



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

April 2011

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The great composer Franz Joseph Haydn was a devout Christian. Whenever he was asked where he got the inspiration for his music, he would reply that it came from God. When *The Creation*, considered by many to be his greatest work, premiered in Vienna, he went to the performance, although he was sick and advanced in years. At the conclusion of the performance the audience stood and gave Haydn a thunderous ovation. Finally, Haydn feebly arose to acknowledge the gratitude of his admirers. When quiet settled over the auditorium, Haydn humbly responded, "It came from above."

He was right, of course. That is one of the tenets of our faith; that all we have and all we are . . . our talents, our individual natures, our possessions . . . are gifts from God, the Source, the Creator. The abundant creation is entrusted to us to enjoy and to safeguard for this and future generations of humans and other creatures.

I am writing this column during Lent, a few weeks before Easter. There are still a few bits of snow in the woods and on the shaded sides of buildings. This year especially, I and many of you, I suspect, have been like the poet whose heart dreams of spring, "like seeds dreaming beneath the snow. Trust the dreams," he says, "for in them is the hidden gate to eternity."

E.B. White, perhaps best known as the author of *Charlotte's Web*, was also an essayist for *The New Yorker* on a host of topics. Late in life he wrote an essay about his ailing wife, who had died a few months earlier. This is part of what he wrote:

Armed with a diagram and a clipboard, Catherine would get into a shabby old raincoat, much too long for her, and put on a little round wool hat and pro-

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EASTER PRELUDE

Sunday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.

The Prelude to the Easter Sunday Service will feature as soloists Metropolitan Opera Orchestra Assistant Concertmaster **Laura Hamilton** playing violin and **Susan Deaver** playing flute in the Bach *Brandenburg Concerto in G Major*. Hamilton has also been a member of the Chicago Symphony, where she performed as soloist under the renowned George Solti. Susan Deaver has performed as solo flutist in many of New York's major ensembles. She was principal flutist of the Washington Chamber Symphony at the Kennedy Center and is presently the conductor of the University Orchestra at Stony Brook.



J. S. Bach with three of his sons

Johann Sebastian Bach's first major use of a keyboard soloist was in his Brandenburg concertos. Many scholars have presumed that these concertos were written between 1717 and 1721, during Bach's time at the court of Cöthen. Here, there was a small orchestra of virtuosi, whose skills would have been put to the test by Bach's solo writing. The concertos take their name, however, from the

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CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Lenten Supper and Study with

Dr. Lee Schlesinger

A Jeremiah “Midrash”

Wednesday, April 6

Potluck Supper 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Study 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you haven't been able to attend our Wednesday night study series, you still have one more chance! Dr. Lee Schlesinger will be discussing his research on the novel he wrote about the prophet Jeremiah as well as Biblical study of this book.

Lee Schlesinger received his Ph.D. in English from Yale in 1973, and has taught literature at Purchase College (SUNY) since 1975.

The evening will include a discussion of Dr. Schlesinger's novelistic (completed, unpublished) treatment of the story of Jeremiah, with a few selections read and discussed. Childcare will be provided.

RHCC Book Club

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem

by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Sunday, April 10, 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. and

Tuesday, April 19, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Renowned Jesus scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan join together to reveal a radical and little-known Jesus. As both authors reacted and responded to questions about Mel Gibson's blockbuster *The Passion of the Christ*, they discovered that many Christians are unclear on the details of events during the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus' final week of life. They begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first entry, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey. The Jesus introduced by Borg and Crossan is this new moral hero, a more dangerous Jesus than the one enshrined in the church's traditional teachings.

Here's what some reviewers have said:

“Borg and Crossan brilliantly chronicle the tension that forced everyone to pledge allegiance – either to Rome or to Jesus.”
–*Los Angeles Times*

“If there is . . . one book for the redemption of Holy Week, this is it. A must-read.”
–Peter J. Gomes

“It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this volume . . .”
–Barbara Brown Taylor

“ . . . Borg and Crossan show one of the most careful and insightful readings of the Bible I've ever come across.”
–Brian McLaren

Shannon White will lead the discussion in the Meeting Room for both sessions. Order/purchase your book today from amazon.com or your local bookstore.

Race to Nowhere

On March 8, nearly 150 people gathered in our sanctuary for a showing of the award-winning documentary *Race to Nowhere*. Parents, grandparents, educators, and youth came and discussed this important film, which is a critique of the educational system in the United States.

A member of our church reacted this way: “I was so inspired after seeing *Race to Nowhere*. It's a film that every parent and educator should see. It very eloquently describes the consequences of placing too much pressure and stress on our children. It emphasizes things that many parents and teachers have been seeing for years and provides a forum and community for demanding a change. I think most of us want kids who love to learn and enjoy their childhoods instead of stressed-out mini-adults. For all these reasons, *Race to Nowhere* is a must-see!”





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Auburn Seminary “Lives of Commitment Breakfast”

Friday, May 6

Cipriani 42nd Street, New York City

Breakfast, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Program, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Auburn Seminary is holding its “Lives of Commitment Breakfast” on May 6 in Manhattan. I have been involved with this seminary’s media department for many years as a trainer of responsible religious voices for national media. It’s a fabulous institution doing wonderful work to bridge religious divides. Its mission statement reads:

Auburn Theological Seminary is an institute for religious leadership that faces the challenges of our fragmented, complex, and violent time. We envision religion as a catalyst and resource for a new world – one in which difference is celebrated, abundance is shared, and people are hopeful, working for a future that is better than today. Auburn equips bold and resilient leaders – religious and secular, women and men, adults and teens – with the tools and resources they need for our multifaith world. We provide them with education, research, support, and media savvy, so that they can bridge religious divides, build community, pursue justice, and heal the world.

The Lives of Commitment Breakfast is held annually as a way to honor women from different religious backgrounds who have forged new beginnings. I have been deeply moved at the presentations. (Men are welcome as well!) In addition a new initiative will kick off that morning called “Generosity and Gender Justice.”

If you are interested in going with me, please let me know. Since it is a fundraiser for the seminary, there is a fee for the breakfast, but don’t let that stop you. Scholarships are available.

– Shannon White

Church School



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

Our Church School calendar is full for the month of April. Come and bring your friends as we continue to learn about the stories of Jesus’ last days and prepare for Easter!

Sunday, April 3 Graham Clarke returns for a morning of music with our children; Graham not only is extremely popular with our children, but he’s in high demand as a singer/songwriter across the tri-state region.

Sunday, April 10 Shannon White will lead a lesson on “The Last Supper,” when Jesus met with his best friends.

Sunday, April 17 Children will learn about Jesus’ last week of life and why Holy Week is important to us as Christians. Michael and Heather Sandifer will be teaching.

Sunday, April 24 Easter Sunday Children ages five and up will be in worship with us. During Fellowship Hour we will hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt with the help of the Confirmation Class.

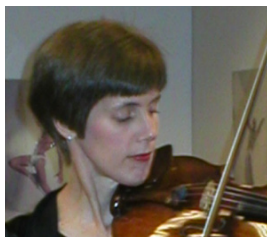
Safe Church: Round Hill Community Church is joining countless congregations of all faith backgrounds around the country in developing policies designed to ensure the safety of all of our children on the Church campus and at Church-sponsored events. A steering committee has been meeting over the last few months to design policies to fit our needs here at RHCC. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks and months.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shannon White (shannon.white@roundhill-communitychurch.org) or Clare DeNicola (Clare.DeNicola@ivans.com).



MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Margrave of Brandenburg, to whom Bach presented a copy of the six pieces in 1721.



Laura Hamilton



Susan Deaver

In *Concerto No. 4 BWV1049* the solo parts are taken by two recorders and violin, and the harpsichordist is relegated to the role of *continuo*. In the outer movements the violin dominates, with lengthy episodes of breathtaking figuration and *bariolage*; in the central *andante*, though, the partnership between the three soloists is more equal. The first movement is one of the longest Baroque concerto movements ever written; the opening *ritornello* alone would be a self-sufficient movement for some other composers. The concluding *presto* avoids the dance rhythms usually found in a finale, instead offering an exhilarating *fugue*. Although the keyboardist does not have a solo part here, the piece arguably contains the germ of a keyboard concerto. Bach later reworked it for two recorders and harpsichord, putting the virtuosic violin line into the right hand of the harpsichord. With such innovations, Bach was unwittingly working in parallel with Handel, exploring the virtuoso role a keyboardist could take in ensemble music.



Risa Renae Harman



Patrick Hogan

Soprano **Risa Renae Harman** and tenor **Patrick Hogan** will sing the duet “Domine Deus” from Bach’s *Mass in B minor*. The choir will sing the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s *Messiah* and Beethoven’s “Hallelujah Chorus” from *Christ on the Mount of Olives*.

— Christopher Kabala

WORSHIP

We would really like to hear from Church members and visitors of all ages about your experience lately with Sunday morning worship!

Please give us your feedback on any aspect of your Sunday morning worship experience so that we can make any needed adjustments along the way – for example with the content or flow of the service, children’s program, presentation of the Bulletin, Sanctuary, or Meeting Rooms, or the ambiance of the Fellowship Hour.

As you may know, we have been experimenting since last October with a revised order of worship – with announcements from the pulpit at the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service, and the offering near the end – to allow the spiritual elements to build together without interruption during the service. Both the Ash Wednesday service and First Sunday of Lent had communion, music, and messages designed to help us experience the relatively pensive, more introspective time in the church calendar in preparation for Easter week.

These past few months have been a period of creativity and experimentation for the Worship Committee and the many worshippers at RHCC on Sunday mornings. In addition to very thought-provoking sermons, we are enjoying closely coordinated special music, more frequent liturgists, and even a slightly expanded Beaux Arts Gallery. The Worship Committee, Church School, and other committees are also working to find new ways to particularly welcome and celebrate the young children and new families among us in Church and at Fellowship Hour.

Between now and the end of May, please do drop us a note in the suggestion box on the secretary in the Parlor, or contact any of us directly with your feedback.

Nancy Gray (chair) ngraymra@gmail.com
 Julia Boysen (secretary) boysenjuli@aol.com
 Mary Ann Debnar
 Bob Feghali
 Charles Lee
 Fred Mason
 Nicole Piper
 Marion Piro
 Suzy Simpson
 Emily Toohey
 Douglas Miller
 Shannon White



LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



An award winning artist and Greenwich resident, **Connie Newton Stancell**, will be showing a series of landscape paintings pertaining to the majestic scenery of the Grand Canyon, entitled “Homage to Nature,” from April 3 through May 5.

Ms. Stancell paints from memory, meaning she does not use photographs. The impressions nature left her with during her trip to the Grand Canyon in 2008 are her main inspiration. She is an exquisite colorist and describes her work as labor intensive. “I always paint to classical music,” she comments. “I find rhythms from music for my work. I am in-

terested in color and texture and work with layers. My work evolves with additions and subtractions of color and textures through meditation, intuition, gestured brush strokes, gradual refining of negative and positive shapes, in search of essential forms.”

In her artist statement Stancell notes, “I learned to love nature’s exuberance. My painting is inspired by the natural world and an interest in exploring color and texture through visible brush strokes and scratching back into layers of paint or adding other materials to the canvas. There is a rhythm of color masses that may be discerned reflecting musical favorites which include opera choruses and arias.”

Ms. Stancell was selected for induction into The National Association of Women Artists, Inc., a prestigious national organization founded in 1889. She has exhibited in a number of group shows including the Salmagundi Club in New York City, the Silvermine in New Canaan, and the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art in Georgia. Her solo shows include Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

Ms. Stancell studied drawing and painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., and The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 21

6:30 p.m., Soup and Bread Meal

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is the Latin term for shadows. It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. Although many local churches observe the ceremony at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service of Word and Sacrament, it is historically associated with the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week. The readings on these evenings commemorated the events of the following day. On Wednesday, they commemorated the Last Supper,

the betrayal, and the arrest; on Thursday, Christ’s passion, trial, and death; and on Friday, Christ’s burial and the destitution of the disciples. In the service presented here, these events are combined in one ceremony. Twelve candles, representing the twelve disciples, and a larger candle, representing Christ, are placed on a table where six readers are seated on one side of the table, facing the congregation. The six people read the scripture lessons and extinguish two candles following their reading. A soloist sings “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord” and the congregation leaves in darkness and silence.

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



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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ceed to the director's chair placed on the edge of the garden. There she would sit, hour after hour, with the wind and the weather, while Henry Allen produced dozens of paper packages of new bulbs and a basket full of old ones, ready for the intricate interment. There was something comical yet touching in her bedraggled appearance on this awesome occasion. The small, hunched-over figure; her studied absorption in the implausible notion that there would be another spring, oblivious to the ending of her own days, which she knew perfectly well was near at hand; sitting there with her chart under those dark skies in the dying October calmly plotting the resurrection.

I'm not the one in our family who, in the fall, plots the spring resurrection in our yard, but I do look forward to it every year. It is reminder that the light and life of spring come after the darkness and dead of winter, year in and year out. That's one of the so-called laws of nature. It's part of the play of creation, performed for our enjoyment and nothing more . . . and nothing less. I'm looking forward to the show. How about you?

– Douglas Miller

APRIL SERVICES

- April 3 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14
Sermon: "Shepherd God," Rev. Miller
- April 10 Exodus 20:1-17 John 2:13-22
Sermon: "Survival Kit," Rev. Miller
- April 17 Palm Sunday
Zechariah 9:9-10 Matthew 21:1-11
Sermon: "Jesus Saves," Rev. Miller
- April 21 Maundy Thursday (Office of Tenebrae)
I Corinthians 11:23-26
Sermon: "The Last Supper," Rev. Miller
Soup and Bread Meal, 6:30 p.m.
- April 24 Easter Sunday
Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24 John 20:1-18
Sermon: "Woman, Why Are You Crying?"
Rev. Miller

ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING

Round Hill Community Church Annual Dinner and Meeting

Wednesday, April 27
Community House

Cocktails at 6:00 pm.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Dinner \$30 per person

*No charge if you attend
the meeting only*

If you plan to attend, RSVP by April 22

203-869-1091 or

church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org



WOMEN’S GATHERING

Please Join Us!

The Women’s Gathering will hold its last gathering of the season on Friday, May 6. The dinner will be held at Bunny Prokop’s home and our speaker will be Helen Dixon.

As it is Mother’s Day weekend, we encourage you to bring your mothers, daughters, and friends to enjoy a fun evening that promises to be filled with the warmth of friendship and shared interests. Child care is available.

We hope to see you there.
– Grada Herrick and Jan Ziemba



CHAMBER PLAYERS

Sunday, April 3
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Piano and Strings

Saint-Saëns Piano Quintet in A, Op. 14
Janáček String Quartet No. 2, “Intimate Letters”
Schumann Piano Quintet in E-flat, Op. 44

Tickets are available at the door or by reservation (203-622-6611) with cash or checks only. Adults \$25 and students \$5. A complimentary wine and cheese reception at each concert affords an opportunity to meet with musicians and friends.

Check the calendar on our website
roundhillcommunitychurch.org
for the most current information on
events at RHCC. Click on Calendar.
Then click on an event for times and details.

SPECIAL EASTER FELLOWSHIP

On Easter Sunday we will have a special coffee hour in the Community House following our church service. The Activities Committee would appreciate donations of cookies, cakes, finger sandwiches, and other treats. Please drop them off at the Community House prior to church. Thank you.
– Ron Wilson, Co-Chairman
Activities Committee

Flowers for Easter
Sunday, April 24
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, April 15.

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

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 2011 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: "HOMAGE TO NATURE" LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS BY CONNIE NEWTON STANCELL			1	2
Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:45 New Member Lunch, CH 4 p.m. Chamber Players Concert	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Board of Trustees Meeting 8 p.m.		RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study series, 6:30-8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		9
Men's Group, 8 a.m. Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15 a.m., RHCC Book Club Discussion	10	11	12	13	14	15
			RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Benevolence Mtg. 8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
PALM SUNDAY Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching		1:00 p.m., RHCC Book Club Discussion	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 p.m., Tenebrae Service Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Musical Prelude, Worship and Church School Doug Miller preaching	Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.		RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Annual Dinner and Meeting, 6 p.m., CH	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		