

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

May 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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May Calendar

*all events at the Richmond CoB
unless otherwise noted*

- 2 Bring food for the Community Food Pantry
Pastor Matt preaches
- 3 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 4 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop
(921 E. Main), 5-7pm
- 5 Senior breakfast at Friends Fellowship, 8:30am
Choir practice, 7-8:15pm, this & every
Wednesday in May; fellowship hall
- 6 National Day of Prayer, Richmond Celebration
City Building, 12-1pm
- 8 Bethany, ESR, & Earlham Graduation
- 9 Pastor Matt preaches
- 10 Community yoga class, 5:30pm,
fellowship hall
Conversation & dinner at the
McKimmys', 7pm
- 13 Building in use for RAMA, 11:30-1pm
- 16 Potluck after worship
- 17 Conversation & dinner at the
McKimmys', 7pm
- 18 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop
- 20-22 Church Planting Conference (see pg. 3
for more information)
- 23 Pentecost; Pastor Matt preaches
Ministry team meeting, 12-1pm
- 24 Community yoga class, 5:30pm
Conversation & dinner at the
McKimmys', 7pm
Community yoga class, 5:30-6:30pm
- 28-31 Pastor Matt away for
Young Adult Conference

Matt's Musings: *The (Com)Motion of Life*

Most of us tend to live very busy lives. We overschedule and overcommit, but often we're still left unsatisfied. We go-go-go until we're absolutely spent. There's no denying the strong cultural pressure to live this way – but how does it impact our spiritual lives?

We are a community in motion in many ways – moving both in our hectic individual lives and moving together as a church. We have worship services to plan and attend, fund-raising to support, workshops and classes, potlucks and other meals, service and outreach projects, a building to care for, the list goes on and on. By the time all this is mixed in with our individual involvement in social, political, moral, and other interests and concerns we're not only people in motion, but commotion! The question I have is this: if we're all engaged in so much motion, where are we heading?

Why do we do this to ourselves? Are we moving just for the sake of the motion itself, or are we moving toward something? What is the big picture?

As those who seek to journey with and live like Jesus, the things we fill our schedules with should reflect our faith commitments. As Christians our motion is ideally in the direction of Christ, no matter where we're coming from or where we are currently. Sometimes we might lose our way or take a wrong turn, but hopefully our ultimate destination still remains.

Now don't think this means we should all stop doing everything that isn't directly tied to the church – far from it! In fact, I think we would be wise to ask these questions not only as individuals, but also in the life and motion of our faith community.

This is the place where faith and life intersect everyday: the process of constant discernment, asking ourselves: is this commitment, involvement, or decision one that connects to the love, justice, relationship and reconciliation of Jesus? Do our activities and actions as individuals and as a congregation draw us closer to the Living God, alive and working among, around, and through us? If not, maybe we need to reconsider how we're spending our time and energy.

May we all be blessed with the gift of discernment and clarity of direction as we travel this journey of faith, moving ever nearer to Christ, our center.

Grace and peace, *-Pastor Matt*

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

May Outreach Emphasis: Habit for Humanity

Our Outreach Emphasis for May is Habitat for Humanity--Local Chapter. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Richmond, Inc. exists to provide decent, affordable housing to those in our community who otherwise would be forced to live in substandard housing and not know the joy of homeownership. Habitat is a faith-based not-for-profit organization that transforms lives and neighborhoods as it partners with community groups and congregations to raise funds and build homes in the Richmond area.

To give you a bit more information about the organization, it was founded in 1976 in Americus, GA, but the late Millard Fuller & his wife Linda. Former President Jimmy Carter & his wife Rosalynn are longtime Habitat supporters & volunteers who help bring national attention to Habitat's work. Houses are not "given" to families. Habitat builds houses & then sells them to "partner families" through zero interest loans. To qualify as a "partner family", families must: 1) currently be renting homes with substandard conditions 2) have an income between 30-60% of Richmond's median income, 3) be willing to invest 350 "sweat-equity" hours per adult (limit 400 hours per family).



