



Round Hill  
Community Church

## The News Letter

September 2008

### Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

#### A Great Time to Be Alive

In 1944 Harry Emerson Fosdick published a book of his wartime sermons entitled *A Great Time to Be Alive*. Having witnessed over the course of 30 years two world wars that eventually would lead to nearly one hundred million deaths, wars that bookended a deep economic depression that tore at the human fabric of life in painful and complex ways, Fosdick spoke to his parishioners at the Riverside Church in New York City of a God who was tutoring human-kind in what he saw as both “a ghastly time to be alive” and “a great time to be alive.” So it was that he addressed the conscious theodicy of the 1940s (“Why would a good God allow such warring conflicts and human tragedies to happen?”).

Fosdick’s thesis was that God communicates most loudly and clearly through the human tragedies we humans cause, as well as the challenges that result not only from poor choices but also from a paralysis of the spirit. In one of his sermons he said: “In church we pray that the world may be saved, but commonly when we leave the church we still try to save the world without changing it. Then history, tired and impatient of our lethargy and our reluctance to alter anything, hurls us out of peaceful decades into a maelstrom like this, crying, ‘Now you have got to change!’ And when that era comes, like it or not, it is a great time to be alive!”

If we define a “maelstrom” as a large-scale turbulent event marked by confusion, disorientation, and conflicting priorities . . . that together prompt strong feelings and at times violent reactions . . . then we, too, are living in a time filled with the same challenges as the people in Fosdick’s church faced in the 1940s. In both global and community events, disorientation necessitates reliable voices that lead us, as

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#### Hooray for Rally Day! Sunday, September 7

The summer is coming to a close but Rally Day is near and we have a beautiful picnic planned with delicious sandwiches, salads, and cookies. This year we have a special treat for the children. Jack Rabbits Gymnastics is hosting the children’s games in the Community House. There will be gym events for two- to five-year-olds at 11:00 a.m., and at 11:30 a.m. those who are six and older will be able to participate. Bring your friends. We are going to have a good time!

We also ask that people bring a yummy salad to share and sign up to help set up or break down. Please contact Lynda in the office or sign up on the sheet in the Parlor. We can’t wait to see you.



25th Anniversary Celebration  
Round Hill  
Community Church Building

Commemorating the 25-year journey  
of our congregation in this unique  
church building

I am very honored to serve as chair of this landmark celebration in the history of our Church. A wonderful committee has been meeting since last February and has planned a number of exciting and interesting events.

Planning committee members are Caroline and Win Adkins, Bob Culp, Annette Grueterich, Hooker O’Malley, Suzy Simpson, Laura Wack, Shannon White, Ron Wilson Sr., and Joan Warburg.

Your participation and contagious enthusiasm will contribute to a glorious year of celebration.

Please see pages 10-11 of this newsletter for a calendar of planned events.

– Helen Itin-O’Malley, Chair



## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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

### Lessons

There will be five major topics this year:

- *All About the Bible*
- *The Miracles of Jesus*
- *Prayer – 101 Ways to Pray*
- *The Mystery of Easter*
- *Let There Be Light* (Creation and Environment)

### Class Structure

There will be two major groups this year. The first will be for students in grades one through four and the second will be for students in grades five through seven, thus allowing teachers to prepare their lessons for a specific age group.

On those Sundays when we anticipate that Church School attendance will be low, due to a long weekend or holiday time, a special program will be scheduled.

During a class last May, we realized that the children attend thirteen different schools in Connecticut and New York and do not know one another very well. So in September our focus will be to build community with the students using a variety of games, challenges, and cooperative activities. We will incorporate a spiritual dimension as we build this community of faith.



We will include music periodically with our lessons and always with the children's services. We are fortunate to have the talented Jonny Duennbier to lead our music program.

### Scripture and Bible Breakfast

Each topic will have at least two scripture quotes that we hope the children will learn and commit to memory. Their Bible knowledge will be tested on **Sunday, April 19, 2009** at the Bible Breakfast. On this morning we will distribute Bibles to students in grades three through seven and challenge students against their parents in a Bible Jeopardy contest.

