



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

October 2006

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Becoming a Practicing Congregation

Diana Butler Bass has written that in our age “practicing congregations” are experiencing new vibrancy through a re-appropriation of historic Christian practices and a sustained communal engagement with our Christian narrative of God’s love in Christ. When pressed to describe such practicing congregations, she writes that these are “communities that choose to rework church tradition in light of local experience in order to create a web of practices that transmit identity, nurture community, cultivate mature spirituality, and advance mission.” Such practices, she notes, “provide meaning and enliven a sense of spiritual connection to God.”

As you consider the rich variety of programs and ministries described within this newsletter and that can be found upon our church’s website, I believe that Round Hill Community Church is inviting our members and friends to engage in a fulfilling array of “practices” that do indeed “transmit identity, nurture community, cultivate mature spirituality, and advance mission.” Though we are a relatively small church when it comes to our numbers, we are a big church in terms of our commitment to becoming a faithful “practicing congregation.”

One of these important practices is that of “Sabbath-Keeping.” When we are encouraged to “remember the Sabbath,” we are being invited to remember that everything we have received is a blessing; to remember to delight in our lives, in the fruits of our labors; to remember to stop and offer thanks for the wonder of it all. To remember the Sabbath is not simply a life-style suggestion. It is a spiritual precept in most of the world’s spiritual traditions. Sabbath-keeping honors the necessary wisdom of dormancy, the need for us human beings to lie fallow, to receive rest, to listen deeply to the rhythms of our hearts and the yearnings of our spiritual hungers. Just as in the plant world, a lack of dormancy produces confusion and erosion in our life forces.

Wayne Muller puts it this way: “We, too, must have a period in which we lie fallow, and restore our souls. In Sabbath time we remember to celebrate what is beautiful and sacred; we light candles, sing songs, tell stories, eat and converse together, and share love. It is a time to let our work, our lands, our animals lie fallow, to be nourished and refreshed.

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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 15: A Service to “Bless the Animals”

Coinciding with the birthday of St. Francis of Assisi, our morning worship on October 15 will focus on God’s gifts of animals, to give thanks for the role that animals have held in our lives, and to reaffirm our responsibilities as stewards of God’s creation. Everyone is invited to come with or without a pet. The service will be held in the Community House beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will be 30 to 40 minutes long.

All pets are welcome, but please consider the wisdom of bringing aggressive animals (you might consider bringing a picture instead). Pets may be kept in carriers, cages, or on a leash during the service. Large animals are also welcome, but must be led (for example, horses must not be ridden), and there will be a holding area available outside. Clean-up aids and water will be available.

There will be a special part of the service to remember those pets who have died. You may wish to bring a picture or stuffed animal in their memory.

We need your help so that everyone has a safe and worshipful experience. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Special treats for all species at coffee hour (humans included): dog and cat treats, birdseed, carrots, etc.
- Setup of holding area for larger animals and water stations for smaller animals
- Assistance at holding area during service
- Clean-up aides

All are welcome. Please invite your friends!



Rally Day 2006



THE CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

The new school year has begun with September's focus on Peace. Students learned about International Peace Day (September 21), and in the Art workshop they made pinwheels out of their drawings of peace – a simple project that children around the world did as well. They also drew pictures of peace images from quotes they discussed. In the Bible Literacy Workshop we discussed “blessed are the peacemakers” and came up with our own characteristics of a peaceful person. Children learned how in everyday life situations there can be positive and peaceful choices to make. October's focus is “The Beatitudes.” Children will become familiar with these through the Art, Bible Skills, Movie, and Story workshops. A big thank you to October's teachers: Annette Grueterich, Ken Hammond, Jennifer Burraway, and Laura Wack.



Peace pinwheels to celebrate International Peace Day

Children for Change

The milk can is starting to fill up! Children are collecting their coins through the week and dropping them in the big white milk can each Sunday. At this rate we will be full in no time! Once full, we will use the money to help a local children's organization – and then start over and fill it up again. We all want to say a very *big* thank you to Lynda Treadwell, who donated the authentic old fashioned milk can that is now the symbol of our Change for Children outreach program. Thank you, Lynda!

Rainforest Update

Back in May the children of the Church School raised money to help in the global efforts to save the Rainforest. We received letters of thanks and certificates from both the Rainforest Alliance and the Rainforest Action Network, thanking the students for helping to protect hundreds of acres of rainforest. This month these letters were shared in class with the children so they could hear what happened to the money we collected. We see how every effort we make

will make a difference. Thank you to all who donated to the project – for your financial support, and your support of the Church School program.



