



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

April 2008

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

The Power of a Loving Spirit

Albert Schweitzer once remarked, "What the world needs is that it be filled to overflowing with the spirit of Jesus. If people can be found who revolt against the spirit of thoughtlessness and who are personalities sound enough and strong enough to let their ideals radiate from them a caring energy, there will start an activity of the spirit strong enough to evoke a new disposition in humankind."

It is not a matter of splash and grandeur; rather, it is that spirit ruling wherever we are and whatever our station that is the hope of the future and the salvation of our souls. Bob Green tells the story of Douglas Maurer. At fifteen he had been feeling bad for days, with his temperature ranging between 103 and 105 degrees, and he was suffering flu-like symptoms. Finally, his mother took him to the hospital in St. Louis, and Douglas was diagnosed with leukemia. The doctors told him in frank terms about his disease, that for the next three years he would undergo chemotherapy, that the side effects would include baldness and his body bloating. Douglas went into a deep depression.

His aunt called a flower shop to send Douglas an arrangement of flowers, telling the clerk that it was for her teenage nephew with leukemia. When the flowers arrived at the hospital, they were beautiful. Douglas read the card from his aunt. Then he noticed another card and read it. It said, "Douglas – I took your order. I work at Brix Florist. I had leukemia when I was seven years old. I am twenty-two now and in good health. My heart goes out to you. Sincerely, Laura Bradley." His face lit up. He said, "Oh!"

It's funny. Douglas Maurer was in a hospital filled with millions of dollars of sophisticated medical equipment. He was being treated by expert doctors and nurses with medical training totaling in the hundreds

Meet Architect Jim Rogers



In preparation for the renovation of the Community House, the architect, Jim Rogers of Butler Rogers Baskett of NYC and South Norwalk, is meeting with committees and any interested members to find out what we feel our needs are for now and for

the future on our church campus. We are investing a substantial amount of money, which our members and friends are contributing, to accomplish this project and expect that there will be great interest in sharing ideas and information with the architect so that he can design a plan to meet our needs.

Following is our schedule to meet with Jim Rogers to discuss the future of the entire church campus. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, April 8

1:00 p.m. – Benevolence, Membership, Christmas on RH, Activities, Men's and Women's Groups

2:30 p.m. – Sanctuary, Buildings and Grounds, Cemetery, Community House, Flowers, Ushers

4:00 p.m. – Cap. Campaign, Communications, Finance, Stewardship, Human Resources, Nominating

Monday, April 14

3:00 p.m. – Center, Parents, Youth, History, Music, Worship

Monday, April 21

7:30 to 9:00 p.m. – Evening meeting

Please feel free to attend any of these meetings or contact Lynda Kinney with feedback or ideas.

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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

Prayer Lesson

The focus of our April lessons is prayer. At its most basic and profound level, prayer is nothing more than conversation with God. Conversation isn't a monologue – one side doing all the talking about the things we want and need and worry about. It requires that we rest in God's presence, being open to what we might hear. The lessons will focus not simply on learning to pray, but on how to make prayer a part of daily life and the many different ways to pray. Make time to talk with your children about this lesson during the month of April and to pray with them.

Our church school teachers for April are Susanna Nielsen and Beth Wright. Jonny Duennieber will lead the church school music program on Sunday, April 27.

April Mission – Food Collection

On April 20 and 27 the Church School program will distribute brown paper bags with a list of food items that our friends at Neighbor to Neighbor could use to feed hungry families in Greenwich.



Three hundred households in Greenwich are approved and referred by the Greenwich Department of Social Services for food assistance. These people are eligible to select three days of food, three meals a day, each week for every member of their family.

The number of individuals served each month comes to approximately 700 and the number of meals to over 16,000. RHCC supports Neighbor to Neighbor on an ongoing basis. Each month food is collected for the food pantry and each year there is a financial grant as well.

Please help our Church School children show their support for this valuable agency by responding to their appeals in April.

Planning Meeting

Sunday, April 27, 8:45 a.m.

There will be a meeting for all who would like to help plan next year's church school curriculum. This initial meeting will be followed by a second on Sunday, May 11. To participate, call Tom at 869-1091 or email him at tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Architectural Ideas for Church School

As the congregation devises a list of ideas to renovate the church and Community House, the children will be asked for their ideas to improve the church school setting. They will be given a form to complete and return to us by Sunday, April 13. Please make time to brainstorm ideas with your children. All ideas will be added to our list.

Thanks

Many thanks to Annette Grueterich and Susanna Nielsen for teaching the March lesson on discipleship. The students enjoyed learning from these great teachers about the twelve ordinary men who helped do extraordinary things. Their art project involved making a beautiful banner depicting the names of the disciples and the first-century secret symbol of Christians – the fish. The banner is displayed on the wall outside the Meeting Room.



