



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

October 2009

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Pastoral Message: Discerning Our Church's Identity, Purpose, and Future

In September all members of Round Hill Community Church received through the mail a special survey that will be instrumental in helping our leaders and the Board of Trustees assist the congregation in preparing the way for a new minister. It is extremely important for this survey to be returned in a timely manner to the Church, using the self-addressed, stamped envelope that was included in the mailing. This is an opportunity for all members to provide critically important data that will assist in discerning who the Church understands itself to be, what the congregation believes the purpose and mission of the Church to be, and what kind of future is being envisioned for the Church family. I encourage each of you to return this survey as soon as possible, and if you did not receive a survey, to let the Church Office know immediately so that you may participate in this important endeavor.

As one who has moved five times in the course of my ministry into new church ministries, I can attest to how important it is for the congregation to be able to articulate its sense of self, its understanding of its mission, and its vision of the church's future . . . and this survey is an important part in making those determinations. The one whom God and the Church family will be calling to serve as pastor in the future will be helped immeasurably by this work, and will better understand the Church's needs and those opportunities for ministry needing to be attended and embraced.

When I was considering the Round Hill Community Church and the possibility of serving as your pastor back in 1999, the Search Committee was able to provide me with helpful sketches of the Church's

Harvest Supper

Wednesday, October 28

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



**The congregation of the
Round Hill Community Church
invites members of the community
to join together for a celebration
of thanksgiving in our newly
renovated Community House.**

\$35 adults \$15 children

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

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Church School started on Rally Day with some community building exercises and an outstanding magical performance from Mr. Abracadabra. He entertained and impressed both children and adults with his magic. How did he connect those solid rings?

Our second week was spent in the Community House kitchen with Roland Kistler and Mary Ann Debnar leading 20 children in the cutting, shaping, and baking of dog biscuits for the Blessing of the Animals service. Cooking with Roland will be a regular activity as we make meals for residents at Pacific House – a shelter for the homeless in Stamford. If families would like to help Roland serve a meal at Pacific House, leave a message for him at the Church.

Eileen Brehm has volunteered her creative talents to keep our Church School Bulletin Board updated.

Looking Ahead – Save these dates:

- Advent Workshop – November 29
- Christmas Pageant – December 13

A Message to Parents

Over the course of the next two months (October and November) Alexandra Heerdt and Annette Grueterich will be teaching a unit on “The Beatitudes,” which Jesus gave at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. The eight “Blessed Are...” statements proclaim God’s favor toward those who aspire to live according to God’s kingdom.

We don’t often hear the word “beatitude” in modern conversation. But Webster’s Dictionary defines it as “supreme blessedness.” When we talk about being blessed, we often translate “blessed” as “happy,” which doesn’t really express the same thing. Maybe it would be more accurate to say that being blessed has more to do with being divinely

favorable than it has to do with being blissfully happy, although sometimes it encompasses that, too.

Please make time over the next two months to discuss these concepts with your children. The more that you can reinforce at home the principles that Alexandra, Annette, Bob, Shannon, and Tom are teaching at Church, the better the chances are that your child will retain more long-term knowledge.

Here are the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-10:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

With these words Jesus gives us a very different way of thinking. These are not the people we might immediately think of as being “supremely blessed,” but discussing these attributes gives us a great opportunity to talk with our children about the differences between God’s kingdom and the kingdoms of this world. We hope you will help us in this endeavor by talking about these blessings with your children.

We look forward to seeing you and your children at Church.

– Tom Mahoney

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



STEWARDSHIP

By this time all members and attendees of our church will have received the stewardship letter and pledge card. I hope that you will return your pledge cards promptly, but before that, please take some time to consider what a wonderful church we have and how important it is for us to nourish it.

For me, one of the outstanding aspects of Round Hill Community Church is the wide range of people who come to worship here. Even though some of us come from the other side of the world and we may have differences of opinion, we are all children of God and followers of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I feel very much that we are like a varied and loving family seeking to serve God as best we can. Each of us has something special to contribute.

Please be as generous as you can with your financial pledge. To thrive, however, our church needs our gifts of time and talent as well.

– Ron Wilson Jr., Stewardship Chair

FLOWER ARRANGING



Would you like to learn more about flower arranging? Come to a demonstration/workshop at Church. A professional will lead the class, teaching us the principles of design in general by showing us how to arrange specifically for the Sanctuary. Afterward, we would hope you'd join our team, which arranges flowers for the Sunday service. We enjoy it. You might too! If you are interested, please let Lynda know and we will schedule a mutually convenient time.

– Julia Boysen

WOMEN'S GATHERING

On Friday evening, September 25, a group of over 45 women from the Church gathered with their friends at Carrie Finlayson's home for dinner. It was a lively evening with lots of good conversation and, as always, delicious food. Carrie is a very welcoming hostess, and we extend our warmest thanks to her.

After dinner, we enjoyed an extremely interesting talk by Louise Hoffman. She talked about the circumstances that prompted the huge effort required to build 80 cathedrals and 500 abbeys in France during the 12th century alone, when more stone was quarried in 100 years than during the span of the entire Egyptian empire. She also told us of some of the adventures she and her husband, Harry, shared as they explored these churches. One similarity of this great building effort in France to our endeavors at the RHCC was striking: the need to raise money for building. But certainly that is where the comparison ends. Louise told us that if the 12th-century fund raisers were overly aggressive they sometimes suffered the consequences with riots and even death!

Mark your calendars for our next event, a brunch on Sunday, October 25, at the home of Robin Browning. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Mary Jo Heath will be our speaker. Mary Jo has had an exciting career in music and she is now in charge of programming at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. We look forward to seeing many of you then.

If you would like to receive your invitation to Women's Gatherings by email to help save mailing costs, please let Lynda know.

– Grada Herrick and Jan Ziemba, Co-Chairs

SEASONAL FLU SHOT CLINIC

Thursday, October 22

5:30 to 8:00 p.m., Parlor

Free with Medicare B. All others, \$25.00.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Forum: Animals, Religion, and Ethics Sunday, October 4

Our leader will be Dr. Paul Waldau, President of the Religion and Animals Institute (www.religionandanimals.org). He was the Director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine from 2004 to 2008, where he remains on the faculty. He directed the Center's Master of Science graduate program that developed as the world's leading program in human-animal studies.

Living the Questions: "Evil and Suffering" Sunday, October 11

11:15 a.m., Meeting Room

Rev. 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. Participants pursue their questions and seek an understanding as part of a lifelong spiritual journey.

Meditation with Joel Baehr

Tuesday, October 13

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

Divorce Workshop

Thursday, October 15

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Greenwich Library

For anyone who is beginning, in the middle of, or post-divorce, several professionals are here to help. Shannon White will join Pamela Smith and Harold Burke, Esq., in addressing the emotional/spiritual, financial, and legal issues around divorce. And to make it all a bit more fun, Jane Condon will be present to give her take with comedy!

Please invite all who might benefit from this free seminar on Thursday, October 15, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenwich Library. To register go to www.divorcemadeeasier.com. (This event is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Greenwich Library.) For more information, please call Shannon White at 869-1091.

Living the Questions: "Taking the Bible Seriously" led by Shannon White

Wednesday, October 14, Meeting Room

6:30 p.m., Light Supper

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

Bible Study with Rev. Susan DeGeorge

Sunday, October 25

11:15 a.m.

Meeting Room

Rev. DeGeorge will lead us in a discussion of the prophet Elijah. This session covers 1 Kings 17-19.

Living the Questions: "Debunking the Rapture" led by Shannon White

Wednesday, October 21, Meeting Room

6:30 p.m., Light Supper

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

RHCC PHOTO GALLERY

Do you have photos of RHCC events that you would like to share with friends and members of the Church? Please send them as jpeg attachments to Kerri Ann Hofer at kerriann@mac.com. She will upload them to our website where we can all enjoy them.



Kerri Ann "Photos with Santa elf" at Christmas on Round Hill with her son



MUSIC ON ROUND HILL

The Chamber Players Return to RHCC
Sunday, October 18
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary



The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra will begin their thirty-eighth season on Sunday, October 18, at 4:00 p.m. The concert in the Sanctuary will highlight three piano trios:

Mendelssohn, Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49

Jongen, Piano Trio No. 1 in B minor, Op. 10

Beethoven, Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat major, Op. 97
 “Archduke”

The program is followed by complimentary wine and cheese in the Parlor and the opportunity to visit with musicians and friends. Subscriptions for the season are available by calling Carrie Finlayson at 869-4661. Adult and student tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 and \$5.

Save Sunday, November 16, for a special program! The guest soloist for the second Chamber Players’ concert will be Risa Renae Harman, the lead soprano in our church choir. The Chamber Players have not featured a program for voice in many, many years, so it should be an exciting afternoon.

– Carrie Finlayson

Check the calendar on our website
roundhillcommunitychurch.org
for the most current information on
events at RHCC. Click on Calendar.
Then click on an event for times and details.

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



Hazel R. Jarvis, a regular artist at Les Beaux Arts Gallery, has been working on a new collection of paintings entitled “Inspiration from Nature.” The exhibit will open on Saturday, October 17, and run through November 24, 2009.

Jarvis, a British-born and a longtime Greenwich artist, is well known for her exquisite traditional watercolor botanical illustrations. We have seen her evolve through the years to an accomplished landscaper in the manner of the Impressionists. The new work, which includes mixed media and collages, is still inspired by nature; it has less definition with looser brush strokes and vivid colors and, in some of the paintings, she incorporated the highly decorative Japanese approach to nature, resulting in more abstract and stylized compositions.

Jarvis studies botanical illustrations 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. In a recent interview, Jarvis commented: “My work reflects both the English botanical illustration tradition and my own longtime residence in Japan.”

Jarvis’s work is held in the permanent collection of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie-Mellon University. She has exhibited at the American Society of Botanical Artists and recently had a show called “In and out of the Garden” at the Flinn Gallery in Greenwich. She is represented by Phyllis Wrynn of Park Slope Gallery in New York.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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history, its rich traditions and abiding values, perspectives about the Church's theological and ecclesiastical sense of self, and a sense of the pastoral expectations the Church family had – what the Church was needing and expecting in a new pastor. The data provided by the Search Committee not only allowed me to grasp whether the Church would be a good fit for me, but also guided the Search Committee in discerning the suitability of its various candidates and whether such candidates would be a good fit for the Church.

This period of time for the Round Hill Community Church is a gracious opportunity to determine afresh

1. Who this church family believes itself to be – your nature as a people of God, your character as followers of the Way, what it is to be the Church in the 21st century and within the challenging context of Greenwich;
2. What the Church understands its purposes to be – your mission objectives and priorities, your grasp

of what focal points in ministry are of critical importance; and

3. What the Church family envisions for its future – how you see yourselves ministering as a church in the next five to ten years, what strengths in the Church you wish to affirm and utilize, what needs or gaps in ministry you have as a church, and what abilities and gifts you anticipate the new minister to have in helping you realize all you believe God is calling you to be.

This is a very exciting time for the Church family! My hope is that all of you who are members and friends will invest yourselves in this endeavor, responding in timely ways to all invitations and needs, and giving of yourselves in ways that truly help move forward the mission and ministry of a wonderful Church family! My prayers are with you.

– Pastor Bob Culp

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Blessing of the Animals service was held on a misty morning in late September. Our Sanctuary proved to be a pleasant haven for people and their four-footed friends, who were all well-behaved and seemed to appreciate the surroundings.

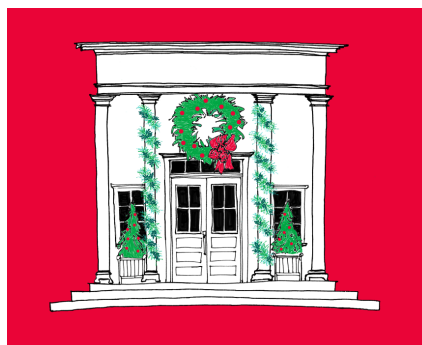


Pews pose a challenge for some of us



A choir member possibility?

Christmas on Round Hill



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
New this year:
Fine Art Gifts from "Artists Among Us"

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"

Christmas on Round Hill Frozen Food

Kitchen elves will be busy in November cooking up these tasty dishes to warm your winter nights. You can pre-order now from the following menu and pick up the frozen food from the Community House freezer at the beginning of Thanksgiving week (November 22 to 25).

Proceeds benefit Christmas on Round Hill, but frozen food will not be available at the Fair.

Soups and Stews, and Sauces

Beef Stew, \$15/quart (Carol James)
Brunswick stew, \$15/quart (Julia Boysen)
Butternut squash soup, \$12/quart (Julia Boysen)
Chili (light and mild), \$15/quart (Carrie Finlayson)
Memphis BBQ sauce, \$12/pint (Linda Cummin)
Turkey meatball minestrone, \$15/quart (Helen Dixon)

Entrees

Beef Bourguignon, \$18/serves 4 (Martina Halsey)
Chicken Pot Pie, \$18/serves 2-4 (Lynda Kinney)
Chicken Tetrizzini, \$18/serves 2-4 (Nancy Lane)
Coq Au Vin, \$18/serves 2-4 (Linda Cummin)
Lasagna, \$18/serves 2-4 (Nancy Mazzoli)
Meatloaf, \$18/serves 4; \$12/serves 2
(Carrie Finlayson)

New This Year: We have two items that must be ordered by November 2
and will be **available fresh** at a mutually agreed upon date.
You may remember enjoying these at the 25th Anniversary Party.

Hors d'oeuvres

Shrimp Mousse \$20/cocktail party size (Brook Calkin)
Chicken Liver Pate \$20/dinner party size (Barbara Fairburn)

To order, call Lynda in the Church Office by November 2.

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 2009 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE		LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: "INSPIRATION FROM NATURE" BY HAZEL JARVIS		1 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	2	3
4 World Communion Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Forum, 11:15 a.m. Paul Waldeau	5 Fiction Writing 7 p.m. Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.	6 Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom Fiction Writing 2 p.m.	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	9	10
11 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Forum: Living the Questions, 11:15 a.m.	12 COLUMBUS DAY OFFICE CLOSED Fiction Writing 7 p.m.	13 Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom Fiction Writing 2 p.m. Meditation 7 p.m.	14 Women's Spirit Rising, noon Living the Ques- tions, 6:30 p.m.	15 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	16	17
18 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Chamber Players 4 p.m., Sanctuary	19 Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m. Fiction Writing 7 p.m.	20 Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom Fiction Writing 2 p.m. Membership Mtg. 6 p.m.	21 Living the Ques- tions, 6:30 p.m.	22 Flu Shot Clinic 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	23	24
25 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Bible Study, 11:15 a.m. Women's Gathering Brunch, noon	26 Newsletter Deadline Fiction Writing 7 p.m.	27 Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom Fiction Writing 2 p.m.	28 HARVEST SUPPER 6:30 p.m. Community House	29 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	30	31