



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

March 2010

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Jesus' Temptations and Us – Our Shared Lenten Journey

Of Jesus' wilderness temptations (Luke 4:1-13), Barbara Brown Taylor writes, "It is, after all, the only way humans will ever learn what 'son of God' really means. A son of God is not someone who is related to God by rising out of his humanity, but someone who is beloved by God for sinking into it even when he is famished, even when he is taunted by the devil himself. It is someone who can listen to every good reason in the world for becoming God's rival and remain God's child instead."

While this is mainly a story about Jesus' identity, it is a story about who we are, as well. It's a story that nudges us to look afresh at the choices we make along our life journeys. It asks us to consider afresh all the choices and invitations, all the insistent requests and temptations to which we may say "yes" or "no," and it reminds us powerfully that our choices each day affect very much how we will live our lives, and how full or empty they may become. It's been said that our capacity to say "yes" and "no" is one of God's greatest gifts to us, except it is a gift many of us do not exercise. Instead, we prefer to believe that we are victims of circumstance, and so we let our freedom to choose atrophy, allowing ourselves to be carried along by this current or that.

The season of Lent, though, is a good time for us to build up our spiritual muscles, so to speak, by reflecting honestly about our own yesses and nos, as well as our need to make our choices more Christ-like every single day. Lent invites us to enter into the wilderness and to ask of ourselves the hard questions that solitude brings, especially about what we use to fill the empty place inside of us that belongs to God alone. Sitting by ourselves all alone at the kitchen

Music Sunday

Creation

March 7 10:00 a.m.

**Haydn, The Creation: Part I
Vaughan Williams, The Lark Ascending
Krystof Witek, violin**

**RHCC Choir and Soloists
with Chamber Orchestra
Christopher Kabala, conductor**

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In the Classroom

I want to thank **Alice Fisher, Alison Kistler, and Roland Kistler** for organizing and leading the events and lessons during the month of January. The hard work and care you all put in to every detail – from pancake breakfast cooking to classroom lesson research – was remarkable. Thank you for creating such meaningful and heartfelt lessons with our children!



February – Love of . . .

February brought forgiveness and love into the classroom as Roland and I led the lessons for this wintry month.

Why do we forgive?

This is the question we explored one Sunday as together we looked at the meaning of forgiveness and how it might affect the one who was hurt and the one who caused the hurt.

I had the children carry heavy books to represent the “offenses” that can weigh on our hearts – and some of them were relieved to “forgive” and get to the end of the exercise!



Valentine’s Day brings thoughts of romantic love. But on Sunday, February 14 at Church School we placed the romantic kind of love aside and set our minds thinking about what else we “love” in this world. Hard . . . at first!

Soon, so much love was in the air that I divided our list into “tangible” and “intangible” to make a distinction.

Love of sports . . . love of pets . . .
love of books . . . love of music . . .
love of Jesus . . . love of free speech . . .
love of parents . . .
love of the Constitution . . .
love of . . . God.



These became our words of love, our declarations, our Valentines on that day. We wrote these phrases and more on traditional pink and red paper hearts and then stapled them to a bulletin board in the hall for anyone to read. It’s Valentine’s Day in Church School. This is love . . . too.

– Eileen Brehm



HISTORY COMMITTEE



The History Committee is actively collecting and digitizing all formal and informal documents of the Round Hill Community Church to preserve them for posterity and improve access to them. You will be able to view the photos and documents in an album, and we would appreciate it if you would think of other photos or documents you may have at home that are related to the Church that you have not given us. We would be interested in photos, news clippings, committee reports, notices of events, legal or official documents, and other items that might have archival value and would add to the Church's collection.

The good news is that you will not have to part with them permanently. We will scan them into the computer and then return them to you. You should attach your name to the items you provide so we can return them to you. All items should be labeled and each photo should be accompanied by a piece of paper identifying the event and the persons pictured, if possible. If you cannot name all the people, let us borrow the photo anyway and we may be able to help find people in the church who know those who are depicted. We have a form that can be attached to each photo to assist in providing this information.

If you have such items or would like additional information about this, please contact either Win Adkins or Arto Szabo, our archivist, who is doing a wonderful job creating the computerized version of our church's history.

Thank you for your help.

– The History Committee

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



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, March 22, to ensure that your name and memorial(s) appear in the Easter Bulletin on April 4. For more information, call the office at 203-869-1091.

Name _____

Phone _____

Donation: \$25____ \$50____ \$100____ \$250____

Other _____

Memorial for Bulletin: _____

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



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Lenten Bible Study
Rev. Fleming Rutledge
Sundays, March 7, 14, 21
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Meeting Room

**“Theological Themes in 1 Corinthians:
Paul’s Approach to the Cross”**

We welcome the return of Rev. Fleming Rutledge who was with us last spring in a study of the Gospel of John. This year, we will look at some of Paul’s theology as it deals with the cross.

Fleming Rutledge is a preacher and teacher known throughout the mainline Protestant denominations of the United States, Canada, and parts of the United Kingdom. She is the author of six books and has received a grant from the Louisville Institute to complete a book about the meaning of the Crucifixion. Her website is www.generousorthodoxy.org.

One of the first women to be ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church, she served in parish ministry for 22 years. Fourteen of those years were spent at Grace Church on lower Broadway at Tenth Street in New York City. Her most recent position was as guest lecturer in preaching at the University of Toronto School of Theology.

A native of Franklin, Virginia, Rev. Rutledge and her husband, Reginald E. (Dick) Rutledge, recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

For those who want to come prepared, the first two sessions will cover 1 Corinthians, chapters 1 and 2, and the third session will cover chapter 15.

Monthly Meditation
Joel Baehr
Tuesday, March 9
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Meeting Room

Each month we focus on themes of compassion and love and then have an opportunity to discuss how the meditation affects our lives. Please invite your friends and join us.

Celebrate with Shannon and Peyton
Friday, March 12
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Parlor

Did you know that Shannon White and her daughter Peyton have written a book? They invite you to come celebrate with them the recent release of *How Was School Today? Fine*. It is a guide for parents and their elementary school-aged children to help them get beyond the one-word responses they so often face after school.

We are thrilled that parents, grandparents, guardians, friends, and those who care for children have found this book to be helpful in the initial weeks of its release.

We’ll talk a little bit about how the writing process helped us as mother and daughter. We’ll have copies for sale and be happy to sign them too! Bring anyone and everyone and join the fun. You’ll find us in the RHCC parlor.

Women’s Gathering

On Friday evening, January 22, 30 women enjoyed friendship, delicious food, and a stimulating discussion in our cozy Church Parlor. Our speaker, Louisa Stone, gave a heartwarming and thought-provoking talk on “giving and forgiving.” The evening left everyone with food for thought and a renewed feeling of camaraderie.

Please mark your calendars for our next dinner,
Friday night, May 7.

– Jan Ziemba and Grada Herrick



LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



The new exhibit at Les Beaux Arts Gallery, entitled “Shrink to Fit,” features a selection of miniature abstract paintings by Richelle Ivarsson, a Greenwich artist. The show opens on Sunday, February 28 and runs through April 5.

Ivarsson’s work focuses on the relationship between the grid pattern and plain fields of solid colors; the geometry of lines reflects pure elegant forms of modern design opening up endless possibilities for more playful and diverse compositions. Her approach entertains the idea that “the lines of the grid, like pasture fences, can be broken and trampled where they are weakest, freedom so gained feels boundless.” She feels that these small intimate paintings “find hope in the grids of Piet Mondrian and his legacy.”

Ivarsson studied traditional art at the Art Students League of New York between 1997 and 2002. Her early work was representational and included many landscapes. Eventually, she moved on to a more conceptual approach working with large paintings of acrylic on a patchwork of sewn together pieces of clothing used as canvas. Recently, and following her studies in the history of arts, her work took one step further, becoming very abstract and replacing the large size paintings with the miniatures that are displayed in the present show.

Ivarsson has exhibited extensively with the Art Societies of Greenwich. Her first solo in 2000 was

held at The Skyroom of Westfield Court in Stamford. She has won many awards from the Greenwich Art Society and the Art Society of Old Greenwich, where she is an active member. She also teaches art history at Norwalk Community College and is pursuing an MA in writing.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL



The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony hold their Sunday afternoon concerts in the Sanctuary of our church at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at the door. A wine and cheese reception follows in the Parlor where you can meet the musicians. Please invite your friends.

March 28

Featuring Jorge Caballero, Guitar



Beach

Theme and Variations for Flute and String Quartet, Op. 80

Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet, Op. 143

Boccherini

Quintet No. 9 for Guitar and String Quartet in C, G. 453 “La Ritirata di Madrid”



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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table, striving to succeed in an economy that seems to mock our every effort, thirsting for some sense of personal significance in a world where so many are neglected and forgotten, wandering amidst such desert experiences that may be ours . . . we may find ourselves wrestling with such searching questions as these:

- What is it that we reach for and believe will satisfy us in our needs?
- When we look at ourselves in the mirror, what do we see in it that we like most, and what do we see that we most deplore?
- If you had only one last message to share with the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in 25 words or less?
- Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo, and which is the one that makes you happiest?
- Is there any person in the world or any cause that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?
- If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear ourselves try to answer such questions as these is for us in our Lenten sojourn to begin to hear something not only of who we really are and are trying to become, but also to whom we really belong. The answers we formulate may be humbling, unsettling, even depressing all in all. But if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of such a journey, something like Easter may be at the end . . . and that is our hope and our promise.

We hope to see you in church – participating in our worship, music, fellowship, educational, and outreach and service ministries – along our shared Lenten journey toward Easter this year!

In Christ,
Bob Culp

MARCH SERVICES/SERMONS

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| March 7 | Music Sunday, “Creation” |
| March 14 | “Pouring Oneself Out ... for Jesus”
Bob Culp |
| March 21 | Shannon White preaching |
| March 28 | Palm Sunday
“At the End of the Parade,” Bob Culp |
| April 1 | Maundy Thursday Passover/Seder Meal
and Communion, 7:00 p.m. |
| April 4 | Easter Day
“Easter’s Loving Demand and Startling Promise,” Bob Culp |

**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.**

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



TRANSITION COMMITTEE

The Transition Committee has begun the process of visiting and contacting potential candidates for the position of Senior Minister and Interim Minister. If a visit is called for, at least two members of the committee travel to the candidate's church on a Sunday to attend a service during which he or she is preaching. The committee spends a considerable amount of time reviewing personal profiles and listening to, viewing, and/or reading sermons before making a decision to visit or contact a minister.

As a result of ads we have posted with seminars, United Church of Christ, and two magazines, we have been contacted by more than 25 ministers across the country and even beyond. Each of these ministers is considered and will be contacted concerning our decision.

We continue to believe that word-of-mouth recommendations are key to this process. Please let us know of anyone you know or hear of who may be a good fit for RHCC, whether or not they may currently be looking for a position.

Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns about the process. We welcome your input and ideas.

The Transition Committee:

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Michael Sandifer, mssandifer@gmail.com

Lawrence Sterne, lsterne@eaainc.com

WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday Worship/Dinner Service



On April 1, at 7:00 p.m., we are having a Maundy Thursday Communion Service that will have elements of a seder passover meal within it, led by Bob Culp, Shannon White, and Mirella Hajjar. They will share the story of Passover and the context it provides for Jesus' Last Supper (Communion). Afterward dinner will be provided by Hadi Hajjar and his helpers. A suggested donation of \$15 will be collected to help defray costs of the meal. Please RSVP by phone or email to the office. Reservations are required for dinner.



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.

MARCH 2010 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Writer's Workshop, 8 p.m. Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.	2 Writer's Workshop, 2 p.m.	3 Staff Mtg., 1 p.m. Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	4 Choir Rehearsal with GCE 8:00 p.m.	5	6 Music Sunday Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday in Lent 7 MUSIC SUNDAY Church School, 10 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m.	8 Writer's Workshop, 8 p.m.	9 Writer's Workshop, 2 p.m. Reading for Writers, 7 p.m. Meditation 7 p.m.	10 Women's Spirit Rising, 1 p.m. Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	11 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	12 Celebrate with Shannon and Peyton book signing 6:00 p.m.	13
4th Sunday in Lent 14 "Pouring Oneself Out...for Jesus," Rev. Culp, Church School, 10 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m.	15 Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m. Writer's Workshop, 8 p.m.	16 Writer's Workshop, 2 p.m. Membership Mtg. 6 p.m.	17 Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	18 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
5th Sunday in Lent 21 Shannon White preaching, Church School, 10 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m.	22	23 Writer's Workshop, 2 p.m. Reading for Writers, 7 p.m.	24 Craft Wkshp, 2 p.m.	25 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	26	27
Palm Sunday 28 "At the End of the Parade," Rev. Culp, Church School, 10 a.m. 4 p.m. GSO Chamber Players	30	31	LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: WORSHIP AND "SHRINK TO FIT" CHURCH SCHOOL PAINTINGS BY SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. RICHELLE IVARSSON CHILDCARE AVAILABLE			