The cake at Rally Day celebrated the official beginning of the Church School year.



Rally Day at RHCC

October's Focus: The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-20

Blessed are the poor in spirit
 Blessed are those who mourn
 Blessed are the meek
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
 Blessed are the merciful
 Blessed are the pure in heart
 Blessed are the peacemakers
 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

– Eileen Brehm



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



On the evening of September 21 a small group gathered on the front lawn of the church to celebrate the International Day of Peace. Kerri Ann Hofer organized our participation in this event and explained it before Shannon White led us in a candlelight vigil. The group then carried their candles to light the way for a labyrinth walk, guided by Beth Wright. It was an inspirational and hopeful evening for all who attended.



STEWARDSHIP



In October work begins in earnest on the church budget for next year. Starting late in the month, we will offer brief “Stewardship Minutes” from the pulpit on our most important initiatives. You will hear about our Christian Education programs now consolidated under the Center for Faith Development, our benevolence and outreach efforts, and our music program. When your pledge card arrives, we hope you will give generously.

Stewardship accounts for the bulk – 59% – of our income, with the endowment second at 26%. Over the past two years stewardship has remained essentially unchanged, although our expenses have continued to rise. Income from our investment portfolio has been able to buffer some of this, but we need your help. We are asking everyone to consider a 10% increase in their pledge. I would like to emphasize that no gift is too small and encourage everyone to participate. You would be surprised at the multiplier effect of many small gifts!

A tax-efficient way to give to the church is to donate appreciated stock. This allows one not only to dock the market value of the stock, but to bypass any capital gains tax that may apply. Please contact the office at 869-1091 for stock gift instructions.

– Susan Sterne

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.



THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT RHCC

The Center nurtures an inward journey of prayer and study along with an outward journey of worship and engagement to deepen our understanding of God's purpose in our lives. We seek to follow Jesus Christ together and individually through a variety of activities.

We kick off our Interfaith Series with two sessions of **"Walking the Bible"** with Bruce Feiler. The first was on September 24 and will be followed by the second part on October 1. It includes a video in which Feiler takes us on a ten-thousand-mile journey to discover the Bible and the stories that are integral to our faith, followed by a discussion.

This fall we have three opportunities to visit various Christian communities who worship in different ways.

Sunday, October 8

We have been invited to go to the Macedonia Church in Norwalk to join them for their worship. We will leave at 11:30 a.m., following our Sunday morning service, and travel to Norwalk. Macedonia is an African-American non-denominational church that has a thriving ministry throughout the region. They are especially known for their work with former inmates and those living with AIDS. Join us for a unique time of worship, fellowship, and gospel music! (We are told their service may last until 2:00 p.m., but people may leave when they need to.)

Saturday, October 21

We have been invited to visit the Bruderhof Community in Orange County, New York. The Bruderhofs have settlements around the United States that are rooted in the Anabaptist tradition. They live a life according to Acts 2 in self-contained communities. We have been invited to join them for dinner and a time of fellowship to see how they live out their faith. Please call the Church Office for time and travel information if you are interested. We will carpool from the church at around 4:00 p.m. and return by 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 12

A visit to New Life Christian Fellowship at 5:15 p.m. We will announce more details at a later date.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

Katrina Rebuilding Effort: Gulfport, Mississippi October 7 to 14, 2006

Members from RHCC have been invited to join a larger group from the Huguenot Presbyterian Church in Pelham, New York, on a work camp at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gulfport. Rebuilding efforts are under way and help is desperately needed. Please call the Church Office as soon as possible for details.

Assisting Those with HIV/AIDS in Namibia March 2007 (7 days plus travel)

RHCC has been a supporter of the SEKOLO project for the past several years. Many of us remember hearing SEKOLO's leader, Elizabeth Robinson, when she came last year to the church and spoke of her incredible work with HIV/AIDS education in Namibia.

Our members have been invited by Elizabeth to come

and see the important work they do and to volunteer among those who work with and who live with HIV/AIDS.

Details are still being worked out, but if you are interested, please call Shannon White.

Movie Night Series

Friday, October 13, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

An evening of fun for the whole family with a viewing of *Chronicles of Narnia/The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. We'll have popcorn and time for discussion after the film.

Thorne Lecture Series: Sherron Watkins on Corporate Ethics, Friday, January 26, and Sunday, January 28



Sherron Watkins

The 2007 Thorne Lecture Series will focus on Corporate Ethics with guest speaker Sherron Watkins, former Enron V.P., credited with blowing the whistle and starting the process of uncovering one of the greatest corporate fraud cases in history. Ms. Watkins will be with us for a lecture from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and respond to questions on Sunday morning at

11:15 following our worship service.

Please bring your friends and join us for what is sure to be a memorable weekend. Both lectures are free, but reservations are encouraged.

Reserve at church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org or call the Church Office at 869-1091. Childcare will be available with a reservation.



The women of Women's Spirit Rising Bible study group visited the Cloisters in upper Manhattan during their September meeting.



WOMEN'S GATHERING

October 22 – The Nurse Is In!



Nope, we will not be taking your blood pressure at our next brunch. In fact, we guarantee to lower it with the fun loving and generous spirit of our speaker, Jan Ziembra, and the camaraderie of our group. For eighteen years, Jan has been a nurse in the offices of Glenville Medical Group, and we eagerly await her talk. For those who can't see the choir, she is one of the gorgeous soprano voices that you hear. Join us after fellowship hour on October 22 for brunch with Bunny Prokop, who has graciously offered her home. We look forward to this spectacular location at a beautiful time of the year.



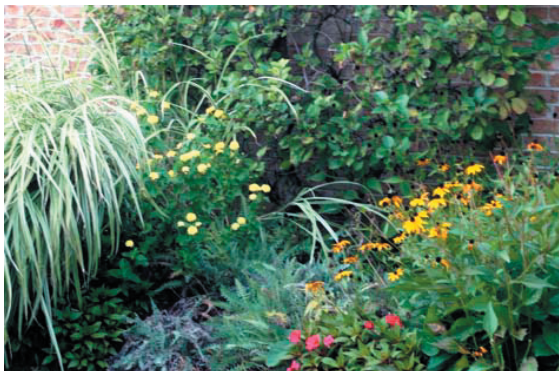
As usual, Livvy was interesting and informative and the group proceeded to wine and dine and enjoy her generous hospitality in a beautiful setting. Everyone outdid themselves with the food and unusual entrees. What a feast!

Livvy, thanks so much for having us.



Garden Tour and Dinner at Livvy Floren's Home

Wow. Over 40 women, including five guests, joined us for dinner at Livvy Floren's house on September 22. Our hostess gave us the grand tour of the beautiful gardens designed by famous architect Thomas Church.



Future Meetings

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Sunday, October 22 | Brunch | Bunny Prokop's house |
| Friday, January 19 | Dinner | RHCC Parlor |
| Sunday, March 5 | Breakfast | RHCC Meeting Room |
| Sunday, April 15 | Brunch | Jo Ann Adams's house |
| Friday, May 11 | Dinner | Carrie Finlayson's house |

Our speakers in April and May will be Amy Minella and Diana Deacon.

– Carrie Finlayson



MEMBERSHIP

We are all ambassadors for Round Hill Community Church. Take a moment to think what it means to you to come to worship and participate in the life of our church family. Share the blessing!

Can you think of a friend or neighbor who might want to join in some of our activities? Over the next several weeks, particularly, there will be unique opportunities for each of us to extend that invitation. October 15 is "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday." The service that day, in the Community House, will include "Blessing of the Animals" and may be just the right opportunity to introduce a friend.



There are two excellent brochures – "Welcome to RHCC" and the "Center for Faith Development at RHCC" available in the Narthex and the Parlor. Feel free to give these out as you invite a friend to church. Many ambassadors make a full Sanctuary!

– Julia Boysen and Debbie Lipner

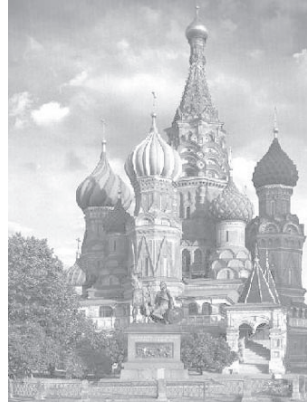
PASTORAL MESSAGE

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Within our sanctuary, we become available to the insights and blessings of deep mindfulness that arise only in stillness and time. When we act from a place of deep rest, we are more capable of cultivating what the Buddhists would call right understanding, right action, and right effort. In a complex and unstable world, if we do not rest, if we do not surrender into some kind of Sabbath, how can we find our way, how can we hear the voices that tell us the right thing to do, how can we become truly refreshed and renewed?"

The Greenwich area offers a variety of seductive alternatives to keeping Sabbath in our own church sanctuary – sporting contests, outdoor activities, boating on the Sound, birding along the Audubon pathways, and the like. Such activities may provide some respite from the pressures of the workday routines. However, I doubt that they can provide what the church offers – a Sabbath rest that assists us to once again hear the voice that tells us the right thing to do, the voice that tells us how much we are loved and treasured, the voice that reveals the Way and the Truth by which our lives may experience true refreshment and renewal. My hope is that you may choose to be with us on Sunday mornings, and join us in becoming a practicing congregation.

MUSIC NOTES



October 1 Russian Sacred Motets

During the worship service the choir will sing selections from the golden age of Russian choral music by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff, and Balakirev.

Best Seats in the House for Hansel and Gretel

A few tickets (8) are still available for New York City Opera's enchanting production of "Hansel and Gretel" on Sunday afternoon, November 5.



A premiere orchestra ticket for the opera from 1:30 to 3:40 is \$90 and the price for the opera and dinner afterwards is \$140. The production will feature former Round Hill soprano Julianne Borg as Gretel. It is the perfect introduction to opera for any age. Mary Jo Heath will offer a forum on the opera on Sunday October 29 at 11:20 in the Sanctuary. Please contact the Church Office for availability.

– Christopher Kabala

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony

return to RHCC with their first concert on Sunday, October 15, at 4:00 p.m. The program will feature a guest soloist, the renowned violinist Stephen Clapp. He is currently the Dean of the Juilliard School, a violin faculty member, and chamber music coach. Mr. Clapp is winner of the Naumburg First Chamber Music award and Cleveland Society for Strings' Josef Gingold Prize. There will be a chance to meet the artists at a wine and cheese reception following the concert.

Mark your calendars for future concert dates, which are November 5, March 4, and April 1.

CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL



The **Treasure Trove** is accepting donations of silver, crystal, porcelain, rugs, prints, paintings, furs, jewelry, and vintage clothing. Please bring items to the Treasure Trove room on Thursdays from 9:30 to noon or call the office for an appointment.

Please join us Monday mornings at 9:30 in the Round Hill Workshop to help prepare items for Something Special. There are projects to suit every interest and ability, including making ornaments, folding and packaging cards, tying ribbons, and more.

On Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 Fabulous Food workers meet in the kitchen of the Community House to propose food ideas, prepare and package goods to sell, and test new ideas.

The enthusiasm of those who attend is infectious. We would love to see more people come and catch the Christmas on Round Hill bug!

Upcoming Events in Round Hill Workshop:

Wednesday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. – Painting decorative birdhouses with Heather Sandifer and Julia Boysen

Monday, October 16, 9:30 a.m., Community House kitchen – Creating fabric angels with Nancy Mazzoli

Wednesday, October 18, 9:30 a.m. – Making pinecone and cork wreaths with Suzy Simpson

Wednesday, October 25, 9:30 a.m. – Designing artificial wreaths and garlands with Jenny Rye

Thursday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. – Making lemon leaf topiaries with Suzy Simpson

Friday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. – Designing artificial wreaths and garlands with Jenny Rye

Saturday, November 4, 4:00 p.m. – Decorating wine glasses with beads with Annette Grueterich

For more information, contact Lynda Treadwell in the Church Office.

– Nancy Mazzoli

RHCC SQUARE DANCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2006
2 to 4 PM



Round Hill Community House

Suggested donation:
Individuals \$10 Families \$20



October 2006

The News Letter
Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Road
Greenwich, CT 06831

OCTOBER SERVICES AND SERMONS

- Sunday 1 World Communion Sunday
The Power of One . . . for All, Bob Culp
- Sunday 8 *The Art of Being Positive*, Bob Culp
- Sunday 15 Blessing of the Animals Service in the Community House, Shannon White
- Sunday 22 *The Giftedness of Who We Are*, Bob Culp
- Sunday 29 *Getting God*, Bob Culp

OCTOBER IMPORTANT DATES

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Sunday 1 | Men's Group, 8:30 a.m., Meeting Room | Tuesday 17 | RHCC Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Meeting Room |
| | Interfaith Forum, Walking the Bible Part II | | |
| Week 7-14 | Katrina rebuilding effort in Gulfport, MS | Saturday 21 | Trip to the Bruderhof Community, 4:00 to 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday 8 | Visit to Macedonia Church, Norwalk, 11:30 a.m. | Sunday 22 | Women's Gathering Brunch |
| Wed. 11 | Women's Spirit Rising, Noon | Monday 23 | <i>News Letter</i> deadline for submissions |
| Friday 13 | Movie Night, 6:30 p.m., <i>The Chronicles of Narnia/The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> | Sunday 29 | High School Discussion |
| Sunday 15 | High School Discussion during Worship | | High School Youth Group, 11:15 a.m. |
| | Middle School Youth Group, 11:15 a.m. | | Family Square Dance, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Community House |
| | Chamber Players of GSO, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary | | |