



# INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren community

## April 2011

### All are welcome

Sunday school: 9:15

Fellowship: 10:00

Worship: 10:30

**Continuing the  
Work of Jesus...  
Peacefully.  
Simply.  
Together.**

Matthew McKimmy,  
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### Matt's Musings – The Victory of Love

The phrase “Love Wins” is not my own – it's borrowed from Rob Bell, whose new book on heaven and hell that bears this name has caused quite a stir recently, particularly within evangelical Christian circles. But while Rob's new book is certainly opening up many conversations about afterlife and the meaning of salvation, the succinct confession that love wins remains on my mind as we approach the cross of Easter.

There are few elements of the Christian faith that are as theologically complex as the Easter story.

Throughout history followers of Jesus have spent countless hours trying to explain and understand the meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ. Complex and sometimes conflicting theories have been (and continue to be) promoted and held as “true.”

Yet the message of the resurrection is much simpler and at the same time much more profound than many of these theories, creeds, and doctrines make it seem. For me, the entire Easter story is a powerful example that in the ongoing story of the Living God, love wins.

## April Calendar

- 4.3 Bring food for Food Pantry  
Hardware co-op 12-4pm
- 4.4 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 4.5 Loops of Love 5pm (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 4.5/6 Pastor Matt in Elgin
- 4.6 Senior Breakfast 8:30am  
Choir practice 7pm
- 4.9 Church Leadership Retreat  
(Lauramoore House)
- 4.10 Hardware co-op 12-4pm
- 4.11 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 4.12 Ministry Team Meeting 5:30
- 4.13 Choir practice 7pm
- 4.17 Palm Sunday  
Potluck after worship  
Worship Team Meeting 1pm
- 4.18 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 4.19 Loops of Love 5pm (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 4.21 Love Feast 6pm
- 4.22 Tenebrae Service 8:30pm
- 4.24 Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Gathering 7:15am  
Potluck Breakfast 8am  
Resurrection Conversations 9:15am  
Easter Worship Service 10:30am
- 4.25 Pastor Matt on Vacation through 5.1

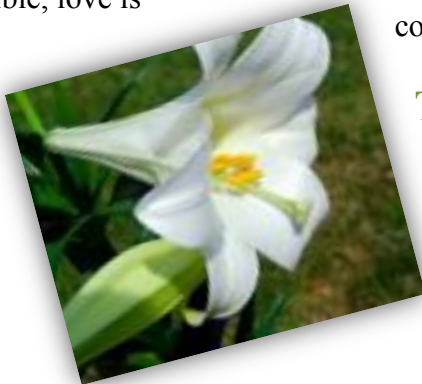
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

(...continued from front page). Jesus is put to death by the hunger for power and control, by empire and oppression, by fear and hate. But in the end, love wins. The death-defying love of God is more powerful than the death-dealing powers of the world. Just when it seems that the hope for a new kin-dom of love was buried in the grave alongside Jesus, love wins. And the message for us is not just that love won on that first resurrection morning, but that love still wins, here, now, today. The reigning of God's love that began with the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ is happening even now. When together we allow God's love to permeate our every action, when love is the very kernel of our identity, when we live in the shadow of the cross and proclaim that another way is possible, love is winning.

Christ is Risen!  
Love Wins! Now  
*that's* good news.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Matt*



## ***Holy Week Happenings***

*It's hard to believe it, but Easter is almost here! There will be several special gatherings that take place the week leading up to Easter.*

### ***Love Feast~6pm Thursday 4.21***

The Love Feast is a longstanding practice of embodied worship and is open to anyone who would like to join us. At 6pm on Thursday, April 21st, 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. Friends and guests are encouraged to attend and participate to whatever extent they are comfortable. Come be a part of this meaningful expression of community, service, and Christ's love!

### ***Tenebrae~8:30pm Friday 4.22***

At 8:30pm on Good Friday (April 22nd) we will hold a Tenebrae service, worshipping 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 Sunday~April 24th***

### ***Sunrise Worship Gathering - 7:15am***

Come worship together in a combined service with the West Richmond Friends meeting as we greet the Risen Son Easter Sunday morning. We will gather in the sanctuary for worship at 7:15am.

### ***Breakfast Potluck—8:00am***

Share Easter Breakfast with our congregation and West Richmond Friends.

### ***Resurrection Conversations – 9:15am***

After breakfast, all are welcome to gather in the fellowship hall for a time of sharing and reflecting on the meanings of the resurrection in our own lives and faith. Additionally, the children's Genesis class will meet during this time.

### ***Morning Worship Gathering – 10:30am***

Our morning worship gathering will feature a special presentation of “A Cricket County City Easter”, a comedic and thought-provoking play, along with special music and opportunities for reflection and response. Many thanks to Alisa Clapp Ityre for organizing and directing this special production!

