



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

September 2010

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Pastor's Message



I am looking forward to having my grandchildren living nearby. Sometime before the end of the year my son, his wife, and their two children will relocate to the United States from Japan. Until they can establish a place of their own they will live with Jackie and me. What a difference

that will be from talking to them every week over the computer. Of course, it also means that we will have to be constantly aware of what we do and say in front of our grandchildren, what lessons we teach, intentionally and unintentionally.

A couple weeks ago I listened to a program on National Public Radio, "Speaking of Faith" with Krista Tippett. Her guest was Sandy Sasso, a rabbi in Indianapolis and an author of many children's books. The topic they discussed was children and spirituality. I have not yet read any of her books, but I have ordered one that was mentioned on the program, *God's Paintbrush*. I am anxious to learn more in the next few months about what she and others have to say. As any parent knows, children are often little theologians and philosophers, asking huge questions about life and the universe. How did we get here? Where does God live? Why do people die, and where do they go? What does it mean to be good? In other words, from a very early age children ask questions that are the foundation of religion and ethics. We may refine the answers our whole life long, but the

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Message from the Chairman



As another new church year begins, there are also many new things happening here at Round Hill. First and foremost is the addition of Doug Miller as our minister. Doug started preaching in the beginning of August. People who

have attended his services have expressed admiration for his thought-provoking sermons and his warm embrace of our congregation. I would like to extend a special thanks to the transition committee for all they have done through this important and time-consuming process.

Capital improvements have been taking place over the summer and the second stage of the Community House renovation is nearing completion. The restoration of the Community House will make all of our upcoming church events a bit more special. In addition, improvements to the church building are under way and moving along nicely. The Building Committee should be commended for all the time and energy they put into this project over the last few years.

As you look through the newsletter you will meet our new members and our new Director of Children's Education, be informed of the Center for Faith Development's new events for the fall, and get a more detailed picture of Capital Campaign projects accomplished over the summer as well as those new ones that still need to be done.

I'm very much looking forward to the new church year and serving as your Chairman.

— Art Landi



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

It happens every year. The summer ends. The air starts to get a little cooler. Football season begins. And the kids go back to school. For children, this time of year typically brings a certain level of excitement as they start a new grade, have the chance to make new friends, and take on new challenges. For the children of Round Hill Community Church, this September marks a new beginning in the church school as Shannon White will be leading our children's ministries.



In her expanded role as Associate Minister for Education, Shannon will lead the Church's program in Christian Education for all children's ministries and special events, in addition to her current responsibilities with adult education. Shannon's experience as an ordained minister, her time spent organizing and leading the Church's youth mission trips, and most recently as co-author, with her daughter Peyton, of a book to help parents and children communicate on a deeper level, make her perfectly suited to lead the next phase of RHCC's children's ministry.

And what a year it will be. Church School kicks off with a bang at Rally Day on Sunday, September 12. More details will be sent to families closer to the date, but the children's festivities will include a special lesson, games, and fun snacks. Shannon has begun to plan the curriculum for the fall, and in addition to lessons, it will include special events for parents and children.

We're looking for more church members to get involved in teaching or assisting at events, as well as to participate on the Parents' Committee. If you are interested in getting involved in either capacity, please contact Shannon (shannon.white@roundhillcommunitychurch.org) or me (clare.denicola@ivans.com).

– Clare DeNicola, Chair, Parents' Committee

NEW MEMBERS



Dolly and Charles (Chuck) Mayer have been living in our area for fifteen years. Their two children are Nicole, age 6, and Andrew, age 4. The Mayers love to vacation, play golf, and spend lots of time with family and friends.



Nicole and Richard (Rick) Velaj have been in Greenwich for sixteen years. Rick is a radiologist at the Greenwich Hospital. Tennis, golf, and swimming are the sports they enjoy at the Burning Tree Country Club. Their children are Grace, age 8, and Caroline, age 6. Grace and Caroline attend Parkway School.



BEACH DAY 2010

On August 18, about 60 children from New York City arrived on yellow school buses for a Day at the Beach. Thanks again to Roland and Alison Kistler's superb organization, we had a glorious, FUN day with the folks from Little Sisters of the Assumption. Roland and Alison, Doug Miller, Shannon, and several of our church volunteers greeted our guests warmly. Frozen blue, orange, and yellow popsicles were handed out by our children before moms, dads, and little ones headed for the picnic area.



Eager and joyous, the youngsters selected water guns, yo-yos, paddle balls, jump ropes, and adorable straw hats donated by Hadi Hajjar. They played enthusiastically with their new treasures. Giggling boys sprayed each other with cool water. Smiling girls jumped rope and sprayed some of the boys. We all laughed when Harold Kuplesky appeared with one of Hadi's petite hats on his head. He showed great humor when he asked for one of the free brushes for his curly hair. Bill Herrick got in the act with another funny little hat. Laughter filled the air!



Slowly, the group filtered down to the water's edge. Children dug holes in the sand searching for the water below. Castles, forts, ponds and rivers soon dotted the sandy shore. Older children fished for hermit crabs to show the younger ones. Faces lit up with delight! The sun even came out.

While the children ate their delicious lunches, Shannon and Helen O'Malley jumped rope. Rhona Johnson joined in spinning yo-yos. It was really hard to know who had more fun this year, the RHCC volunteers or the kids from NYC.



Thank you Roland and Alison, thanks to all the volunteers – the young and not-too-old to have an awful lot of fun. Join us next year!

Helen O'Malley
Co-Chair Benevolence and Outreach





CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

For years, Round Hill Community Church has been known as the “education church,” meaning that we place a high value on the Christian education of all of our members. During this year, the Center for Faith Development committee has planned a variety of programs throughout the week that are designed to help our members and friends grow and find enrichment in their faith.

Rally Day **Sunday, September 12**



All of our fall programming will kick off with our annual Rally Day worship and opening picnic. We hope you can bring your favorite non-mayo salad or dessert to share at the picnic. There, you will also find the Center for Faith Development’s “Fall at a Glance” brochure outlining our programs.

Forum: “Talking with Your Children about What Matters”

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

Shannon and Peyton White will facilitate a forum for parents and their children (elementary-aged) called “Talking with Your Children about What Matters.” Come and invite your friends for this lively and informative discussion aimed at helping parents and kids navigate some of the most sensitive topics they face. (Childcare will be provided for children younger than first grade.)

International Day of Peace Vigil

Tuesday, September 21

7:30 p.m., Front lawn

We will celebrate the International Day of Peace with a Vigil and Labyrinth Walk at 7:30 p.m. This has been a popular event for people of all faith backgrounds as we honor the efforts of peacemaking around our globe.

Blessing of the Animals Worship Service

Sunday, September 26

10:00 a.m., Community House

On Sunday, September 26, we honor those with four or more legs during our annual “Blessing of the Animals” Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Community House. All species are welcome!



Women’s Spirit Rising

Wednesday, September 15

12:00 to 1:30 p.m., Parlor

The Women’s Spirit Rising (WSR) group is pleased to welcome Rev. Doug Miller to our September 15 meeting. We will meet in the church parlor from noon to 1:30 with a catered lunch, and Doug will lead a guided meditation. We are hoping that his wife, Jackie, will be able to join us as well. All RHCC women are warmly invited. If you plan to attend, please r.s.v.p. to Kerri Ann Hofer by email at kerriann@me.com. WSR is RHCC’s daytime women’s spirituality group that meets approximately once a month, usually during lunchtime. All RHCC women are welcome to join in all WSR events. To add your name to the mailing list for information about future WSR events, please contact Kerri Ann Hofer.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

RHCC Women's Book Club

Tuesday, September 21

1:00 to 2:30 p.m., Edie Wilson's Home

We are excited to have among us an honorary guest (and our resident expert on Paul), Rev. Anita Keire, while we discuss the novel *Great Lion of God* by Taylor Caldwell. This is an amazing group of women, of all ages, life stories, and faith perspectives drawn together by our mutual love of reading and discussing great books and, of course, being with each other. All women who are members and friends of RHCC are welcome to come to the meetings. For information, contact Edie Wilson or Kerri Ann Hofer.

Midweek Evening Supper and Bible Study **Wednesday, September 29**

6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Meeting Room

Many of you have expressed the need for more Bible study. So on Wednesday, September 29, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., we will begin a four-session Midweek Evening Supper and Bible Study, which will be led by our new Interim Senior Minister Doug Miller. Come right from work, or from home, and join us for fellowship and a light supper (\$5 donation) followed by a study and rich conversation based on the lectionary texts for the following Sunday morning. This is your chance to get a head start on Sunday's sermon!

Forum: Animal Ethics

Sunday, October 3

11:15 a.m., Meeting Room

Harvard Law Professor Paul Waldeau will return to discuss how our interaction with the animal world has everything to do with human community. Paul Waldau is a scholar working at the intersection of animal studies, ethics, religion, law, and cultural studies. From 2004 through 2008 Paul was the Director and Creator of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. He is currently the President of the Religion and Animals Institute.



Men's Group



The Men's Group once again will be providing the chefs for the Rally Day picnic. Anyone interested in testing his grilling skills may apply to one of the Men's Group chairmen. Cordon Bleu certification and three letters of reference are requested but not required.

Under the guidance of Lloyd Hull and Win Adkins, we hope to have more regular Sunday morning breakfast meetings. One of our speakers this autumn will be Hadi Hajjar. Hadi has been asked to talk about his more than fifty years of trading with mainland China and the changes he has seen; the tentative title is "A Modern-Day Phoenician Marco Polo and His Journeys to the Orient."

We have been in discussions with Chris Kabala to present a photo lecture. One possible topic is "Three Holy Mountains: Ararat, Sinai, and Kilimanjaro." Arto Szabo will provide his technical expertise in assisting Chris. This program will be open to all and will take place some weekday evening. A reception will follow. No date has yet been determined.

If any men of the Church have ideas for activities or wish to make a presentation at a Sunday breakfast, please contact Michael Sandifer or me.

— Ron Wilson
Co-Chair, Men's Group

We look forward to seeing you at many of the events throughout the fall. If you have any suggestions, please contact someone on the Center Committee: Wilma Jordan-Green, Brook Calkin, Lyn Harmon, Charles Lee, Harold Kuplesky, Grada Fisher, Sandy Motland, Anita Keire, Richelle Hodza, or Shannon White.



MUSIC ON ROUND HILL

Rally Day Music to Feature Russian-Israeli Trumpeter David Glukh



The piccolo trumpet virtuoso David Glukh will be a guest instrumentalist for the Rally Day service on September 12, when he will perform works of the Baroque Era as Prelude and Postlude. He will be joined by soprano Risa Renae Harman in Handel's "Let the Bright Seraphim."

Since his graduation from The Juilliard School in May 2000, David Glukh has been leading an active performance schedule, first as a member of Dallas Brass (2000-2002) and later as a composer and soloist of David Glukh International Ensemble, Manhattan Soloists, and Wholly Brass, in addition to solo engagements throughout the world. As a soloist, David has appeared with the Louisville Orchestra, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Jupiter Symphony, Lyric Theater Orchestra, Raanana Symphoniette, IDF Orchestra, Ulianovsk Symphony Orchestra, and Ensemble Melodia.

David Glukh was born in Moscow in 1975, where he attended the Gnesin's Music School. In 1990 he immigrated to Israel, where he spent the following three years in the Thelma Yellin High School for the Arts. He later served in the Army Orchestra from 1993 to 1996.

