



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

February 2007

PASTORAL MESSAGE

In Celebration of Awe

I just finished reading Scott Russell Sanders' *A Private History of Awe*, which I commend to your wintertime reading. The personal memoir of a 60-something English professor in the midwest, it is more a thoughtful and poignant account of a generation's coming alive to itself from the 1950s through the early 1970s, as well as this generation's passage from innocence to experience, from euphoria to disillusionment, from a youthful sense of discovery to a more mature celebration of awe.

Sanders frames his interesting recollections with present-day accounts of attending the needs of his aging mother as well as discovering life's newness through the eyes of his granddaughter, all the while weaving his story into the larger narrative of the cycles of life that bind together generations. He expresses special hopes for his children and granddaughter in this fashion:

"My dearest wish for Elizabeth, as for Eva and Jesse (my granddaughter and children), is that she will never lose touch with the wonder of being alive, that she will never cease to be amazed by the sensations flowing into her. Right now she meets the world without preconceptions, without carving it into categories, without dismissing anything as already known. She has no habits . . . What I wish for Elizabeth, for my own daughter and son, and for all of us blessed with consciousness is not that we remain children forever, but that we remain forever awake to the astounding is-ness of things. Why this apple, say, gleaming in the sunlight on a pine table carved with lovers' initials, why this sound of cello and fragrance of lavender filling the air, why this flow of breath, this mind absorbing it all, this planet hurtling through space, this universe unfolding? The moment we begin taking this skein of miracles for granted, we cease to live, no matter if our hearts are still beating."

Sanders confesses that, nevertheless, he seems to sleepwalk through much of his life. But he says that he

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MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Bach Series

February 4

"Ich folge Dir gleichfalls"

Risa Renae Harman, soprano
Flute obligato



Risa Renae Harman

February 11

"I would be with my Jesu watching"

Patrick Hogan, tenor
Oboe obligato



Patrick Hogan

February 18

"Gottes Wort"

Risa Renae Harman, soprano
Jenna Hintz, soprano
Oboe da caccia obligato



Jenna Hintz

February 25

"Grosser Herr"

Landon Bowie, baritone
Trumpet obligato

March 16 The Piano as Orchestra

Pictures at an Exhibition, Mussorgsky

Eroica Variations, Beethoven

Liebestod, Wagner

Christopher Kabala, pianist



8:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

\$15 Adults \$5 Students



Bring in the LOVE!

A Valentine Breakfast for All Church School Parents and Others Interested in Teaching

Sunday, February 11, at 9:00 a.m., Meeting Room



Come for the love (and treats) and stay to find out how you can be part of the exciting plans for the Church School in 2007. Please let us know if you can attend by calling the office at 869-1091.

Friday Night Movies

Groundhog Day is Friday, February 2! The next movie night will be on Friday, February 2, at 6:30 p.m., and it will be, yes, *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray. This is a funny movie about the town of Punxutawney, Pennsylvania, and their love for the groundhog. (Did you all know that Bob Culp grew up in Punxutawney?) This movie is appropriate for adults and children alike. Come enjoy this winter tradition – get cozy on the couches with pizza, popcorn, and a huge movie screen. There may even be some special groundhog treats!

Children for Change



Valentine's Day is almost here and the Milk Can is just one third full! Eileen will kiss the *mystery animal* only if the can is full by Valentine's Day. We'll need everyone's help to fill such a big can! Bring in your spare change. The children will make a big "change" with the money they collect as part of their spring outreach project.

Shepherds and Sheep

The seventh/eighth grade class has begun a pre-confirmation study class led by Eileen Brehm. This is a new curriculum designed by Bob, Shannon, and Eileen to provide the group a format conducive to exploring, questioning, and sharing their journey in the church. Students have already been engaged in writing exercises, poetry writing, and meaningful discussions about their relationship with God.



Tuesday, Spencer, Avery, and Christopher learn the books of the Bible using this puzzle in the Bible Skills and Literacy Workshop

February Theme: "101 Ways to Pray"

This month children will learn many ways we can pray in our daily lives. Music, movement, praying aloud, journaling, and even preparing food are all ways we can have our conversations with God.

February Leaders:

Bible Skills Workshop
Wilma Jordan-Green

Story Workshop
Laura Wack and Jennifer Burraway

Cooking Workshop
Hadi Hajjar



Nancy Gray leads a Bible Skills Workshop with the fifth/sixth grade class



THE CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



Olivia and Annina act out a royal scene from an original script written by Janet Huley about the Bible's story of Esther



Helen O'Malley helps Robert with the cutting of his blanket that all children are making for the Linus Project – an organization that distributes handmade blankets to terminally ill children in hospitals



Jenny Rye leads a Cooking Workshop where students made the traditional cookies for the Feast of Purim



Jack decides how to cut the fabric for his blanket for the Linus Project



THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

Forum: George McDonald on Empowering People to Break the Cycle of Homelessness
February 4, 11:15 a.m.



