



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

January 2007

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Recognizing the Lord

In Mary Oliver's newest book of poetry simply entitled *Thirst*, she includes a lovely poem called "Six Recognitions of the Lord." In the poem's fourth and fifth sections she writes,

Of course I have always known you
are present in the clouds, and the
black oak I especially adore, and the
wings of the birds. But you are present
too in the body, listening to the body,
teaching it to live, instead of
all that touching, with disembodied joy.
We do not do this easily. We have
lived so long in the heaven of touch,
and we maintain our mutability, our
physicality, even as we begin to
apprehend the other world. Slowly we
make our appreciative response.
Slowly appreciation swells to
astonishment. And we enter the dialogue
of our lives that is beyond all understanding
or conclusion. It is mystery.
It is love of God. It is obedience.
Oh, feed me this day, Holy Spirit, with
the fragrance of the fields and the
freshness of the oceans which you have
made, and help me to hear and to hold
in all dearness those exacting and wonderful
words of our Lord Jesus Christ, saying:
Follow me.

My hope for the coming year is that in wondrous fashion we may find ourselves once more astonished as we seek to enter into the life-giving "dialogue of our lives that is beyond all understanding or conclusion,"

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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



This year's pageant, of course the best ever, was filled with beautiful costumes, song, and the story of the birth of Jesus, as told by the youth of the church. Baby Jesus, played by Lawrence and Susan Sterne's grandson Owen, was a joy to behold and seemed to enjoy every moment of his performance.

We were honored and happy to welcome back Ann Winston, the creator of the pageant scenery, along with Linda Seaver, who painted the backdrop to Ann's specifications. Ann was happy to see that it had held up so well over the years. We have Steve Dunleavy and many of the youth of our church to thank for that.





THE CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him

The focus in Church School in December was, of course, Christmas. A big thank you to the December teachers Helen O'Malley and Shannon White for their valuable class time. Thank you to Helen also for her assistance in rehearsing the children for the pageant. I also thank *everyone* who participated in and helped out with both the Christmas Pageant and Christmas on Round Hill.



Friday Night Movies

The next movie night will be on Friday, January 5. The movie will be *Walk the Line* – about the life of Johnny Cash. This movie is appropriate for middle school aged children and above. Come get cozy on the couches with pizza, popcorn, and the largest movie screen the church has ever had (it is *new* and it's a very *big* screen!). An age-appropriate movie will be screened for younger children in the Movie Room. Mark your calendars and join us for hot-buttered fun!

January Workshops

The new year begins and our focus this month is Loaves and Fishes. We will be looking at the Bible story of the miracle of Jesus feeding the multitude. In the Movie Workshop, Alexandra Heerdt will show a film on this topic; in the Bible Skills and Literacy Workshop, Kerri Ann Hofer and Jenny Rye will have Bibles in the children's hands as they explore, read, and discuss the story; and in the Music/Drama Workshop, Beth Wright will experience the story using music.

Children for Change

Over 200 presents were wrapped by our children during Christmas at Round Hill this year. They were delivered to the Carver Center in Port Chester to a delighted director and were distributed throughout the week before Christmas to the large community of children who attend the Carver Center programs. Thank you to all our children for your help with this special holiday project.



The Milk Can is one-third full! Will Eileen be kissing some unknown animal on Valentine's Day? Will the children be able to bring in enough change by February 14 to fill the can and find out? Will Eileen find out just what animal has been chosen for her to kiss? Will the children, who already know what animal it is, slip up and accidentally reveal it? Stay tuned.

Pre-Confirmation Study Class

Beginning this month the Grade 7/8 class will embark on a pre-confirmation study class during Church School. This is a new curriculum designed by Bob, Shannon, and Eileen to provide the class with a format conducive to exploring, questioning, and sharing their journey of faith in the church.

Church School Lesson Themes

January: Loaves and Fishes

February: 101 Ways to Pray

March: Mary, Martha & Lazarus

April: Road to Emmaus

May: Pentecost/What makes our church special?

June: Church Picnic/Year-end wrap up

– Eileen Brehm



CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL



What a beautiful evening it was on December 1 at the party for Christmas on Round Hill. Thanks to a host of very energetic and talented volunteers, the event was a joyous beginning to the holiday season as well as a successful fundraiser, which helps to make possible all of the good work of our church.

During the course of much of the year, we have had over 100 volunteers help out in various capacities in putting together Christmas on Round Hill. There have been, however, a few individuals who have dedicated more than their share of time, energy, and creative and organizational skills to the cause as committee chairs and workshop leaders:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Jean Bergstresser | Kerri Ann Hofer |
| Julia Boysen | Nancy Lane |
| Elaine Buss | Debbie Lipner |
| Linda Cummin | Jenny Rye |
| Leigh Grant | Heather Sandifer |
| Annette Grueterich | Suzy Simpson |
| Hadi Hajjar | Laura Wack |
| Mirella Hajjar | Ron Wilson, Jr. |

Our excellent staff was also essential in the successful planning and execution of every aspect of the event. Of course, Lynda Treadwell has the history, knowledge, and enthusiasm to make it all possible. Ron Wilson was always willing to help with anything we needed. Eileen Brehm pulled together the children's activities so beautifully and made it fun for both the kids and adults as well as beneficial to those in need. Shannon White attended several workshops and lent great support and enthusiasm for all we were doing. Bob Culp may

have been our strongest advocate both in the pulpit and at workshops, where he would stop in to express his gratitude and joy at the work being done. Steve Dunleavy cheerfully helped us with a wide assortment of requests that were necessary for workshops, preparation, and breakdown. John Novak, with humor and grace, was a wonder whenever we asked for assistance with setup and the building of display pieces. And Roland Kistler was a great help in setting up and extending wise advice.



We have already had a first meeting to discuss next year's fair and hope to see many of you attend workshops and become involved in committees throughout the year. It was a really wonderful way to form new friendships and strengthen existing ones.

– Nancy Mazzoli





THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

The Center for Faith Development at Round Hill Community Church features activities that nurture our awareness of God's interconnecting values. This diversity is evident in the five events, all open to the public, scheduled in January 2007.

Friday, January 5 – Family Movie Night

This night features the 2005 hit movie *Walk the Line*, the story of Johnny Cash's personal transformation from self-destructive pop star to the iconic "Man in Black." Using the example of Cash's struggle to walk the razor-thin line between destruction and redemption, Shannon White will lead a conversation about family values following the movie. Due to mature subject matter, this event is suggested for middle school youth and older. An age-appropriate movie for younger children will be shown in another room. Both movies will begin at 6:30 p.m. Popcorn from our old-fashioned popcorn machine, drinks, and pizza will be served to both groups. Please call the Church Office (869-1091) to RSVP.

Sunday, January 7 – "Today's PG-13 Isn't Your Father's," a discussion of media and values

E.D. Hill, Fox newscaster and RHCC member, will lead this lively discussion of why parents shouldn't expect that today's TV, music, and movies be the same as when they were teens. The regulatory agencies aren't the same nor are the standards. The group will tackle the question of how parents can deal with this and how they can ensure their kids are watching what they approve of. The forum will begin at 11:15 a.m., following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, and run until noon. All are welcome.

Wednesday, January 10, Visit to Temple Shalom

Our Interfaith Series continues as we are invited to participate in a "Lunch and Learn" series at noon. Rabbi Mitch Hurvitz will interpret their weekly Torah reading for the week's services. These ongoing Interfaith meetings help build our awareness of God's interconnecting faith values. Please call the Church Office no later than January 8 to RSVP. If anyone would like to meet at the church to carpool, please be there by 11:20 a.m.



Corporate Ethics will be the topic of our 2007 Thorne Lecture Series featuring Sherron Watkins, the Enron whistle-blower. Ms. Watkins will tell her story on Friday, January 26, at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Following her lecture, everyone is invited to the Church Parlor to chat further with Ms. Watkins and enjoy a wine and cheese reception.

On Sunday, January 28, Ms. Watkins will lead a forum on Corporate Ethics during which she will answer questions from the audience. The forum begins at 11:15 a.m., following our worship service. Child care will be available for both events with a pre-reservation. There is no charge for either event, and all are welcome.

The Thorne Lecture Series was established in 1986 for the purpose of bringing distinguished leaders to the church and our community to explore the interface between spiritual values and contemporary culture.

January 24 and 25 – Winter Women's Retreat at the Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut

If you would like to join us in this time of reflection, connection, and self-exploration, call the office to reserve your place in the circle. For inquiries call Beth Wright at 622-6338 or email tsw57@hotmail.com.





THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

Help Us Plan

The Center is asking for your input! We are starting to put together our calendar for 2007-2008 and we want to know what kind of forums, movies, and series you want!

Please take a few moments to fill out the following sheet and return it to the Church Office as soon as possible so we may include your suggestions. There will also be a box by the Center bulletin board in the hallway. Many thanks!

Shannon White
Wilma Jordan-Green
Brook Calkin

FORUM TOPICS: _____

SERIES: _____

THORNE LECTURE SPEAKER SUGGESTIONS: _____

MOVIE SUGGESTIONS: _____

BIBLE STUDY/THEOLOGICAL STUDY: _____

INTERFAITH VISITS: _____



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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by undertaking the various practices of our faith – in worship and study, fellowship and service, and a joyful and prayerful appreciation of all that we are given to apprehend each new day . . . whether in clouds or special trees or birds, in fragrant fields or fresh oceans, or else in the mystery of ourselves and others engaged in works of kindness and justice and the making of peace in our lives and in the world . . . as we seek to follow the Lord.

We are an extraordinary fellowship of faith. And I deeply believe that God has some very exciting and challenging things in store for our shared ministry in the year ahead. I hope you will make Round Hill Community Church this coming year your special place to come alive to your truest self and to become equipped spiritually as you follow the Lord along your journey of faith.

Blessings and Peace for you and those whom you love in 2007!

– Bob Culp, Pastor

JANUARY SERMONS AND SERVICES

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday 7 | <i>Naming and Claiming Your True Self,</i> Bob Culp |
| Sunday 14 | <i>Gifts for Everyone!</i> Shannon White |
| Sunday 21 | <i>Being the Church – 101,</i> Bob Culp |
| Sunday 28 | <i>Loving and Showing Mercy Outside the Box,</i> Bob Culp |

WOMEN'S GATHERING

January 19 with Robin Browning

Join us in the New Year on Friday evening, January 19, for a semi-potluck dinner in the Parlor (see explanation below). We look forward to hearing from Robin Browning and learning about her interesting life and ideas.

We are repeating our format of last January where we are giving the option of contributing \$10 toward the entrée instead of bringing food. Last year, we found that members who work and non-cooks welcomed this alternative. The main course will be provided by Dee Lewis. Look for our flyer in the mail and please RSVP to Lynda at 869-1091. Remember to invite your neighbors, friends, and new church members.

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------------|
| March 4 | Beth Wright* | Meeting Room |
| April 15 | Amy Minella | Jo Ann Adams's |
| May 11 | Diana Deacon | Carrie Finlayson's |

*Save March 4 for a special breakfast. Beth Wright will explain "hands-on healing" and Dee will tell us about her firsthand experience with it in the hours before surgery.

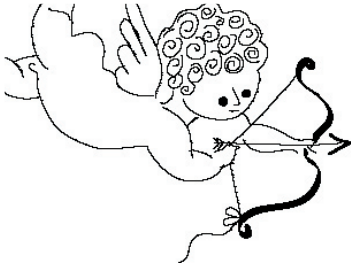
– Carrie Finlayson and Dee Lewis
Co-Chairs, Women's Gathering

NEWS LETTER

With a new copier in our office, we are now able to print color pictures in our monthly *News Letter*. Many of the jobs that we previously had sent out for printing will now be done in-house, ultimately saving money and lead time and giving us greater control over the entire process.



VALENTINE DINNER DANCE



Please save the date of Friday evening, February 9, 2007 for a festive dinner dance sponsored by the Men's Group. Invitations and information will be mailed in early January.

If you have friends and family you would like to invite, please feel free to do so. Extra invitations will be available at the Church Office. This promises to be the best party yet and certainly will be a great way to brighten and warm the deep mid-winter.

– Michael Sandifer and Ron Wilson
Co-Presidents, RHCC Men's Group

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The women's Bible study group had a wonderful afternoon retreat at Lyn Harmon's house. Lyn led us in a guided meditation and then, after a yummy meal provided by Nancy Gray, we set individual goals for the coming year and prayed for each other's success.

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

MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA

The Youth Mission Trip this year will be to Nicaragua with the organization Bridges to Community: "From the outset of each trip, the goal is to have individuals exposed to and engaged in something radically different from what they may be accustomed. Bridges



wants trip participants to catch an authentic glimpse of how the vast majority of the world's population lives. This type of immersion . . . fosters a spirit of solidarity and friendship, it deepens understanding of and appreciation for cultural and lifestyle differences, and it serves to heighten our awareness

of profound global inequities. By bringing people of different cultures together to work alongside one another, we hope to empower and enlighten people on both sides of the 'bridge.' By recognizing and celebrating our similarities and fostering cross-cultural understanding and awareness, we believe we can build a better world for future generations."

We will be meeting at RHCC on January 21 to discuss the Mission Trip and have a High School Youth Group meeting. It will conclude at 1:00 p.m. The dates of the Mission Trip are August 5 to August 12. Applications to go on the trip are due at the beginning of January. If you have questions or need an application, contact Tina Pusser.

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

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January 2007

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| January 2007 at Round Hill Community Church | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 8:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting | 3 | 4 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 5 6:30 p.m. Family Movie Night | 6 |
| 7 Communion H.S. Discussion 11:15 a.m., Forum, with E.D. Hill M.S. Youth Group | 8 | 9 | 10 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Visit to Temple Shalom | 11 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed | 16 RHCC Discussion Group, 7:00 p.m. | 17 | 18 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 19 Women's Gathering Dinner, 6:30, Parlor | 20 |
| 21 H.S. Discussion Grp. H.S. Youth Grp. with Mission Trip discussion | 22 | 23 | 24 Women's Retreat Mercy Center | 25 Women's Retreat Mercy Center 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 26 8:00 p.m. Sherron Watkins, Thorne Lecture | 27 |
| 28 11:15 a.m. Sherron Watkins, Thorne Lecture | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |