



Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

September 2011

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



There is a story about a rich Chinese industrialist from the North who was horrified to find a southern fisherman lying lazily by his boat, smoking a pipe.

"Why aren't you out fishing?" asked the industrialist.

"Because I have caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch more than you need?"

"What would I do with more?" asked the fisherman.

"You could earn more money," was the reply. "With that you could have a motor fixed on your boat. Then you could go into deeper waters and catch more fish. Then you could make enough money to buy nylon nets. These would bring you more fish and more money. Soon you could have enough money to own two boats . . . maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you could be a rich man like me."

"What would I do then?" asked the fisherman.

"Then you could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist.

"What do you think I am doing right now?" said the contented fisherman.

No, more isn't always better. And even though Jesus did tell his disciples that he would teach them how to be fishers of men, his goal wasn't to build a large organization. His concern was with the individual and the situation at hand. That is the example he set for us all, to simply be faithful in our living and in our witness no matter what, one day at a time.

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Sunday, September 11
Service of Remembrance
10:00 a.m.

Rally Day Picnic
11:00 a.m.

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 in the Community House. Church School meets during the worship service and childcare is available for children under the age of three. Please join us and bring a friend.



Service of Prayer and Meditation

Later in the day, at 6:00 p.m., there will be a service in the Sanctuary commemorating the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. All are welcome.



CHURCH SCHOOL



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

New Church School Leader



This fall we welcome Connie Blunden as our lead teacher for the Church School. Connie is an ecumenical Christian with Episcopalian roots who has been teaching world history at Greenwich Academy for 18 years. She is also an athletic coach at the

school and is the director of student travel programs and community service. She will provide a registration process on Rally Day for all youth who are interested in being part of our Church School program. Stop by to say hello and get to know Connie.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

What do Animal Ethics, Short Sales, the Apocalypse and Revelation, the Voices in Isaiah, Global Works, and Sing Sing interviews have in common? And that's likely not all or in that order! If you're wondering What in God's world? then having faith is up your alley and the Center for Faith and Development has plans for the upcoming Church year that are made for both the unshakable and their counterparts in faith.

Sunday, September 18

Forum: Animal Ethics

Dr. Paul Waldeau

11:15 a.m.



Dr. Waldeau returns the week before our annual Blessing of the Animals service to discuss animal ethics. Dr. Waldeau is the Barker Lecturer in Animal Law at Harvard Law School (spring 2012), has taught a Harvard summer term course entitled Religion and Animals, and has recently published *Animal*

Rights as part of the Oxford University Press series "What Everyone Needs to Know."

Wednesday, September 21

International Day of Peace Vigil

7:00 p.m.

RHCC will host an International Day of Peace vigil just outside the front door of the Church. This event is always very well received.



Sunday, September 25

Blessing of the Animals

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Community House

On Sunday, September 25, 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!



Sunday, October 2

World Communion Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, October 5

Women's Gathering

6:30 p.m., Church Parlor

At the first Women's Gathering event of this year, Marion Piro will talk about her recent trip to Iran with her son. Men are also welcome to attend.

Sunday, October 16

World Food Day and Mission Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

World Food Day is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding, and informed, year-round action to alleviate hunger. Many agencies will set up information tables in the Community House for a special Fellowship Hour. It will be a time truly focused on fellowship and our church's outreach to the greater community.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Sundays, October 23, November 6, and 20

Bible Study

Rev. Susan DeGeorge

11:15 a.m.



Rev. Susan DeGeorge returns to present her popular Bible study series, this time on the voices of Isaiah. She has taught other biblical topics at our church that have been a real resource for understanding our principal text.

Rev. DeGeorge has graduate degrees in comparative religion from Columbia, biblical studies from Union Theological Seminary (NYC), law from Pace Law School, and 21st-century Global Leadership from Drew University.

Sunday, November 13

Forum: Global Works

11:15 a.m.

Since 1990, Global Works has been providing exceptional summer programs for teens featuring Community Service, Cultural Exchange, Adventure Travel, and Language Learning. These summer teen service programs provide language immersion, environmental education, and community service. Students enjoy travel adventure abroad and learn with other teenagers providing community service around the world.

As for Sing Sing and Short Sales? You'll have to keep your hat on while we set these film and discussion programs in place. Some of our own Church members are closely tied to both programs and will act as presenters.



Did we forget about Revelation? No. It is the last book of the New Testament and it is our final story this month. Best known for her writings on the Gnostic Gospels, Elaine Pagels will speak to us next fall about her new, soon-to-be-released book on Revelation and apocalyptic traditions. She is the Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton, a MacArthur Fellow, popular writer, and speaker. Don't miss this one! And plan on inviting your friends and neighbors.

— Michael Sandifer

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Peru Impressions



Les Beaux Arts Gallery is ushering in its new season with “Peru Impressions,” an impressive travel photography exhibit by Arto Szabó. The show will open on Sunday, September 11, and run through October 20, 2011.

Szabó, for many years, has been photographing the National Parks and many other countries around the world. His emotive images capture the true strength and beauty of the natural world and the faces of different native people. The lyrical and sometime impressionistic images, he hopes, will lead to the viewer’s deep appreciation and celebration of nature.

Szabó was born in Hungary and emigrated to the United States in 1956. Completely self-taught, he photographs by instinct with a keen, observing eye. His genuine connection with the spirit of the lands and its people is evidenced by the compelling compositions of his photographs from Peru, the land of the Incas.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator





MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Rally Day to Feature Piccolo Trumpeter David Glukh Sunday, September 11 10:00 a.m. Worship Service



The normal range of the trumpet will be extended into the dizzying heights of the flute register when Moscow-born piccolo trumpeter David Glukh performs the brilliant Telemann *Trumpet Concerto in D Major*.

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 band leader, composer, and soloist of David Glukh International Ensemble, Manhattan Soloists, and Wholly Brass, in addition to solo engagements throughout the world.

Mr. Glukh has performed live television and radio broadcasts on WFDU 89.1 FM, NPR, WQXR 96.3, Cable Networks of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Texas, and Kol Ha Musica (Israeli Classical Music Radio Station). 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.

Glukh will be joined by coloratura soprano Risa Renae Harman in Handel's "Let the Bright Seraphim." In keeping with the remembrance of 9/11, the choir will perform the lyrical Requiem movement from Rutter's *Requiem*.



World Communion Sunday Music of Bach Sunday, October 2 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The choir, soloists, and guest instrumentalists will present portions from the *St. Matthew Passion* and the Cantatas during the Communion Service. Jenna Hintz will sing what is considered to be one of Bach's most haunting melodies: "Schlummert Ein" (Falling to Rest) from *Cantata 82*. Patrick Hogan will be joined by the choir in the lyrical "I'll Stand by Jesus Watching" from the *St. Matthew Passion*. It is fitting to celebrate World Communion Sunday with Bach since he is widely considered to be the most universal of western composers.



"If Bach is not in Heaven, I am not going!"
– William F. Buckley

"I would vote for Bach, all of Bach, streamed out into space. But this would be bragging."
– Biologist Lewis Thomas
(on what message to send to an extraterrestrial civilization)

"Why waste money on psychotherapy when you can listen to the B Minor Mass?"
– Michael Torke

Save the Date

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

**RHCC Quartet
Opera Concert**

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

Scott Tomlinson to Join Round Hill Vocal Quartet



Starting this fall bass soloist Scott Tomlinson will be a new member of the RHCC soloist quartet. Scott Tomlinson received his B.M. in vocal performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There, he sang the roles of Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*, Superintendent Budd in *Albert Herring*, Dr. Bartolo in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Carl Olson in *Street Scene*.

Mr. Tomlinson received his M.M. at the University of Texas at Austin. His performances there include Sarastro from *The Magic Flute*, Dr. Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love*, Simone in *Gianni Schicchi*, the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, Sammy May in the world premiere of *The Old Majestic*, and Prince Gremin in *Eugene Onegin*.

Mr. Tomlinson has sung with the American-Mozart Academy in Salzburg, Austria, as a concert soloist at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Moscow, Russia, with Dupage Opera Theater, Austin Lyric Opera, as an apprentice at Santa Fe Opera, Opera in the Heights, Union Avenue Opera, Edmonton Opera in Alberta, Canada, Dayton Opera, and with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus.

His roles have included Elder Ott in *Susannah* with Dupage Opera Theater. He also performed the

role of the Priest in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* and der Pfleger in *Elektra* at Austin Lyric Opera under the baton of Richard Buckley. At Santa Fe he sang the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, with Alan Gilbert conducting, and Jose Tripaldi in *Ainadamar*, with director Peter Sellars and conductor Miguel Harth-Bedoya. At Opera in the Heights he sang the roles of Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, and the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, both conducted by William Weibel. He also sang the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* at Edmonton Opera, under the baton of Timothy Vernon, and Dayton Opera with Steven Crawford conducting. At Union Avenue Opera he sang the role of Simone in *Gianni Schicchi* with conductor Kostis Protopapas.

Scott has just finished his third season as a chorister with the Metropolitan Opera, and will be returning for the 2011-2012 season. He is also a regular soloist with the New York Opera Forum.

CHAMBER PLAYERS OF THE GSO

The Chamber Players Celebrate 40th Year!

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return to RHCC this season with a series of four concerts at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays.

October 16, 2011
November 13, 2011
March 4, 2012
April 29, 2012

In honor of their anniversary year, The Chamber Players have published a booklet listing more than 300 works performed over their forty-year history. Additionally, a CD has been released and includes our own Risa Renae Harman singing Handel in concert with The Chamber Players in 2009. Both the booklet and CD are available to concert-goers this season.



STEWARDSHIP

Some Stewardship Basics



Here are some very basic aspects about (your) stewardship of our church, about which I have heard several questions and queries:

A “pledge” is not something you have to come up with, or write a check for, all at once; many of our congregants spread out payments over the whole year.

Similarly, the year’s pledge does not have to be paid within that year, after January 1; many members prepay an amount in December, if only because it helps out the income tax situation regarding itemized, charitable deductions.

You don’t have to use or have a checking account; a leading purpose of the “contribution envelopes” is to separate and identify cash in the plate as part of someone’s annual pledge (as opposed to a casual or extra contribution).

About half our annual budget comes from your pledges; knowing what that pledge number amounts to determines what or how much we can do in out-

reach, benefit programs, etc. (The “first” half of the budget, coming from the endowment, is pretty much dedicated to fixed expenses, such as the Church grounds and personnel, the Community House, etc.) The point being – if you plan on contributing via the collection plate each week, cash (not in a giving envelope) those funds remain “miscellaneous contributions,” and certainly are useful, but are not known and can not be counted on in our plans and budgets – we need your written pledge commitment in order to be able to figure out our programs/benefits to others, plans, and commitments!

Finally, if you have not done something similar already, you can assure a simple, future benefit to the Church by adding this clause to your will/last testament:

“... I further stipulate that, after all expenses and legal accounting obligations of my estate are adjudicated, ___% of the balance of my estate should be contributed to the Round Hill Community Church of Greenwich, CT.”

(Upon doing so, please notify the Church office, and the Church finance committee chairman, Simms Browning.) This designation reflects your interest and support for the Church and its work, and should not arouse objections from other designees.

If you have any further questions about matters of stewardship at RHCC, please contact me.

– Bill Herrick, Stewardship Chair



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

The mission of the Benevolence and Outreach Committee is to improve the human life condition through targeted giving. The committee is charged with administering the funds designated by the Board of Trustees to this end. This is done with thorough research of various local agencies and also consideration of global causes.

This year the committee has decided to involve the congregation as much as possible in its work and to encourage awareness of the many agencies the Church supports and the remarkable work being done.

Sunday, October 16, is designated as Mission Sunday. Many agencies will set up information tables in the Community House for a special Fellowship Hour. It will be a time truly focused on fellowship and our Church's outreach to the greater community. Please plan to be present on this important Sunday.



Neighbor to Neighbor Is in Urgent Need

Cereal • Canned Fruit • Pasta and Pasta Sauce • Peanut Butter (regular size jar) • Jelly • Rice • Dried Beans (Kidney and Black) • 100% Juice • Soup

Please reach out to help others in the Greenwich community. You can drop items off in the boxes located in the RHCC Narthex, or deliver them to Neighbor to Neighbor in the Christ Church Annex at 248 East Putnam Avenue. Many, many thanks!

MEMBERSHIP



The Membership Committee held its first meeting for the coming year on August 11, 2011. We all agreed that this is an exciting time for the Church as we go into a new season. Committee members will act as ambassadors to welcome new people and families to the Church and

participate in reaching out to a larger community. To that end, we are seeking to develop real estate lists and communication techniques to reach new member prospects. We are also working on adopting a doable principle to reach members who seem to have fallen away. We are creating some specific and consistent points to incorporate in our welcoming message.

Currently, we have four new prospects for membership in the fall.

The committee welcomes suggestions as we move forward toward our common goal of strengthening and growing our church.

– Grada Herrick, Chair

WORSHIP

The Worship Committee membership for 2011-2012 is as follows:

Nancy Gray (chair)

Julia Boysen (secretary)

Bob Feghali, Charles Lee, Fred Mason, Nicole Piper, Emily Toohey, Marty Bitner, Becky Jasperson

Doug Miller, *ex officio*

Three committee members recently rotated off the worship committee to other roles: Suzy Simpson, Marion Piro, and Mary Ann Debnar. Thank you again for everything, Suzy, Marion, and Mary Ann!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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Round Hill Community Church, like all main-line Protestant churches, has experienced a steady decline in membership over the past thirty years or more. Even the more conservative Evangelical churches are now in decline after decades of steady growth. Like all the other churches in town, we at Round Hill would like to grow. And I think we can; not by putting our attention on the bottom line, so to speak, and evaluating our success by the number of bodies in the pews, but by being faithful in word and in witness. I believe our inclusive theology and the friendly, welcoming attitude of our members is just what many people in our area are looking for in these uncertain times. And you can make their search easier.

The number one reason people join a church is because they have been personally invited to do so by someone they know, someone they trust, who tells them what the church means to them. That's where you come in, you fishers of people. And there is much to tell about Round Hill for the coming year. We have a new church school teacher, Connie Blunden, who

brings enthusiasm, years of experience teaching at Greenwich Academy, and new ideas. We are in the process of finding a person to coordinate the Christian education program; not only the Church School, but also the Center for Faith Development and other adult Christian education offerings. This person will also assist with the Confirmation class and reach out to our older youth in ways that are helpful in their busy lives.

During the coming year the Transition Committee will be at work helping us chart a course for the immediate future of the Church, reviewing the by-laws, preparing for new ministerial leadership, and addressing the other concerns of the membership. There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to be involved in the process. We want to know what you think. A number of meetings will be held throughout the year to discuss our individual and corporate needs and to discern what we are called to do and to be as faithful disciples and wise stewards in this corner of the world.

– Douglas Miller

**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.**

A NOTE FROM SHANNON AND PEYTON



Dear Round Hill Community Church Members and Friends,

The summer has been great but we certainly aren't ready for it to be over yet! We began with a long awaited trip to Italy and then settled in to the flow of the longer summer days.

It's hard to believe that it's been two months since Peyton and I left Round Hill. We think of you all often and keep you in our prayers. Thank you for the heartfelt celebration which you held for us in June. Each and every element was so thoughtful and so full of love. We treasure all of the gifts you lavished upon us . . . from the collages to the handwritten notes, from the beautiful flowers to the loving words and poems spoken, from the artwork to the hugs and well wishes. And thank you . . . for the very generous

financial gift you gave me as well. The funds will be used this fall for tuition as I begin my Doctor of Ministry at New York Theological Seminary, and several other things.

We will see you again. Peyton wants to come back and visit in September to check in on everyone and show off her new braces! Rhona Johnson has promised to be her escort to church if I am unable to bring her.

We pray for God's deepest blessings. Again, thank you for your generous send-off.

With great love and affection,
Shannon and Peyton

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

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 2011 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: "PERU IMPRESSIONS" PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARTO SZABÓ		1	2	3
4 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.	5	6 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m.	8 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	9	10
11 RALLY DAY Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:00 Rally Day Picnic 6 p.m. 9/11 Service	12	13	14 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m.	15 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	16	17
18 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15 Forum: Animal Ethics	19 Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	20	21 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m. Day of Peace Vigil, 7 p.m.	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	23	24
25 Blessing of the Animals, 10 a.m., Community House Doug Miller preaching	26	27	28 RH Craft Studio 2:00 p.m.	29 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	30	