



*Round Hill  
Community Church*

## *The News Letter*

*March 2008*

### *Catching the Spirit of Round Hill*

#### **Easter's Tangible Joy**

Karl Barth once remarked, as I shared in last year's Easter sermon, that what brings people to worship is an unspoken question that clings to their hearts and minds – Is it true? Is it true that God is alive and gives us new life even today? Is it true that God not only established intricate routines we call the laws of nature, but that one day God broke into the routines and brought Jesus back to life? Is it true that something so extraordinary happened on that morning that we can dare rebuild our lives upon that foundation? Is it true?

In contrast to the touchable dimensions of Christmas, especially with a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, Easter is tough for us to “get a hold of.” There are elusive angels, a gaping emptiness in a garden tomb, strange encounters along roadways and beaches . . . and some doubts, all mixed in amidst all the fears, tears, and rumors of a resurrection.

But then there is that wondrous message that has resonated in the hearts of the faithful through the years. As Joseph Sittler put it, “The Easter message is that nothing in the world can hurt us anymore. The great surprising fact of this day is that the world which killed Jesus is also a world in which God raised him from death, a world in which resurrection continues to happen, even to us.” Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us about Easter that “when the bottom has fallen out from underneath you, when you have crashed through all your safety nets, the good news is that you cannot fall farther than God can catch you.”

William Sloane Coffin died a couple of years ago. He was an Army intelligence officer in WWII, a CIA agent, a gifted musician, a brilliant intellect, and a gruff, warmly courageous follower of Jesus. As

*continued on page 6*

#### **Share Our Vision – Plan Our Future Sunday, March 9**

Please join us during the worship service to hear Board of Trustees chair, Amy Minella, give a brief overview of our capital campaign and Art Landi discuss our intention to form focus groups to assist the architects in the planning process. Art will then introduce Jim Rogers, the lead architect, who will develop the comprehensive plans for the church campus, including the church building and the Community House. There is much to be excited about and we are looking forward to getting input from all those interested in order to incorporate the needs of the church members and administration into the plans. Mr. Rogers will meet with us for a question and answer session following the service in the Meeting Room.

Come and help us plan the future of Round Hill Community Church!





### Blankets for Project Linus



Over the course of two Sundays, children in the church school, assisted by members of the confirmation class and the youth group, cut and tied blankets for Project Linus.



The mission of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need, through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”



This mission project was coordinated and led by Kerri Ann Hofer with assistance from Bob Culp, Alexandra Heerd, and Annette Grueterich. In a few weeks the blankets will be given to representatives of Project Linus for distribution in Westchester and Fairfield Counties.



Thanks to all who assisted with this project, especially the confirmation class and high school youth – you made a positive impression on our church school kids.







## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### Red Ribbon Sale for Sekolo Project



Last December the church school children met Elizabeth Robinson and made red ribbons to be sold in Namibia. Ms. Robinson is the founder of Sekolo Projects, Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to HIV/AIDS prevention education in Namibia, Africa. The ribbon sales support a lunch program for children affected by HIV/AIDS, who typically eat only one meal a day. Elizabeth hoped to sell each ribbon for the cost of a meal, which is 20 cents.

After our kids heard the Luderitz School lunch program story, they asked to sell the ribbons at RHCC for \$1.00 to \$2.00 and to generate more funds for the lunch project. Led by Peter and Emma Heerdt, the children sold ribbons at fellowship hour and raised more than \$400, or more than 2,000 meals that will be served at the school in Luderitz. Congratulations to all who participated on your initiative and effort!



### Planning Meeting

A meeting with parents, teachers, and staff will be scheduled for the last week of March to plan the schedule and curriculum for next year. If you would like to be at the meeting to lend your ideas and enthusiasm, call Tom at the church office or email him at [tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org](mailto:tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org).

### March and April Themes

During March the Bible focus will be on Jesus' walk to Emmaus. Annette Grueterich will lead the classes. In April, we will explore the meaning, ways, and importance of prayer in our lives. The teacher leader will be announced in next month's newsletter.

## WOMEN'S GATHERING

We are sorry to tell you that, due to a conflict in the church calendar, we have reluctantly cancelled the Women's Gathering brunch that was to have taken place on Sunday, April 13. We hope that we may be able to reschedule it and will let you know immediately if we can do so.

Our final Gathering of the season will be dinner on Friday, May 30. *Please note this new date.* We will meet at Amy Minella's home for an enjoyable evening. After dinner Molly Cook will talk briefly about her mother's extraordinary exploits as an aviator in the early 1900s and show us a remarkable documentary film of her story. We look forward to that and hope that you will put the date on your calendars and invite friends and neighbors to join us.

– Marilyn Hammond and Rhona Johnson



## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

### LENTEN SERMON SERIES

**Sundays, March 2, 9**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

**“The Lord’s Prayer for Our Lives Today”**

Sermons based on Wayne Muller’s book, *Learning to Pray: How We Find Heaven on Earth*.

### FAMILY LENTEN SERIES

**Wednesday, March 5**

**6:00 to 6:30 p.m., Light Supper, Parlor**

**6:30 to 7:20 p.m., Programs**

**7:20 to 7:30 p.m., Closing Prayer**

#### Adult Program

**“The Four Pillars of a Mature Relationship”**

The hard work of a good relationship is more than chemistry, romance, and vows. The four “pillars” of sustaining and growing a mature relationship call for understanding of:

- 1) what a genuine friendship is;
- 2) what’s involved in shared or conflicting values;
- 3) what makes conflict a constructive thing;
- 4) how passion and play evolve as a couple goes through stages of a relationship.

Pat and George Kandle have been married for 30 years. Between them they have six children – three each from their first marriages. George is a Presbyterian minister and Pastoral Counselor with 42 years of experience. Pat works alongside George in marital and family therapy. They know the pain of divorce as well as the joy of rebuilding, together, an intimate and lively relationship.

The Kandles will provide fascinating questionnaires (for private use) to help people explore these four pillars in their own relationships as well as offering some tools that have been helpful to them and others over the past 30 years.

#### Teen Program

**“What Makes Relationships Work – Whether You’re Just Friends or Dating”**

Stephen Dunnebie will lead the group in what promises to be a lively discussion.

#### Children’s Program

**“Minding My Manners – Behaving Like Jesus”**

Tom Mahoney, with the help of Marion Piro, will focus on social skills and manners; discovering how we can treat others with respect and dignity as Jesus would do.

### MEDITATION: JOEL BAEHR

**Tuesday, March 25**

**7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room**

A Unitarian Universalist Minister and Buddhist practitioner, Rev. Baehr has led many into a deeper awareness of the Holy. Join us as we seek a deeper spiritual journey.

### PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

**Sunday, March 16**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

#### WORSHIP/DINNER SERVICE

**Thursday, March 20**

**7:00 p.m., Parlor**

This Christian Passover/Seder Communion service will be led by Bob Culp, Shannon White, and Mirella Hajjar. The Men’s Group will assist Hadi Hajjar in providing dinner. Reservations are required.

### EASTER DAY

**Sunday, March 23**

**9:30 a.m. Prelude, Music of Bach**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

“Resurrection in the Present Tense”

### FORUM: “SPIRITUAL PARENTING”

**Sunday, March 30**

**11:15 a.m. to Noon**

**Susan Fisher**

“Children need to know that they are one of Life’s Good Ideas, a manifestation of loving intelligence and order, and not just an entity of behavior and appearance. Respect for their innate Goodness goes a long way and softens our hearts.”

Susan Fisher will lead us in a discussion with tips on how we can better “see” our children (and grandchildren) and develop a growing awareness and understanding of peaceful and harmonious living. Parents are encouraged to bring issues, experiences, and problems to discuss.

Susan Fisher is a Montessori teacher with a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Counseling from Iona College. From her years in the classroom at Resurrection Grammar School in Rye and years of study of Metapsychiatry with Dr. Thomas Hora and Ruth Robins, Mrs. Fisher has learned, practiced, and taught principles that ease the way of children and parents at home, in school, and on the playground.

**Childcare is available for all Sunday events.**



---

## WORSHIP NEWS

---

### Prayer Service

In response to a perceived need among some in our congregation for a more meaningful and personal spiritual experience, we will begin offering a monthly Prayer Service beginning in April 2008 as a supplement to the traditional Sunday morning worship service for those who desire it.

This service will offer specific prayers to those who ask, including healing prayers for those seeking help with physical or emotional needs. We are planning a monthly service to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Meeting Room, led by Shannon White, probably with assistance from a lay leader. The service will last approximately 30 minutes.

Following is a sample order of worship:

- Call to worship
- Simple hymn without accompaniment to bring people into a reflective place
- Scripture reading
- Silent meditation
- Invitation to prayer

People may sit quietly in their seats and come forward when they feel led, or remain in their seats. If they come forward, they may choose to tell the leader(s) what they need prayer for and the leader may pray along with the person. They may choose a simple prayer or personal touch.

- Closing prayer
- Simple benediction

We will make every effort to be flexible, to allow the leader(s) to respond to the needs presented.

### Feedback Forum

#### Sunday, April 13, 11:15 to Noon

We have scheduled a Worship Feedback Forum after worship on Sunday, April 13, from 11:15 to 12:00, to begin a discussion of our Creed and Communion Service, along with any other topics relating to the Worship Service that the congregation would like to address. Please plan to attend, as we need input from the congregation in studying these important topics. We invite members to submit ideas beforehand, either through a Suggestion Box, which will be in the Parlor, or through direct contact with either of us.

– Claire McKean, [cbmckean@optonline.net](mailto:cbmckean@optonline.net)

– Marion Piro, [Chaucer97@aol.com](mailto:Chaucer97@aol.com)

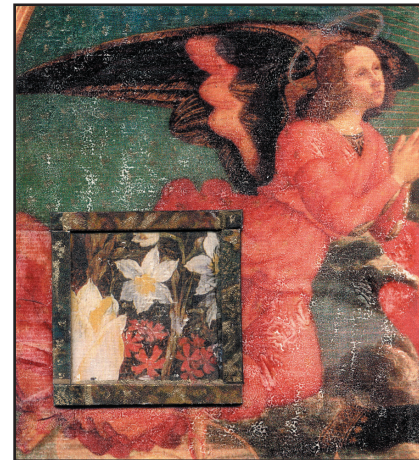
---

## LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

---

### Leap of Faith

In the spirit of the high holidays, Les Beaux Arts Gallery will display the work of an award winning artist and Greenwich resident, Leslie Mueller from March 16 through April 10, 2008. Best known for her mixed media, photographs and ink paintings, Mueller brings spiritual undertones for the present series of angels floating in a heavenly decor of soft colors and muted tones.



Mueller says, “I believe that angels unite us all in harmony and peace. This is why I am so happy to share the exhibition ‘Leap of Faith’ with you during this season of Lent. My mixed media work is often referred to as ‘rustic yet refined.’ I like this simple description because I am drawn to things that time has forgotten. My work is strongly influenced by the Japanese aesthetic of Wabi-Sabi. It is the beauty of things imperfect. This imperfection is part of the story. My visual vocabulary includes paint, pastels, paper, wax, images, metal, fabric, leaves . . . anything that catches my eye. My mediums are mixed but my intention of simple elegance is always clear. My goal is to quietly touch the lives of others.”

Mueller attended the Art Institute of Chicago and studied in Japan with master painters Shoko Ohto and Keiko Honjo. Her artwork has appeared in numerous magazines such as *Elle Decor*, *House Beautiful*, *Southern Living*, and others. Mueller is also the creator and host of the award winning cablevision television program *Art & Style*.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator





---

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

---

*continued from page 1*

you may know, he served as Yale's Chaplain during the Vietnam War, and then later became the Senior Minister at the Riverside Church in New York City. He never stopped arguing, fighting, advocating, or following Jesus. He was in jail on several occasions for his participation in civil rights and peace demonstrations. During one of those times, the man in the cell next to his, James Carroll, an ex-priest and author, remembers how dark it was in jail and how depressed and afraid he was.

He writes, "I have no idea what prompted him to do so, but at some point in the night, the man in the next cell began to sing, softly at first. His resonant baritone gradually filled the air as he moved easily into Handel's *Messiah* – 'Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people.' And then you recognized that the voice was William Sloane Coffin's. Others in the cell block joined their voices together – 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.' And gradually you felt the truth in your bones, that your Redeemer indeed 'liveth.' But more than that, you believed not only that your Redeemer had stood upon the earth once upon a time, but was with you right there."

Coffin's own credo about life and death was rather simple and elegant: "Before every birth and after every death, there is still God. The abyss of God's love is deeper than the abyss of death. Even if we don't know what lies beyond the grave, we do know who is beyond the grave."

The world is a different place because of Easter Day. The world is a theater of God's grace and love and reconciliation. It is a world full of God's surprises. It is a world, because God is stronger than death, where it makes sense to keep working for peace and justice regardless of long odds, a world where it makes sense to hold on and never abandon hope. For this is a world no longer in the grip of evil and death, but rather it is a world that is suddenly, surprisingly, and beautifully new, and a world that is filled with a joy that touches us in the deepest part of who we truly are.

May your Easter this year be filled with resurrection joy!

– Bob Culp

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

---

## MARCH SERVICES AND SERMONS

---

- Mar. 2 "Forgive Us Our Trespasses," Shannon White
  - Mar. 9 "Lead Us Not into Temptation," Bob Culp
  - Mar. 16 Palm Sunday  
"The One Who Rides into Our Midst"  
Bob Culp
  - Mar. 20 Maundy Thursday Service  
"Our Passover Meal"
  - Mar. 23 Easter Day  
"Resurrection in the Present Tense"  
Bob Culp
  - Mar. 30 "The Real Proof of Easter," Bob Culp
- 

---

## VALENTINE DINNER DANCE

---

On Friday evening, February 8, 64 fun-loving souls participated in our Valentine Dinner/Dance. From the blazing fireplace to the delicious food and wine to the spirited dancing it was a most memorable time. One highlight was the Middle Eastern water bottle drinking demonstration and contest led by our own Hadi Hajjar and guest Nagi Osta; eight brave souls attempted this challenging task and were rewarded with beautiful Neapolitan wine bottle holders provided by our generous benefactor Hadi.

– Ron Wilson

---

---

## CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

---

This year, thanks to Heather and Michael Sandifer, we will revive our Silent Auction at Christmas on Round Hill. It will be a small version of our popular event. We are looking for donations of tickets to sports and entertainment events and weekend or longer getaways. If you would like to contribute, please contact Heather or Michael.

Beginning March 5, workshops will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 in the upstairs room of the Community House to create crafts for Something Special. A calendar with more specifics will be sent out soon but please join Molly Cook for the first workshop to help cut canvas to make floor coverings. All are welcome; the more the merrier!



## MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

### Monster Trumpeter for Easter Prelude Sunday, March 23, 9:30 a.m.



In performers' jargon, a monster is a virtuoso possessing extraordinary skills on his instrument. Dominic Derasse is such a monster, and will perform the fiendishly difficult solo trumpet part in Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2* during the Easter Prelude on March 23, at 9:30 a.m. Written in 1721 for the court trumpeter Johann Schreiber, the work is still considered one of the most difficult in the entire repertoire. Its soaring tessitura, extending well into the heights of the flute range, makes any performance an exciting event; no other work in the brass repertoire fosters such a rich collection of performance "meltdown" tales. The chamber orchestra parts that accompany the trumpet lines are unequalled in their invention, daring, and exuberance.

Derasse graduated from the Paris Conservatory in 1979 with the First Prize, and went on to tour the world as a soloist and lecturer. He has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Paris National Opera, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Houston Grand Opera, and the Ensemble Inter-Contemporain under Pierre Boulez.

The second *Brandenburg Concerto* was chosen to be the first in a series of musical selections to be played on the "Golden Record," a phonograph recording containing a broad sample of planet earth's common sounds, languages, and music. The recording was sent into outer space with the Voyager Probe, launched in 1977 in hopes that some intelligent extraterrestrial species might find and decode its contents – clearly an example of shameless bragging.

– Christopher Kabala

### Choir to Present 20th-Century Choruses

#### March 2

Portions of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*

#### March 9

First chorus of Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*

### Enjoy Chamber Music on Round Hill

#### March 30, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return for their final concert of the season. Don't miss the renowned "Trout," Schubert's *Quintet in A major* for piano, violin, viola, cello, and bass. Other works on the program are by Mendelssohn and Ravel. A wine and cheese reception follows the concert. Call Carrie Finlayson, Suzy Simpson, or Louise Hoffman for information. Tickets are available at the door.

#### April 6, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

The Center for Chamber Music will feature Jonathan Biss, pianist. He debuted with the New York Philharmonic six years ago and has performed as soloist and chamber musician with the world's foremost orchestras. A champagne reception follows the program. Please call 661-6626 for concert details.

### Save This Date

**Friday, April 11  
8:00 p.m.**

### Opera Arias and Ensembles

Verdi, *Rigoletto*

Beethoven, *Fidelio*

Mozart, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Puccini, *Tosca*

Bizet, *Pearlfishers*

**Risa Renae Harman, Jenna Hintz,  
Patrick Hogan, Landon Bowie**

Tickets: \$25 Students \$5.00

Wine and Cheese Reception

Round Hill Community Church  
395 Round Hill Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831  
(203) 869-1091

Visit our website, [roundhillcommunitychurch.org](http://roundhillcommunitychurch.org) to view more pictures, read past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

| MARCH 2008 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH   |  |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
| 2<br>20th-Century Choruses<br>Sr. High Discussion<br>Youth Choir<br>Worship Committee       | 3<br>Fiction Writing Workshop<br>7:00 p.m.<br><br>Trustees' Meeting<br>8:00 p.m. | 4   | 5<br>Staff Meeting<br><br><b>Family Lenten Series</b><br>6 to 7:30 p.m.<br>Parlor | 6<br><br><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>8:00 p.m.   | 7  | 8   |
| 9<br>20th-Century Choruses<br>Meet the Architect<br>Mtg., 11:15 a.m.                        | 10<br><br>Fiction Writing Workshop,<br>7:00 p.m.                                 | 11  | 12  | 13<br><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>8:00 p.m.  | 14   | 15  |
| 16<br><b>Palm Sunday</b>  | 17<br>Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks   | 18<br><br>Keire Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.   | 19  | 20<br><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>Service/Supper<br>7:00 p.m., Parlor<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>8:00 p.m. | 21<br><b>Good Friday</b><br><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> | 22<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 a.m.<br><br>Easter Fellowship Setup, 12:30 p.m. |
| 23<br><b>Easter Sunday</b><br>Sr. High Discussion   | 24   | 25<br><br>Meditation,<br>7 p.m., Mtg. Rm.   | 26  | 27<br><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>8:00 p.m.  | 28<br><b>News Letter Deadline</b>                    | 29  |
| 30<br>Forum: Spiritual Parenting, 11:15 a.m.<br>GSO Chamber Players<br>4:00 p.m., Sanctuary | 31   | <b>“LEAP OF FAITH”</b><br><b>MIXED MEDIA BY LESLIE MUELLER</b><br><b>LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY</b><br><br><b>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL</b><br><b>SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.</b><br><b>CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</b> |   |   |  |   |