

January 2010

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

The Startling Message of Epiphany

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going the other way."

So begins Charles Dickens' epic novel A Tale of Two Cities, and these words have resonated within the times in which we have been living, especially over the last two years. Indeed, in the geopolitical and economic spheres, we have witnessed profound upheavals that have caused many to hold their collective breath in wonderment of what is to be. In the arena of our personal lives, we have experienced unsettling changes, challenges, and losses that have put us on a roller coaster of the human spirit. And in the realm of our own faith journeys, we have sought to discover gracious perspectives by which we can hold together our world and our lives. These are exciting days in which to be living!

Years ago, WWI flying ace Captain Eddie Rickenbacker was on a special inspection mission to the Pacific Islands during WWII on behalf of the government. The Air Force plane became lost, was running low on fuel, and the pilot had to ditch the plane in the ocean, where Rickenbacker and others were lost at sea for 21 days. Afterward, Rickenbacker wrote of that ordeal: "In the beginning many of the men were atheists or agnostics, but at the end of the terrible ordeal each man, in his own way, discovered God. Each man found God in the vast, empty loneliness of the ocean. Each man found salvation and strength in prayer, and a community of feeling developed, which

Thorne Lecture

Business Ethics: Succeeding without Selling Your Soul

David W. Miller Ph.D., M.Div.



Renowned Expert on Faith in the Workplace Bestselling Author God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement

Director of Princeton University Faith & Work Initiative President of The Avodah Institute

Saturday, January 23, 7:00 p.m. Business Ethics: Succeeding without Selling Your Soul

Sunday, January 24, 10:00 a.m. Sermon: "Doing God's Work" at Goldman Sachs?

Childcare available with a reservation.

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



The Sunday School classes are being taught by Alice Fisher and Alison Kistler during January. Using as their context the theme of our Baptismal identity as children of God, they are looking at New Year's "resolutions" . . . the meaning of making promises and expressing hopes as individuals who are a part of God's family, and how we are called to assist in meeting the hungers and hurts of those in need by fulfilling the promises we make.

On Sunday, January 10, there will be a special Pancake Breakfast at the Community House, hosted by the children of the Church School, that will take place following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The children will set up, prepare the food, and help serve. If anyone would like to come earlier to help, please contact me.

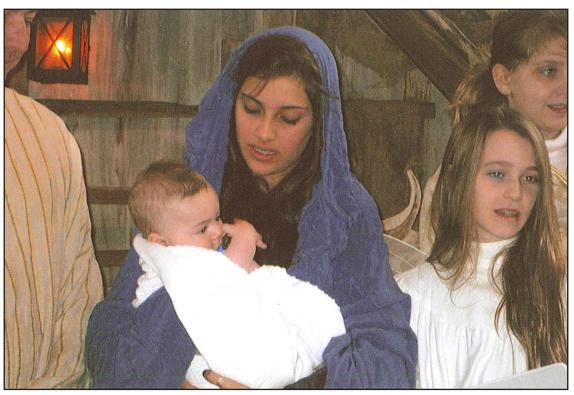
On January 17 and 31, the children will be reflecting on the importance of keeping our resolutions/promises as a covenant people of God who are called to attend to others' needs with the love and compassion of Jesus our Lord.

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

On the fourth Sunday of every month we have committed to cooking for Pacific House (a local soup kitchen and shelter) in Stamford. The youth will help prepare the food and we will have a sign-up sheet for those who want to go and be a part of serving that evening. For serving we will meet in the Riverside shopping center and try to carpool to the shelter. It's very helpful to have the assistance of another parent for this activity. We will limit the size of servers to six to eight because of logistics.

These events are going to be great projects that I believe will bring us closer together and help us have a deeper understanding of one other and how we can be of service. If you have any questions you can email Nicole Piper at nkpiper@optonline.com, or Alison or me at rabhk4@optonline.com. God Bless.

- Roland Kistler



"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at RHCC

MEMBERSHIP

New Members



Please welcome Craig McKibben and Mel (Mary Ellen) Mannion, who have recently become members of RHCC. They are currently residents of Stamford, having recently moved from Armonk, New York, where they had lived for the past seven years. Craig is the CFO of an investment firm that focuses on turnaround opportunities of public companies in the U.S. and United Kingdom. Mel is a senior executive at a publishing company where she has worked for the past 23 years.

Both Mel's and Craig's first spouses passed away at early ages. Friends suggested that they move past the grieving process and join a gym. As fate would have it, they hired the same personal trainer who introduced them.

The McKibbens have two children from Craig's first marriage. Stephen is 27 and lives in Burlington, Vermont. Jeffrey is 20 and is attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Mel is the oldest of seven sisters and brothers and spent much of her childhood growing up in Rhode Island before moving around the country and settling in the Chicago area. Craig has two younger sisters whose families live in Rochester, New York, and Dallas, Texas.

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

New Year. New Ideas.

In the past month there have been a lot of great ideas mentioned during Membership Committee meetings and we would love to get the ball rolling on some of them. Nicole Piper had the outstanding idea of a Mystery Member. We would like everybody to list ten things other church members (probably) don't know about you. Then each week in the bulletin we will feature one member who will remain nameless and see who can guess the mystery member. The answer will be revealed at coffee hour that morning.

Another idea that the committee would like to institute is an autobiography and legacy book of our members. We would ask members to write a oneand-a-half-page summary of:

- Your personal history
- Events that shaped your life
- Ideas, values, philosophies, and insights you've formed through your experiences that have made a difference in your life.

There will be a list of questions we have compiled that may assist you in this task. If you feel you know where you want to go with this then I encourage you to get started. We ask that you supply a photo of yourself with the summary and we will begin to compile a book.

- Roland Kistler

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.

CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to a new decade! The Center for Faith Development at RHCC is starting the new year off with a bang with a wide variety of offerings. Please join us for any or all!

Community Meditation Tuesday, January 12 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please join us for this blend of Buddhist and Christian practices facilitated by Joel Baehr. All are welcome. A free-will offering is accepted.

Thorne Lecture Series Saturday, January 23, 7:00 p.m. Sunday, January 24, 10:00 a.m. David W. Miller, PhD Sanctuary

Saturday Lecture

"Business Ethics: Succeeding without Selling Your Soul"

Following Dr. Miller's lecture, there will be a panel of respondents and time for questions and answers. A reception will follow in the parlor.

Spread the word. This lecture is free and open to the public. Childcare is available with a reservation.

Sunday Worship Service

Dr. Miller will serve as guest preacher for our morning worship. His sermon title is "'Doing God's Work' at Goldman Sachs?"

Dr. Miller will lead us in worship, bringing the headlines and scriptures into one conversation, referencing the provocative statement from the chairman of Goldman Sachs that he is just a banker "doing God's work."

Dr. Miller is Director of Princeton University's Faith and Work Initiative. He's also author of the bestselling *God at Work: The History and Promise* of the Faith at Work Movement (Oxford University Press, 2007), which "challenges business academics and executives, as well as theologians and clergy, to think differently about faith, ethics, and work." David brings an unusual "bilingual" perspective to the academic world, having spent 16 years in senior executive positions in international business and finance.

In addition to his research, writing, and teaching, David serves as an advisor to several corporate CEOs and senior executives on questions pertaining to ethics, values, culture, and the role of faith at work. He is a frequent speaker at gatherings of business leaders, corporate events, and academic conferences. His views are often cited in the media, including in the *New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Fortune* magazine, radio, and the major television networks.

David was formerly Executive Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture and taught at both Yale School of Management and Yale Divinity School.

