

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

January 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

January Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted

- 3 New Sunday Class, "Undoing Racism", begins, 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall thru Jan 31st "A Servant of Covenant & Communion for the New Year"
- 4 NO Community yoga class: will resume in February! Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7:00pm, this & every Monday in January!
- 5 Open Arms Meeting 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall
Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 6 Senior breakfast at the east-side IHoP, 8:30am
- 10 Pastor Matt preaches
- 17 New worship series on Incarnation begins; Pastor Matt preaches
- 18 NO community yoga class
- 19 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop, 5-7pm
- 24 Pastor Matt preaches
- 25 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 31 Amy Ritchie preaches

Matt's Musings: New Year's Reflections

I sometimes think it's a shame that Christmas and New Year's come just a week apart. On one hand, we feel the need to rush past the celebration of Jesus' birth in order to get to our next holiday, yet on the other we might be tempted to linger on Christmas and therefore miss out on the beautiful symbolism that starting the new year brings.

The ritual of marking the passage of one year and the beginning of another provides us a vantage point to look back over the year that has passed and look ahead to the year to come. As you find moments during the dawning of this new year to ponder these things in your own life, I'd like to share some of the thoughts that come to mind as I reflect on our life together as a congregation.

2009 was an exciting year for our church. We deepened our relationships with one another through sharing our "Spiritual Snapshots," welcomed several new full and associate members, begun the process of expanding our computer hardware co-op, teamed up with the local yarn shop to start our "Loops of Love" charity-knitting & crocheting group, and all the while we've been led by over 50 people in various forms of worship leadership and sung over 140 different hymns as we've worshiped together during the past year.

We had our difficult times too, such as budget shortfalls and saying goodbye to several well-loved members of our community, some due to geographic relocation or receiving calls to minister elsewhere, and others in their passing from this life to the next.

As I look forward into 2010, I am excited and hopeful for what the future will bring as we are led by a mostly-new Ministry Team that will continue to guide us into deep and authentic ways of living as a church, as we continue to welcome new members into our congregation, and as we work together to seek out the places God is at work around us, that we might join in.

In this new year, may we all find ways to deepen our relationships with each other and with our Creator, embrace opportunities for service and meaning-making, and broaden our commitment to living together as a Christ-centered community.

Grace and peace, Pastor Matt

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

2010 Outreach Emphases

In 2010 our congregation will be taking a slightly different approach for our outreach giving. While we will continue to contribute to several “denominational identity” groups through our general offerings, our “local identity” outreach will depend solely on the special outreach offerings we collect each Sunday. As in years past, each month we will emphasize a different group or organization that reflects who we are as a congregation. This year's list was based on a recent congregational survey, with additional input from the Outreach Committee and Ministry Team:

- Jan - Community Food Pantry
- Feb - New Community Project
- Mar - Girls, Inc. of Wayne County
- Apr - Cope Environmental Center
- May - Habitat for Humanity, local chapter
- Jun - Open Arms Ministries
- Jul - Genesis of the YWCA
- Aug - Hope House
- Sep - Christian Peacemaker Teams
- Oct - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Nov - Womaen's Caucus
- Dec - Heifer International

Each organization will be highlighted during its month in the following ways: 1) in a short presentation, "Moment for Mission," during worship one Sunday; 2) in the newsletter; 3) in the bulletin; and 4) on the website. The pastor and church office actively seeks individuals with a heart for particular organizations to help in preparing the newsletter/bulletin/website content, as well as to give a short presentation during Moment for Mission. Please be in touch with our office manager, Adrienne, if you are able to help. Please prayerfully consider how you might share your spiritual and financial support for these organizations in the coming year, as well as other places where you see that God is at work!

Update from Don & Phyllis Miller

Our dear friends and RCoB members Don & Phyllis Miller are abroad through the end of January. Here is a short note they sent at the beginning of the year with greetings to our church family:

Dear Adrienne and Matt,

Happy New Year to you and everyone in our congregation! We arrived safely in Paris and were met by our daughter Lisa and her family at the airport. After spending two days in Paris we drove to Luxembourg. Thursday evening it seemed that everyone in the neighborhood was up celebrating the new year and sending up fireworks. We are visiting many interesting families whose children are close friends to our grandchildren. Please give our greetings to everyone. We miss you and look forwarding to being with you again.

Don and Phyllis Miller

Invitation to Monday Night Dinner & Conversation at the McKimmys

Still looking for a New Year's resolution? Why not make it a point to be a part of our Monday-night Dinner and Conversation gatherings?

Each Monday at 7pm the McKimmys open up their home for anyone who would like to share some good food and good company. The meals are always simple and vegetarian, usually soup and fresh-baked bread, and the conversation starts with a scripture text that will be used in an upcoming worship service and goes wherever the Spirit leads. No need to RSVP, drop-ins are always welcomed!

Updating Our Church Directory:

Your Participation Needed!

A note from our office manager, Adrienne: Out with the old, in with the new: time for a 2010 Directory! Before and after worship this month you will have the opportunity to 1) update your information from last year's directory or 2) submit new information for inclusion if you have joined our community since the 2009 directory was printed. Please look on the table in the gathering area for packets where you may update your info, or for yellow card-stock "**Addiion to 2010 directory**" forms for those who need to be added anew. Furthermore, there will be a small stack of cards for our **students** to fill out with their campus box/e-mail information. The 2010 directory will feature a new section highlighting our students at home and far away, so that we may all be encouraged to be in better touch with them!

Important note: Even if your directory information has not changed, you will still need to find your name and mark whether or not you would like to continue subscribing to our **church newsletter**, whether by postal mail or e-mail. I am wiping our subscription list in an attempt to only mail those who would like to be mailed, so if you want to continue receiving the newsletter, you **must** update your information! I will be around on Sunday January 3rd after worship to help guide you through the update process. Thanks so much for your cooperation in this important task.

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

January Outreach Emphasis: Richmond Community Food Pantry

During the month of January we will be focusing our outreach giving on supporting our local Community Food Pantry. Staffed completely by volunteers, the CFP supplied over 117,000 meals to over 6,000 families in 2008 alone--and the need, in this economy, is ever-increasing. While we will continue to collect groceries on the first Sunday of each month for the food pantry throughout 2010, this month you are encouraged to bring food offerings every week as well as contributing financially to this important outreach of our congregation.

Salvation Army Mitten Tree Collection A Success!

A note from Esther Lang, Nurture Coordinator:
Thanks to all who participated in and donated to the Salvation Army Mitten Tree! Because of your generosity, we were able to donate the following as a congregation:

45 pairs of gloves, 40 neck scarves, 30 stocking hats, and 1 coat!

A blessed new year to you and yours.

Greeter Schedule for January 2010

Jan 3	Marilyn D, Gene R, Delora R
Jan 10	Anna Lisa G, Josie T, Rachel U
Jan 17	Alisa C-I, Ron C-I, Esther L
Jan 24	Esther L, Jen Lewis
Jan 31	Anna Lisa G, Jen Lewis, Bob R

--thanks Delora for putting this together!

Summary of Church Finances for 2009

Contributions to the annual budget through December 20 stand at \$81,721.21. This does not include non-budgeted contributions of \$5,264.48 for items like the National Youth Conference, but it does include contributions to the Building fund this year. Contributions to the annual budget plus non-budgeted contributions total \$86,985.69. The congregation contributed approximately \$9000 to outreach this year, much of it to the local community. During December a number of people added the equivalent of an extra month's donation in to their annual donation, which helped to bring a strong conclusion to the year. We are thankful to God for the remarkable generosity of the congregation.

Update from the recent Congregational Meeting

On Thursday December 17th at 6:30pm, those who were able gathered for our most recent congregational meeting. At that meeting, the budget and a new slate of leadership was approved for 2010. Please find a summary of the pertinent events of the meeting below:

- 1) Affirmed names of the 2010 Ministry Team: Enten Eller-chair, Ron Itnyre-treasurer, Matt McKimmy-pastor ex officio, Travis Poling, Margaret Buroker, Jenny Williams, Mark Stosberg -members at large.
- 2) Heartfelt thanks to outgoing leaders: Jennifer Lewis has served on the Ministry Team for 6 years. We are deeply grateful for her work as

clerk, her keen insights & thoughtful leadership. Karen Poling has ended her terms as Christian Education Coordinator & we thank her for helping to continue our Sunday School practices and in the forming of Genesis. Kurt Ritchie is moving to the role of assistant Building and Grounds guy, and we are glad for his handy know how & that it will continue. Nancy Faus has provided a vital role of leadership with the Pastoral Relations Committee & has helped support our licensed & ordained ministers, particularly our pastors over the years. Amy Gall Ritchie ends her 4 years as the Ministry Team chair-it has been a joy.

3) Newly affirmed leaders: Anna Lisa Gross-Annual Conference delegate, Jabani Adzibiya & Adrienne Lowe-District Conference delegates, Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm-Pastoral Relations Committee, Brian Schleeper-Building and Grounds Coordinator, Susan Wible-Christian Education Coordinator.

New Sunday Class: "Undoing Racism" with Bob Hunter

Thanks to everyone who joined us on January 3rd for the first segment of "Undoing Racism", the new Sunday class led by Bob Hunter. Participants explore the spiritual, psychological, and structural dimensions to racism's grip on our society and our hearts. Racism is a reality that manifests both blatantly and subtly, internally and externally; accordingly, it requires our careful attention. Come explore spiritual practices and societal antidotes to racism, through January 31st. 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall.

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 one to two 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. Other opportunities to volunteer are limited only by your imagination. Volunteer training is offered at the Open Arms Office or a special training session for volunteers can be set up at your church or meetinghouse. 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 check out the Clear Creek Food Co-operative in its new space!

The Clear Creek Food Co-operative has a friend in the Richmond Church of the Brethren community--we shop there, place bulk orders, volunteer, work, & a number of us have even served on the Board of Directors! Accordingly, we recently asked the Co-op manager, Kiersten, to give us an update on what's going on these days. Here's the scoop:

To start, you're invited to come check out the Co-op in its new space if you haven't already. Hours are **Monday through Saturday, 10am-6pm**. The Co-op is located at **710 East Main Street** in downtown Richmond. The mission of the Co-op is to provide healthy food and high quality products to our members and community.

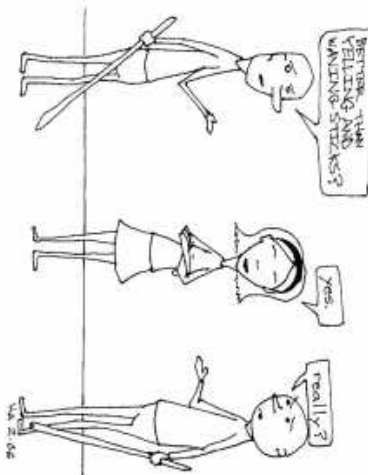
Right now the major concern is getting our bulk bins set back up. The hope is to have in-store bulk buying in place by the beginning of February, but keep an eye on the website--<http://www.clearcreekcoop.org>--for developments.

There are also some great sales going on right now with prices that are very comparable to those of Meijer and Kroger! Find quarts of apple juice, canned organic tomatoes, and organic vegetables at prices that are easy on the wallet.

The Co-op is known for its wide selection of vegan and gluten-free products. Vegan products include: new soups, Fantastic Foods mixes, nut butters, pastas, rices, tofu products, Tofutti creme cheeze and sour cremes (on sale!), Veganaise, Earth Balance, pumpkin pie, and the best hummus in town at \$4.89 for a 16oz container. Gluten-free products include bagels, flours, cereal, pastas, and snacks.

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

