

*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

October 2011

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

To say that these are anxious times for people regardless of their place in the social order is an understatement. Concerns about finances, the environment, and terrorism affect us all. Add to that the personal problems that inevitably arise in everyone's life and it's surprising that we're able to function at all. Anxiety and stress, the cause of so much dis-ease and disease, is inevitable. As Gilda Radner was fond of reminding us, "If it's not one thing, it's another."

Jesus knew this. He knew that anxiety can paralyze a person. In the Sermon on the Mount he said to his disciples and others: "Do not be anxious about your life." Well, that's much easier said than done for most of us, even though we know the truth of the matter in mind. Jesus goes on to ask rhetorically, "And which of you, by being anxious, can add one cubit to his span of life?" In short, anxiety gets us nowhere.

So, what is one to do? Well, fortunately we stand in a spiritual tradition that gives us some sensible practices to reduce stress and experience life in all its fullness. I think meditation is the most important practice to that end. There is a stress reduction class each week at Greenwich Library led by a friend of mine, Jim Bandler. We studied together for years at a school in New York City. Others in our congregation have practiced or are practicing meditation regularly. For the remainder of this year, every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, those who wish to learn more about the practice of meditation/stress reduction are invited to join me in the Church Parlor. You don't have to come every week, but when you can. This group is open to others in our community as well.

Traditional prayer is also helpful in focusing the mind on what matters and leading us to take action,

Harvest Supper

Wednesday, October 26

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Neighbors in the Round Hill area have been gathering at the Community House since the 1920s for this celebration of the harvest. The tradition continues today as a testament to the importance of a community giving thanks with good food and good friends.

Join us for a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings. We appreciate your contribution of a dessert for everyone to enjoy. The dinner is open to all members of the local community as well as RHCC.

\$35 adults \$15 children

**For information and reservations
call 203-869-1091**

*Love wholeheartedly, be surprised, give thanks and praise.
Then you will discover the fullness of your life.*

— Brother David Steindl-Rast

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Church School Begins



It is my pleasure to join the Round Hill Community Church community as a teacher in the Church School. I have already enjoyed meeting some of the young members of this congregation and I look forward to getting to know all of our young members as

the year goes on. My hope is that your child will gain a deeper understanding of Bible stories, faith, and

If you have children who will be attending Church School, I would like to hear from you about your expectations for this program.

community by participating in this program. I hope that your child will be curious and ask questions and that we can explore together. If you have children who will be attending Church School, I would like to hear from you about your expectations for this program. **Please join me for coffee and a brief conversation on October 16, following the worship service.** I look forward to getting to know you better.

– Connie Blunden

The News Letter is edited by Nancy Mazzoli,
Claire McKean, Suzy Simpson, and Lynda Kinney



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Bible Study: Isaiah's Voices **Sunday, October 23, November 6 and 20** **11:15 a.m.**

Rev. Susan DeGeorge

Reverend Doctor Susan DeGeorge begins her three-part series on Isaiah's Voices on October 23, but she is being awfully quiet until then about those Voices. For those of you who have not heard her before, Susan is an Associate Minister at South Presbyterian Church in Dobb's Ferry, and is a licensed attorney (there seem to be a bunch of these around here) in New York and Connecticut. More importantly for us, she has graduate degrees from Columbia and Union Theological and has worked to bring college education back into New York State prisons. If you have ever wondered what the Hebrew or Greek source word for the English translation of a biblical passage is and want to know if we ever got it right, you must attend. It promises to be illuminating!

Forum: Global Workers Justice Alliance **Sunday, November 13**

On November 13, we have Cathleen Coran of Global Workers Justice Alliance (www.globalworkers.org) for a forum on justice, human trafficking, and the migrant worker. Anita Keire has arranged for Cathleen to speak about her work in the United States, and abroad in Guatemala and East Timor. The issue is what she calls "portable justice." She is a summa cum laude graduate of the American University Washington College of Law and Dartmouth College.

Finally, what CFD would like to do each issue is recommend a book for reading. And October's choice is Marcus Borg's new 2010 book, *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored*; Harper One Publishers. The Greenwich Library has one copy . . . when I return mine. Borg focuses on words such as *sin*, *born again*, *redemption*, *savior*, and *Jesus' sacrifice*, among others, while showing how current popular Christian theology often distorts the early meanings and concepts of these powerful religious ideas. This book may become the basis for a teaching series next year.

— Michael Sandifer

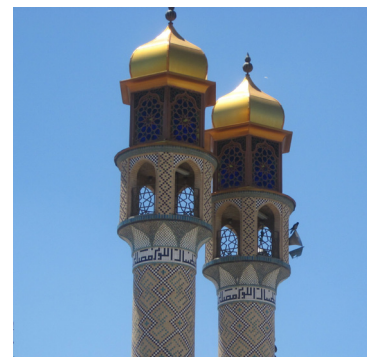
Meditation/Stress Reduction Class **Thursdays, beginning October 6** **6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Parlor**

Rev. Miller will lead a stress reduction class in the Church Parlor every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. Come when you can; bring a friend. All are welcome. For more information please call the Church Office at 203-869-1091.

Women's Gathering



The first Women's Gathering of the 2011-2012 year will, in fact, be a Gathering of Ladies and Gentlemen on Wednesday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor. The guest speaker will be Marion Piro, who will share impressions and photographs from her recent trip to Iran. We suspect Marion's talk will be of general interest and are opening the doors to our gentlemen partners and friends. A pasta dish, salad, and bread will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert if they wish. Chairs Bunny Prokop and Libby Cryer need a headcount, so reservations through Lynda in the Church Office are important. To cover expenses, please give \$10 either at the door or in advance to Lynda.





BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS





MUSIC ON ROUND HILL

Opera Arias and Ensembles

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Richard Strauss

Friday, November 4, 8:00 p.m.

Wine and Cheese Reception Follows

Admission: \$25 Adults \$5 Students

Featuring the Round Hill Quartet:

Risa Renae Harman, soprano

Jenna Hintz, soprano

Patrick Hogan, tenor

Scott Tomlinson, bass

Christopher Kabala, piano

String Ensemble

In the same way that Shakespeare's plays present comic relief in the midst of serious tragedy, the operas of Mozart and Strauss broaden the view of humanity with simple characters that act as a foil for the more exalted personages. The rustic birdcatcher Papagano, with his simple desires and appetites, contrasts with the noble seeker Tamino. In Strauss's *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, the lighthearted, flirtatious Zerbinetta attempts to cheer the regal, suffering Ariadne. The elegant style of Mozart and Strauss is never absent, but both composers broaden the spectrum of human possibility by presenting characters both highbrow and lowbrow. Please join us for an evening of beautiful music followed by a sumptuous reception.

– Christopher Kabala



The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony

Sunday, October 16, at 4:00 p.m.

Come and celebrate the opening concert of the Chamber Players 40th Anniversary Season! Three founding members of the Chamber Players will begin the concert playing the first movement of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3. Works by Mozart, Caplet, Roussel, and Ravel will follow. Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for Harp, Flute, Clarinet, and String Quartet is a spectacular composition for seven musicians and will be performed as a tribute to the Chamber Players' anniversary year. The Chamber Players have produced a CD of selections from their repertoire, together with an anniversary booklet, both of which they are making available to their audiences throughout the year.

A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert. Tickets are available at the door. For subscription and further information call Suzanne Simpson at 203-622-6611, or visit greenwichsym.org and link to Chamber Players.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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to take responsibility for our lives and for our world. This prayer, by Jack Riemer, is a call to action in the midst of our anxieties. Through right action we not only “get out of our minds,” so to speak, but hopefully also glean some possible ways to move forward even in the face of significant challenges.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God,
to end war;
For we know that you have made the world
in a way
That man must find his own path to peace
Within himself and his neighbor.

We cannot merely pray to you to end starvation;
For you have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God,
to root out prejudice,
For you have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all [people]
If we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God,
to end despair,
For you have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope
If we would only use our power justly.

Therefore, we pray to you instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and will power,
To do instead of just to pray,
To become instead of merely to wish. Amen.

– Douglas Miller

FLOWERS

Flower Arranging Workshop
Friday, October 21
10:00 a.m., Meeting Room



Please join Debbie Lipner, Suzy Simpson, and Julia Boysen on Friday morning, October 21, at 10:00 in the Meeting Room for fun with flowers. We'll demonstrate making large, medium, and small-sized arrangements using seasonal blooms and branches. All are welcome.

RSVP to the Church Office at finance@round-hillcommunitychurch.org.

BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Mission Sunday
October 16

Many agencies will set up information tables in the Community House for a special Fellowship Hour. It will be a time truly focused on fellowship and our church's outreach to the greater community. Please plan to be present on this important Sunday.

CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Preview Party
Friday, December 2
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.



Treasure Trove

The Treasure Trove needs items that will be saleable in the short time period we have to sell. They cannot include old appliances, electronics, or clothing unless it is in mint condition and designer quality. Fur coats are all right. Quality items only, i.e., silver, crystal, china, jewelry, rugs, fine linens, and furniture (limited to special pieces, for we do not have much room), special books, paintings, prints, sculpture, antiques, etc. . . . not yard sale or tag sale items. By now, most of you know what we can handle. Items need to be left with name and a general list with a value. Contact the office if we are not available, and things can be left in the Church cellar. If items are small and valuable they can be left in classroom A in the Community House. See Steve for access.

– Jean Bergstresser, Leigh Grant, and Alice Fisher

Christmas Fair,
Saturday, December 3
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



RHCC Cooks for the Christmas Fair

Like last year, RHCC members will cook and freeze their special soups, stews, and casseroles for the benefit of Christmas on Round Hill. If you'd like to join the cooks, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Parlor, or contact Julia Boysen at 203-661-1172 or Boysenjuli@aol.com with questions.

By mid-October, the menu will be posted in the Office and in the Parlor. Pre-orders must be placed by November 13, and the food will be available for pick-up from the Community House freezer by November 20, just in time for Thanksgiving and the busy holiday season. Call the Church Office at 203-869-1091 to place your order.

– Julia Boysen



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 2011 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Trustee Meeting 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Women's Gathering Dinner</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Meditation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Membership Mtg., 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>COLUMBUS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Meditation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>WORLD FOOD DAY/MISSION SUNDAY</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. with Mission Fellowship hour</p> <p>Chamber Players 4 p.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Worship Comm. Mtg., 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Meditation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Flower Arranging Workshop 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>HARVEST SUPPER 6:30 p.m. Community House</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Meditation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</p> <p>LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: "PERU IMPRESSIONS" PHOTOS BY ARTO SZABÓ</p>				