



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

June 2011

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



"God will bless you!" That's what a dear man from Pratt City, Alabama, told Peyton and me when we loaded him up with 53 care packages for the children of his church. The neighborhood surrounding it was demolished. He was really saying, "God will bless you,

Round Hill Community Church." Peyton and I went down for a few days to take a van full of donations to help those affected by the recent tornadoes. We went as emissaries from Round Hill Community Church. Our Benevolence and Outreach committee rented the van we drove and provided gas. Our Church School children packed up the 53 care packages with toys and school supplies supplemented by more goodies given by members and friends. Still others gave cash to purchase gift cards, which we distributed, totaling \$500. I am here to say, all were gratefully received. Several of the recipients asked for our address so they could write thank-you notes. In the midst of extreme devastation from these widespread storms, they were grateful, and we were deeply moved by the opportunity to go on your behalf. (Excerpts from Peyton's journal entries are on pages 6-7.) Please continue to keep those in the south and the residents of Joplin, Missouri, in your prayers.

God's blessings seem to be abounding elsewhere as well. On May 15, our congregation confirmed five extremely gifted young people into the life of the Church. J.D. Donahey, Madison Heath, Emma Heerdt, Sonali Rye, and Emily Wack reaffirmed the vows their parents made for them during their baptisms long ago. These young people made the

ANNUAL PICNIC

**Sunday, June 5
Community House**



With hat or not, don't miss our Annual Picnic after the worship service on Sunday, June 5. Donations of non-mayonnaise salads may be delivered to the Community House kitchen prior to the service. The Activities Committee would appreciate having some help with the cleanup following the picnic. Thank you.



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A Celebration for Shannon and Peyton



*Sunday, June 12
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Round Hill Community House*

*A time for friends, families, and colleagues to share treasured memories
with Shannon and Peyton and to wish them a happy new beginning.*

*Please contact the Church Office if you would like to bring some finger food
or help make scones and sandwiches on Sunday afternoon.*

*RSVP to Church Office at 203-869-1091
or church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org*

Round Hill Community Church 395 Round Hill Road Greenwich, CT 06831



CHURCH SCHOOL



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

Summer is almost here, but RHCC Church School still has a full schedule of events!

June 5: Our Church School time will be preparing for our intergenerational service. Following worship, we'll gather for the end-of-year picnic with games and fun.

June 12: Intergenerational Service, 10:00 a.m. (Childcare, as always, is provided for infants and toddlers). A note to parents: This service will also include Holy Communion. Please feel free to come forward with your children at that point in the service. If you were unable to come to the Communion Workshop that Shannon and Doug led, we have a booklet explaining Communion in child-friendly terms. Please feel free to talk with either Doug or Shannon before the service if you have questions.

4:00 p.m.: We hope you'll come say good-bye to Peyton and Shannon at a party in the Community House.

June 19: Church School with Alice Fisher

During the summer you are in for a treat! Some of our recent graduates who are now in college will be returning to teach our children in summer Church School. Michelle Feghali, Jack McKean, Jonny Duennebier, and Courtney Ziluca will be some of the familiar faces who will be returning to teach and provide music on a regular basis. They are returning because they love children and they love the church. Let their love be contagious!

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with Clare DeNicola or Dolly Mayer, co-chairs of the Church School Parents, or Mary Ann Debnar and Nancy Gray, who are overseeing the transition process for the Church School.

CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Sunday, June 12

Forum: Peace Building

Dr. Dot Maver, Director of the National Peace Academy, whose keynote is inspiring cooperation on behalf of the common good will talk to us about peace building.

Sunday, September 18

Forum: Ethics and Animals

Paul Waldau

11:20 a.m., Meeting Room

Sunday, September 25

Blessing of the Animals Service

10:00 a.m., Community House

Sundays, October 23, November 6 and 20

Bible Study: The Voices of Isaiah

Rev. Susan DeGeorge

11:20 a.m., Meeting Room

More on this later, but you do not need to sing or read music to participate in the “Isaiah Voices.” Your presence is deeply appreciated as Susan has a very deep biblical knowledge and reveals the nuances of sacred literature.

Sunday, November 13

Forum: Global Works

Global Works Executive Director Cathleen Caron is an attorney and well versed on international immigration issues. This is a critical area in the world today, not only for the U.S., but for Europe and many other developing nations. Please attend. Anita Keire has known about Cathleen's work for some time and has made an exemplary effort in bringing this issue for discussion at RHCC.

December is a rest due to the Pageant, Christmas on Round Hill, and other programs. In January, we plan a new Bible Studies series for winter, in addition to forums with special topics.

– Michael Sandifer, Chair



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

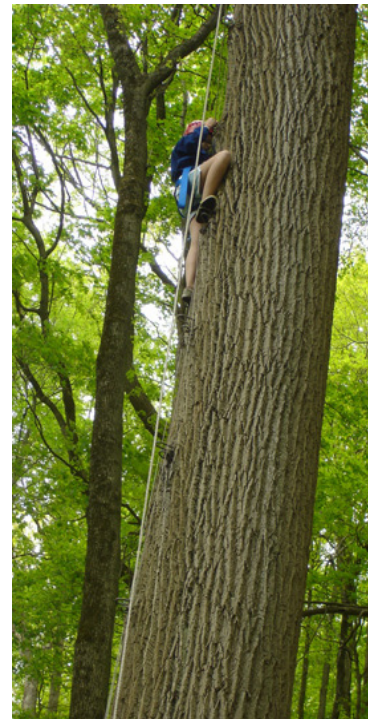
Confirmation 2010-2011



*Madison Heath, Emily Wack, J.D. Donahey,
Emma Heerdt, and Sonali Rye at their Confirmation*

After having spent a year learning all about different aspects of our Church and faith-life, the confirmands' culminating experience was spent in a day away with Doug Miller and Shannon White on a high ropes course in Bedford, New York. Each one faced their fears and internal limitations with an opportunity to

reach out and live in new ways. They met the challenge with great courage and success. Activities ranged from group-building exercises on low ropes elements to individual challenges, such as a 70-foot climb up a tree!





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Thoughts on Being Confirmed by Emily Wack



Religion is about self-expression – expression by prayer, deed, and thought. There are many things in life that can be taken away, but religion is not one of those things. Religion is a personal reflection and individual for everyone. Some are Wick-

ens, others are Buddhists. My point is that everyone expresses their religion or belief system in some form. Sometimes a “religion” can be, in a sense, not a religion – believing in science, for example.

When people on the outside of the Christian community look at Christianity, they think about the prayers, Easter, Christmas, Sunday morning services, and singing. Like many other religions, it is not just about that; it is also about self-expression and a certain level of familiarity with yourself and your relationship with God.

Although religions are very different, they are all about self-expression and faith. Religions all try to explain creation, rules to live by, and death. All beliefs require a fair amount of blind trust. Faith, in that somehow, we will each individually find our own paths in the world.

For me, faith has not always been easy – the whole idea of believing in something you can’t see or hear. At times I felt as though we were praying up to a “t”. What I have learned, and experienced, is that it isn’t always the direct meaning, sometimes there is something beneath the surface. Sometimes it is important to take a step away from the prayers in the Bible and look at the metaphors and lessons that it can provide us. Taking the Bible too literally is not a good thing. The point of the Bible, to me, is to provide lessons and support to be better humans and to help others on their own personal, spiritual journey. Throughout this life, this spiritual journey can go down many paths. Many people are brought up in a certain religion and stay with that religion throughout their life, but there are so many religions that are possible to be part of that it is truly an individual choice.

The main premise of religion is the same. The main idea is that there is someone or something greater than humans, whether you believe in Adam and Eve, or the big bang theory. Often, religions are able to be blended. Many times we are able to create a fusion of religions and beliefs. Religion is in the heart. Each person has their own personal spiritual journey to find who they are. We all hope that one day we can give back as much as we have taken. I am still on my spiritual journey, but Confirmation is just another step closer to my personal goal of figuring out my spiritual path.



The Confirmands with their RHCC “mentors,” Rhona Johnson, Michael Sandifer, Nancy Gray, Suzy Simpson, and Becky Jasperson

Congratulations to RHCC’s Graduating High School Seniors:

Sophie Grueterich, Robert Harmon, Alex Hofer, Scott Huley, Grant Kugler, Arman Rye, Laurel Weill, and Courtney Ziluca

And to our College Graduates as well:

Alex George, Georgetown University
Tommy Melly, Trinity College
Phil Piro, Yale University
Kara Pellegrino, Kenyon College (January)
Chris Pellegrino, University of Connecticut

And to Risa Renae Harman for her DMA from SUNY Stonybrook.

All graduates will be recognized during the worship service on June 5. Congratulations!



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Our Trip to Alabama

by Peyton White (Grade 6)

Shannon and Peyton White visited Alabama after the devastating tornadoes hit in late April.



Day 1 My mom and I took a fourteen-hour drive to get to Alabama. We are bringing down 53 care packages that our Church School put together. We have some items left over from the care packages that we will also hand out. A large percent of the items we are bringing were donated from people at the Church and some of our friends on Facebook and even strangers. We also have cash donations and \$500 worth of gift cards. I think it will be worth coming here because we need to help these people.



Day 3 Today my mother and I went with some new friends to give away our care packages. When we

finished giving away 568 care packages, some elderly people showed us around where the tornado had really struck. It was a devastating and horrible sight to see. Everybody we helped kept saying “God is going to bless you.” While we were at the tornado site we saw metal in the trees. Some homes were all gone . . . the only remains were bricks and coats everywhere. Tomorrow afternoon we are going to drive back and I will miss everyone here and all of the nice things they have done for us. One example is my mother’s sorority sister let us stay in her house when she wasn’t even there. My mom had not seen her in 30 years and we slept and ended our day there.



Day 4 Today my mother and I went to a poor, urban neighborhood. We looked around and thanked God for sending us here because we could tell that they needed the stuff we had the most. We drove around and it was horrible because some whole neighborhoods were gone and all you could see was a pile of broken items. But there were people just so full of life who didn’t care what they had but just wanted to take care of what they had left. We saw an 80-year-old man who had no toes in his shoes and we gave him a \$40 gift card to Wal-Mart and he was so happy. He wanted to keep his lawn clean so he was mowing it with a weed whacker. We drove around the neighborhood some more and we saw that 80-year-old man driving to Wal-Mart to use his card.

We gave one of our care packages to a little girl who had nothing. Her whole house was gone. She



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

opened the care package and said, “These are my favorite bubbles,” and “I love this stuffed animal.” Her smile was just so happy that my mother and I knew we had done the right thing going down.



Day 5 Now we are on our way home and counting the Cracker Barrel Restaurants and Subway Sandwich Shops and I get the back seat all to myself. This has been a fun trip and maybe one day I will find myself in this spot again sharing my love with people that need it the most. I feel better about myself because I know I have helped a lot of people.

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.



Neighbor to Neighbor is in urgent need of:

Cereal

Canned Fruit

Pasta and Pasta Sauce

Peanut Butter (regular size jar)

Jelly

Rice

Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)

100% Juice

Soup

Please reach out to help others in the Greenwich community. You can drop items off in the boxes located in the RHCC Narthex, or deliver them to Neighbor to Neighbor in the Christ Church Annex at 248 East Putnam Avenue. Many, many thanks!



NOMINATING

Amy Minella presented the list of nominations for Trustees and the Nominating Committee during the Annual Meeting in April, which the congregation unanimously voted in. At the Board of Trustees meeting in May, the nominees for Officers of the Board and Committee Chairs were unanimously voted in.

Charter Trustees

Mary Ann Debnar (through April 2013)

Ken Bartels (through April 2015)

Charles Lee (through April 2017)

Helen O'Malley (through April 2019)

Bill Boysen (through April 2021)

Trustee Class of 2015

Kristina Aanonsen

Simms Browning

Xenia Hodza

Craig McKibben

Emerson Stone

Jan Ziemba

Nominating Committee 2011-2012

Art Landi, Chair

Win Adkins, Member-at-Large

Simms Browning, Finance

Diane Davol, Member-at-Large

Clare DeNicola, Parent Committee

Fred Mason, Trustee

Sandy Motland, Benevolence and Outreach

Helen O'Malley, Charter Trustee

Michael Sandifer, Center for Faith Development

Doug Miller, ex officio

Officers of the Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Chair Dick Bergstresser

First Vice Chair Tim Wright

Second Vice Chair Mary Ann Debnar

Treasurer Randy Motland

Secretary Claire McKean

Committee Chairs

Benevolence and Outreach Sandy Motland

Buildings and Grounds Frank DeNicola
Tim Wright

Center for Faith Development Michael Sandifer

Christmas on Round Hill Diane Davol
Amy Minella
Nicole Piper

Church Activities Brook Calkin
Sok Nam Park
Michael Sandifer

Church School Parents Clare DeNicola
Dolly Mayer

Communications Suzy Simpson
Bill Herrick

Finance Simms Browning

History Arto Szabo

Human Resources Gayle George
Josephine Chen

Investment Randy Motland

Les Beaux Arts Mirella Hajjar

Membership

Men's Group Win Adkins
Lloyd Hull

Music Hadi Hajjar

RH Cemetery Association Lyn Kaufman

RH Community House Ron Wilson III

Sanctuary Em Toohey
Marty Bitner

Stewardship Bill Herrick

Ushers Lloyd Hull
Dee Lewis

Women's Gathering Libby Cryer
Bunny Prokop

Worship Nancy Gray



NOMINATING



*Newly appointed Charter Trustees
Bill Boysen and Helen O'Malley*



*Newly appointed Trustees
Craig McKibben, Jan Ziemba,
Simms Browning, and Kristina Aanonsen*



*Newly appointed Officers of Board of Trustees
Tim Wright, Mary Ann Debnar,
Dick Bergstresser, and Randy Motland*

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

With the establishment of Reverend Douglas Miller as our Interim Pastor, we need to form a Transition Committee to represent the congregation, develop a long-range plan for the Church, and provide advice and counsel to Rev. Miller on transition issues. This committee is not a governing body and will be recommending change but will not be responsible for approving it nor implementation.

Key issues include:

- Enhancement of our Youth Ministry
- Prioritization of the use of our Capital Improvement Funds
- Revision and improvement of RHCC By-laws
- Review of policy for the use of the Community House
- Review and possible restructuring of RHCC Adult Programs
- Identification of other issues of concern

Many of these items already have groups working on them. It will be the task of this committee to consolidate and prioritize their results and to recommend action. They will report their progress periodically to the Board of Trustees.

In addition, meeting regularly with Rev. Miller, the committee will receive his observations and recommendations, provide him with their advice, and incorporate his views into their efforts.

The committee will be organizing over the summer and begin the bulk of its work in early fall.

Transition Committee Members

Kenneth Bartels
 Caroline Lazzara
 Helen O'Malley
 Steve Fuzesi
 Mary Ann Debnar
ex. officio:
 Rev. Douglas Miller
 Richard Bergstresser

– Richard Bergstresser
Chairman, Board of Trustees

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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commitment to continue on the journey of faith . . . to continue to face and embrace their questions. (See an excerpt from one of the confirmation projects on page 5.)



There are personal blessings as well. As I prepare to leave my ministry here at Round Hill Community Church, I have spent some time reflecting on the many ways in which God has blessed me over these last almost six years with you. There have been weddings, baptisms, two mission trips to Nicaragua, two mission trips to the Gulf Coast, and one to New York City, countless adult forums and lecture series, trips to different houses of worship, retreats, enriching worship, and our 25th celebration, to name a few.



I feel so privileged to have been consistently invited to be a part of your inner lives at both the critical

and mundane moments. I consider all of those moments some of the most sacred in ministry. Our lives are not always neat and orderly. However, my experience is that God's Spirit is often quite active in the messy places and during the turbulent times in our lives. All we need to do is acknowledge it and rest in the fact that, as someone once said, "God is sometimes doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves."



On June 12, Pentecost Sunday, I will preach my last sermon as your Associate Minister. I have decided to call it "The Spirit Runs Through It," referring to the wonderful movie "A River Runs Through It." It will be a celebration of our ministry together and God's continued faithfulness as you continue forward together.



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE



I have great faith that Round Hill Community Church will continue to grow as a faith-filled group of people who have a great reverence for God, for love, and for life. And I am confident, as our new friends in Alabama said, that “God will bless you!”

With Much Love and Gratitude,
Shannon White



LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Liana Moonie: “For the Love of Nature”



Liana Moonie’s exhibit, “For the Love of Nature,” runs through June 28. It is a selection of her abstract paintings, inspired by her great love of nature.

As an artist, Moonie prefers to express herself in abstract forms, yet her compositions are organic and her colors harmonious. She talks about her work in these terms: “My paintings spring from a love and appreciation of nature, filtered through a meld of ever-changing life experiences. When I look at one of the wondrous natural scenes which surround us, I feel the need to portray the emotional impact of the scene more than the objects themselves. In expressing my impressions in abstract form I am consciously freeing form and color from nature to focus on the essential order of things as I see and feel them.”

Moonie was born in Trieste, Italy. She emigrated to the United States in 1947, where she studied art with Robert Brackman, Edgar Whitney, and other prominent artists. She has exhibited in twenty solo shows and numerous juried and invitational exhibits, including the National Academy of Design in New York City. Her paintings are in many private collections, including PepsiCo, Coral Spring Museum of Art in Florida, Greenburgh, New York Public Library, and others. She has won many prizes and awards and is a member and past president of the National Association of Women Artists. She is listed in the Who’s Who in American Art and is represented in the Library of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator

The News Letter

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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.

JUNE 2011 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 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m. Ewald Memorial Service, 2 p.m.	2 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	3	4
5 CHURCH PICNIC Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching Church Picnic, 11 a.m.	6 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7	8 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 PENTECOST Family Worship, 10 a.m. Shannon White preaching 11:20, Forum: Dot Maver 4 p.m., Celebration for Shannon and Peyton	13	14	15 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m. Benevolence & Outreach Mtg., 7:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19 FATHER'S DAY Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	20	21	22 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	27 Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	28	29 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m.	30		