



INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren community

May 2011

All are welcome

Sunday school: 9:15

Fellowship: 10:00

Worship: 10:30

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

Matthew McKimmy,
Pastor

pastormatt@richmondcob.org

Anna Woofenden,
Office Manager

office@richmondcob.org

Richmond Church of the Brethren

1 Sw 17th St.

Richmond, IN

47374

765.966.1930

www.richmondcob.org

Matt's Musings *Denying the Resurrection*

As I reflect on the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter, my feelings are similar to those I have once we've journeyed through Advent and Christmas. So often we have these grand build-ups to important events in the church year, only to move on too quickly once they pass. We spend six weeks in deep spiritual preparation for Easter, but how do we continue to live as "Easter people" once the rituals and remembrances of the resurrection have come and gone?

The Easter story of Christ's resurrection is one that has been known to generate debate as to its' historical, factual reality. Did the resurrection really happen the way it's portrayed in the various gospel accounts? Do we, with our modern, scientific mindset have the capacity to fully understand what the resurrection meant to the first- and second-century believers who recorded these stories? How do we continue to affirm the resurrection as we follow Christ on this side of the cross?

Continued on page 2

May Calendar

- 5.1 Worship 10:30am
- 5.2 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 5.4 Senior Breakfast 8:30am
- 5.7 Earlham, Bethany, ESR Commencement
- 5.8 Worship 10:30am--Baptism
- 5.9 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 5.10 Worship Team 5:30pm
- 5.11 Choir Practice 7pm
- 5.14 Church workday
- 5.15 Worship 10:30am
Potluck after worship
- 5.16 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 5.17 Loops of Love 5pm (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 5.18 Choir Practice 7pm
- 5.22 Worship 10:30am
- 5.23 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)
- 5.24 Pastoral Relations Committee 7pm
- 5.25 Choir Practice 7pm
- 5.27 Pastor Matt out of office for spiritual renewal
- 5.29 Worship 10:30am
- 5.30 Dinner and Conversations 7pm (McKimmy's)

Join us on May 8th as we gather for a special time of worship--celebrating new life, honoring our mothers and witnessing the baptism of Anne Marie Roderick.

...continued from page 1

Connecting the reality of God's death-defeating, Kingdom-revealing, life-restoring resurrection power with our everyday lives is difficult. Especially when Easter Sunday passes and we find that, by and large, our lives don't feel that different, when we realize that the Spirit's transforming presence sometimes works quite slowly.

Then, instead of affirming the resurrection, we start to deny it, whether we intend to or not. Hugh Hollowell, a Mennonite minister and homelessness advocate in Raleigh, North Carolina, puts it like this:

I fully admit that I deny the resurrection of Christ.

Whenever I ignore the plight of the poor, I deny the resurrection. When I turn my back on those on the margins of society, I deny the resurrection. When I pledge my allegiance (with my money, my privilege, and my actions) to a corrupt system that places profits over people, I deny the resurrection. When I fail to stand with the fallen, when I deafen myself to their cries, when I choose

power rather than siding with the powerless, it is then that I shout to Jesus "You died in vain!"

The good news of Easter is that Jesus did not die in vain, that through the resurrection he lives, that God's living, loving Word is alive and active in the world. How will you choose to live into God's ultimate affirmation of humanity and hope for a new creation? How will you affirm the resurrection as you continue your journey with Jesus?

Grace and peace,
-Pastor Matt

Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 5.2 | Delora Roop |
| 5.7 | Hopi and Mark Strosberg |
| 5.8 | Dan Ulrich |
| 5.11 | Gene Roop |
| 5.13 | Paul Morentz |
| 5.14 | Jennifer Faus |
| 5.16 | Josi Tolton |
| 5.20 | Martin Exwealor |
| 5.21 | Anna Wible |
| 5.23 | Dawn and Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm |
| 5.25 | Murray Wagner |
| 5.26 | Tasha Veal |
| 5.26 | Susan Wible |
| 5.31 | Elizabeth Faucelt |
| 5.31 | Karen and Travis Poling |

RCOB Youth Rally for Homeless

Hope House Addiction Recovery Center in Richmond has sent the following message: *Please extend to Sophie Wilhelm and the Church of the Brethren youth who joined Catholic Youth Ministry Participants, our deep gratitude at Hope House for their efforts to raise awareness for the plight of the homeless. We understand youth from both communities spent a February night on the City Building lawn! Furthermore, Father Todd took up a collection at each of the masses, and Hope House received a generous check for \$1,562.13!*

Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) We thank those involved for serving Jesus by drawing attention to the plight of "the least of these", and for the generosity this act of service aroused! The financial support these actions called forth is appreciated, and this example of compassion is a great encouragement to the clients as well as the board of Hope House. Sincerely, David Layman, Hope House Board Member

Summer Fellowship Recipient

Congratulations to Anna Woofenden, who has received a Beatitudes Fellowship to participate in ministry with Bread for the Word (www.bread.org) in Washington DC this summer.

CHURCH UPDATES

Book Discussion Group – Love Wins

Starting on May 8th the adult Sunday morning discussion group will begin a series on the recently-published *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* by Rob Bell. *Love Wins* has sparked both conversation and controversy as it seeks to re-imagine how we think of heaven, hell, God, Jesus, salvation, and repentance.

Come join us at 9:15 on Sunday mornings as we bring our own stories, questions, and understandings into this spiritually stirring conversation. If you are unable to purchase a copy of the book for yourself, please contact Pastor Matt. Though reading isn't required for participation in our discussions, those reading along should know that we'll start with the preface and chapter 1 on the 8th.

Volunteers Wanted for Summer Office Work

We're looking for volunteers to come into the office to be the hands and feet of the Office Manager while she's working remotely from DC where she'll be doing a fellowship this summer. We're looking for people who are called to help in one of the following ways:

- one hour a week to print and fold bulletins
- two hours twice in the summer to print, collate, stamp and mail newsletters
- five minutes every few Sundays to straighten and update the bulletin boards

Your help is much appreciated! Please email: office@richmondcob.org with how you can help.

The Travels of Pastor Matt

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 Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30th, for Young Adult Conference at Camp Inspiration Hills near Burbank, OH.

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.

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.

Church Work Day

Please mark your calendars for the Church Work Day on May 14th from 8am-12pm. We look forward to bringing many hands together to work on projects around the building.

Children of Abraham Monthly Gathering

On Sunday May 22nd at 5pm there will be a meeting of the local interfaith group, Children of Abraham hosted by West Richmond Friends. There will be a potluck and program. After a time of food and fellowship the group will continue watching the DVD series “The History of God”, which gives an overview of the development of the major monotheistic religions throughout history. This month's segment will tell the story of the emergence of Islam as we close out the video series.

If anyone has an interest in being on the steering committee for Children of Abraham, we are meeting on Friday, May 6 at 4:00pm at St. Paul's Episcopal. Planning is underway for a visit to a mosque in the fall. Also under discussion will be ideas for a 10-day focus on peace around the International Day of Prayer for Peace in September. The steering committee is committed to moving beyond mere education and discussion into some collaborative work amongst the three religions.

Hardware Co-Op

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

Outreach Emphasis May:



1114 South F St, Richmond, IN 47374

765-962-5986

info@habitatofrichmond.org

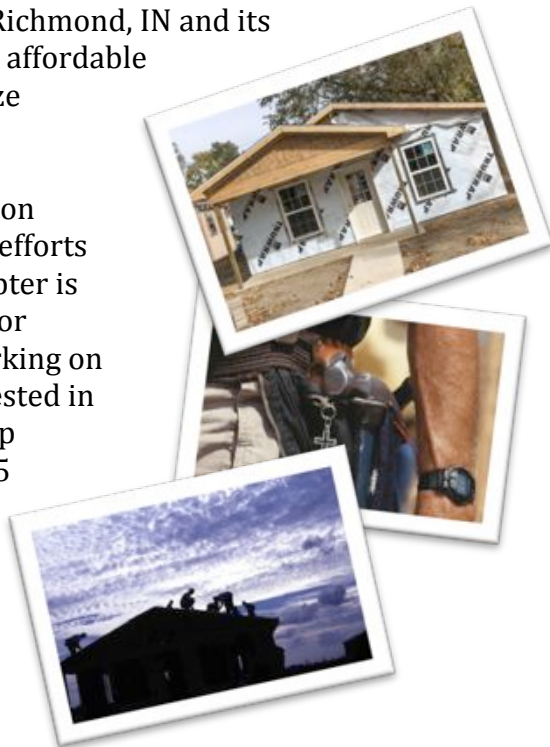
Habitat for Humanity Richmond's Mission:

To work in partnership with God and people everywhere to develop affordable housing for God's people in need so that they can fulfill their dream of becoming homeowners.

Habitat for Humanity Richmond's Vision:

To improve the City of Richmond, IN and its citizens by constructing affordable housing to help revitalize neighborhoods.

One way our congregation can help to support the efforts of our local Habitat chapter is to help provide a meal for volunteers who are working on houses. If you are interested in this and available to help supply food for about 25 people on June 16th, 21st, 22nd or 23rd please contact the church office.



Richmond Church of the Brethren
1 SW 17th Street
Richmond, IN 47374