

Intersections

July 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

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

July Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB
unless otherwise noted

- 1 Pastor Matt away for vacation
through July 7th
- 5 Jabani Adzibiya preaches
Bring food for the Community
Food Pantry
- 6 Community yoga class, 5:30pm
- 7 Senior breakfast at the east-side
Bob Evans, 8:30am
Loops of Love at the Unwind
Yarn Shop (921 E Main), 5-7pm
- 12 Annual Conference Reflections
Service, 10:30am
Qi-gong, 2-4pm
- 13 Conversation and dinner at
the McKimmys', 7pm
- 19 Collect food for District
Conference Food Drive
- 20 Community yoga class, 5:30pm
Conversation and dinner at
the McKimmys', 7pm
- 21 Loops of Love at the Unwind
Yarn Shop (921 E Main), 5-7pm
- 24-25 South/Central Indiana District
Conference, Anderson
- 27 Conversation and dinner at
the McKimmys', 7pm
- 30 Volunteer at the Soup Kitchen
at St. Paul's Episcopal, 10am

Matt's Musings: Faith or Fear - which way forward?

As I write my musings for this month I am right in the midst of preparing for my trip to Annual Conference in San Diego. By the time you're reading this, the Conference will probably have just come to a close. There seems to be a lot of worry about this year's gathering – the long-term effect its great expense will have on future conferences, how few people (likely less than 2,000) will be there, and the likely divisive nature of some of our business items.

Particularly at issue are two separate items concerning sexuality. One is a statement from Standing Committee, "A Statement of Confession and Commitment" that addresses the issue of homosexuality and states that we are deeply divided and "not of one mind" on subject. It recognizes the 1983 paper on Human Sexuality as the church's official position and calls Brethren to live into the tension, as it is expressed in that paper. The second item is a query concerning same-sex covenantal relationships that also recognizes our deep division and brokenness and calls us to consider whether the language of the 1983 paper (against such relationships) will continue to guide our journey together.

Many people are fearful of what will ensue when these items are brought before the gathered body. Our denomination's track record is not the best when it comes to discussing such issues in a peaceful, reconciling way. All too often we allow our fears to overcome our love for one another, letting those fears guide our discussions, conversations, and actions.

There is no denying that the issue of sexuality is one that our denomination, our church, and our society will

continue to face for the foreseeable future. The question is: "which way do we go from here?" Do we approach one another in fear of our differences and what they might mean? Or with faith, praying that God will guide and accompany us along the way, giving us vision to see how and where God is already at work? Time will tell which path we have chosen ... I hope and pray it is the latter.

Grace and peace,

-Pastor Matt

Richmond CoB Hardware Co-op!

The Hardware Co-op is stewardship for the modern age, providing computer hardware recycling & re-use services. We accept donations of computers & anything that can be plugged into them. There is a \$10 fee per monitor to cover recycling costs. We re-use what we can & responsibly recycle what we can't. As part of our expansion, we will be formalizing programs for individuals, especially volunteers, to receive refurbished computers, & for non-profits to receive computers through hardware grants. We also provide great learning opportunities for volunteers interested in learning about computers. In July we will be open on the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 12:00-2:00. You may need to ring a doorbell at the back door to be let in. We are also working on expanded hours and alternate days to be open. For more information, you can contact Mark Stosberg at mark@stosberg.com or (765) 277-1916.

UPDATES AND EVENTS

Come to a "Barn Raising"!

In the tradition of the old "barn raising" (done by communities to help a neighbor in need), we are planning three Saturdays to refurbish and paint the empty half of Margaret and Malcolm Buroker's duplex at 124 N. 7th Street. The reason? To help them get the house ready to rent to Anna Lisa Gross when she arrives from her summer in Portland, Oregon.

Margaret and Malcolm are having necessary structural and electrical repairs done in the next several weeks. Then we are inviting you to help complete the repairs by volunteering 2-3 hour blocks of time on one or more of the following Saturdays: July 25, August 1, and if necessary, August 8.

Jobs include preparation for painting, including scraping and/or sanding; cleaning walls, windows, wood trim, washing and hanging drapes, painting 3 bedrooms and the front porch, and cleaning and painting the kitchen.

This will be a huge help for Anna Lisa and will also be a great service to the Burokers. Laughing, teasing, telling jokes, spontaneous singing and perspiring together while we work will enrich our efforts to help these beloved church members. Phyllis Miller will be in charge of drinks and lunch for us.

Please let us know of your interest and availability for one or more of these Saturdays. We will work between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Select the date and hours you would be willing to help.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the church, or call us at 935-1296 or Adrienne at the church office 966-1930. Leave a message on the answering machine if no one is available to take your call.

One more thing: We'll be soliciting

paint brushes, rollers and other needed equipment for the tasks.

Let us know if you have any supplies for cleaning and painting that you could bring along. Also, does anyone have yellow or light blue paint?

Come, join the fun of "barn raising," or more specifically, house beautifying!
--Composed by Tom and Nancy Faus-Mullen

Offerings for the Year

As of June 14 the average weekly offerings since the beginning of the year equal \$1586. Projected through the end of the year, this would equal \$82,000 in comparison to a \$90,000 budget. Last week's contribution toward a computer for Jabani to communicate with his family in Nigeria was \$245. We are continually thankful for the dedication and commitment of our people.

Help Needed at the Soup Kitchen

Our congregation's help is requested at the Soup Kitchen at St. Paul's Episcopal, July 30th at 10am. Please be in touch with Esther Lang, Nurture Coordinator, if you are able to volunteer.

Summer Adult Bible Study

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 for an Old Testament study of God's calling to each of us and to all of us to live in community. Beginning with God's Call to Moses, and following God's Call in the Exodus and the Wilderness, we will consider God's call for our lives. The themes for the remaining months are as follows:

July—Called to be God's People

August—Called to Choose Life

If you have questions about the class, call the church office at (765) 966-1996.

Membership Class Dates Finalized!

The dates and times for our upcoming

membership class have been finalized! We will begin by gathering at the church building on Thursday, July 16th at 6:30pm, starting with a shared meal and meeting until 8pm. We will continue this pattern weekly on Thursday nights for 4 weeks. Anyone who would like to ask questions and learn more about membership is encouraged to attend. There's no expectation that all who attend will become members. Please contact Pastor Matt if you're interested.

Baseball Outing!

Anyone who is interested in catching our new local baseball team in action is invited to a group outing to the ballpark on Sunday July 19th. The Richmond River Rats will be playing the Springfield Sliders, and the first pitch will be thrown by Pastor Matt at 2:30pm! Tickets will be \$5 per person, or \$4.50 if we have more than 20 people. Contact the church office or Pastor Matt by July 12th to sign up.

Next Worship Series: *How Do We Speak of God?*

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, Mother, Father, Spirit, Christ ... the ways we speak of God impact our own spirituality and understanding. Yet not only our words, but our actions also speak of God. Join us beginning July 19th for a summer worship series exploring the many ways we express the Divine.

Happy July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

1 Kim Reish ('02)	18 Alfred Singh
Carla Maurer	Aaron Wolpert
2 Curtis Healton	23 Retha McClain (in memory)
3 Lin Reish ('98)	24 Lydia Shively ('00)
5 Brenda Reish	26 Harold Spitzer
7 Jennifer Lewis	28 Kyle Stocksdale ('95)
14 Joel Stocksdale ('92)	31 Judi & Russell Haight ('94)
15 Ruthanne Ekwealor	

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Congregational Meeting held June 10th

A report by Amy Gall Ritchie,
Ministry Team Chair.

The ministry team tried a different format for our summer congregational meeting with a gathering on a Wednesday evening. We had a turnout of approximately 30 people ready to listen and discuss, laugh and give thoughtful insight. We covered 5 items on the agenda: voting, budget & giving, credentialing at a distance, the new committee to explore moving towards being and open and affirming congregation, and the expansion of the Hardware Co-op. Read on for a synopsis of each discussion:

VOTING: in the past year or so there have been times when it has not been clear as to who may vote for a new pastor or the budget or on other items. The congregation asked the ministry team to bring a recommendation, which was as follows: "Membership brings with it the opportunity to cast a vote." The upshot for now is that when there are issues to be decided by a vote, those who hold membership (either full or associate) will have the opportunity to cast a vote. It is vital to note that the voices and opinions of those who worship with us and support the life of the congregation regularly are highly valued and give shape to our decisions.

BUDGET and GIVING: information was shared that due to the loss of several families who have moved for employment reasons, as well as the impact of the current economic conditions, our giving is falling short by \$1000 - \$2000 a month. There are reserves in the bank to

cover these shortfalls for a time. The ministry team will be meeting in July to review the budget and see how we can address the issue now. Don Miller projected that if there were a 7% increase in giving by everyone, we would make our budget at year's end.

CREDENTIALING AT A DISTANCE: the Pastoral Relations Committee brought the request by Matt Guynn to move toward ordination through our congregation. Matt is a member and holds his license with our congregation and district. After very good discussion it was unanimously affirmed to support Matt to enter the ordination process from Portland Oregon, through the South/Central District and our congregation. The district will be responsible for handling any inter-district issues which may surface.

NEW COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE MOVING TOWARD BEING AND OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION: the ministry team has formed a committee, comprised of Todd Reish, Travis Poling, Rae Hunter, Nancy Faus to begin a purposeful and prayerful exploration of how our congregation understands itself in being open and affirming of individuals in the lesbian and gay community. Our hope is for conversations that focus on Christ like welcome and hospitality. It will likely be a process that takes time, and includes bible study, small group discussions, listening and sharing. Just what does the welcome at the Richmond Church of the Brethren look like? Together we'll explore this in honest and open ways.

HARDWARE CO-OP: For the past year, we've had an exciting and growing ministry in our midst. The computer hardware co-op has been gaining ground and is ready for expansion. The congregation voted to support this expansion as it moves to the double Sunday School room on the ground floor where the youth have been meeting. The youth group provided a statement of support as they plan to move to the room next to the Rec Room and make it their own space for now. The ministry of the hardware co-op, while unique, fits with the overall mission of our congregation in terms of simplicity, respect for creation, and serving the poor and those in need. Mark Stosberg quoted a line from Free Geek, "Helping the Needy get Nerdy". Please be in conversation with Nathaniel ("Nate") Smith, Jonathan Ulrich or Mark Stosberg if you'd like to hear more about this exciting and growing ministry.

Joy for Jabani!

Because of the goodness of folks at RcoB, Jabani now has a computer, microphone, and camera for his family, so that he and they can keep in touch by "sight and sound." The computer hopefully has arrived in Nigeria, carried by Samuel Dali, a 1995 graduate of Bethany Seminary, who teaches at Theological College of Northern Nigeria, and flew here for his son's wedding on June 19th. Thanks to Mark Stosberg who ordered it, to Matt McKimmy who set it up with Skype, and to those who contributed toward its purchase. If you still would like to contribute to "The Jabani Computer Fund," it is not too late!

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Getting To Know One Another: The Pastoral Relations Committee

July is the first month for the new "Getting To Know One Another" column on our church committees.

The hope is that each month a different group will be profiled and their mission described in detail. Thanks to Nancy Faus-Mullen for composing this month's informative article on the Pastoral Relations Committee. Enjoy!

WHO ARE WE?

The question has been asked of the Pastoral Relations Committee: "Just who are you and what do you do?" That's a good question! To begin, we are a committee of presently four persons – Nancy Faus-Mullen (chair), Paul Morentz, Karen Poling, and Kurt Ritchie -who meet once a month to provide support for the pastor in behalf of the congregation. We have additional reasons to meet regularly, including keeping in touch with those in our congregation who are interested in licensing ordination. Occasionally we invite individuals who we feel have gifts for ministry to meet with us and discuss the possible discernment of a call.

The specific duties of the PRC are listed here:

1. Meet with the pastor monthly to support, encourage, and listen to the pastor and to pray together. Also deal with any

concerns and/or problems that may arise for the pastor.

2. Serve as an advisory group to the Ministry Team and pastor in reviewing annually the terms of employment for the pastor. (The Position Description for the Pastor will soon be available online at richmondcob.org.)

3. In consultation with the ministry team and pastor, review periodically the division of responsibility and lines of authority when there is multiple staff.

4. Discuss with the pastor vacations, professional growth, spiritual renewal and in-service training opportunities.

5. Consider with the pastor the stewardship of time and gifts so as to give balance to the various ministries and interests of the congregation and larger church.

6. Encourage the pastor to adhere to self-care practices regarding work schedule, family time and personal time.

7. Recruit capable women & men for ministerial leadership. Give them encouragement and guidance during their training and make recommendations to the congregation

and district regarding licensing and ordination.

8. Be responsible and responsive to the Congregational Business Meeting.

9. Work with the Ministry Team to appoint members of this committee, identifying a rotation schedule.

Since Pastor Matt has just completed his first year of ministry with us, we will be conducting a review of his ministry in which we will ask you to participate. During the month of July a questionnaire will be given (or sent) to each active attender/member of the congregation. We ask that you fill it out, including writing personal commendations of and recommendations to the pastor, put it in the stamped envelope included with the questionnaire and addressed to the church, and put the envelope in the mail no later than July 31st. The Pastoral Relations Committee will go over the questionnaires carefully, tabulate the answers, and then will meet with the pastor to give him a generalized summary.

If you have any questions of our committee, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Nancy Faus-Mullen,
chair

Outreach emphases

Our remaining outreach emphases for the year are:

July	National Youth Conference
August	New Community Project
September	InterVarsity
October	Latin American Historic Peace Church Conference
November	Building Fund
December	Heifer International

Each month we pick a specific outreach emphasis to focus on, and invite extra giving to these important organizations and opportunities. Talk with the Stewardship Team (Anna Lisa Gross, Don Miller & Paul Morentz) for more information.

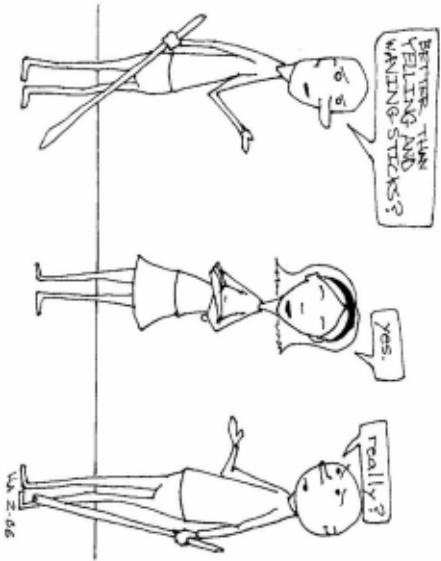
Tom Mullen Memorial Service - August 2nd

It is with great sadness that we mourn the death of Tom Mullen, who died June 19th from a massive stroke. A large memorial service was held at the West Richmond Friends meetinghouse on June 27th, but since many of Nancy and Tom's friends were unable to attend, there will be a second celebration of Tom's life on Sunday, August 2nd at 2pm, hosted by our church. The date is of particular significance as it would have been Tom's 75th birthday. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome.



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

**Need a better way
 to work it out?**



Conflict Resolution Center

www.conflictrescenter.org

973.8511 • IU East, Springwood Hall

Exciting News:



Loops of Love, the charitable knitting/crocheting group sponsored by Richmond Church of the Brethren & Unwind Yarn Shop, now meets twice a month! Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are invited to join others in crafty philanthropy on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 5-7pm at Unwind Yarn Shop (921 East Main Street).

The group 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, YMCA Community Baby Show, GENESIS of the YMCA, & the Salvation Army Mitten Tree. Join the fun this month on July 7th and 21st!

don't forget! Yoga @ Richmond CoB 1st & 3rd Mondays in the Fellowship Hall!
(This month: July 6th & 20th @ 5:30pm)

FREE CAMPING SCHOLARSHIP!

We are offering a scholarship for a fabulous camping experience for a girl or boy in this neighborhood at Camp Alexander Mack in northern Indiana.

Choose from among the twelve different events listed below. The scholarship will cover the total fee for the camp. If you are interested in being considered, pick up an application form at the church office, 1 SW 17th St., or call 966-1930. Fill it out and return it by July 14, 10:00am, when we will have a drawing to choose the winner. Check out the camp at: <http://www.campmack.org>!

- Samplers (Have completed 2nd or 3rd grade) July 26-28, August 2-4
- Seekers (Have completed 3rd or 4th grade) July 26-31, August 2-7
- Finders (Have completed 5th or 6th grade) July 26-31, August 2-7
- Followers (Have completed 7th-9th grade) July 26-31
- Sailing Camp (Have completed 6th-9th grade) July 26-31
- Survivor Camp (Have completed 5th-8th grade) August 2-7
- H2O Camp (Have completed 5th-8th grade) August 2-7
- Youth Camp (Have completed 9th-12th grade) July 12-18