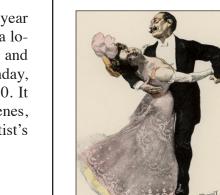
Forum "The Secret Meaning Behind Spirituals" Sunday, January 24 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Did you know that when slaves sang "spirituals" they were actually using code to signal other slaves of news? Rev. Sondra Booze-Bailey, a good friend and seminary classmate of Shannon White's, will join us in song and word to tell us what was *really* being said.

Rev. Booze-Bailey currently teaches music to children in the New York City school system. All ages are encouraged to attend! Don't miss what is guaranteed to be a lively forum at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Booze-Bailey will also be a featured singer in our morning worship service.

MEN²





The Men's Group will be hosting a late winter dinner/ dance in the Community House on Saturday, February 27. Invitations and details will be mailed by mid-January. Please place the date on your calendars and feel free to ask your friends. Tables for eight to ten may be reserved.

In addition, we shall be having a Sunday morning men's breakfast in late January. Specifics will be placed in the church bulletin and will be emailed several weeks before the event.

– Ron Wilson, Jr.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Our next Women's Gathering will be held on Friday evening, January 22, in the Church Parlor. The supper event will be from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Comfort foods, hearty soups, and casseroles to ward off the winter chill will be served. Childcare will be provided.

Our speaker will be RHCC member Louisa Stone, longtime Greenwich resident, whose topic is "Giving and Forgiving." She will share her life's experiences as the spouse of Emerson Stone, a former CBS executive, as a mother and grandmother, and her work with the Board of Education. She has been active in the Greenwich Land Trust and in Planning and Zoning, as well as other volunteer positions.

It should be a very enjoyable evening. Invitations have been sent. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and new Church members to join us.

We always need volunteers to help with these events. If you would like to help in any way, however small, please call us.

- Grada Herrick and Jan Ziemba, Co-Chairs

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Les Beaux Arts Gallery is ushering in the new year with a retrospective from **Holly Meeker Rom**, a local artist who is well known for her watercolor and gouache paintings. The exhibit opens on Sunday, January 17, and runs through February 24, 2010. It includes batik painting of day lilies, garden scenes, landscapes, and seascapes inspired by the artist's many travels.



The word that comes to mind in Rom's painting is "whisper"; compositions so serene that light whispers to the landscape caressing its contours – colors so transparent that they transcend all boundaries. The mood is complemented by the softness of the hues. The art critic for *Gallery & Studio* magazine wrote: "No artist demonstrates more effectively than Holly Meeker Rom how watercolor lends itself to capturing fleeting qualities of light . . . like all the best exponents of this demanding medium, Rom makes the bare paper a prominent element in her compositions."

A native of Long Island, Rom has always found inspiration in nature. She has won many awards, including the top prize for water media by the Greenwich Art Society in 2003 and an award for a collage in 2009. She has an MFA in painting from American University in Washington, D.C., and an MA in Art Education from California State University in Sacramento, California. Presently, she works as a docent for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is a member of the Pen and Brush Gallery in Manhattan.

- Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Fun for Everyone!

Christmas on Round Hill was a great success this year. Dozens of Church members and even some non-members participated in creating a fun event for the whole community.



The children's magic show

There were some new additions to this year's event including two magic shows and a new vendor exhibit, Artists Among Us. The magic shows were very successful, with 45 children attending each one. Thanks to Grada Fischer Herrick for arranging this. A number of interesting artists contributed pieces to the new exhibit and everyone enjoyed viewing them. Thanks to Mirella Hajjar for organizing this.



Mirella Hajjar at Artists Among Us

The Preview Party on Friday night was a great success! Over 190 people attended the party. Everyone had a fun time - the vendors had interesting items to sell, the food was amazingly good, and the piano and caroling were beautiful. A good time was had by all! The silent auction had many fun items and raised

over \$6,000. Thank you to Diane Davol and helpers for putting this together. Clearly, we had a bit more drama than we had planned on Friday night with the arrival of the Greenwich Fire Department responding to what turned out to be a burnt wire in one of the electrical boxes in the basement. Even though people were evacuated, everyone waited outside and then came back in once we were given the green light. The fire department is to be commended for their good work, and we were glad an electrician was able to fix the problem so that we could occupy the building on Saturday.



