



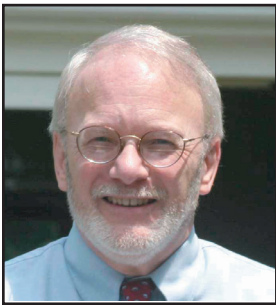
Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

October 2007

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Attending Church – A Life-Giving Habit in Danger of Being Lost



Pastor Bob Culp

I have great concern about the future of the church in America, especially here in New England. Ironically, in an area of our country where pilgrims established religious communities at great personal sacrifice, daring to rebel against cultural and ecclesiastical pressures to

conform to the norms of the early 17th century, we are witnessing today increasing numbers of mainline church members who are no longer cultivating the habit of attending church. Instead, they are conforming to such cultural pressures and norms as were courageously resisted in years past.

With greater frequency, reflecting the pattern of individualism identified by Robert Bellah (*Habits of the Heart*) and Robert Putnam (*Bowling Alone*), today's families and individuals are identifying themselves as "spiritual but not religious." Holding such an existential posture, in addition to having had often unsatisfying, even hurtful experiences within their church involvements, or else feeling personal pressures or unmet hungers within their lives with greater intensity, they are turning away from attending church, and are submitting to other commitments. One religious observer has written that many mainline church members today are "bowing down before the gods of sports, recreation, and entertainment, forsaking the costly grace of the Lord of our faith while embracing the cheap grace of self-satisfaction and hedonism."

Thus, the "life-giving habit of church going" (by

continued on page 10

Catching the Spirit of Music at Round Hill

"Music: How many of us ever stop to think of music as a wondrous link with God, taking sometimes the place of prayer when words have failed us 'neath the weight of care. Music that knows no country, race or creed, but goes to each according to his need."

– Author unknown

Each Sunday as the Sanctuary is filled with music, we are transported to a spiritual high. The choir members use their voices to express feelings of passion and joy; our marvelous soloists perfect those feelings that bring out the goose bumps (or tears) from head to toe; the congregation joins in with joyful spirit (on and off key); and, our maestro at the organ, Christopher Kabala, through his gifted talent and spirit, pulls all this musical energy together so that we may experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our beautiful Sanctuary through the glory of music.

– Suzy Simpson

Blessing of the Animals



Animals, alive and stuffed, were blessed during our second Blessing of the Animals service on September 30.



Thanks for Teaching



Tom Mahoney

September’s theme, “Our Special Church,” gave students an opportunity to learn about the great history of Round Hill Community Church. Banks Adams, Becky Jaspersen, and Joan Ingersoll shared the history of RHCC with our children, told them great stories, showed pictures of the church’s construction, and gave a tour of the facilities from the basement to the offices to the Community House. Thanks also go to Annette Grueterich for assisting with the art class. She worked with the students to create stained glass windows patterned after the great cathedrals in Europe.

Parent Meeting

On Sunday, October 14, at 8:45 a.m. parents of elementary and middle school students are invited to meet with Tom Mahoney, Annette Grueterich, and Alexandra Heerdt in the Meeting Room to discuss the Church School program for this year. Come share your thoughts, ideas, and enthusiasm. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be provided.

Names and Numbers

We are in the process of updating the Church School records and need your assistance. We would like all families with children, infants to high school seniors, to complete the form below and return it to us by October

14. Send by snail mail, drop off in the Church Office, or email to tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.
With a clearer picture of those who may be involved in our church youth programs, we can plan for the year ahead. Thanks for your response.

Music

As an integral part of our church school curriculum, we plan to incorporate music that will appeal to our youth. In the next few weeks, watch for the announcement of our church school music leader.

Change for Children/Children for Change

During September our children dropped \$20 to \$25 of change in the milk can. If they continue collecting this amount every month, they will change the life of a child or maybe a village.



| Child’s Name | Age | Birth Date | Grade | School |
|--------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
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Please return to Tom Mahoney
Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich, CT 06831



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

October Mission Program – Sekolo Projects

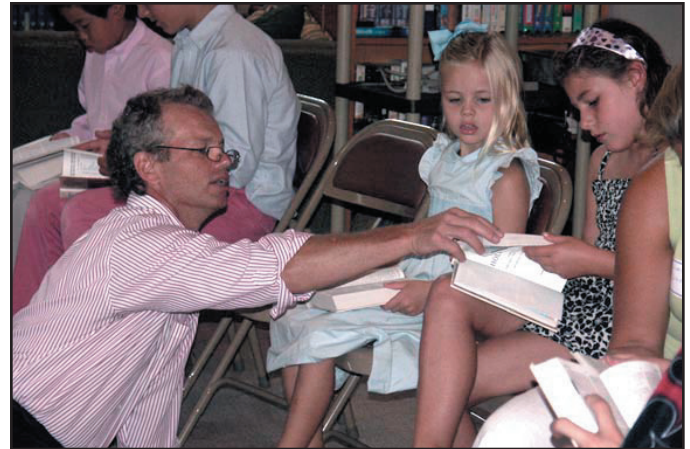
Sekolo Projects is a non-profit corporation that trains teachers in HIV/AIDS prevention in Namibia, a country in southern Africa on the Atlantic coast. Its primary focus is a national teacher-training project developed for Namibia that gives HIV prevention training, books, and videos to every secondary school in the country. Some parts of the country have a 40% infection rate. Sekolo Projects incorporates issues of stigma, treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and caring for people living with HIV/AIDS into its training workshops.

Over ten years, Namibia's life expectancy has fallen from 70 years to under 50. The United Nations predicts it will be 34 by 2010.

Poverty was already an issue in the days before HIV, with GDP at only \$2,250 per head and 55% living on less than \$85 a year. With the arrival and spread of HIV, orphaned children are leading households and the country faces economic devastation.

HIV is preventable. Sekolo works with Namibia's Ministry of Education to help train and equip school teachers to teach HIV prevention. Currently half of Namibia's new infections are in the 15 to 24 age group.

On October 28, **Elizabeth Robinson**, a resident of Greenwich and founder of Sekolo Projects, will join us for a presentation and mission project in the Sanctuary.



Tom Mahoney with children in Church School

October Story

The Bible story for October will focus on Adam and Eve – the first human beings who were part of God's creation. Their lives illustrate what God expects from and loves about human beings, as well as what he loathes.



Rally Day 2007

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



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Friday, Oct. 5 **Family Movie Night** *The Ultimate Gift*



When his wealthy grandfather dies, trust fund baby Jason Stevens anticipates a big inheritance. Instead, his grandfather has devised a crash course on life with twelve tasks – or “gifts” – designed to challenge Jason in improbable ways, sending him on a journey of self-discovery and forcing him

to determine what is most important in life: money or happiness. Stars James Garner and Abigail Breslin, among others; rated PG (deals with the issue of death). Curtain up at 6:30 p.m. Pizza, popcorn, and soda provided.

Wed., Oct. 10 **Women’s Spirit Rising**

Women’s Spirit Rising will meet for a brown bag lunch and discussion. Call Nancy Gray for information at 625-4722. All are welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 14 **Bible Study, 11:15 to noon** **Gospel of Mark**

Rev. Susan DeGeorge will lead the study of Mark on October 14 and November 18.

Following the first of these gatherings in September, Shannon White and Wilma Jordan-Green received the following enthusiastic comments:

“The Rev. Susan De George presented the opening program of the Fall Bible Study. She provided the listener with a greater understanding of the events, and the actions and reactions of the individuals in the Gospel of Mark by expanding the audience’s awareness of the period and time in which Gospel was written.”

— *Lyn Harmon*

“Our first Adult Bible Study class was just terrific. Susan DeGeorge had a perfect approach, very authoritative, but not dictatorial. She got people thinking, but also provided some trustworthy answers. It was exactly right! It was wonderful to see people warm up, and feel comfortable asking questions. I expect we will have an even greater attendance next time, and this one had to be about twenty.

I think we are off to a great start in what could be a significant addition to the spiritual development we share at our beloved church.”

— *Charles Lee*

Tuesday, Oct. 16 **A View into Pakistan** **Christopher Kabala**



Chris Kabala at the Khyber Pass

Please join us for an evening reception and discussion with Chris Kabala on his recent travels to Pakistan. The talk will include pictures and commentary on the border town of Peshawar, the Khyber Pass and tribal area, the Hindu Kush village of Chitral, the isolated Kalash valleys (where the descendants of the Aryan invasion in 2000 B.C. still practice an animist religion), Shandor Pass (the world’s highest polo grounds), and treks around the world’s largest (not quite tallest) mountain, Nanga Parbat, with its staggering 7000-foot vertical face.



Chris will also enlighten us with stories about jolly porters, runaway donkeys, challenging food, terrifying roads, and the incredible hospitality of the mountain people. This will all take place in the comfort of the Meeting Room with a glass of wine.

A wine and cheese reception will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor.





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Sunday, Oct. 28 “Reducing Our Carbon Footprint: Our Environmental Impact as Individuals and as a Congregation” 11:15 to noon

Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener, Executive Director for the Inter-religious Eco-Justice Network will be our speaker.

Childcare is available for all Sunday events.

Nicaragua Trip

The service on September 23 was conducted by some of the participants of the mission trip to Nicaragua, which was led by Shannon White. Gina Feghali, Amy Munro, and Courtney Ziluca gave the Children’s Message with some reflections on the similarities and differences between the children they met in Nicaragua and those at our church. Sandy Motland, in her prayer before the offering, wondered how we can all help to make better the lives of people like those they encountered on this trip. Andres Salazar, a Greenwich High School junior who joined our group and is originally from Columbia, read the Scripture lesson in both Spanish and English. Then six from the group shared with us their reactions to the experience. Here is what they said.

Mason Ziluca (Grade 11)

When we first arrived in Nicaragua, I wasn’t exactly sure what to expect. As we stood in the airport, I saw a large poster that said, “Bienvenidos a Nicaragua, Tierra de las Lagas y los Volcanes!” With my high school Spanish, I was able to translate this to, “Welcome to Nicaragua, Land of the Lakes and Volcanoes!” I had seen this phrase previously on a website, and I realized that I had seen much more about the geography and tourism in Nicaragua than I had about the culture or the history of the country.

We got on the bus that would take us to our hotel. After the long day of traveling, the hotel was nice, but I was still a little disappointed that the mattresses were hard and the showers were freezing cold. The next morning, we left the hotel and were able to see Nicaragua in the light of day. It was pretty dirty, with small houses and dogs roaming the streets, definitely not as tropical looking as I had expected. That afternoon, after touring a volcano, we went to the village where we would be working. It was apparent right away how differently they lived and how differ-

ent the people were. Everyone there was smiling and waving at us and welcoming us to their home. It felt really nice to have these kind people making us feel welcome and more comfortable.

After this, we went to the place where we were staying and became acquainted with the bucket showers, squeaking cots, and rice and beans, which we would all get to know so well during the coming week. Over the next five days, we worked on the houses with each other and the people of the village. Some of the people helping out weren’t even related to the family, but were helping just because they wanted to, and because it would help the families we were building the houses for. These people had such love and kindness that they didn’t even hesitate when it came to helping us and helping their fellow people, even though they probably had work of their own to do at their jobs or at their own homes.

One night, we had a meeting with the people of this town. We sat with the youth of the town and the adults with the adults. On that night, we were able to ask them specific questions about their lives and how things worked. One thing they told us was that they felt that Americans were kind and generous people. We told them that we felt as though they were kinder and happier than us in many ways. In America, we said, people wouldn’t just wave to you and smile as you walk by, like everyone here.

That community was amazing to me; all of these people lived so close together and near their families, and the spirits and personalities in all of them were so great. It was really upsetting when we had to say goodbye to them at the end of the week.

After we left, we went back to the hotel, which was now like the most luxurious hotel in the world. The next morning, as we drove back to the airport and got onto our plane, I looked back out on the streets of Nicaragua again and realized that all of my views had completely changed. To me, this was the most beautiful place I had ever been, and I was completely in love with the people and the culture that we were about to leave behind. Sure, we had seen lakes and volcanoes, but after truly experiencing this beautiful place, I think that we could all come up with better nicknames than “Land of the Lakes and Volcanoes.”

John Mazzoli (Grade 11)

When I found out about the mission trip to Nicaragua I signed up primarily because I would get community service hours for my time spent building houses. What I wasn’t expecting was that I would experience



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and take away from it much, much more than I had hoped for. By going on this incredible trip I formed relationships not only with the Nicaraguans but with fellow mission workers that I will remember forever. I also had the chance to go to an exotic country and see the beautiful scenery as well as the depressing levels of poverty. I felt a sense of accomplishment that I don't think I could get anywhere else.

I wasn't really expecting to develop any new friendships on the trip; I thought I knew everyone fairly well as we all came from the same church. What I found was that a trip like this really brings people together. I got to know my fellow group members better in a week than I had in years of going to the same church. I also didn't expect to develop any relationships with Nicaraguans since I didn't speak their native language of Spanish. I was surprised when the children came up to me every day and attempted to communicate through hand motions and facial expressions. I developed friendships with some Nicaraguan children without ever once communicating verbally to them.

Another thing that was valuable was the chance to see the country of Nicaragua itself. I learned a lot about Nicaraguan history and saw the beautiful sights present throughout the country. On the flip side, I also saw the immense poverty and the terrible living conditions that the Nicaraguans had to face. It shocked me to see people living so far beneath what I thought was poverty – nothing in the United States can compare to what is there. Even so, the Nicaraguans faced life with a smile on their faces and joy in their hearts. For a people so impoverished, they were much happier than most Americans I've met.

Probably the most important aspect of all was the sense of accomplishment I got while building houses in Nicaragua. At the end of the day, I could look at the progress we had made on the house and know that my blood, sweat, and tears had gone into that work. I wasn't just contributing money to some charity. I was there, building the house myself, an experience so real and so rewarding that it will never compare to any kind of community service I do again.

When I left Nicaragua, I felt like a better person. I felt like someone who had made a difference in this country in need, no matter how small. I felt like I had accomplished something helpful, something worthwhile, and what's more important than that? The mission trip to Nicaragua was one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had in my life. I hope

to do it again, and I recommend the trip to everyone and anyone who wants to have a good time, and feel a sense of accomplishment at the same time.

Jack McKean (Grade 12)

In Nicaragua, we had a fantastic leader from Bridges to Community named Tim. Tim was tall with a full red beard and a full head of hair. He seemed to be a little shy, but he was a very nice guy and a great worker. When I first saw him, I instantly thought of Jesus. Although I was comparing him to an Anglo-Saxon traditional view of Jesus that, in all actuality, is probably not all that accurate, the more I thought about it the more I saw a connection.

Tim was very humble and somewhat unassuming. He was a very hard worker and was very strong. While all of these connections seemed to be accurate, it was the nature of what he was doing that struck me most. He had dropped out of college and gone to Nicaragua. He eventually became a translator, but soon decided instead to join Bridges to Community to more directly help the people. He became a trip leader and helps groups that come through Bridges.

I feel that if Jesus were here with us today, this is the kind of thing he would do. He wouldn't announce his return in Times Square or do the talk show circuit with Oprah or Jay Leno or David Letterman. He would, instead, work where he was needed. He would work directly with the people in an unassuming job where he could help as many people as needed. Helping people isn't about having a big image or having a lot of power, although it certainly helps. What it really gets down to is having a connection with people and caring about people. Tim cared about the people that he helped, but even more, he helped us to care about the people we helped.

Perry Minella (Grade 10)

During our time in Nicaragua, we saw and experienced things we've never seen or done before. We showered using a bucket and a bowl, we drove to work on the back of a truck every day, we learned how to bend steel rods, and we learned some Spanish. But one of the most important experiences of our time there was the night we sat down with the kids of Guanacastillo and talked about the differences and similarities in our lives.

We talked about what we do for fun, how school works, and even issues like the war in Iraq and marriage. Many of the children there had never traveled more than one town over, while many of us have trav-



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eled all over the world. None of them had ever been to a movie theater, while we go every other week. And as it turns out, they don't want to learn English any more than we want to learn Spanish. When we asked if they would go to college, they all answered the same way. All of them wished to continue their education through college but knew that it would never happen. They just don't have the resources and opportunities that are provided for us here.

In my study of Latin, I've come across a phrase that strikes me every time I see it: "Sola Fide," which means "by faith alone." I realized that night, looking around the circle at faces that looked so old when they were still so young, that these kids lived sola fide – by faith alone. All they can do is hope.

I looked around at people I will probably never see again in my life and it was by faith alone that I believed they would be all right. I still believe that they will weather the storm, that they will help one another and find a way to be happy in the face of so much adversity. I believe that God will look after them. This too, I do by faith alone.

Allan Munro

In my business travels I have driven by "Guanacastillos" in many countries, comforted by my air conditioned limo and my four-star accommodations. Trying to resurrect my thoughts then is embarrassing – there was little thought, and less reflection, on who lives in the "Guanacastillos" of this world; what their lives are like, how they think, and how they survive.

I volunteered to go because I felt it was time to stop, rather than drive by; and I hoped that my daughter, Amy, would see people in a different light and, perhaps, not "drive by" like I have for forty-plus years. My reflections are so simple and my learning so basic, I hesitate to even write them down. Here is what has changed.

- Our two Bridges coordinators – Tim (aged 24 and a high school drop-out) and Perisa (aged 30, a highly educated masters degree holder), opened my eyes to what I have thought and not said – "bleeding hearts." To the contrary, they are making a difference in communities that won't change for many years. They are impacting individuals. If only a few have better lives, Tim and Perisa have won.

- Our lifestyle can cause us to make wrong assumptions in looking at Guanacastillo, just as the people there can make wrong assumptions about us. We could think they are lazy and can/should work their

way out; they think we are like the three TV shows they see, *Desperate Housewives*, *Sex in the City*, and *The Simpsons*. We should not overlay our values on them, nor should they judge us. As one man said, "Isn't everyone rich in America?" We denied this, but compared to Nicaragua's 85% unemployment and subsistence levels, they are more correct than our denials merited. Bridges helps to "bridge" these misconceptions among our peoples, one person at a time.

- Survival takes many forms. Their sense of community and family stands in stark contrast to ours. This may be a gross and oversimplified statement; however, without tight families and community in Guanacastillo, survival would not be as strong as it is. It starts with ten-year-olds pitching in to help us, residents in non-work clothes jumping in to mix cement. At times it was hard for us to find a place to work as so many volunteered.

- Survival also is seen in the commitment to creating co-ops as a solution against great odds. Without infrastructure and government support, most are doomed. Some, like those at our textile visit, have a chance. Others, like those in the natural lotions business, do not.

Despite our criticism of our own government, and our system, we can lose sight of the fact that it supports and makes opportunity for individuals. While we can be critical of events, we should be respectful of our system of government because it supports us in such a way that survival is not the issue. Why else do so many want to come here?

I have a new-grown respect for those in the cramped rooms in Port Chester, and those riding down Round Hill Road in the back of lawn service trucks. They are the pioneers of the 21st century. Their sacrifice is put in perspective by Guanacastillo. Are they all perfect citizens of the United States? No, but neither are we.

The challenges in Nicaragua can be overwhelming, and solutions are monumental. But making life better one person at a time is a lot better than just "driving by." I am glad I went.

Amy Minella

Why did I choose to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua with ten teenagers and five other adults? I am the mother of four teenage children and I run my own money management firm. I hardly have an hour during the week to myself. So why wouldn't I take one of the four weeks vacation I have and go to a Four



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Seasons hotel or the Ritz in a beautiful place and play golf and eat in great restaurants and read a few books? But that is what I've been doing for years and, yes, the last few years I have come back from vacations feeling somewhat rested, but feeling that I haven't accomplished anything . . . except maybe gaining a few pounds.

I was eager for a meaningful experience and I wanted to do something that would help other people and involve physical labor. I wanted to get my hands dirty. Having gone on a church mission trip before, I also knew that it can be a wonderful bonding experience with the other members in the group. I was looking forward to that. Also, I think it is very important for teenagers to see how lucky they are to be living in this country and especially in this area of the country with every opportunity open to them. So I was looking forward to having my daughter, Perry, on the trip too.

This mission trip was perfect! We had a great group of people and Bridges did a fantastic job of truly bridging the communities of Greenwich with Guanacastillo. We worked hard, played hard, ate healthy food and truly experienced what it would be like to have been born in Nicaragua. We also saw a cooperative textile plant run by women and how pottery is made. Here is an excerpt from my journal:

"Monday, August 13 – First day of work! In the morning we dug ditches in order to start the foundation of the house. We have two teams of eight, each building a house. It was tough work. We made our own concrete. Forget a concrete truck! One gets eight wheelbarrows of sand, three wheelbarrows of stone, and a few bags of concrete. We all work as a team to shovel. And carry all this to a pile. Then you have three or four teams of two who take it all out of the middle to separate piles. Then you shovel it all back in. Then you make a volcano and pour water in. Voila, once mixed, you have concrete. Then it was put into pails and poured in to create the foundation. We were incredibly hot and dirty but felt we had done a good morning's work! In the afternoon we went back and bent steel and created the rebar that gets put into the foundation – also hard work. We had to cut the steel that gets bent into squares, and then wire them to the rebar. Then we made mortar to fill in the foundation – it is just like doing the concrete except that you have to sift the sand and you don't put in the stone. Finished

all that by 4:00 and back to camp."

I came back with a different perspective of my life and the lives of 80% of the world population. The people in Nicaragua were lacking in material possessions and housing, but what they lacked in that regard, they made up with in a close community feeling, something that is lacking more and more in our homes and our country today.

It was a very different vacation from past vacations, but one that was well spent and I feel refreshed and more alive because of it. I urge each of you, if you are able, to consider going on a mission trip in the future. You won't regret it if you do.

FLU SHOTS

Get the shot, and *not* the flu! We have joined the fight against influenza again this year. Flu shots will be offered on Sunday, October 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. The CDC recommends that anyone over the age of six months get a flu shot. The cost of the shot is \$25.00 and is *free* to Medicare patients with their card. (Sorry, no HMO's or PPO's.) A receipt will be provided for those who pay so that they may submit it to their insurance company for reimbursement. The shots will be given by Preventa Health.

For any questions about the vaccine go to www.preventahealth.com. We look forward to a successful clinic. Get the shot, *not* the flu!

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.



LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Italian Architecture and Landscapes by Artist Richard Levine Oct. 12 to Nov. 8



Oils and watercolors by artist and photographer Richard Levine will be on display at Les Beaux Arts Gallery October 12 to November 8. Levine uses a bright palette and strong graphic design to express a sense of

mystery and beauty. This exhibit, Levine says, “is an exploration of the effect of light, texture, shape, and color revealed in the aging architecture and sunburnt hills of Italy. These luminous colors are rendered in watercolor, oil, and silkscreen on fine, handmade watercolor paper, which adds further texture.”

Levine is a member of the Mamaroneck Artists Guild and is on the board of the Bronx River Art Center. He has exhibited widely, both in New York City and Westchester. In 2005 he won a New York State Certificate of Merit for his photographic exhibit on India. Now retired, Levine had a professional career in graphic arts that spanned more than 30 years. Recently, he has done documentary photography for nonprofit organizations such as the International Medical Corps in Darfur, and the Mississippi chapter of Kids Count.

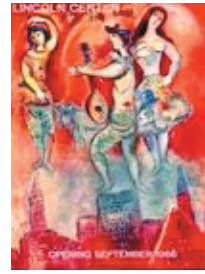
MEN’S GROUP

The Men’s Group will be having its first breakfast meeting of the new church year on Sunday, October 14, at 8:30 a.m. We shall gather in the Meeting Room for a continental breakfast. Following a brief discussion of future plans for the group we shall have the pleasure of listening to Manit Rye. Manit will be speaking with us about his life in India, his journey to the United States, and the Hindu religion/philosophy. I am sure this will be a fascinating presentation.

Please call the Church Office to indicate your interest in attending so that we can provide sufficient food and drink.

– Ron Wilson

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL



Opera Trip Bizet’s *Carmen* Sunday, November 11

Join us on Sunday, November 11, at 1:30 p.m. for New York City Opera’s production of *Carmen*. The principal soprano role of Michaela will be sung by our former soloist, Julianne Borg. After the opera we will walk across the plaza for a dinner at the excellent Josephina restaurant. The package includes a premium orchestra seat and a three-course dinner with wine. There will be a choice of appetizer, entree, and dessert. The price is \$157. The price of the opera ticket only is \$102. You can make your reservation by sending a check to the Church Office. The earthy nature of the opera created a scandal after the first performance, but it has since become one of the most popular operas in the repertoire.

– Christopher Kabala

The Chamber Players – New Season

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony, now in their thirty-sixth year, return to RHCC for the 2007-2008 season. Concerts are on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and are followed by wine and cheese receptions in the Parlor. Musicians are selected from the principals of the Greenwich Symphony and offer outstanding works from the chamber music repertoire. Subscription forms are available outside the Church Office. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for each concert. Please save these dates:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| October 21, 2007 | February 24, 2008 |
| November 11, 2007 | March 30, 2008 |

WOMEN’S GATHERING

We are looking forward to our next gathering, which will be a brunch on October 21, following the worship service. Our speaker will be Lyn Harmon, who will talk about mindfulness. Do save the date and invite your friends and neighbors. Look for an invitation in the mail in October with the time and location.

– Marilyn Hammond and Rhona Johnson

PASTORAL MESSAGE

continued from page 1

which God's people became morally grounded and spiritually inspired) has fallen into patterns of "sporadic or seasonal church attendance." The results?

- Parents are becoming overcommitted as they seek to provide enriching and stimulating activities for their children 24/7, but in the process find themselves experiencing a sense of overwhelming exhaustion, along with some measure of guilt, resentment, and a certain sense of feeling powerless in the recognition that they are somehow abdicating their right to determine when and where and how their children will participate in what activities, caving in again and again to organizations of all kinds who could care less about the impact such activities have upon religious groups and family systems;

- Adults, many exhausted by their weekly jobs and others bored by their daily duties, are pursuing projects of self-improvement and personal stimulation, assigning great personal importance to such pursuits as they relegate the needs, opportunities, and challenges within the life and ministries of the church to lower rungs on their priority ladders, indeed often not even including the church on their personal radar screens;

- Increasing numbers in today's society see the function of churches and religious communities to be little more than "to hatch, match, and dispatch" those who are affiliated with them, no longer viewing the church as having anything of value, relevance, or truth to say to them, except perhaps at such times of birth, marriage, or death.

The danger in all this, it seems to me, is that we are increasingly "amusing ourselves to death" while ignoring the central, deeper needs of the human spirit. As the world is giving individuals, young/old/and in-between, countless wings by which to flutter incessantly and busy themselves, many church members are failing to cultivate needed roots to become deeply grounded and spiritually centered amidst the shifting sands of a most challenging world. We are being called, individually and together, to cultivate the pilgrims' rebellion against cultural pressures, in order to attend to the worship of God alone in an age of seductive and hedonistic idolatries.

I love Anne Lamott's story about the small child who somehow got lost and was wandering about in

the city. A police officer saw her and picked her up in his patrol car and offered to take her home. She was so upset, she couldn't remember her address. They rode up and down the streets of the city in hopes that the child would recognize a familiar landmark. After some time had passed, the child suddenly became animated and said, "Stop! You can let me out now." She said joyfully, "There's the steeple of my church. I can find my way home from here."

My friends, I truly believe that as we cultivate anew the habit of attending church and growing more deeply aware of the wondrous community of our fellow pilgrims beneath the historic steeple of our church, we, too, will be able to find our way home. And, in the process, we will help create a new age in which a centered peace, a refreshing faith, and a freeing truth will be written upon the hearts of all.

– Bob Culp

OCTOBER SERVICES AND SERMONS

Oct. 7 *The Grace of Eating Together*, Bob Culp
World Communion Service in the
Community House

Oct. 14 *The Secret of the Abundant Life*, Bob Culp
Service in the Community House

Oct. 21 *Persistence in Praying*, Bob Culp

Oct. 28 *Pharisees, Publicans, and Us*, Bob Culp

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.

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.

WORSHIP NEWS

World Communion Sunday

We will be celebrating World Communion Sunday on October 7 in the Community House. Beginning October 1, the Sanctuary will be undergoing important renovations, which will include installation of a new sound system and new lighting, and painting. We hope to be back in the Sanctuary for services by Sunday, October 14, if all goes according to plans.

In the meantime, please join us for World Communion Sunday, celebrated around the world on the first Sunday of October. The tradition was begun in 1936 by the U.S. Presbyterians, but from its inception was intended as an interdenominational expression of fellowship in Christian faith. It quickly spread to other denominations and has become a wonderful opportunity to experience communion in the context of the global community of faith—truly a time to remember what we all have in common.

In other news, the Worship Committee met recently to outline goals for the year. Among the topics under consideration are a codifying of our emergency procedures and usher protocol, the establishment of a schedule for the year for lay liturgists and an examination of their role in our services, and a study of our current communion liturgy. We welcome input from outside the Worship Committee in our review of the communion liturgy; interested members should feel free to contact Claire McKean, Marion Piro, or Bob Culp.

– Claire McKean and Marion Piro

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 27

Join us for coffee and donuts at 8:00 a.m. in the Church Kitchen. We'll begin a campus-wide clean-up (trimming bushes, raking, weeding, planting bulbs, filling a dumpster) at 8:30 and finish by noon. This is a great way to get some projects done on our campus while enjoying lots of laughs.

If Committee Chairs have a particular area that needs attention, please contact Lynda so she can add it to the schedule. If anyone has a truck, that would be helpful.

Join us for all or part of the morning!

Harvest Supper



Wednesday, October 24

Join together with members, guests, and neighbors for a celebration of thanksgiving at our Annual Harvest Supper on Wednesday, October 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community House.

\$30 per adult / \$15 per child

Please call the Church Office to reserve or go to the link at www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org.



CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Back by popular demand, RHCC members are again offering their homemade soups, stews, and entrees, frozen for your convenience.

These items will not be for sale at the Friday Party or on Saturday. They will be available only by pre-order. The full menu will be posted on our website and be available in the office in October. Orders must be placed by November 1. Quantities are limited; please place your order early. Reservations will be honored in the order received. All frozen foods will be ready for pick-up after Nov. 15 – just in time for the busy holiday season!


If you would like to contribute baked goods, which will be sold Friday night and Saturday, please contact Nancy Lane at 869-7927 to let her know what you'll be making. Fabulous Food workshops are every Tuesday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Community House kitchen.

Watch for emails announcing workshops for Something Special projects. We need lots of hands to help and it's a great way to meet people. There are also small projects in the office that you can pick up to do at home, if you prefer.

The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
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.

| OCTOBER 2007 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m. | 2 | 3 Budget Planning Meetings for Committee Chairs Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. | 4 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. | 5 Movie Night <i>The Ultimate Gift</i> 6:30 p.m. | 6 |
| 7 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Service in the Community House | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. | 12 | 13 |
| 14 BIBLE STUDY Gospel of Mark 11:15 to noon Service in Community House | 15 Cooking for St. Luke's | 16 A View into Pakistan Chris Kabala 7:30 p.m. | 17 | 18 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Flu Shot Clinic 11 to 12:30 p.m. Worship Comm. Mtg., 11:15 a.m. Women's Gathering Brunch, 11:30 a.m. Chamber Players, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary | 22 Newsletter Deadline | 23 | 24  HARVEST SUPPER 6:30 P.M. | 25 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. | 26 | 27 FALL CLEANUP DAY 8:00 to noon |
| 28 FORUM: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint 11:15 a.m. | 29 | 30 Benevolence and Outreach Mtg. 8:00 p.m. | 31 | WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE RICHARD LEVINE: ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPES AT LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY | | |