



INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren community

June & July 2011

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

Dancing with Paradox

The Christian faith is filled with paradox. Almost everywhere you turn, there's a belief or understanding that seems both irrational and important, all at the same time. Jesus the Christ as both human and divine. God as three – Holy Creator, Redeeming Christ, Sustaining Spirit – but yet only one. The Bible as the story of God and of God's people, as ancient and also living word, as inspired but open to our questioning.

In the midst of this swirling sea of paradox, there is one particular tension I've been wrestling with recently. One of my favorite hymns is *Beyond a dying sun* (#323). Written by Brethren songwriter Steve Engle, it is a hymn of hope and proclamation of what Christ's Kingdom is like. It's the last line of the refrain that points to the paradox I'm caught in: "And all shall be God's people in justice, love, and peace."

Justice. Love. Peace. All three are central to Jesus' mission and ministry. All three worth striving for as we seek to live into God's new reign.

Yet they are not always easily reconcilable. Often I find myself faced with feeling like one, or maybe two, out of three is the best I can do in a given situation.

Sometimes the pursuit of justice for all people may not seem loving to those who are powerful and privileged.

Sometimes the pursuit of peace and nonresistance may contribute to the continuation of an unjust situation, or sometimes our response to injustice may not seem peaceful.

Sometimes the pursuit of love may become too limited, blinding us to situations where we could be working for peace and justice.

Around and around these three can spin us until we've become so dizzy we don't know what to do or where to begin. We fall down, and we're not sure how to get back up. Rather than risk repeated confusion, we step back, disengage, and pursue each from a safe distance instead of getting all mixed up again.

...continued on page 2

But instead of disengaging, might we learn to dance within such seeming paradox? Finding the rhythms and movements that intertwine one to another. Recognizing that each one without the other is less than whole. Welcoming tension as part of the divine, creative process. Partnering with paradox in a movement perfected by God that we can only learn more fully by having the courage to join in.

Dance with boldness and beauty, my friends, knowing that you do not dance alone.

Grace and peace,
-Pastor Matt



With joy the Richmond Church of the Brethren gathered together to witness and support the baptism of Anne Marie Roderick in May. Thanks to Ed Poling for the photos.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

6.6	William Ralston	7.1	Kim Reish
	Valerie & Curtis Healton		Carla Maurer
6.7	Donna Hollenberg	7.2	Curtis Healton
6.12	Margaret & Malcolm Buroker	7.3	Lin Reish
6.13	Donna & Al Hollenberg	7.5	Brenda Reish
6.14	Harry Faucett	7.6	Ellen Moyle
6.18	Karen Poling	7.7	Jennifer Lewis
6.19	Nwadi Ekwealor	7.15	Ruthanne Ekwealor
6.20	Elliot Moyle	7.16	Jenny Williams
6.21	Becky and Matt McKimmy	7.18	Alfred Singh
6.21	Anne Marie Roderick	7.22	Taylon Kollman
		7.24	Lydia Shively
		7.29	Chris Fretz

CHURCH UPDATES

Congregational Business Meeting

On Sunday **June 5th** we will gather for a pot luck lunch after our morning worship gathering, followed by a congregational

business meeting. Come to join in a time of information-sharing and conversation. Agenda items will include: a mid-year budget update, addressing our continued need for buildings and grounds coordination, sharing ideas for sharing our building space, following up on our recent welcoming conversations, and discussing new our loan arrangements with the district. Contact Enten Eller, Ministry Team Chairperson, with questions.

Summer Staffing and Office Hours

Anna, Office Manager, is working remotely this summer and available by email and phone. Matt, Pastor, will be at the church office Tuesday and Thursday mornings. If you have contributions for the bulletin, please email them to office@richmondCOB.org before 5pm on Wednesdays.

Peace Worship Series

As part of a living peace-church tradition, how do we witness to and experience Christ's peace in our lives, in our community, and our world? During our the month of June our worship gatherings will focus on the ways peace might become a deeper part of how we believe, live, and interact with others. Our series will draw to a close on June 26th with a special message from Ruthann Knechel Johansen, president of Bethany Theological Seminary, as she reflects on her recent involvement with the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica, particularly the groundbreaking Ecumenical Call to Just Peace.

Monday dinner and conversation hiatus

Our Monday evening dinner and conversation gatherings at the McKimmy home will be on hiatus from June 20th through July 11th. We will resume on July 18th. These gatherings are wonderful times of small-group fellowship and sharing, as we enjoy a simple meal together (usually soup and fresh-baked bread) and discuss a scripture text that will be used in worship in the coming weeks. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate – just don't show up during these four weeks off!

The Travels of Pastor Matt

The months of June and July bring several occasions that Pastor Matt will be traveling. Matt will take his second of four vacation weeks from June 20-26, part of which will be spent with a large group of eclectic activists, cultural creative's, and spiritual leaders at the Wild Goose Festival in North Carolina, a four-day celebration of music, art, and conversation at the intersection of justice and spirituality. Next, Matt will travel to Grand Rapids MI to serve as our church's delegate for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference from July 1-6. Lastly, Matt will be taking a weekend off July 22-24.

As always, when Matt is away please contact one of our deacons (Mary Eller, Amy Ritchie, Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm) or our Ministry Team chairperson (Enten Eller) with any pastoral care needs or other church-related issues.



4/1/2021
MISSION...
Safe/Welcoming space
Witness to Jesus → Justice/Love
Worshipping God
- Hospitality
- Out reach
- Reconciliation
- Spread Word of God
- Include all on committees
- Lots of Biblical training
- Welcome everyone
- Serve the least
- Missional Worship (Sent)
- Help each other/learning
- Provide meaningful/nurturing worship
- Following Christ TOGETHER
Stumbling Blocks:
- Cerebral
- Hectic
Demons?
- Anxieties
- Guilt
- Inability
- Fear
- Inclusion
- Follow God's Word
- Environmental
- @mission

Genesis class taking the summer off

Genesis, our children's Christian education and faith formation class which meets during the second half of our Sunday morning worship gatherings, will be taking the summer months off as of June 4. We have chosen to do so because historically summer attendance has been very sporadic and often there are no children present to participate in the class. During these summer months we will also be continuing our search for a new Genesis coordinator (or coordinators) to start in the fall. If you have any questions about the Genesis program, contact Susan Wible, our Christian Education coordinator

“House-church” Worship Gathering July 3

Since many people from our congregation will be traveling to Annual Conference or on family vacations over the holiday weekend, we will be having a special, informal “house-church” style worship service on July 3rd. The small-group gathering will focus on fellowship, sharing, prayer, and reflection as we consider how the Annual Conference theme of “Gifted with Promise: Extending Jesus' Table” connects to our own stories and experiences. In the coming weeks, look for more details about this unique time of worship in our weekly bulletins and on our website.

Loops of Love

Are you a knitter or crocheter? Or do you just have a large stash of yarn you don't know what to do with?

Then we have just the thing for you!!

In partnership with Unwind Yarn Shop, Richmond Church of the Brethren helps support the **Loops of Love** knitting and crocheting group.

Loops of Love meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 5pm - 7pm at the Unwind Yarn Shop to knit and crochet items for local and national organizations. We welcome knitters and crocheters of all skill levels and have patterns to fit all skill levels.



*Window Display at Unwind Yarn Shop
Thanks to Jim Hair for the photo*

Organizations We Donate to Include:

- Birth to Five
- Reid Hospital
- The Linus Project
- Afgans for Afgans
- YMCA Community Baby Show
- Genesis of the YMCA
- Salvation Army Mitten Tree

Donations:

If you would like to donate yarn or money to purchase yarn, donations will be accepted at Richmond Church of the Brethren (1 SW 17th Street, Richmond, Indiana) Tuesdays - Fridays from 9:30am - Noon or at the Unwind Yarn Shop (921 East Main Street, Richmond, Indiana).

Rummage Sale

On Saturday June 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we will be having our church rummage sale. Start gathering your gently used items and cleaning out your closets and garage. Stay tuned for more details or talk to Esther Lang if you would like to help.

Church Name Task Team

The first meeting of the Church Name Task Team will be this Saturday, June 4, at 12:30pm at Tim Horton's (National Road West). Join with Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm to explore ways that we might be more inviting and connect with those who do not recognize "Church of the Brethren." We'll talk about options such as another name for the church, as well as keeping the same name even if we also use another description. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate! Questions? See Mark, convener of the Church Name Task Team (*or Enten Eller, Ministry Team Chair*).

New Worship Space Clean-up Event

As part of the ongoing transformation of our new alternative worship space, the former home of the Computer Hardware Co-op, we will be gathering on the last Saturday in May to clean up and prepare the room for painting and decoration. Show up on Saturday May 28 from 9:30-12:00 to be a part of this exciting transformation. See Amy Ritchie for more information.

Annual Conference Preview

Annual Conference, the Church of the Brethren's yearly gathering for fellowship, worship, and business, will be taking place July 2-6 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This year's theme is "Gifted with Promise: Extending Jesus' Table" with the feeding of the 5,000 acting as the primary biblical connection for the theme. In the words of this year's moderator, Robert E. Alley, "The theme calls us to mission and evangelism where we not only share and invite but we cultivate discipleship as we offer tangible resources of

food, clothing, medical care, and more. At the table, we share, we receive, we learn."

Annual Conference includes many events, such as: insight sessions for personal growth, continued education, and focused conversation; meal events featuring special speakers; large-group worship gatherings; age-group specific activities; and business sessions to receive reports from denominational agencies and ministries and to attend to denominational decision-making. Many folks from our congregation will also be attending and participating in Annual Conference, and on July 10th our Sunday morning worship gathering will focus on sharing reflections and responses from this year's conference.

