



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

February 2010

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Rediscovering Values

In preparation for Dr. David Miller's visit to our church to serve as our Thorne Lecturer, I read through Jim Wallis's new book *Rediscovering Values on Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street*. In his book, Wallis contends that our current economic crisis is presenting us with an enormous opportunity to rediscover our values as a people, as families, as communities of faith, and as a nation . . . and that we need a new moral compass for the new economy that is emerging, assuming that what emerges is not the same old business. He argues that the Great Recession has revealed a profound values crisis, as it has raised questions about our personal, family, and national priorities; about our habits of the heart, about our measures of success, about the values of our families and our children, about our spiritual well-being, and about the ultimate goals and purposes of life.

The real question we should be asking, Wallis observes, is not: "When will the crisis be over?" Rather, we should be asking, "How will this crisis change us?" Indeed. How will the crisis through which we are passing change the ways we think, act, and decide things; how we define, prioritize, and value our success; how we do business; and how we live our lives? Without any question, we are struggling with a structural crisis that calls for new and smarter social regulation. But it is also a spiritual crisis that calls for new self-regulation. We seem to have lost some things amidst the turmoil of the last two years, and have forgotten some basics – such as our oldest and best values. Wallis writes, "We have trusted in the 'invisible hand' of the market to make everything turn out all right, and we have believed that it wasn't necessary for us to bring virtue to bear

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Music Sunday

Creation

March 7 10:00 a.m.

Haydn, *The Creation: Part I*
Vaughan Williams, *The Lark Ascending*
Krystof Witek, violin

RHCC Choir and Soloists
with Chamber Orchestra
Christopher Kabala, conductor



We are happy to welcome back Eileen Brehm as our Director of Children's Ministries. Eileen held this position a few years back and left when her second son was born two years ago. Eileen has a contagious energy and spirit that brings out the best in children and adults alike. She has continued her involvement with RHCC for the past two years with special projects, and we are thrilled that she is back to lead our youth on their faith journeys.

If you are interested in helping out with the Church School in any way, please contact Eileen through the church office.

Pancake Breakfast to Benefit Pacific House



Church School youth, with the guidance of Alison and Roland Kistler, carried out a multi-week plan to help the residents of Pacific House, a homeless shelter in Stamford. On January 10, the youth gathered at the Community House to prepare a pancake break-

fast, which would be served to the RHCC congregation during Fellowship Hour. Those who attended the breakfast were impressed with the quality of food and service provided by the hard-working, generous, and delightful children of the Church School.



Two weeks later, the children gathered again on Sunday morning to prepare food purchased with the money donated during the Pancake Breakfast for the residents of Pacific House. That afternoon, about ten children and adults delivered and served the food they had prepared.

The children successfully and joyfully completed a process of planning, fundraising, and fulfilling a commitment to help others who are in need. We thank Roland and Alison for their sure and energetic leadership of this very worthwhile project.





BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Benevolence and Outreach grants cover a wide spectrum of giving. Careful consideration is given to each organization, its financial position and its effectiveness in helping many different segments of society. Considering the impact of the economic slowdown, we increased our contribution to organizations that feed the hungry. Members of our committee visit each charity, presentations are given to the committee, and thoughtful discussions lead to each decision. Discussions about the earthquake in Haiti will, of

course, be part of the 2010 agenda. So much of the world is in tremendous need of assistance. We are privileged to share some of our blessings with those who are less fortunate and thank all of you for making that possible through your giving.

