



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

November 2007

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

November – A Month Filled with Blessings



Pastor Bob Culp

November has always been a special month for me. When I was growing up, it was the month when we celebrated the birthdays of both my mother and father. It was the time when the Punxsutawney Chucks would play their arch rivals, the Dubois Beavers, and usually put up a good

fight, sometimes even winning! It was the time when I would spend many afternoons in the backyard raking leaves and thoroughly enjoying the crisp air all around as other neighborhood boys would combine all our leaves into one huge pile for all kinds of backyard games, which usually involved jumping from tree branches and landing to such delightful crunching sounds. It was the month, too, when I would make my own calendar with construction paper and crayons and put it on my desk so that I could keep track, one by one, of the days left until those most magical of moments arrived – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Indeed, I can remember hayrides and pumpkins, hot chocolate and marshmallows, pilgrim candles and felt pilgrim outfits for school plays. I can remember waking up to six inches of snow one Thanksgiving morning when we were visiting my grandparents in West Virginia, and several Thanksgivings when I was able to play football outside with the whole neighborhood. I can remember walking home from the clothing store downtown where I worked in high school, and looking up to see the Christmas lights strung above Punxsutawney's Main Street and lighting the way home in the glow of green and red bulbs. I can remember roasted turkeys and sweet potato casseroles, chestnut stuffing and cranberry sauce, mashed pota-

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Catching the Spirit of Community

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, it seems fitting to express our appreciation for the vitality and variety of activities we have available at Round Hill Community Church. Some are long-standing traditions, such as the Harvest Supper and Christmas on Round Hill. Others, like the Blessing of the Animals, are more recently conceived events. Each appeals to different members of our congregation and some attract people (and animals) who do not attend our church.

We are fortunate to have a membership that values these enterprises and contributes the energy and enthusiasm necessary to make them successful. As a community of faith we value our worship service on Sundays but also draw comfort and strength from the fellowship associated with the wide range of other

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Christmas on Round Hill



Party – Friday, November 30

Eat • Drink • Shop • Be Merry
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 1

Shopping • Train Rides
Children's Activities • Santa Pictures
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Teacher Thanks

Thanks to the parents, high school students, and guests who helped with our October lessons:

- Annette Grueterich, Laura Huley, and Megan Mahoney for the art lesson;
- Alexandra Heerdt for the Bible lesson;
- Jonny Duennebier for the music segment;
- Elizabeth Robinson of Sekolo Projects for the mission project.

Music

The third Sunday of the month we will use music to enhance our Bible lessons. Think about it: which do you have more of in your memory – Bible verses or verses of hymns? Music is central to who we are as worshipers and how we express praise. In the music rotation we seek to teach the Bible, using a child’s own creativity, through the medium of music, and in so doing lead the child to offer God praise. It is not the intent of this initiative to learn or create music that will be performed. Rather it is to expose children to a wide variety of music, and in so doing help them find their own voice in praise. Our Church School music leader is Jonny Duennebier – a junior at Brunswick. He was a great hit with the children in his October debut teaching the children two contemporary pieces.



Jonny Duennebier helping in a Church School class

Jonny will be with us again on November 18, when we sing music from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Advent Workshop



The Advent Workshop is scheduled for Sunday, November 25, in the Community House. Come join the festivities – wreath making, decorating the Angel Tree, Yule Log lighting, and singing Christmas carols. To reserve a place for the Advent Workshop, complete the form below and return by November 4 to Tom Mahoney or send him an email at tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

Advent Workshop
Sunday, November 25

Family Name_____

of adults attending_____

of children attending_____

I am willing to help with the Advent Workshop:

____wreath making

____bring an hors d’oeuvre

____Yule Log lighting

____carol leader

____reader

____other



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Pageant



We are looking forward to the children presenting this Round Hill Community Church tradition on Sunday, December 9. By mid-November we will assign roles for the pageant.

There will be two rehearsals:

Sunday, December 2, during Church School
Saturday, December 8 (time to be announced)

Our pageant will be directed by Helen O'Malley and assisted by a wonderful cast of characters.

To have your child participate in the Christmas Pageant, complete the form below and return by November 4 to Tom Mahoney or send him an email at tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

2007 Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 9

Child's Name _____

Age _____

Child's Name _____

Age _____

Child's Name _____

Age _____

Parent's Name _____

Phone _____

_____ I am willing to help with the Pageant.

MUSIC NOTES

The Chamber Players Honor Veterans Day

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony will return to RHCC on Sunday, November 11, at 4:00 p.m. The program features works by Mozart, Schulhoff, Villa-Lobos, and Dvořák. A wine and cheese reception follows the concert where the audience can meet with friends and visit with musicians. Tickets are available at the door. Also, please ask about their "Holiday Special" and the opportunity to purchase and give discounted tickets to music-loving friends. For additional information, please call Carrie Finlayson at 869-4661.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of health screenings, has been saving lives through preventive health screenings since 1993. They will be coming to Round Hill Community Church on Tuesday, January 15, to perform screenings for stroke, aneurysms, and peripheral arterial disease as well as an osteoporosis screening. Individual tests are \$35 to \$45 each. Package pricing is available. For more information or to reserve a time, please call (800) 324-1851. Blood testing is also available for cholesterol and glucose, as well as a new atrial fibrillation test.

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.

Check the calendar on our website
roundhillcommunitychurch.org
for the most current information on events
at RHCC. Click on *Calendar* under "Topics."
Then click on an event for times and details.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Forum: Practicing Prayer **Sunday, November 4, 11:15 a.m.**

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and Advent's Incarnation you are invited to an experience of prayer:

"A few weeks ago, I heard an amusing and vital description of the call to spiritual practice: if we don't 'practice' our faith, we're like a person who walks around waving a doctor's prescription in the air without ever getting it filled; we 'know' what to do but we're not connecting up with the very medicine that's meant to heal us.

I invite you to join me on November 4 for a bit of actual practice of prayer, in which we will consider and experience a three-fold approach: settling into our bodies, quieting our minds, and opening our hearts. We will be guided by biblical 'breath' stories (Genesis and Ezekiel) and urged deeper by the *2 Corinthians 4* talk of 'treasure in earthen vessels.'"

— Rev. Sue Boudier

Sue Ellen Boudier, ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1980, has specialized in ministries of spirituality and wellness for over 20 years – with a unique approach to spiritual counseling that includes therapeutic touch and heart-centered therapy.

She has served as pastor of nearly a dozen congregations and she has also worked as chaplain in the arenas of psychiatric care and oncology. Sue is currently working on a multi-faith doctoral program at New York Theological Seminary.

Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark **Sunday, November 18, 11:15 a.m.**

Back by popular demand, Rev. Susan DeGeorge will lead us in the third and final fall study of the Gospel of Mark. Come and get your seat early!

Advent Workshop **Sunday, November 25, 4:00 p.m.**

There will be activities for all ages as we begin the season of incarnation. See details on page 2.



Nicaragua, Anyone?

We have an opportunity to join a group of adults already committed to going to Nicaragua in March to build more houses. If you are interested in being part of a small group from RHCC to join them, please speak to Shannon White as soon as possible.

The dates would be March 2 to 9. More details will follow.

Childcare is available for all Sunday events.

CATCHING THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

activities that occur throughout the year.

We are equally grateful for the more than 70 people who either chair or sit on the twenty-plus committees that guide the programs and activities of the church. Since we are an independent institution, we rely on our members to provide the leadership and direction for our everyday and long-term operation. Many of those people also serve on our Board of Trustees, who are entrusted with the major decision-making process

for the church.

Each of us has different gifts and strengths, and using them together, we are a strong and vital community whose members support one another as well as the larger community and world.

So, during this season of Thanksgiving, we proclaim our appreciation to all who give of their time and talent within our congregation.

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CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Fabulous Food

Nancy Lane has held workshops every week in the Community House kitchen with an enthusiastic group of “foodies” to work on whimsical candy wreaths, penny candy bags, and irresistible jar cookie mixes. There is a new project every week and they are looking for donated baked goods for the fair. If you are interested in contributing one of your favorites, please contact Lynda in the office. Do join in Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 to create some delicious Fabulous Food.

Something Special

We have been working on gifts for people young and old: children’s stools (turtles, rabbits, chickens, and giraffes); hand-painted wooden nativity sets; stockings and tree skirts; hand-crafted snow globes; hand-made and painted dollhouses; Messages in a Box (notepads); faux finished boxes and trays; hand-crafted hair ornaments and tree ornaments; decorated tabletop trees and wreaths; and gift baskets. Thanks to all who have given their time to these projects.

We are happy to welcome back most of the members and friends of the church who sold their hand-made crafts last year. We look forward to seeing Olivia Buss and Merritt Piro (jewelry), Kathy Munro (fleece blankets), Heather Sandifer (original designs), Shannon White’s mother (children’s costumes), and Weed House (Christmas ornaments), as well as a few new participants including Carroll Sherer who will be selling her memoir, Nancy Meek and her Stratton Hill tart cherry products, a friend of Rhona Johnson’s who makes precious baby clothing, and a friend of Marilyn Hammond’s with afghans.

Living Greens

There will be a festive selection of potted plants, dried topiaries, and decorations for the live wreaths that are sold by the Boy Scouts on Saturday.

Treasure Trove

Jean Bergstresser and Leigh Grant (with their faithful group of “assistants”) will gather, inventory, price, and display a wide array of “recycled” treasures that you can’t find anywhere else. Be sure to get to them early for the best selection!

For information on workshops, watch your email, the church bulletin, or contact the Church Office.



CELL FACILITY UPDATE

On February 6, the Connecticut Siting Council approved Verizon’s application to construct a cell phone transmission facility in the woods behind the Community House on land owned by our church. On April 3, two neighbors of the church filed a lawsuit against the Siting Council and Verizon in the Connecticut Superior Court, seeking to have the court overturn the February 6 Siting Council approval. These two neighbors also asked the Siting Council to reopen the docket related to the February approval; on June 7, the Siting Council denied this motion to reopen. On June 25, the Superior Court dismissed the neighbors’ lawsuit. The neighbors did not appeal this dismissal.

In April, Verizon filed an application for a Building Permit with the Town of Greenwich. Substantial discussions took place between Verizon and the town during the course of the spring and summer; the permit was issued on September 17. Verizon immediately thereafter began construction of the facility.

The Building Permit having been issued, rent to the church from Verizon and the other cell phone providers became payable on October 1.

As of October 22, the road and the facility site have been cleared; most of the gravel for the road has been laid; a portion of the concrete foundation has been poured. Electrical service to the facility will be underground; the trenching for this underground service will begin shortly, and will be somewhat disruptive when it begins. Additional work will include the construction of the building and fences, the erection of the two towers (the towers are fabricated off-site and trucked to the facility), additional grading, and installation of the electronic equipment. Weather permitting, Verizon hopes that the facility will be in service by the early part of 2008. Restorative plantings will be made in the spring of 2008.

Mary Hull, Art Landi, and Joe Pellegrino all have volunteered to oversee different aspects of the cell facility’s construction. Lynda Kinney serves as the day-to-day contact with Verizon and with the general contractor. If anyone has any questions, concerns, or ideas about the construction as it progresses, feel free to contact any of these individuals, or me.

– Ken Bartels



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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toes loaded with melted butter, green bean casseroles, and Mom's pumpkin pies with real whipped cream.

I have many special remembrances of Thanksgiving, and I suspect you, too, can remember more than a few events during the Thanksgiving season for which you have lifted your hearts in glad thanksgiving to the Lord of Life for all those blessings surrounding your lives.

Last year, Kathy and I sat around the Thanksgiving table at our eldest daughter Joanna's home, and we recounted some of the blessings we had experienced just in the month of November – the wedding of our middle daughter Cecily to Mike (11/5), the birthday of Joanna (11/9), the arrival of a healthy Gemma Kathryn into the lives of Joanna and Josh and our families (11/11), the birthday of Cecily (11/14), the birthday of Mike (11/16) – “Four Birthdays and a Wedding” – a movie possibility? . . . and we all found ourselves veritably overwhelmed with gratitude.

This November I am lifting my heart in thanksgiving not only for these special family blessings by which our lives have been and continue to be uniquely enriched, but also for the extraordinary blessing that is known as Round Hill Community Church.

There is a special spirit at work in our midst as a church family. It is seen in the smiling children that comprise our Sunday School, in the tender embraces of friendship every Sunday in the Narthex welcomes, as well as those hugs and conversations around the Parlor Table following worship. It is seen in the significant commitment our church family has toward mission, adult education and spiritual development, and the growing numbers and increased financial giving we have witnessed in support of such ministries. It is seen in the expansive music ministry and the excellent music programs available in our Sanctuary. It is seen in the glad appreciation and joyful support shown to our leaders in their meticulous attention to detail in the various renovations in our Sanctuary building, and the fun time we had for a few weeks worshipping together in the Community House while such work was being done. And it is seen in the craft workshops for Christmas on Round Hill, where I have witnessed such wonderful fellowship and joy and laughter among all those giving of

themselves in such creative ways.

Ah, yes! November is a special month! And I pray it may be for you and yours a time when you give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings you have known and by which your lives continue to be enriched beyond all telling.

Blessings and Peace . . . Bob

NOVEMBER SERVICES AND SERMONS

Nov. 4 *Surrounded by a Cloud of Witnesses*
Bob Culp

Nov. 11 *Unsearchable Greatness*
Shannon White

Nov. 18 *Learning to Speak Another Language*
Bob Culp

Nov. 28 *The Kingdom God Offers Us*
Bob Culp

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

November 18

We are excited to share with you that our church will be receiving new members on Sunday, November 18, during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. If you are led in the direction of making Round Hill Community Church your church home, or if you know of those who may be interested in exploring church membership, please indicate this to Bob Culp or Shannon White.

An “Inquirers’ Gathering” will be held on Sunday morning, November 4, in Bob’s office beginning at 11:20 for those wishing to explore membership here. Our church receives new members by Letter of Transfer, Reaffirmation of Faith, and Profession of Faith, and those joining may retain primary church membership elsewhere if they so choose.



WOMEN'S GATHERINGS

We have had two wonderful gatherings this fall. The first was on Friday, September 28, at the house of Marion and Phil Piro, who graciously opened their home to over thirty women from the church and their friends. We enjoyed the dishes of the many great cooks in the group. We thank all of you who brought food, wine, and helped with setup and cleanup.



Then we listened to a conversation with Bunny Prokop, who talked about her very fascinating life as a teacher and as a lawyer in corporate law. She was one of the early women to break through the “glass ceiling” and work in areas of law and finance that had previously seen few women.



We had summer weather for our brunch on Sunday, October 24, at the home of Mary and Lloyd Hull, where we enjoyed Mary’s lovely garden and sat outside in the sun. We had a great selection of quiches, salads, and desserts.



Lyn Harmon talked to a rapt audience about Mindfulness (or being aware of your present moment). She told us how widely it is permeating our society, into leadership, education, medicine, and many other fields. She then led us in a short meditation and sought the reactions afterward of those in the group who were perhaps new to meditating and those who practice it more often.



Now we are turning our attention to the Christmas Fair and the holiday season, and will gather again in January for a dinner in the Parlor at the Church.

We are very grateful to the Piro and the Hulls for their hospitality.



– Marilyn Hammond and Rhona Johnson

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

The News Letter

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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.

NOVEMBER 2007 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE RICHARD LEVINE: ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPES AT LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY				Faux Finish 1 Workshop, 9 a.m. Community House All Saints' Day Service, 11 a.m. RH Cemetery Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	2	3
4 Ornaments Workshop, 11:45 a.m. Church Basement	5 Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	6	7 Staff Meeting	8 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	9 	10 Hair Ornaments Workshop, 1:00 p.m. Church Basement
11 Worship Committee Meeting, 11:15 a.m. GSO Chamber Players 4 p.m., Sanctuary	12 	13 Keire Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m. Meeting Room Benevolence and Outreach Mtg. 8 p.m.	14 	15 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	16 	17
18 BIBLE STUDY Gospel of Mark 11:15 to noon	19 Newsletter Deadline Cooking for St. Luke's	20 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	21 	22 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 ADVENT WORKSHOP 4 p.m. Community House	26 	27 	28 	29 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	30  CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL PARTY 6 to 9 p.m. Community House	December 1  CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.