



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

June 2008

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Saints in Our Midst

Over the last month or so, I have been reading Katherine Jeffert Schori's *A Wing and a Prayer*. This book, by the first woman to serve as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA, is as inspirational as it is challenging, and I commend it for your summer reading. I was touched especially by one of her early chapters, which is a brief meditation on Numbers 11:16ff, a passage dealing with God's request of Moses to gather together an additional seventy elders for the spiritual governance and leadership of the people of God.

Bishop Schori notes that today we would probably write it down a bit differently, calling forth spiritual elders, pastors, spiritual leaders, and prophets to serve the church's needs and high mission . . . and seventy still wouldn't be enough. She notes that there

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CATCHING THE SPIRIT OF RHCC

A Special Testimonial from Philip Ewald

As the pastor of Round Hill Community Church, I preached a sermon last September entitled "Catching the Spirit of Round Hill." In the week that followed, I visited with Phil Ewald, one of our Church members, who was very enthused about my sermon theme and desirous of spreading the word about the special "Spirit" he has experienced in our Church fellowship since he joined the Church some years ago.

He writes, "I am well aware of what our 'Church Spirit' means to me and of its many activity connections" . . . which create many benefits within the lives of our Church members through such regular ministries as the Sunday worship services, the Fellowship time in the Parlor, the monthly Trustee meetings, and the significant ministries and multitude of activities of the 25 Trustee committees, which involve the active

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Bach's Magnificat was truly magnificent on Music Sunday as performed by the RHCC Choir and Quartet accompanied by Chamber Orchestra and directed by Christopher Kabala



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Food Drive Was a Great Success

When the Church School organized a food drive for Neighbor to Neighbor, the goal was to collect 250 pounds of food for Greenwich families in need. Over the course of three weeks, members of the congregation donated cereal, pasta, boxed milk, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce, and more. On Mother's Day, the Church School children organized the food by type and recorded the ounces and pounds of every item. The total exceeded 750 pounds of food – three times our original goal. This was an excellent example to our children and community of living the gospel message that “what you do to the least of my family, you do unto me.”

Thank you for your generosity, as it will make a significant difference in the lives of 275 Greenwich families who are in need of food assistance.

Church School Program for 2008-2009

The 2008-2009 registration form and calendar will be mailed in August. Please note that your submission of registration forms is important to us in planning the new year of Church School. Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to this request.

Teacher Thank You

Many thanks to the following people who volunteered their time and talents this year to make the Church School program a success. We are blessed to have them teach our children.

Jonny Dunnebier	Laura Huley
Elizabeth Green	Perry Minella
Annette Grueterich	Helen O'Malley
Alexandra Heerdt	Susanna Nielsen
Kerri Ann Hofer	Elizabeth Robinson
Janet Huley	Shannon White

Summer Church School

Summer Church School begins Sunday, June 8, and continues through August 24. There will be no Church School on July 6 or August 31. Childcare will be provided.

– Tom Mahoney

ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, June 1

On Sunday morning, June 1, please join us for our annual spring picnic following the church service. Members of the Capital Campaign Building Committee will be available to answer questions about *preliminary* drawings by our architectural firm, Butler Rogers Baskett, for the renovation of the Community House. The six members of the committee – Art Landi, Amy Minella, Banks Adams, Helen Dixon, Dick Bergstresser, and John Lowe – will be wearing special name tags and are eager to share this exciting new phase in our Church life. Please feel free to talk to any of them.

The Activities Committee will be setting up and decorating Sunday morning (volunteers are welcome at 9:00 a.m.), and the Men's Group will be doing the grilling. Donations of non-mayonnaise salads would be appreciated and may be left in the Community House prior to the worship service. Please plan to attend and bring a big appetite.

– Ron Wilson

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women's Retreat Friday, June 6

The annual Round Hill Community Church Women's Retreat will be Friday, June 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Convent of St. Birgitta in Darien, Connecticut. The retreat will offer a time to gather and be social, meditate and be silent, and some playful time!

St. Birgitta's is beautifully located on Long Island Sound. Lunch is included. The cost is \$55. To RSVP or if you have questions, call Beth Wright at (203) 622-6338 or email tsw57@hotmail.com.

