

All are welcome  
Sunday Mornings:  
Chew 'n Chat: 10:00  
Worship:10:30

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

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# INTERSECTIONS

A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren Community

## January

### Matt's Musings – A New Year's Epistle

*(This letter is a bit longer than my usual monthly musings - I hope you can set aside a moment to read it through to the end!)*

To my dear friends and companions on the journey of faith, the Richmond Church of the Brethren, may God's boundless love, Christ's grace, and the Spirit's peace bless each one of you.

As much as I appreciate the important seasons of Advent and Christmas, awaiting and celebrating the in-breaking of God into our lives and our world in radical ways, I'm also a big fan of the less-liturgical holiday of the New Year. It provides me (and you) with an oft-needed vantage point to look back, to look within, and to look down the road ahead.

In sharing my own observations and musings from this cusp in time, the turning of 2011 into 2012, let me begin with a word of thanksgiving. Thank you, each and every one of you, the new and old, children and elders, members, participants, and friends who make up this church.

Thank you for allowing me to lead alongside you this past year, for showing me grace as I continue to grow as a leader and as a follower of Jesus, and for your concern for justice and fairness in our relationship as employer (you) and employee (me) as we navigated the waters of part-time pastoral ministry. It has been and continues to be a privilege to pastor with you.

But enough about me - thank you also for the sake of the gospel: your listening for and living into the Spirit's call towards radical, loving discipleship; your desire to participate in God's work in our city, our denomination, and throughout all of creation; your longing to discover and explore another way of living in this broken but beautiful world; and your commitments to Christ and to each other that have inspired you to support and participate in our shared life and ministry as a congregation.

*... continued on page 2*

## **Matt's Musings, Continued**

Like every other year we've faced joy and sorrow together - unexpected goodbyes to loved ones who have died; anticipated, but still difficult, farewells to sojourners that have traveled with us during this season of their lives; enthusiastic welcomes of newcomers to our tribe; celebrations of new birth, graduation, and baptism; losing jobs, searching for employment, and starting new careers; discord and division in the larger church and our own strong statement of welcome and inclusion of *all* people. We've shared a lot of living and ministering in 2011.

As we begin to peer down the path that leads through this new year, I invite you to pause for a moment to look around, to take a step back and see where God is moving in this liminal, in-between time. Even if just for a few minutes, take time to reflect, contemplate, and pray. That's what I'll be spending the first few days of the new year doing, and I hope that you can find some opportunities to join me in spirit.

Looking towards 2012 together, how might we continue to support, encourage, and challenge each other? Where are the places in your life that Christ is calling you to go deeper? In this season when we're tempted to add more to our already-packed lives, how can we help each other to let go, say no, and slow down? Not just for the sake of doing less, but so our lives might more fully express what we believe?

How might this community we are a part of help you to follow Jesus beyond your comfort zone, outside of your existing patterns, and into the lives of the poor, marginalized, outcast, and oppressed? How might you help our community to connect more deeply with one another and with the world that lies just beyond the borders of our fellowship? Together, as individuals and as a church, how might we be evermore centered on living into God's new kin-dom and sharing that life with others?

Let's all of us, each of us, you and I, consider what we're committing to for this new year. What are your priorities, as an individual, as part of a family, as part of our faith community? How do you hope to spend your time and energy, and to what end? What growing edges of your own faith do you hope to explore, and how will you invite us to support and join you?

Perched here, on the precipice of 2012, this coming year seems certain to be filled with possibilities for peace and justice, opportunities for growth and service, times of difficult discernment, occasions for conflict resolution and transformation, moments for prophetic witness, seasons of sorrow and celebration, and many adventures in living peacefully, simply, and together as we continue the work of Jesus. I look forward to sharing all of these Spirit-filled experiences with you.

With ever-deepening love for one another and the world let's journey boldly into the future, knowing that God goes before us, beckoning us onward, showing us the way.

Grace and Peace,  
Matt

### **A Note about Newsletter Timing & Formatting**

Apologies from the church office for the lateness of this month's newsletter, as well as if it isn't quite as beautiful or easy to read as usual. Due to a personal emergency for our office manager, this is a late-run, "bare bones" formatted newsletter we're publishing in order to get this information out to everyone our church community. We hope to return to our usual design in February.

## 2012 Outreach Emphases

This year our congregation will continue our pattern of monthly special outreach giving. While we contribute to several “denominational identity” groups through our general offerings, our “local identity” outreach depends solely on the special outreach offerings we collect each Sunday. These offerings go to groups and organizations that we have identified as reflecting the mission and vision of our particular community.

In 2010 we contributed an average of \$235 each month, with two months over \$300. In 2011 our average rose to \$300 with three months over \$350! We’re shuffling our emphases and the months they occur for 2012, but let's see if we can raise at *least* \$250 for each of these important organizations:

Jan - Community Food Pantry  
Feb - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Diversity and Justice ministry  
Mar - Girls, Inc. of Wayne County  
Apr - Cope Environmental Center  
May - Open Arms Ministries  
Jun - Womaen’s Caucus  
Jul - Habitat for Humanity, local chapter  
Aug - Hope House & Genesis of the YWCA  
Sep - Christian Peacemaker Teams  
Oct - Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests  
Nov - New Community Project  
Dec - Heifer International

If you would like to contribute to our monthly emphases, make a check out to Richmond Church of the Brethren with the organization’s name in the memo line, or place your offering in the Service Cup on our worship center. Our outreach co-coordinators, Karen Poling and Becky McKimmy, also hope to plan several activities throughout the year related to these and other groups, so stay tuned for these special, non-financial ways to support our outreach partners!

