



# INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren community

## October

**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 - Finding Center

Where is your center? Here in the middle-class US it seems that often when left unattended our center becomes ourselves. Our schedules are filled with whatever seems most personally gratifying, privately meaningful, or individually beneficial. Soccer practice, movie nights, family travels, and even our religious life can become myopic and only focus on us.

But if we are to seek out a center other than ourselves, how might we begin?

The image that comes to my mind is that of a labyrinth. Not to be confused with a maze, a labyrinth is a tool for spiritual reflection. There's one route through the labyrinth, and no way to get lost. As you slowly wind your way toward the center, praying along the way, the intent is to also arrive at your own, personal center.

As you wander around the pathways of your life, how are you seeking out your center? Unlike the marked guides of the labyrinth, the roads we find ourselves upon don't always lead us easily toward

a clear destination. There are many opportunities to lose our way, to become disoriented.

Following Jesus invites us to reorient our selves and our lives, to intentionally find a center beyond our own interests, to choose the way that leads to abundant life. As part of the body of Christ we are guided by fellow travelers on in the caravan of faith. We are formed by prayer and worship, molded by service and stewardship.

Together, with Jesus as our teacher, savior, and companion, the maze of life is transformed into a labyrinth. We are reminded that we do not travel alone. There will be times when we need others and times when they need us. We find meaning not in self-serving and self-gratification, but in serving and loving others as much as ourselves, journeying in community toward Christ, our center.

*Grace and peace,  
-Pastor Matt*

# CONGREGATION UPDATES

## **Kia Ora, Mates!**

If you're reading this newsletter prior to October 9th, Pastor Matt is currently over 8,000 miles away in New Zealand. His trip to the other side of the world is part of a two-year pastoral excellence program, funded by the Lilly Endowment and organized by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. He is traveling with three other nearby pastors who are all former classmates from Bethany Theological Seminary. Together they will explore hospitality as a form of leadership, ways culture is changing toward post-Christendom, how the church might respond to change with creative expressions of ministry in new contexts, and ways that sacred space can provide grounding in the midst of such extensive change.



Matt returns late in the evening on October 9th, so until then please contact our deacons (Amy Ritchie, Mary Eller, Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm), Ministry Team chair (Enten Eller), or Office Manager (Anna Woofenden) as needed for pastoral care concerns, church business, or administrative questions.

Worship on October 16th will include reflections on Matt's journey of continuing education and spiritual renewal as we conclude our series on The Journey of Faith.

## **Final call for giving estimates**

The Ministry Team is working on preparing next year's church budget during the month of October. If you plan to submit an estimate of how you hope to support our congregation financially during 2012, please do so as soon as possible. Financial stewardship response cards are

available in the gathering area outside the sanctuary, or at <http://www.richmondcob.org/stewardship>. Completed cards can be turned in through our



weekly offerings, or given directly to Don Miller, our financial secretary. Please prayerfully consider the ways, both financial and otherwise, that you might use your gifts and abundance to take part in the shared ministry of our congregation.

***Mark your calendars - our fall love feast will be Saturday, November 5th.***

# CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

## **Congregational Business preview - Oct 16**

After our potluck lunch on October 16th, from 1-2pm there will be an opportunity to preview and discuss several items of business that will be coming up at our November congregational meeting. One particular item that will be presented is a proposed statement of welcome and affirmation and response to movements within the broader church that continue to exclude and condemn LGBTQ persons. This statement is a follow-up to our series of “welcoming conversations” and the recommendation of our spring business meeting to move in this direction. All who would like to share their feelings and perspectives are welcome.

## **Pastor Matt's Vacation**

Though it might be easy to mistake his time in New Zealand at the beginning of this month for personal vacation, Matt will be there for continuing education and spiritual renewal. Each year Matt is expected to take 7 days for continuing education and a week-long spiritual renewal retreat as part of his work as our pastor.

Toward the end of this month Matt will be taking his 3rd of 4 weeks of vacation for 2011.

His vacation will be October 24th-30th. He and Becky will be traveling to Chicago and celebrating his 30th birthday, which is October 29th.

## **Worship This Month**

The first three Sundays of October will continue our worship series on *The Journey of Faith*. Jen Lewis will be preaching on the 2nd, followed by Rae Hunter on the 9th. Pastor Matt will conclude the series on the 16th as he shares some reflections on how his recent travels fit into his own faith journey.

Starting October 23rd we will begin a new series, *Why Welcome?* As our congregations nears the end of a discernment process for publicly stating our welcome for all God's children, we will explore several key scripture texts and themes that connect with this part of our faith and identity.

## **Genesis Coordinator Needed**

If you're interested in working with children and serving the church, consider applying for the Genesis Coordinator position. Talk to Susan Wible for more information.

## **Open Arms Ministries Needs**

### **Volunteers**

Open Arms Ministries, a local social outreach clearinghouse that our church partners in, is in need of some volunteers. They are looking for someone who can answer the telephone and help with scheduling from 12-2pm at least one day of the week Monday through Thursday. They're also looking for a team of two persons able to drive a truck and haul furniture on the first or third Saturday of each month. If you're able to help with either of these things, contact Pastor Matt, our Open Arms board rep., or Sharlene George, Open Arms executive director (962-9100.)

### **New Address**

Chrissy Sollenberger  
4998 Moorhead Ave Apt#320  
Boulder, CO 80305  
*Sending joy and blessings from my new location to Richmond COB*  
--Chrissy

# CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS



## Mutual Kumquat / Open Arms Ministries Benefit Concert

What's even better than listening to Mutual Kumquat? Hearing them perform live!  
What's even better than that? An ice cream and dessert social afterward!  
Can it get even better? YES IT CAN!  
Mutual Kumquat live, ice cream and desserts - all in support of a good cause!

On October 22nd at 7pm Mutual Kumquat will perform a benefit concert, hosted by the Richmond Church of the Brethren, in support of Open Arms Ministries. After the concert there will be desserts and fellowship, time to hang out with the band and get to know other music- and justice-lovers. A love offering for Open Arms will be collected, and the band will be selling CDs, t-shirts, and other great gear to help support their ministry of music.

Mark your calendars NOW! If you have any questions, or if you're interested in helping provide desserts, contact Becky McKimmy (765-598-5387, [becky.mckimmy@gmail.com](mailto:becky.mckimmy@gmail.com)).

More information about Mutual Kumquat is available at [www.mutualkumquat.com](http://www.mutualkumquat.com)



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 10/3 Todd Miller
- 10/4 Phyllis Miller  
(in memory)
- 10/7 Matt Moyle
- 10/11 Nathaniel Smith
- 10/12 Rachel Ulrich
- 10/15 Amy Ritchie  
Doug Veal
- 10/20 Helen & Tom Shultz
- 10/21 Ron Itnyre  
Janet & Murry Wagner
- 10/22 Parker Thompson  
Mark Pickens
- 10/26 Carla & Jim Maurer
- 10/29 Matt McKimmy  
Jeff Muller
- 10/31 Brian Schleeper

# OUTREACH

## October: InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

ATTN: Donation Services PO Box 7895, Madison, WI 53715 phone:  
(608) 443-3772 e-mail: [info@intervarsity.org](mailto:info@intervarsity.org)  
website: <http://www.intervarsity.org>  
Congregational contact: Bob Hunter

### In response to God's love, grace and truth:

The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes in the world.

### CONTEXT

#### College and University

We are called to be a redeeming influence among its people, ideas and structures.

### FORMATION

#### Scripture

We encounter the living God through scripture and are transformed by the Holy Spirit as we read, study, teach and obey His Word.

#### Prayer

We express our faith, love and dependence on God through lives of prayer and worship.

#### Spiritual Formation

We cultivate intimacy with God and growth in Christ-like character through personal and corporate spiritual disciplines, empowered by the Spirit.

### Community

We promote authentic relationships and redemptive communities marked by God's grace and truth.

### Discipleship of the Mind

We engage in learning and thoughtful Biblical reflection in every area of life.

### Leadership Development

We develop women and men to serve as leaders at every level of InterVarsity and ultimately for the Kingdom of God, honoring God's gifts and calling in them.

### EXPRESSION

#### Evangelism

We proclaim and live out the gospel with love and boldness, calling people to repentance, faith and new life in Jesus Christ.

#### Whole Life Stewardship

We proclaim Jesus as Lord over all creation and culture, striving to integrate faith, life and vocation in serving Him.

#### Ethnic Reconciliation and Justice

We pursue ethnic reconciliation by practicing mutual empowerment, grace and truth and by promoting personal and systemic justice.

#### Church

We partner with churches in campus ministry and equip students, faculty and staff to be lifelong active members in local congregations.

#### Missions

We serve God and partner with His people to extend His kingdom cross-culturally on campus and around the world.



# Calendar

## October

- 10.2 Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Bring food for food-bank
- 10.4 Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 10.5 Senior Breakfast 8:30 a.m.  
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- 10.9 Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 10.10 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 10.12 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- 10.16 Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Potluck after worship  
Congregational Business Preview 1:00 p.m.  
Worship Team Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 10.17 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 10.18 Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 10.19 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- 10.23 Mutual Kumquat Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 10.23 Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 10.24 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 10.30 Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 10.31 Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)



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