Round Hill Community Church **Annual Dinner and Meeting**



April 23, 2008

Round Hill Community Church **Annual Dinner and Meeting**

Wednesday, April 23
Round Hill Community House

6:00 p.m. Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Meeting

\$30 per person for dinner
No charge if you only attend meeting

RSVP by Friday, April 18

FLOWERS

I have served as Flower Chair for a number of years (8) and although I think it is one of the most creative and fulfilling activities in the church, I will be leaving this position as of our annual picnic in June.

If you have ever enjoyed the flowers in the Sanctuary, I am asking you to consider becoming the new Flower Chair. Colony Florist continues to fill in when no arrangers sign up, making the job much easier, but I think you all would agree that having the occasional personal touch of a member arranging the flowers can only add to the beauty of Sunday worship.

– Heather Sandifer





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

April is a very busy month for the Center for Faith Development at Round Hill Community Church. We invite you to come and learn, question, and experience and share your spiritual life in community.

Bible Study – Sunday, April 6

Our spring Bible Study welcomes back Rev. Susan DeGeorge to lead us in a discussion of the Gospel according to Matthew. Rev. DeGeorge was very popular in our fall study of Mark. All are welcome from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

Worship Forum – Sunday, April 13

The Worship Committee will be holding a Feedback Forum to begin a discussion of our Creed and Communion Service. Please come from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study – Sunday, April 20

Rev. Susan DeGeorge continues to lead us in a look through the Gospel of Matthew. We will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

Meditation with Joel Baehr Tuesday, April 22



Rev. Baehr leads us in meditation on the topic of giving and receiving love. Invite your friends and come from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Music Forum – Sunday, April 27

In preparation for Music Sunday on May 4, Christopher Kabala will lead us in a discussion of the music that will be performed. We will meet in the Sanctuary from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please join us.

Nicaragua Mission Trip

Interested in going to Nicaragua and having a life-changing experience along with other RHCC members? Last August, 16 of our folks traveled north of Managua for an eight-day workcamp. We left, having built two houses and creating lasting memories and bonds with people who became our friends.

This year, we are heading to a different village from August 10 to 17. If you are interested, please call or email Shannon White immediately (869-1091 or shannonjlp@roundhillcommunitychurch.org), as the deadline for applications is near. The experience is open for everyone aged 14 and up.



Help Us Plan

The Center committee is busy planning the 2008-2009 year. We want to hear any suggestions you have for forums, trips, movies, hands-on service projects, and experiences that you would like to see us offer in the coming year. Please bring your ideas to the idea box at the bulletin board in the hallway near the Meeting Room, or speak with Wilma Jordan-Green, Brook Calkin, or Shannon White before April 12.

If you would like to be a member of our committee, please join us on April 12 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. when we will share ideas and you can help plan the Center activities for 2008-2009.

Childcare is available for all Sunday events.



WORSHIP NEWS

Worship Forum

Sunday, April 13, 11:15 a.m.

Please join us for a Worship Feedback Forum after the service on April 13. We will begin discussion of our Creed and Communion Service, along with any other topics relating to the Worship Service that the congregation would like to address. Packets reprinting our Creed and detailing our Communion Service as it relates to services in other denominations are available for reading before the forum. These packets are available for pickup at the church or through email or regular mail by contacting Lynda in the office. In addition, we invite members to submit ideas or concerns beforehand either through our Suggestion Box, which is in the Parlor, or through direct contact with either of us.

– Claire McKean

cbmckean@optonline.net

– Marion Piro

Chaucer97@aol.com

Prayer Service

Sunday, April 13, 5:00 p.m.

Shannon White will be leading our first prayer service at 5:00 p.m. on April 13 in the Meeting Room, assisted by Mary Ann Debnar. This service will offer specific prayers to those who ask, including healing prayers for those seeking help with physical or emotional needs. We expect the service to last about 30 minutes. All are welcome. Childcare will be available.

CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Workshops – Wednesdays, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Join Molly Cook and Alice O’Gorman upstairs at the Community House and put your stenciling talents to work. There’s something for everyone to do and to learn, and the products will become items to be sold at our annual Christmas Fair. Hope to see you there.

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

A breath of fresh air describes Les Beaux Arts Gallery’s new exhibit, which runs April 13 through May 8. Judith Cheng will be displaying her dreamy landscapes of rolling hills, her fantasy scenes of hovering fairies in diaphanous garments, and her floral paintings of secret gardens. The draftsmanship is exquisite and impeccable as are her sweet but vivid colors.



When asked why she paints, Cheng responds with a big smile, “Because I see something, touch something, or feel something. My goal is to try to express the spiritual quality of the moment. My challenge as an artist is to keep seeing and searching for that special time and place that will animate my emotional experience.”

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Cheng came to New York City to attend Parsons School of Design. Her body of work includes illustrations of children’s books, decorative murals, painted furnitures, and textile designs. She also has her own greeting cards company. She is now working on her new book, *My Paris Rambling*.

– Mirella Hajjar



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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of years. But it was a sales clerk in a flower shop, a woman making \$170 a week, who – by taking the time to care and by being willing to go with what her heart told her to do and by taking a little extra time to express her thoughts – gave Douglas the hope and will to carry on.

Somehow the spirit can be an amazing thing, and sometimes you encounter it at its very best when you aren't even looking. What impresses me about our church family is that this same "spirit of caring" is found in so many different ways and places – in casseroles shared with ill and homebound members; in providing rides for others to and from church; in serving as volunteers, sharing life insights and wisdom and faith in nurturing ways to those who are hungry to learn and grow; in sharing God's love and hope and peace in offices and homes, in classrooms and courtrooms, in nursing homes and food pantries, in operating and examination rooms, in prisons and town halls, in editorial and counseling sessions . . . simply by taking the time to care for others in authentic and personal ways.

What is so wonderful to behold in our church is how the love expressed by our members in the diverse callings that are theirs is so instrumental in God's creating a "new disposition in humankind." Within the world today, such love is sorely needed. Be encouraged, therefore, in the wondrous and wonderful work that is yours each new day!

Blessings!

– Bob Culp

PLEASE FEEL WELCOME

The Church Sanctuary is open for prayer, meditation, and reading the Bible every weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We encourage those who wish to use the Sanctuary for this purpose to do so, and to be encouraged in the disciplines of prayer, meditation, and scriptural reflection.

The News Letter is edited by Nancy Mazzoli,
Claire McKean, Lawrence Sterne, and Lynda Kinney

APRIL SERVICES AND SERMONS

- April 6 *A Community of Grace*, Bob Culp
 The Sacrament of Baptism Observed
- April 13 *To Know His Voice*, Bob Culp
- April 20 *The Spiritual Home We Are*, Bob Culp
- April 27 Shannon White preaching
 New Members Received

NEW MEMBERS

New Members to Be Received April 27

We will be receiving new members during the 10:00 worship service on Sunday, April 27. If you are interested in exploring church membership here at Round Hill, or know of those who may be, please contact Bob Culp or Shannon White at your earliest convenience. One of the unique features of our non-denominational and independent church is that those who join our membership may retain their primary membership in another church if they so choose. Bob Culp will be holding an informational meeting with those who are interested in church membership on Sunday, April 20, following the worship service, from 11:20 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in his office. We receive new members by Affirmation of Faith, Letters of Transfer, and Reaffirmation of Faith.

**Check the calendar on our website
roundhillcommunitychurch.org
for the most current information
on events at RHCC.**

Click on *Calendar* under "Topics."

**Then click on an event
for times and details.**



MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Opera Arias and Ensembles

Friday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

The RHCC Quartet, accompanied by Christopher Kabala on piano, will perform Opera Arias and Ensembles Friday, April 11, at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The selections are from Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *Tosca*, and Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*.



Risa Renae Harman has performed at the Kennedy Center, with the Lake George Opera, the Bay View Music Festival, New York City Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, and Glimmerglass Opera, and as a soloist at the National Cathedral, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Trinity Church, and Weill Hall (NYC).

Jenna Hintz is a graduate of Boston University's Opera Institute and has performed with the Boston University Symphony and was a young artist at the Chautauqua Opera Studio.

Patrick Hogan has performed with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and the Union Avenue Opera Theatre, was a board member and helped establish the Light Opera Company of St. Louis, and appeared with the Bach Society of St. Louis.

Landon Bowie has performed at Carnegie Hall, with the Opera Orchestra of New York, the Rockland Opera, Dallas, Fort Worth, Portland, Columbus, Baltimore, and New Orleans, as well as in Caracas, Venezuela, and throughout Europe.

Christopher Kabala has taught chamber music at the University of Michigan, served as Chair of the Music Department at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, performed as recitalist in Austria, Poland, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, and Italy, and soloed with the Detroit and Cincinnati Symphonies.

Save the Date Music Sunday May 4

Bach's *Magnificat*

RHCC Quartet
Choir
Chamber Orchestra

Enjoy Chamber Music on Round Hill

Sunday, April 6, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

The Center for Chamber Music will feature Jonathan Biss, pianist. He debuted with the New York Philharmonic six years ago and has performed as soloist and chamber musician with the world's foremost orchestras. A champagne reception follows the program. Please call 661-6626 for concert details.

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, read past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

APRIL 2008 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE		1	2 Staff Meeting Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	3 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	4	5
	6 Worship Comm. Mtg. Bible Study, 11:15 Center for Chamber Music, 4 p.m.	7 Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	8 Meetings with Architect 1:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	9 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	10 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	11 Opera Arias and Ensembles 8:00 p.m.
	13 Forum: Worship at Round Hill Prayer Service, 5 p.m., Meeting Room	14	15 Keire Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.	16 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	17 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	18 19
	20 High School Discussion Group Youth Choir Bible Study	21 Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks Meeting with Architect 7:30 p.m.	22 Meditation, 7 p.m., Mtg. Rm.	23 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH Annual Dinner and Meeting 6:30 p.m., CH	24 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	25 News Letter Deadline
27 Forum: Bach, Magnificat 11:15 a.m.	28	29 Keire Discussion Makeup, 7 p.m.	30 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	DREAMY LANDSCAPES AND FANTASY SCENES BY JUDITH CHENG LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY		