



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

June 2010

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Thank You for the Memories



This will be probably my last “Pastoral Message” for the newsletter of the Round Hill Community Church. As you know, I am in the process of searching for a new call in the Maryland area, wishing to move back into the Presbyterian denomination in a “pre-retirement transition” . . . perhaps serving as an interim or designated pastor for the next five or so years before officially retiring.

Such a decision on my part has not been an easy one, for the relationship I have enjoyed with Round Hill Community Church as your pastor for the last eleven years has been rewarding, challenging, and stimulating, and above all, it has been a relationship accented by love, respect, and tender affection. Yet, I have come to recognize the nudging and “holy disturbance” I have felt inside to be a calling from God to embrace new challenges and ministries within the Presbyterian denomination . . . and I am seeking faithfully to honor such a calling as I feel.

I am appreciative of the support and understanding the Board of Trustees has given me in the time since I shared this news with them some months ago, and especially for the encouragement Art Landi and other leaders have shared along the way.

Kathy and I arrived here in Greenwich almost eleven years ago, and during that period of time we have seen many changes within our own family – high school and college graduations in the lives of our three daughters – Joanna, Cecily, and Rebekah; the marriages of our two oldest daughters Joanna and Cecily; the births of two grandchildren (Gemma and Jonah); the deaths of Kathy’s father and mother, and

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Sunday, June 6 Spiritual Sunday

The RHCC choir with guest instrumentalists directed by Christopher Kabala will perform:

Duke Ellington’s “Come Sunday”
“I Got Shoes”
“There Is a Balm in Gilead”
“Let Me Fly”
“Witness”
“Ride On, King Jesus”

Sunday, June 6 RHCC Annual Picnic Hats off to Bob!



We’ll have a chance to “tip our hats” to Bob Culp with funny stories and remembrances of our time together. Wear your favorite hat to Church and after the service we’ll gather in the Community House for the picnic and a very special time of fellowship. Please bring a non-mayo salad or a dessert to share. RSVP to Brook Calkin at 203-661-9297.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



Summer Sundays

Church School Summer Sundays begin on Sunday, June 13! All Church members are encouraged to sign up to teach Church School for one or more Sundays during the summer.



Read a story, do an art project, or share a story from your own life with the children. The lesson is up to you . . . your gift of time with the children is invaluable and is what makes the Church School experience rich and varied. Please consider sharing yourself with the children. Class size is typically fewer than ten students in the summer.

To sign up for a Summer Sunday, contact Eileen at the Church Office, 203-869-1091, or sign the sheet in the parlor . . . and thank you!

Summer Sundays

June 13, 20, and 27

July 4, 11, 18, and 25

Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

MEMBERSHIP

New members are being received into our church on June 20. Prospective members are asked to meet with the Reverend Bob Culp following the service on June 13 in his office for an opportunity to discuss our church with Bob and several church members and to become familiar with the membership ceremony. It will also be a time for prospective members to tell a little something about themselves. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend the meeting.

Name tags for ushers are now filed alphabetically in boxes in the bureau drawer in the Narthex.

– Edie and Ron Wilson

WOMEN'S SPIRIT RISING

Beach Retreat

Women's Spirit Rising will hold its last meeting before the summer on Wednesday, June 9, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Tod's Point. We will gather for a picnic lunch and a meditative building of cairns to reflect on our various personal and communal journeys before we part for the summer. If the tide allows, we will also create a stone drawing at the beach.

Meet us at noon at the second concession stand. Bring your own lunch and any blankets or beach chairs you might need.

Everyone is welcome; bring a friend and stay for the afternoon!

Please RSVP to Ada Ustjanauskas at adarugs@hotmail.com or call Annette Grueterich at 203-861-1812, so we know who to wait for! Let us know if you need a town beach card – we have several guest passes available.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

The final Women's Gathering event for this season was held May 7 at Phoebe Ford's lovely home. The evening included a farewell gift presentation to Kathy Culp and a unanimous vote to once again donate the year's proceeds to The Fairfield County Fund for Women and Girls.

Phoebe was our speaker as well as our hostess. Her speech about the changes in our lives was heartwarming and inspirational.

Future gatherings are currently planned for January and May, 2011. It would be nice to have one dinner or brunch in the fall, but we need one or two women to agree to chair that one event.

Have a wonderful Summer!!

– Grada Herrick and Jan Ziemba, Co-Chairs

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



FELLOWSHIP HOUR



The Pause That Refreshes

We do acknowledge and appreciate all those who, during the past year, have stepped up and provided the congregation with tempting and delicious goodies for the Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings. There is a British saying: “Gratitude is but a lively sense of things to come!”

In that theme – can we appeal for a continuation of your generosity? As we proceed into the summer months and then with alarming speed into our usual busy fall season, *could you one and all please look at your calendars?*

If you are entertaining at home and might have extra cookies or other finger foods (fruit, nuts, munchies are always popular) we would love to have you share them at Fellowship Hour; it is an easy way to accomplish two deeds of generosity with one party.

Then, transfer that thought to the sign-up sheet in the Parlor or contact Lynda in the Church Office with the date you have chosen.

Thank you for your generosity.

– Emily Toohey and Christine Gerli

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.

BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Please remember to bring food into the Narthex for Neighbor to Neighbor. Our local food pantry is under extreme pressure to serve the many (over 1,000 individuals) who currently need assistance with food. These neighbors come at least 3 times a month to select food from the shelves that often are not full. With summer approaching and children home and not receiving lunch at school, the need is even more critical. Please share canned fruit, cereal, dried beans, and peanut butter with these members of the Greenwich community. The pantry is also receiving donations of fresh vegetables from local gardens.



FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

So that we may all enjoy the beautiful flowers that brighten our time of worship, we are looking for gardeners with a bountiful supply of flowers that may be carefully snipped for arrangements in the Sanctuary, Parlor, and Narthex. Perhaps the snippers would also like to let their creative juices flow and have a hand at arranging the snipped. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlor, or you may call Debbie Lipner (661-4494) for the month of June, or Louise Hoffman (869-8463) for July and August.





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

As the summer months settle in upon us, we at the Center for Faith Development have been busy at work, getting our programming ready for September through June.

Here are a few of the programs to look forward to:

- Dr. Paul Waldeau, Harvard Law professor and ethicist, will return and get us thinking in time for the Blessing of the Animals service.
- Shannon and Peyton White will lead a forum for parents and children on enriching their conversations together.
- Rev. Susan DeGeorge will be back to lead us in a fall Bible study on Sundays, but we will also be offering a Wednesday evening Bible study and light supper option all year long in a small group setting.
- Rev. Anita Keire will return and speak on themes of her new book.
- Dr. Lyn Harmon will lead us in a forum centered on healing and holistic health.
- A local rabbi will come and talk about the place of storytelling in Judaism.
- Marcus Borg will return to RHCC for our Thorne Lecture weekend in January 2011.
- Visiting professors from several local institutions will also be among us to help our thinking in several arenas.

We promise you will not be disappointed. Stay tuned and enjoy the summer.

– The Center for Faith Development Committee

OPERA AT ROUND HILL

Once again our Round Hill soloists and the maestro at the piano presented an outstanding evening of opera favorites on Friday, May 21. The quartet of Risa Renae Harman, Jenna Hintz, Patrick Hogan, and Landon Bowie opened the evening with “*mir ist so wunderbar*” from *Fidelio*. Each piece in the program was masterfully performed with passion, comedy, and intrigue. We’re so lucky to have such wonderful singers in our choir who serve as section leaders and soloists.



Thank you to Christopher Kabala and the soloists for giving us a truly inspiring experience. Of course, we can’t have a musical event without ending on a festive note in the Parlor with wine and delicious hors d’oeuvres.

SAVE THE DATE

Christopher Kabala Piano Recital

**Friday, November 5
8:00 p.m.**

Reception to Follow

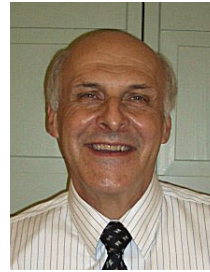


ROUND HILL ASSOCIATION

Town of Greenwich Tax Assessor Ted Gwartney addressed the annual meeting of The Round Hill Association on May 11 in the Community House and explained to an audience of 125 people the process used in the recently completed revaluation of real estate, which will be effective October 1. Emergency Operations Manager Dan Warzoha explained the town's efforts to deal with recent devastating storms and issued a grim warning about the hurricane season beginning this month. The RHA, after hearing Warzoha's warning is planning a preparedness clinic that will be held in the fall, according to RHA President Keith Felcyn. Pictured at the meeting are some RHCC/RHA members.



