



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

January 2008

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Aspiring to Goodness within Our Greatness



Pastor Bob Culp

Near the middle of the 19th century, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote this:

"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her fertile fields and

boundless prairies, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

There is no question that the religious community has exercised a tremendous impact upon the quality of life in our country, and it continues to have significant influence on those programs that seek to address the tender needs of those who are hungry, and hurting, and homeless. Somehow, because of what is preached from the pulpit, or is heard from the choir, or is addressed and discussed within study groups of all kinds and sizes, or is experienced within the fellowship and relationships among members of God's family, or is expressed in prayers by individuals and groups, there is a beckoning call of conscience that touches our citizens profoundly and finds its way along the halls of Congress, into the political debates of our time, and into the laws of our land, still expressing something of the hopes and dreams of our nation's founders.

continued on page 6

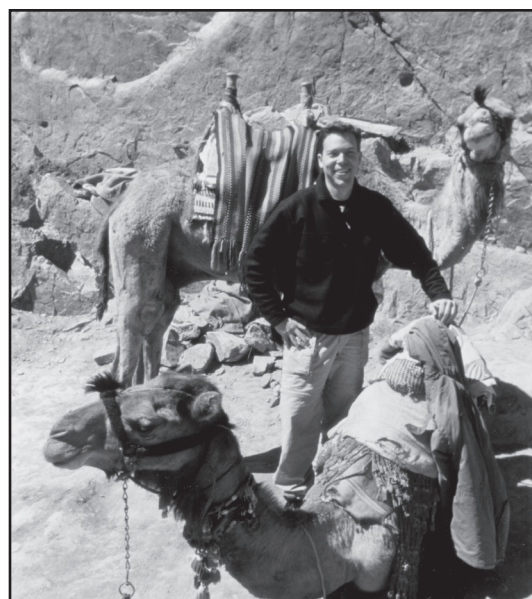
Thorne Lecturer Bruce Feiler Saturday, January 26 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

At a moment when the world is asking, "Can the religions get along?" Bruce Feiler, bestselling author of *Walking the Bible* and *Abraham*, offers a powerful interfaith message and a hopeful vision for peace and reconciliation. His work has helped bring people together, sparking dialogue about faith and community, religion and politics, and shared values.

For centuries, people of all faiths have committed terrible violence . . . sometimes in the "name of God." Many are left disillusioned and cynical. For this year's Thorne Lecture, Bruce Feiler's topic for discussion will be "Who Speaks for God: Reclaiming Religion from Extremists."

The lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be followed by a response from an interfaith panel, which will consist of local religious leaders Rabbi Mitch

continued on page 5





Pageant Thanks

The annual Round Hill Community Church Christmas Pageant was a great success. It was the best performance ever.



*Tom Mahoney, Helen O'Malley,
and Annette Grueterich*



Next year Perry and Alexa hope to have our high school students provide the leadership and assume the major roles in the pageant.

Our thanks go to Helen O'Malley, who directed the pageant, and to her assistant, Elizabeth Green as well as to other church members who provided support including Annette Grueterich, Alexandra Heerdt, Kerri Ann Hofer, and Janet Huley. Thanks also to the cast, all of whom were excellent in their roles. A special thanks to Perry Minella and Alexa Salame, who stepped in and accepted roles when we were short a few cast members.



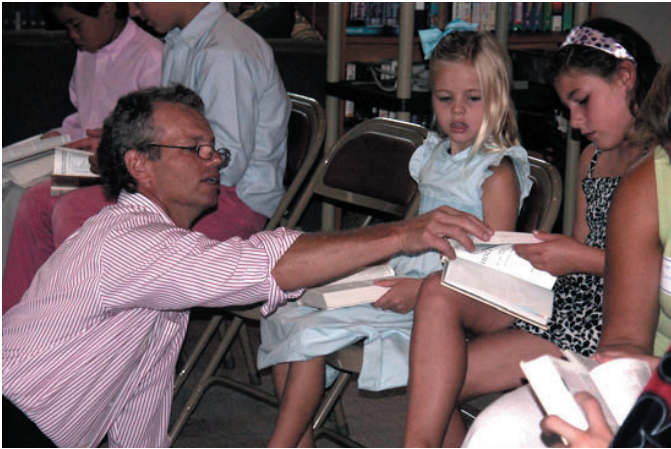


CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Curriculum Change

According to the church school schedule devised and announced last September, our January curriculum was to focus on David, king of Israel. We are going to postpone this topic and focus instead on the Bible – how it was written and compiled, how it is organized, and where to find different stories or passages. Some key points will include:

- The Bible is a sacred book, telling the story of God and God's people.
- The Bible contains God's words, written by many different people over many years.
- The Bible is made up of two main sections – the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.
- There are a total of 66 books in the Bible – 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.



Please talk with your child about the Bible and your knowledge of it. We will mail some ideas home for you to use and discuss with your children.

Mission Projects



This month we will make blankets for children and adults in need. This was a popular activity last year with students. Due to poor weather conditions in December, we did not sell the red ribbons the church school students cut, shaped, and pinned for Sekolo Projects Inc. The funds generated from ribbon sales will be used to purchase meals for orphaned children who have lost their parents to AIDS-related illnesses. Every \$1 purchase will buy five meals for a child in a special school where they typically eat one meal a day. Please watch for the red ribbon sale announcement.





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Bible Studies on the Prophet Isaiah Sundays after Worship January 13 and February 3

Leader: Bob Culp

It has been observed by Marcus Borg that “the classic prophets of ancient Israel are among the most remarkable people who ever lived. Their language is memorable, poetic, and powerful. Their passion and courage are exceptional. Their message combines radical criticism of the way things are with urgent advocacy of another way of being. Their dream is God’s dream of a just society. And, in their own words, they speak for God.”

Rather than offering a review of all the major and minor prophets of Israel, Bob Culp will lead two forums that focus on the prophecy of First Isaiah (Is 1-39) and Second Isaiah (Is 40-55), seeking to identify how the criticizing and energizing language within the book of Isaiah is tied to their respective historical situations and their respective spiritual needs . . . and seeking, too, to identify possible parallels with our own historical situation in 2008. It is hoped that through these two sessions, a rather intriguing picture both of God and of Isaiah will emerge that may speak powerfully to us today.

Women’s Bible Study

The Women’s Bible Study group will sponsor a showing of Bruce Feiler’s *Walking the Bible* either at Kerri Ann Hofer’s house or at the church (depending upon attendance) on Wednesday, January 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All are welcome. Please RSVP to kerriann@mac.com.

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

Fiction Writing

Suzanne Hoover, Ph.D.

Fiction writing is surely one of life’s great adventures. If you are ready to start the journey, to plunge courageously into the writer’s world of inventing and problem-solving, this workshop is for you. And be assured, you will be helped and guided at every step along the way.

This workshop will go deeply into the art and craft of fiction, including structuring the story, characterization, point of view, plotting, sub-plotting, scene construction, dialogue, dramatic tension, pacing, and narrative voice. As these issues arise in the class readings and discussions, they will be explored for everyone’s benefit.

The workshop is geared to writers whose stories are already on the way, or at least have already been conceived. We will take turns lighting the way for each other.

The Westport Writers Workshop will hold this class on eight Monday evenings, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in our Meeting Room. The evenings are Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25, Mar. 3 and 10. The eight-week session is \$445 per person. The class is limited to eight people. For more information or to register, contact Jessica Bram at (203) 227-3250 or jessica@westportwritersworkshop.com.



Suzanne Hoover holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University in English and Comparative Literature. The author of two novels and a highly experienced teacher of fiction and essay writing, Suzanne was a full-time member of the Literature faculty of Sarah Lawrence College.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 1

Hurvitz of Temple Shalom, Rev. Cynthia Knapp of St. Barnabas Church, and Dr. Kareem Adeeb from the American Institute for Islamic and Arabic Studies in Stamford. Mr. Feiler will then field questions from the audience. A reception will follow with opportunities to have Mr. Feiler sign his books, *Abraham*, *Walking the Bible*, and *Where God Was Born*.

In *Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land through the Five Books of Moses*, Feiler recounts his travels through the Middle East, connecting biblical stories to their actual sites and interviewing people from many religious traditions. In *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, Feiler retraces the footsteps of the common ancestor of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. "September 11 contributed to a wholesale rethinking of how religions relate to one another," says Feiler. "Abraham holds the key to understanding what separates these religions – and, ultimately, what unites them."

Feiler builds on his winning combination of history, religion, adventure, and personal discovery with *Where God Was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion*. The book recounts his 10,000-mile trek through Israel, Iraq, and Iran, visiting archaeological and biblical sites and uncovering new information about the untold links among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Feiler has visited over 60 countries, immersing himself in different cultures and recording his experiences in six critically acclaimed books. He has been a schoolteacher in Japan (*Learning to Bow*), a student



at Oxford and Cambridge (*Looking for Class*), a circus clown (*Under the Big Top*), and a traveler with singer Garth Brooks (*Dreaming Out Loud*).

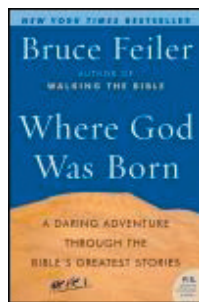
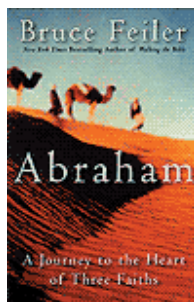
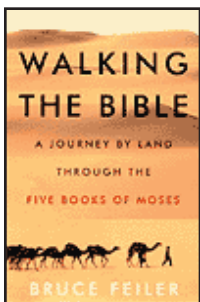
A graduate of Yale, Feiler holds a master's degree in international relations from Cambridge. A regular contributor to NPR's "All Things Considered," he has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and the *Washington Post*, and is a contributing editor at *Gourmet* and *Parade*.

In January of 2006, PBS aired *Walking the Bible with Bruce Feiler*, a landmark three-part TV mini-series written, produced, and hosted by Feiler and based on his bestselling book. The *Wall Street Journal* called the program, which is part adventure story, part archaeological detective work, and part spiritual exploration, "three splendid hours of television" and Feiler "an engaging and informed guide."

Please invite friends of all faith backgrounds to come and participate in what will surely be a fascinating evening.

First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich and First Church Christ Scientist, along with other local congregations, join us in sponsorship of this event.

Please RSVP to the church office at 869-1091. Childcare is available with an advance reservation.





PASTORAL MESSAGE

continued from page 1

My hope is that our own church family may be used by God to infuse such “flames of righteousness” along such corridors of power and within such venues of political discussion in the months ahead, urging those who would lead this nation of ours to cast such visions before our citizens that will inspire and uplift, that will encourage and comfort, that will bestow true hope and challenge us all to become the best we have it in ourselves to be.

John Wesley once penned a brief admonition to members of his church family, which continues to provide marching orders for us all. May his words inspire us to embrace the goodness within our greatness together:

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

Blessings upon you and yours in the New Year!
– Bob Culp

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.

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.

JANUARY SERVICES AND SERMONS

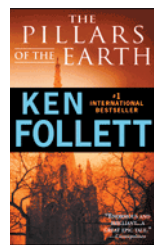
- Jan. 6 Shannon White preaching
The Sacrament of Communion observed
- Jan. 13 *God Shows No Partiality*, Bob Culp
- Jan. 20 *We Would See Jesus . . .*, Bob Culp
- Jan. 27 *The One Who Searches for Us*, Bob Culp

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Louise Hoffman has graciously offered to serve as Flower Co-Chair for the months of December, January, and February, taking over from Debbie Lipner, who did such a marvelous job! Three-month terms make serving as a Flower Co-Chair very doable – especially with Colony Florist as part of our team!



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



The Women's book club will meet to discuss *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett, at Edie Wilson's home on January 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please call 661-4449 if you would like to attend.

– Edie Wilson

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of health screenings, has been saving lives through preventive health screenings since 1993. They will be coming to Round Hill Community Church on Tuesday, January 15, to perform screenings for stroke, aneurysms, and peripheral arterial disease as well as an osteoporosis screening. Individual tests are \$35 to \$45 each. Package pricing is available. For more information or to reserve a time, please call (800) 324-1851. Blood testing is also available for cholesterol and glucose, as well as a new atrial fibrillation test.



VALENTINE DINNER DANCE



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

\$80 per person

Please feel free to invite friends.

For additional invitations, call the church office.

Limit of 100 guests

RSVP by Tuesday, February 5

Any questions, call Ron Wilson at 661-4449

TREASURE TROVE THANKS

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the wonderful and dedicated helpers for the Treasure Trove this year. You are responsible for any success we may have. We are very grateful for your support and expertise.

We also have some fine things left to sell . . . Herend, Tiffany, antique Bible page turner, a hand-crafted kitchen dining set and some fine paintings, among other baubles and doodads. Contact the office if you are interested in finding some of your own treasures to take home.

– Jean Bergstresser and Leigh Grant

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



Artistic needlepoints by Greenwich resident Edith Fehr will be on display at Les Beaux Arts Gallery January 13 through February 7. The exhibit pays tribute to the 90+ year-old artist and includes two pieces from her weavings as well as three of the color studies that were created for her by another artist painter, Sonya Gurewitsch, an accomplished artist widely exhibited in Europe as well as in the States.

The collaboration between these two started in 1968 when Fehr saw studies in acrylics done by Gurewitsch and asked her to create some designs for her needlepoints that would be more artistic than the usual handicraft patterns. This was the beginning of a lifelong project for both artists.

Fehr, a refugee from Nazi Germany, has a Ph.D in chemistry from Columbia University and earned a number of patents while working at GE Electronics in the 1940s. In the 1950s she worked at Knolls Atomic Power Lab. In 1965 she moved to Greenwich with her husband and worked at Yale University with Dr. D. Allan Bromley, one of the world's leading nuclear physicists, until she retired in the 1970s.

The exhibit covers several decades of the artist's work. Her earlier needlepoints are in free form with subtle color transitions. However, as Fehr's problems with her vision increased, she used coarser canvases with more clearly demarcated zones of color. Fehr was a member of The Connecticut Weavers' guild and displayed her work together with Gurewitsch.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator

Round Hill Community Church
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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.

JANUARY 2008 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ARTISTIC NEEDLEPOINTS BY EDITH FEHR AT LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY		1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Staff Meeting	3 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	4	5
	6 EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion	7 Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	8	9 Women's Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.	10 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	11 Women's Gathering Dinner 6:00 p.m. Parlor
13 Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.	14 Fiction Writing Workshop, 7:00 p.m.	15 Life Line Screening Women's Book Club, 1:00 p.m. Keire Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	18 Family Movie Night, TBA	19
20	21 OFFICE CLOSED Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks Fiction Writing Workshop, 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24 News Letter Deadline Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	25	26 THORNE LECTURE Bruce Feiler 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary
27 Worship Committee Meeting, 11:15 a.m.	28 Fiction Writing Workshop, 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE	