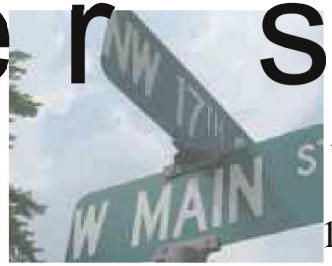
Intersections

June 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

June Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted

2 Membership class meeting, 7pm
6 Bring food for the Community Food Pantry
New worship series on "Faith and Food" begins; Pastor Matt preaches
7 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
8 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop, 5-7pm
9 Submissions to the bulletin due in the morning
10 Office manager out-of-office til the 17th
Memorial service for Jabani Adzibiya's mother
12 Saturday morning farmer's market begins, 7am-noon, City Parking Lot (by library)
13 "Faith and Food" continues; Pastor Matt preaches on Numbers 11:1-15; 31-34
14 Pastor Matt away on vacation through 20th
NO Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys'
Community yoga class, 5:30pm
16 Richmond farmer's market begins in the depot district, 4-7pm, 900 N E Street
Senior brunch at Gene & Delora's home in Anderson, Indiana
20 Anna Lisa Gross preaches
100-mi-radius potluck at Cope Environmental Ctr
21 Pastor Matt returns from vacation
Conversation & dinner at McKimmys', 7pm
22 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop
23 Faith & Food Panel/Dinner, 7pm, fellowship hall
25 Pastor Matt out-of-office
26 Annual Rummage Sale, 9-2pm, church lawn
27 Pastor Matt preaches; potluck after worship
Ministry team meeting, 12-3pm
28 Community yoga class, 5:30pm
Conversation & dinner at McKimmys', 7pm

Matt's Musings: *Food Sensitivities*

During the month of June we are celebrating Faith and Food month in our congregation. Elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website you can read about all our the exciting worship gatherings and other activities that will be taking place throughout the month.

In our life together as a church it's not unusual for us to touch on the the community-building importance of sharing meals with family or friends or to show deep concern for people in our neighborhoods and around the globe who are suffering from hunger. We eat together often. We contribute to and volunteer at the local food pantry and soup kitchen. We raise money for projects like Heifer International that help to feed impoverished people around the world. Yet it's not very often that we we take a deep look at the what's and why's of the ways we eat. After all, didn't Christians decide long ago that we didn't have to follow strict dietary laws like our Jewish spiritual forebears?

For those of you who know my culinary inclinations it should come as no surprise that I'm extremely excited about spending a whole month wrestling with and reflecting on issues concerning faith and food. I imagine that I am probably not alone – there are many other folks in our congregation who have strong faith-connections with food. I'm not just talking about our Brethren affinity for potlucks here, but rather a deeper concern for what it is we eat, why it is we eat it, and how these reflect our values and beliefs as people of faith.

I am well aware that this is dangerous territory. Food is a sensitive subject. It plays a tremendous role in defining our identity both culturally and personally. It has the capacity to bring us great pleasure or pain. It is intricately connected to our memories, relationships, health, and wellbeing. In this rapidly changing and evolving, technological and industrial world our food is often the one thing in our lives we can exert significant control over. For all these reasons and more, beginning a conversation about faith and food seems fraught with peril.

Yet it is because of its very centrality in our lives that those of use who seek to faithfully follow Jesus should be thinking about and talking about food. After all, we are what we eat!

So go ahead, pop a few antacids of your choice and open your heart, mind, and stomach as we prepare to explore this sensitive, but important, subject.

Grace & Peace, *-Pastor Matt*

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Faith and Food Worship Series

During June we will be recognizing "Faith and Food" month both through our worship services and in other ways. Each Sunday in June we will be exploring different angles of the faith and food conversation, ranging from discovering our food idols, separating gluttony and indulgence from faithful feasting, deepening the meaning of our thanksgiving, and more. Together we will explore and reflect on how and what we eat embodies our faith commitments and what we might do to strengthen that connection. In addition, on June 20th Anna Lisa Gross will take the pulpit to share some of her great wisdom on this subject that is part of her own passion and ministry. Come and join us for these engaging, challenging, meaning-filled times of worshiping our Holy Maker!

Challenge and Celebration

The total giving to the church budget this year through May 23 is $28,330, which is 34% of the budget for the year. The budget challenges us to be at 40% by this time in the year. This means that we lag behind what the budget anticipates by $6000. So we need everyone to continue their financial support of the church during the summer, which often is weaker than the rest of the year.

We can be especially thankful that 11% of our total giving this year has been to programs in our community that need our help. They include the Food Pantry, the New Community Project, Girls Inc., relief in Haiti, Cope Enviornmental Center, Habitat for Humanity, and support for those who will attend the National Youth Conference this summer. Let us continue to celebrate and support these program even as we accept the challenge to meet the budget.

Update from Loops of Love

At the beginning of May, Loops of Love meeting cataloged and tagged all of the items they completed in 2010, and it is quite an impressive amount of knitted and crocheted goods! (Note: because of the interest and dedication of Loops of Love folks, there are probably many more items by now!

Baby Hats - 24; Adult Hats - 7; Blankets - 11; Chemo Caps - 8; Wash Cloths - 5; Mittens - 18; Sweaters - 1; Booties - 4; Scarf - 4

You can see a shot of all of our completed projects for 2010 here: http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=47227891&l=d0c2340e7d&id=6229353.

This is a great start for the year! Thanks to everyone who has donated time, yarn, and skill.

We will continue to meet from 5pm - 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at Unwind Yarn Shop. Hope to see you there!

--Becky McKimmy, coordinator

Happy June Birthdays and Anniversaries!

6 William Ralston
Valerie & Curtis Healton
7 Donna Hollenberg
12 Margaret & Malcolm Buroker
13 Donna & Al Hollenberg
14 Harry Faucett
17 Ruth & Harold Spitzer (in memory)
18 Karen Poling
19 Nwadi Ekwealor
20 Elliot Moyle (2008)
21 Matt & Becky McKimmy
Tasha & Doug Veal
23 Anne Marie Roderick

Help with mowing needed!

Now that spring has sprung we are in need of volunteers to keep the church lawn looking neat & tidy. The grass needs to be cut weekly so please feel free to sign up for any available weekend on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the worship room. Contact Kurt Ritchie or Brian Schleeper for a brief orientation. Thanks!

Annual Conference July 3-7

The Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA from July 3-7. Our delegate this year will be Anna Lisa Gross. Pastor Matt will also be attending (out of town from July 2-7).

Conference business will consist of five major items, including: "Query: The Mission of Annual Conference" from Southern Ohio District; "Query: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper," from Western Pennsylvania District; a "Resolution Against Torture"; revised bylaws for the Church of the Brethren Inc., which has come in previous years as information only; and a change in polity for appeals of decisions of the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

An interim report from Standing Committee on the 2-year special response process regarding human sexuality will be brought, but not as a decision item, following up on an action of the 2009 Conference.

Business sessions will be led by moderator Shawn Flory Replogle, pastor of McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren. Also on the agenda will be elections for denominational offices, reports from agencies of the church and committees of the Conference, as well as other items of information.

More information about conference business can be found on our church website or at www.cobannualconference.org . Anna Lisa and Matt will work together to provide an opportunity to share their Annual Conference reflections with the rest of the congregation once they return.

(Portions of this article came from the Church of the Brethren Newsline)

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

Volunteers Needed for Food Pantry Projects

Three ways to help the Community Food Pantry!

1. Volunteers are needed for weeding the Food Pantry Board garden on Hodgins Road. Contact Taylor, First Presbyterian church secretary between 10:00 and 1:00 pm. Phone number is 966-2234. If she is not there, leave a message.

2. The Community Food Pantry is looking for someone to set up a website for them. Call Dave Shaw, 966-2770 or 914-3699.

3. The Community Food Pantry is looking for someone to pick up 5-8 trays of bread from a residence in Oak Park every Monday between 3:00-5:00 p.m. and deliver them to the Community Food Pantry, 306 N. 19th Street. If you are interested and willing to help, call Becky Shaw at 966-2770.

Sunday Class Announcements

Responding to Violence
On June 6, the Sunday morning Adult Discussion Group will consider the response of the tiny minority Peace Churches to violence in Asia. Don Miller will lead the discussion based upon presentations made at the conference held in Solo, Indonesia. You will find it fascinating how Asian Christians are responding to violence in their part of the world. The Adult Discussion Group meets from 9:15-10:00 a.m. before worship.

Saving Paradise continues in June
Due to popular demand, beginning June 13 Carol Hunter will continue to lead a discussion of Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker's book Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of this World for Crucifixion and Empire. Carol summarizes the authors' argument, and the leads us in a discussion of this provocative material. Just bring yourself and your own convictions.

June Outreach Emphasis: Open Arms Ministries

Open Arms is a faith based coalition of churches & social service agencies that serve as a clearinghouse of services available in the greater Richmond area to try & meet the needs of those in our community. It arose out of conversations the Richmond Area Ministerial Association (RAMA) had in the fall of 2007. Members were concerned about the growing needs of the community and wanted to develop a way to best utilize the resources of local churches and organizations. In March 2009 Open Arms was officially formed with six partnering churches. There are currently ten partner congregations & an executive director, whose position was funded by a grant from First Friends Meeting who underwrote the director's salary for the initial two years.

Our congregation joined Open Arms and has been represented by Pastor Matt who serves as the Board member and Brian Schleeper who has served on the Executive Team as Treasurer since September 2009. In the summer of 2009 Judy Jackson was hired as the Executive Director and coordinates the staff of volunteers at the office which is located in the Townsend Center.

Partner churches are asked to support the mission of Open Arms either financially and/or in kind according to its ability. If possible they are also asked to furnish volunteers to assist in the day to day operations of the office. In return Open Arms conducts intakes of those in need, verifies their need and attempts to find resources to meet those needs. This approach saves the person in need from running all over town seeking assistance. Open Arms tries to match the need with a group or person who has the proper resources to meet the need. This also keeps churches from being overwhelmed with requests, instead directing those seeking assistance through Open Arms who can draw on multiple sources of aid. While they do have the ability to provide financial assistance in emergency situations, every effort is made to seek aid from one of the partner agencies or other local organizations.

As the economic climate both nationally and locally continues to be uncertain, this has increased the number of people in our community seeking assistance from groups like Open Arms. Needs range from utility bills to medical expenses to housing to auto repairs. Some are able to be met by the resources of Open Arms, others in conjunction with it's partner churches. Like many non profits Open Arms is supported by donations and contributions from it's partners and those in the Richmond community who believe in it's mission. Currently there is a great need for volunteers to perform a variety of tasks including intake interviewing, date entry and recruitment of other partner churches. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 8 AM – 12 PM. Please contact Pastor Matt, Brian Schleeper of Judy Jackson at the Open Arms office at 962-9100. *--Brian Schleeper*

Pastor Matt on vacation

Pastor Matt will be on vacation and out of town from June 14th until June 20th. During this time he will be unavailable both by email and phone. In the event of an emergency, please contact our Ministry Team chairperson, Enten Eller, who will then contact Matt if appropriate. Because of his vacation there will be no Monday evening dinner and conversation gathering on the 14th. Matt will resume work on the June 21.

Updated directories available!

You may pick up an updated directory from the table in the gathering area (outside of the sanctuary). One per family til further notice, please!

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Celebrate our local harvest at the Richmond Farmers' Markets!

Whether you've long since used up last summer's store of vegetables or still have some in the freezer, we can all look forward to the Richmond farmers' market roaring up again! The farmers' market is a great resource for cultivating mindful eating habits, as you can meet, talk with, and learn more about the food as you invest in our local economy. The farmers' market starts up on June 12 on Saturdays from 7am-noon in the City Parking Lot (next to Morrisson-Reeves Library) and June 15 on Tuesdays from 4-7pm in the Depot Parking Lot next to Joe's Pizza (900 N E St).

"Faith and Food" Potluck and Panel
Wednesday 23 June

Interested in learning about the spiritual and social-justice issues present on your dinner plate?

Have you ever wondered why it is that some of our friends don't eat certain foods?

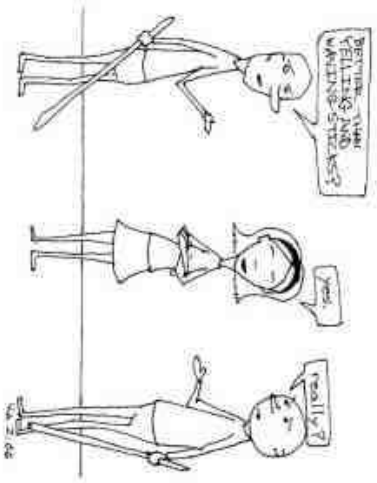
Do you want to find out how food and medicine aren't all that different?

As part of "Faith and Food" month we will be sponsoring a panel discussion on faith and food on Wednesday June 23rd at 7pm. We will begin with a pot-luck meal, followed by each of our four panelists sharing about their own personal connections between faith and food. Please bring a dish that embodies your own thoughts about and/or connection to the subject of "faith and food" or faithful eating.

Following these presentations there will be a question and response period during which panelists and other participants will be invited to explore this multi-faceted topic in friendly dialogue and conversation. Come learn more about the ways people in our community are making the connection between faith and food and find out how you can do the same!

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

Need a better way to work it out?



Conflict Resolution Center

www.conflictrescenter.org

973.8511 • IU East, Springwood Hall

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

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