



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

February 2011

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



When I was cleaning out my office recently I came across the worship bulletin from my service of ordination in 1978. In that service, as part of the public covenant between me and the church, I promised “. . . to be disciplined in my spiritual prac-

tices of meditation, prayer and the study of scripture, seeking awareness of the presence of God in all the moments of my life.” Each morning this week, as part of my preparation for the day, I have read the following prayer by Rev. Davidson Loehr, minister of the First Unitarian Church in Austin, Texas:

I pray not to something, but from something,
to which I must give voice;

not to escape from my life, but to focus it;
not to relinquish my mind, but to replenish my soul.

I pray that I may live with honesty;

that I can accept who I am,
and admit who I am not;
that I don't become so defended by pride and fear
that I ignore the still small voice within me,
that could lead me out of darkness.

I pray that I can live with trust and openness;
to those people, those experiences, and those
transformations

that can save me from narrowness and despair.

And I pray on behalf of these hopes
with an open heart, and honest soul,
and a grateful reverence for the life which has
been given to me. Amen

Before I read the prayer, I take a few minutes to



Please remember to bring non-perishable food in to share with our many neighbors here in Greenwich who need help with food. Cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit, and dried beans are always needed. Medium sized cans work best. Leave them in the wagon in the Narthex. Many, many thanks!

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CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

In case you were thinking that nothing happens in the middle of winter, think again! The Center is busy with a variety of opportunities for you to deepen your spiritual lives.

Sunday Forums

**February 13: “Understanding Communion”
Sanctuary, 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Did you know that Communion is one of the two sacraments we celebrate as Protestants? Do you know what it means when we actually eat the bread and drink from the cup? Many adults don’t know the answers to these questions, much less our children. Revs. Doug Miller and Shannon White will lead parents and children in a workshop that will explain in an age-appropriate manner what Communion is and why we celebrate it. Adults without children are welcome as well. (Suggested age, first grade and up.)

**February 27: Loss and Grief with Sam Deibler
Meeting Room, 11:15 a.m.**

Grieving occurs any time we incur losses in our lives and is a normal process that helps us incorporate our loss and move on with our lives. The greater the loss and the more losses we experience, however, the more acute and intense is our grief. When we encounter our own losses or experience others who are grieving, questions arise: What does grief look like? Are there “normal” and “abnormal” expressions of grief? Is grief a symptom to be managed or an invitation for growth? How does the Church help those who grieve? How can we be supportive of those who grieve?

We will explore the grief process as a response to loss and the role of the Church in shepherding people through it. Sam Deibler, the Director of the Greenwich Commission on Aging, has worked for the Town of Greenwich since 1975. He oversees programs and provides resources on aging issues for Greenwich’s older residents.

Building Your Own Theology

Rev. Douglas Miller

Wednesdays, Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

“This I Believe” was a CBS radio network program hosted by Edward R. Murrow in the early 1950s. The show encouraged both famous people and others to write short essays about their own personal motivation in life. The program became a cultural phenomenon that stressed individual belief rather than religious dogma. When Rev. William Sloane Coffin, chaplain at Yale University and later minister of Riverside Church in New York, was near the end of his life, a group of students collected sayings of his from sermons and lectures in a book titled *Credo*. Anyone familiar with Coffin’s life and ministry could easily see how his beliefs had influenced what he did. He lived what he believed.

The reformed tradition in Christianity recognizes that everyone is a theologian. The church exists as a spiritual space, not for the communication of an institutional creed, but for the creation of a personal credo in community. *Credo* is from the Latin word and means, literally, “I believe.” However, it is also a compound from *cor*, *cordia*, “heart” (as in accord, cordial, concord) and *do*, to put in place, set, or give. Thus *credo* is more than intellectual belief. It means not only “I believe,” but also “I hereby commit myself to.” Our theological constructions are convictions – ideas requiring embodiment in our lives.

You are invited to join with others from our church for four consecutive weeks to create a community context in which individuals can create their own credos. The final product may not be a formal declaration; it may be a poem or a drawing, an essay or a narrative. The important thing is that each participant seeks to make implicit assumptions explicit. In the process we will get to know one another in new ways, and have a lot of fun.

The group will be limited to twelve people who commit to attending all four sessions. Please let Rev. Miller know if you want to be a part of this adventure.

CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Eating – A Spiritual Practice Retreat

Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(snow date: Sunday, March 13, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.)

Cost: \$5 (includes lunch)

Please RSVP to the Church Office, 203-869-1091



Chef, Reverend Dr. Lise Worthington suggests that we all graze on faith by eating the Bible one scriptural bite at a time. Lise, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Union Theological Seminary, and Hebrew Union College specializes in the wisdom tradition of Eating, a Spiritual Practice that is the love affair between food and faith. Secular wisdom is fond of telling us to support our local farmer, eat locally, and eat together, but scriptural wisdom is as compelling in telling us the very same thing with strong theological underpinnings that speak to moral and ethical issues when it comes to food and food production. The wisdom of Eating, a Spiritual Practice invites all of us to come closer to God by “tasting and seeing that the Lord is good.” All are invited and encouraged to come, cook, study, and learn the ancient wisdom of Eating, a Spiritual Practice.