– Beth Wright



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

The year may be winding down, but the Center for Faith Development is not! Please join us for a variety of exciting and stimulating programs before heading off for the summer.

Sunday, June 8 **Forum: Traveling through India** **Win and Caroline Adkins** **11:15, Meeting Room**

Caroline and Win Adkins will give a slide presentation of their recent trip to southern India, where they went on a two-week study tour of different religions run by Hartford Seminary. The tour took them to Hyderabad and Bangalore (two of the major centers of technology) and to Mangalore, a more rural area on the West coast near Goa, and finally to Chennai (the former Madras) and Pondicherry (a former French colony). They will describe what they learned about India, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity, and show photos that capture the hustle, variety, fascinating art and architecture, and amazing qualities of the people. They will also discuss what they learned about the political/social dilemmas resulting from rapid technological and economic changes that are occurring in the midst of poverty, a traditional society, and a very stubborn caste system.

Sunday, June 15 **Evening Prayer Service** **5:00 to 5:30 p.m., Meeting Room**

Please come to join us in a time of prayer for our world, our friends, and ourselves.

Tuesday, June 17 **Meditation with Joel Baehr** **7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room**

Please join us for this popular monthly meditation and discussion with Rev. Joel Baehr. This month we continue to practice and explore Love and Wisdom, the two wings of enlightened living that are part of everyone's natural being. The meditations are ways to recognize and express that what we most deeply want is what we already are, and to be able to freely and unselfconsciously contribute to others. All are welcome.

Sunday, June 22
Bible Study with Rev. Susan DeGeorge
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Meeting Room
Our final spring Bible Study session on the Gospel of Matthew will be June 22 after worship. Rev. Susan DeGeorge is back by popular demand to share her wisdom and insights on this Gospel text.
– Shannon White

RHCC BOOK CLUB

The May meeting of our book club was at the historic Putnam Cottage, which dates back to the 18th century, to discuss *The Winthrop Woman* – a book that we all agreed should be recommended reading for any woman living in or visiting Greenwich. Being able



to discuss this book while having tea in a historic landmark that was once visited by one of the book's characters was truly a special occasion. We

thank Marion Piro, recent Regent with the D.A.R., for making this visit possible for us.

We have chosen two books for future discussion. On Tuesday, July 22, Edie Wilson has invited us to meet at her swimming pool to discuss *The Second Journey: The Road Back to Yourself* by Joan Anderson. Apparently this road takes her to Iona, Scotland, the same location Carmel Tinnes led many of us to on past retreats. Please contact Edie if you plan to attend.

We will kick off our second year as a book club with *The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, a Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. The book is about three women who come together after September 11 to write a children's book about what their cultures have in common. We will be discussing this book on September 9. If you would like to join us, please contact Kerri Ann Hofer at 622-0221 or kerriann@mac.com. Happy Reading!



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY STATEMENT OF FAITH EXCERPTS

John Marsh

The sun was setting as the cool tide slowly drained out of the bay; in the distance the lobstermen tossed back the last trap of the day and leisurely motored away in those weather-worn boats. I was sitting alone on Chewonki Neck midway through my “solo.” A “solo” is twenty-four hours alone in the wilderness, with one small bag of trail mix, two apples, water, and a tarp.



In the eleven hours since I was deposited at my small parcel of land, I did more thinking than I could have done in a month. I had discovered that I wasn’t all knowing as many teenagers tend to think, that I had many questions that still need answering.

This year I finally got a chance for my questions to be answered in what I had thought would have been the most unlikely of places: Confirmation Class. Before this I had always thought that church was an excuse for parents to force their children to bathe.

Confirmation really began to have an effect on me when we started talking about Jesus. I had always thought of religion as something high up and far away, but when we began talking about Jesus, I began to make a connection on a personal level. Jesus was a person just like you and me. He had to go through great pain, suffering, and sacrifice, but he stayed strong, he did this through his faith in God. To me Jesus is a role model, an example, almost a template. That doesn’t mean that I am going to try to live my life exactly as Jesus would, but whenever I am confronted with a difficult choice I will try to imagine that Jesus is looking down on me, and I will make my decision in accordance with that.

