

*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

January 2011

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



The month of January is named for the Roman god Janus, who has two faces – one looks forward and the other looks backward. That ancient depiction of the beginning of a new year still feels right for many of us who find ourselves in a more reflective mood than usual

this time of year. It is a time to take stock, to see where we are in our lives and measure it against where we want to be, perhaps, or where we think we ought to want to be. It is a nod to Socrates who said: "The unexamined life is not worth living." As people of faith we want our lives to be "worth living," of course, so we do some examining of the lives we have been living not so much to find fault with ourselves as to discern what it is that gives meaning and purpose to our existence.

The poet Lucille Clifton wrote a poem entitled "I Am Running into a New Year":

I am running into a new year
and the old years blow back
like a wind
that I catch in my hair
like strong fingers like
all my old promises and
it will be hard to let go
of what I said to myself
about myself
when I was sixteen and
twenty-six and thirty-six
even thirty-six but
I am running into a new year
and I beg what I love and

Greenwich Continuing Education in collaboration with Round Hill Community Church

presents

Sing a Masterpiece with Conductor Christopher Kabala



Seven Rehearsals

Thursdays, February 10 to March 24, 2011, 8:00 to 9:45 p.m.

Rehearsal with Orchestra

Saturday, March 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Performance

Sunday, March 27, 4:00 p.m.

Location: Round Hill Community Church

Poulenc, Gloria

Brahms, Neue Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 65

Wagner, Entrance of the Guests (Tannhäuser)

Open to anyone with choral experience.

For information contact Christopher Kabala at
christopherkabala@peoplepc.com

For registration go to greenwichace.org.

continued on page 7



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Church School



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

Welcome to 2011! This year we will continue to have loads of fun while learning the great stories of our faith.

January 9: We welcome back **Graham Clarke** for a session of song and fun.

January 16, 23, 30: We will begin 2011 with a study of the lives of **Jonah and Daniel**.

February 13, 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Communion Workshop for Church School parents and students ages eight and up. Revs. Shannon White and Doug Miller will lead parents and their children in an exploration about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Childcare is available for families with younger children upon request.

January 9 and 23 the **Confirmation Class** will meet with Doug and Shannon. On the 9th they will meet their adult Mentors for the year. We'll have lunch and begin to get to know one another. Both meetings will be from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thank you to all of the participants in the Christmas Pageant! Under the direction of Helen O'Malley (director) and Madison Heath (Assistant Director) our children put on the “The BEST Christmas Pageant EVER!” Eileen Brehm did a fabulous job on costumes, as always. Many thanks once again!





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Adult Education

The Center for Faith Development welcomes in 2011 with a full schedule of offerings designed to spark curiosity, stimulate the intellect, and deepen faith.

January 9: “Spirituality and Literature”

Dr. Lee Schlesinger of SUNY Purchase will lead us in study of a sampling of works of Whitman, Dickinson, Emerson, Longfellow, and Jones Very. We’ll discuss the intent of the writers and the spiritual nature of the works. Dr. Schlesinger presented a very lively forum several years ago, and is sure to delight once again. All are welcome from 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

January 30: Dot Maver, President, The National Peace Academy



We welcome Dr. Dot Maver for a forum on her work with the National Peace Academy. Dr. Maver, Ph.D., is an educator and peacebuilder whose keynote is inspiring cooperation on behalf of the common good. Her work in education, politics, and grassroots community organizing is focused on applied peacebuilding and the global call for ministries and departments of peace and peace academies.

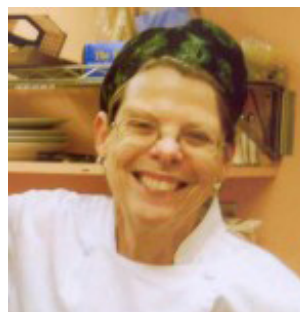
An innovative educator with a teaching background in Health, Physical Education, Psychology, and Philosophy at both the high school and university levels, she is on faculty with Polaris College in Denmark, was part of the 2008 lecture series at the Graduate Institute in Connecticut, and participated in the 2009 Bridging the Gap speaker series at Regis University in Denver. She is co-author of the book *Conscious Education: The Bridge to Freedom*.

We’ll meet from 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Saturday, March 5:

“Eating as a Spiritual Practice”

Organic chef and theologian Lise Worthington will lead members and friends of our congregation in a daylong retreat of theological reflection, cooking, and eating.



Rev. Worthington, Chef and Minister of Food and Faith at the Stony Point Conference Center, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hebrew Union College, and Union Theological Seminary. Her passion, the love affair of food and faith, influences her involvement both with the Women’s Culinary Alliance, where she works with student membership, and her favorite nonprofit, Chef on a Shoestring, where food and nourishment are provided for an ever growing spiritual community.

All are welcome.

– Shannon White

WOMEN’S GATHERING

The next Women’s Gathering will be a supper on **Friday, January 28**, in the Parlor at 6:30 p.m.

Our speaker will be **Libby Cryer**, who will talk about her work in the field of cross-cultural exchange. Watch for your invitation and more information early in January.



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 Sunday, January 16, 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

MEMBERSHIP



Nancy and George Rieger are longtime residents of Greenwich and are good friends of Phoebe and Dick Ford. Nancy worked for many years as the head of one of our town's nursery schools. She enjoys documentary films, literary classics, and music. She keeps fit with tennis, swimming, and walking. George is a veteran of the investment industry and has his own business, formerly in New York City but now in Greenwich. He is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School. He enjoys gardening, fishing, golf, and reading.



Jean Martin has lived in Greenwich since 2002. Before moving here she has lived in Santa Barbara, New York City, and Cape Cod. She has spent some time trying to become fluent in French and is involved in real estate and teaching. Her passion is tennis.



CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL 2010





SEARCH COMMITTEE

As our search for a new senior minister continues, we are fortunate that Doug Miller has expressed his willingness to act as our Interim Senior Minister until we have found the right person. We recently invited a candidate to RHCC for a tour and interview and will be following up with another meeting with him and his wife in the near future. We have also contacted a few other pastors in nearby states and will be talking to them as well.

Our nationwide search continues primarily via website. It is time consuming and the possibilities are vast. The members of our committee have been assigned different territories to explore as we try to find candidates who may be compatible with our needs.

We value any and all tips we receive from members and friends and encourage you to let us know of any leads or other information that may be helpful to us.

Charles Lee, clee@andersonkill.com

Nancy Mazzoli, nancy.mazzoli@gmail.com

Banks Adams, bankstadams@yahoo.com

Bill Boysen, billboysen@aol.com

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Helen O'Malley, omalley@optonline.net

Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@gmail.com

Lawrence Sterne, lsterne@gmail.com

RHCC FLOWER FUND 2011



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

continued from page 1

I leave to forgive me

It is not easy to let go of old ways of acting and believing, old ideas and old opinions. It's hard to let go of anger, and old resentments and disappointments – even though we know full well we would be better off if we could. It's hard to let go of old religious beliefs that no longer serve us well. They are so tenacious, “like strong fingers,” holding on to us, holding us back, holding us in place.

A Protestant colleague of mine tells the story of visiting a parishioner in the hospital who had been a member of his church for twenty years. He was recovering from open-heart surgery. He told the minister, “I have a confession to make: I asked for a priest to come in to pray for me . . . just in case.” They laughed, recognizing that the phrase “just in case” referred to that old belief he was taught when he was a child about the things you have to do to get into heaven and the things that will bar the door. He didn't really believe them, he said, and then added, “but you never know.” It's one thing to resolve to lose a few pounds, and quite another thing to let go of those beliefs and those heavy things we carry – the negative thoughts and attitudes that weigh us down. But we're running into a new year, and we're reminded that we'd be so much better off if we could lighten the load for the rest of the journey. That, I think, is our task, to let go. Simple . . . but by no means easy. That is what Emerson had in mind when he wrote in a poem:

Henceforth, please God, forever I forego
The yoke of men's opinions. I will be
Lighthearted as a bird & live with God.
I find him in the bottom of my heart

I hear continually his Voice therein
And books, & priests, & worlds, I less esteem
Who says the heart's a blind guide? It is not.
My heart did never counsel me to sin
I wonder where it got its wisdom . . .
The little needle always knows the north
The little bird remembereth his note
And this wise Seer never errs
I never taught it what it teaches me
I only follow when I act aright.
Whence then did this Omniscient Spirit come?
From God it came. It is the Deity.

We must each find it for ourselves, the wisdom that comes from listening to our lives and to our experiences. Not thinking about them so much as listening to them, paying attention to them and seeing what arises from within, in the language of the heart. It's what Mark Twain had in mind in his famous comment about his father. He said, “When I was a boy of fourteen my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished to discover how much he had learned in seven years.”

May we all be astonished next year by how much we have learned this year.

– Douglas Miller

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

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.

JANUARY 2011 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	3	4	5	6 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	7	8
9 Worship and Church School with Graham Clarke, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching Forum: Lee Schlesinger, 11:15 11:15, Conf. Class	10 Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.	11	12 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	13 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	14	15
16 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	17 OFFICE CLOSED Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.	18	19 Women’s Retreat RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	20 Women’s Retreat Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15, Conf. Class	24 Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.	25	26 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Worship Comm. Mtg. 6 p.m.	27 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	28 Women’s Gathering Supper 6:30 p.m., Parlor	29
30 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15, Forum: Dot Maver 11:15, New Liturgist Training	31	<div><div>LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHS BY AV RIVEL</div><div>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</div></div>				