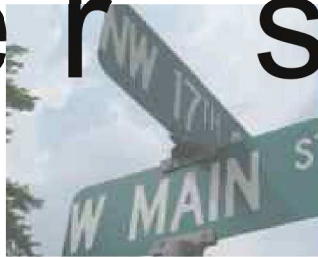


I n t e r s e c t i o n s

March 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

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March Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted

- 1 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 2 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop (921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 3 Senior breakfast at Friends Fellowship, 8:30am
- 6 Open House for Open Arms Ministries 11am-3pm, St. John Lutheran Church
- 7 Adult Sunday Class on "Why Christianity Must Change..." continues at 9:15am
Pastor Matt preaches
Richmond Community Orchestra at Earlham College, 7pm
- 8 Community yoga class, 5:30-6:30pm, fellowship hall
Conversation & dinner @ the McKimmys'
- 9 Pastoral Relations meeting, 7pm
- 14 Enten Eller brings the message
Worship team meeting after worship
Talent night & potluck, 4:30pm
- 15 NO conversation & dinner with the McKimmys
- 16 Loops of Love, 5-7pm
- 20 Camp Mack early registration due
- 22 Community yoga class, 5:30-6:30pm
- 26 Pastor Matt out-of-office
- 27 Of peace and poetry: William Stafford event at Bethany, 7-9pm

Matt's Musings: Seeking the Light in Lent

Lent is not known for being a bright and cheery season. After all, it is bookended by two rather dark worship experiences – the somber reminders of Ash Wednesday that we are dust, and to dust we will return, and the darkness of Tenebrae on Good Friday, remembering Jesus' journey to the cross. A friend of mine says she can always tell when Lent has arrived because our hymns are all in a minor key & take on a confessional, penitential theme.

Yet the word "Lent" was originally a reference to the springtime, & referred to the lengthening of the days this time of the year. Rather than focusing on darkness, might Lent be a time of searching for & welcoming the Light into our lives?

Each morning I awake before sunrise, and for several weeks now I've noticed the world outside my window lighting up a little earlier. Each night, the sun has been fading a little slower. After the long, dark (and snowy!) winter, it does my soul good to have more light in my life, knowing that this darkness will pass, that the new life of springtime draws ever nearer.

How are you making yourself ready for the Light this season? How are you seeking and experiencing it within your own life & in the world around you? What are the dark corners of your soul that are in need of the Light of Christ?

As we travel through this Lenten wilderness may the lengthening of each day be a reminder of what we are traveling toward – the Rising of the Son on Easter morning!

Grace and peace, Pastor Matt

March Outreach Emphasis: Girls Inc.

Each month our congregation focuses some of its giving on a particular community Outreach Organization. This month's focus is Girls Inc; Karen Poling, RCoB member and Girls Inc. Program Director, shares more:

"Girls Inc. is a non-profit youth-serving organization that works specifically with girls on issues unique to girls. We provide girl-specific programming including anti-bullying (relational aggression), anti-drugs, & science & math. We have concentrated on increasing both 1) the number of girls we serve daily and 2) the number of *older* girls, to almost double what it was a year ago. By serving more girls we are finally able to offer more age-specific programs.

I have found lots of big & small rewards working with girls all over Richmond. In many cases it's hard to know when you're making a difference in the lives of the people you work with, but a couple of weeks ago a girl who had been with us in the past came back to visit. When I went up to welcome her, she hugged me and cried because she missed us so much in the time she'd been gone. When I spoke with her mom about coming back, she mentioned how meaningful it was to be able to make friends easily at Girls Inc.--this wasn't so true at school where lots of girl-bullying goes unnoticed. We work hard to make sure that all of our girls find a safe place to develop healthy friendships & self-esteem that they will take with them the rest of their lives.

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Haiti Crisis Response in the Church of the Brethren

The earthquake in Haiti has worsened the cycle of hardship and poverty the Haitian people endure. The Church is called to open our ears to the cries of the poor and open our hearts with compassion to alleviate their suffering. **You Can Help:**

Donate. Financial gifts are the best way to help. Contribute online through www.brethren.org/HaitiDonations OR by mailing check payable to Emergency Disaster Fund, designated for the Haiti Earthquake, to Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Sobering Facts and Figures \$15 Provides two weeks of hot lunches for a child * \$50 Provides a water filtration system * \$120 Month's teacher salary helping feed children * \$200 Assembles & ships Family Household Kit * \$2,000 Temporary house for a family * \$5,000 Builds a permanent three-room home

Pray. Visit this special webpage, www.brethren.org/HaitiPrayers to post your 'Prayers for Haiti.' Prayers will be shared with the Brethren in Haiti.

Assemble Gift of the Heart Kits: Hygiene Kits & Baby Care Kits are needed. Instructions: www.churchworldservice.org/kits

Special Quake Kits: Family Household Kit & 10x10 tarps are being collected until April 16. Instructions at www.brethren.org/HaitiEarthquake

Childcare Schedule through April

February 28: Mark O-W and Anna Lisa

March 7: Susan Wible & Chris Fretz

March 14: no one :(Please see Hopi to sign up!

March 21: Amy and Kurt Ritchie

March 28: Sophie O-W and Rachel Ulrich

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

The Spirit of Giving

Contributions to our congregation in the first nine (Jan. 3 - Feb. 28) weekly offerings of the year total \$11,605, for an average of \$1290 per week. Of this total, \$464 were for outreach projects: food pantry, New Community Project (\$266 total), and National Youth Conference. If our contributions continue in way, we will receive a total of about \$70,000 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 March Birthdays and Anniversaries!

7	Teresa Henderson	30	Emma Faus ('93)
9	Ruth Spitzer		Isabelle Faus ('93)
10	Adrienne Lowe		Matt Guynn
25	Paula Ulrich		Sarah Kinsel
26	Elizabeth Keller		Ben Shively '95
	Vincent Ekwealor	31	Alisa Clapp-Itnyre
27	Kim Shivley		Mark Stosberg
29	Rebekah Flores		Donna Walcott

Exciting Sunday Class

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP during March of Bishop John Shelby Spong's provocative book, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. The group meets Sunday mornings from 9:15 until 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall, before worship. Join the discussion and share what you believe.

Membership Conversations

Are you curious about what it might mean to be a member of our congregation? 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. Pastor Matt hopes to start this new series within the first couple weeks of March, so if you're interested and haven't yet notified him, please let him know as soon as possible!

Next Ministry Team Meeting

Next Ministry Team meeting is Sunday, March 14, following church. We'll coordinate a lunch of some sort, even if it is subs from Subway. (Return for the talent show potluck at 4:30p!) Remember to set your clocks ahead an hour the night before!

Musical Leadership for March

(Accompanist listed first, song leader second)
March 7: Jenny; Enten
March 14: Dawn; Dawn & Matt
March 21: Musicians: Kurt & Bennett Ritchie; Accompanist - Jenny (only for hymns, if needed); Song Leader - TBD
March 28 (Palm Sunday): Nancy; Malinda

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

"Who Are We? Reflections by Paul Morentz

"Who are we?" That is a question that was posed for us by a visiting expert on the Church some months ago. To date we have done little more to answer that question.

We are a community that reaches out to people who are trying to help. We are, therefore, a channel that supports & encourages the people who are trying to find ways to help those who need our help. We do not have the resources to help in big ways. We try to help in little ways.

We are a community that supports our members by building up loving members who care for each other. We do this by little things as prosaic as pitch-in meals, by our meeting & greeting each other as we gather to nibble & talk before the service, by our gathering after the service to share the latest events of our lives. We do not think of those times as central to our mission, but they are.

We are a group of people gathered to share our ignorance. That is quite different from the churches that offer the right answers to people who search. There are many these days who are not satisfied with the old ways and beliefs. They are hungry for people who will talk with them as they look for a life in a world that has many confusing voices that say "We know."

We are the Church of Holy Ignorance. We do not have all the answers, but we will talk with you as we search together. We do not even have the True Language. We know that the old languages, the old words no longer satisfy. We admit our ignorance; we glory in it. To admit ignorance is the first step to learning. We do not have answers. We are a place where people are welcome to search.

We are also a part of a larger body. Sometimes we wonder how our money is spent at denominational headquarters. Some years ago I was working at a congregation where the people were asking, "Do the people in New York (headquarters) do anything besides meet in endless committees?" The people in New York answered with brochures and publications that only increased the people's questions. I explained that one thing their giving did was to buy a desk for the President to work at. That would seem to be a poor answer. Surprisingly enough, it was a good answer. The congregation now had a concrete but necessary picture that showed them their part in a complex

organization. They were little, but they had a part.

We are a part of a community that is doing for us what we cannot do on our own. We need to show concretely that we are doing that. People are searching for answers that help them to feel useful in a world that increasingly says, "You are merely cogs in the machine."

That is our mission. The statements that we have generated in the past no longer satisfy. We are ignorant. We long to search. Come and search with us.

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Concert Invitation

Richmond Community Orchestra will perform a concert at 7pm on March 7 at Earlham College in Goddard Hall. The program includes delightful orchestral music by Grieg, Strauss, Stravinsky, Rossini, and choral music by Mozart, and Beethoven. Admission is FREE. Our own **Don Miller** plays principal clarinet.

District Conference Date Change!

NEW DATE for District Conference: Because of a conflict at Anderson University, this year's S/C District Conference has been changed to **July 30-31, 2010.**

Community Yoga Class Date Adjustment

The community yoga class taught by Stephen Johnson, formerly offered on the first & third Mondays of each month, is now offered on the SECOND and FOURTH Mondays. Thank you for making this change.

Need more yoga? Stephen offers classes at Earlham College's Wellness Center! Here is the schedule for this semester: M/W/F: 6:00 AM; M/W: Noon; Saturday: 9:30 AM Earlham classes are \$3 each.

Peace & Poetry: Film and Conversation on Poet William Stafford, March 27th

Bethany Theological Seminary presents a public viewing of the documentary film, "Every War Has Two Losers: A Poet's Meditation on Peace, A Film Based on the Journals of William Stafford." View the trailer at everywar.com.

This event will take place in Bethany's Nicarry Chapel, 7-9pm, Saturday March 27, 2010. In addition to the 30 minute film, the evening will feature:

* Presentation by **Jeff Gundy, Professor of English at Bluffton University**, poet and author of *Walker in the Fog: On Mennonite Writing*, 2008 Recipient of The Dale W. Brown Book Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies.

* Contributions from local Stafford scholars

* Audience conversation following the film.

This event is **free of charge and open to the public**. Sponsored by the Baker Peace Fund of Bethany's Peace Studies Program. Contact polintr@bethanyseminary.edu for more information.

Kelly Burk preaches at Earlham

COLLEGE MEETING FOR WORSHIP: All are invited as Kelly Burk, Earlham College Director of Religious Life, speaks on Self-Control in the sixth of a semester-long series on the "Fruit of the Spirit." Her talk is entitled "Self-Control and How to Control It." Sunday March 7, **1 p.m.** at Stout Meetinghouse.

Camp Mack Early Registration

Don't miss the March 20th discount deadline for registering summer campers! \$20 discount ends March 20th. After that date campers will be accepted for the full fee. More info at www.campmack.org or 574-658-4831.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Holy Week Happenings

It's hard to believe it, but Easter will soon be upon us! There will be several special gatherings that take place the week leading up to Easter, including:

Love Feast: 6pm Thursday April 1

The Love Feast is a longstanding practice of embodied worship and is open to anyone who would like to participate. At 6pm on Thursday, April 1st, we will gather for prayer and singing, washing one another's feet, and sharing in a fellowship meal that concludes with the bread and cup of communion. Come be a part of this meaningful remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Tenebrae: 8:30pm Friday April 2

At 8:30pm on Good Friday (April 2nd) we will hold a Tenebrae service, worshiping 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 as we greet the Risen Son at 7pm on Easter Sunday morning, April 4th. Location and breakfast arrangements are still being determined, so stay tuned to our weekly bulletins and our website for more information soon, or call the church office at (765)966-1930

Annual Talent Show & Potluck: March 14

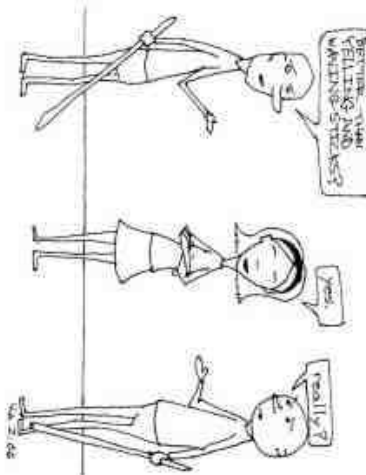
On Sunday, March 14th at 4:30pm we will gather for a potluck dinner--bring your Irish or green favorites! This will be followed by our annual talent show! You'll hear music, enjoy drama, laugh at the comedy, and reflect over readings. If you would like to contribute your talent, please let Alisa Clapp-Itnyre know by Friday, March 12th. Her e-mail address is aclappit@indiana.edu. Food questions can be directed to Esther Lang and we thank her for organizing the meal. A free-will donation will be taken to support the youth's trip to NYC this summer. This is a great opportunity to bring non-church friends and to make new friends at the church. See you there!

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

973.8511 • IU East, Springwood Hall

www.conflictresolutioncenter.org

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Richmond Church of the Brethren
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