Even with all of the important things I’ve learned during my experience as a Confirmand, I think the most important things were about myself. I learned that no matter how bleak things seem I will always have somebody on my side. I learned that through a few moments of silence I can speak with the most powerful being in existence. I learned that using the faith instilled in me by my Lord our Father, I can accomplish anything.

Madeline Melly

Some of the discoveries I have made along with my peers focus on the subject of God. Before this experience I did not feel I had a strong connection with our Lord. However, I am beginning to understand my relationship with God through the special experiences and the close relationships I have with my own family members and friends. During our Confirmation classes we discussed Ralph Milton’s idea of the different metaphors for God. Milton talks about God using such images as the idea of God as the General, the Coach, the Computer Hack, the Artist, and the Parent.



Thinking about such images as those, I have thought about the special relationships I have and related them to how I am coming to know God. For example, with so many memories and experiences, I found a sense of God, as well as a Christ-like figure, within my encouraging older sister, Caroline. Out of all the people I look up to in the world, Caroline is one who has greatly motivated me with her optimism. After observing Caroline for so many years, I have realized she was intended to encourage and to help others.

Another person who has shown resemblance to God and Christ to me is my protecting older brother, Tommy. Being five years older than me, he has always been determined to take care of me – guiding me toward the right path and helping me in any circumstance. Like what I have learned about God, Tommy is there to help me and work with me throughout life. Although he is away at school for most of the year, Tommy makes an effort, as does God, if I am willing to offer an equal amount of love and appreciation.

As an affirmation about God, I have now come to learn that God plays different roles in every person’s life. Here in my life he is an instructor who is with me whenever I am in need, and through my siblings I am able to reach him.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY STATEMENT OF FAITH EXCERPTS

Rick Salame

My problem was that I was a Christian on Sundays and wasn't decided the other six days. But Jesus is our teacher, and we must follow his example. He wasn't a priest just on Sundays, he was a priest every day of every week. He was living and telling God's message 24 hours a day and seven days a week.



It was a particularly cold day in March, and I was waiting for some friends outside Starbucks. I bought and drank a soda, I listened to a guy playing the guitar on the steps 15 feet to my right, and I pulled my hood up close to keep out the cold. Then I saw him.

He was a large man under layers of old and ragged clothes and appeared to be homeless. He was walking down the street with a spring in his step that did not match his outward appearance. As I watched him pass by, something came over me. I was holding a dollar bill in my numbed hand and thinking about the coffee I could buy with that dollar. Without stopping to think, I started to run, not toward the Starbucks door, but toward the homeless man. When I reached him, I offered my hand and dollar bill silently, and he paused, staring at me. After a moment he asked, "What is this about?" not in an unfriendly manner, but in a confused one. "It's cold," I responded, then continued, "it's cold outside and you should get something warm to drink." He then took my hand in a firm shake and said to me, "Are you a man of God? My name is Gary, what is yours?" "Rick," I said. "Well Rick, we are now brothers in Jesus' love, and you will be called my friend as long as I live." He grasped me in a big hug and started to cry.

I was confused because I had not equated this random act of kindness with a religious experience. As I said, it was Saturday, and I was not a Christian on Saturdays. That experience taught me more about faith than anything I could have read in a book or heard from someone else. Because Christianity is not an hour on Sunday mornings. Christianity is not the motions and rituals of church. Christianity is 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Christianity is human love. And I am proud to say that I am a Christian now and will remain so, even after I walk out of this room.

CJ Purse

My journey through Confirmation has been an eye-opening experience and has helped me discover the real meaning of life. I learned much about my own life and the reason for living.

Toward the beginning of my experience, I had many questions about how we were supposed to live

our lives with the idea of faith involved. Originally, I believed that faith was just believing in what you thought. During Confirmation, I discovered a whole new meaning of faith. Faith is caring for what matters most in your life and always believing and worrying for those who are needy.

In the text from *God for Beginners* by Ralph Milton, Milton describes God using the images of many people who can relate to you in your personal lives. In thinking about this, I have decided that God can come to us through anyone who matters to us in any special way. For example, God can come to you through your parents, giving and aiding you during the tough times of childhood and being there for you when you need them most. God can also be like your baseball coach, helping and correcting your swing as you grow older. By relating the one universal God to many other things in your personal lives, Milton makes you think about how God can be there, not only looking down on you from above, but being that one person who changes your life for the better.

During my journey, I have learned all of the things in your life that can be God-like, but not until the end had I realized that I could be a disciple of God in the eyes of other people. Helping an associate or a friend may be one of the bigger ones, but just holding the door for someone on crutches or picking up a plastic bag in the parking lot is just as important.

I believe God is present in anyone in the world who cares and stands up for what they believe in. My experiences during the Confirmation process have changed the way I look at life, and I hope they will continue to do this as the future unfolds.





PASTORAL MESSAGE

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are plenty of prophets out there, and they are busy doing the Lord's work in the area of social justice and deeds of tender mercy. And God is still bringing unexpected gifts and surprises. She writes, "Consider the retired physics professor who started a prison ministry; the AIDS educator who works incessantly for awareness in black communities; the priest-activist who labors on behalf of the homeless and against nuclear weapons, and is learning Spanish to better serve his parishioners."

These people were each called and trained, and they, along with many others, have vital and creative ministries in congregations, as well as in the day-to-day world in which we all live. They serve, she observes, in an incredible variety of ways: as newspaper publishers, nurses, as scientists and teachers, in public relations and in sales, as photographers, county recorders, prison guards, school janitors, park rangers, booksellers, museum curators, and as chaplains in hospitals, hospices, prisons, and nursing homes. Each one of them speaks for God in the "camp" where he or she labors, as well in the Sunday congregations of which they are a part.

But there are also lay people who live out their faith in caring and prophetic ministry every day of their lives . . . remembering the profound gift of their baptism and their calling to remember Christ's ministering Body – in their homes, their places of work, their avenues of service. Schori says that "When each of us was baptized, we were called into ministry. We are only just beginning to live into this theology. The saints in our midst are not unlike the saints in the places you serve – they are heroes and witnesses and builders of the reign of God. Consider two retired educators who publish a monthly news article of social justice; the aviation inspector who works to build a new Hispanic congregation in his area; the lawyer who provides free legal help to those unable to pay."

Bishop Schori concludes her reflection by asking a series of questions – "If all those stories are not surprise enough, what about your own? Did you leave the womb, or the family home, expecting to go where you are today? What odd places has God asked you to visit? What strange and wonderful ministries have beckoned you?"

Indeed, all of us are called into merciful ministries of grace and compassion, and prophetic ministries of justice and the making of peace in our relationships and world. And, praise God, ours is a church family where such ministries abound and inspire all those God gives us to see and touch and love.

Blessings to all the saints in our midst!

– Bob Culp, Pastor

JUNE SERVICES AND SERMONS

Special Summer Sermon Series

Even though Bob Culp is taking a mini-sabbatical during part of the summer (June 16 to July 14), a few weeks of vacation in August, when he is preaching this summer, he will be offering a series of sermons on the Parables of Jesus, inspired by J. Barrie Shepherd's *Seeing with the Soul*. Many of the parables of Jesus are familiar to us, but Bob will be seeking to look beyond what the eye can see and to explore more deeply what the soul perceives . . . and truly to "experience" the parables in ways that speak to our deepest needs and strivings.

June 8	<i>People Fishers</i> (Luke 5:1-11)
June 15	<i>A Prodigal's Father</i> (Luke 15:11-32)
July 20	<i>Of Debts and Credits</i> (Luke 7:36-50)
July 27	<i>Feasts and Banquets</i> (Luke 14:7-24)
August 17	<i>To Be a Neighbor</i> (Luke 10:25-37)
August 24	<i>Letting Our Light Shine</i> (Luke 8:16-17)
August 31	<i>Counting the Cost</i> (Luke 14:25-33)

June 1	Shannon White preaching
June 22	Shannon White preaching
June 29	Shannon White preaching

During these summer months, we will continue our tradition of having hymn sings during the middle hymn portion of our worship. This is a special time when worshipers can suggest favorite hymns for us to sing, so we invite you to come prepared to give voice to your suggestions! We hope you will join with us on Sundays in June, July, and August for our worship services and our times of fellowship afterward . . . and that you will bring your friends!



