



FIRST WORD

November 2009

From the Pastor...

Hello, Thanksgiving people!

I hope each and every one of you are entering the season feeling joy and in your hearts as you check-off your “to-do” lists in anticipation of the upcoming holiday. Thanksgiving is a time to “take stock”.

Many of you know that Emily’s friend, Kate, passed away this year after battling cancer. Emily has recalled many lessons she learned from Kate over the last many years. The other day, I heard my wife give voice to one of those lessons when one of our children was complaining about the toils in the life of a ten-year-old.

“Okay...so now that you told me what is WRONG, tell me a few that are going well.” James scowled at his Mom but there was an upward turn at the corners of his lips and when encouraged, he did list a few things that he felt “lucky” about.

This is a lesson worth sharing. We all need to give voice to our worries and frustrations and we have the right to feel “low” sometimes. We work hard but the “to do” list never gets shorter. It can be daunting. Having said that, your pastor is requesting that as you steamroll through the next couple of weeks,

you each take at least one quiet moment each day to notice the things in your life you feel “lucky” about. .

Speaking of blessings...I have one I wish to highlight as you read your church newsletter today. Advent is coming. Christmas commercials are already soliciting us and no doubt, we have begun to think about the purchases we will make for spouses, children, parents, friends, teachers, bus drivers and coaches.

December 6th is a day designed with the true spirit of Christmas in mind. We will be leaving behind the stress and commercialism that exhausts us to enjoy one another at First Church.

Families of all kinds—singles, couples, teens, and young children—ALL are invited to the First Annual “Deck the Halls” Christmas Celebration at First Church. There will be joy and festive fellowship in the air as we unite to engage in this new tradition of celebrating one another and the season together through caroling, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and creating home-made ornaments for our church Christmas trees. Kids ages 1-101 should plan to come and bring a neighbor or friend. It is the calling of Christians

to take light out into the world. We will be doing this together through the lighting of our outdoor Christmas trees. Our hope is that the light from these trees might shine into the hearts of ALL who see them—whether it be bikers, people in cars, neighbors, delivery people, landscapers or walkers this season.

We must remember those who don’t live near enough to enjoy our tree lights. We WILL be carrying our light out into the world beyond “back country”—extending light and hope to our less fortunate neighbors through the collection of canned goods. On December 6th, come with true sense of Christmas spirit in your hearts and canned goods in your arms. Neighbor-to-Neighbor will be gratefully accepting these donations and distributing food to those who have an especially hard time making ends meet at this time of year.

Recalling Emily’s recent conversation with James, I want to joyfully echo what so many of you have been saying lately. There are so many things that are “right” about First Church of Round Hill. We are a people of generous spirit and open arms. Let’s celebrate our blessings together and widen our collective embrace to include

neighbors of all backgrounds and walks of life both near and far this holiday season.

R. Randy Day

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and need to see the picture

In preparation of our Christmas performance we're calling all interested children and students to join us Sunday mornings from 10am – 11am (during Sunday School) to learn a most beautiful Christmas song, which had its world premiere in December of 2008. The song was written by Czech composer Yuray Filas and performed by children of the Metropolitan Opera under the direction of Susanne Frank.

For more information please call the church office at 203 629-3876 or email at fcroundhill@aol.com.

Youth Group Scavenger Hunt

We're going to add a little spice to Greenwich Avenue on Sunday, November 22nd - by going on a Scavenger Hunt!

We divide our group into two teams; each team will get a list of things to photograph and will travel up, down, and around Greenwich Avenue with their adult leader to find some crazy things and master fun challenges.

We'll have a set time to meet at Starbucks, which will signal the end of the scavenger hunt. The team who finds the most items wins!

Details

When: Sunday, November 22

Who: Open to Middle School and High School students

Bring your friends!

Where: We will meet at the top of Greenwich Avenue (Running Store) at 12:00 noon. Pick up is at 2pm at Starbucks (on the Avenue).

Cost: Free. You might want to bring some money for a beverage etc. at Starbucks.

Susanne Frank

Director of Children's Ministries

Habitat Workday

Our next habitat workday is the Saturday after Thanksgiving (the 28th) – we'd like to have 4 or 5 more people sign up (list is in the parlor). We'll be departing for Danbury from FCRH around 7:45 in the morning and returning by around 3:00. Volunteers should be 16 or older and bring sturdy work boots, work gloves, and a bag lunch. More specific information as to the type of work we'll be doing will be forthcoming as the work date approaches.

PACIFIC HOUSE

Did you know that our congregation provides a warm meal to approximately 50-75 homeless men on the 3rd Sunday of every month? This is a huge commitment for a church our size and one we have been dedicated to for many years. It's simple to participate, see a detailed explanation next to the sign up sheet in the parlor.

FIRST CHURCH OF ROUND HILL
464 ROUND HILL ROAD • GREENWICH CT 06831

Phone 203-629-3876 Email: fcroundhill@aol.com

•FIRST CHURCH OF ROUND HILL STAFF•

R. Randy Day, Pastor
Avery C. Manchester, Pastor Emeritus
Gwendolyn Hillman, Director of Music/Organist
Susanne Frank, Director of Christian Education
Annie Callahan, Secretary
Sandy Regan, Financial Secretary
Ernesto Damm, Property Manager

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