

*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

November 2009

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Thanksgiving Reflections

In one of his journal notations, Thomas Merton remarks that somehow we are always thinking that our life will be truly happy “when...” We are seemingly not satisfied with what is currently our situation because we have it in our mind that our life will not be happy until something else occurs – when I have one more thing that I want, when I get rid of that personality flaw of mine, when I can finally have life as I have always dreamed it could be, when I am truly successful, when I learn to pray better, when I find the right person in my life, when... when... when...

But waiting for the “when” can keep us from appreciating what we now have. Longing for promises and dreaming dreams is not a harmful deed as long as the present moment is not overlooked, as long as gratitude is felt deep inside for what is already here, as long as we do not base our happiness on what is still wanting. Thankfulness for what has already been given is the foundation for hoping for what is not yet. The nudging in all this for us is that we need to put aside our “when this happens” and our “if this could only be” and our “when things get better” and our “as soon as we have this” kind of mentality or orientation. We need to embrace the daily invitation to harvest what we now have, and gather all the many gifts that are already ours. We need to observe what has already been placed in the granaries of our own hearts and marvel at the abundance.

Indeed, the invitation each day is for us to stand before this heap of blessings and take a long, grateful look, saying farewell to our “when” and being thankful for what is.

Joyce Rupp reflects something of this truth in her poem about being grateful for all the little moments of our lives:

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Preview Party Friday, December 4 6 to 9 p.m.

**Festive Drinks, Appetizers, Buffet, Live Music,
Silent Auction, Treasure Trove, Fabulous Food
Living Greens, Unique Gifts, and
Fine Art Gifts from “Artists Among Us”
Call the office for information on tickets.**



Traditional Christmas Fair Saturday, December 5 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Free Magic Show at 12:00 and 2:00 p.m.
Photos with Santa in His Sleigh
Train Rides on the Round Hill Express
Treasure Trove and Handcrafted Gifts, Jewelry,
and Fine Art Gifts from “Artists Among Us”**

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



"A child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lit."

Toy Collection for Children in Nicaragua

The Church School is collecting new and gently used toys for the children in Nicaragua who live in the home village of Josefina Guitierrez. Josefina attends our church with Joan Cox. She will take the toys to Nicaragua in two very large suitcases when she visits her family in December. Toys are to be new or very gently used, and must be small.



The children will love any of the following toys:

- Small dolls and stuffed animals
- Small pack of crayons
- Toy cars
- Coloring books
- Baseballs and baseball caps
- Doll-sized pots and pans and tea sets

Please deliver the unwrapped toys to church by Sunday, November 29. There will be a box in the Narthex for donations of toys. For more information, call Tom Mahoney at 869-1091 or Rhona Johnson at 869-4632.

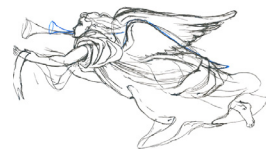


Apple Pies for Pacific House

On Sunday, November 15, Roland Kistler will teach the Church School children how to make apple pie. The pies will go to Pacific House – a shelter for the homeless in Stamford. So, come to Church in your baking clothes. If any adults would like to help Roland and Tom in the kitchen, call or see Tom at Church. The cooking will take place in the Community House kitchen.

Angel Tree Tags

The Angel Tree and Tags will be in the Parlor as of Sunday, November 29. The children will start making angel tree tags on November 8, during Church School. Annette Grueterich will incorporate them into our blessings lesson as an outreach project. If you would like to take some Angel Tags home to have your children decorate them, call or speak to Tom at Church.



Advent Workshop

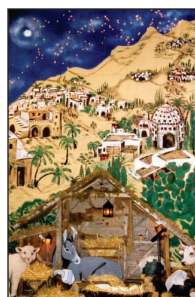
Join us for the annual Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 29, at 5:00 p.m. Instead of making wreaths this year, we will make gingerbread houses with guidance from Roland Kistler. This was a very popular event last year. We will also sing songs of the season, hear seasonal stories, perform advent skits, and light the Christmas trees outside the Community House. Please let Tom know if you will be attending so we can have a gingerbread kit for each child, parent, grandparent, and/or friend at the workshop.



Family Name _____

Number attending _____

Phone number _____



Christmas Pageant

The Pageant is coming – Sunday, December 13. Put the date on your calendar and watch for the pageant announcements. We may include moms and dads along with kids.



STEWARDSHIP

The 2009 stewardship campaign has been under way for about six weeks. We are making good progress but are still 40% from our goal. In order for our church to carry out its mission and its many activities, we hope that everyone will participate so we can reach 100%. Please be as generous as your means allow, but remember that every gift, big or small, will be appreciated.

Stewardship also involves our time and talent. There will always be positions that need filling and jobs that need doing. You may speak with any of the committee chairs or call for direction from a member of the RHCC office staff to find a role that is right for you.

Ron Wilson, Stewardship Chairman

WOMEN'S GATHERING

The Women's Gathering had a wonderful Brunch on Sunday, October 25, at the home of Robin Browning. She welcomed over 30 women and we enjoyed the dry, sunny weather, beautiful views from her windows, and a variety of delicious dishes brought by our members.

We were all spellbound as Mary Jo Heath spoke about her fascinating life in the music world, from Norman, Oklahoma, via Rochester and Amsterdam, to New York City, and her current exciting position as Senior Radio Producer for The Metropolitan Opera Company. Starting in 2006, she has produced well over 100 radio broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera each year, and has helped launch the exciting program of Met performances live in HD, which can be viewed in movie theaters and halls around the country and abroad. In the context of her busy life we all appreciate her faithfully coming to sing in our choir. Thank you so much to Robin and Mary Jo.

The January 29, 2009 Women's Gathering is timed to break up the winter blues and offer easy parking. We will meet for supper in the Church Parlor on Friday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m. We will announce our speaker in December. We plan again to arrange childcare and a movie and pizza for children, which we hope will enable many of you to come.

We always need volunteers to help with these events. If you would like to help in any way, however small, please do call us.

Grada Herrick and Jan Ziemba, Co-Chairs

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

The Chamber Players



Risa Renae Harman has been the professional soprano and soloist in our choir for many years. All of us have enjoyed her spectacular voice as she has starred in numerous performances for our Church. Now, on Sunday, November 15, at 4:00 p.m.,

Risa will perform for the first time with The Chamber Players of the GSO. The concert will highlight Risa singing Handel's German Arias for Voice, Violin, and Continuo, a motet by Vivaldi, Chanson Perpetuelle by Chausson, and Haydn's Scottish Songs for Voice, Cello, and Piano. (the program will be repeated on Monday at the Bruce Museum, 8:00 p.m.)

Risa has performed at the Kennedy Center, with the Lake George Opera, and as Artist-in-Residence with the Bay View Music Festival. She has sung with the New York City Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, and Glimmerglass Opera, and has appeared as a soloist at National Cathedral, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Trinity Church, and Weill Hall.

The Chamber Players are in their thirty-eighth season and have rarely sponsored a program that includes the voice. This is an unusual opportunity to hear and appreciate the chamber music literature that is written for this medium. The concert will include a guest violist and a cellist who are both members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

A wine and cheese reception follows the concert. Tickets are available at the door or you may call Carrie Finlayson (869-4661) for season subscriptions.

WORSHIP

After the successful use of our new Communion Liturgy on World Communion Sunday, October 4, the Board of Directors voted to continue its use for a trial period of one year. At the end of that time, the Worship Committee will recommend to the Board that the new liturgy become permanent, or not, based on membership feedback. Please give us, Bob, or Shannon your input. The Worship Committee will meet on Sunday, November 15, at 11:15 a.m.

Marion Piro and Julia Boysen



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Living the Questions: “Embracing the Mystery”

Wednesday, November 4

6:30 p.m., Meeting Room

7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Video and Discussion

Shannon White leads this four-week series for adults, consisting of a video segment featuring prominent progressive theologians, authors, and church leaders, followed by reflection and discussion.

Bible Study with Rev. Susan DeGeorge

Sunday, November 8

11:15 a.m., Meeting Room

Rev. Susan DeGeorge will lead us in a discussion of the prophet Elijah. This session covers 1 Kings and 2 Kings.

Meditation with Joel Baehr

Tuesday, November 10

7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room

Forum: “Bridging Sunday into Monday”

Shannon White

Sunday, November 15

11:15 a.m., Meeting Room

So many of us work extremely hard at our professions or as volunteers from Monday through Friday and then attend church services on Sunday to do our ministry. This forum will help us explore how our ministry actually *begins* once we leave the church doors on Sunday morning! This is sure to be a lively discussion and paradigm-shifting session. Childcare available.

Advent Workshop

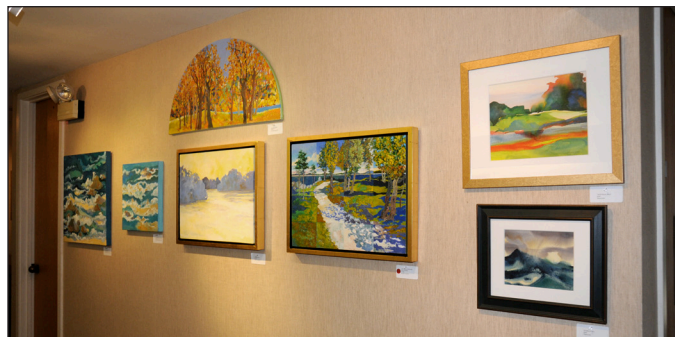
Sunday, November 29

4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Community House

A traditional family event. This year Roland Kistler will lead us in making gingerbread houses. We will hear stories of the season and enjoy and participate in skits for the season, sing carols, and light the trees outside the Community House. Join us and bring a friend!

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

A new collection of paintings by Riverside resident Hazel R. Jarvis will be on display at Les Beaux Arts Gallery through November 24. Jarvis, British-born and a longtime Greenwich resident, is well known for her exquisite traditional watercolor botanical illustrations. She has evolved over the years as an accomplished landscaper in the manner of the Impressionists. This new work, which includes mixed-media and collages, is still inspired by nature, but incorporates a highly decorative Japanese approach to nature, resulting in more abstract and stylized compositions. It has less definition with looser brushstrokes and vivid colors.



Jarvis studied botanical illustration with Carol Bolt in New York, and, during a five-year residency in Tokyo in the 1990s, studied traditional Japanese painting with Shoko Ohta, a fourth-generation artist. Her work is held in the permanent collection of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon University, and was also shown recently in a three-person exhibition “In and Out of the Garden” at the Flinn Gallery in Greenwich.



Les Beaux Arts Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



Music Sunday

“A Celebration of American Life”

Readings and Anthems
Choir and Chamber Orchestra
Christopher Kabala, conductor

Billings • DeCormier • Barber • Thompson • Copland

November 22
10:00 a.m.





PASTORAL MESSAGE

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gratitude, yes,
 for all the big things that stand tall,
 thick with abundance, joy, fruitfulness.
 I cannot help but applaud their presence.
 but deep thankfulness too
 for the bite-sized pieces of my life?
 I had not thought of them,
 those little snippets of time
 so easily consumed
 in the hurry and blur of pretentious days.
 the little moments assumed and presumed,
 slip quickly through the fingers of my busy life.
 November gestures with a wrinkled brown hand,
 beckons me wisely to consider those fleeting
 moments of grace,
 in things quickly passing:
 a walk on a musky-wooded path,
 a cup of coffee silently savored,
 a birdsong in the squeaky hours of dawn,
 the gentle touch of a weathered hand,
 the loving letter from a grateful stranger,
 a fading crescent moon in a royal blue sky.
 I turn to gather finely layered remnants like these
 in the coming and going of my days,
 and discover, with surprise,
 how quickly my inner room is a harvest of gold.

In this Thanksgiving season, may we be grateful
 for all the moments, big and little, that contribute to the
 wondrous harvest of blessings in our own inner rooms.

Bob Culp, Pastor

NOVEMBER SERVICES/SERMONS

Nov. 8	Shannon White preaching
Nov. 15	<i>When Our World Collapses</i> , Bob Culp New Members Received
Nov. 22	Music Sunday: An American Thanksgiving Special Music and Readings
Nov. 29	<i>Where Our Hopes and Fears Meet</i> , Bob Culp First Sunday in Advent Communion Observed Lighting of Advent's First Candle

Christmas on Round Hill Something Special

Workshops

Here are some of our creations. Join us at Church
 on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at 1:00
 through November.



Stools, floor mats, and topiaries

Silent Auction

Friday Preview Party

A brief sampling of the exciting items
 that will be available for bidding:

“Behind the Scenes at the Metropolitan Opera”

“Go Jets!”

“Ski Vermont”

“Gourmet Meal in the Country”

“Habitat for Dolls”

“Sunset Cruise on Long Island Sound”

“Martial Arts for the Whole Family”

“Mani/Pedi/Hair”

“Elegant Lighting for Your Home”

“Chamber Players: Elegant, Eloquent, Exciting”

“The Church Ladies Cater Your Party”

We'll provide sharp pencils. You bring your
 checkbook and keep an eye on those bids!

Christmas on Round Hill

Fabulous Food

Workshops

The Fabulous Food workshops are on Thursday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and will run through November. We meet in the kitchen of the Community House. It is a lot of fun! We chat, drink tea, and nibble on scraps while making yummy treats for the Fair. Anyone who would like to join us will be more than welcome. Come when you can. Let Nancy Lane know (nanbop2@aol.com or 869-7927) so we can prepare.

Pre-Order Your Christmas Puddings



We have been stirring hard and the Christmas puddings are cooking! The puddings are a traditional homemade English recipe and do not contain any suet or nuts. They come in a glass bowl with full instructions for heating and with a recipe for Brandy Butter sauce. Some people think this is the best part, but you must have a pudding to create an excuse to make it! You may pre-order puddings by contacting Lynda in the Church Office before November 15. Pre-ordered puddings will be available for pickup until December 1 at Rhona Johnson's home, close to downtown Greenwich.

We have two different sized puddings available this year:

Christmas Pudding to serve 6 to 8 people. Cost: \$30

Christmas Pudding to serve 2 to 4 people. Cost: \$15

Holiday Centerpieces from Living Greens

This year, as a part of Christmas on Round Hill, Living Greens will be offering "Holiday Centerpieces." The arrangements come in two sizes:

MEDIUM

**12" round
by 10" high**

\$20.00



LARGE

**9" by 18"
by 10" high**

\$30.00



They include a variety of fresh cut greens, pinecones, berries, and red flowers to add that special touch of Christmas to your dining table or mantelpiece. There are two samples on display in the Parlor, along with a sign-up sheet. Your payment will confirm your order. We need worker bees to help with the cutting of greens, soaking oasis, and wiring the pinecones to picks, plus experienced arrangers for assembly. Our workday is Tuesday, December 8. We will set a time depending on the number of orders we have received. The finished product will be available for pick-up on Thursday, December 10, at Church. For further information, please call Suzy Simpson at 622-6611.

The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
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(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.

NOVEMBER 2009 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>All Saints Day</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Fiction Writing 7 p.m.</p> <p>Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p> <p>Fiction Writing 2 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p> <p>Living the Questions, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Christmas on RH Cookie Workshop 2 p.m. Community House</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Fiction Writing 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p> <p>Fiction Writing 2 p.m.</p> <p>Meditation 7 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>VETERANS DAY</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Christmas on RH Cookie Workshop 2 p.m. Community House</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	13	12
<p>15</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Forum: 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Worship Mtg.</p> <p>4 p.m. Chamber Players</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.</p> <p>Fiction Writing 7 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p> <p>Membership Mtg. 6 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Christmas on RH Cookie Workshop 2 p.m. Community House</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>MUSIC SUNDAY 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 1 p.m. Classroom</p>	<p>26</p> <p>THANKSGIVING Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	28
<p>29</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>4 p.m. Advent Workshop</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</p> <p>LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: "INSPIRATION FROM NATURE" BY HAZEL JARVIS</p>				