Please work with your child(ren) to learn the passage. This month's quote is from Matthew 18:21-22:

**Then Peter came to him and said, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"**

**Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy times seven."**

### Children's Services

We will hold children's services on November 16, December 21, March 8, and May 31. The children will assume leadership roles of welcoming their friends as they arrive, reading the prayers and scripture, and collecting the offering. High school students will lead the music and give the sermon.

### Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 14

The Pageant will be directed by Perry Minella, Alexa Salame, and Helen O'Malley. Roles will be assigned in November.

### Summer School Teacher Thanks

We are grateful to the folks who taught Church School this summer. Their gifts of time, energy, enthusiasm, and creativity enriched the lives of our children: Laura Wack, Hadi Hajjar, Debbie and Bill Lipner, Alice Fisher, Mary Ann Debnar, Suzy Simpson, Amy and Perry Minella, Elizabeth and William Green, Alexandra Heerdt, and Annette Grueterich.

### Church School Registration

Church school registration forms were mailed to families in August. If you did not receive yours, call Tom at Church to request one. Completed forms are due September 7. Check the back of the registration form for additional information.



## CATCHING THE SPIRIT OF RHCC

There is something special about our church family. It has something to do with our church's history and its memorable journey to serve our Lord as an independent community church whose unity is celebrated in the context of its rich diversity.

**It is a “spirit” that conveys to us that God is with us, that we are not alone, and that God is bestowing upon us a wisdom and devotion in our common life so that, along with the Lord, we may be to each other “a strength in need, a comfort in sorrow, a counselor in perplexity, and a companion in joy.”**

It has something to do with our being small enough so everyone is known by name, and yet large enough to be able to exercise a profound impact upon the world's hungers and hurts and hopes.

It has something to do with our vibrant traditions of dynamic worship, inspirational music, powerful prayer, fruitful education, fulfilling fellowship, meaningful service opportunities, and a growing ministry of gifted volunteers.

And it has something to do with our church family's desire to focus upon those things we have in common, rather than those things that could divide.

Indeed, there is a unique “spirit” here within our shared ministries and mission as a people of God. It is a “spirit” that conveys to us that God is with us, that we are not alone, and that God is bestowing upon us a wisdom and devotion in our common life so that, along with the Lord, we may be to each other “a strength in need, a comfort in sorrow, a counselor in perplexity, and a companion in joy.”

We encourage you to be a part of our special journey together this year, and to participate in our ministries and programs in such ways that you may “catch the spirit of Round Hill.”

– Bob Culp

## TALES FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Thank you to all who participated in the focus group meetings in the spring with BRB, our architect. Numerous ideas came out of those meetings and we are extremely happy with how the architect's renderings are developing. Your building committee, consisting of Banks Adams, John Lowe, Helen Dixon, Dick Bergstresser, Art Landi, Suzy Simpson, and Amy Minella, has been meeting bi-weekly all summer in order to finalize the architect's plans for the Community House and the Church so that we can submit them to the town. We are still planning a start date for construction of the Community House in spring 2009.

Included in the plans for the Community House is much safer access to the building for the hundreds of children who use the building, a courtyard that will enhance the outside of the building as well as provide further space for gatherings, and a crafts studio that can be used by the community. We are also considering many “green” options, including a geothermal heating/cooling system.

Of course, none of this can get done without generous contributions. We have raised over \$2 million of the \$4 million goal. The first \$2.5 million is for needed maintenance of the Church and the renovations of the Community House. The remaining \$1.5 million will go to expanding the office space of the Church and reconfiguring meeting spaces and classrooms as well as adding to the endowment.

Everyone received letters and pledge cards in July. For all of you who have sent in contributions or your pledges, we are truly grateful. For those who have not, please consider how important this campaign is to the future of our church and also to the enhancement of a significant building in the community of back country Greenwich.

Sincerely,

Amy K. Minella

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee



## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

*The Center nurtures an inward journey of prayer and study along with an outward journey of worship and engagement to deepen our understanding of God's purpose in our lives. We seek to follow Jesus Christ together and individually through a variety of activities.*

Welcome to an exciting year at "The Center." Our committee has packed the Church calendar with interesting forums, prayer and worship experiences, Bible and theological studies, lectures, and field trips that we hope will encourage deep questions and foster spiritual growth.

We invite you to join us as we study Romans, Job, and the Gospel of John throughout the year with three dynamic leaders. Our very popular monthly meditation series continues with Dr. Joel Baehr, and Bob Culp will lead us in two reflective series. And be on alert for an exciting upcoming announcement on the 2009 Thorne Lecture Series.

Please mark your calendars! In an effort to meet everyone's needs, we have scheduled sessions and classes at different times of the day during the week and on the weekends.

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our committee.

The Center Committee:

Wilma Jordan-Green, Brook Calkin, Charles Lee,  
Mike Fitzsimons, Lyn Harmon, Sandy Motland,  
Beth Wright, Shannon White

### **Sunday, Sept. 7 Rally Day Picnic 11:00 a.m.**

Enjoy a picnic on the green after the service. Our traditional welcome back to Church School offers children and parents information about the programs and events for the year and is a time for everyone to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

### **Tuesday, Sept. 9 Meditation with Joel Baehr 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Meeting Room**

A Unitarian Universalist Minister and Buddhist practitioner, Rev. Baehr has led many into a deeper awareness of the Holy. Join us as we seek a deeper spiritual journey.

### **Sunday, Sept. 14 Worship Committee Forum: The RHCC Creed**

The Worship Committee will report on the results of their meetings to determine if the RHCC Creed needs updating.

### **Tuesday, Sept. 16 Living the Questions: An Invitation to Journey 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.**



Rev. Robert B. Culp leads this seven-week series for adults, consisting of a video segment featuring prominent progressive theologians, authors, and church leaders, followed by reflection and discussion. Study materials and special handouts will be provided.

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. What many long for is a safe environment where they can ask the questions they have always wanted to ask, but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. "Living the Questions" lets participants pursue their questions and seek an understanding as part of a lifelong spiritual journey.

### **Thursday, Sept. 18 Peace Vigil and Labyrinth Walk for International Day of Peace, 7:30 p.m.**

We will gather for a candlelight prayer service before we walk the Labyrinth in recognition of the worldwide commemoration of Peace Day, which is September 21. All ages are welcome.

### **Sunday, Sept. 21 Forum: Project Madres** Project Madres provides support services to Latino women living in and around Port Chester and is supported by our Benevolence and Outreach Committee.





## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Tuesday, Sept. 23**     **Living the Questions:  
Taking the Bible Seriously,  
but Not Literally**

See September 16 description.

**Sunday, Sept. 28**     **Bible Study: "Romans"**  
**Ralph Ahlberg**  
**11:15 a.m., Meeting Room**



Why read and study Paul's Letter to the Romans? When asked to lead a study/discussion group following worship at Round Hill Community Church that's the question I asked myself! But as I began my study,

I became increasingly interested and excited. It is a great religious classic that continues to speak as much to new generations as to past.

Augustine turned to "Romans" back in the fourth century in his debate with the Manicheans. Luther found in the letter his understanding of righteousness by faith and said, "It's the soul's daily bread, and can never be read too often, or studied too much. The more you probe into it, the more precious it becomes, and the better its flavor."

In my lifetime, the acknowledged leading theologian of the twentieth century, Karl Barth, used the letter to combat the disillusionment and negativity that followed the First World War. His 1919 commentary on Romans guided the Confessing Church of Bonhoeffer and Niemoller in opposing Hitler. And even today, given the ethnic conflicts that assail our world in so many places, "Romans" continues to offer an amazing path of understanding and grace.

I look forward to our three sessions together reflecting on and engaging more deeply into Paul's Letter to the Romans on September 28, October 5, and November 2.

**Tuesday, Sept. 30**     **Living the Questions:  
Thinking Theologically in  
Our World**

See September 16 description.

### Les Beaux Arts Gallery

Les Beaux Arts Gallery inaugurates its new season with a celebration of life and hope, "Dancing Leaves," an exhibition of black and white photographs by the artist photographer Thomas Berntsen.

