

Intersections

April 2010

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

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

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

April Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted

- 1 Love Feast, 6pm
- 2 Tenebrae Service, 8:30pm
- 4 Easter Sunrise Service, 7am
Pastor Matt preaches
Bring food for the Community Food Pantry
- 5 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 6 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 7 Senior breakfast at Friends Fellowship, 8:30am
Choir practice, 7-8:15pm, this & every Wednesday in April; fellowship hall
- 9 Bethany Presidential Forum begins
- 10 Congregational Work day at Cope Environmental Center, 1-5pm
- 12 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
Community yoga class, 5:30-6:30pm, fellowship hall
- 14 RCoB hosts community prayer gathering, 12pm
- 18 Earth Day service
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Party
- 19 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 20 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop
- 23 Open Arms Basketball Face-off Fundraiser
- 23-30 Office Manager Adrienne out-of-office
- 25 Pastor Matt preaches
- 26 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
Community yoga class, 5:30-6:30pm
- 29 RCoB Hosts community prayer gathering, 7pm
Volunteer at Soup Kitchen

Matt's Musings: Rising to New Life

It's hard not to love springtime. All around us is the promise of new life; rising, growing, blossoming, restoring the beauty that lay hidden in the darkness of winter. It's no coincidence that it is in the midst of this season we celebrate the greatest story we know of life overcoming death.

The resurrection story of Easter is surely one of the most challenging but also most meaningful elements of the gospel story. For ages the greatest Christian thinkers of every era have tried to explain the empty tomb and Christ's rising from the grave. Yet all of our human efforts will never be able to fully capture the meaning and mystery of the resurrection. While my analytical mind loves to figure things out, to dissect how everything works, there comes a point that knowing with my gut is just as important as knowing with my brain.

I don't know exactly why spring follows winter (either botanically, meteorologically, or metaphorically) but I do know that, without fail, it does. I know this because every year I witness it anew. Sure, some winters are longer than others, and sometimes spring is slow to come. Yet even when there has been snow on the ground for over a month and it seems new life will never emerge, the world around me changes, beautifully transforming from gray to green.

The Easter story is like this too. I can't fully explain the resurrection, how it happened or what it means. Yet I can experience the new life Christ brings to all of creation, the hope that comes from death's defeat, the joy that even in the darkest of days the Son will always shine through the evil of this world. I know the truth of Easter not because I have it all figured out, but because I've witnessed it time and time again.

It's hard not to love Easter. All around us is the promise of new life; rising, growing, blossoming, restoring the beauty that lay hidden in the darkness of the tomb.

Praise be to God, Christ is risen, indeed!
Grace and Peace, Pastor Matt

Holy Week Happenings

Love Feast: 6pm Thursday April 1

A longstanding practice of embodied worship open to anyone who would like to participate, we'll gather for prayer & singing, washing one another's feet, & sharing in a fellowship meal that concludes with the bread & cup of communion. Come be a part of this meaningful remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Special note: In recognition of our Lenten series on hunger, please bring a can or bag of beans and/or a bag of rice for donation to the Community Food Pantry.

Tenebrae: 8:30pm Friday April 2

Worshipping in the shadow of the cross, our time together will focus on prayer and scripture as we recount the dark path to the crucifixion.

Easter Sunrise: 7am Sunday April 4

Come worship together in a combined service with the West Richmond Friends meeting as we greet the Risen Son Easter Sunday morning. We'll gather at the West Richmond Friends meetinghouse for worship at 7am & will share in a pot-luck breakfast starting at about 8.

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Congregational Work Day at Cope Environmental Center

On April 10th our congregation has been invited to take part in a service project to help benefit the Cope Environmental Center, our outreach emphasis for this month. The main focus of our labors will be clearing invasive species from Cope's property (mainly honeysuckle). Specific tasks will include pulling small plants, cutting down large ones, and hauling the debris away. Come prepared to be outside. You'll probably want to wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts since you will be in the woods and might encounter other less-friendly plants (like poison ivy). Volunteer coordinators will go through plant identification and make sure that we have all the tools we need to stay very busy! Every honeysuckle bush we get rid of equals a huge amount of seeds that won't be disbursed later in the year, so we'll take all the help we can get! All ages are welcome. We will meet at 1pm at Cope, located at 4910 Shoemaker Road in Centerville. Contact Pastor Matt if you have questions. (1pm-5pm)

Community Prayer Gatherings

Our church is helping to promote and host a series of ecumenical community prayer gatherings that will be taking place around Richmond every day between Easter (April 4th) and Pentecost (May 23st). Many, many congregations from different traditions will participate in this event. We are scheduled to host a mid-day gathering at noon on Wednesday April 14nd and an evening gathering at 7pm on Thursday April 29th . Stay tuned to the church website (<http://www.richmondcob.org>) and on Sunday mornings for the full schedule once it's available.

The Spirit of Giving

Contributions to our congregation in the first thirteen (Jan. 3 - Mar. 28) weekly offerings of the year total \$19,501, for an average of \$1500 per week. Of this total, \$1496 was for outreach projects: food pantry, New Community Project, National Youth Conference, Girls Inc. (\$156) and Haiti (\$113). The youth now have over half of the \$5000 they need to travel to National Youth Conference. If our contributions continue in this way, we will receive a total of about \$78,000 in the year. The annual budget that we have adopted is \$93,500. In our many different circumstances, our congregation has shown a remarkable capacity to give. For that we are all deeply grateful. We pray to our Lord that the spirit of giving might grow, and may it be a blessing in this community and around the world.

Happy April Birthdays and Anniversaries!

6	Nancy Faus-	24	Becky McKimmy
	Mullen	27	Carol Hunter
11	Kurt Ritchie		
20	Bob Hunter		
	Rae Hunter		

Childcare Volunteer Schedule through April

April 4: Susan Wible and Anna Lisa
April 11: Mark O-W and Chris Fretz
April 18: Brenda Reish and Amy Ritchie
April 25: Kurt Ritchie and Karen Poling

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

Peace Forum Invitation

On April 1, our own **Bob and Carol Hunter** will speak at Peace Forum. Carol (Earlham Professor of History, Peace and Global Studies and African & African American Studies) and Bob (Multiculturalism and Justice Specialist for InterVarsity) will speak about the intersections of racism and classism.

Gather in the Earlham School of Religion Dining Room for Peace Forum on Thursday from noon-1pm! Come at 11:45am if you can, to get the lunch line moving. You can also come late and leave early! No RSVP necessary.

Peace Forum Schedule for April

April 8: Radical Hospitality with One Another and the Earth, Tom Benevento, Farmer, earth care activist and radical host
April 15: Body, performance and dis/ability, Ivonne Flores, Earlham senior Women's Studies major and Daryl Greene, President of Richmond's Community Council on Disability Awareness
April 22: Anti-sexism movements, Malinda Berry, Professor of Theology at Bethany Seminary, Beth Harrick, Director of Girls' Incorporated of Wayne County
April 29: Anti-homophobia work, Carol Wise, Director of the Brethren Mennonite Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests

Need more info? Contact Anna Lisa Gross at annalisa144@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

Easter Morning Discussion: "Living the Questions and Adult Class Schedule for April

April is the month of Easter and renewal. April 4, after the Sunrise Service and breakfast at the West Richmond Friends Church, the Brethren adult discussion will be in the worship area of the Richmond Church of the Brethren from 9:15 until 10:00. We will view a video called "*Living the Questions*," which will show us what a number of contemporary theologians are saying about Jesus' resurrection and what it means for us. You will find this a rich experience of renewal.

After Easter Don Miller will be leading us on these topics:

April 11 How are faith and behavior related?

April 18 What is distinctive about Christian love?

April 25 How is our faith commitment renewed?

We will meet in the fellowship hall from 9:15 until 10:00 each morning; everyone is welcome.

Open Arms Ministries Seeks New Intern

Open Arms seeks both trained office volunteers and an intern to replace Sue Axtell who is moving out of the position in early May. The OAM Intern assists by training office volunteers, compiling statistics, writing newsletter text for use in the partner's congregations, volunteering with clients in the office, and going out on recruitment visits to churches expressing an interest in partnership. Please contact the OAM office, 765-962-9100, if you have an interest in training to volunteer in either capacity.

Thesis Presentation Scheduled

Our own Adrienne Lowe will present her Master's Thesis on interfaith hospitality for young adults at the **Tuesday April 13th Common Meal** lunch in the ESR Center Dining Room. Bring a lunch or purchase one on-site. All are welcome.

Newsletter Submissions Needed!

From our office manager: This is a special request for newsletter content. Lately I've been getting fewer & fewer articles each month--yet the newsletter is much better when it represents a variety of perspectives! Please consider how you might contribute to the community by making a submission to the newsletter in the coming months.

Need ideas? A brief (2 paragraph) *reflection on a meaningful piece of Scripture* would be lovely. Or photographs of/commentary on the annual potluck and talent show! You might share a family holiday *tradition*. Or **honor an upcoming grad** in the **May newsletter**. How about suggesting your tried-and-true *earth-friendly household or lifestyle tips*? Any & all are welcome! And, of course, keep your announcements for community events coming.

Thanks in advance for your help in keeping our newsletter lively & relevant.

Reception to Honor Clyde Johnson

Join us to celebrate Clyde Johnson and the ministry of Ichthys House. For more than 40 years, Clyde Johnson has been welcoming people for worship every evening at 9:30 p.m. in the living room of his home at **215 College Avenue**. Over the years, this place has been a bright spot for hundreds of students and others. Join us to reflect and enjoy refreshments. A short program to honor Clyde will take place at 3pm, in the midst of the reception. When: Reception is on **Sun., April 11, 2 – 4 p.m.** Where: **Earlham School of Religion**. The celebration is hosted by Earlham College and ESR. For more information please contact Trish Eckert, Assistant Director of the Newlin Center, at **(765)983-1605**

Calling All Musicians!

Musicians: I am seeking all who have musical skill or appreciation to let me know of your willingness to lead songs, play piano, provide a prelude or offertory on Sunday mornings. We have a core of regulars who provide this musical leadership for our worshiping life, yet we wish to make it fuller by adding YOUR talents when you feel able. Don't know how to wave your hands and lead a hymn? No matter. You can simply provide the welcoming presence at the front as we sing together. Don't know how to play hymns? No worries. You can play a simple song on the piano a couple of times a year to call us to worship or creates space for giving. Don't sing or play piano? Not a problem! You can bring your guitars, your flutes, your drums, your hums. Help provide balance for those who routinely lead, allowing them to be able to simply worship on a Sunday morning just as you do. Thank you! **Amy Ritchie: music coordinator.**

Bethany Seminary Presidential Forum

Bethany is hosting "When Strangers are Angels: the spiritual and social movements of Brethren, Friends, and Mennonites in a new century." Listen and learn from our main plenary speaker Martin Marty, an esteemed American religious scholar, professor, and author. Reflect in groups around topics of poverty, racism, sexuality and more. Revel in a drama that unveils immigration cares and concerns.

The Forum will begin with check-in at 4:00pm on Friday, April 9, & conclude at approximately 5:00pm on Saturday, April 10. The basic registration fee is \$75 and \$25 for students; the registration fee for the Pre-Forum Gathering is \$25. Meals for both events are available for an additional charge. Register online here: <http://bethanyseminary.edu/news/forum2010/registration-opens> Questions about the Forum may be directed to Marcia Shetler, director of public relations, at 765-983-1823.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Open Arm Basketball Face-off Fundraiser

On **April 23rd** Open Arms Ministries will be holding a high-stakes basketball challenge between the **Richmond Police Department** and the **Richmond Fire Department**. Come out to the *Tiernan Center at Richmond High School* to see a great game and to help raise for Open Arms. Many local business are helping to sponsor the game, and all proceeds will be going to cover Open Arms' operational expenses.

Volunteers are needed to help with concessions, publicity, and other tasks. If you would like to help, please call the Open Arms office at **962-9100** or email richmondopenarms@gmail.com.

Invitation to the Earlham-Richmond Days of Service

Neighborhood Spring Clean-up

Help beautify the Starr, Vaile, and Old Richmond districts! Dumpsters will be provided in all three areas: please bring any items you wish to discard

Join friends, neighbors, and students for the Earlham-Richmond Community Day of Service!

The Community day of Service kicks off clean-ups occurring through late May:

-**Southside**: April 26-30

-**Fairview and North Richmond**: May 3-7

-**Reeveston**: May 10-14

-**Parkview**: May 17-21

Kickoff: **Saturday April 17**

Meet at 9am at Elizabeth Starr Academy (formerly Elizabeth Starr School) at 301 N. 19th Street.

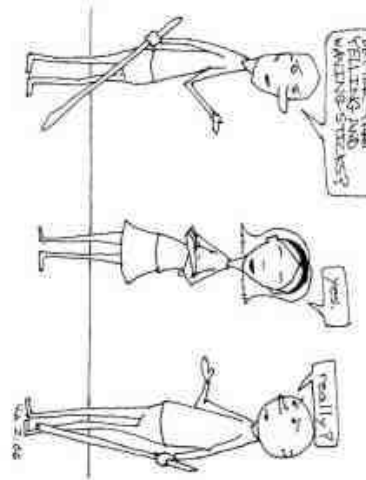
A barbecue lunch will be served to all volunteers.

Questions? Contact Diane Whitehead at the City Building. (765)983-7203

don't forget! **Yoga @ Richmond CoB 2nd & 4th Mondays in the Fellowship Hall!**

973.8511 • IU East, Springwood Hall
www.conflictresolutioncenter.org

Conflict Resolution Center



Need a better way
to work it out?



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