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.

Church School



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

The snow isn’t stopping us! We’re “plowing” through with more fun! Here’s what’s happening in February in Church School.

February 6: Daniel and the Lion’s Den

Daniel shows us an example of courage in the face of great fear.

February 13: Jesus and the Disciples

Jesus asked regular people, just like us, to follow him and to do great things

Don’t forget to join us for the forum **“Understanding Communion?”** from 11:15 to 12:00 p.m. with Revs. Miller and White in the Sanctuary. Suggested for children in first grade and up.

February 20: Cooking for Pacific House

Roland Kistler leads us in this project for the Pacific House homeless shelter in Stamford.

February 27: Four Friends

Four friends journeyed together to see Jesus. Hear why they went and what happened when they got there.

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



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Over the last three years the Benevolence and Outreach committee, through the generosity of our members, stewardship, and funds received from the Land Lease program, has been able to share some of our blessings with those who are less fortunate. Our church has provided financial funding and volunteer support to human service agencies in Greenwich, nearby towns, and around the globe for many, many years.

Last Three Years of Giving

Greenwich: \$188,977

Surrounding Towns

(Stamford, Port Chester, Norwalk): \$92,160

Global

(Somaliland, Lebanon, Central America, Namibia, Nicaragua): \$42,150

Disaster Relief (Haiti & Pakistan): \$10,000

Benevolence and Outreach Giving, 2010

FOOD AND SHELTER

Meals on Wheels (Greenwich)

Benevolence and Outreach gives a grant to support volunteers who cook and take food to people unable to leave their homes.

Neighbor to Neighbor (Greenwich)

Please bring food to our church Narthex to support this free food and clothing pantry. Benevolence and Outreach makes a financial contribution each year.

Open Door Shelter (Norwalk)

This shelter in Norwalk serves over 2400 meals a day to assist those in need.

Pacific House (Stamford)

The Church School prepares meals for the residents of this homeless shelter in Stamford.

St. Luke's LifeWorks (Stamford)

Volunteers from RHCC prepare and serve one dinner a month.

Super Marketing for Seniors (Greenwich)

For this program of Jewish Family Services, volunteers shop for older people who are unable to get to the store themselves.

Thanksgiving Meals (Norwalk)

We make it possible for some less fortunate to enjoy a special meal.

CARING AND EDUCATION

Angel Tree (Norwalk)

Each Christmas members of the congregation select an "angel" from the tree in our Parlor and give a gift to those less fortunate.

Beach Day, Little Sisters of the Assumption (East Harlem)

Each summer many children from Harlem, their parents, and volunteers from RHCC share sun, fun, and a meal at Greenwich Point.

Carver Center (Port Chester)

Afterschool programs are offered to meet the needs of underprivileged youth.

Den for Grieving (Greenwich)

The Den provides support for children, teens, and families who have experienced a death of someone near to them.

Domus (Stamford)

Domus helps vulnerable youth and their families experience educational and personal success.

Family Re-Entry (Norwalk)

Programs support incarcerated inmates and their families and help those returning from prison to their communities.

Garden Education Center (Greenwich)

The Center teaches young people about growing and eating nutritious food. The garden harvest is then given to people who need assistance with food.



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Adult Day Care, River House (Greenwich)

Customized daytime programs and services stimulate intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being for adults who need care during the day.

Greenwich Alliance for Education

Community resources are mobilized to provide opportunities and foster educational success for Greenwich public school students.

Greenwich Chaplaincy

Provides spiritual support to hospitalized residents.

Greenwich High School Student Loan Fund

Offers financial assistance to Greenwich High School students.

Head Start Scholarship Program (Greenwich)

Early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds.

Keys (Bridgeport)

Provides music lessons for children.

Laurel House (Stamford)

Provides a wide range of services to people recovering from mental illness, giving them the tools to lead productive and meaningful lives.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Greenwich GEMS (Emergency Medical Services)

Emergency medical assistance and transportation.

TAG (Transportation Association of Greenwich)

Serves Greenwich residents who need transportation for medical care. RHCC fully purchased a van.

AROUND THE WORLD

American Friends of Sesobel (Lebanon)

Serves physically and mentally disabled children and their families.

Ecole Le Bon Samaritain (Haiti)

The earthquake destroyed this school. Our funding is helping to build a new school for many small children.

Edna Adan Hospital (Somaliland, Africa)

A maternity hospital and health care facility for women and children in Somaliland.

Global Workers (Central America)

Provides legal assistance for legal migrant workers.

Greenwich World Hunger

Helps alleviate world hunger through education and self-help programs.

Save the Children, Pakistan Flood Relief

Provided food and shelter for many flood victims.

Sekolo Project (Namibia, Africa)

Provides HIV prevention education and is a support network.

Sewing Machine Project (Nicaragua)

Buys sewing machines for young women who then sell what they have made to help pay for housing and food.

