

# Intersections

August 2009

*All are welcome*

Sunday school at 9:15,  
fellowship time at 10am  
& worship at 10:30



A newsletter for the Richmond  
Church of the Brethren

1 SW 17th Street • www.richmondcob.org • 765.966.1930

Matthew McKimmy, Pastor  
pastormatt@richmondcob.org  
Adrienne Lowe, Office Manager  
office@richmondcob.org

## August Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted

- 2 Travis Poling preaches  
Bring food for the Community Food Pantry  
Tom Mullen memorial service, 2pm
- 3 Community yoga class, 5:30-7pm, fellowship hall  
Dinner & conversation at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 4 Senior breakfast at IHOP, 8:30am  
Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop  
(921 E Main), 5-7pm
- 6 Membership class & dinner, 6:30-8:30pm,  
fellowship hall
- 9 Pastor Matt preaches  
Qi-gong, 2-4pm, fellowship hall
- 10 Dinner & conversation at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 16 Elizabeth Keller preaches  
Hardware Co-op open, 12-2pm
- 17 Community yoga class, 5:30-7pm fellowship hall  
Dinner & conversation at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 18 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop  
(921 E Main), 5-7pm
- 20 Ministry team meeting, 6:30-8pm
- 23 Pastor Matt preaches  
Church youth host Task Auction for National  
Youth Conference, 12pm
- 24 Dinner & conversation at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 30 Pastor Matt preaches  
100-mile radius potluck, 6pm, Mary Scott  
Park (101 NW 8th St)
- 31 Dinner & conversation at the McKimmys', 7pm

## Humility & Wisdom

Who are wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from *wisdom*. (James 3:13)

In the Greek world of the early church, "humble" carried a negative connotation. A humble person possessed a weak personality, little self respect. Slaves were humble because they had to obey a master. Nobody wanted to be labeled "humble."

In American culture the word "humble" often has a negative, wimpy feel. We think of "humble" as the opposite of strong and confident. Regardless of our age or employment, we want to be seen as resolute and assured, not weak and wimpy.

Jesus turned the word "humble" upside down. Humility signals that we know we cannot manage life without God – a realization

that James calls "wise." Even the strongest & most confident among us cannot cope with all of life's problems, disappointments, and losses. Those wise enough to turn to God know that we have strength beyond our own, we have wisdom that surpasses all understanding – that we need not walk alone.

The wise sing confidently the Gospel song by Doris Akers:

I am weak and I need your strength and power,  
To help me over my weakest hour.

Help me, through the darkness, thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

To the wise, Jesus said, Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5). Jesus' statement makes no sense to the arrogant and boastful.

--Eugene F. Roop



## Goat on a Stick, Anyone? Stories from Sudan...

During its nearly 50 years of civil war, the Sudanese people were stripped of their trees and their homes, widowed by war, orphaned by death and despair. Yet these days, they are returning to their land, where they are replanting and rebuilding a new community inspired by healing and hope. Join us for worship on August 16th when Elizabeth Keller will share stories from her recent journey to Nimule and Narus in southern Sudan.

# CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

## Open Arms Ministries

Many changes have been taking place recently with Open Arms Ministries, a local outreach organization that our congregation is a partnering member of. After a 3 month "soft opening" trial run this past spring, Open Arms has stepped back to evaluate what went well & where to go from here. In recent months the group has called several officers (including Brian Schleeper as treasurer) & has been searching for an executive director.

A search is also underway for a space to locate the Open Arms Ministries office, where both calls and walk-in requests for assistance will be processed. If you know of any possibilities for free or low-rent office space near downtown, please contact Pastor Matt.

Within the next couple months Open Arms looks forward to becoming officially incorporated, hiring a new director, and adding several new partnering communities to the 9 existing partners. Let's continue to support Open Arms Ministries with our thoughts and prayers during these busy and exciting times!

## Happy August Birthdays and Anniversaries!

2	Tom Mullen (in memory)	22	Grace & Paul Morentz
8	Travis Poling	23	Elwood Skillings
11	Christina Singh	24	Kelly Burk
16	Anna Lisa Gross		Delora & Gene
19	Phyllis & Don Miller		Roop
21	Janet Wagner	30	Ashley Saylor Judi Haitch

## Work Days for Anna Lisa & Margaret

We need help painting & cleaning the duplex next to Margaret Buroker's house to

get it ready for Anna Lisa's return around August 22. Do you have enough paint to paint a small bedroom? Brushes or other equipment? We need help Saturday August 8, 15, & 22. We know Saturdays can be busy, so if those dates don't work, could you help on a weekday for several hours? Please either call (765-935-1296) or email (fausna@gmail.com) Nancy Faus-Mullen to say "I'll help on (date) from (time) to (time)." Also let her know if there are any supplies you can contribute. We also hope to borrow a truck on the 22nd to move some of Anna Lisa's furniture from her previous residence to her "new" house. Please let Nancy know if you can help with this. Thanks in advance for your time & commitment!

## A Note from Nancy

Dear and loving friends at RCoB:

You have been wonderful in helping me during this painful time. Tom's death was so sudden, and although he was not in "good" health, such an unexpected ending was a big shock! I am grateful that he went quickly and peacefully, escaping any long bed-ridden nursing care.

Our six and a half years together were so very happy but not long enough. We did many challenging and delightful things including 3 interim pastorates, teaching, traveling, workshops, church meetings, etc. etc. Now, in the midst of my tears and loneliness, your prayers and your love are sustaining me, as I try to feel Tom's indomitable spirit of joy embracing my being.

Thanks for the many notes, emails, calls, food, invitations to dinner, and, as I write this, for the wonderful celebration of his life on what would have been his 75th birthday, August 2nd. I know we will feel his presence as we laugh, sing, eat, and "roast" him with many delightful stories. I'm sure he will be smiling back at us, with a "jab" or two, but happy to know we partied!

--Nancy Faus-Mullen

## Matt's Musings

Love is central to who we are as followers of Jesus. In the bible we read about how God is Love and how God loved the world enough to become incarnate, embodied in Jesus the Christ. We read many teachings and instructions on loving one another, our neighbors, and even our enemies.

How do we live into this calling to lives of love? For generations we disciples of the Living One have sought to follow this way of love. We've reached out to our neighbors living around us, to other members of our Christian communities, and to those we might consider enemies. However, in recent generations our world has started shrinking, our communities expanding, and our enemies seem to be multiplying.

Our neighbors are no longer just those who live down the street. Our sense of community sometimes spans across continents thanks to our advanced communication technologies. Near-instantaneous global news coverage constantly reminds us of who we should see as enemies. How do we embody the love of God in this kind of world?

It seems we must learn how to show our love in new and different ways. As our tools and technologies change how we think of community we cannot leave love out of our interactions. As we engage in a global economic system that often oppresses our neighbors in other lands, we need to find ways to show those neighbors we love them. As our enemies increase, so must our love.

As we encounter these elements of our 21st century lives, we cannot neglect to continue loving in ways that we always have – clothing the needy, supporting the brokenhearted, serving and sharing with one another. Instead we can add to these with new forms of expressing the love of Christ enabled by today's ways of living. How will you respond to such new opportunities to love?

--Pastor Matt

# COMMUNITY INVITES

## Loops of Love



Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are invited to share their talent at Loops of Love, a charitable knitting/crocheting group sponsored by Richmond Church of the Brethren & Unwind Yarn Shop. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 5-7pm at Unwind Yarn Shop (921 East Main Street). Loops of Love also accepts donations of yarn or money to purchase yarn at Richmond CoB or Unwind Yarn Shop. Completed projects will be donated to local & national organizations, including Birth to Five, Reid Hospital, The Linus Project, Afghans for

Afghans, GENESIS of the YMCA, & the Salvation Army Mitten Tree. Join the fun this month on August 4th & 18th!

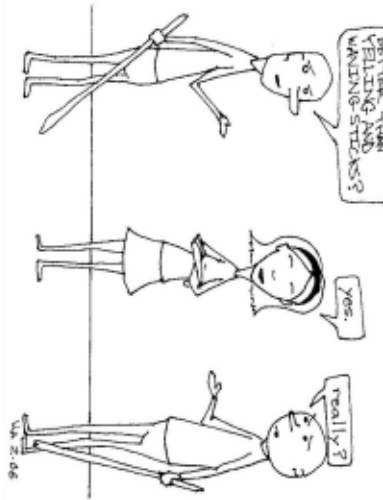
**don't forget!** Yoga @ Richmond CoB 1st & 3rd Mondays in the Fellowship Hall!

## Youth Group Hosts National Youth Conference Fundraiser: Task Auction and Lunch

The youth group is planning an exciting fundraiser to help fund the 2010 National Youth Conference. A lunch & the auction will be held after worship on Aug 23rd. At the door, you will be asked to pay a lunch fee; during lunch, tasks will be put up for auction. There will be general task ideas, but you may submit your own. For example, you could purchase the services of two youth to rake leaves during fall months, once every other week. We are open to suggestions...let us know what you need done! More details will be shared this Sunday during announcements.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Our Church of the Brethren Annual Conference was held June 26-30 in San Diego, California, and Pastor Matt went as our official delegate. Our worship gathering on July 12th included his reflections on this year's conference. You can read them on our church website at <http://www.richmondcob.org/ac2009> or contact Pastor Matt for a printed copy.



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Richmond Church of the Brethren  
1 SW 17th Street  
Richmond, Indiana 47374