Save the Date

Christopher Kabala Piano Recital

Friday, November 5
8:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Chamber Players

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return for the 2010-2011 season. Dual concerts are scheduled for:

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. at RHCC

Mondays at 8:00 p.m. at The Bruce Museum

Mark your calendars for these concert dates:

Oct. 17-18, 2010 Winds, Viola, Piano

Nov. 14-15, 2010 Piano Trios

(guest pianist, Tanya Bannister)

March 6-7, 2011 Strings

April 3-4, 2011 Piano and Strings

Each concert is followed by a complimentary wine and cheese reception with the opportunity to meet musicians and visit with friends. On Sundays, it's a great chance to invite guests for a concert and wine before moving on to dinner. Enjoy Chamber Music in our beautiful Sanctuary!

Season subscriptions are discounted and available by calling the Treasurer, Carrie Finlayson, at 203-869-4661. (Adults \$75, Students \$15). Also, forms can be found on our Music Bulletin Board. For individual concerts, tickets may be purchased at the door (Adults \$25, Students \$5).



LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Les Beaux Arts Gallery opens its new season with a noted portrait artist and RHCC member, Fred Mason. The exhibit starts on Sunday, September 5, and runs through October 13, 2010. It will showcase many of Fred's commissioned portraits.



Fred's paintings are on display in most of the 50 states and many foreign countries. His studio is here in Greenwich, but his commissions require frequent national and international travel. They include personal portraits of family groups and individuals, often accompanied by their pets, as well as official portraits of corporate, university, museum, theater, hospital, and military leaders.

A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Fred began drawing at the age of five and turned professional at the age of 14, when he went to work for a sign painter. He earned his BFA at the University of Utah while working as a staff artist at the Salt Lake Tribune-Telegraph newspapers. After his military duty, he worked as an illustrator and commercial artist while completing his education in the arts at the Art Students

League, NYU, and Brooklyn Museum School of Fine Arts. After college he worked for seven years at Cooper Studios in New York City, where he won a number of awards before turning his attention to fine art. He has lectured and taught at a number of workshops and art schools and is currently on the advisory board of the College of Fine Arts of the University of Utah.

Fred's style, which he calls contemporary realism, is specific and contained with a palette reminiscent of the Impressionists. His goal in painting a portrait is not only to create a physical likeness, but also to capture the unique personality of his subject.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



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.



ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The first part of the Community House renovation was finished last September, and during this past year we enjoyed the new floor in the main room, the new windows, the new siding, and many, many more updates to our historic Community House. When on the Church campus, you have probably observed your Capital Campaign pledge dollars hard at work once again. The Board of Trustees approved a budget of \$625,000 to complete the final phase of the Community House renovation. These renovations should be completed by early September. Following is a list of the major items that were completed this summer:

- Air conditioning
- New handicapped accessible restrooms
- New ceiling and lighting in the main hall
- New roof
- Upgraded electrical wiring

In addition to the Community House renovations, your Capital Campaign dollars have also gone for additional improvements to the Church building. You may have noticed the entrance to the Church looks much better now with the replacement of the stone steps leading up to the entrance and the replacement of the outer portico outside the front door.

We are delighted with how much we have been able to accomplish in the last two years. But there is still more to do! We have a long list of improvements we would still like to make to the Church, but given the constrained budget, we are limited in what we

can do unless we get further contributions. Another \$300,000 in contributions would go a long way to covering many of the needed improvements. Some of these include:

- Replace Sanctuary windows
- Repair hallway carpet in church
- Pave the front circle and back lower parking lot
- Improve outside lighting
- Replace the stage curtains and provide better stage lighting and sound
- Install a sprinkler system
- Fix drainage issues throughout the campus
- Install a generator

For those of you who already have contributed to the Capital Campaign, we again say a big THANK YOU! We raised more than \$2 million. You can see that your contributions are improving our Church campus as well as providing an improved space for children and adult events in our community.