# CHURCH UPDATES

## The Travels of Pastor Matt

On Tuesday April 5th and Wednesday April 6th Pastor Matt will be traveling to Elgin for meetings as part of a project of our denominational Congregational Life Ministries office that he has been invited to help with as an advisor. Though he will be out of town, continue to contact him as needed as he will still be working.

As part of our 4/5 time pastoral agreement with Matt he will be taking one out of five “working” Sundays off throughout the year. This will help to balance the fact that we are asking him to work slightly more than 4/5 time most weeks. In addition to his usual time off on Saturdays and Monday mornings, Matt will also be away the weekend of April 1st and 2nd. Though there are usually at least two weeks between Matt's weekends off, the Ministry Team has asked him to make an exception in order to be present for the church leadership retreat April 9th.

Matt will also be taking the first of his four vacation weeks for 2011 at the end of this month, from Monday April 25th through Sunday May 1st.

## Welcome to New Office Manager

The Ministry Team is excited to announce that we have hired a new long-term office manager! Anna Woofenden is a new ESR student and has recently begun participating in our congregation. Anna brings many talents and skills along with lots of energy to her new role as office manager. She looks forward to both her work as our office manager and her involvement in the life and ministry of our church. We also give thanks for Josie Tolton's good work as our interim office manager over the past 3+ months. He has done an excellent job of keeping the office running during this time of transition and in helping to train Anna. Please join me in sharing our appreciation with Josie!

As you communicate with the church office, continue to send email correspondence to [office@richmondcob.org](mailto:office@richmondcob.org) and it will reach Anna, but be sure to update the name in your address book. Anna will be keeping office hours on Tuesdays from 1:30-4pm and Thursdays from 2:30-5pm.

## Genesis Teacher

Lindsey Frye will soon be completing her work with the Sunday morning Genesis program after sharing so much with our young children. We are looking for a new teacher to begin in the Fall. Job description and applications are available in the church office. Please see Susan Wible for more details.

## Hardware Co-Op

Hardware co-op now open every Sunday from 12-2 so come on in!

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 4.6 Nancy Faus-Mullen
- 4.9 Noah Shively (1998)
- 4.11 Kurt Ritchie
- 4.20 Bob Hunter  
Rae Hunter
- 4.23 Jenna Liechty-Martin
- 4.24 Becky McKimmy
- 4.25 Jenna Liechty-Martin  
& Peter Martin
- 4.27 Carol Hunter

# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Open Arms Ministries Fund Raising Dinner & Auction

Open Arms Ministries will be holding its first annual fund raising dinner and silent auction on Saturday, May 7th from 5-8pm. The event will be hosted and catered by Reid Hospital. This year's theme is "Fiesta de Mayo" and will feature a special performance by Friends of the Groom, a nationally acclaimed Christian theater company based in Cincinnati.

Advance tickets are required and are available for \$30 each or \$280 for a table of ten. Donations for the silent auction are also needed. If you have goods or services you could donate to help support Open Arms, please consider doing so. To purchase a ticket or make a donation, please contact Pastor Matt, our church's representative on the Open Arms Ministries board, or Brian Schleeper, the treasurer for Open Arms.

Our congregation is a partner organization in Open Arms Ministries. Open Arms works to connect the poor and underprivileged in Richmond with aid available through local faith communities and social service organizations. Part of our commitment as a partner organization is to support Open Arms with our donations of time, material resources, and finances.

## Camp Mack News

When thinking about Summer fun, remember to consider Camp Mack! Check the church bulletin board for information on camps for people of all ages, as well as opportunities for counselors, volunteers and employment.

## National Older Adult Conference "Passion and Purpose in a Changing World" (Romans 12:2) September 5-9, 2011

This year the National Older Adult Conference will be hosted by the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Featured speakers include Robert Bowman; Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove; David E. Fuchs, M.D. and Curtis W. Dubble; Phillip Gulley; C. Michael Hawn; Susan Stern Boyer, and our own Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm. Don't forget performances of spirituals and show tunes by mezzo-soprano Amy Yovanovich and tenor Christyan Seay. This event is for adults age 50 and older. For more information call 1-800-323-8039 ext 302 or email [NOAC2011@brethren.org](mailto:NOAC2011@brethren.org) Register online at <http://www.brethren.org/NOAC>

## Children of Abraham Monthly Gathering

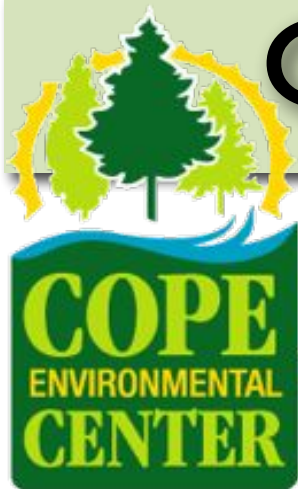
On Friday April 29th there will be a meeting of the local interfaith group, Children of Abraham, at Beth Boruk Temple for Shabbat service at 6:30pm. The group will gather at the Temple for a tour and introduction by Rabbi Michal Loving.

Following the service we will adjourn with members of the synagogue to a local restaurant for fellowship and conversation. If you're interested in attending please RSVP with St. Paul's Episcopal Church – [stpaulsrichmond@frontier.com](mailto:stpaulsrichmond@frontier.com).

## "Difficult Conversations: Leading Through Change"

### **Conference on Ministry with the Aging**

The Towne House Retirement Center presents a one-day event offering education for persons involved in older adult ministry and care. Featured speakers include Dr. Amberly Burger of Parkview Hospital; Dr. Daniel Hauschild, a clinical psychologist; Mrs. Natalie Fish the Wellness Director of the Towne House Retirement Community and Dr. Carl Jylland-Halverson the Chair of the Department of Psychology and Counseling at St. Francis University. \$25 registration, CEUs available. For more information contact Doug Vogel by phone (260)969-8012 or by email



# OUTREACH EMPHASIS

## Outreach Emphasis April: Cope Environmental Center

4910 Shoemaker Road Centerville IN 47330 (765) 855-3188 website: <http://www.copeenvironmental.org>

If you would like to contribute to our monthly outreach emphasis you can do so by writing a check to Richmond COB with "outreach" in the memo line.

**Our Mission** is to promote the sustainable use of the earth's resources through education, demonstration and research.

**Our Vision** is to inspire and challenge individuals and communities to achieve ecologically sustainable lifestyles to secure a sustainable future for all life on earth.

**Cope Environmental Center** is situated on 102 beautiful acres in Centerville, Indiana. The property features over three miles of hiking trails meandering through hardwood forests, grasslands, over 12 acres of prairie, three wetlands, and two ponds, and a significant collection of conifers. The Jim Cope Conifer Trail highlights over 50 different species of these conifers from around the world and was dedicated in 2002. We encourage you to explore our trails, dawn to dusk, everyday of the year!

Trailheads are located at the 4910 Shoemaker Rd. entrance and the 1792 Airport Road entrance. Maps can be found inside the trailheads- hikers are encouraged to return the maps for reuse by future hikers.

### Upcoming Events at COPE

#### **Spirit In Nature Walk**

Contemplative/meditative walking is a way to experience spirit in nature. Dave Wunker, our leader for the day, is a student at Earlham School of Religion. Together, we will share time focusing our senses, reading scripture and poetry, and opening our hearts to what the spirit in nature has to share with us! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Please RSVP to Cope Environmental Center at [765-855-3188](http://765-855-3188).

**Date:** April 17th and April 28th

**Time:** 2-3:30pm (17th) and 4:30-6pm (28th) **Place:** Cope Environmental Center

**Fee:** FREE!

#### **Labyrinth Walk**

Labyrinth walking is a way to journey inward, center ourselves in spirit, and to bring that consciousness back with us into our everyday world. Dave Wunker will lead us again as we walk the CEC trails to and from the labyrinth, reading scripture and poetry along the way.

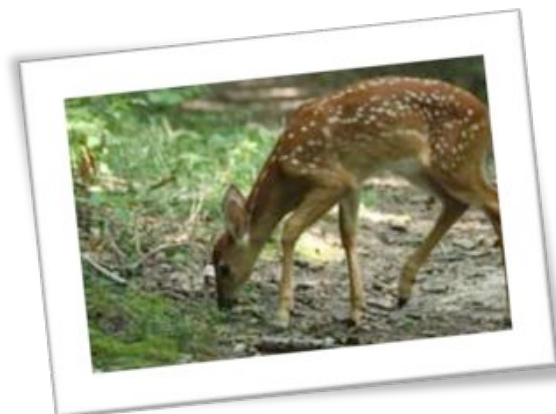
Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Please RSVP to Cope Environmental Center at [765-855-3188](http://765-855-3188).

**Date:** April 23rd

**Time:** 4:30-6pm

**Place:** Cope Environmental Center

**Fee:** FREE!



## Young Adult Conference “Rethinking Church”

(Acts 2:1-4) on May 28-30, 2011

This year Camp Inspiration Hills near Burbank, OH is hosting Young Adult Conference. Register by April 22 to get the early rate of \$95 (late registration is \$120). You can request that a letter be sent to your congregation asking them to pay \$55 of your fee, but you need to register by April 1st. This event is for young adults ages 18-35. Sorry, no children allowed.

Activities include worship featuring messages, music and worship coordination by Church of the Brethren young adults; a chance to meet new people; workshops; coffeehouse; music; campfire, and just plain fun. For more information contact Becky Ullom in the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office at 1-800-323-8039 x297 or [bullom@brethren.org](mailto:bullom@brethren.org)  
Register online at <http://www.brethren.org/yac>



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