Co-chairs: Helen and Hooker O'Malley

Committee members:

Nancy and Steve Fuzesi, Christine Gerli, Hadi Hajjar Keri Ann Hofer, Louise Hoffman, Sandy Motland, Jenny Rye, Joan Warburg, Bob Culp

Grants Given in 2009

- American Friends of Sesobel, Lebanon – For a new porch roof for Anta Akhi: \$4,500
- Carver Center, Port Chester – After School Programs for children in Port Chester: \$5,000
- Den for the Grieving, Greenwich – Helping children cope with the loss of a loved one: \$4,000
- Domus, Stamford – Program education for vulnerable families: \$3,500
- Edna Adan Hospital, Somaliland – Training midwives and nurses, saving lives: \$4,000
- Family Re-Entry – Aiding ex-convicts' re-entry into society: \$3,500
- Greenwich Adult Day Care – Helping senior citizens and families cope with aging: \$5,000
- Garden Education Center – Monthly horticultural outreach programs: \$1,000
- Global Workers Justice Alliance – Telecommunication equipment for Global Workers: \$3,000
- Greenwich Chaplaincy – Aid in the spiritual needs of elderly citizens: \$3,000
- Greenwich Education Center – Monthly horticultural outreach programs: \$1,000
- Greenwich World Hunger – Awards self-help program grants to help fight world hunger: \$2,000
- Hartford Seminary – Support meaningful program at the Seminary: \$1,000
- Head Start Scholarship Program Greenwich – Early childhood education: \$2,000
- Laurel House, Stamford – Helping those with mental issues readjust to society: \$3,000
- Macedonia Church, Norwalk – Prison re-entry program: \$5,000
- Neighbor to Neighbor, Greenwich – Feeding and clothing our neighbors: \$1,763

- Open Door Shelter – Feeding the hungry in Norwalk: \$2,000
- Pacific House, Stamford – Shelter for the homeless and families in need: \$5,000
- Supermarketing for Seniors – Shopping for elder residents who need assistance: \$3,000
- Women's Mentoring Network, Stamford – College Bound Program Initiative: \$3,000

Hands-on Projects

- Beach day – Little Sisters of the Assumption, Harlem, fun at Tod's Point: \$ 724
- St. Lukes LifeWorks, Stamford – volunteers from RHCC supply and prepare food: \$1,572
- Nicaragua – Sewing machines for young women to learn to sew and make a living: \$ 400
- Thanksgiving Meals for the hungry: \$2,000
- Emergency Fund – Special needs: \$1,100
- Angel Tree - Christmas gifts needy: \$ 230
- Pastor's Discretionary – Special needs: \$1,000

Land Lease Income

- Community Centers Summer Youth Program – Employing youth: \$15,000
- TAG – Van Payment for "Round About" rides to doctors: \$15,000
- GEMS – Greenwich Emergency Medical Services – Ambulance service: \$5,000
- Head Start Family Centers – Scholarship for early childhood education: \$5,000
- Greenwich High School Student Loan Fund – College loans: \$5,000
- Neighbor to Neighbor – Feeding and clothing our neighbors: \$5,000



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

January ended with a bang at the Center with our Thorne Lecture. Dr. David Miller shared his experience and insights on ethics and values in the workplace during his Friday evening talk entitled “Business Ethics: Succeeding without Selling Your Soul.” After his presentation two RHCC members, Stephen Fuzesi and Mary Ann Debnar, responded with thoughts from their own experience in corporate America, followed by an engaging exchange among those who attended the session.

On Sunday morning, David returned as our guest preacher. His sermon, ““Doing God’s Work’ at Goldman Sachs?” examined the role each of us can have in living our deepest spiritual values from Monday through Saturday. We can, and in fact are called to, do God’s work of living lives of integrity in every aspect of our lives.

Several of you have asked about the Greenwich Leadership Forum, which David Miller hosts each month at the Indian Harbor Yacht Club (\$20 suggested donation, no reservation required. Doors open at 6:30 a.m.). Everyone is welcome to attend as David interviews CEOs and business leaders from around the globe about how they live out their values in the workplace. The website is www.greenwichleadershipforum.org. The next meeting is Feb. 19 with guest Sharon Allen, Chairman, Deloitte LLP.

Following worship on Sunday, January 24, Rev. Sondra Booze-Bailey enthralled the audience with a history of song and word of Spirituals sung by slaves. Did you know, for example, that when a slave sang “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” she wasn’t singing about going to heaven, as her master thought? Instead, she was signaling to other slaves that Harriet Tubman would be coming through the area that evening, so they needed to get ready! And when a slave sang “Wade in the Water,” Rev. Booze-Bailey told us he was saying, “Your master is right behind you trying to catch you with dogs, so get in the water so

your scent is lost.”

Rev. Sondra Booze-Bailey teaches music in the New York City schools through a grant from the Metropolitan Opera Guild. She and Shannon White have been friends since seminary in Princeton.

Forum: Faith Statements: Dialogues on Jesus’ Nature, Work, and Resurrection Sunday, February 7 11:15 a.m., Meeting Room



The Rev. Anita Keire will talk about her new book, *Faith Statements*, and why she wrote it. Some of this book is based on conversations in her discussion group, which was held for three years here at the Round Hill Community Church. In preparation for this forum, please visit her website www.anitakeire.com and the page entitled Faith Statements. Look at the Table of Contents and read Chapters 1 and 2. Come with your questions.

Meditation with Rev. Joel Baehr Tuesday, February 9 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room

Please join us for our monthly meditation gathering. Those who are new to meditation as well as seasoned practitioners are welcome.



MEN'S GROUP



The RHCC Winter Ball, sponsored by the Men's Group, is rapidly approaching. Our dinner/dance is Saturday, February 27. Please note that it is black tie **OPTIONAL**. While the "black ties" may add a bit more formality to the evening, it will still be a relaxed and fun-filled time for all.

The Men's Group has a small budget that we will use to offer partial "scholarships" to anyone who may have difficulty with the suggested charge of \$85 per person. Please contact Lynda Kinney or me (203-661-4449) if there are any questions. I hope to see you at the big event.

— Ron Wilson, Co-Chair

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday Service and Dinner February 17, Meeting Room

We will be observing our traditional Ash Wednesday Communion Service and Dinner on Wednesday, February 17, beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Bob Culp will be addressing the topic of "True Confessions" in the service, which will contain the lectionary texts indicated for Ash Wednesday as well as several special hymns. We will also observe the Sacrament of Communion in the service, which is always a poignant experience at the beginning of the Lenten season, and within the intimate setting of the Meeting Room is always very meaningful.

Following this half-hour service, we will adjourn to the Parlor where we will enjoy a simple but gracious meal provided by the Women's Spirit Rising group. We hope our members and friends will attend this special service on February 17, and that our time together will provide a wondrous occasion to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, to enjoy one another's company as fellow pilgrims along the way, and to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Lenten journey this year.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the Parlor or contact the office so that we can provide sufficient seating for the dinner.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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on our decisions.” Somehow we have lost sight of the common good, and Wallis notes that it has been humbling and disconcerting to “see our own thoughtlessness, greed, and impatience writ large across the global sky.”

Years ago, Mahatma Gandhi made a list of the social sins he used to instruct his young disciples, and they seem to be an accurate diagnostic for the causes of the crisis of our age. These “Seven Deadly Social Sins” are:

1. Politics without principle
2. Wealth without work
3. Commerce without morality
4. Pleasure without conscience
5. Education without character
6. Science without humanity
7. Worship without sacrifice

Within our life together as the church, we are called to foster an atmosphere of moral discourse wherein we can explore the opportunities present within these challenging days, and to discover ways by which we can experience redemptive change and transformation . . . as individuals and families, as communities and fellowships of faith, and as a nation that is a member of the global village.

The season of Lent, the six-week period of time beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 17) and culminating on Easter Day (April 4), invites us into a period of profound spiritual self-reflection. It is a period of time when we seek to examine afresh who we are and what we are to be about as God’s people in the world. I encourage you to join with us in the weeks ahead to be a part of this ongoing conversation as we listen attentively to God’s Word, as we open ourselves to wrestle honestly with searching questions of our values and priorities, and as we make our way to Jerusalem and beyond, with our Living Lord as our life-giving companion and trustworthy guide.