## January Outreach Emphasis – Community Food Pantry

During the month of January we are focusing our outreach giving on supporting our local Community Food Pantry. In 2011 the Community Food Pantry provided approximately 140,000 meals for hungry families across Richmond. Given our city's continued struggles with poverty and unemployment the pantry experienced an increased demand last year and expects the same in 2012. While we will continue to collect groceries for the food pantry on the first Sunday of each month throughout the year, during January you are encouraged to **bring food offerings every week** as well as contributing financially to this important local ministry. More info at [www.communityfoodpantry.org](http://www.communityfoodpantry.org)

## 5th-Sunday District Building Loan Offering

Our congregation’s commitment to repaying our building loan from the South/ Central Indiana District includes collecting special offerings throughout the year. The funds collected from these offerings will be in addition to our \$2,000 payment from our 2012 budget. As of the start of this year we owe \$40,000 of the original \$100,000. The Ministry Team has proposed that we collect four additional offerings during 2012, on each month with a 5th Sunday. Since there are 5 Sundays in January, we’ll collect our first District Building Loan offering on January 29th.

## Monday-night Dinner and Conversation

Still looking for a New Year's resolution? Why not make it a point to be a part of our Monday-night Dinner and Conversation gatherings? Each Monday at 7pm the McKimmys open up their home (850 Hidden Valley Lane) for anyone who would like to share some good food and good company. The meals are always simple, usually vegetarian soup and fresh-baked bread. Our conversation starts with a scripture text that will be used in an upcoming worship service and then goes wherever the Spirit leads. No need to RSVP, drop-ins are always welcomed!

### **Hospitality across faiths - Interfaith Dinner Jan. 15**

Children of Abraham invites you to their first event of 2012 on Sunday, January 15th, 5pm, at the West Richmond Friends meetinghouse. The theme of the dinner event is “hospitality across faiths.” Speakers will share how to create a hospitable space to share fellowship and food between Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Learn what kosher (Jewish) and halal (Muslim) diets mean in practical terms. In addition to discussions on food, we will also reflect on how to make one another feel comfortable in our words and actions, for example learning proper terminology to use in social settings with people of other faiths.

### **Mitten Tree Results**

Our winter accessories drive (a.k.a mitten tree) for the Salvation Army was a huge success. Loops of Love, our charity knitting and crocheting group co-sponsored by the local yarn shop, donated 11 scarves, 50 hats, 14 pairs of gloves and mittens, and 8 pairs of footies. To that we added 4 more scarves, 7 hats, and 17 pairs of gloves and mittens before sending it all to the Salvation Army to be shared with our neighbors in need. Thanks to everyone who donated time, yarn, and purchased goods to this special collection!

### **Computer Hardware Co-op Update**

For 2012 our Computer Hardware Co-op will be making a slight adjustment to the times they are open for volunteering and donations. The co-op will now be open from 12:30pm to 2:30pm every Sunday after worship. Volunteering with the co-op is a great way to learn more about how computers work, try out open-source software, and enjoy fellowship with other people who are interested in technology.

The Hardware Co-op functions as both a social-justice and outreach ministry - it helps keep toxic computer parts out of our landfill,

provides computers to people who might otherwise not be able to afford them, and connects with volunteers from beyond our congregation and across Richmond. Already in the first week of 2012 the co-op has received several inquiries about donations and a request from someone in need.

You can find the Hardware Co-op online at [www.richmondcomputes.org](http://www.richmondcomputes.org) and on twitter at [www.twitter.com/hardwarecoop](http://www.twitter.com/hardwarecoop).

### **January Worship Gatherings**

Jan. 1st ~ *Resolutions and Temptations*

Don Miller preaching, Ritchie Family leading worship

Jan. 8th ~ *Seeking a Mystery* (Epiphany)

Matt McKimmy preaching, Mary Eller leading worship

Jan. 16th ~ Katie Thompson preaching, Matt McKimmy leading worship

Jan. 22nd ~ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Matt McKimmy preaching

Jan. 29th ~ Multiculturalism and Diversity series begins

Matt McKimmy preaching

## Church Calendar

- 1.01 Chew 'n Chat, 10am  
Worship, 10:30am - Bring food for Food Pantry
- 1.02 Dinner and Conversation at the McKimmys' - CANCELLED
- 1.05 Pastor Matt returns from vacation
- 1.08 Chew 'n Chat, 10am  
Worship, 10:30am - Epiphany Sunday, Pastor Matt preaching  
Hardware Co-op Open, 12:30pm
- 1.09 Dinner and Conversation at the McKimmys' 7pm
- 1.11 Worship Team meeting, 6 pm  
Pastoral Relations Committee meeting, 7pm  
Choir Practice, 7pm
- 1.15 Chew 'n Chat, 10am  
Worship, 10:30am, Katie Thompson preaching  
Pot-luck lunch, ~12pm  
Children of Abraham interfaith dinner, 5pm (West Richmond Friends)
- 1.16 Dinner and Conversation at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 1.17 Loops of Love, 5pm (Unwind Yarn Shop)
- 1.18 Choir Practice, 7pm
- 1.19 Ministry Team meeting, 7pm
- 1.22 Chew 'n Chat, 10am  
Worship, 10:30am - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
Hardware Co-op Open, 12:30pm
- 1.23 Dinner and Conversation at the McKimmys' 7pm
- 1.25 Choir Practice, 7pm
- 1.27 Pastor Matt - Spiritual Renewal Day
- 1.29 Chew 'n Chat, 10am  
Worship, 10:30am - Pastor Matt preaching  
Hardware Co-op Open, 12:30pm
- 1.30 Dinner and Conversation at the McKimmys' 7pm

Our most up-to-date calendar of events can be found at  
<http://www.richmondcob.org/calendar>