**Most recent build: House 52
500 NW 2nd St**

Since their beginning in 1990, Habitat of Greater Richmond has built and dedicated 52 houses. Their 53rd Build, at 1119 Crosshall Street, is under construction & should be completed in the Spring of 2010. They are on schedule to complete four houses before the end of 2010. To see more pictures of Habitat's work, check out their excellent website at <http://habitatofrichmond.org>.

Our church is making it easy to support Habitat's crucial work in our community. You can place a donation in the Brethren Service Cup at the worship center during the offertory. If you'd like to donate by check, please make it out to Richmond Church of the Brethren with "Habitat for Humanity" in the subject line.

May Giving Update

Contributions to our congregation in the first fourteen weekly offerings of the year (January 3 - April 11) total \$22,500, for an average of \$1500 per week. Of this total, \$2112 is for outreach projects: food pantry, New Community Project, National Youth Conference, Girls Inc., Haiti, and the Cope Environmental Center (\$121). The youth now have \$2771 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 during the year, compared to our annual budget of \$93,500. At the end of February our estimate of what we may receive for the year was \$76,000. We pray to our Lord that the spirit of giving may continue to grow, and may it be a blessing in this community and around the world.

Happy May Birthdays and Anniversaries!

- 2 Delora Roop
- 8 Dan Ulrich
- 11 Gene Roop
- 13 Paul Morentz
- 25 Murray Wagner
- 26 Tasha Veal

New Alternative Worship Space to Be Created

Along with the rest of the Ministry Team I am excited to share with you a new project that is underway. As part of the recent bequest received from Virgil and Echo Petry, we will be creating a new "alternative worship space" in the room currently occupied by the computer hardware co-op. The proposal for establishing such a space was received by the Ministry Team around the same time the team was discerning what an appropriate way to honor the memory and gift of Virgil and Echo, and considering their love of music and worship this project seemed like a perfect connection!

The vision for this new space is that it will be set up for smaller worship gatherings, particularly for worship in the Taize' style of music, prayer and meditation. There is hope that we will be able to host semi-regular Taize' worship as well as other smaller gatherings that might appeal to both members of our congregation and the larger Richmond community.

There will be several opportunities for you to be involved in helping this new way of using our building come to life. We will have various workdays for helping the hardware co-op move, cleaning out old items from storage, and setting up and decorating the new space. (The persons coordinating each of these will make announcements once they're scheduled.) Last, but not least, we are also working on an official name other than "alternative worship space" - if you have ideas or suggestions contact the Ministry Team!

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

Ministry Team Update

At our last Ministry Team meeting Sunday, April 11, we covered many of our usual tasks of checking in with how things were going, as well as exploring what new directions the congregation might be exploring. Here are a few of the highlights of our discussions. **We:**

- * heard reports from two special events in the past week, the visit from Tom Benevento, and the work day at Cope Environmental Center
- * approved extending a scholarship to Chris Fretz and Lindsay Frye to support them attending the Young Adult Conference;
- * encouraged the Open Church Task Team to explore and consider sharing with the congregation the denominational resource materials on addressing sexuality issues that are newly available;
- * supported the hardware coop's plan to move ahead with environmentally-friendly flooring for the new location in the basement;
- * tracked our budget and giving for the first quarter of this year, and shared hopes that giving will come close to meeting our budget;
- * tried to track down who might have a key to the church's safe deposit box(?!);
- * decided to plan for a leadership retreat in late summer/early fall;
- * discussed deacons (the current lack thereof); and delighted in a plan to create an alternative worship space, honoring Echo and Virgil Petry (you'll hear more about this separately!).

As always, if you have ideas or concerns for the Ministry Team, please don't hesitate to contact any of us!