Shoppers buying linens at Treasure Trove

As always, our Treasure Trove had wonderful items that everyone enjoyed looking at and many bought. Thank you to Jean Bergstresser, Leigh Grant, Alice Fisher, and their many helpers for making this a success! Our Something Special team of Molly Cook, Janet Lockton, Lynda Kinney, Alice O'Gorman, and Jan Ziemba and their helpers created beautiful handmade items that sold well.



Something Special

CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL



Pictures with Santa

Other people deserving commendations are Suzy Simpson, Nancy Mazzoli, Julia Boysen, Nancy Lane, Linda Cummin, Sandy Motland, Ron Wilson, and Frank DiNicola . . . and I could go on. Besides the leadership of the committee members, which are listed below, there were dozens and dozens of volunteers, the office staff, and some hired help that made this event work. Everyone did an amazing job! I thank you all for making this such a successful event! We are already looking forward to next year's fair. Please come and join the fun at our organizational meeting early in 2010! You too can be part of making the 2010 Christmas on Round Hill the BEST CHRISTMAS FAIR EVER!

- Amy Minella, Chair

TROOP 197

Girl Scouts sold items they had made

Committee Chairs 2009

Invitation/Publicity: Suzy Simpson, Nancy Mazzoli Mailing List: Linda Cummin Staffing: Caroline Lazzara, Craig Lazzara Preview Party: Diane Davol, Leslie Lee Decorations: Louise Hoffman, Suzy Simpson Silent Auction: Diane Davol Treasure Trove: Jean Bergstresser, Leigh Grant, Alice Fisher Fabulous Food: Nancy Lane, Jan Ziemba, Julia Boysen, Rhona Johnson Living Greens: Suzy Simpson Something Special: Molly Cook, Lynda Kinney, Janet Lockton, Alice O'Gorman, Jan Ziemba Vendors: Sandy Motland Artists Among Us: Mirella Hajjar Children's Activities: Diane Davol Performance: Grada Fischer Herrick Santa Pictures: Kerri Ann Hofer Treasurer: Craig Lazzara Round Hill Café: Frank DeNicola Men's Group Organizer: Ron Wilson



Living Greens

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

The RHCC Transition Committee reported on results from the Member Survey at a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 20. The Transition Committee, consisting of twelve members, will use the results in assembling materials for the search process, including criteria for the selection of the new minister. The slides presented at the meeting are available for review in the Church Office.

We received 128 responses out of 325 mailed, which included each member of a household and some people who attend RHCC regularly but are not members. We are pleased that nearly 40% of the congregation returned the survey, although the response was somewhat skewed toward the upper age range. 76% have been members of the Church for more than ten years and 80% live within fifteen minutes of the Church. 58% of the respondents are involved in Church committees and 53% have graduate degrees. 60% attend church two or more times a month. 55% have several of their closest friends at RHCC and cite that as one of the reasons for remaining active here, as well as the music program and style of worship. 35% of respondents have become less involved in the Church, 47% stayed the same, and 18% became more involved. These changes were largely due to change in leadership responsibility and time restraints. 84% of respondents claim to feel comfortable with our church's identity and have a clear understanding of what we stand for as well as having a strong sense of belonging to the church. 87% believe in the theory of evolution and 62% believe that the Bible serves as a record that is open to interpretation as a guide for a moral and religious life.

Respondents were unanimous in their expectation that a new minister must deliver inspiring sermons. Also important is the planning of worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation and visiting and counseling those in need. The minister should also be involved with developing and supporting religious education, attracting new members, and, to a lesser degree, providing administrative leadership and participating in local community issues.

Our members would like a minister to be open to new ideas and approaches in style of ministry with a relaxed and interpersonal style, guiding people in their life journey instead of dispensing advice. Sermons should be thought provoking and challenging, emphasizing spiritual development and growth. Respondents are looking for a minister who is a friend and fellow traveler and a teacher of the Word and the congregation.

The Transition Committee has made the following conclusions based on the survey results: We are a strong and stable church that is interconnected, with a congregation coming from a breadth of faith backgrounds. As a congregation, we are very comfortable with the Church's identity, which is mainline Christian. Concerns include more people who are less involved and a small number of young families. We are looking for a minister who will deliver inspiring sermons, be innovative and thought provoking, who has good pastoral skills and is warm and friendly. The new minister must also be ideologically compatible with our congregation.

The Transition Committee is finalizing an information packet that includes minister criteria, a church profile, and job description. In developing a list of prospects, word-of-mouth is critical; we thank you for your input thus far and encourage you to continue to give us ideas to pursue. Our effort to contact and visit prospects begins in January when we will also advertise in magazines and on sites that cater to the clergy. We will also begin our contingency planning for an interim minister since a search process for a new minister may take up to two years.

Once the committee has found a candidate, we will recommend that person to the Board of Trustees. It is the Board's responsibility to nominate a candidate. There will be a congregational meeting to consider and vote on the candidate. In the meantime, the committee will present regular progress reports at Board meetings and inform the

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

congregation with meetings, newsletter articles, and email. We welcome and need your thoughts and suggestions. Please feel free to contact any of us.

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



Dee Lewis's lovingly decorated cookies at Christmas on Round Hill

RHCC FLOWER FUND 2010



Fresh flower arrangements for Sunday services are possible because of your generous contributions.

Donor Name ______ Donation amount ______ Phone _____ Please use this gift: _____ at the discretion of the Flower Committee

for memorial/commemorative flowers

on this date: _____

with the following wording for the Bulletin:

Would you like to arrange your own flowers?

____Yes ____No

Prefer specific flowers or colors included or avoided?

(Note: Availability changes at different times of the year.)

If yes, please detail: _____

Please mail with check payable to RHCC to: Round Hill Community Church 395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich, CT 06831 Thank you.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

created a liveliness of human fellowship and wor- ble commitm

ship, and a sense of gentle peace." There is something heartwarming about this story when you consider how "each man, in his own way, discovered God," on his own terms and in his own way. In this regard, I think of the Magi who traveled some distance to pay homage to the baby born in Bethlehem. They were dream-interpreters, star-gazers, and foreigners whose religious practices were far removed from those of Israel. And one of the central and most startling messages of Epiphany (when we remember the Magi) is that God's blessings are seen to be for even the most unlikely of people. For the Christ has come to demonstrate and manifest God's love for all.

The Magi were searchers. They didn't claim to know it all or have it all together; rather, they saw their lives as a journey of discovery. And their journey invites us in such an age as ours to be diligent searchers as well, that we – like them – may be graced by a vision of God's light, by our Epiphany. We are encouraged to dare (as they did) to take the risk of seeking the place where God may be found, and to be transformed by what must have been a surprising experience for them as they knelt before the infant Jesus.

There is a wondrous transcending of boundaries in the tale Matthew tells us in his second chapter. As one whose Lord and Savior is Jesus Christ, I strongly believe that God is working everywhere in exciting ways to redeem the world – wherever there are faithful practitioners of religious traditions who live with compassion toward other people, who live responsibly toward the world, who enhance the human community through merciful acts and the making of peace. In my own seeking, I have come to know God and God's love most fully through Jesus' life and teachings, his death and living presence, and I commend Jesus to anyone who is seeking to know and experience God in their lives.

There are many people today who are searching for God in the vast, empty loneliness of the secular ocean. How wonderful it would be if our visi-

continued from page 1

ble commitment to God in Jesus Christ led them to discover God in their own way. Edwin Markham's poem "Outwitted" comes to mind:

He drew a circle that shut me out – heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But Love and I had the wit to win. We drew a circle that took him in.

