



*Round Hill  
Community Church*

## *The News Letter*

*May 2006*

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### PASTORAL MESSAGE

#### **Developing a Culture of Welcoming Guests and Visitors**

Every week at Round Hill Community Church, we have wondrous personal opportunities to be vessels through whom God's accepting love is extended to those guests and visitors who come through our doors. Every week we have the chance to speak with our friends about the personal and spiritual meaning of our own involvement in the church's ministries and activities. Every week we encounter individuals who may be looking for a spiritual home in which they can deepen their faith experience and discover special handles by which they can steady and positively direct their steps along the bumpy and uncertain pathways in life. Every week we are invited by the Lord whom we worship to extend a warm word to all who feel led to be with us, so that our church may truly be a place where no one is a stranger and all are welcomed as friends within God's expansive family.

Every week . . . well, I am sure you can catch the drift of what I am seeking to say.

Church growth experts indicate that the primary reason people join the church has to do with the inviting and accepting relationships that gently draw them into a church's life. It may be an invitation to a Women's Gathering, or the offer to pick up a friend to attend the Men's Breakfast, or a suggestion to participate in the planning of a Christmas on Round Hill craft workshop, or the note sent to someone special telling them of your prayerful remembrance, or a meal delivered in a special time of need, or a phone call placed at just the right moment telling another person that you are planning to attend the worship service the next day and asking them to sit with you in your favorite pew. The key in all these is the relational context for the invitations – the existing friendships – and your desire to share something special that you have experienced in such church settings.

Think of your own experiences in coming to Round Hill Community Church. Who was that special someone who made you feel welcomed and affirmed? What did that person say or do that helped you overcome any reluctance or reservation, and enabled you to say "Yes" to the invitation to attend? What did it mean to you personally for you to know that you were with someone whom you knew and trusted, as you entered into a new situation? What did those new faces

*continued on page 4*

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### EASTER SERVICE AT RHCC



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### BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

For those interested in opportunities to serve those in need around the globe, local teams are being formed now for fall 2006 through Volunteers on Call in Greenwich.

#### **Costa Rica Project**

Volunteers on Call in Greenwich (VOC) will be returning to Costa Rica for the fourth time and would like to welcome you to be a part of this year's team. Through its field partners, VOC will be working with needy and orphaned children in the suburbs of San Jose.

*Monday, October 16, to Wednesday, October 25, 2006*

#### **Rwanda Project**

VOC is coordinating a great opportunity to help others globally meeting the needs of orphans, widows, vulnerable children, and HIV victims in Rwanda. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please contact Shannon White as soon as possible or email VOC to learn more and register to attend one of the planning meetings to share information about the upcoming trip, anticipated projects, commitment deadlines, cost, etc.

*Friday, September 22, to Sunday, October 1, 2006*

If you are 18 or older and are interested, please contact Shannon White immediately or go to [www.volunteersoncall.org](http://www.volunteersoncall.org).



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Easter at the Church School

What a beautiful sunny day God gave us for Easter this year! We at the Church School were so happy to share our tree mural with the rest of the congregation in the service. Thank you to all the students who came and participated in the many activities of the day.



After presenting our Lenten Tree in the service, we went to the classrooms where everyone colored Easter eggs with their classes. Then, in small groups, all students participated in an Easter Egg Hunt outside behind the Church. The seventh/eighth grade class led the hunt for the younger students and I am so glad to have their energy and happiness in helping make the Egg Hunt fun for the younger students.



Thank you especially to Gina and Michelle Feghali for taking the lead in running the Egg Hunt. Then, during the fellowship hour in the Community House, the students were busy assembling care packages for young children in Mississippi who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. The packages will be sent to two churches in the town where Round Hill members recently went on a mission trip.

And now that spring is officially here, we have a new group of wonderful Church School teachers who will be leading students in learning Bible stories, which will include Luke 24, and several stories from Acts. Happy spring and new life to everyone!

– Eileen Brehm



### Save the Rain Forest!

On May 14 the children of the Church School will be holding their annual fundraiser. This year they will try to help preserve the rain forest in Central America. You will be able to sponsor acres of rain forest and a variety of rain forest animals. Fair trade products will also be for sale.

We hope that all children can come to participate in the preparations on Sunday, May 7, and for the day of the fundraiser, May 14. See you all there!



*Members and friends of the Christian Education committee gathered for a festive evening at the Wacks' home. Parents and friends of Church School-aged children spent time getting to know one another and enjoying the Wacks' hospitality.*





## CHURCH SCHOOL SUMMER SUNDAYS



The regular Church School year will soon come to an end, and Eileen is busy planning ahead for the summer. As always, the summer is a great opportunity for all members of the congregation to become involved in teaching and getting to know the children and teens in our congregation.

You might be interested in sharing stories from your own lives that connect with a particular Bible-centered theme or you might be more comfortable sharing a story from our easy-to-teach Bible Quest curriculum. Or maybe you'd just like to assist in one of the sessions. We have something for everyone who might be interested in meeting our young ones!

So please start thinking about signing up to participate for one Sunday (or more!) of summer Church School this year. Details and sign-up sheets will be in the mail soon.

– Annette Grueterich and Alexandra Heerd  
Christian Education Co-chairs



## THE WISDOM OF OUR YOUTH

We all know the Bible story of the little boy who shared his fish and loaves with the crowds where Jesus was teaching. Because of his generosity, a miracle happened . . . the crowd not only had enough, there were basketfuls left over.

Several weeks ago, during a youth message in worship, I put a challenge out to the children of RHCC. I pulled out a handful of dollar bills and handed them out to each child. Their assignment? To see how many people they could help with one dollar. The idea being that if they shared what they had, it would go much further than they could ever dream.

Two weeks later, on Palm Sunday, several of the children shared their ideas:

Annina Eggenschwiler mounted her dollar on paper and said that she would send it to the Food Bank to join with others, since so many people need food.

Madison Heath added to her dollar by working at her house, and at a neighbor's house to make even more money to give away.

Peyton White bought seeds with her dollar to grow cucumbers to give away to those who are hungry.

William Green and his friend bought paper with their dollar and made baskets that they sold to make more money to give away.

Emma Heerd learned that there is a kind of gnat that bites people in different parts of the world, making them sick. After doing some research on the Internet, Emma found some nets that she could buy for a few cents each that would prevent people from being bitten.

Others told me they gave their dollars to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

The creative and generous spirit of our youth gave new meaning to me about Jesus' words, "If you want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, you must become as a child."

–Shannon White



*Families and friends gathered in the Parlor for a Maundy Thursday supper after a brief service*



## PASTORAL MESSAGE

*continued from page 1*

reflect to you . . . as they greeted you, as they extended their handshakes and hugs, as they shared their names and circumstances, and as they who were strangers slowly became your friends?

Now . . . think what would happen within our church family if we were to develop even further such a welcoming culture within every single group in our church's diverse ministries – intentionally reaching out to others through our church school classes, our choirs, our worshiping congregation, our Men's and Women's groups, our many Trustee committees, the various fellowship events that occur throughout the year, the mission and outreach projects we support. What if every single member were to identify just one person or one family who may be searching for a new spiritual home, and dared to invite them to attend a church function of some kind, whether on Sundays or on another day of the week? And what if these individuals were to experience what we ourselves experienced when we were welcomed by the special family of faith known as Round Hill Community Church?

My strong suspicion is that if our welcoming culture were to be further developed by the loving efforts of all our members, we would witness not only growth in the numbers of participating individuals, but most importantly we would all experience dynamic growth in the spirit of our church . . . the spirit of our Living Lord.

I invite your faithful participation in such efforts. And I am confident that God will bless our church family as we seek to share with others the One whom we are coming to know better and deeper in our life together.

– Blessings and Peace . . . Bob Culp

## RETREAT BY THE SEA

### **By the Sea, By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea**

You and me . . . (and eight other wonderful women from RHCC) . . . June 7 and 8. We welcome you to participate in our fourth retreat at the Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut. It will be a time for reflection, meditation, yoga, walks on the beach, swimming (we did last year!), playful exploration, laughter, and sharing a special time with one another. All are welcome but the space is limited to ten people. The cost will be approximately \$170, which includes food, lodging, and activities. Please call Beth Wright at 622-6338 to reserve your place by the sea.

## MUSIC NOTES

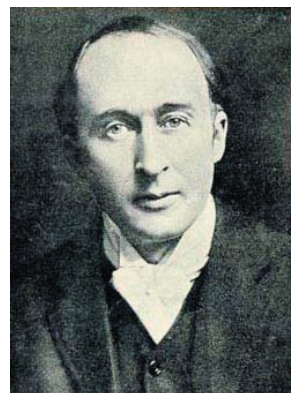
*The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Frederick Delius's *Sea Drift* will be the principal works performed as the Round Hill Community Church celebrates Music Sunday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. The church is the perfect venue for these works celebrating nature and spring.

During the early part of the 20th century, England enjoyed a "second renaissance" as composers such as Delius and Vaughan Williams wrote works celebrating the beauties of Britain's bucolic countryside. Often a lush post-Wagnerian symphonic vocabulary was meshed with English folk melodies producing a tonal palette that was both sophisticated and welcoming. *The Lark Ascending*, scored for solo violin and orchestra, offers an impressionistic image of the lark, soaring in aerial rings over the landscape, interlacing virtuosic figures in the violin part with English folk tunes.

The violin part will be played by the Bulgarian violinist Vesselin Gellev, whose ensemble Antares was winner of the 2002 Concert Artist Guild International Competition. Gellev has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, Japan, Mexico, and the U.S., and is concert master of the Absolute Ensemble, with which he has recorded four CDs. He also performs as concert master of the Juilliard Orchestra and of the Spoleto Festival Orchestra in Italy, and was featured as soloist in Philip Glass's *Violin Concerto* and Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* at Lincoln Center during the 2000-2001 season. His performances have been broadcast live on WNYC and National Public Radio's "Performance Today" series in Washington, D.C.

Frederick Delius's dramatic *Sea Drift* was written in 1903, when he was at the height of his career. Based on a portion of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," the poignant setting of the poem paints somber-hued images of love, the sea, and death as Whitman observes two mating birds – the male's bewilderment following the death of the female becoming analogous to the human experience of loss and grief. Delius's eloquent and inspired setting of the text was written for chorus, orchestra, and baritone solo.

Landon Bowie, the baritone soloist, made his Carnegie Hall debut with Aprile Millo and the Opera Orchestra of New York and was first prizewinner in the Liederkranz Wagner Competition.



*Frederick Delius*



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## WOMEN'S GATHERING

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Our last dinner was held at the home of Carol and Steve Memishian. It was a lovely spring evening and the house and tables were decorated with daffodils and other spring flowers from Carol's garden. Her staff was wonderfully organized and the evening flowed smoothly and was enjoyed by all thirty-five of our group.

The audience was spellbound by Susan Sterne's talk. What an impressive career and background! We are indeed fortunate to have her as treasurer of our Church and thank her for sharing her life journey with us. It is amazing that we have such talent among the women of RHCC.

### May 19 – Speaker Mary G. Hull

Our final dinner of the year will be at Carrie Finlayson's on Friday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. We had eagerly waited to hear our original speaker, Ella Szabo, but she is unable to join us this month. We wish Arto a speedy recovery and the thoughts and prayers of the Women's Gathering go out to both of them.

Mary Hull was on our list of speakers for next year and she graciously agreed to accelerate her appearance. She will talk to us about her background and many contributions to the beautification of Greenwich. Also, Mary has been attending our church since 1959 and plans to pass along little known stories about our origins and history. We are very grateful that she is able to share her time with us, especially since it is on the eve of Green and Clean's townwide cleanup.

Join us for appetizers and wine overlooking the pool on a beautiful May evening. The dinner is potluck, so look for our flyer and RSVP to Lynda at 869-1091. Childcare will be available on site.

Carrie Finlayson and Dee Lewis, Co-chairs

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## LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

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Oil paintings by former Greenwich resident Milton F. (Bob) Campbell will be on display at Les Beaux Arts Gallery May 5 through June 12. Milton practiced ophthalmology in Greenwich from 1967 to 2000, established Greenwich Ophthalmology Association in 1970, and was Director of Ophthalmology at Greenwich Hospital from 1985 to 2000.

Campbell began his art career after retiring in 2000. He honed his technique through studies at Silvermine in New Canaan, Frog Hollow Art Center in Middlebury, Vermont, and at Vero Beach Art Museum in Florida. An avid outdoorsman, Campbell loves fishing, hunting, hiking, and bird watching.

His passion is painting oils, trying to place on canvas the beauty of the outdoors and the birds and animals that he has observed for so long. His work mixes realism with impressionistic features for a more pleasing creation.

Previously, his paintings have been shown in Middlebury and Cornwall, Vermont, and in Vero Beach and Orchid, Florida.

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## MEN'S GROUP

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On Sunday, April 23, the Men's Group was entertained by Hooker O'Malley. Hooker told us of the exploits of his father Ernie O'Malley, who fought alongside Michael Collins in Ireland's struggle for independence from England. We were all fascinated by the tale of this pivotal period in Irish history. To add to the theme of the morning we had a light breakfast of soda bread and scones.

Our next meeting will be on May 21, when we will hear about a program involved with integrating former prisoners back into society.

– Ron Wilson, Jr.

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## CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Christmas on Round Hill workshops will be open for business this month. We have set up a room in the basement with projects that will be sold at the Something Special table. Our inventory will depend on the amount of participation from our members and friends. We invite people to come in on Monday mornings and bring friends to create a social time while we work. There will be someone to supervise the projects on Mondays, but anyone can work in the room any other day of the week as well. Come and see how you may like to use your creative energy!

Workshops of more labor intensive and complicated items like themed tabletop Christmas trees will be scheduled for the summer and fall and we will publicize those dates.

We are also looking for captivating and unique ideas for our Silent Auction, to be held on Friday, December 1, during the Christmas on Round Hill party. Please contact Lynda Treadwell or Hadi Hajjar if you have ideas.

We invite church members who may be interested in selling their own goods on Friday and Saturday to contact us for information.

We hope to see you at our workshops. Please let us know about any ideas you may have to contribute.

– Nancy Mazzoli, Chair

## MAY SERVICES AND SERMONS

- Sunday 7 Music Sunday – A brief meditation by Bob Culp, with the choir sharing the major message in the service
- Sunday 14 *The Ultimate Connection*, Shannon White
- Sunday 21 Confirmation Sunday – A brief meditation by Bob Culp, with the Confirmation Class members sharing portions of their Statements of Faith
- Sunday 28 *The Purpose of Our Living*, Bob Culp

## MAY IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday 7 Confirmation Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Parlor
- Sunday 14 Mother's Day  
Church School Rain Forest fundraiser
- Monday 15 Cooking for St. Luke's
- Friday 19 Women's Gathering Potluck Supper
- Sunday 21 Men's Group Breakfast  
New Members Dinner, 6:30, Parlor
- Monday 29 Memorial Day – Church Office closed