



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

February 2008

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

A Fresh Taste of God

About the season of Lent, Ann Weems says this:

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder . . .
Lent is a time to allow a fresh taste of God!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6, with a simple Communion service and meal at the church that will start us on our spiritual journey through this holy season. In the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day, we will be offering a variety of ministries through which we hope to deepen the spiritual experience of all who participate.

From the pulpit beginning on February 10, we will present a five-part sermon series on the Lord's Prayer, using Wayne Muller's excellent book *Learning to Pray: How We Find Heaven on Earth*. Prayer is such a central part of our faith, and yet it is a dynamic about which we know so little and with which we struggle to make a satisfying and fulfilling dimension within our daily journey of faith. My hope is that through these sermons and services we will all be strengthened as we seek to make our way into the

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Les Beaux Arts Gallery Features Photos by Three RHCC Adventurers

Christopher Kabala, Fred Keire, and Arto Szabo will be showing their travel photographs at Les Beaux Arts Gallery February 10 through March 12.

Chris Kabala, our Minister of Music, is an intrepid mountain climber who has chased the highest peaks from Europe to the Far East. His photographs from the Karakorum mountain range in Pakistan are stunning in their majestic beauty.

Fred Keire is a veteran sailor whose voyages have taken him around the world. He is showing a series of photographs from Greenland and Labrador. His midnight suns and icebergs illustrate high latitude light in a serene and warm atmosphere.

Arto Szabo has been photographing our national parks for many years. His emotive images capture the true strength and beauty of the natural world. His deep connection with the spirit of the land is evident in these compelling compositions.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



*The Karakorum mountains
photographed by Christopher Kabala*



Project Linus Mission Project February 3 and 10

Our February Mission project will focus on making blankets for Project Linus, a 100% volunteer organization, whose mission is to provide love and a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. This is accomplished through the gifts of new blankets and afghans lovingly made by volunteer “blanketeers.”



This was a popular mission project last year with the church school and will occur on two Sundays: February 3 and 10.

Keri Ann Hofer has purchased five bags of fleece in a variety of patterns that include footballs, penguins, frogs, and solids. Become a “blanketeer” and join us February 3 to begin your creation.



Valentine Breakfast and Parents' Meeting Sunday, February 10 9:00 a.m., Meeting Room

Join Annette Grueterich, Alexandra Heerdt, Stephen Duennebier, and Tom Mahoney for breakfast and discussion about the second half of the church school year and youth programs.

We will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room with coffee and pastry to discuss future projects, ideas, and models for the respective programs. Your presence and participation are critical to the future success of the church school.

Please call the church office to confirm your attendance. We look forward to meeting with you.

Matthew and Manners Children's Lenten Program Wednesdays, February 13 and March 5 6:00 p.m., Parlor

In Matthew's gospel, a Pharisaic lawyer asks Jesus, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?” Jesus tells him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

According to Matthew, the very essence of the law and the prophets is to love God and to love others. We find the biblical definition for love in Matthew's gospel when Jesus says, “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)

“Matthew and Manners” is an opportunity for children to learn what Jesus says about love in the Bible and how to put it into practice. Marion Piro will teach the children how we interact with one another and show respect to parents, peers, and family. This will be an educational, entertaining, and spiritual two nights for the children.

After sharing a simple meal in the Parlor with other families adults and youth will break out for age appropriate study groups. “Matthew and Manners” is directed to church school aged children. Childcare will be available for younger children.

— Tom Mahoney



WOMEN'S GATHERING

On Friday, January 11, a large group of women of the church, with their friends and neighbors, met in the Parlor for dinner and a presentation by a wonderful speaker. Carrie Greenwald, a locally and nationally recognized garden designer, gave us a slide show and talk. Mary Hull introduced Carrie, who is a close friend of hers. The slides showed some of Carrie's beautiful designs and the gardens she has made, and she also gave us some very useful practical tips. Now we are all waiting for spring so we can get outside and get busy.



*Rhona Johnson, Carrie Greenwald,
Marilyn Hammond, Mary Hull, and Christine Gerli*

As usual, we enjoyed dishes brought by the group and we thank everyone who brought food and wine and helped with the cleanup. We also thank Lynda and Ron, who field endless telephone calls and emails for each of our events.



Shannon White, Gloria FitzSimons, and Mirella Hajjar

We have two more events this year. **On Sunday, April 13, we will have a brunch at Debbie Lipner's home, and on Friday, May 16, we will have a dinner to close the season at Amy Minella's.** At both we will have a speaker from among our members and will announce details in the March newsletter.

– Marilyn Hammond and Rhona Johnson

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

We would like to invite each of you to join the newly formed RHCC Women's Book Club (we are a branch of the Women's Gathering). **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Edie Wilson's house.** We will be discussing *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, the highly acclaimed author of *The Kite Runner*.

If you would like to join us, please respond to either Edie (ediewilson06831@yahoo.com) or Kerri Ann (kerriann@mac.com).

Happy reading.

– Kerri Ann Hofer and Edie Wilson



FLOWER FUND 2008

Donor's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Donation: _____

Please use this gift:

_____ at the discretion of the Flower Committee

_____ for memorial/commemorative flowers on
(date) _____

with the following wording to for the Bulletin:

Would you like to arrange your own flowers?

____ Yes ____ No

Do you prefer specific flowers or colors be included or avoided? (Be aware that there is fluctuation in availability for specific flowers at certain times of the year.)

If yes, please detail: _____

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

Thank you for your donation and participation to help make our Sanctuary a more beautiful place to worship.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

PULPIT EXCHANGE

Friday, February 1

7:30 p.m., 30 Myano Lane, Stamford, CT

Sunday, February 3

10:00 a.m. Worship, RHCC Sanctuary

Cantor Vicki Axe of Congregation Shir Ami and Rev. Shannon White will be preaching together in a sermon called "Transformation: A Dialogue Between Two Paths." They will share the pulpit for Shabbat on Friday night, February 1, on Myano Road in Stamford. On Sunday, February 3, they will join together in our Sanctuary for the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Both preachers will talk about what their faith traditions say about the topic of transformation. The event is especially timely the week after our Thorne Lecture with Bruce Feiler and a fascinating interfaith discussion.

We welcome Cantor Axe and members of her congregation who will be with us on February 3. Shir Ami utilizes our Sanctuary for their High Holy Day events.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 6

7:00 p.m., Meeting Room

Join us for our traditional Ash Wednesday service followed by a simple supper hosted by the Women's Bible Study group. Reservations are required; please call the Church Office.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Sundays, February 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

"The Lord's Prayer for Our Lives Today"

A five-part sermon series based on Wayne Muller's book, *Learning to Pray: How We Find Heaven on Earth*.

FAMILY LENTEN SERIES

Wednesdays, February 13 and March 5

6:00 to 6:30 p.m., Light Supper, Parlor

6:30 to 7:20 p.m., Programs

7:20 to 7:30 p.m., Closing Prayer

Adult Program Choices

"The Four Pillars of a Mature Relationship"

The hard work of a good relationship is more than

chemistry, romance, and vows. The four "pillars" of sustaining and growing a mature relationship call for understanding:

- 1) what a genuine friendship is;
- 2) what's involved in shared or conflicting values;
- 3) what makes conflict a constructive thing;
- 4) how passion and play evolve as a couple goes through stages of a relationship.

Pat and George Kandle have been married for 30 years. Between them they have six children – three each from their first marriages. George is a Presbyterian minister and Pastoral Counselor with 42 years of experience. Pat works alongside George in marital and family therapy. They know the pain of divorce as well as the joy of rebuilding, together, an intimate and lively relationship.

The Kandles will provide fascinating questionnaires (for private use) to help people explore these four pillars in their own relationships as well as offering some tools that have been helpful to them and others over the past 30 years.

or

"Living the Questions"

Bob Culp will lead two sessions on "Living the Questions," a curriculum that has been described as an "open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. It creates an environment where participants not only interact with one another in exploring the best of today's theological thought, but together strive to explore what's next for Christianity."

Video segments that feature leading voices in progressive Christianity today will illustrate intriguing aspects of an evolving faith. Participants will view the DVD segments and then discuss topics raised in each one. The February session is "An Invitation to Journey," and the March session is "Taking the Bible Seriously, but Not Literally."

Teen Program

"What Makes Relationships Work – Whether You're Just Friends or Dating"

Stephen Dunnebie will lead the group in what promises to be a lively discussion.

Children's Program

"Minding My Manners – Behaving Like Jesus"

Tom Mahoney, with the help of Marion Piro, will focus on social skills and manners; discovering how we can treat others with respect and dignity as Jesus would do.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC: 20TH-CENTURY CHORUSES

Sundays, February 24, March 2, and 9

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The choir will perform excerpts from Poulenc's *Gloria*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*.

MEDITATION: JOEL BAEHR

Tuesdays, February 26 and March 25

7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room

A Unitarian Universalist Minister and Buddhist practitioner, Rev. Baehr has led many into a deeper awareness of the Holy. Join us as we seek a deeper spiritual journey.

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 16

10:00 a.m. Worship Service



WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 16

11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Parlor

The Church School children will reenact the events of the last week of Jesus' life.



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP/DINNER SERVICE

Thursday, March 20

7:00 p.m., Parlor

This Christian Passover/Seder Communion service will be led by Bob Culp, Shannon White, and Mirella Hajjar. The Men's Group will assist Hadi Hajjar in providing dinner. Reservations are required.



EASTER DAY

Sunday, March 23

9:30 a.m. Prelude, Music of Bach

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

"Resurrection in the Present Tense"

NICARAGUA MISSION TRIP

Sunday, February 10, 11:15 a.m., Meeting Room

Come one, come all . . . the first meeting for those interested in going to Nicaragua will be held after worship on February 10. Please get the word out to those not on the list. Twenty spots are open for us and we may have a few folks from Shir Ami (Reform Jewish congregation) going along with us if we have extra places. The dates are Sunday, August 10, to Sunday, August 17.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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heart of the mystery of God's love for us.

We will also offer two unique Wednesday fellowship and study gatherings for families and members of all ages – on February 13 and March 5. On each of those dates, we will gather for a simple meal, break off into different study and age groups, and then come back together for a closing prayer time.

Joel Baehr will be back with us for two Tuesday evenings of guided meditation sessions, following up his very popular and meaningful meditation sessions that took place in December. The 20 participants in December reflected a hunger and appreciation for these meditation times that invited them into a deeper experience of the Holy in our midst and in our lives, and we are pleased to be able to have Joel back with us on Tuesday, February 26, and Tuesday, March 25.

Special Holy Week offerings include a special Palm Sunday Service with the church school children leading us in a "Walk through Holy Week" after the service, our traditional Maundy Thursday Christian Passover Seder and Communion Service, participation in the Good Friday Service at Christ Episcopal Church, and culminating in our festive celebration on Easter Day, beginning with a musical prelude at 9:30 a.m., featuring the music of Bach, with the sermon at the 10:00 a.m. service entitled "Resurrection in the Present Tense."

In these ways and others, we believe that during Lent we will all be invited to experience a "fresh taste of God." We hope you will participate with God's family here at Round Hill, and that you will invite your friends and colleagues to journey along with us this year.

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.

FEBRUARY SERVICES AND SER-

- Feb. 3 A Dialogue Sermon with Shannon White and Cantor Vicki Axe of Congregation Shir Ami
- Feb. 10 Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer
"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"
- Feb. 17 Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer
"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
- Feb. 24 Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer
"Give us this day our daily bread"
- Mar. 2 Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer
"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"
- Mar. 9 Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

**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.**

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



MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Choir to Present 20th-Century Choruses

On three consecutive Sundays during Lent, the choir will perform excerpts from three choral masterpieces from the 20th century.

February 24

Selections from Poulenc's *Gloria*

March 2

Portions of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*

March 9

First chorus of Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*

All three works, perhaps due to their immediate accessibility, have found permanent and prominent places in the choral repertoire. But as one might expect from composers of such diverse cultural backgrounds – the urbane Frenchman, the jazzy New Yorker, and the austere Brit – each writes in a very particular and personal musical style.

The sensual writing of the Poulenc *Gloria* reflects the sophisticated stance of the Parisian boulevardier while Britten's snappy rhythms are the perfect vehicle for Christopher Smart's mystical poetry. The deeply religious but mentally unstable Smart wrote "Rejoice in the Lamb" while confined to an asylum. The opening chorus after a somber introduction breaks into a wild litany of praise as numerous Old Testament personages are joyously called forth.

England's Chichester Cathedral commissioned Bernstein to set a number of the Psalms to music. The *Chichester Psalms*, along with the *Kaddish Symphony*, are the only works of Bernstein that are conspicuously Jewish. Some thematic material was taken from a Jewish gang fight sequence that was in the original concept for *West Side Story*. The idea of a Jewish gang fight was understandably dropped. The choruses are wonderful, so we are inviting skillful singers from the church and community to join us. These works, however, are not without difficulty. Therefore, in order to make a confident contribution, (and avoid personal embarrassment), we ask that the mandatory attendance policy at Thursday rehearsals from February 21 until March 6 be observed.

– Christopher Kabala

Chamber Players Concert February 24, Sanctuary

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return to RHCC on Sunday, February 24, at 4:00 p.m. The concert will feature works by Beethoven, Turina, and the Brahms Sextet No. 1 for Strings in B-flat major, op. 18. The musicians are drawn from the principals of the Greenwich Symphony orchestra.

After the program, there will be a wine and cheese reception in the Parlor, where the audience can visit with friends and meet the musicians.

Also, please save the date of **March 30** for the next concert, which will feature the beloved Schubert Quintet in A major, "The Trout."

– Carrie Finlayson

VALENTINE DINNER DANCE



**Friday, February 8
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.
Community House**

\$80 per person

Please feel free to invite friends.

For additional invitations, call the church office.


**Limit of 100 guests
RSVP by Wednesday, February 6**

Any questions, call Ron Wilson at 661-4449

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.

FEBRUARY 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
PHOTOS BY THREE ADVENTURERS: KABALA, KEIRE, SZABO LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY						
Transfiguration Sunday Pulpit Exchange 10:00 a.m. Worship	Fiction Writing Workshop 7:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.		Staff Meeting Ash Wednesday Service/Supper 7:00 p.m., Meeting Room	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	Valentine Dinner Dance 7 to 11 p.m. Community House	
First Sunday of Lent Communion Service Parent Mtg. 9:00 a.m., Meeting Rm. H.S. Discussion Grp. Nicaragua Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Mtg. Rm.	Fiction Writing Workshop, 7:00 p.m.		Family Lenten Series 6 to 7:30 p.m. Parlor	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	Family Movie Night, TBA	
Second Sunday of Lent	OFFICE CLOSED Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks	Keire Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.	News Letter Deadline	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		
Third Sunday of Lent RH Cemetery Meeting, 11:00 a.m. Chamber Players 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary	Fiction Writing Workshop, 7:00 p.m.	Women's Book Club, 1:00 p.m. Meditation, 7 p.m., Mtg. Rm.		Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		