Respectfully Submitted,

Enten Eller (chair) * Jenny Williams (clerk)
Ron Itnyre (treasurer) * Mark Stosberg
Maragaret Buroker * Travis Poling
Matt McKimmy (Pastor, ex officio)

New Sunday Class: *Saving Paradise*

During May Carol Hunter will be leading the Sunday morning adult class in a discussion of the book, SAVING PARADISE by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker. The subtitle is "How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire." The class will begin on Sunday May 9th and continue through the last Sunday of May; 9:15-10am in the fellowship hall. Join us for a stimulating discussion of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in our day.

Church Planting Conference

On May 20-22 the biennial Church of the Brethren Church Planting Conference will be held here in Richmond. This year, the conference organizers are inviting members of the surrounding community to come to the Thursday (May 20) & Friday (22) worship and plenary sessions, to be held at the Holiday Inn. The keynote speaker will be Jim Henderson, an author, speaker, musician, and leader of "Off the Map," an organization dedicated to "doable" evangelism. His books Evangelism Without Additives and Jim and Casper Go to Church help ordinary Christians connect with outsiders in the way that Jesus modeled. Henderson was recently featured on National Public Radio's "This American Life." Times for these worship & plenary sessions will be published when available.

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.*

Donations Dearly Needed at Local Charities

(A message from the volunteers of *Helping Hands*.) Any donations--items (clothing, furniture, appliances, baby items, etc), cash, time or talent--are greatly appreciated. The latter, time and talent, are often the hardest to come by. Please consider any way you might help our local charities help the disadvantaged among us. In the present economy, people who have never needed assistance before suddenly find themselves in the position of having to ask for help. This makes aiding our charities even more imperative. We have faith that we don't need to look any further than our own community to find people to help. Please contact Lois Martin at (765)962-2339 with donations. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Show Your Gratitude on Mother's Day with Global Women's Project

Global Women's Project announces the annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Rather than buying more material gifts for your loved one, express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women around the world. Your donation allows us to fund projects focused on women's health, education, & employment. In return, your chosen recipient will receive a lovely, hand-written card indicating that a gift has been made in her honor.

To participate, send a donation to: Global Women's Project
c/o Nan Erbaugh 47 S. Main Street West Alexandria, OH 45381-1243

Remember to include your name(s) and recipient's name and address. You may also make memorial donations, which will be honored on our website.

Gratitude cards will be mailed in time for Mother's Day if you send your request to Nan by **May 5**. After the 5th, we will mail them as soon as we receive your request.

This Mother's Day, share a gift in honor of a woman you know & women in India, Palestine, Rwanda, Uganda, Southern Sudan and Nepal, working to improve the lives of women in their communities.

Global Women's Project seeks to raise awareness of the poverty, oppression and injustice suffered by women around the world; to recognize how our overconsumption and misuse of resources contributes to that suffering; to change our way of living; and to support self-help community projects that are led by, empower, and benefit women. Additional information can be found at www.globalwomensproject.org.

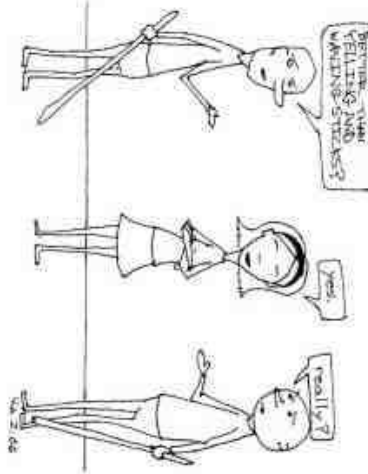
Wildflower Walk at Camp Mack

Come experience the beauty of God's creation as it is expressed at Camp Mack through the springtime flowers! Camp Mack is offering a "Second Sunday Wildflower Walk" on May 9th. Another great way to celebrate Mother's Day, you'll stroll through the camp's wilderness area with Rex Miller, Executive Director. Walkers are invited to gather at Wampler Retreat Center at 1:30pm. Bring your hiking boots, wildflower books, & water bottles. Camp Mack is located in Milford Indiana.

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

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

Conflict Resolution Center



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to work it out?



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