



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

March 2007

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Entering into the Season of Lent

Ann Weems writes about Lent in this fashion:

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up and walk around
in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe and feel the healing
surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder . . .
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

Certainly, the unexamined life is never commended to us as a goal worthy of our living. For we know deep inside that as we engage in the process – to “ponder and wonder” each day – we receive as gifts special insights into the mystery and meaning of our own life’s journey, insights that invite us again and again to examine the textures and flavors, the patterns and priorities, the loves and passions that are ours as we seek to follow after the way of our Lord. Elsewhere Weems notes these truths about “the way” of our journeying forth in Lent:

The way to Jerusalem looks suspiciously like
Highway 40,
and the pilgrims look suspiciously like you
and me.
I expected the road to Jerusalem to be crowded
with holy people, such as clerics and saints,
people who have kindness wrinkled in their faces
and comfort lingering in their voices,
but this is more like rush hour . . .

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MUSIC AT ROUND HILL



The Piano as Orchestra Christopher Kabala, pianist

**Friday, March 16
8:00 p.m.**

Reception to follow
\$20 Adults \$5 Students



The piano is the only instrument with tonal capabilities rivaling those of the orchestra. It is no wonder, then, that so many pieces written for piano have later been scored for orchestra, or vice versa. Christopher Kabala will perform three such works at a recital on Friday, March 16, at 8:00 p.m in the Sanctuary. The evening will be a celebration of the piano as orchestra, featuring compositions by Mussorgsky, Beethoven, and Wagner-Liszt.

With *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Mussorgsky memorialized his friend Victor Hartmann, a painter who died at the age of 39. The theme holds together the changing moods of the different “pictures” throughout the piece. The score, originally written for piano, was not published until after Mussorgsky’s death,

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In the Classroom in March

The Bible story is Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. In the Bible Skills and Movie workshops, children will be exploring this story of one of Jesus' miracles. In the Art workshop children will be working on a special project for their Easter presentation.

March Teachers

Bible Skills Workshop: Kerri Ann Hofer and Jenny Rye

Art Workshop: Annette Grueterich

Movie Workshop: Mary Ann Debnar

New Name for Christian Education (CE)

With the designation "Center for Faith Development" as the umbrella for all educational activities at RHCC, the name "Christian Education" has become a misnomer, since the committee's sole responsibility is now the Church School. In an effort to be inclusive and embrace all parents of children in the Church School (grades Pre-K through 8) and in the High School Discussion Group (grades 9 and up), we have changed the name of the program. It is important that all parents feel they have a say in the shaping of our church school and youth programs and feel encouraged to participate.

The committee will simply be **Church School Parents**, with two **Parent Leaders** (formerly CE co-chairs). Parent leaders serve a two-year term. A new leader rotates in every year; he or she will be serving with an experienced leader. Annette Grueterich is scheduled to rotate out in April, so if anyone is interested in serving as a parent leader with Alexandra Heerdt, please contact Annette directly.

Events

Walk through Holy Week: The older children will stage different vignettes throughout the church during fellowship hour on April 1, Palm Sunday.

Rehearsals will be on March 25 during Church School. Helen O'Malley has generously offered to help with rehearsals and direction on April 1. Additional volunteers are needed for costuming on March 24 and 25 and for setup and cleanup on April 1.

Easter Sunday, April 8

The children will perform poems or readings in front of the congregation. Helen O'Malley has volunteered to direct this. Children will make butterflies for the parade into the Sanctuary. With the help of the High School Youth a traditional Easter egg hunt will take place during Church School.

Please consider helping with the parade "backstage," with getting the children into place, etc. Contact Eileen if you can help in any way.

Project Linus

Church School children spent several weeks making blankets for Project Linus, an organization that distributes handmade blankets to terminally ill children in hospitals. Pictured below are several children working together on one of the blankets as well as two students with their finished product.

— Eileen Brehm, Church School Director





BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Food for Sharing

Each month on the third Sunday members of RHCC have been bringing in bags of nonperishable food and leaving them in the Narthex. These bags add up, and in a year we have taken just under 100 bags to Neighbor to Neighbor. Unfortunately, there are many too many neighbors here in Greenwich having a hard time making ends meet, and over 300 families, or 700 individuals, are currently being referred by the Greenwich Department of Social Services for food assistance. So please continue being a part of this important work. The pantry always needs canned fruit, dry beans, peanut butter, and cereal.



MEMBERSHIP

New Members to Be Received on March 18

Our church will be receiving new members during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 18. We invite our members to encourage those you know who may be looking for a spiritual home to share your love and experience of what Round Hill Community Church means to you with such inquirers, as well as to let your friends know of this opportunity to join our church family. We receive new members by Profession of Faith, Letter of Transfer, and Reaffirmation of Faith, and note that those who join our church may retain their primary membership in other churches. Please let Bob Culp or Shannon White know if anyone you know may be interested in affiliating with our church, so that proper arrangements may be made.

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

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when over two dozen composers were drawn to orchestrate the work. Although the piano cannot imitate the various instruments of the orchestra, a solo pianist can give the pieces a flexibility and intensity that may otherwise be impossible. Therefore, it was a great favorite of virtuoso pianists such as Vladimir Horowitz and Stanislav Richter.

Beethoven composed the *Eroica Variations* for piano in 1802. The following year he used the same theme for the finale of his *Eroica* Symphony. In the *Variations* he opened with the bass line to the main theme and then followed with four variations before stating the main theme. His orchestral piece would follow this same pattern.

Liszt, considered to be one of the greatest pianists in history, redefined piano playing itself with his compositions and teaching. Many of his piano compositions are among the most technically challenging in the repertoire. A close friend of Wagner, Liszt championed his operas by transcribing many excerpts such as Isolde's *Liebestod*, from *Tristan and Isolde*, for solo piano.

Chamber Players Spring Concerts Sunday, March 4

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return to RHCC with a concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will include works by Mozart, Khachaturian, Loeffler, and Mendelssohn. The pianist will be Andrew Gordon, who is the principal keyboardist of the Greenwich Symphony. Many of you may have heard Andrew as the featured soloist in their February concert series.

Sunday, April 1

The works in the next concert, also at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, showcase the harp. We welcome back the talents and musicianship of Barbara Allen. Flute, horn, violin, viola, and cello will join the harp in bringing us classics by Telemann, Ravel, Reit, and Kodaly.

A wine and cheese reception will follow each concert and afford the opportunity to visit with the musicians and friends. Tickets are available at the door at \$20 (students \$5) or by calling Carrie Finlayson at 869-4661.



THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

Thorne Lecture Series

Sherron Watkins came to speak as part of our Thorne Lecture Series on Friday, January 26 and Sunday, January 28. She told the Enron story from the perspective of an Enron executive who, in some respects, kicked the whole affair off by questioning the policies that had allowed Andrew Fastow, Enron's CFO, to form limited liability companies – of which he was the general partner – whose sole purpose was to do business with Enron. It was Watkins' discovery of the special purpose entities, called "Raptors" in Enron's parlance, that led to the company's downfall.

Watkins told her story simply and modestly. After she balked at endorsing the Raptor structure and the inherent conflict they represented for the company's CFO, Watkins wrote a memo detailing her objections and sent it to Kenneth Lay, Enron's CEO, and met with him soon thereafter. Surprisingly, only a few days after Watkins met with Lay, he received a memo from Enron's outside counsel detailing the issues to consider if an employee was fired for questioning the accounting practices of the company, which she learned about when she testified before Congress.

Many lives were ruined by the Enron bankruptcy and subsequent fallout, but Watkins identified a number of lessons that can be learned from the experience.

- Ken Lay preached integrity, but in practice used the company and his position to benefit his extended family and burnish his lifestyle. For example, everyone in the company was expected to use his sister's travel agency (though it was more expensive and cumbersome than other alternatives); and he used a corporate jet to fly his daughter's furniture back and forth to Paris and as a taxi to fly his wife to charitable events.

- The view seemed to be that once in the executive suite, people could move company assets around for personal benefit. Enron had no internal audit staff, so Arthur Anderson had access only to information they received from the heads of business units for doing audits. There was no "internal watchdog" to police conflicts of interest and aggressive accounting practices.

- Enron bought loyalty with money, from Wall Street (where Enron was the largest corporate payer of investment banking fees), their external accountants (to whom Enron also paid \$1 million per week in consulting fees), and executives (who were made rich with cash, stock, and perks).

- Whenever anyone questioned the complex dealings and arrangements, the standard Skilling/Fastow (CEO/CFO) response was, "You just don't get it. It's complex, and you aren't smart enough to understand. We have the best bankers and accountants, they understand it. Just let it go." And everyone but Sherron Watkins did let it go.

- Enron's code of conduct, in blind comparisons with others at business schools around the country, is usually picked as the best among ten different codes. (Although it wasn't followed in practice. See above.)

- Fifty percent of white collar criminals in prison can pass a lie detector test that they did nothing wrong. Thus, it would appear that money facilitates rationalizations among executives. Either that, or we have a lot of innocent people in prison.

- *Fortune* magazine named Enron the most innovative company seven years in a row. They (employees) believed their own press, were intimidated by complexity, and blinded by the money. It's fair to say that it is better to stay humble and hungry!

- Often when ethical transgressions are discovered, there is a great reluctance to fire those responsible if they are "good guys." Watkins believes this is always a mistake. The best defense is the perception of no tolerance so employees know they cannot "look the other way." Checks and balances need to be robust. Neither shareholders nor board members are effective in this regard. Only management can be effective.

It was a real pleasure to welcome Sherron Watkins to our church. She has done well in the intervening years since the Enron debacle as a speaker telling her cautionary tale, unlike many of her colleagues. She surely could have said, in the words of Job 1:19, "... and I alone have escaped to tell thee."

– Ray Minella



THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

Forum: March 4, 11:15 a.m., "What Is Sufism?"

In preparation for our next interfaith visit, Shannon White will lead us in an exploration of Sufism, a mystic tradition that found a home as a branch of Islam. The Sufis are known for the "Whirling Dervishes," those who spin ecstatically to get closer to God. They are also known for their poetry (Rumi) and literature throughout the ages. Much of Persian literature is attributed to the Sufis. This lecture precedes a visit to the Order of the Jerahi Mosque in Chestnut Ridge, New York, where we have been invited to worship.

Interfaith Visit to The Order of the Jerahi Mosque Chestnut Ridge, New York

We have been invited to go and worship with the Sufis and see the Whirling Dervishes as part of their service. We are still working on a final date in early March on a Saturday evening. Please check with the Church Office (869-1091) for departure details and directions. We strongly recommend that you come to the lecture on March 4 at 11:15 a.m. if you plan to visit the Mosque with us.

Forum: March 18, 11:15 a.m. "Creationism and Evolution"

Dr. Thomas Hughart, an ethicist and theologian, will lead us in a discussion to expand understanding of current theologies and current scientific concepts that are compatible, and compare them with fundamental theologies and traditional scientific concepts. Dr. Hughart will explore the legal controversies surrounding the issues of evolution and intelligent design in the school boards in Kansas and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hughart was pastor and then co-pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church for 35 years. He later was interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. He has a Ph.D. in ethics from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a certificate in Medical Ethics from Georgetown University, among other degrees. He is currently an ethics consultant to businesses, patients and families, and religious professionals.

— Shannon White, Assistant Minister

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

RHCC Youth Mission Trip Fundraising

The high school youth group is raising money for their Mission Trip to Nicaragua during the week of August 11 to 19, 2007. They, along with several adult church members, are going to help people by volunteering for one week to build a house for a family to live in. They will be working 36 hours but be in the community for the entire week. You can learn more about the trip at Bridgestocommunity.org.

Pledging to help financially with anywhere from 25 cents to a few dollars an hour for the work they will be doing is a great way to show your support for the participants and the mission. If you are interested, please return this form with your check to the Church Office.

Name _____

\$ Pledged _____

Please make checks payable to RHCC and specify Youth Mission Trip in the memo line.

Thank you.

EASTER FLOWERS

Remember a loved one by giving flowers to decorate the Sanctuary during the Easter service. If you would like to donate memorial or commemorative flowers please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by Monday, April 2, to insure that your name and memorial(s) appear in the Easter Bulletin on April 8. For more information, call the office at 869-1091.



Name _____

Phone _____

Donation: \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ Other___

Memorial for Bulletin: _____

Make check payable to RHCC and mail to
395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich, CT 06831



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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horns blowing, people rushing, voices cursing.
This is not what I envisioned!

O God, I've only begun and already I feel I've
lost my way.

Surely this is not the road and surely these are
not the ones to travel with me.

This Lenten journey calls for holy retreat, for
reflection and repentance.

Instead of holiness, the highway is crammed
with the cacophony of chaos.

Is there no back road to Jerusalem?

No quiet path where angels tend to weary
travelers?

No sanctuary from the noise of the world?

Just this?

Can this hectic highway be the highway to
heaven?

The truth is that, yes, this hectic highway we travel
is the highway to heaven, and that to find meaning
and purpose along such a busied roadway, it is wise
for us to gather each Sunday in Lent with our fellow
travelers along the way in order to worship, to regain
our bearings, to find refreshment and renewal along
the way, and thereby for us to "allow a fresh new
taste of God."

We hope to see you with us, especially on Sundays,
in the weeks ahead!

— Bob Culp, Pastor

MARCH SERMONS AND SERVICES

March 4 *Bring Me to Life*, Shannon White

March 11 *The Choice of Lent*, Bob Culp

March 18 *Party Time in Lent*, Bob Culp
New Members Received

March 25 *Making a Way in the Wilderness*,
Bob Culp

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



Lisa Black, a local prolific artist and member of the
Greenwich Art Society, will be showing her water-
colors and acrylics at Les Beaux Arts Gallery from
March 4 through April 4, 2007.

Black studied at the Art Students League in New
York, the New York Institute of Photography, the Ro-
wayton Arts Center, and the Center for Contempo-
rary Printmaking in Norwalk. She is a member of the
American Pen Women and has received numerous
awards for her paintings and photography.

While in Paris, Black became mesmerized by the
work of Picasso and the Impressionists; the vitality
and strength of their work became her source of in-
spiration.

Black likes to experiment with different media,
from watercolors to acrylics to monotype printing
and photography. Her work is abstracted with vivid
colors and bold energetic lines; her personality is as
exuberant as her paintings, about which she com-
mented, "I love the bold colors of acrylics, the magic
of watercolors, the joy of monotypes, the endless
possibilities of washes in black and gray."

— Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator

PLEASE FEEL WELCOME

The Church Sanctuary is open for prayer, meditation,
and reading the Bible every weekday from 8:30 a.m.
to 4:00 p.m. We encourage those who wish to use
the Sanctuary for this purpose to do so, and to be
encouraged in the disciplines of prayer, meditation,
and scriptural reflection.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

On Friday, January 19, we joined together in the Parlor to hear from Robin Browning. Wow. It was our biggest turnout ever. The Parlor was filled with our members, friends of Robin's, a neighbor or two, and many guests. We all listened to Robin tell of the various segments of her life, including many funny stories. We enjoyed the culinary talents of our membership, including Dee Lewis's impressive stuffed turkey breast and a beautiful and delicious dessert prepared by Ella Szabo.



Sunday, March 4 – Beth Wright

Our next gathering will be a potluck breakfast in the Meeting Room, starting at 8:15 a.m. Beth Wright will explain “hands-on healing,” and Dee Lewis will relate her firsthand experience with it in the hours before surgery.

Sunday, April 15 – Amy Minella

Sunday brunch at Jo Ann Adams's house.

Friday, May 11 – Diana Deacon

Dinner at Carrie Finlayson's house.

Consider bringing your mother or adult daughter to celebrate Mother's Day.



The Women's Retreat at the Mercy Center in January

VALENTINE DINNER DANCE

On Friday, February 9, seventy-six fun-loving souls attended the annual RHCC Valentine Dinner Dance. Our wonderful old Community House came alive with roses, balloons, candlelight, and a roaring blaze in the fireplace. There were a number of dedicated dance numbers, including “Woolly Bully” for Charlie Lee, “Rockin' Robin” for Robin Browning, and “Johnny B. Goode” for Edie Wilson and her brother Johnny (who drove from Jamesport, NY, with his fiancée Christine).



The highlight of the evening was the medley of Lebanese dance numbers with Hadi Hajjar and his friend Nagi Osta serving as master dance instructors. The interest in ethnic music was so great that some of the attendees volunteered to introduce some other exotic numbers at the next dance; there is an excellent chance that we shall have some belly dancers with us.

– Ron Wilson and Michael Sandifer



The News Letter

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

March 2007

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March 2007 at Round Hill Community Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	2	3
LENT 2 4 Women's Gathering Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Forum: What Is Sufism? 11:15 a.m. Youth Mission Trip Meeting, 11:15 a.m. Chamber Players, 4 p.m.	5 8:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	6	7	8 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	9	10
LENT 3 11 Confirmation, 4:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study, Noon	15 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	16 Piano Recital Christopher Kabala 8:00 p.m.	17
LENT 4 18 New Member Sunday	19 Newsletter Deadline Cooking for St. Luke's	20 RHCC Dinner Discussion Group	21	22 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23	24
LENT 5 25 H.S. Discussion Grp. M.S. Youth Grp. Confirmation, 4:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	30	31