We would also like to thank the tireless Building Committee, which has been led so ably by Helen Dixon. The committee has worked for over two years on this project and includes Frank DeNicola, Suzy Simpson, John Lowe, Art Landi, and Dick Bergstresser. Next time you see them, please let them know that we all appreciate their hard work and the magnificent result.

– Banks Adams and Amy Minella



COMMUNICATIONS

We are looking for new ways to keep our membership informed about all the happenings at Church and share news about membership participation in the community. With that in mind, Communications has taken over the large bulletin board in the Main Hallway at Church (down from the Parlor doors, on the left-hand side). There are two sections: "Members in the News" and "Upcoming Events." Please feel free to add articles to the board as they pop up in the local papers or *Greenwich Magazine*. As invitations and fliers are mailed out, we will have extra copies available in the pockets on the board for distribution to friends and visitors.

The website is being updated, the new Church Brochure is available, a new Member and Friends Directory is in the works, and our goal is to reach more of the community through articles and pictures in the paper. New ideas on how we can continue to improve our communication are welcome. You may contact me at 203-622-6611, or at suzsimp@verizon.net.

– Suzy Simpson, Communications

FLOWERS

Each Sunday, our Sanctuary is graced with two beautiful flower arrangements, the Parlor table has a colorful centerpiece, and a posy or two in the Narthex welcome all who join us for worship. Members of the congregation lovingly assemble the flower arrangements. We are looking for more people to join the group. We have a flower room with all the necessary supplies, where you can peacefully arrange your artistic creations. If you are a little timid, we can team you up with a more experienced arranger to get you through the briar patch. There is a sign-up sheet on the desk in the Parlor.

We would also like to reinstitute the old practice of breaking down Sunday arrangements and taking smaller containers of flowers to shut-ins or others suggested by Doug or Shannon. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Julia Boysen at 203-661-1172 or boysenjuli@aol.com.

COFFEE HOUR COMFORTS

Em Toohey and I are very grateful to those faithful stewards who, amid the heat of summer, still brought nice edibles for the Sunday Coffee Hour refreshments.



Now, as our minds turn to fall and its many commitments, we have another request – please check your home calendars and then stop off in the Parlor and *find a date* when you could again manage to bring some nice goodies for everyone's enjoyment. And then, *record your name* on the sheet. This will be much appreciated!

I have heard so often that many in the community think of the Round Hill Community Church as the friendliest church in town! And I do believe the Sunday post-service Coffee Hour is a prime factor in enhancing links between Church members and newcomers.

– Christine Gerli



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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questions remain the same.

Parents and grandparents generally want to nurture the spiritual life of children. We want them to be gracious and grateful, courageous in times of difficulty, with a sense of purpose and joy in life. Society is good at teaching children to be consumers and competitors, but does little in fostering spirituality. For that, the role of parents and grandparents is crucially important. Many of us feel inadequate to the task, especially when we often feel less than certain ourselves about the answers.

But that, I think, is the point. It's not our answers to the questions that are important, but the questions themselves. As Rabbi Sasso said, there seems to be an innate spirituality in children, a sense of wonder, spontaneity, imagination, and creativity that we want to support and foster. What children lack is the language and the opportunity to have a conversation about the questions. Parents and grandparents can give them that opportunity, not by offering easy answers to hard questions, but by saying something like, "That is a really hard question. Let's think about it together." The language to use is not the language of the theologian, but the language of the storyteller, speaking about what we know from our experiences in life. More often than not, Jesus taught by use of stories and parables. He didn't offer a creed or a dogma, but an example. I need to remember that. I need to work on that, because talking to children in this way does not come naturally to me. I discovered listening to the radio program that not only do I have much to learn, but also that there is help available. I can think of little else that is as important as fostering a sense of spirituality in young people, especially today. Will you join me?

Many have come to teach the holiness of God,
but still there is not peace in the world.
Many have come to teach the holiness of man,
and still there is not peace in the world.
When many come to teach the holiness of children,
then there will be peace in the world.

— Rabbi Schlomo Carlebach

— Douglas Miller, Interim Senior Minister

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Blessing of the Animals Worship Service Sunday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.

Bring your favorite pet to church! This annual service will focus on God's gifts of animals, give thanks for the role that animals have held in our lives, and reaffirm our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation. There will be a special part of the service to remember those pets that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge – you may wish to bring a photo, portrait or stuffed animal in their memory.



The service will be held in the Community House. Many of our two-legged friends will remember this as the venue for dancing class; four-legged canines may recall obedience instruction. Special seating will be available for those without pets, and everyone is invited for refreshments following the service, which will feature treats for all.

All pets are welcome, but please consider the wisdom of bringing aggressive animals (you might consider bringing a photograph instead). Pets may be kept in carriers, cages, or on a leash during the service. Large animals are also welcome, but must be led (for example, horses must not be ridden), and there will be a holding area available outside. Clean-up aids and water will be provided. Everyone is invited to come with or without a pet.



SEARCH COMMITTEE

With the selection of Doug Miller as our interim Senior Minister, the Search Committee (formerly known as the Transition Committee) is now focusing full-time on identifying candidates for the permanent position. We continue to receive letters of interest as a result of the ads we have placed in Christian magazines (more than 100 applicants so far) and have also received referrals from friends of RHCC. Our committee members have taken on different regions of the country to research possible candidates on websites.

The search materials are posted on the RHCC website as a link under *About the Church*, clearly outlining our criteria in considering a candidate. If you know of anyone you think we should contact, please let one of us know.

We plan to hold another informational forum in the near future and will announce it in the Church Bulletin and via email once the date is set. Please feel free to contact any of us with comments, questions, suggestions, or further information.

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

Christmas on Round Hill



Preview Party

Friday, December 3 6 to 9 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 4 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All made possible by a large cast of volunteers . . .
 please contribute your time and talent to help
 make this year's fair the best ever!

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Save the Date!

Round Hill Community Church is pleased to announce that we are hosting a flu shot clinic this fall on Thursday, October 14, 2010, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Preventa Health will be offering both influenza and pneumococcal immunizations. Last year, because the H1N1 virus emerged after production began on the seasonal vaccine, two separate vaccines were needed to protect against seasonal flu and the H1N1 pandemic flu virus, but this year, only one vaccine is necessary. The cost of each immunization is FREE for those with Medicare Part B (must present card), and for all others a flu shot is \$25 and the pneumonia shot is \$45. Only cash or check will be accepted, but a receipt will be provided to file with private insurance. The Centers for Disease Control recommend that anyone over four years of age should get a flu shot every year. If you have any additional questions about the flu shot please contact Preventa Health at 203-274-7896.

The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
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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.

SEPTEMBER 2010 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE			1 Staff Mtg., 1 p.m. Something Special Craft Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom	2	3	4
5 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Shannon White preaching Fellowship, 11 a.m.	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7 Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	8 Something Special Craft Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom	9	10	11
12 RALLY DAY! Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching Picnic and fellowship, 11 a.m., Front lawn	13	14	15 Women's Spirit Rising lunch, noon Something Special Craft Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom	16	17	18
19 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching Fellowship, 11 a.m. Parenting Forum, 11:20 a.m.	20 Cooking for St. Luke's	21 RHCC Women's Book Club, 1 p.m. Peace Vigil and Labyrinth Walk 7:30 p.m.	22 Something Special Craft Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom	23	24 Newsletter Deadline	25
26 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 10 a.m., Community House Fellowship, 11 a.m.	27	28	29 Something Special Craft Workshop 2-5 p.m. Midweek Bible Study/Supper, 6:30-8 p.m.	30	IN LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PAINTINGS BY FRED MASON	