A SPECIAL TESTIMONIAL

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participation of more than 200 of our members. Phil writes, “Our Church transmits a warm, caring spirit that illustrates the power of a loving Spirit. This Spirit blesses our Church and each of us individually.” Indeed, as Phil puts it, the Church Spirit that is ours inspires activities and ministries that build and strengthen personal faith, fellowship, and community outreach service, and all of it is done with a “Caring Spirit.”

According to Phil, this special “Spirit” is reflected in our sermons, is magnified in our music, is reflected in so many dimensions of our life together, and is affirmed each and every week in our Church Prayer and Creed, where this “Spirit” is described as “Holy” and “Blessed.” And through several special mission trips, this “Spirit” has been exemplified magnificently. When two times we sent members of all ages to the storm-beaten, devastated Gulf Coast region and then when we sent a 16-member group to Nicaragua to assist in building houses for those in need of such dwellings, their mission was “to make out of chaos, hope” and “to build bridges to community.” In Phil’s view, these mission endeavors successfully demonstrate and reflect beautifully and powerfully our “Church Spirit and Community Service.”

In a recent communique commenting on how much this special “Spirit” means to him within the Church family that is ours, Phil observes, “How far this little candle shines its light.”

Indeed! I wanted to share Phil’s thoughts with you, because I suspect many of you know deep inside the meaning of belonging to such a Spirit-filled community church as Round Hill. May you be inspired by Phil’s testimonial to catch and share this most wonderful, powerful, and loving “Spirit” in all the days ahead.

– Bob Culp

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

CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Right now the Itty Bitty auction for Christmas on Round Hill has a wish list for the following items:

- Restaurant meals
- Good cigars, Cuban or other
- Sports and other event tickets
- Tours of an area you love – a special park with a light picnic, a part of New York City such as Soho galleries, a particular part of Queens for foodies
- Destinations for a week or weekend

It is with such items that the auction committee can plan special “packages.” If you have a contribution, question, or comment contact Heather or Michael Sandifer at 661-3227 or terradiva@hotmail.com. Thank you.

– Heather and Michael Sandifer

BOY SCOUTS HONOR ART LANDI

The Northeast Region proudly bestowed its highest recognition, the Silver Antelope, to a dynamic council, area, and regional Scouter, Arthur E. Landi.

Art was described as a “take-charge and get-it-done leader.” As Properties Vice President in the Greenwich Council, he facilitated several major improvements at the council’s camp; and as President, he helped cement the council’s reputation as one of the best small councils in America. As Regional Vice President for Membership, Art was the driving force in initiating the “Save Our Scouts” program region-wide, which dramatically increased retention. He has participated in almost every phase of his council’s operation, including Nominating Committee, Scout Executive selection, Golf Tournament Co-Chairman, and Pack and Troop Committee member. He is currently President of Area Two.

Those of us at RHCC who are lucky enough to have worked with Art commend the Boy Scouts for bestowing this important recognition on such a worthy recipient. Congratulations, Art, and thank you for all you do for our Church.

The News Letter

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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 2008 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Comm. Mtg. 9:00 a.m. Special Music: Spirituals ANNUAL PICNIC	2 Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	3 25th Anniversary Meeting 10 a.m. Meeting Room	4 Staff Meeting Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	5 RHC5 Bldg. Comm. Mtg. 7 a.m. Mtg. Rm.	6 Women's Retreat	7
8 Forum: Traveling through India: Win and Caroline Adkins 11:15 a.m.	9 RHC5 Bldg. Comm. Mtg. 7 a.m. Mtg. Rm.	10 Committee Chairs Meeting 7 p.m. Parlor	11 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	12	13	14
15 Prayer Service, 5 p.m., Meeting Room	16 Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks	17 Meditation, 7 p.m., Mtg. Rm.	18 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	19	20	21
22 Bible Study: Matthew 11:15 a.m.	23	24	25 Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	26 News Letter Deadline	27	28
29	30	WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE				