recommendation” by the Pastoral Relations Committee, “due consideration” and

“nomination” by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Trustees, and “approval of the nomination” by a vote of the Congregation.

At its April 2 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to reconstitute the Search Committee as the Pastoral Relations Committee to ensure that the search for a new permanent pastor currently underway is consistent with our By-Laws.

Understanding and communication of governance documents and practice is critical to any faith or other community. While RHCC’s governance documents and practices have stood the test of time the Transition Committee has concluded that a clear, simple resource that lays out Church governance is needed. The Articles and By-Laws are framework documents. The Draft Handbook – shortened and updated and then adopted by the Board of Trustees – could be this resource. A formally approved Handbook also would limit the number of issues that need to be addressed in By-Law amendments from time to time.

Further, a Handbook would clarify the goals and objectives and authority of the Church’s committees. Our By-Laws do not name or define the role or powers of any committees other than of the Executive Committee (generally empowered with authority of the Board), the Pastoral Relations Committee with respect to the pastor selection process, and the Nominating Committee. However, there are more than 25 Board-authorized committees today, some of which are inactive, and some of which are duplicative.

Committees can be the driving force of activity in any church community. They are where the work of the community gets done, where ideas and vision are most directly discussed, and where church members are empowered to innovate and advance the mission and goals of the church.

The Transition Committee recommends that a short, clear, easy-to-update Handbook be prepared and approved by the Board of Trustees to more clearly outline and communicate RHCC governance, including the number and structure of our Church’s committees.

– Ken Bartels



MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony will dedicate their annual Spring Musicale and Benefit to the memory of Carrie Finlayson. It will be on Sunday, June 3, at five o'clock.



*Carrie Finlayson (at right) with friends
at a Chamber Players Musicale*

Carrie was a long-time member of the Round Hill Community Church and a gifted member of our music committee and choir, in which she sang with joy.

She served as the able and dedicated Treasurer of the Chamber Players. Using her organizational talents and financial expertise, she helped the organization get on its financial feet and has kept it there. She helped the Chamber Players in many ways. For many years, Carrie opened her home to friends and to the causes in which she believed, taking infinite trouble to ensure that her house, grounds, piano, and whatever food was served were all “tuned” to meet her exacting standards. Her beloved Chamber Players were one of the beneficiaries of her generous spirit.

Fortunately our beautiful church will serve as “home” for The Chamber Players’ benefit this year. This concert will conclude the Chamber Players’ 40th anniversary season with a musical sampler of past and future programs – something old and something new. Ten musicians, in various combinations, will be playing compositions, or portions thereof, by Brahms, Poulenc, Franck, Ravel, and Shostakovich. After the concert we will join together in a celebratory hour of champagne, wine, and culinary delights.



Tickets are \$85.00. Invitations will go out in early May. If you do not receive one or would like more information, please call Suzy Simpson at 203-622-6611.

To learn more about the Chamber Players, visit www.greenwichsym.org

– Louise Hoffman

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



MEN'S GROUP



Saturday, May 12

7:00 p.m.

Round Hill Community House

Good Food

Wine

Music

Entertainment

Hosted by The Men's Group

Guests are welcome

Childcare available

\$30 per person

RSVP to Church Office by May 7

395 Round Hill Road Greenwich, CT 06831
203-869-1091 roundhillcommunitychurch.org



You are warmly invited to the
Spring Women's Gathering
of the Round Hill Community Church



Sunday, May 20
12:00 p.m.

at the home of
Phoebe Ford

with speaker
Vera Blankley,
who is Belgian by birth and has had
an interesting career as a translator
for the United Nations

Join the women of the Church
for brunch provided by
the Women's Gathering



For information and directions
and to RSVP by May 14,
contact the Church Office
203-869-1091
church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org

Suggested contribution \$10



Round Hill Community Church

Family Fun and BBQ Night



Sunday, May 20
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

burgers, hot dogs, and treats
music, games, and good company

Invite your friends. All ages are welcome!



Suggested donation: \$10 per family/\$5 per individual
RSVP by May 18 to Church Office 203-869-1091
church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org

Round Hill Community House



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

so forth. With love as my center, I can now answer people who ask me, 'How do you know your religion is true?' Truth isn't the issue, love is. I don't care if a religion is true; I care if it makes its adherents more loving."

"Love God . . . and love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus said when he was asked what the greatest commandment was. In other words, the proof is in the pudding, as they say, not in the creeds, the ideas held in mind. Emily Dickinson put it this way in her poem *If I Can Stop*:

If I can stop one Heart from breaking
I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one Life the Aching
Or cool one Pain
Or help one fainting Robin
Unto his Nest again
I shall not live in vain

– Douglas Miller

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."

– Lao-Tzu

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is planning to produce another pictorial directory. **Arto Szabo has agreed to be our photographer. He will be taking pictures on May 13 and 27 after worship until noon.** The directory is an important tool for keeping in touch with all our Church friends, and the pictures will help make it easier to identify those we don't see on a regular basis.

– Grada and Bill Herrick

BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Neighbor to Neighbor



Please help families in need by donating:

Cereal
Canned Fruit
Pasta and Sauce
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Rice
Dried Beans
Soup
100% Juice

Please reach out to help others
in the Greenwich community.

Drop off items in the boxes located in the
RHCC Narthex, or deliver them to:

Neighbor to Neighbor
Christ Church Annex
248 East Putnam Avenue.

Many, many thanks!



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

As an independent and self-governing church, we depend on a strong leadership consisting of an elected Board of Trustees, Officers of the Board, and Committee Chairs who are responsible for the smooth operation of our Church life. Therefore, our members should be able to reach out to committees should they have questions or concerns, or be interested in becoming active in the committee. Please feel free to contact the chairs of any of these committees, and they will be happy to respond.

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

Diane Davol, Dianedavol@aol.com

Mary Ann Debnar, maryann27@gmail.com

Church Activities

Brook Calkin, jcgretagarbo@optonline.net

Sok Nam Park, hkuplesky@gmail.com

Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@optonline.net

Communications

Suzy Simpson, suzsimp@verizon.net

Finance

Simms Browning, simmsb@optonline.net

History

Arto Szabo, aszabo@optonline.net

Human Resources

Gayle George, gayle.george4@gmail.com

Investment

Randy Motland, rkmot@aol.com

Les Beaux Arts

Mirella Hajjar, Mira153@aol.com

Membership

Grada and Bill Herrick, frgstaff@earthlink.net

Men's Group

Win Adkins, wradkins@optonline.net

Lloyd Hull, lloydnhull@aol.com

Music

Hadi Hajjar, mirtex@aol.com

Nominating

Art Landi, alandi@displayproducersinc.com

Pastoral Relations

Bruce Dixon, bdwdixon@yahoo.com

Grada Herrick, frgstaff@earthlink.net

Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@optonline.net

Round Hill Cemetery Association

Lyn Kaufman, lynk12@yahoo.com

Round Hill Community House

Ted Thaxter, ted.thaxter@sothebyshomes.com

Ron Wilson III,

ron.wilson@roundhillcommunitychurch.org

Sanctuary

Em Toohey, 203-661-7988

Marty Bitner, martybitner@optonline.net

Search

Charles Lee, clee@andersonkill.com

Nancy Mazzoli, nancy.mazzoli@gmail.com

Stewardship

Bill Herrick, wfherrick@earthlink.net

Transition

Ken Bartels, kbartels@PaxtonProperties.com

Ushers

Lloyd Hull, lloydnhull@aol.com

Dee Lewis, dlew176@juno.com

Women's Gathering

Libby Cryer, libbyc@pax.org

Bunny Prokop, Prokat2@aol.com

Worship

Charles Lee, clee@andersonkill.com

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

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.

MAY 2012 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. RHCC ANNUAL MEETING, 11:15 a.m. Chamber Players Concert, 4 p.m.	30	1	2 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m.	3 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	4	5
6 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Theology and the Financial Crisis, 4:30 p.m.	7 Trustee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	8	9 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m. RHA Board Mtg. 5:30 p.m.	10 Meditation 6:30 p.m. RTM Dist. 10 Mtg., 8 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	11 Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8:30 p.m. Westport Nature Center	12 Spring Fling 7 p.m. Community House
13 MOTHER'S DAY Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	14 Investment Comm. Mtg., 5 p.m.	15	16 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m.	17 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	18	19
20 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Women's Gathering Brunch, noon Family Fun and BBQ, 4:30 p.m.	21 Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m.	24 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	25	26
27 PENTECOST Worship with Communion and Church School, 10 a.m.	28 Memorial Day Office Closed	29	30 Round Hill Craft Studio, 1-4 p.m.	31 Meditation 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: HAZEL JARVIS: VIEW FROM ABOVE	