May that be true of each of us and our church family in the new year ahead.

Blessings and Peace in this season of Epiphany. – Bob Culp

JANUARY SERVICES/SERMONS

Jan. 3	"A Most Poetic Statement of Faith," Bob Culp
Jan. 10	"Being Called by Name," Bob Culp
Jan. 17	"When the Wine Runs Out," Bob Culp
Jan. 24	"Doing God's Work' at Goldman Sachs?" David Miller, Thorne Lecturer
Jan. 31	"The Art of Being There," Bob Culp

WORSHIP

On Christmas Eve, a number of RHCC members participated as lay readers in the evening Service of Lessons and Carols. They were Hilary Zerbst, Win and Caroline Adkins, Marion and Merritt Piro, Janet and Laura Huley, Ron and Edie Wilson, and Bill and Grada Herrick.

The Worship Committee will next meet on January 10 at 11:15 a.m. in Bob Culp's office.

- Marion Piro

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Save the Date March 7 at 10:00 a.m.



Nature will be the theme of the next Music Sunday on March 7 at the 10:00 a.m. service. The program includes Haydn's *The Creation: Part One*, Parry's *Jerusalem*, and Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*.

The Creation represents a considerable dramatic development over its Handelian predecessors. Haydn's bold use of orchestral color, his adventurous harmony, exceptional rhythmic and melodic inventiveness, and the work's strong overall unity bring the subject to life with an almost operatic vividness and power. The opening is a good illustration of Haydn's innovative approach. The extended orchestral introduction, itself a departure from the conventional overture, is entitled "Representation of Chaos" and immediately arrests the listener's attention with its shifting, ambiguous harmonies on muted strings, brass, and timpani. In the ensuing recitative Raphael tells us that "the earth was without form, and void" and this is reflected in the sparse emptiness of the orchestral accompaniment.

The choir continues in a mood of hushed stillness until "and there was light," at which point there is a sudden, massive fortissimo chord of C major from the now unmuted full orchestra. Even after two hundred years the effect is still immensely powerful. It was evidently totally overwhelming at the time, judging by the following account from one of Haydn's friends: "... and at that moment when light broke out for the first time, one would have said that rays darted from the composer's burning eyes. The enchantment of the electrified Viennese was so general that the orchestra could not proceed for some minutes," he wrote.

This is perhaps the most startling dramatic gesture of the whole work, but there are plenty of other equally effective instances of musical word-painting, such as the storm scenes, the wonderful sunrise music, and the colorful depiction of various animals and birds. It is also worth drawing attention to Haydn's musical characterization. For the angels he adopts a somewhat florid, lofty style, while for Adam and Eve the writing is simpler and more folk-like. In fact, the whole work sparkles with the vitality and unfailing inspiration so characteristic of this remarkable composer, who was still experimenting and still surprising his delighted audiences right up to the end of his life.



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.

	JANUAR	Y 2010 AT ROU	ND HILL CON	AMUNITY CH	URCH	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	4	5	6 Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m.	7	8	9
				Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		
Worship and Church ¹⁰ School, 10 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pancake Breakfast following service Community House 11:15, Worship Comm. Mtg.	Trustee Social 8 p.m.	Community Meditation 7 p.m.		Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		
17 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	18 OFFICE CLOSED Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.	19 Membership Mtg. 6 p.m.	20 Women's Spirit Rising, Noon	21 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Women's Gathering Supper 6:00 p.m., Parlor	23 Thorne Lecture David W. Miller 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary
24 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Guest Preacher, David W. Miller	25	26	27	28	29	30
Forum: Secret Mean- ing Behind Spirituals, 11:15 a.m.				Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.		
31 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: A RETROSPECTIVE OF PAINTINGS BY HOLLY MEEKER ROM			WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE		