

Intersections

November 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

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November Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB
unless otherwise noted

- 1 Bring food for Community Food Pantry
"Spiritual Snapshots," 9:15am
(class runs through Nov.)
Lectio Divina during worship
- 2 Community yoga class, 5:30pm
Conversation & Dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
(every Monday at 7pm unless otherwise noted)
- 3 Loops of Love at Unwind Yarn Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 4 Senior Breakfast at the east-side IHoP, 8:30am
Outreach conversation, 6:30pm
Choir practice, 7:30pm
- 8 Pastor Matt preaches "Praying in Tune--Music as Prayer"
Qi-gong, 2-4pm
- 15 Mark Stosberg leads reflections on sustainability
12pm: Worship team meeting
- 16 Community yoga class, 5:30pm
- 17 Loops of Love at Unwind Yarn Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 18 Ministry team meeting, 6:30pm
- 22 Potluck after worship
- 27 Pastor Matt out-of-office

Matt's Musings: On Being a "Deep" Church

"When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Go out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.'" -Luke 5:4

During a conversation with one of our members the other day, she mentioned her appreciation of how ours is a "deep" church. Curious about her choice of words, I urged her to say more. From that point our conversation also deepened, as we talked about how the people who make up our church engage their faith on a very deep level, both individually and in community. Not satisfied with shallow social interactions or shallow theology, we are a congregation willing to risk deep relationships with one another, deep questions and conversation about our faith, and deep commitment to living out our faith in the world.

I don't know if she realized it at the time, but my conversation partner was borrowing a phrase from C.S. Lewis, who also referred to the "deep church" as one just as committed to tradition as it is to culture, community, and innovation.

There is no doubt in my mind that when measured on such a depth-chart, our congregation is deep indeed. Make no mistake, I believe this to be a very good thing. However, I wonder how we can make our depth more accessible to outsiders, both those who come to visit us seeking a church home and sojourners just passing through.

After all, deep can be scary or intimidating. It takes a certain kind of person to be comfortable jumping right into the deep end. We have to remember to accommodate folks who need to stick their toes in first, who have to make sure they can swim in the depths they've found.

Knowing we are a deep church, how can we both welcome and support those who might join us in this journey of faith? How can we assure them that we will all help to make sure they aren't in over their heads? How might we share the support, challenge, and joy that being part of a deep church brings?

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Matt*



The Youth Group's Oct 25 Apple Fest drew over thirty & raised \$360 for National Youth Conference! Read more on page four.

The Carbon Footprint of Our Online Lives: Nov 15

On November 15th, Mark Stosberg, a local programmer and community builder, will share remarks during worship. Tentatively titled "The Carbon Footprint of our Online Lives," Mark will explore what it means to apply our value of stewardship to our online activity. Research and story-telling will demonstrate how choices we make online translate into very real-world energy consumption. Internet skeptics and addicts alike should have something to take away. We hope you'll join us!

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

New GENESIS Coordinator

We hope you've had a chance to meet our new Genesis children's program coordinator, **Lindsey Frye**. She is a first-year student at Bethany Theological Seminary who brings lots of experience and excitement to her new position. (She also serves at Richmond Friends School as the Spanish teacher.) Lindsey has been working with our children for the past several weeks now and will help our creative and fun Genesis program continue to thrive in the future!

Happy November Birthdays and Anniversaries!

3 Helen Shultz	24 Al Hollenberg
12 Grace Morentz	25 Janelle & Jon
13 Jonathan Shively	Flory-Schrock
16 Amanda Faucett	26 Ethan Miller ('05)
17 Brenda & Todd Reish	Paula & Dan Ulrich
23 Todd Reish	30 Adrienne Lowe & Nathaniel Smith

Pete's Corner Cafe Cards

One of Richmond's newest locally-owned restaurants is running a special promotion with area churches. **Pete's Corner Café**, located at 168 Fort Wayne Ave. (on the corner of Ft. Wayne and Richmond Aves.) has provided us with a stack of customer cards to distribute. When you use one of these cards, **10%** of your total check will be donated back to our church. Cards are available on the table in the gathering area, or check with Pastor Matt. This is a great opportunity to support a new local business that is committed to giving back to our community!

Soup Kitchen Update: How Four Fantastic Women Fed 125!

Did you know that every fifth Thursday of a given month, representatives from **our** church provide the meal for the Soup Kitchen at St. Paul's Episcopal? On Thursday, **October 29th**, Esther Lang, Delora Roop, Phyllis Miller, and Margaret Buroker provided enough vegetable-beef soup, crackers, bread and peanut butter for **125 visitors!** While there will not be a Soup Kitchen meal on the next fifth Thursday (December 31st; they're making alternate arrangements for food as it will be New Year's Eve), opportunities to volunteer in 2010 include April 29th, July 29th, and September 30th. Reminder announcements soliciting volunteers will be made closer to time. For now, take the opportunity to thank the wonderful women who bless our community with their time and talent every fifth Thursday!

Church Finances Update for the Month of October

As of **September 27, 2009**, the total amount given this year from all contributions is **\$67,772.24**. If we extend the monthly average through December, we can anticipate to total offers for the year to be approximately **\$83,900**. The annual budget for the year is approximately **\$90,000**. We at Richmond Church of the Brethren are continually grateful for the support and dedication of our loving church family.

Sunday Class Series, "Spiritual Snapshots: Stories from Our Journeys of Faith", Going Strong!

Thanks to all who have joined us for the Sunday morning "Spiritual Snapshots" story-telling class! So far in the series we've heard inspiring tales from Don Miller, Enten Eller, Matt McKimmy, Paul Morentz, & Nathaniel Smith. In the month of November, we'll be hearing from Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm (the 8th), Alisa Clapp-Itnyre (15th), Carol Hunter (22nd), and Jenna Liechty-Martin (29th). We meet at 9:15 in the fellowship hall til Chat 'n Chew. Looking forward to seeing **you** there!

Congregational Outreach Conversation

We engage in outreach in many ways as a congregation--as individuals and together as a community. This is true not only of our physical service to others, but also our financial support of groups and organizations also seeking to do God's work in the world. On **November 4th** from **6:30pm 'til 7:30pm** we will have a time of open conversation and idea-sharing about how we as a congregation do financial outreach. This will not be a decision-making meeting, however it will inform how the Outreach and Ministry Teams prepare this portion of our 2010 church budget. Anyone who would like to join in this conversation is invited to attend. Bring your ideas, your creativity, and an open mind as together we envision the future of our shared outreach!

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

Community Food Pantry Seeks Folks with "Green Thumbs" for Help with a Community Garden Project!

All interested are invited to join like-minded friends on **Wednesday, November 4 at 4:30pm** at First Presbyterian Church (100 North 10th St) for a conversation around starting a community garden project to benefit our local Community Food Pantry (CFP). The CFP has recently indicated that they are happy to distribute fresh vegetables to those in need; Christ's Ambassadors Mission and Outreach Center at 5353 Hodgin Road has already set aside and will have plowed a plot of land on their premises. At this point, we need a coordinating committee to: 1) decide what to plant 2) how to plant it and 3) suggest how to coordinate volunteers for planting and harvesting. If you have strengths in these areas, please attend the meeting to share your ideas! This is an exciting ecumenical and interfaith movement for social justice in our community of which we hope you'll consider being a part.

Benefit for Habitat for Humanity: "Treasures from your Attic" Nov 7

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Richmond requests your help in obtaining items for their First Annual "Treasures from your Attic" Fund Raising Event being held at the Leland, **November 7, 2009**. The event will include antique and collectible appraisals in addition to the auction of donated items. Proceeds will be used to serve local needs for adequate housing for families that have not had the privilege or opportunity to own a home. Call **765-962-5986** for more information or to find out how to make a donation.

What's All the BUZZ About PEACE FORUM?

Do **you** know about Peace Forum? Held **every Thursday at noon** at the ESR Center Dining Room (228 College Avenue), Peace Forum is a weekly conversation and simple meal convened by students (notably, our own Anna Lisa Gross), faculty and staff from Earlham School of Religion and Bethany Theological Seminary. Topics vary week-to-week; most recently Aaron Nell explored the needs of adolescents and what strategies help them creatively engage moral reasoning through play. Aaron has been working with youth (particularly those suspended or expelled) for nearly a decade; he shared immense wisdom and hope on this subject with us over a delicious lunch of BBQ (vegan and non-), noodles, and a simple salad. At the next Peace Forum on **November 5**, Reverend Chris Buice of Knoxville's Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church will share about their congregation's healing process following a horrifying shooting there last July. Please consider joining us for lunch one upcoming Thursday! The simple meal is provided by volunteers, so if you would like to help with preparation, serving, or clean-up, please be in touch with Anna Lisa Gross at annalisa144@gmail.com.

Annual UNICEF Christmas Crafts Festival at West Richmond Friends

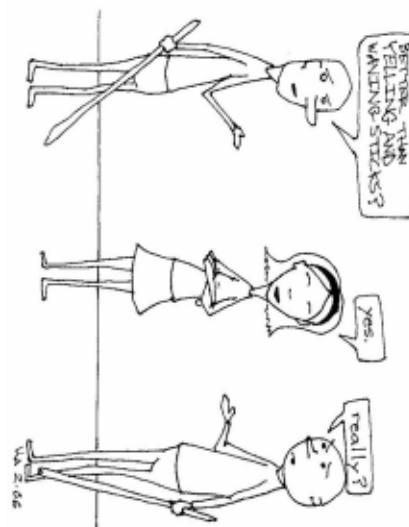
On **November 10th and 11th from 3:30 to 5:30pm**, consider stopping by the annual UNICEF Christmas Crafts Festival at West Richmond Friends Meeting (609 West Main Street). The family-friendly fair features two sections: 1) a basement area where children from Richmond Friends School have activities for children with food, crafts to make, and games and activities from different countries, and 2) an upstairs area where local craftspersons have booths and donate to UNICEF from their proceeds. Items and vendors this year will include wooden bowls (Joshua Brown), pottery (Sue Geier and Jiae Paik), soaps and quilts (Joanne Quinones and Katie Janney), sewn/knitted items (Anna Lisa Gross, Monica Rice, Lindsey Frye, Cindy Hartman, Helen Shultz, Faye Thalls, and Lucia Stewart), scroll saw crafts and embroidery (the Decker family), children's dance tutus (Hope Shipley), paper crafts (Jessica Lane), Jewelry and chain mail (Patrick Raines), baked goods (Shirely Shafer) and recycled/restored toys (Susan Wise). Hope to see you there! (*Text adapted from "The Friendly Visitor" October 29, 2009 edition*)

COMMUNITY UPDATES



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

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 to work it out?



Conflict Resolution Center

www.conflictrescenter.org
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Photographs

Youth Group's

Apple Fest! 10/25/09

The Youth Group would like to express its thanks to all who attended and supported the Apple Fest held after worship on Sunday October 25. Roughly thirty people attended and the Youth Group raised (after cost) **\$360** from the event for National Youth Conference!

For those who were not present, the focus was on good eats and fun games. Sweet treats featured included apple streudel, "apple-tizers" (pastries with apples, cinnamon, and spices), applesauce, and hot apple cider. The "apple strudel stroll" was a hit--think cake-walk but with, well, you can probably guess it--as was the apple poetry contest. Other games included bobbing for apples, apple on a string (a bobbing game sans water), and pin-the-worm-on-the-apple. Thanks, Youth Group, for putting on such an awesomely applelicious event!

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



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