Berntsen has been working on this series for several years and is integrating his photography into large mixed media pieces. He uses a Sinar 4 x 5" view camera and develops his photographs in a darkroom lab.



Berntsen uses rubber and geranium dying leaves, sets them up on a stage, and directs his lighting on them; the result is an ethereal image of leaves floating and dancing in a surreal space, endowing wasted leaves with a new immortal life. "The images are meant to bring joy and beauty in this world," he says with a smile. How does he get the leaves to stand? He laughs and says, "because I ask them very nicely."

Berntsen explains, "My work is an expression of profound optimism. In a fleeting moment of self-expression I found my voice in depicting the exquisite surrender of a dried leaf. The breadth of beauty in that dried rubber tree leaf struck me; its structure, elegance, and dignity were intact well after its usefulness. It took my breath away. In that transitory moment I received a gift. Truth and beauty in nature is my one true constant, a rudder that directs my journey."

Berntsen graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology and enjoyed a twenty-five-year career as a commercial photographer in New York City. After September 11, 2001, he gave up his work and devoted his life to his art. He is widely exhibited and is an active member of the Silvermine Guild of Artists in New Canaan, and sits on the Board of the Hammond Museum of Arts in North Salem.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH



*RHCC mission participants with Bridges staff and families from the community*

### Nicaragua Mission Trip

This summer, fifteen teenagers and adults traveled to Ticuantepe, Nicaragua, to build a house for a family. Members of the group were Shannon White, Maddie and Eleanor Stein, Amy, Perry, and Casey Minella, Bill, Janet, and Billy Boysen, Mason and Courtney Ziluca, Laura Huley, John Mazzoli, Sarah Gordon, and Arman Rye. Here are some of their thoughts.

We have had a great first day. Our first wake-up call was from the roosters at about 3:00 a.m., but we started our actual day with a 7:00 a.m. breakfast and then got to work! Our main project is building a house for a family of four, who worked with us today. We were amazed at how quickly our pile of raw materials began to resemble a house; by the end of the day we had four walls built to chest level!

A smaller group of us is working to build a stove for a local school and had fun being surrounded by

all the kids. The work is hard and more of a workout than some of us have had in a while, but it is very gratifying to make such progress and to work directly with the people we are helping. We are staying at a home of one of the families in the community, and are enjoying good home-cooked food despite the rustic setting. The community is also in a gorgeous area in the mountains, where we have nice breezy weather and fresh local pineapples. It is a nice place for relaxing after a day of work!

A bit cloudy this morning, but beautiful sunshine this afternoon. The valley we are in is absolutely beautiful. Very different from last year where the poverty was there and very little beauty in the community. Here, the beauty is all around – the pretty pointed mountains, green, tiered valleys, the bright blue sky and pineapples everywhere, along with dragon fruit





## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

cactus. When we left the work site this morning one of the women gave us freshly cut pineapple. It was sweet and delicious. The children are much happier here even though the living conditions are primitive. They also look much healthier. I am sure this is the product of all the surrounding beauty and food that is grown here.



*The house in progress*

The walls in the house are almost all done. Tomorrow is our last work day! We all feel we have worked hard so are happy to see our last work day come. We are also looking forward to two nights in the same hotel we stayed in last year!

Tonight we had spaghetti for dinner. Nice to have something other than veggies and rice and beans. The hard-boiled eggs this morning tasted pretty good too. We had a Nicaragua history lesson tonight from Carla and Mary. It was interesting to hear and we all asked a lot of questions.

Today we had the house dedication. The house we built was for Yohida Lopez and her three kids, Sindy, Carmelo, and Enbel. The house is in Francia 2 (yes, there is a Francia 1) in Ticuantepe. Yohida had helped for the whole week and we got to know her kids.

So why is this such a satisfying experience? It is a beautiful country with friendly people. It is an adventure each time, but the feeling of doing physical labor combined with truly making a difference in a family's

life is what makes me feel good about using a vacation week to do this. It is wonderful to see how we all help each other in our group and at the same time watch how the community we work in is so close and how they all help each other. On the work site these two communities merge and we all help each other. Maybe the world needs more of this!

– contributed by Amy and Perry Minella,  
and Janet and Billy Boysen



*Perry and Arman working alongside  
masons to erect the house*

From the moment I stepped into our quaint little home located in Francia Dos, Nicaragua, I knew I was at home. Whether it was the friendly guides or the overly kind villagers, something had struck me. Yes, this trip was a great chance for bonding with my peers, but there was a deeper underlying purpose. I still remember the overwhelming feeling of sadness while leaving.

Mario the watchman and Isaac the ice cream man were probably the two best friends I made in the village. How could I ever forget the kind but simple “buena swerte”(good luck) they told me as we said our good-byes, but there was a moment of sadness staring into their eyes, knowing I was taking the 6:00 a.m. flight back into a world of luxury. For me this was a week of escape; for Mario and Isaac, this is their life. They aren't going to go on a plane and fly away, life goes on for them. We can never fully understand what it's like to live in such conditions, but

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## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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this trip has emotionally, as well as spiritually, affected my life in many ways.

I'm sure there are many of you who would rush to take the next flight back home after seeing our living quarters in Nicaragua. I was tempted to myself, after John Mazzoli found a scorpion in his bed, but there is something special about living a week of hard labor with relatively no luxuries. It's a pure life, a life not clouded by unnecessary stress. People there have no concept of what we think are basic necessities such as a dishwasher or air conditioning. They do know what is important: friends, family, and fellowship. All of these unquestionably I found present during my short stay.

– Arman Rye



*The view from the village*

I feel very fortunate to have been able to participate in this unbelievable experience in Nicaragua. Before leaving, I had a vague sense of the work that we would be doing, but I was completely unprepared for the profound impact that the community would have on me. Everyone we met was incredibly friendly and welcoming, helping to make us feel at home in their community. More importantly, they were all dedicated to helping one another and working hard to benefit their neighbors. Many older women and young children from the surrounding homes joined us each day at the building site, where they would work just as hard as we did, despite their age. I was also impressed by the immense progress that could be made in such a short period of time. On the first day alone, we turned a couple of piles of cinder blocks and sand into four-foot walls that already resembled a home. We had completed all four walls by the end of the week, but as I observed Yohida's reaction to the house, I realized that we had done much more than simply build a house; we had changed a family's life forever. She spoke to us about her hopes and dreams for her children, and it was clear that her children's lives would be improved by their new home. This was the most fulfilling aspect of the trip for me, the realization that our four days of work will have a lifetime of impact.

– Billy Boysen



*The house was built for the Lopez family*





## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

I was up very early most days and would sit outside with a book facing the cloud-capped mountains, the terraced pineapple fields, and the glimpses of the lake in the distance. It was a gorgeous setting, but it only served to magnify the sharp contrast between all that we take for granted in Greenwich and the poverty of those we were there to help and the primitive conditions in which we were living.

I was reading *Three Cups of Tea*, which happens to be a wonderful book dealing with the true story of one man's efforts to build schools in remote mountain villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan. But despite the fascinating story, I couldn't stay focused on reading more than two or three pages at a time before the sharp contrasts of life in this Nicaraguan village would intrude in a haunting sort of way. And the more we got to interact with the people with whom we were staying (who were up at 4:00 a.m. to begin work on breakfast), the masons on the two projects, the wonderful woman and her three children whose corrugated tin hovel our cinder block house would replace, many of her neighbors who helped on site, and the community leaders who spent time with us on several occasions, the more haunting these contrasts became.



*Neighbors helped at the site*

Despite the poverty and primitive conditions, which multiple generations cannot escape, these were proud, hardworking, and caring people concerned



*The masons at the work site*

about their families and their future, who were most appreciative of our being there. They never seemed resentful of the wealth we represented, although it would have been understandable if they had.

In the end I managed to get through about a third of my book but not before coming across the following very timely passage where a village elder offers the following advice to the man building his first school in Pakistan: "... slow down and make building relationships as important as building projects ... you have more to learn from the people you work with than you could ever hope to teach them."

