

# I n t e r s e c t i o n s

February 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

## February Calendar

*all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted*

- 1 Forms & Deposit for NYC bus due!  
Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys',  
7pm, this & every Monday in February!  
**Yoga Begins Again!** 5:30-7pm  
in the fellowship hall
- 2 Loops of Love at the Unwind  
Yarn Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 3 Senior breakfast at IHoP, 8:30am
- 6 Open House for Open Arms Ministries  
11am-3pm, St. John Lutheran Church
- 7 Pastor Matt preaches  
Pick-up sub sandwiches from Youth  
in benefit of NYC! (after worship)
- 8 Conversation & dinner @ the McKimmys'
- 11 "Creating Sustainable Communities"  
with Tom Benevento, New Community  
Project, 6:30pm, fellowship hall
- 14 Last Sunday in "Incarnation" series  
NO qi-gong; on hold for next 3 mos
- 15 Conversation & dinner @ the McKimmys'  
Community yoga class, 5:30-7pm
- 16 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn  
Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm  
Pastor Matt out-of-office  
Ash Wednesday service, 6:15pm
- 21 First Sunday of Lent
- 22 Conversation & dinner @ the McKimmys'

## Matt's Musings: God amidst the rubble

Disasters and tragedies always seem to raise the question of "where is God in all this?" Environmental catastrophes, like last month's devastating earthquake in Haiti, leave us wondering about the relationship between the Divine and our natural world. Breakdowns in our relationships with fellow human beings, such as the continued religious violence in Nigeria that our sisters and brothers in the Church of the Brethren there are experiencing, bring us to question where Christ is in the midst of it all.

Unfortunately, it seems like situations like these often bring about some of the most damaging and hurtful theology. There are always prominent religious figures quick to respond to such tragic events by immediately announcing how God was behind the scenes causing the disaster and identifying the sinful parties that brought about all this pain and suffering. Almost always they are fellow Christians, and I am always infuriated that others will hear their words and think they somehow speak for me. It makes me want to shout "NO!" at the top of my lungs (and sometimes I do, though most of the time no one is around to hear me.)

Why is it the voices of blame and damnation that always seem loudest? Where are those who might stand up and say: "No! God doesn't work like that! That's not the way that Christ came to teach and show us! You've got this all wrong!" ? Where? Who? Why can't we hear them?

It's because those who might say such things are busy: praying for those whose lives have been torn apart, raising money for relief, putting together supplies to send to those in need, mourning with parents who have lost their children and with children who now have no one to care for them. We weep, we lament, we embody the love of God in the midst of pain and brokenness.

This is where we find God in times of disaster and tragedy – caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, sheltering orphans, crying for the loss of life and happiness, looking for ways to renew and restore the brokenness of this world. Of course that is where we would find God, for that's where God has been all along ...

Grace and peace, Pastor Matt

# CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

## *New Youth Advisors*

We are very excited to welcome Lindsey Frye and Chris Fretz as our new youth group advisors! Chris and Lindsey have been a part of our congregation since they began as new students at Bethany Seminary last fall, and Lindsay also serves as our Genesis children's program coordinator. They also both work at the Richmond Friends School. Lindsey and Chris bring both experience and excitement to this new role and the youth are very excited too. We all look forward to what the future holds as two amazing new advisors team up with our already-amazing youth!

## **The Season of Lent Begins**

What is Lent? The stuff that you find in the bottom of your pockets or in the clothes dryer? What you did when you let a friend borrow some money or a book? For most people not connected with Catholic or Anglican Christianity, Lent may be a bit unfamiliar. The season of Lent consists of the 40 days before Easter Sunday, beginning with Ash Wednesday. (For those who may be doing the math and realizing something doesn't add up, traditionally the 6 Sundays during Lent are not counted towards the 40 days.) Some of the ways people observe Lent include an increased emphasis on prayer and repentance, abstaining from certain foods or practices, or taking up another particular Lenten discipline such as special devotions or volunteer work.

As Lent begins midway through this month, there are several ways that you can participate more fully in this season that are organized or sponsored by our congregation:

### 1) Lenten Devotional Book:

Every year, Brethren Press publishes a small Lenten devotional written by a Church of the Brethren author. This year's devotional, *Thirsting for God*, is written by our own Amy Gall Ritchie! The following excerpt is from the Brethren Press website:

*The season of Lent is often depicted in stark terms—a*

*wilderness period of imposed sobriety and sadness. Dryness and desolation are commonplace. We invite you to reflect on this season with renewed perspective. Instead of feeling deprived, the Lenten journey with Jesus will rejuvenate you and quench your thirst for more of God. ... Join us as we walk this dusty road together and discover springs of living water and wells that never run dry. May we read this story with deep wonder, finding daily refreshment for our lives.*

If you would like a copy of this devotional, please feel free to take one from the stack in the gathering area outside the sanctuary. (There should be enough for one per family.)

2) Ash Wednesday Gathering: On Wednesday February 17th at 6:15pm Pastor Matt will lead a simple time of reflection, repentance, & the traditional imposition of ashes for anyone who is interested.

3) Global Women's Project Lenten Calendars: For more information, see the last page of this newsletter. You may order a calendar by emailing [info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org); the calendar can also be sent daily by e-mail. The calendars (via paper & e-mail) are free of charge. If you received a calendar last year, you can use it again, or get this year's updated version.

## **Happy February Birthdays and Anniversaries!**

- 2 Chris Muller
- 3 Marilyn & Lew Dershem
- 17 Hopi Stosberg
- 21 Bennett Ritchie
- 24 David Faucett  
Lena Stosberg
- 25 Julie & David Faucett

## *Membership Conversations*

Are you curious about what it might mean to be a member of our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about the history of our church and the Church of the Brethren denomination? Wondering where you fit in as a part of our community? Then plan to come to our upcoming conversations on Membership. Our exact format will depend on the needs and preferences of those who sign up, but anyone is welcome to attend. Whether you're thinking about becoming a member of our church, already a member, or just curious about what all this means, everyone is welcome. These gatherings will begin in late February or early March, so contact Pastor Matt soon if you're interested.

## *New contact info for the Roops*

Dear Friends,

A move from Richmond, IN to Anderson, IN required a change in phone, street address & email  
Street Address: 830 Eastgate Drive, Anderson, IN 46012.

Email: [ef.roop@gmail.com](mailto:ef.roop@gmail.com)

Delora: [delora.roop@gmail.com](mailto:delora.roop@gmail.com)

Phone: 765-393-3411.

Grace and peace,

Gene Roop

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

## *Update from Open Arms Ministries*

*Richmond Church of the Brethren is an Open Arms Ministries (OAM) Partner. OAM is also our outreach emphasis for June. An update from Wayne Copenhaver, OAM Executive Committee:*

Since January 1, Open Arms has had almost 20 cases resolved, matching needs to sources of aid. Presently nine partnering congregations are working together and with other area social service agencies.

Last Friday, January 22, eight more volunteers were trained by Sue Axtell, OAM's ESR ministry intern. The next training is Friday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m. More trainings will be offered as those interested and committed to help step forward. It is clear that OAM can not survive without active, trained volunteers.

Volunteer work with OAM may include any of the following, according to preference: intake interviewing, verification of need credibility, matching resources to needs expressed, data entry and client-service recordkeeping, administrative tasks, and public relations in educating and recruiting other partner churches and social service organizations, as well as the public and those in need. Do you have any of these skills that might be useful? If so - and you have some time to spare - please contact Judy Jackson or Sue Axtell at 1-765-274-2888 or at: richmondopenarms@gmail.com

In ongoing efforts to interest more area congregations in partnering with Open Arms, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church has included Open Arms in its planned informational OPEN HOUSE on Sat., Feb. 6, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at their church on So. 7th St. A free meal will be provided to attenders. Volunteers to serve food and

make desserts are needed. Around 15 help organizations in Richmond - including OAM - will be providing information on their services and even some direct services that day to those with needs.

## **Annual Conference 2010-Pittsburgh Registration Information**

Early registration for non-delegates & hotel reservations for the 2010 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. will open on Monday, Feb 22, 2010, beginning at 12:00pm Central Standard time. Early registration fees are as follows: Adults - \$95.00; Ages 12 thru 20 - \$30.00; Under Age 12 - Free; Current BVS - \$25.00. Weekend & daily rates will also be available. Folks will also be able to purchase conference booklets & meal tickets, as well as register for various age-group activities & volunteer opportunities. Hotel reservations will open on Monday, Feb 22. There are six beautiful hotels in downtown Pittsburgh from which to choose.

Early registration will close on Monday, June 7, 2010. After that, registration will be onsite in Pittsburgh & fees will be: Adults - \$120; Ages 12 thru 20 - \$50.00; Under Age 12 - Free; Current BVS - \$30.00.

The Annual Conference Office would also like to remind congregations & districts that early registration for their 2010 delegate(s) to Annual Conference in Pittsburgh will end on Friday, February 19. Completed blue cards and payment need to be received by that date. Early registration for delegates is \$275 per delegate. After February 19 the registration will be \$300 per delegate.

Questions can be directed to the Annual Conference Office at 800-323-8039.

## *Yoga4Peace Schedule at Earlham's Wellness Center*

First and third Mondays not enough yoga for you? Luckily, instructor Stephen Johnson offers classes at Earlham College's Wellness Center! Here is the schedule for this semester:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:00 AM

Monday, Wednesday: Noon

Saturday: 9:30 AM

Classes are \$3 each. Wellness center members are exempt from the \$3 charge.

## **Welcome Back, World-Travellers!**

It's always a joy to see familiar faces after journeys away. Our congregation recently welcomed the following individuals back from their travels: Enten & Mary Eller, travelling in various parts of Africa; Aidan Ottoni-Wilhelm, Czech Republic; Don & Phyllis Miller, Paris; Turner Ritchie, Burma (Myanmar; New Community Project; Turner is now back at Manchester College with Johnathan Ulrich and others) *Special Prayers* for Elizabeth Keller who is in India this month!

## **February Outreach Emphasis: New Community Project**

As you might have noticed during the holidays, several youth in our congregation have a heart for New Community Project, the "faith-based nonprofit organization with the modest goal of changing the world!" Stay tuned for a "Moment for Mission" from one of them during worship this month! In the meanwhile, learn more at <http://www.newcommunityproject.org/>

# COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

## *Volunteers Needed at Open Arms Ministries*

Open Arms Ministries is a Richmond area faith-based ministry connecting local people with outstanding needs (i.e., food rent, utilities, furniture) to the various local services or to assistance rendered by local partner or affiliate churches. We now seek volunteers willing to offer 1-2 hours per month or more with the goal of connecting the needy to assistance through works of compassion. Office work at the Open Arms office in Townsend Center consists of taking information and verifying needs, or putting information from clients into a database. Volunteer training is offered at the Open Arms Office. To learn more about this new ministry please contact Judy Jackson or Sue Axtell at 765-274-2888 or richmondopenarms@gmail.com. Thanks for your support!

## **Invitation to Ash Wednesday Gathering**

Recognizing the beginning of the season of Lent by gathering for worship & prayer on Ash Wednesday has been a part of Christian ritual since the 6th century. On Wednesday February 17th at 6:15pm Pastor Matt will lead a simple time of reflection, repentance, & the traditional imposition of ashes for anyone who is interested. All are welcome to come take part in this time of deep meaning and meditation.

## *Global Women's Project Lenten Calendars Available*

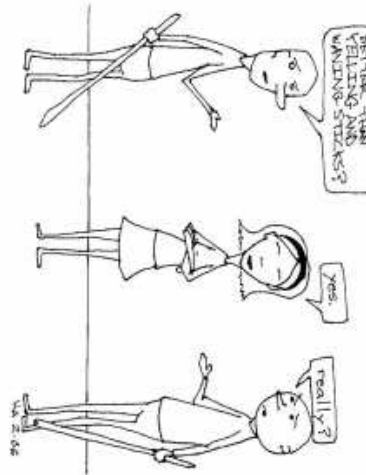
Global Women's Project invites you to order a Lenten Calendar as a way to have a daily time of spiritual centering throughout Lent. This is also an important way for us to share our wealth with our sisters and brothers around the world who are working for empowerment and sustainability. We hope you will participate with us this year! Order a calendar by emailing us at info@globalwomensproject.org. We can also send you the Lenten calendar daily by email. The calendars (via paper & e-mail) are free of charge.

If you received a calendar last year, you can use it again, or get this year's updated version. If you're reusing your calendar, go to our website [www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org) to download the daily donation log which accompanies each day's meditation. Thank you for remembering women around the world during this important season.

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

973.8511 ● IU East, Springwood Hall  
[www.conflictresolutioncenter.org](http://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