– Bob Culp

FEBRUARY SERVICES/SERMONS

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| Feb. 7 | Shannon White preaching |
| Feb. 14 | <i>An Intimate Awe</i> , Bob Culp
Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday |
| Feb. 17 | Ash Wednesday
<i>True Confessions</i> , Bob Culp
Traditional Communion Service
and Dinner, 7:00 p.m., Meeting Room |
| Feb. 21 | <i>Wilderness Temptations and Us</i> ,
Bob Culp
First Sunday in Lent
Sacrament of Communion Observed |
| Feb. 28 | <i>Our Heart’s True Allegiance</i> , Bob Culp
Second Sunday in Lent |

WORSHIP

Our Sunday Worship service begins with the Prelude. Please be thoughtful of those already in the Sanctuary seeking a time of quietude and prayerful reflection.

This year’s Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 17. The Women’s Spirit Rising group has offered to prepare a soup and salad supper for those attending.

Following your favorable response to the Family Friendly Service on November 1, another is being planned for March or April.

– Marion Piro



TRANSITION COMMITTEE

In early January, the Transition Committee began the process of prioritizing candidates for the position of Senior Minister in anticipation of making contacts and/or visits. In most cases, committee members have recommended the candidates based on extensive searches of church websites by territory.

While accessibility to church websites is quite helpful, we know how important word-of-mouth recommendations are. Please let us know of anyone you think may be a good fit for RHCC, whether or not they may currently be looking for a position.

We have posted ads for the position in Christian Century, Presbyterian Outlook, and the UCC website as well as contacting seminaries, who are posting the position on their websites. We have already received a number of resumes to consider. We have talked to many “friends of the church” who have religious connections to ask for advice and recommendations. The Church Profile and Job Description that we drafted for candidates’ use is posted on the RHCC website under “About the Church,” for anyone to read. The committee meets every two weeks to discuss devel-

opments and plan tasks.

We have contacted the United Church of Christ about candidates for an interim minister. They are working with us using our Church Profile to find suitable candidates for us to interview. We are also making some of our own contacts on this front. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in serving as an interim minister, please let us know.

Charles Lee, clee@mccarter.com
 Nancy Mazzoli, nancy.mazzoli@gmail.com
 Banks Adams, bankstadams@yahoo.com
 Bill Boysen, billboysen@aol.com
 Mary Ann Debnar, mdebnar@optonline.net
 Nancy Gray, negray@earthlink.net
 Art Landi, alandi@displayproducersinc.com
 Amy Minella, aminella@cardcap.com
 Sandy Motland, Scmot@aol.com
 Helen O’Malley, omalley@optonline.net
 Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@gmail.com
 Lawrence Sterne, lsterne@eaainc.com

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

**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.**

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 2010 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.	2 Writer's Workshop, 2 p.m.	3 Cap Camp. Bldg. Comm., 7:30 a.m. Staff Mtg., 1 p.m. Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	4 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	5	6
7 Shannon White preaching, Church School, 10 a.m. Forum: Rev. Keire "Faith Statements" 11:15 a.m.	8 Writer's Workshop, 8 p.m.	9 Meditation 7 p.m.	10 Cap Camp. Bldg. Comm., 7:30 a.m. Women's Spirit Rising, 1 p.m. Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	11 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	12	13
14 Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday "An Intimate Awe," Rev. Culp, Church School, 10 a.m.	15 Presidents' Day Office Closed Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.	16 Membership Mtg. 6 p.m.	17 Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m. Ash Wednesday "True Confes- sions," Rev. Culp and Dinner, 7 p.m.	18 Cap Camp. Bldg. Comm., 7:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21 First Sunday in Lent "Wilderness Tempta- tions and Us," Rev. Culp, Church School, 10 a.m.	22 Writer's Workshop, 8 p.m.	23 Writer's Workshop, 2 p.m.	24 Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	25 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	26	27 RHCC Winter Ball 6:30 p.m. Community House
28 Second Sunday in Lent "Our Heart's True Al- legiance," Rev. Culp, Church School, 10 a.m. GSO Chamber Players, 4 p.m.	<div> LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: A RETROSPECTIVE OF PAINTINGS BY HOLLY MEEKER ROM </div> <div> WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE </div>					