The philosophy and practice of Bridges to Community beautifully embodies this advice. At the end of our work on the house, I used my bad Spanish to thank Wilfredo, the lead mason, for how much I had learned from him. He probably thought I was referring to teaching me the correct way to lay cinder block, and at the time, I probably was. In hindsight it was so much more than that.

When we first arrived on site I was struck with the enormity of the poverty and the lack of resources to deal with it. I left with the same feeling but also took away an incredibly moving experience of having helped one family dramatically improve their living conditions.

– Bill Boysen



*25th Anniversary Celebration  
Round Hill Community Church Building*

Commemorating our 25-year journey in this unique church building

**Sunday, September 7**

Welcoming Picnic – Rally Day

**Wednesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Family Service, 4 p.m.  
celebrating the first service in our new building

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 9:30 p.m.  
celebrating the 25th Christmas Eve service  
in the building

**January in Les Beaux Arts Gallery: Historic Photograph Exhibit**  
Collected photographs of the RHCC campus

**Sunday, January 4**

Bob Culp reflects on Walter Wagoner's first sermon  
in the new Sanctuary

Forum: Historical film of RHCC with panel  
discussion by members who have been with the  
Church for at least 25 years



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**Friday, February 13**

Valentine Dinner Dance sponsored by the  
25th Anniversary Committee and Men's Group

**Sunday, February 22**

Past Associate Minister Lynne Kramer will share  
her reflections on Celebrating the Past –  
Embracing the Future

**Sunday, March 29**

Former Interim Minister Richard Griffis shares  
his reflections on Celebrating the Past –  
Embracing the Future

**Saturday, May 9**

25th Anniversary Celebration Party with dinner  
and humorous entertainment – a time to laugh  
and have fun together

**Sunday, May 10**

Minister Emeritus Ralph Ahlberg shares  
his reflections on Celebrating the Past –  
Embracing the Future

**Sunday, June 7**

25th Anniversary Celebration – Annual Picnic





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## WORSHIP NEWS

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### Forum on the Creed

**Sunday, September 14, 11:15 a.m.**

Please join us for a Worship Forum after the service on September 14. We will continue our discussion of the RHCC Creed and share an early draft showing some proposed changes. We are soliciting comments and suggestions from all members of the congregation, so please join the discussion. As always, we also invite members to submit ideas either through our Suggestion Box, which is in the Parlor, or through direct contact with either of us.

– Claire McKean and Marion Piro

Other dates to remember:

<b>September 21</b>	<b>Prayer Service, 5 p.m.</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>World Communion Sunday</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Blessing of the Animals</b>

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## WOMEN'S GATHERINGS

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We are looking forward to our first gathering of the new season. It will be a dinner on Friday, September 19, and Christine Gerli has graciously offered to be our hostess. Please do invite new members, friends and neighbors.

Our speaker will be Carrie Finlayson. She has lived in Greenwich since 1974 and, with her husband John, raised three boys here. She has worked as a CPA and headed her own firm in White Plains. In retirement, Carrie has been singing with the RHCC choir since 2003, and also with the Westfair Singers. Carrie will talk about how the themes of math and music have intersected in her life.

Invitations will be sent out shortly. Do reply promptly if you plan on coming as space will be limited. We look forward to seeing you there.

– Marilyn Hammond and Rhona Johnson

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## MUSIC NOTES

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### Music for Rally Day, September 7

Dominic Derasse will be the featured instrumentalist playing the trumpet *Concerto in D Major* of Tartini and the *Toccata* of Giambattista Martini. Derasse was last with us on Easter, when he dazzled the congregation with his spectacular performance of the Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*. Derasse will be playing the Tartini *Concerto* in Paris at the end of the month and welcomed the chance to try it out at Round Hill.



### Recital

## Christopher Kabala

**Friday, November 14**  
**8:00 p.m.**

**Chopin Brahms Barber Liszt**

## BEACH DAY FOR LITTLE SISTERS OF THE ASSUMPTION



Alison and Roland Kistler are to be congratulated for organizing and creating the atmosphere for an outstanding, perfect Beach Day. Watching the stream of moms, dads, strollers, babies, and children arriving and being greeted by members of our Church with donuts and drinks was a beautiful beginning. Roland explained the plan for the day before the children collected a colorful array of beach toys and headed for the water. Another meaningful and magnificent sharing of their experiences by the sea – seashells to take home, sand castles, the feel of the water on tiny toes. All this under a blue sky with gentle breezes. The little ones' behavior and politeness stood out. The day could not have been nicer. Amidst food and fun we all enjoyed these families and being together with the many volunteers of Round Hill Community Church.

– Helen O'Malley, Co-Chair Benevolence



Our annual beach day was a tremendous success! The volunteers made it so by their gracious welcoming of the families. There were 89 members from Little Sisters of the Assumption. The weather was gorgeous and everyone had a great time.

The festivities started at 9:00 a.m. An impromptu visit to the museum, led by Becky, was a tremendous success. The families enjoyed the water toys donated by Hadi Hajjar, arts and crafts, and lots of fun in the sand! At 3:00 the families boarded the bus – wet, tired, and happy.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help by bringing watermelon, handing out popsicles, and scooping potato cones; there was a huge sense of family.

– Alison and Roland Kistler, Co-Chairs





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## PASTORAL MESSAGE

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as well as vibrant and informed followers of Christ who understand the impact of critical events in our spiritual lives.

To the question of “Who will attempt to address the question of what God is doing in these challenging days?” I would answer that our church family is seeking faithfully to address and respond to such a question. In our worship and music, in our Church School and programs of the Center for Faith Development, in our outreach and mission endeavors, in our fellowship and small group gatherings, we are attempting to assist all who enter our doors to look for God and to discover God at work in the world and in their lives. We are seeking to foster opportunities for all ages wherein helpful epiphanies about the meaning of the times in which we are living can occur . . . epiphanies about God’s healing graces and tender mercies, loving energies and life-giving forgiveness, and God’s passion for justice that are present in our relationships at home, in the workplace, in school and at play.

The year was 1940 and nearly everyone on the northeast side of the Atlantic was swept up in the most harrowing story of their lives. A British born storyteller did his best to incite American audiences over the crisis in Europe. The following lines came at the end of a famous piece of work and are considered to be some of the most stirring prophetic words of the Second World War: “Hello, America. I’ve been watching part of the world being blown to pieces. I’ve seen things that make the savages read like Pollyanna legends. (Bombing begins.) I can’t read the rest of this speech because the lights have gone out, so I’ll just have to talk off the cuff. All that noise you hear is the static. It’s death coming to London. Yes, they’re coming here now. You can hear the bombs falling on the streets and the homes. Don’t tune me out. Hang on a while. This is a big story, and you’re a part of it. It’s too late to do anything here now except stand in the dark and let them come. It’s as if the lights were all out everywhere except in America. Keep those lights burning! Hello, America. Hang on

to your lights. You’re the only lights left in the world.” (Finale in Hitchcock’s film *Foreign Correspondent*)

My friends, this is a great time to be alive! We live in a frightening and yet awesome world where people are searching for meaning in their lives, and they are looking for their role in a bigger “big story.” We in the church have been given a wondrous story that is never old, a “love letter” narrative by which life’s meaning is disclosed in ways that are re-creative, restorative, and transforming. Indeed, we are a community of faith that graciously accepts all who enter our doors, as God has embraced us in Jesus Christ . . . a community that attends the needs of its members and those of the world in ways by which wounds are healed, dividing walls are torn down, intimacy and fellowship are fostered, and love is demonstrated, shared, and celebrated. The story of God’s love in Christ is the “big story and you’re a part of it.”

May we together keep those lights burning in the year ahead! And may we make Round Hill Community Church our place to be . . . where we can learn afresh the wondrous truths of the “bigger big story” by which life’s abundance is disclosed and made available to us all.

– Bob Culp

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## SEPTEMBER SERMONS

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| Sept. 7  | <i>True Friendship at the Heart of Community</i> , Bob Culp |
| Sept. 14 | <i>The Music of Forgiveness</i><br>Bob Culp                 |
| Sept. 21 | Report from Nicaragua<br>Shannon White and Mission Members  |
| Sept. 28 | <i>Adjusting Our Vision</i><br>Bob Culp                     |





## THE COZY COFFEE HOUR



Does the scene look familiar? It is a treasured feature of Sunday mornings at Round Hill Community Church – the opportunity to gather after the service in the Parlor, a chance to greet old friends and make new ones. A place to sip a cup of coffee or a refreshing cool drink and savor the delicious edibles provided by different members of the Congregation.

There is also a spiritual dimension to this time; it affords Church members an occasion to reach out to one another in an informal setting, or to bring new friends into our circle. Emily Toohey and Christine Gerli of the Hospitality Committee are entrusted with the task of ascertaining that each Sunday there are hosts in place to provide inviting fare and pour coffee. They need your help to ensure that it will continue to be a gracious and inviting occasion. And they have a request.

There is the time-honored tradition to “sign up” on the sheet in the Parlor to provide the refreshments and serve coffee on a given date, and they want to remind everyone of this option. But even better, they would like you to please email, call, or write Lynda Kinney in the Church office with your name if you would be willing to act in this role. This will enable them to develop a backup list of individuals in the Church family to contact if there is no one assigned to a certain Sunday.

We want to keep the tradition strong and viable, and it does require the involvement of more Church members. You don’t need a co-host to sign up! If you sign up as a single person, Christine and Emily will pair you with a partner.

## CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

Mark your calendars and plan to “Have a Merry Little Christmas on Round Hill,” Friday, December 5, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Community House. The fair will be open to the public on Saturday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Molly Cook, Alice O’Gorman, Jan Ziemba, Janet Lockton, and Lynda Kinney have met weekly over the summer to work on crafts to sell at this year’s fair, which include gardening and kitchen aprons, wall organizers for the potting shed and children’s rooms, white on black decoupage boxes, placemats, napkins and napkin rings, canvas floor cloths, and faux-finished wood items.



We gather every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the upstairs workroom of the Community House. Projects still to be created are wine socks, tote bags, outdoor birdhouses, Christmas tree skirts, wooden reindeer Christmas card holders, children’s stools, bobèches, gift cards, and items we have yet to dream up! As we get closer to the event, we will also be adding Friday workshops. Check our website calendar for specific project dates. Join us for one or all of the workshops – we promise you’ll have a good time and create something beautiful to sell at the fair!

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

# *The News Letter*

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Visit our website, [roundhillcommunitychurch.org](http://roundhillcommunitychurch.org) to view more pictures, read past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

SEPTEMBER 2008 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY</b>	2  Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	3  Staff Meeting	4	5	6  Youth Group Overnight 7 p.m.
7  <b>RALLY DAY</b>	8	9  RHCC Book Club 1-2:30 p.m.  Meditation, 7 p.m., Mtg. Rm.	10  Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	11  Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	12	13
14  Forum on the Creed, 11:15 a.m.  Confirmand Dessert 6-7:30 p.m.	15	16  Living the Questions: An Invitation to Journey 10 to 11:15 a.m.	17  Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	18  Candlelight Peace Vigil and Labyrinth Walk 7:30 p.m.  Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	19  Women's Gathering Dinner, 6:00 p.m.	20  Fafie Wagoner Memorial 11:00 a.m.
21 H.S. Discussion Grp. Forum, 11:15 a.m.  Prayer Service, 5:00 p.m.  Confirmand Class 3:30-5:30 p.m.	22  Cooking for St. Luke's LifeWorks  Fiction Writing Workshop, 7 p.m. Memoir Writing Workshop, 7 p.m.	23  Living the Questions: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally 10 to 11:15 a.m.  Fiction Writing Workshop, 7 p.m.	24  Christmas on RH Workshop 3-5 p.m., CH	25  <b>NEWS LETTER DEADLINE</b>  Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	26	27
28  Bible Study, Romans, 11:15 a.m.	29	30  Living the Questions: Thinking Theologically in Our World 10 to 11:15 a.m.	<b>IN LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY:</b> <b>"DANCING LEAVES" BLACK AND WHITE</b> <b>PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS BERNTSEN</b> <hr/> <b>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS</b> <b>AT 10:00 A.M.</b> <b>CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</b>			