



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

May 2009

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Adventures with Gemma and Jonah

This past week, our daughter Joanna and her husband Josh were able to spend a few days with us, along with their children, Gemma (who is two and a half) and Jonah, who is just about three months old now. It was for Kathy, Rebekah, and me a most delightful and gracious time.

All of us took turns holding Jonah, from time to time feeding and changing him, and simply watching him beneath his "jungle gym," opening wide his eyes to drink in all the sights. Whenever he would coo and smile broadly, we found ourselves with broad smiles ourselves, cooing along with him, and simply in awe of the miracle of human life . . . especially in one so precious and small. He is making very good progress at this point, and we are all so grateful for your prayers in his young life.

As for Gemma, well, what can I say? She is filled with such energy and curiosity, viewing each new day as a wondrous adventure to embrace and celebrate. She explored every inch of the church's playground, swinging high on the swings and gliding down the slides fearlessly. She and Josh played soccer ball tag on the front green, running up and down, falling down and getting up, and all the while giggling and laughing. And when she came inside, she snuggled in her Pop-Pop's lap with her favorite blanket and, with a smile on her face, sank into a restful nap in my arms.

In the presence of a playful Gemma and a restful Jonah, I felt I was on "holy ground" many times over the course of their visit with us. Beyond running outside and coloring inside, beyond reading pop-up books and rearranging dollhouse furniture, beyond playing catch with a soft soccer ball and chasing after rocket balloons, and experiencing in all this the sheer joy of young lives being touched by life's goodness . . . there were those quiet moments of simply looking upon their countenances and feeling such gratitude with all the future seemingly dancing in their

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RHCC Website

We have redesigned the Church website to be more user-friendly and appealing. We are planning a forum in the fall to demonstrate how and why to use the site, but we invite you to visit it this summer and give us your feedback. The address is the same at: www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org. The new version will be posted by mid-May. If you have questions or comments, please contact Lynda Kinney, Nancy Mazzoli, or Lawrence Sterne.

25th Anniversary Celebration A Night of Comedy



**Saturday, May 9
6:00 p.m.**

Round Hill Community House



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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twinkling eyes. To be in the presence of little ones and to feel their delight and wonder upon the rush of wind in the trees or the sight of puffy clouds in the sky, is truly a sacred experience.

Henri Nouwen has written that little children playing together show us the joy of just being together. He writes, "One day when I was very busy interviewing an artist whom I admire a lot, her five-year-old daughter said to me: 'I have made a birthday cake with sand. Now you have to come and pretend that you're eating it and that you like it. That will be fun!' The mother smiled and said to me: 'You'd better play with her before you talk with me. Maybe she has more to teach you than I have.'"

Somehow, the simple and unfettered joy of a little child reminds us that God seeks the places where there are smiles and laughter. For you see, smiles and laughter open the doors of the kingdom. And that's why, I suspect, Jesus calls us to be like little children.

My hope for you and yours in the coming months is that you will be found in our midst sharing your smiles and laughter during our days of worship and fellowship, our times of service and sharing. And as you venture forth along vacation pathways, may you and yours be filled with a childlike joy in being together . . . and in the presence of the Lord of Life.

Blessings and Peace,
Bob Culp

CONFIRMATION SERVICE: MAY 17

This year's class of ten seventh and eighth graders will be received on Sunday morning, May 17, during the 10:00 worship service. As the "sermon" that day, our young people will be sharing portions of their own "Letter to God," in which they describe their confirmation experiences this year, make personal affirmations of their faith and beliefs, share with us their own "Rule of Life" they are developing, and indicate their hopes and dreams in becoming members at Round Hill Community Church. We hope that all members of the Church will make a special effort to be in attendance that day in order to greet and welcome these new young disciples into our church's life!

SERVICES AND SERMONS

- May 10 25th Anniversary Service
Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future, Ralph Ahlberg
- May 17 Confirmation Service – Reception of
this year's Confirmation Class
- May 24 *Jesus' Night Visitor...and Us*, Bob Culp
- May 31 Pentecost, Shannon White preaching
The Sacrament of Communion

June through August Preachers:

- June 7, 14 Bob Culp
- June 21, 28 Anita Keire
- July 5, 19 Shannon White
- July 12, 26 Lynne Kramer
- August Bob Culp

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Church School Volunteers

Summer church school begins Sunday, June 14, and continues through August 30. We need twelve volunteers to teach one Sunday for forty-five minutes. The format is simple and the time you give will be appreciated. To sign up, check the dates listed below and contact Tom Mahoney.

- June 14, 21, 28
- July 5, 12, 19, 26
- August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

RHCC BOOK CLUB

The women who attended last month's Book Club meeting were greeted at the door by a smiling Edie Wilson dressed in a white blouse buttoned up to her chin with a shawl over her shoulders and a red paper cut-out of the letter A pinned to her chest. It was the perfect way to set the scene for our discussion of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Edie Wilson's house. We will be discussing *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*, by Eboo Patel. All women of the church are invited. Come and see what Edie decides to wear this time.

– Kerri Ann Hofer



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The Church Picnic is Sunday, June 7. Please join us.

Although the weather was cold, the sun was out on Easter Sunday, April 12. The turnout for the fellowship hour was great. Many people stayed for the full hour. Thank you to the church members who brought treats; they were delicious. We used a gallon of cream and were left with only a few cupcakes. Thanks to Clare DeNicola for the centerpieces, which were very creative and filled with lots of goodies and candy. Thank you to Diane Davol for setup. The room was festive with green and yellow tablecloths and paper goods. Adults and children really enjoyed themselves and many church members brought family with them. We loved having guests. Thanks to Lynda and Steve for all their help.

WORK CAMP 2009: NEW YORK CITY

The RHCC summer work camp is going to be unforgettable and you're invited to come be part of it. This year, we're heading into New York City from Thursday, August 6, to Sunday, August 9, to experience a side of the Big Apple you may not know well. Anyone from age 14 through adult is welcome to come be with us, but be prepared to be on the go!

We will be using Jan Hus Presbyterian Church on East 74th Street as our home base and participating in various programs including working overnight with the homeless on the streets and serving meals to those living with AIDS. We'll also participate in interesting worship services.

The cost will be under \$500. If you are interested and have questions, please contact Shannon White. We need firm commitments by May 30 at shannon@roundhillcommunitychurch.org or (203) 869-1091.

WORSHIP

We continue to work on revising our Communion Service with the hope of presenting a revised draft to the Board of Trustees shortly. Our committee will begin to create a list of goals for the coming year and welcome your suggestions.

— Marion Piro

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



Les Beaux Arts Gallery is wrapping up its season with an exciting exhibit by a local young artist, Maria Nielsen, the daughter of church members Kristian and Susanna Nielsen. The exhibit will open on Sunday, May 10, and run through June 16, 2009.

Nielsen was born in Svendborg, Denmark, and was raised in the United States. She studied the arts in Paris and earned her MFA from New York Academy of Arts, specializing in extensive studies of human anatomy and figure painting. She also went to Tuscany, where she studied landscape painting.

Nielsen has won numerous awards and prizes in juried shows. She has exhibited throughout the United States and Italy. Currently her work is being featured in an international traveling show entitled "Draw," which is now in San Francisco. As a fine art artist, she works on commission; her business "Memories in Oil" focuses on genre painting where she includes the portrait in a particular landscape setting. She is presently working on a memorial portrait for a family member.

Nielsen will show a variety of her paintings from portraits to landscapes and some of her drawings, which have the caliber of a great master. Her style is pure and serene in the European tradition.

— Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



The News Letter

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

Bob Culp
Minister
Shannon White
Assistant Minister

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.

MAY 2009 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Worship Committee meeting	4 7:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop 8:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	5 2:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop	6	7 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8	9 6:00 p.m. 25th Anniversary Celebration Community House
10 MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 a.m. Worship 25th Anniversary Service, R. Ahlberg	11 7:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop	12 2:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop 7:00 p.m. Meditation	13 12:00 p.m. Women's Spirit Rising 12:15 p.m. 2010 Calendar Planning	14 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. Worship Confirmation Sunday	18 Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks 7:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop	19 2:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop	20	21 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 2:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Workshop	27	28 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 10:00 a.m. Worship Pentecost 11:30 a.m. Emergency Responders Recertification	<div><div>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP HOUR CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</div><div>IN LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: MARIA NIELSEN PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS</div></div>					