



INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren community

November

All are welcome

Sunday school: 9:15

Fellowship: 10:00

Worship: 10:30

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

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Matt's Musings Deep and Wide?

Towards the end of the year we're faced with many opportunities to step back and reflect upon our lives. The days grow shorter, the breezes colder, leaves that were once green have turned yellow, orange, red, and brown, and we grow introspective.

Traveling in a different cultural context also provides many of these same opportunities to think about the ways we live and the patterns we're a part of. My recent trip to New Zealand afforded me just this occasion. I traveled among several different instances of "intentional community" - where Christians have chosen to live together in varied, creative configurations, somewhat at odds with the culture around them. My time with these new friends, watching them live out their understanding of the gospel in tangible, life-changing ways, planted many seeds for further musing.

As I move into this upcoming season of both increased reflection and increased busyness, one particular observation keeps stirring in my soul. Though all the communities I visited were quite different, each exemplified a particular depth of relationship that I've rarely witnessed here in the States. Not only were they committed to nurturing deep and meaningful connections with one another, they were also deeply involved in the lives of those around them, particularly those who were struggling with life's brokenness in different ways. Yet they weren't engaged in all that many social activities or outreach programs.

My own tendency when it comes to relationships and social pursuits is often to emulate the lyrics of the old children's song - "deep and wide." But most of the time I do a better job with the width than with the depth. I get over-involved in so many different activities with so many different people that my relationships end up farther towards the shallow end than I'd like.

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CONGREGATION UPDATES

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The church sometimes struggles with this too. We spend so much time trying to be wide - wanting to appeal to as many people as possible, to engage in as many varied ministries as possible, to involve ourselves in everything we possibly can - that we don't often engage with each other or our neighbors on a very deep level. I don't think it's just us, either, but rather it's quickly becoming a personality trait of our culture.

What might it look like for you to give up some width in favor of more depth? What might it look like for us to do so as a church? How might we benefit from doing less as a whole, but with deeper relationship? I'm not yet sure of the answer, but I'm convinced it's a question each of us should be asking.

Deep peace to you all,
Pastor
Matt



Love Feast November 5th at 5pm

A long-time Love Feast tradition is to invite friends and neighbors from all around to join in this special time of worship, fellowship, and community. The theme of this fall's Love Feast will be "Welcome to the Table" and you're encouraged to extend invitations to friends from all different traditions to join us. Together we'll celebrate the promise that we are all one in Christ, despite our differences in theology and practice. We'll begin at 5pm in the sanctuary, followed by footwashing, a fellowship meal, and sharing the bread and cup. If you're interested in helping with set-up and preparations, contact Susan Wible.

Bring-a-friend Sunday, November 6

'Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled.' Luke 14:23

It's been said that our congregation is one of the best-kept secrets in Richmond, with an authentic welcome and deep sense of community. But why keep it a secret? In the spirit of welcoming *all* people we're making November 6th Bring-a-

friend Sunday! Each individual or family is encouraged to invite and bring someone who isn't a frequent participant along to worship that morning. Better yet - come early to Chew 'n Chat at 10 for an opportunity to get to know people better. Don't have any friends who aren't already church-goers? Then that means it's time to make some more friends! Don't miss this perfect opportunity to share our congregation's welcome with others in a low-pressure way.

Advent begins soon

The season of Advent, the four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Christmas, starts Sunday November 27th. We'll begin these four weeks of preparation and anticipation with a special, musical worship service. Come join in the songs and festivities as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child.

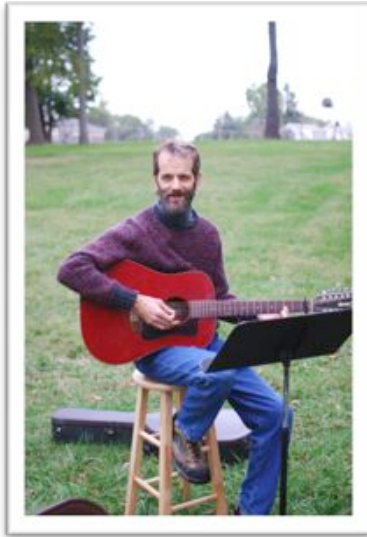
CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

District Executive to preach November 13

We are excited to welcome Beth Sollenberger, our South/Central Indiana District Executive, to preach Sunday November 13th. Beth began in this role in February of this year and is working to make her way around to all of the churches in our district. A Bethany Seminary graduate and ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren since 1981, with experience in congregational, district, and denominational leadership, Beth brings tremendous excitement and joy to her work as a DE.

Feast of Love Conference and Interim Leadership

At the beginning of October sixteen representatives from across the country gathered in North Manchester to help discern the emerging shape of the Feast of Love movement. The Feast of Love, an over-arching progressive network within the Church of the Brethren, has begun to move from the idea and dream stages and into reality. Through the help of several members of our congregation and others from across the



Church of the Brethren, this new project hopes to empower progressives within and beyond the Church of the Brethren to nurture existing faith communities, encourage new faith communities, and connect people with one another through gatherings and conferences, sharing stories, and mutual accountability and mentorship.

Those gathered for this initial, formative conference distilled some of their hopes for the future and called out five individuals to form an interim organizational team. Consisting of Elizabeth Ullery, Gimbiya Kettering, Josih Hostetler, Roger Shrock,

and our own Matt McKimmy, this team is charged with establishing a plan for the future, forming organizational structures, networking with supportive individuals and congregations, and discerning future leadership needs. They will be sharing some of these initial plans and visions at the Progressive Brethren Gathering November 11th - 13th in Elgin, Ill. Please

pray for this team and the movement as a whole as we seek to support one another and the larger body of Christ in the pursuit of God's new kin-dom.

Thanksgiving Lunch, Nov 20

After worship on November 20th we'll gather for our annual Thanksgiving-style luncheon. The main course will be provided (both meat and vegetarian/vegan), so bring your favorite side-dish or dessert to share. This is a feast that's open to all, so plan to stay even if you're unable to contribute to the food. Also, don't forget: our meal will be followed by our fall congregational business meeting.

Outreach Emphasis for November Brethren Womaen's Caucus

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e-mail: wcaucus@windstream.net

website:

<http://www.progressivebrethren.org/WomaensCaucus/main.html>

Mission: Womaen's Caucus is a network of feminist women and men who identify with the Church of the Brethren. We engage in the prophetic task of creating church which is free from attitudes and practices of injustice.

November Calendar

You can always find the current calendar at:
<http://www.richmondcob.org/calendar>

- 11.1 Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 11.2 Senior Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- 11.5 Love Feast 5:00 p.m.
- 11.6 Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
Bring food for food-bank
- 11.7 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 11.9 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- 11. 11-13 - Pastor Matt in Elgin for Progressive Brethren Gathering 11.13
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Beth Sollenberger preaching

- 11.14 - Dinner and Conversation Gathering (in church fellowship hall)
- 11.15 Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 11.16 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- 11.18 - Pastor Matt Spiritual Renewal Day 11.20 Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 11.20 Worship 10:30 a.m.
Thanksgiving Potluck
Congregational Business Meeting
- 11.21 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 11.27 Worship 10:30 a.m.
Advent Begins
- 11.28 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/03 Helen Shultz
11/12 Grace Morentz
11/13 Jonathan Shively
11/16 Amanda Faucett
11/17 Brenda & Todd Reish
11/20 Susan & Martin Ekwealor
11/23 Todd Reish
11/24 Al Hollenberg
11/25 Katie Thompson
11/26 Ethan Miller (2005)



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