TRANSITION COMMITTEE



In a special Board meeting at the end of May, the Transition Committee recommended Douglas Miller to the Trustees to serve as interim minister as Bob moves on to the next phase in his life. After hearing from the Transition Committee and meeting and interviewing Rev.

Miller, the Trustees unanimously voted to accept him as our interim minister. The length of his assignment will depend on how long it takes for us to find a permanent pastor, and he is willing to stay for as long as we need him.

Rev. Miller has a background in ministry and law and has been trained in interim ministry. He is currently finishing an interim assignment at South Britain Church in Southbury, Connecticut, where he was called three years ago to shepherd that church through a difficult time. He received a B.A. in philosophy from Michigan State University, a Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, and J.D. from UCONN School of Law. He is originally from Detroit, where he met his wife, Jackie. He was ordained as a UCC minister in 1978 and served as an assistant minister at Saugatuck Church in Westport until 1990. During that time he was also engaged part-time in the general practice of law in Westport. He served as the senior minister at United Congregational Church in Bridgeport from 2001 to 2007.

Members of the Transition Committee went to South Britain on several occasions to observe Rev. Miller conduct services and, especially, preach. They were very impressed by his warmth and eloquence. His references were unanimous in their praise for him.

Bob will preach for the last time on Sunday, June 20. We will have guest preachers for the month of July. Rev. Miller will begin his time with us on August 1. He plans to meet with Bob, Shannon, and the rest of the staff prior to that date.

If you have any concerns or questions about the process please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Transition Committee.

— Charles Lee and Nancy Mazzoli



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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my mother; Kathy's receipt of a Master's Degree in Library Science; several medical challenges in the members of our family; Joanna's employment as a neo-natal nurse in Maryland and receiving an advanced nursing degree, Cecily's graduate degree in rehabilitation counseling and becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor, and Rebekah's becoming a licensed stylist and beautician in the state of Connecticut ... and a host of other life adjustments we have experienced, such as the advent of a Cairn Terrier to our home, and my turning 50 and then 60 years of age!

Just as the Culp family has experienced changes, so, too, have there been changes within the life of our church fellowship – staff shifts and adjustments, witnessing the arrivals and departures of church workers; the deaths of 60 or so members within our church family; the births and baptisms of a number of children through the years; ebbs and flows within the membership, as we have enthusiastically greeted a number of new members and sadly have seen the loss of some members; the reception of ten different classes of Confirmands, ranging in size from four to twelve, who have shared their statements of faith, their essays of personal discovery, and their letters to God with the congregation during their Confirmation worship services; the leadership of six different chairpersons of the Board of Trustees, and the service of about 100 different Trustees on the Board who have served the church with dedication and distinction . . . and many other changes and developments in programs, ministries, mission endeavors, prayer ministries, fellowship programs, educational offerings, an ambitious and successful Capital Improvement Campaign, and the deepening of the Church's special traditions.

While there have been changes through the years, there are still some constants – electrical outages and the loss of power and water on our church campus; false alarms at the Church and Parsonage, which have allowed me to come to know the firemen on a first-name basis; the dogs trained on Monday and Wednesday nights at the Community House whose wagging tails have brought countless smiles; the

stream of young people learning how to dance at Barclay's on designated Fridays whose shy demeanor and early steps on the dance floor have brought countless smiles, too; Christmas on Round Hill and the extraordinary talents and culinary and artistic abilities shown by our members every year; the picnics in September and June that have been delightful, especially the hotdogs and hamburgers cooked by the men at the grills; the Women's Gatherings and groups that have reflected special sensitivities and compassion; the stirring and inspiring music by which our lives have been memorably blessed; the sparkling and twinkling eyes of the children who come forward during worship, whose presence makes glad the human heart; and the tender embraces of the dear members and friends of this church by which we come to feel "beloved" in the family of God . . . all of these pointing to a special "spirit" here on Round Hill.

Indeed, there is a unique "spirit" at Round Hill Community Church. There is a warmth in the fellowship here, an openness and acceptance of all who come through our doors, and a true desire to open up avenues of growth and service, fellowship and discipleship, and the fulfilling investment of the considerable spiritual gifts of all who are drawn to 395 Round Hill Road. There is a common and fervent desire to serve the needs of "the least of these," dedicating significant amounts of time, energy, and money to convey to others the love of God we know in Christ and to touch redemptively the hunger, hurts, and hopes of those in God's expansive family. There is a wondrous curiosity and yearning to grow in the faith that is ours, a willingness to "live the questions" in ways that are authentic and inspiring, and a hope to provide God's people ample opportunities to challenge and be challenged, to learn and teach, to broaden and deepen perspectives and understandings about what it means to be a human being in the community of faith. There is a great appreciation for inspiring worship and music, with our weekly services being viewed by most members as a centrally important part of their faith journeys . . . with joy and hope, love and comfort, grace and good news being experienced and valued.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

My hope and prayer is that this “spirit” will continue to be present at Round Hill Community Church, and indeed will grow and become stronger in the years ahead . . . as the church family builds on the exciting history of the Church, has its life guided and shaped by the Church’s prayer, creed, and mission statement, and opens itself to the new and challenging future that lies ahead.

When Banks Adams called me in the spring of 1999 and spoke with me about Round Hill Community Church, I had little inkling of what awaited Kathy and me as we considered ministry in Connecticut. But I had a sure sense that it was God’s calling me to explore new horizons and ministries with a special and unique people of God. And during these past eleven years, you have exercised a blessing to me and my family for which we give God praise.

I am confident that God has wonderful things in store for you and your next minister, and that the years ahead will see the development of new initiatives in your shared ministry, resulting in church growth, in revitalized and new educational endeavors, in meaningful new mission programs and hands-on opportunities to share Christ’s love, in the cultivation of small groups and the nurturing of our members (of all ages) in different venues, and in the celebration of life together as God’s people who are on a mission to share the special “spirit” of a non-denominational faith experience within a world where there are many obstacles to the church as an institution.

There are far too many people to list here for whose support and ministries I am thankful. The great strength within our church has been the gifted and dedicated members who have lovingly given of their time, talents, and treasures throughout the week and especially on Sundays, and I commend all of you to continue to embrace your own calling as members within the Body of Christ, which is the church. You all have been a special blessing to our church’s life and to me personally, and you have inspired me beyond my capacity to express in any adequate way. I also want to convey deep appreciation to my gifted colleagues in ministry and talented fellow staff members – Chris Kabala, Steve Dunleavy, Lynda Kinney,

Ron Wilson, Shannon White, Eileen Brehm, Tom Mahoney, John Novak, Roland Kistler, and Nancy Mazzoli (who has served as a “adjunct voluntary staff member” for many dedicated years).

I am profoundly grateful for all you have meant to me and my family through the years, for all you have done to share faithfully in our common ministry and purpose together, and for your being dedicated and caring co-workers in the Lord whom we seek to serve and follow faithfully. May you ever be welcoming in worship, inclusive by intention, joyful in doing justice, and liberal in love.

In Christian Love Bob Culp, Pastor

JUNE/JULY SERVICES/SERMONS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 6 | “Sensing the Nearness of God,” Bob Culp
Annual Picnic at the Community House |
| June 13 | “Life-Saving Counsel,” Bob Culp |
| June 20 | “God’s Hope and Dream for You and Me,” Bob Culp
Sacrament of Baptism will be observed |
| June 27 | Anita Keire preaching |
| July 4 | Shannon White preaching |
| July 11 | Holly Adams preaching (Chaplain at Greenwich Chaplaincy Services) |
| July 18 | Anita Keire preaching |
| July 25 | Ralph Ahlberg preaching |

The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Road
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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.

JUNE 2010 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE		1	2	3	4	5
			1 p.m. Staff Mtg. Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8 p.m.		
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	“Sensing the Nearness of God,” Rev. Culp, Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Church Picnic	Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.	Women’s Spirit Rising, 12 noon Tod’s Point Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.			12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
“Life Saving Counsel,” Rev. Culp Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.		Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m. 7 p.m. RHA Disaster Ed. Mtg.		Party for Culp 6:30 p.m. Community House	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
“God’s Hope and Dream for You and Me,” Rev. Culp Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. New Member Sunday Baptism			Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.			
27	28	29	30	LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHER JOYCE BLUMENTHAL		
Rev. Anita Keire preaching, Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.			Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.			