Co-chairs: Helen and Hooker O'Malley

Nancy and Steve Fuzesi

Hadi Hajjar, Keri Ann Hofer, Louise Hoffman

Sandy Motland, Jenny Rye, Joan Warburg, Ron Wilson



*Christopher Kabala and a friend
with the Matterhorn in the background*



STEWARDSHIP

We have concluded the 2011 Stewardship campaign with some rewarding and reassuring results. Against a goal of \$350,000, we have pledges of just over \$370,000, a 6% gain, and even a few percentage points more than last year!

What was particularly uplifting was the increase in giving pledged by “our solid middle,” a group of about one-third of our members, from the middle range of giving levels, who increased their pledged support by 15% to 20%. If we look at this support, combined with more new members in this past year than I have seen in all the prior four years, we have a bright future at RHCC!

In the past several years we were having to use some reserve funds to “top off” the budget. We haven’t been able to eliminate that funding entirely, but it has been slashed to a much more modest amount. I promise to keep everyone apprised of this and any other meaningful elements of our economic health in the coming year. I would also like to solicit ideas and advice from anyone in the congregation – whatever your thoughts, proposals, even misgivings may be about the RHCC Stewardship function, let me hear.

Thank you!

– Bill Herrick

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The members of the Search Committee value your comments and suggestions. Please contact any of us with your concerns, questions, or observations as we proceed with the search process.

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LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



Av Rivel and his camera have traveled the common ground of humanity from Turkey to Egypt to Israel photographing the local colors. His photographs will be displayed at Les Beaux Arts Gallery through February 23. The show is entitled “Travels with My Camera.”

As a youth, Rivel experimented with contact printing and taking photographs with a twin lens reflex camera. For a high school project, he shot a photographic essay of the poor sections of Newark, New Jersey. It wasn’t until much later that photography recaptured his interest and he realized that it could be a means to illuminate as well as document life. “Photography is vital to recording our personal and public stories,” he says. “Just as our lives can be beautiful and sad and meaningful and frivolous so can the records of our lives be all those things.”



Rivel studied engineering at Northwestern University and business at the University of Pennsylvania. For forty years he pursued a career in manufacturing management producing electronic medical equipment. He settled in Greenwich ten years ago.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator

PASTORAL MESSAGE

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allow the mind to fall still by concentrating on my breathing . . . in and out, in and out. After reading the prayer I try to fall still again before reflecting on the meaning of the words in one phrase or another for that day. And if I am lucky, a phrase from the prayer will come to mind during the day, drawing me out for a moment at least from that world I live in much of the time, a world defined by pride, fear, selfish desires, and greed.

There is wisdom in the adage: “Prayer doesn’t change things. Prayer changes people and people change things.” As people of faith, we need to pray. We need to pray for the courage of our convictions. We need to pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world who suffer hunger, homelessness, the lack of medical care, the lack of educational opportunities, and so much else. Giving voice to what is true and right and good, and allowing those things to guide our actions, moment to moment, may just be what Jesus had in mind when he taught us to pray: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth . . .” Amen

– Douglas Miller

ROUND HILL CEMETERY

Intersection Project Rolling Along

After several years of discussion and many incidents, the Town’s Traffic Engineering Department has begun work on the historic intersection of Round Hill Road and John Street to eliminate vehicle incursion onto properties abutting the intersection. Trees at the east side of Round Hill Road have been removed to permit the installation of new utility poles and lines, which will eliminate the need for them in the island. After the existing poles are removed, restructuring work will begin. With new curbing and shoulders, incursions and destruction by trucks to property owners fronting this intersection, especially Round Hill Cemetery, should be largely eliminated.

– Lyn Kaufman

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Living out of Your Authentic Self

In January twelve women from our church gathered at Stony Point, a multi-faith residential community located in the Lower Hudson Valley, for a retreat led by Shannon White. We stayed in a beautifully appointed Victorian mansion that became our own for two days.



The retreat centered on Living out of Your Authentic Self. Shannon has that rare ability to become a part of a group while gracefully leading it. She guided us in discovering and exploring our own deeply held values and guiding principles at this point in our lives.

We found it profoundly satisfying to be a part of this community retreat. It was transformative to realize that together we can do what we cannot do alone. When one lives authentically everyone is enriched.

In an exchange of emails after the retreat, one of us summed up the experience for all when she wrote, “I am honored and blessed to be part of such an amazing group of women.”

Thank you, Shannon, from all of us.



The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
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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 2011 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		
6 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	7 Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.	8	9 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Building Your Own Theology, 7-9 p.m.	10 Worship Mtg. 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	11	12 Memorial Service for Fred Keire 11:00 a.m.
13 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15 a.m. Family Communion Workshop	14	15	16 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Building Your Own Theology, 7-9 p.m.	17 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	18	19
20 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15, Conf. Class	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Building Your Own Theology, 7-9 p.m.	24 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	25	26
27 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15, Forum: Loss and Grief	28 Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHS BY AV RIVEL WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE				