



*Round Hill
Community Church
The News Letter*

September 2004

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Embracing the High Calling of Proclaiming One Another's Worth

Many years ago, a special testimony of human worth was reported in the *Village Voice*. The great actress Dorothy Maguire was appearing on Broadway in Tennessee Williams's play "The Night of the Iguana." Just before curtain time on a Friday night, the quiet buzz of the theater was shattered by the shrill voice of a woman who began shouting, "Start the show! Start the show! I want to see Dorothy Maguire!" The woman was clearly emotionally disturbed. But following a moment of shocked stillness, some in the theater began to turn on her. "Listen, you old bag, get out of here!" someone heckled. "Throw her out! Start the show!" another jeered. The house manager soon appeared and tried to reason with the woman, but she pulled away violently, shrieking, "All I want is to see Dorothy Maguire. Then I'll leave."

Suddenly, through the part in the curtains, Miss Maguire herself appeared. She crossed the stage and calmly walked over to the disturbed woman. She spoke quietly to her and gently hugged her. The woman, who had recoiled whenever anyone else had touched her, drew close to Miss Maguire, got up from her seat, and together they walked toward the exit. Before they left the theater, though, Miss Maguire paused and turned to the audience. With grace and kindness, she announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce to you another fellow human being."

What Miss Maguire did in those moments was testimony – bearing witness to a truth about this woman that no emotional illness or any abuse from others could possibly take away. Dorothy Maguire was a reliable public witness to a promise proclaimed in worship week after week: this was a child of God, a fellow human being.

We live in a world that tells us every day that we are in danger of losing our value and dignity. How much do you make? What do you do for a living? How many people or what size portfolio do you supervise? How well did you do on the SAT? What was your rank in your class . . . and at what school? What neighborhood do you live in? What do you drive? What do you wear? These

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BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH



Monday, August 23, was a perfect day for "A Day at the Beach." The weather was ideal and the Sound, which had been closed for swimming the day before, was open and inviting. About 120 people from the Little Sisters of the Assumption Community Center in East Harlem visited Tod's Point for the day. We distributed new pails and shovels and other assorted beach toys upon arrival, and the families headed down for the beach. They built sand castles, explored the beach, and swam. We all enjoyed a picnic lunch, and afterward some families played with beach balls and bubbles on the grass and others headed back for more swimming. New books and toys were given to the children for their return trip.

Special thanks go to the following volunteers: Bette Willis, Christine Gerli, Bruce and Helen Dixon, Regina Repenning, Becky Jaspersen, Mary Hull, and Carmel Tinnes. We also want to thank those individuals who donated books and toys. In addition, we owe a thank you to Food Mart for giving us a generous reduction on the food costs and to the Town of Greenwich for allowing us to invite our out-of-town guests.

Nancy and Steve Fuzesi



EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Dinners

A second season of Round Hill Community Church Fellowship Dinners will be beginning this fall. If you didn't participate last spring, but would be interested in participating in one of these fun gatherings, please let Carmel know.

Three groups of ten to twelve people met last spring, and another one is meeting in early September. These groups meet in different members' homes for a pot-luck meal and fellowship time. Participants had the opportunity to get better acquainted with one another in addition to discussing critical issues. Each time a group met, someone acted as host and coordinated the meal, contacted the other members, and shared their home for the gathering. Thanks to Amy and Ray Minella, Lawrence and Susan Sterne, Ella and Arto Szabo, and Alice O'Gorman for acting as hosts for the first dinner gatherings.



Dinner Discussion Group "A" members camped out in July at Ward's Pound Ridge. They feasted on the view, wonderful food, wilderness hikes, and thought-provoking discussion on Eco-theology. Baby Elena Debnar joined the group for her first campout!

Youth Mission Trip

Once again members of our Youth Group along with some adult members took off on a trip to Camp Kum-ba-yah in Lynchburg, Virginia, in August. The camp serves handicapped children and those who would not otherwise have a chance to enjoy time away from a hot city. Our travelers work together to help in the improvement and upkeep of the camp. Participants this year included Jonny Duennebier, Gina Feghali, Alex George, Kayla and Sean Henry, Laura Huley, Kyle Johnson, George Mazzoli, Charlie and Jack McKean, Debbie, Jeff, Stacy and Tony Mecca, Mike Minella, Adam and Ross Pisarkiewicz, Brittany, Heather, and Tina Pusser, Eli and KC Running, Suzy Simpson, Carmel Tinnes, and Max Wright.



The group tackled the following projects this year:

- Built a small tool shed
- Cleared, leveled, and put gravel down for an area for a picnic pavilion
- Poured footings for the picnic pavilion
- Started building a retaining wall near the pavilion
- Moved bushes, sign, and mailbox and dug foundation for an addition to the camp office
- Cleaned retreat apartment in the Church of the Covenant building
- Built eleven pallets to hold larder boxes for campsites, moved them to the campsites, and made and put shelves in larder boxes
- Built six picnic tables (two were handicap accessible)
- Scraped paint off existing picnic tables
- Built a curved bench
- Painted a meditation room and furniture for the room
- Pulled assorted weeds in flowerbeds

Church School

We hope you've all had a fun and relaxing summer. Rally Day (and the start of Church School classes) is September 12, and we are very excited about the curriculum planned for this year. Unfortunately, we will be starting the year without a Youth Coordinator as Stacy Mecca has resigned. She will be greatly missed and we encourage all of you to contact Carmel Tinnes or Regina Repenning (RHCC Human Resources) if you know of someone who might be interested in the position.

Kerri Ann Hofer

Church School Focus 2004-2005

Rally Day is just around the corner at Round Hill Community Church. Join us on September 12 at 10:00 a.m. to begin the new year. Our curriculum's focus this year is Incarnation. To make this concept more accessible for our Church School children and youth, we are making it more explicit: *God's hand on our hearts . . . Our hands in the world.* On Rally Day the children's message and a special Church School gathering will contain this theme.



The morning will end with many fun activities. Laura Wack is coordinating this special Fellowship Hour.

To help our children and youth understand how God's hand on our hearts leads to our hands in the world, this year's Church School program includes a special emphasis on outreach. We will be partnering with the Waterside School in Stamford, a private day school for low-income children of above-average abilities. Jody Visage, a member of Round Hill Community Church, is the Headmistress of the school. To begin this work in the world, we invite families to bring in objects to donate to Waterside School. A mailing has gone out to our families with information on this program. Keep your eyes open on Rally Day to see how our young people's hearts and hands will be in the world!

We Want You!

Do you have musical ability, but you're not in the choir? We are looking for you to help four times a year (about 10 minutes each time) to lead music (pianist provided) with the Church School. If you're interested or would like more information, call or e-mail Carmel at the Church Office.

Family Communion Event

Saturday, October 2, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Note new time and date)

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a special event for families to explore Communion. This event will begin with a family-style meal. Several workshops will allow families to explore the stories of the Passover and the Last Supper, locate passages about Communion in the Bible, bake bread to be used in Communion, and look at the history of Communion in the Christian Church and at Round Hill Community Church. If you have other areas you would like to look at in a workshop, please contact Carmel. This special event will end with a Communion service for all who are interested.

Please let the office know if you plan to attend. Childcare will be available for infants and children through first grade. Let us know if you need childcare so that we have enough caregivers.

Round Hill Forum:

The Art of Receiving Communion

September 19, 11:20 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

All adults and confirmed youth in the congregation are invited to attend this forum to explore the mystery and meaning of Communion. Our own panel consisting of Bob Culp, Carmel Tinnes, Charles Lee, and Mary Ann Debnar will facilitate the discussion. Definition of terms, theological issues, and the personal meanings of Communion will be discussed as well as any questions you have about Communion.

Carmel Tinnes

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone from the Board of Trustees for what promises to be an exciting new church year.

In addition to all the wonderful events and activities we have on tap, there are two projects that will undoubtedly occupy a good deal of the Board's time and attention: the cell tower project and the possible renovation of the Community House. There will be many discussions and potentially some controversy surrounding these issues, so please let's all pull together so we can come to the right conclusions on these important matters. We will continue to listen to all interested parties and to that end, we will hold a second neighborhood meeting in late September on the cell tower proposal.

As always, we look forward to another great music season. During January we will undertake a much-needed renovation of the church organ. This is expected to improve our terrific instrument. We will have a loaner during the several-week period needed to complete the work. There should be minimal disruption.

I'd like to close with a special request for each of you to become more involved in the activities of our church. Especially for our many new members, becoming active on our committees is a terrific (and largely painless!) way to meet people and contribute to our church's vitality. Let us know what you're interested in and we'll get you connected to the right committee or group.

I look forward to working with you this year.

Phil George

TREASURE TROVE

It may seem a long way off, but we are beginning to gather saleable objects for Rudolph's Workshop. Not tag sale items, but junk on the interesting and gorgeous side.

Jean Bergstresser



ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH COMMITTEES

This section is provided to encourage people to get involved in the life of the church. This life is dependent upon all the energy and human resources available. *Please contact Lynda Treadwell for more information on any of these committees.*

Benevolence and Outreach extends our Christian outreach spiritually, financially, and, when possible, physically by hands-on projects in which all church members can share. *Co-chairs: Nancy and Stephen Fuzesi*

Buildings and Grounds is responsible for the care and maintenance of all church buildings and grounds. *Chair: Richard Hofer*

Christian Education oversees the activities of the Church School and the Youth Group. The committee works closely with the Director of Education and Fellowship, Carmel Tinnes. This year the committee is focusing on the Youth Group, hoping to hire a Youth Coordinator. It is also working on teacher recruitment and expanding the education space due to the increase in Church School registration.

Co-chairs: Annette Grueterich and Kerri Ann Hofer

Church Activities is responsible for RHCC's social events and provides opportunities for fellowship and camaraderie within the congregation and for members to welcome all neighbors to its facilities and events. It is one of many formats to help new members integrate into church life. *Chairs are assigned for each activity.*

Communications is responsible for overseeing all internal and external communications of the Church. This involves the *News Letter*, preparing and placing press releases for church events, monitoring the website, and developing materials to be used in outreach for new members. *Chair: Lawrence Sterne*

Finance develops and monitors the church's budget and long-term financial considerations. *Chair: Amy Minella*

Flowers relies on the participation of many volunteers from the congregation (both new and seasoned arrangers) to enhance the peaceful beauty of our Sanctuary, with different floral arrangements each week. The committee also helps coordinate floral dedications by members and friends. *Chair: Heather Sandifer*

History has recently completed work on a documentary video of the history of RHCC with a particular emphasis on the past 30 years. The committee is also planning to create an archive library to catalogue, house, and make available to the church the documents, pictures, videos,

and memorabilia that the members have collected over the years. *Chair: Winthrop Adkins*

Human Resources is responsible for overseeing the office practices and personnel. The committee manages the annual appraisal process for employees of the church and creates goals and objectives for each employee. It is reviewing and updating the employee handbook and creating a more organized personnel budgeting procedure. *Chair: Regina Repenning*

Membership works with new members and holds an annual new member gathering. *Chair: Edie Wilson*

Men's Group plans special events for the men of the congregation. *Chair: Art Landi*

Music focuses on the musical life of the church ministry. This involves the Senior and Youth Choirs in addition to musical outreach to the community. *Co-chairs: Sandra Motland and Suzanne Simpson*

Nominating explores the human resources of the congregation to fill positions on the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee, the Officers of the Corporation, and the Committee Chairs. *Chair: Bill Boysen*

Pastoral Visitors work closely with Pastor Culp to reach out to members of the church in times of need. *Chair: Becky Jaspersen*

Round Hill Cemetery Association operates the 0.2 acre cemetery located at the intersection of Round Hill Road and John Street. The cemetery is jointly owned and operated by our church and The First Church of Round Hill and is managed by Trustees, three from each church. Responsibilities include management of the cemetery endowment fund and cash flow from operations, which include plot sales, redemptions, maintenance, expansions, etc. *President: G. Lynton Kaufman, Round Hill Community Church*

Round Hill Community House manages the use of the Community House facility and works with the church and the community to make full use of this asset. *Co-chairs: Joe Huley and Michael Sandifer*

Round Hill Forums plans, presents, and evaluates forums and other programs on relevant issues that educate, stimulate thinking, and promote dialogue among the members of the RHCC community. This year the committee has worked especially hard on developing venues and formats for educational events to draw more members of the congregation and involve them in new and different ways. Some of our upcoming projects



include a Lenten Series on prayer and spiritual development and expanding programming with Hartford Seminary and Greenwich Continuing Education.

Chair: Brook Calkin

Sanctuary coordinates efforts to maintain and beautify the Narthex, Sanctuary, Hallway Gallery, and Parlor.

Chair: Emily Toohey

Stewardship runs the annual Stewardship Drive.

Chair: Leslie Lee

The Helen Grand Thorne Lectureship was established in 1986 in loving memory of Helen Grand Thorne (1916-1986) by her family and friends. The purpose of the lectureship is to bring to this church and our community a series of distinguished leaders, either ordained or lay, who will explore the interface between spiritual values and contemporary culture. *For more information, contact our Pastor, Bob Culp.*

Ushers organize members to act as ushers for church services and special events.

Co-chairs: Dee Lewis and Fred Mason

Women's Gathering organizes events where the women of RHCC can get to know one another. It holds six gatherings each year and encourages all women to participate and share the richness of their lives.

Co-chairs: Anne Alexander and Julia Boysen

Worship focuses on the design of services at RHCC. The committee has been exploring the ways in which lay members of the congregation participate in leading the services and reviewing the frequency of holding Communion services.

Co-chairs: Mary Ann Debnar and Charles Lee

THE HARVEST SUPPER

Save the date . . .

Round Hill Community Church hopes its wider community will come together in a celebration of Thanksgiving.

Harvest Supper

Dinner and Entertainment

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Round Hill Community House

\$25 per adult

\$10 per child

For more information call 869-1091 or
www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org

MUSIC NOTES

Adult Choir

The RHCC Choir will have its first rehearsal on Thursday, September 9, at 8:00 p.m. New members are enthusiastically welcomed.

Youth Choir

The first Youth Choir rehearsal is on Sunday, September 19, at 11:15 a.m. in the Meeting Room. New singers are welcome. Save January 21 to 23 for the Annual Ski Weekend. Youth Music Sunday is January 30. Practice tapes will arrive in early September for a few great new Spirituals.

Opera Trip

Our annual fall trip to the NYC Opera will be the Saturday, October 2 matinee of the acclaimed performance of Rameau's *Platee*, followed by a sumptuous feast at Carmine's.

We have 24 tickets and have set up round trip transportation in a deluxe motor coach (departing our parking lot at noon). The cost for the motor coach, opera ticket, and dinner is \$150 per person. For those who prefer to car pool, we have eight tickets for just the opera and dinner at \$130 per person. Since we have purchased a limited number of tickets for this event, call the Church Office today (869-1091) to make your reservations!

Carmine's private dining room has been reserved for dinner at 5:00 p.m. with a menu of appetizers, wine, Caesar salad, shrimp pastas, stuffed salmon, chicken Marsala, dessert platter, coffee, and good conversation.

Jazz Comes to Church

Worldwide Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 3 with jazz compositions written specifically for the church. Duke Ellington will be represented by portions of his *Sacred Concert*. Bobby McFerrin's *Psalm 23* will be sung, along with Heinz Werner Zimmermann's exciting *Psalmkonzert*.

Zimmermann, a German composer of sacred choral music, became fascinated with American jazz in the '60s. During a period of intense creativity he fused the contrapuntal techniques of J. S. Bach with the rhythms and sonorities of the jazz combo. This choral work features a prominent part for vibraphone, and we are pleased to have Larry Spivak, whose resume includes performances with the American Symphony and Metropolitan Opera Orchestras, join us.

Christopher Kabala



MEMBERSHIP

Eight new members joined RHCC on June 27, 2004.



James Cobbs is a fifty-year resident of our beautiful town. Jim has strong ties to RHCC since his son, James, Jr., is a member here. Literary folks will be interested to know that our new member is an avid reader and has a special fondness for 19th-century history. Jim has served as president of the Greenwich Land Trust and has been involved in land trust matters in New Hampshire, where he has another home.



Jim Hoffman recently married Pamela Smith on the beach in Bermuda. They will live in Old Greenwich. Jim grew up in Riverside. He recently returned to Greenwich after a 22-year navy career and running his own engineering firm in Maryland. Jim is now a realtor in Greenwich with the office of William Pitt.



Rachel and Matthew Mooney found RHCC via a newspaper advertisement and the church website. Rachel and Matt live in Old Greenwich with their one-year-old daughter Maggie. Rachel is from Pittsburgh, and Matt grew up in Virginia Beach. They moved here from Richmond, VA.



James and Nancy Breckinridge have two children, Nicholas, who is four, and Andrew, who is two. They have lived in St. Louis, New York, and Chicago. James is in private equity and Nancy is a lawyer. They enjoy family activities and sports.



Theron and Jennifer Burraway have two children. Chloe is two and Sophie is four months old. Theron was born and raised in London, and Jennifer comes from Michigan. Theron is CEO of Marcus Evans, Inc. They enjoy traveling, golf, and running.

On Sunday, September 19, new members will be welcomed to the church. Anyone interested in becoming a member should talk with Bob Culp or Edie Wilson.

Edie Wilson



THORNE LECTURE SERIES

The Helen Grand Thorne Lectureship was established in 1986 in loving memory of Helen Grand Thorne (1916-1986) by her family and friends. The purpose is to bring to RHCC and the community a series of distinguished leaders to explore the relationship between spiritual values and contemporary culture.

The 2004 Thorne Lectures and Workshops

What Guides Our Families Today? (Finding Our Moral Compass in a Messy World)

On the weekend of November 5 to 7 Peter Cobb will be with us as speaker and preacher. Recognized for combining intellect and heart, Peter Cobb has spent his entire career in independent education – as instructor, Dean of Students, and Headmaster at such schools as the Moses Brown School in Providence, RI, The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY, the Hockaday School in Dallas, TX, and then at the Nichols School in Buffalo, NY and Pace Academy in Atlanta, GA.

In his lectures and presentations, he fosters a stimulating interchange of thoughts and ideas in the areas of ethics, integrity, and practical spirituality as he addresses the moral dilemmas and choices we all face in our complex culture. Peter Cobb is concerned not only with the moral actions of a community, but also with the manner in which our culture shapes and informs our present actions and our future world together. The weekend's events include the following:

Lecture #1 – Friday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.

In the Shelter of Each Other (Moral Presence and Moral Presents)

Lecture #2 – Saturday, November 6, 9:30 a.m.

The Buddha's Last Instruction and Other Pedagogies of Moral Formation

Workshop, Saturday morning and afternoon

Post Election Ruminations

Sermon – Sunday, November 7, 10:00 a.m.

And Let Our Ordered Lives Confess the Beauty of Thy Peace

Forum, 11:15 a.m.

Panel Discussion on Peter Cobb's presentations

In addition to Peter Cobb, there will be a number of recognized area leaders and educators who will be leading morning and afternoon workshops on Saturday, November 6, on such topics as *Families Doing Good Together*, *The Church/Synagogue As a School for Character*, *Keeping Sacred Time and Keeping Time Sacred*, *Raising Moral Children*, and *Weaving Moments of Peace Into Our Frenetic Schedules*.

Leaders of these workshops include Patsy Howard

(former Headmistress at Greenwich Academy); Peter Cobb (Keynote Speaker); Diana Deacon (former Headmistress and area Psychologist); Jody Visage (former Administrator at Greenwich Academy and new Headmistress at the Waterside School in Stamford); Carmel Tinnes (Director of Education and Fellowship at Round Hill Community Church); Margie Pellegrino (in Private Practice as a Psychologist); and Robert Culp (Pastor of Round Hill Community Church).

The registration fee for the entire weekend is \$35. This includes lunch on Saturday.

COMMUNITY HOUSE ACTIVITIES



Ever wonder what goes on in that big white building? The church uses it for a variety of activities, but it is also a rental facility available for private parties, weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, children's birthdays, meetings, and almost anything you can think up. Here are some of the current programs:

The Actor's Garage offers acting classes for all ages.

Ballroom Magic welcomes couples and singles to swing and sway the night away.

The Barclay Classes teach social etiquette and dance for the younger set.

Berenson's Canine Services demonstrates dog obedience.

Boy Scouts of America and Cub Scouts hold meetings.

Check out the website www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org if you are interested.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Come together with the women of the church and celebrate new friends and old. Our first gathering of this new church season will be on Sunday, September 26, after worship. Save the date now and look for your invitation in the mail.

Anne Alexander and Julia Boysen

September 2004

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

PASTORAL MESSAGE

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are the kind of questions our culture asks us to determine human worth. And they show just how fragile our place in society truly is. A sudden downturn in the market, a “no” from an admissions committee or the executive group, an illness that causes us to leave our work – and suddenly we slip in the world’s estimation.

When we enter the church’s sanctuary, though, we are invited to hear another word, a word that runs completely counter to the message of the surrounding culture: “You are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, God’s own instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he has made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

As we begin another “new year” in the church’s programmatic life, I hope that this will be the special message that you experience not only each time you enter our doors, but also as you “give testimony to and share” in speaking with others about the ministry and mission of our caring fellowship. This promises to be a very exciting year ahead! May you and yours be encouraged to join with us in our high calling and our daily journeys of faith and service to the loving mystery who is God, as detailed in this newsletter. Blessings and Peace!

Bob Culp

SEPTEMBER SERVICES AND SERMONS

- Sept. 5 *When the Minnow Becomes a Whale*
Jn. 4:31-38
Sept. 12 *Beginning Afresh – Again and Again*
Phil. 3:7-14
Sept. 19 *Rekindling the Flame of Our Faith*
2 Tim. 1:1-14
Sept. 26 *The True End of Worship*
1 Pet. 2:4-10

SEPTEMBER DATES

- Sept. 9 Women’s Brown Bag Bible Study
Sept. 12 Rally Day
Confirmants’ and Parents’ Meeting in
Parsonage 6:00 p.m.
Sept. 16 Women’s Brown Bag Bible Study
Sept. 19 New Members’ Sunday
Forum: *The Art of Receiving*
Communion, 11:20-12:15 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group Meeting
High School Youth Group Meeting
Sept. 23 Women’s Brown Bag Bible Study
Sept. 26 Women’s Gathering Brunch
Sept. 30 Women’s Brown Bag Bible Study