

Intersections

September 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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September Calendar

*all events at the Richmond CoB
unless otherwise noted*

- 1 Senior breakfast at Friends Fellowship, 8:30am
- 5 Bring food for the Community Food Pantry
District Conference Report
New Sunday Class Begins! "Witnessing the
Emergence" 9:30am, Fellowship hall
- 6 NO conversation & dinner at the McKimmys'
tonight or for the rest of September
- 7 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop, 5-7pm
- 11 Leadership retreat, fellowship hall
- 12 Bethany Sunday
Christian Peacemaker Teams presentation
- 13 Pastor Matt away for Pastor's Retreat at
Quaker Hill
- 15 Office Manager Adrienne away through 22nd
- 17 100 mile radius potluck at Earlham, Runyan
Center, outside of Comstock, 6pm
- 19 Worship in the Park at 9:30am with
West Richmond Friends, Mary Scott Park
No Sunday classes or chew 'n chat
Bring food for the potluck afterward!
- 20 Pastor Matt away for vacation through 27th
- 21 International Day of Prayer for Peace
Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop, 5-7pm
- 25 Fellowship Hall in use 11am-9pm
- 26 Gene Roop preaches on Jonah
Amy Ritchie leads Sunday Class
- 27 Ministry Team meeting at Matt's house, 6pm
- 30 Soup Kitchen at St. Paul's Episcopal,
See Esther Lang for more information

New Adult Sunday Class: "Witnessing the Emergence"

Did you know that some scholars are likening the changes currently happening within Christianity to such transformative periods in history as the Protestant Reformation or the Great Schism between East and West? Do you find yourself wondering if there's anyone else who is asking the same questions you are about what it means to follow Jesus in our rapidly-shifting postmodern world? The Emergent movement has received criticism from both liberals and conservatives alike, but it is increasingly clear that the future of Christianity will be reflective of the way emergents are redefining the faith. Not only that, but many of their questions are the same questions we Radical Pietist/Anabaptist Brethren have been asking for centuries!

This fall's adult Sunday morning classes will focus on learning about and connecting with the still-evolving conversation known as Emergent Christianity. Starting **September 5th**, Pastor Matt will lead a series of discussions based on the book *The New Christians: Dispatches from the Emergent Frontier*, by Tony Jones. Participants are invited, but not required, to read along – you can buy your own copy or contact Matt to borrow a copy from the church. Each week will focus on different aspects of the emergent movement and where we might find connections (or disconnections) within our own faith stories and traditions. We will meet on the couches in the corner of the fellowship hall. Anyone is welcome to come join the conversation, no prerequisites or homework required!

Worship in the Park with West Richmond Friends

On **September 19th at 9:30am** we will gather with the West Richmond Friends Meeting in Mary Scott Park, between NW 7th and NW A streets, for our annual Worship in the Park event. (There will be no Sunday classes or Chew 'n Chat that morning.) Bring a blanket or chair to sit on, bring a friend, and bring a bit of food to share since we'll have lunch together after worship! This year's theme will be Praying Together for Peace as we connect with the International Day of Prayer for Peace the following week.

Jonah Worship Series

Did you know that the book of Jonah is only two or three pages long in most bibles? It is quite literally a "short story" that can help us all to explore how our own stories connect with the story of God. During September we will be continuing a 4-part worship series on Jonah, covering a chapter each week (except the 19th, due to Worship in the Park.) For the final sermon in this series on September 26th we will welcome Gene Roop to the pulpit to share his thoughts on what we might learn from Jonah. Why not take 10 minutes to sit down and read through the whole story in one sitting as we explore this timeless tale?

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Matt's Musings: *Ponderings from the Wilderness*

One of the blessings of my work with our church that I never take for granted is the intentional way the congregation encourages me toward taking time for personal spiritual renewal. In addition to one day each month set aside for such purposes, I am also asked to take one week every year to engage in spiritually renewing activities. This year I chose to spend the majority of my week hiking and camping in the wilderness of the Red River Gorge in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. For my musings this month, I'd like to share with you a glimpse of some of my ponderings and insights.

Dealing with adversity can be a spiritual practice

– Rarely in our lives does everything go according to our plans. This is especially true when spending significant amounts of time outdoors, and to be expected whenever I go backpacking. Though it had been 5 years since I last was out on the trail, this trend toward adversity continued on my most recent trip. Route plans had to be changed after only a few hours on the trail, and the changes kept coming by the day (and sometimes by the hour!) Yet when dealing with each adversity I faced I was reminded that Christ's peace traveled with me, and that it was all a matter of my own perspective whether such adversity would ruin the trip or whether it was simply another twist in the adventure. When it is abundantly clear that you're not in control it's easy to become anxious and disheartened, yet we are in control of how we respond to such situations. Our challenge is to retain our Christ-centeredness even in the midst of seeming chaos, knowing that the journey continues regardless of whether we take the path we once expected.

Likes can be the enemy of what we love –

Voltaire is popularly quoted as saying “the perfect is the enemy of the good.” During my wilderness

wanderings I came to my own, similar realization. When we spend too much time and energy filling our lives with things we like, we run the risk of crowding out that which we truly love. For me, one of those loves is backpacking and primitive camping, connecting with the natural world in an intimate way that daily life rarely provides the opportunity for. Yet because I'm so busy doing things I like, I seldom set aside the time to do what I love. I think this is true in many areas of our lives - we like to surf the internet, watch television, or go window-shopping. Or, to make this more difficult, we like volunteering at the soup kitchen, serving on various committees meant to accomplish important tasks, and so on. But do we love these things? Do they reflect our conviction to love others as God loves us? I for one intend to be more intentional about how I'm spending my time and energy, which may mean saying “no” to some things I like in order to experience and embody more love in my own life and for others.

May you all find your own opportunities for wilderness ponderings and spiritual renewal as we travel this journey of faith together. Grace and peace, **Pastor Matt**

Some photographs from Matt's wilderness wanderings...



CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

International Day of Prayer for Peace Vigil September 21

Every year on September 21st the World Council of Churches encourages people of faith around the world to pause and pray that peace might prevail in our broken, war-torn world. On Tuesday, Sept. 21st there will be an ecumenical Peace Vigil on the front lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Richmond. Starting at 5pm there will be speakers and brief programs each half-hour, focusing on subjects such as peace around the world, in Africa (this year's World Council of Churches emphasis), in the environment, and in our local community. Between programs there will be opportunities for meditative and spoken prayers for peace. Anyone is invited to drop-in to attend and participate in any part of the vigil. The vigil will draw to a close with a simple time of worship starting at 8pm. More information is available at <http://www.richmondcob.org/peacevigil> .

Help Needed - We are still in need of some small groups of 2-3 to help plan and coordinate the short periods of worship during the vigil. Each group would be responsible for one 15-20 minute portion, with the theme, structure, and a speaker / presenter already provided. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Matt as soon as possible.

Pastor Matt on Vacation

Pastor Matt will take his second vacation week of the year from **September 20th through 26th**. During his time away, should any emergencies arise please contact Enten Eller, Ministry Team chairperson, or Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm from the Pastoral Relations Committee. Matt will return to his regular work schedule Monday Sept. 27th.

Happy September Birthdays and Anniversaries!

3	Amy & Kurt Ritchie	21	Marilyn Dershem
4	Bob & Carol Hunter		Lindsey Frye
5	Sanjeev Singh	22	Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm
11	Derek Healton		Jordan Miller (1995)
	Valerie Healton		
17	Carol Stocksdale	23	Lillian Calbeck
	Sophie Ottoni-Wilhelm	29	Enten Eller
20	Jon Flory Schrock	30	Malcolm Buroker

Building Notes

Within the last month we have had several professional repairs and inspections made in our church's building, along with lots of large and small projects that were taken care of on our recent church work day. The lock cylinder in our main entry door was repaired and should be working smoothly now. If you have a key that does still not work well please contact the church office so we can issue you a new one. The second entry door on the front of the church is also now fixed, but please make sure that it shuts securely when you leave. Additionally, our elevator was recently repaired and given its annual inspection, during which it was discovered that the emergency call phone is not working. We plan to have this repaired in the coming weeks, but until then you might not want to use the elevator unless someone else is in the building (just in case!) Thank you to our building and grounds coordinator, Brian Schleeper, and to Esther Lang for their continued work toward maintaining our building as a part of our Church's ministry.

Church Communications Audit Survey Opens 5 Sept

RCoB leadership wants to get a clearer idea of the way you want us to be in touch, so we're doing a communications audit to find out your preferences. This goes further than just answering if you want the newsletter via paper mail or e-mail (though that is something we want to know!) to finding out how (& how often) you'd like us to communicate prayer concerns, special events, and the like. We will also be asking some general questions about the newsletter.

A link to the online communications audit survey will be e-mailed after worship on **Sunday September 5th**. There will also be paper copies of the survey available at the church that day for those who do not use e-mail. (All others, please go online to help us save paper.) Finally, we will be mailing the survey to friends who cannot be with us on Sunday and do not use e-mail.

This audit is very important for us as we decide where the allocate church resources, both financially & time-wise. We really need your support and appreciate it in advance! Please direct all questions to Adrienne or Matt.

Mowing Help Needed!

As the summer sadly comes to an end we still have a few more weeks of mowing the church lawn. Most every weekend in September is open so it's a great time to enjoy the cooler weather. Please sign up for any weekend you're available on the sheet outside the worship room.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Supporting Richmond's Human Rights Commission: How YOU Can Help

As you may know, each year there have been challenges to the very existence of the HRC. These have surfaced again this year, and we need to be prepared to defend the agency. The HRC's mandate is to protect jobs, housing and public access for those who are wrongly discriminated against, and to protect local business from unfounded cases leveled against them.

Some may wish to write a letter to the editor of the Pal item. Here are some talking points:

- 1) We need to protect citizens from discrimination. Some have argued that the job of the HRC can be done at the state or national level, but such approaches would be very costly for businesses and those bringing charges alike. And it does not make sense to involve others if it can be dealt with locally.
- 2) Further, only a heartless city would strip away police or fire protection leaving it up to the state to protect its citizens. Similarly it would be heartless to strip away protection to Richmond people who are being treated unfairly leaving it up to the state or feds.
- 3) We are seeing an increase in discrimination cases. In hard economic times, discrimination increases. We are seeing this locally as part of the national trend.
- 4) One of the secrets of our democracy is balance of power. We balance power so that no group or branch of government can have total power. Most Richmond businesses are fair and make every effort to treat workers fairly, but if they do not, there needs to be a place to get help. Without that help a business could discriminate for economic gain taking advantage of Richmond residents.
- 5) The city depends on Block grants for improvements to housing and buildings in the city. The Department of Housing and Urban Development gives these grants only if a city enforces fair housing. The HRC is the agency that does that in Richmond. We risk losing support if this agency is defunded.
- 6) Ron Church, the current director, has State and national acclaim as an investigator and director. He is tough minded when it comes to protecting people, but also has an approach open to dialog and conciliation when and where that is possible.
- 7) As of last year Ron has been serving as an investigator for the police department as a part of his funding arrangement with the city. This role allows for the police department to place another officer on the street rather than staffing the position of police investigator with a police officer. If the director's position were eliminated by de-funding then it would mean reducing the number of police on the street in order to staff that position.

Please mark your calendars for **Sept 20, 7 p.m.** This is an important budget meeting of the Richmond IN City Council. It is important that people who support the Richmond Human Rights Commission (HRC) be present at this meeting to show support for the commission. Thank you for your continued support!

Pastor Matt to Participate in Vital Pastor Program

The Vital Pastor program is an education experience provided by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership as part of the nationwide "Sustaining Pastoral Excellence" program, funded by the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc. The local Brethren pastors' group that Pastor Matt is a part of has recently accepted an invitation to be a part of the next installment of this program, which invites small cohorts of excellent pastors to design and implement their own learning plans to enhance and sustain self-identified competency areas such as biblical study, preaching and pastoral care. During the 2-year program, Matt and his cohort will participate in directed exploration, several retreats, both here in Richmond and beyond, and will have the opportunity to travel abroad in order to further study the theological question that will be at the center of their Vital Pastors experience. The first retreat will be **September 13-16** during which Matt will be here in Richmond but unavailable except in the case of emergency.

No Monday Night Conversation & Dinner in September

Due to several conflicts, including Labor day, a Vital Pastor's retreat and vacation week (see related articles), and the need to reschedule a Ministry Team meeting onto a Monday night, there will be no Monday Night dinner and conversation gatherings during the month of September. Pastor Matt will miss sharing his home and his cooking with everyone this month, and looks forward to starting up again during October.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

September Outreach Emphasis: Christian Peacemaker Teams

Christian Peacemaker Teams is a movement of Brethren, Mennonite and Quaker (as well as others) faithful who believe that pacifists must risk our lives for peace, just as soldiers risk their lives for war. CPT has been serving communities around the world and within the US for 30 years. CPT enters communities by invitation, living, traveling and working alongside the people, often at great risk to themselves.

CPT members bring daily safety to those doing non-violence work through their visibility. CPT also trains people around the world in creative non-violence, empowering a more peaceful world for the future. CPT has ongoing delegations to places as close as North Dakota and the US/Mexico Borderlands, and as far as Iraq and Colombia. Go to www.cpt.org to find out how to participate.

Your donation to CPT supports the team members who work full-time in violence reduction and accompaniment work, and to educate near and far about non-violence and real stories of war zones.

Anna Lisa Gross and Kurt Ritchie from our congregation have participated in CPT delegations. Are you ready?

*Children Live what they Learn
and Learn What they Experience!*

Clear Creek Food Co-op is excited to announce their new Toddler Time Program. This seasonal series of classes will introduce young children (0-5) to local foods, farming, gardening and the environment. The 4-week sessions will incorporate storytelling, creative movement, singing and other hands-on activities that will allow children explore the natural world around them!

Classes meet on Wednesday mornings from 10am-10:45am. Our 4-week fall session begins **Wednesday, September 29th**. A program flyer is attached to this email that describes each class. The 4-week session is only \$10 for Co-op members and \$15 for non-members. Space is limited and we're filling up fast, so pre-register today!

You can register at the Clear Creek Food Co-op at 710 East Main Street in Richmond, by calling (765) 939-4390 or by emailing coop@clearcreekcoop.org.



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