George McDonald (r)
Founder and President of the Doe Fund
and the "Ready, Willing, and Able" program

The Doe Fund was founded more than 15 years ago with the goal of ending the plight of homeless men in New York City. George set out to prove that a formerly homeless person could create a viable existence if he were able to obtain even a minimum wage job, rent an affordable room, and stay off drugs and alcohol.

George believes that a job, any job, builds dignity and confidence and leads to better opportunities. The Ready, Willing, and Able program has sent hundreds and hundreds of its graduates on to gainful private sector employment and a new lease on life. You will see the blue-uniformed men around the Manhattan area cleaning streets and buildings and doing the things that help to build their confidence and morale. Please read more about the Doe Fund at www.doe.org. Do join us to hear George's story on February 4.

— Wilma Jordan-Green

Ash Wednesday Service and Dinner
Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.



Please join us to observe the beginning of Lent at our traditional Ash Wednesday service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Following a service of meditation and prayer in the Meeting Room, there will be a light dinner in the Parlor. This is an opportunity to share in reflection and fellowship with your church family. We ask that you bring salad, bread and butter, wine, or cookies.

Please call the Church Office at 869-1091 or email us at church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org to RSVP.

A Forum on Living Wills, Appointment of Health Care Agent, and Power of Attorney
Sunday, February 25, 11:15 a.m.



Many of us have prepared these documents, but do we know when and how to use them?

Rhona Johnson has used these documents on several occasions: with her husband Bob, in caring long-distance for family members, helping friends, and advising members of the Greenwich Parkinson's Support Group. She will briefly describe some important and valuable discoveries that she has made through the years on the use of these documents and she will answer questions from her own firsthand experience.



THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

A Communion Forum for Families, Youth, and Children

On Sunday, February 11, Bob Culp will be leading a special forum dealing with the Sacrament of Communion . . . a forum tailored specifically for families, youth, and children, though other members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

A few years ago the Board of Trustees adopted this statement about Communion at Round Hill Community Church:

“Our church extends an invitation to participate in the Sacrament of Communion to all those who are seeking to live a life of faithfulness and love. While this invitation is extended to any who wish to partake of the elements of God’s grace shared at the Lord’s Table, including those who are young, we wish to encourage those parents who wish their children to receive Communion at our scheduled services to prepare them spiritually, in order that they may participate meaningfully in the Worship Service and the Sacrament of Communion. Those parents who are led in this direction may contact our ministers for forums on this topic and for other resources or assistance needed.”



In order for families to receive such assistance and/or to explore the rich and deep meaning of Communion, Bob will be offering a forum on this topic in the Meeting Room on Sunday, February 11, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bob will discuss the church’s policy about Children and Communion at RHCC, as well as explaining its rationale affecting children in the third grade and above. He will also walk through with participants the importance of our remembering and our meal times, the varieties of ways Communion is observed and how it is observed in our church, the frequency of Communion in our church, the various elements used in Communion (breads and wafers, wines and juices . . . with some “hands-on” dimensions), the definition of a “sacrament,” and ways we can make it more meaningful in our lives.



We will conclude by going to the Sanctuary together and sharing in an abbreviated service in which the bread is broken and the wine is poured out, with participants kneeling at the rail and receiving these elements of God’s grace.

All are welcome to attend . . . especially families, children, and youth of all ages.

– Bob Culp

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



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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recognizes it as sleepwalking, and he still struggles to wake. He says that when he does occasionally wake, “a rush of awe dissolves the boundaries separating me from the borderless, luminous, abiding, and sacred ground upon which we stand each new day.”

What Sanders is sharing in his book, I believe, is a much-needed antidote within our age when we seem so preoccupied with the busied rush and hectic fevers of life. And it reminds us, too, of Jesus’ admonition that we are called to become as little children again that we may know the wonders and promises of the kingdom of God that seeks entrance into our lives, even here, even now.

A few weeks ago, following the baptism of our granddaughter Gemma Kathryn in Maryland, I found myself rocking her gently, with her all wrapped up in a soft blanket and with her eyes opening and closing as she found herself on the edge of falling asleep, and with my singing her the same lullabies I had sung to each of our three daughters as infants. Suddenly, the dogs started barking as the doorbell rang and as guests were ushered into our daughter’s home, and Gemma opened wide her eyes taking it all in for just a few seconds . . . but long enough for me to whisper to her, “Welcome to this glorious world, little one, this is your wonderful home.”

– Bob Culp, Pastor

FEBRUARY SERMONS AND SERVICES

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 4 | <i>Balancing Head and Heart</i>
Guest Preacher Kitty Garlid |
| February 11 | <i>The Call to Become Real</i> , Bob Culp |
| February 18 | <i>When Jesus’ Words Comfort . . . and Sting!</i>
Bob Culp |
| February 21 | Ash Wednesday Communion Service and
Dinner, 7:00 p.m.
<i>Beginning Our Lenten Journey</i> , Bob Culp |
| February 25 | <i>One Little Word</i> , Bob Culp
Sacrament of Communion |

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



To celebrate the American landscape, Les Beaux Arts Gallery at RHCC is proud to present Harry Orlyk, a prominent painter from Salem, New York. The exhibit will open on Sunday, January 28, and run through March 4, 2007.

Mr. Orlyk has an MFA from the University of Nebraska. He has won many awards, including the Woods fellowship, 1974, and the prestigious Guggenheim fellowship, 1995. He has exhibited extensively throughout the United States, mainly in California, New York, and New Jersey. He has been featured in numerous magazines such as *Arts Magazine*, *American Artist*, and *Metropole*.

Orlyk has painted landscapes for over twenty years; he is very much drawn to the farmland, which he paints in every season, and works “en plein air” in the fields. He was greatly influenced by the American master Robin Smith, who taught him to use paint directly from the tube in the manner of the French Impressionists, which means that his surface is sculptural, with heavy impasto and loose brush strokes. Some of his snow scenes are reminiscent of Twatman’s work as they bathe in a soft glow of light.

Orlyk is in tune with the land and “searching for the daily painting has become a way of living in relationship with the earth” for him.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator





MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST

Men's Group Breakfast

Sunday, February 4, 8:30 a.m.

Pirates in the Caribbean? No. Not the movie.
Affairs on the High Seas? Yes!

Only it's called shipping cargo around the world, and we have an expert on the subject. Our very own Joern Repenning will be speaking at the Men's Group Breakfast on Sunday, February 4, at 8:30 a.m. about his adventures and business life on the oceans. There will be pictures that tell all and a voiceover in person from the esteemed businessman and friend. Join us!

Want to know what it's like to be shipping goods hither and yon? Please RSVP the Church Office at 869-1091 as soon as possible. We hope to see you there, landlubber or not.

— Michael Sandifer and Ron Wilson

MUSIC

The Chamber Players

Sunday, March 4

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return to the church with a concert at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, in the Sanctuary. The program will include works by Mozart, Khachaturian, Loeffler, and Mendelssohn. The pianist will be Andrew Gordon, who is the principal keyboardist of the Greenwich Symphony and the featured soloist in its upcoming concerts of February 3 and 4.

A wine and cheese reception will afford the opportunity to visit with the musicians and friends. Tickets are available at the door at \$20 (students \$5) or by calling Carrie Finlayson at 869-4661.

Please save the date of their next concert, which will feature harpist Barbara Allen, on Sunday, April 1, at 4:00 p.m.

— Carrie Finlayson

VALENTINE DINNER DANCE



On Friday, February 9, the RHCC Men's Group will be hosting its annual Valentine Dinner Dance. The evening will extend from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

An oenophilic selection of wines and a superb menu have been planned. There will be plenty of time for dancing, with music both slow and fast, old and new. As per custom, a few surprises have been planned.

Please feel free to invite friends and relatives. Tables for ten may be reserved. We are limited to 100 attendees (to allow room for dancing), so an early response is encouraged. If there are any questions, you may contact the Church Office at 869-1091 or Ron Wilson at 661-4449.

We hope to see you there for a guaranteed terrific evening. Come with your partner, or come with a crowd.

— Michael Sandifer and Ron Wilson
Co-chairmen

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


Round Hill Community Church
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February 2007

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church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org

February 2007 at Round Hill Community Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30 p.m. Movie Night <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3
Men's Breakfast, 4 8:30 a.m. Forum: Empowering People to Break the Cycle of Homelessness, 11:15 a.m.	5 8:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	6	7	8 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 p.m. Valentine Dinner Dance, Community House 	10
11 CE Breakfast 9 a.m. H.S. Discussion Grp. Communion Forum Mission Trip Mtg. Confirmation, 4:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study, Noon	15 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	16 Newsletter deadline	17
18	19 Cooking for St. Luke's	20 RHCC Dinner Discussion Group	21 Ash Wednesday Communion and Dinner, 7:00 p.m.	22 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 H.S. Discussion Grp. M.S. Youth Grp. Forum: Using Living Wills . . . Confirmation, 4:30 p.m.	26	27	28			