



# INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren community

## 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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## **Richmond Church of the Brethren**

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## **Matt's Musings**

### The Way of Peace in a World of War

This month we're faced with many opportunities to consider, reflect upon, and embody what it means for us to follow in the way of Christ's peace. As part of a historic and living peace church tradition we speak of God's promised shalom (peace, wholeness, justice) with an accent that sounds quite foreign to much of the world around us.

Wars of all kinds rage around us, often unquestioned by those who follow Jesus: ongoing military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan; a war on drugs that too often is a disguise for a war against immigrants and persons of color; claims of class warfare against the rich even as the poor grow poorer and the income gap grows; political warfare in our national and state capitols marked by self-centered divisiveness that refuses to work together toward the common good.

How do we as people who follow the way of peace respond? Do we try and separate ourselves from

such worldly things, or do we engage the powers and principalities, systems and structures that perpetuate such warring madness?

The promise of God's new kin-dom of shalom for all people gives us hope that the way things are currently shouldn't be seen as an inevitable reality for all time. Jesus reveals and makes possible another way - both for those who hear and follow quickly but also for the rest of the world that is groaning for redemption and restoration, for wholeness and integration with our loving Maker.

As we journey together through this month, consider the ways you might deepen your own commitments to Christ's shalom. How might you use the abundance of your life, your spiritual, physical, and financial giftedness, in ways that make for peace? How might you participate in and support the upcoming city-wide peace events sponsored by our local interfaith group? How can you engage with your friends, neighbors, and government officials to help bring justice and peace for all?

May the Spirit of Peace prevail, in our lives and in our lands.

*-Pastor Matt*

# PRAYERS FOR PEACE

## Prayers for Peace Events

Between September 11th and September 21st our church will be joining with the local interfaith group, Children of Abraham, to lead our fellow citizens of Richmond into a season of prayer for peace. Beginning with the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and concluding with the International Day of Prayer for Peace, there will be many opportunities to join with other persons of faith to pray for peace in our city, nation, and world.

**September 11th, 5pm** - Come join in an interfaith prayer gathering as we remember the tragic events of September 11th and pray that peace will prevail between all of God's many children. Community of Song, a Church of the Brethren singing group that includes three members of our congregation, will help provide worship leadership. A traveling Peace Pole will also be dedicated and begin its journey around the city of Richmond.

**September 12th-20th, 5pm** - From September 12th to 20th different faith communities around Richmond will be hosting simple prayer gatherings. Each will last from 5-6pm and you can drop in for any amount of time during the hour to join in praying for peace. A schedule of dates and locations will be distributed soon.

**September 17th** - Anyone interested is invited to travel to Cincinnati to visit the Islamic Center and Mosque in West Chester. The tour will last approximately two hours and following the tour we will stop for dinner and discussion on our way home. The group will leave Richmond at 12:30 pm and return between 7:30 and 8:00. Contact Pastor Matt to RSVP.



**September 18th, 8am** - Our congregation, along with the West Richmond Friends, will gather for an early-morning prayer service at Mary Scott Park. Bring a friend along and enjoy the beauty of creation and the peace of our Creator - everyone is welcome!

**September 21st, 5pm** - Our closing event will held on the the International Day of Prayer for Peace. We will gather on the lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church from 5-7:30pm for a time of music, prayers and special guest speakers. Bring a picnic, a blanket or some lawn chairs and join us in celebrating the possibility of peace with others from across Richmond. Drinks will be provided.

**If you would like to assist with the planning and preparation for any of these special gatherings, please contact Pastor Matt - we're looking for volunteers!**

*Happy are those who work for peace, they will be called God's children*  
- Matthew 5.9

### **Muslim Prayer for Peace:**

*In the name of Allah,  
the beneficent, the merciful.  
Praise be to the Lord of the  
Universe who has created us and  
made us into tribes and nations,  
That we may know each other, not that  
we may despise each other.  
If the enemy incline towards peace, do  
thou also incline towards peace, and  
trust God, for the Lord is the one that  
heareth and knoweth all things.  
And the servants of God,  
Most Gracious are those who walk on  
the Earth in humility, and when we  
address them, we say "PEACE."*

*The Lord will give strength unto the people;  
the Lord will bless all people with Peace.*  
- Psalms 29.11

# CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS



## **Simple Stewardship Series Wrap-up**

On September 4th we will be concluding our series on Simple Stewardship

with a special time of claiming and sharing our giftedness in a spirit of abundance and generosity. Each of us is blessed with many, unique gifts that can be used to take part in God's new reign of love, both within our congregation and beyond it. No gift is too small or insignificant to be celebrated. As a community we draw upon one another's gifts - time, energy, creativity, leadership, wealth - to support our shared ministry of continuing the work of Jesus. During our worship gathering on the 4th we will set aside time to discern and share the ways each of us might share our gifts, talents, and treasures as we live, worship, and minister together in the coming year.

If you've missed any of this year's stewardship materials, or won't be present for worship on the 4th to share about your gifts, you can find all of our stewardship resources online at <http://www.richmondcob.org/stewardship> or request copies from the church office.

## **Pastor Matt traveling to New Zealand**

The Vital Pastors program is a continuing 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. Pastor Matt is in the middle of this two-year program along with a cohort of three other nearby Brethren pastors. Part of the Vital Pastors experience is the opportunity to travel abroad in order to further study the theological questions that are at the center of their studies.

On the afternoon of September 25th Matt will embark with his cohort on a two-week trip to New Zealand. While there he will be exploring hospitality as a form of leadership, how culture is changing toward a post-Christendom reality and how the church is responding with creative expressions of ministry in this post-modern, secular context, and the ways sacred space provides grounding in the midst of all this change.

Planned destinations and conversations include spending time with an intentional community in Auckland, visiting with noted hymnwriter Shirley Erena Murray and her

husband, connecting with the Urban Vision community of new monastics in Wellington, learning about native Maori culture in Kaikura, staying with Andrew Shepherd and family, an Anabaptist who specializes in hospitality, and concluding the trip with two days exploring Christchurch. While he'll likely have limited opportunity for contact while in New Zealand he's sure to have many stories and pictures to share once he returns the evening of October 9th.



# CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

## Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 18th, will provide plenty of opportunity for fellowship and worship at Mary Scott Park, located between N.W. 7th and N.W. A streets. The day begins with a morning prayer gathering co-sponsored with West Richmond Friends at 8am. This gathering will include opportunities for sung, spoken, and silent prayer, as well as scripture and sharing. We will be inviting others from around Richmond to join us for this gathering as part of the Prayers for Peace series that will be taking place from Sept. 11th till Sept. 21st.

After the early gathering you're invited to stick around for a time of informal fellowship and conversation, or to just meditate, relax, and enjoy the sounds of the morning.

At 10:30am our congregation's weekly worship will convene at the park, followed by a pitch-in lunch. We will continue the

theme of peace as we explore what it means to be a peace church here in Richmond, Indiana. Please plan to come, even if you don't have something to contribute to the meal, as we always have an abundance and love to share.

Please bring blankets or chairs to sit on and place settings to eat on, as both will be in limited

supply at the park. In the event of rain we will gather as usual at our church building.



## Welcome Back to Students: Ice Cream Social and Game Night

Richmond Church of the Brethren welcomes Bethany, ESR, Earlham, and other college students back for the fall semester! To celebrate the start of the new semester, we are hosting, in good Church of the Brethren fashion, an ice cream social and game night in the church fellowship hall Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7pm. Ice cream, including delicious non-dairy options, and sundae toppings will be available along with a variety of fun board and card games. Bethany, ESR, Earlham, and other college students as well as all other members and friends of our congregation are invited to attend.

This is a great opportunity for students to enjoy some ice cream, engage in fun games, and get to know the folks at the Richmond Church of the Brethren. If you need a ride to the event, please contact Becky McKimmy at [becky.mckimmy@gmail.com](mailto:becky.mckimmy@gmail.com) or 765-598-5387.

## Office Hours

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



The church office will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please feel free to stop by during this time if we can assist you in any way. As always, please feel free to contact Pastor Matt and Office Manager Anna throughout the week as needed.

## Pastor Matt's Time Away

This month Pastor Matt will be taking his weekend off September 9th-11th. He will also be leaving the afternoon of the 25th for a 2-week continuing education trip to New Zealand. If there are congregational emergencies or pastoral care needs while Matt is away please contact one of our deacons (Amy Ritchie, Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm, Mary Eller) or our Ministry Team chairperson (Enten Eller.)

## Updated Directory

We will be updating and printing the Directory in September. If your information has changed-- please email Anna with the changes.

## Genesis Coordinator Needed

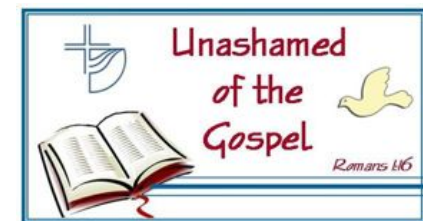
We are currently without a coordinator for our Genesis children's program and looking for someone who loves children and will help lead this important time of spiritual formation and education. Though in the past this has been an every-week, paid position, creative arrangements can be considered. If you're interested in more information, contact Susan Wible, Christian Education Coordinator.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 9/3 Amy & Kurt Ritchie
- 9/4 Carol and Bob Hunter
- 9/5 Sanjeev Singh
- 9/11 Derek Healton  
Valerie Healton
- 9/17 Carol Stocksdale  
Sophie Ottoni-Wilhelm
- 9/20 Jon Flory Schrock
- 9/21 Marilyn Dershem  
Lindsey Frye
- 9/22 Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm  
Jordan Miller
- 9/23 Lillian Calbeck (*In Memoriam*)
- 9/29 Enten Eller

## District Conference

South Central Indiana District's conference will be held at the Logansport Church of the Brethren on Saturday, September 24th. Our delegates for this year are Enten Eller, Jen Lewis, Mark Stosberg, and Matt McKimmy. This year's conference is shifting to a new, one-day format and will include worship, business, and informational sessions, including one being led by Mark about our church's Computer Hardware Co-op! There will also be a silent auction of gift baskets donated by churches across the district to help raise money for the Ministry Training Endowment Fund. Please hold our church's delegates and this whole conference in your prayers that they might faithfully discern the movement of the Spirit and the mind of Christ as they help guide the shared ministry of our district.



# OUTREACH



## Outreach Emphasis for September 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](http://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.

On September 11, Rick Polhamus, a frequent participant in CPT delegations, will be preaching at Richmond Church of the Brethren and sharing his thoughts on peace work.

Learn more at <http://cpt.org/>

*During the month of September, all contributions in the Service Cup and checks marked with "outreach" will go to the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams*



## Open Arms Ministries Report

By Barry Cramer, St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church

Executive Director Sharlene  
George will be returning to her  
regular half-time schedule

September 5. While still a couple thousand dollars short of the amount the Board had hoped to have on reserve, sufficient funds have been raised to ensure continuity of operations over the near term, due in part to a recent grant from the Reid Foundation.

The Board has agreed to fund a part-time office position at minimal cost under the federal work/study program. This will provide Open Arms the opportunity of having two seminary students providing energy and enthusiasm for our ministry, the other being a student intern receiving field education under Sharlene's guidance.

An Annual Meeting for stakeholders has been set for Sunday evening January 22, location to be announced. Please hold this date so that you can share with the entire spectrum of folks who participate in this ministry.

Open Arms continues to need office supplies, especially legal pads and postage stamps. Volunteers are still needed to provide intake functions at the office twice per month. For more information call the OAM office at 962-9100.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## In Memory of Clyde Johnson:

West Richmond Friends has set up an separate account in order to ship 10-12,000 of Clyde Johnson books to Friends Theological College and several other seminaries in Kenya. Currently volunteers have about 70 large cartons of excellent quality books set aside for Kenya.

West Richmond Friends has arranged with Theological Book Network in Michigan to ship the books in a large oceangoing shipping container and deliver them to Nairobi.

Once they arrive in Nairobi Ann Riggs will see that the books are distributed. A rental truck must be arranged to take the books to Michigan. Enten Eller has offered to drive the truck up and back.



The first estimate was that the entire process would cost approximately \$5,500.00. The originator of the idea, Michael Burnside, had hoped to find 55 persons willing to donate \$100.00 each. After speaking with Josh Brown of West Richmond Friends we have discovered that many people have responded unable to donate a large sum and still have given freely of what they are able to donate.

If you wish to donate to this worthy cause, please send a check payable to "West Richmond Friends Meeting", at 609 W Main St, Richmond IN 47374, and mark the memo line "Clyde's books". If you wish for a tax receipt enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope with a brief request for a tax receipt returned to you.

## Furniture Needed

Taylor and his little brother, Alexi, have birthdays this summer. Taylor's is on July 22, Alexi's August 29th. Candy, their mother, (who has been off work for at least the summer months) has informed me that they need either a bunk bed or two single beds. If any of you happen to have such and are ready to get rid of them, or if you would be willing to give a contribution toward buying them beds, let Mary Eller know. Thanks.

## Community Kitchen

As this month has a 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday in it, the Richmond Church of the Brethren is on for serving at the serve at the Community Kitchen at St. Paul's on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please talk to Esther Lang if you would like to participate.

# Calendar

## September

- 9.4     Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Bring food for food-bank
- 9.6     Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 9.7     Senior Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
- 9.11    Worship 10:30 a.m. *Rick Polhamus preaching*  
Prayers for Peace 5:00 p.m. (West Richmond Friends)
- 9.12    Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 9.13    Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 9.14    Ministry Team 5:30 p.m.
- 9.17    Mosque Visit with Children of Abraham 12:30-6:00 p.m.
- 9.18    Morning Prayers for Peace w/ West Richmond Friends 8:00 am.  
(Mary Scott Park)  
Worship in the Park 10:30 am.(Mary Scott Park)  
Picnic in the Park after worship
- 9.19    Dinner and Conversations 7:00 p.m. (McKimmy's)
- 9.20    Loops of Love 5:00 p.m. (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 9.21    Picnic and Prayers for Peace 5:00-7:30 p.m. (St. Paul's Episcopal)
- 9.24    District Conference
- 9.25    Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 9.25    Serve at the Community Kitchen at St. Paul's



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