The main business item this year will be concluding the special response process that was begun two years ago that has led to a denomination-wide discussion on sexuality seeking to discern whether we as a denomination desire for the language of our 1983 Human Sexuality paper regarding same-sex covenantal relationships will continue to guide our journey together. Other business items include voting on denominational leadership, a discussion on congregational ethics guidelines, a query regarding guidance for responding to the changing of earth's climate, and another query regarding rules of proper decorum relating to persons' positions on issues

before the Annual Conference. This year Pastor Matt will be participating in business sessions as our church's delegate. If you have any input or questions regarding these business items please let Matt know.

Outreach Emphasis for July



Genesis of the YWCA services Wayne, Rush, Franklin, Fayette, and Union Counties. All services are offered to the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness. All services that Genesis provides are free of charge.

Our Goal: To assist in ending the cycle of abuse.

We offer:

- Temporary Housing
- Support Groups
- Victim Advocacy
- Community Counseling

Check out the website for more:

<http://www.waynet.org/nonprofit/ywca.htm#genesis>

OUTREACH

Open Arms Ministries

Outreach Emphasis June

Open Arms Ministries (OAM) is a faith-based coalition of churches and other social ministries that provides a clearinghouse of need-based services in the greater Richmond area, in the name of God, with the intent that needs are met and that lives are transformed. There are currently 14 churches in Richmond that have officially partnered with Open Arms in supporting this mission, including our congregation. As a partner in OAM we agree to contribute to this important ministry in whatever ways we can.

Several specific ways that we can support OAM include: volunteering at the offices, located on the grounds of Richmond State Hospital; making in-kind donations of items the office needs; collecting financial donations to help fund day-to-day operations, such as the executive director's salary; and providing direct services and assistance so that Open Arms can refer people to us.

Open Arms does not seek to provide direct financial or material services to those in need. Instead, their primary work is to arrange for partnering



organizations and other agencies to provide such help. Their goal is to connect people in need with the many, varied resources available around Richmond in order to help keep people from “falling through the cracks.” Most Open Arms clients are considered either newly- or working-poor, both of which are populations most at-risk for finding themselves in worsening situations.

While Open Arms Ministries is doing great work in our community, they are not without their own struggles. The board recently made the difficult decision to temporarily lay off Executive Director Sharlene George in hopes that with continued fundraising she can be re-hired once sufficient funding is secured. For the time being, Sharlene is continuing to serve in a limited, volunteer capacity. Open Arms recently held a very successful fundraising dinner, attended by several folks from our congregation, which raised over \$5,000. Together with other, previous donations this puts OAM over half-way to their \$15,000 goal for re-hiring Sharlene.

During the month of June, consider how you might help our church keep its commitment to support Open Arms Ministries. It would be great if we could work together to raise at least \$500 toward the director's salary! We are also looking for someone to serve as an alternate board representative from our congregation. Pastor Matt is our primary board rep. and Brian Schleeper serves on the Executive Board as Treasurer. There are times when Matt may be unavailable to attend the monthly board meetings and it would be helpful to have someone who could fill in occasionally.

If you're interested in volunteering in the office you can contact the Open Arms office at 962-9100 or richmondopenarms@gmail.com. Brian and Matt are also glad to answer any questions you may have about the organization. In addition, if you're on Facebook you should “like” the Open Arms page in order to keep in touch with what OAM is up to: www.facebook.com/OpenArmsMinistries.

Calendar

June

- 6.1 Senior Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
- 6.5 Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Matt Preaching
Potluck
Congregational Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- 6.6 Dinner and Conversation (McKimmy's) 7:00 p.m
- 6.6 Loops of Love (Unwind Yarn Shop) 5:00 p.m.
Pastoral Relations Committee 7:00 p.m.
- 6.12 Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Matt Preaching
- 6.13 Dinner and Conversation (McKimmy's) 7:00 p.m
- 6.14 Ministry Team 5:30 p.m.
- 6.18 Church Rummage Sale 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- 6.19 Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Matt Preaching
- 6.20 Pastor Matt on Vacation (returns 6.26)
- 6.21 Loops of Love (Unwind Yarn Shop) 5:00 p.m.
- 6.26 Worship 10:30 a.m. Ruthann Knechel Johansen preaching

July

- 7.1 Annual Conference (through 7.6)
- 7.3 House Church style worship gathering at church
- 7.5 Loops of Love (Unwind Yarn Shop) 5:00 p.m.
- 7.6 Senior Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
- 7.9 Church work day
- 7.10 Worship 10:30 a.m. Annual Conference Reflections
- 7.17 Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Matt Preaching
- 7.18 Dinner and Conversations (McKimmy's) 7:00 p.m.
- 7.19 Loops of Love (Unwind Yarn Shop) 5:00 p.m.
- 7.24 Worship 10:30 a.m. Travis Poling preaching
- 7.25 Dinner and Conversations (McKimmy's) 7:00 p.m.
- 7.31 Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Matt Preaching



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