

I n t e r s e c t i o n s

July 2010

All are welcome

Sunday school at 9:15,
fellowship time at 10am
& worship at 10:30



A newsletter for the Richmond Church of the Brethren

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July Calendar

all events at the Richmond CoB unless otherwise noted

- 2 Pastor Matt leaves for Annual Conference
- 3 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, through July 7th
- 4 Bring food for the Community Food Pantry
Murray Wagner preaches on a Christian Perspective on Patriotism; "E Pluribus Unum"
- 5 NO Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys'
- 6 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop, 5-7pm
- 7 NO senior breakfast in July; next mtg in August
- 11 Pastor Matt preaches on the Annual Conference theme "Taking Jesus Seriously"
- 12 Community yoga class, 5:30pm, fellowship hall
- 13 Pastoral Relations Committee Mtg, 7pm
- 17-22 National Youth Conference, Ft. Collins, Colorado; theme "More than meets the eye"
- 18 Anna Lisa Gross & Pastor Matt report on Annual Conference during worship
Vote of affirmation for Doug Veal's ordination at 10:30
Potluck after worship
Worship team meeting, 12pm-1:30pm
- 19 Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 20 Loops of Love at the Unwind Yarn Shop, 5-7pm
- 25 Celebration of baptism & new membership at the Nicholsons' pond
- 26 Community yoga class, 5:30pm, fellowship hall
Conversation & dinner at the McKimmys', 7pm
- 29 Volunteer at the Soup Kitchen, St. Paul's Episcopal
- 30 Pastor Matt out-of-office
District Conference in Anderson, IN - 31st

Matt's Musings: *Taking Jesus Seriously*

It's quite possible that as you read this newsletter I'm with folks from across the Church of the Brethren as we gather for our denomination's Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. In preparation for this big event I've been pondering this year's conference theme – Taking Jesus Seriously. It seems pretty straightforward, doesn't it? As Christians shouldn't we all be striving to take Jesus seriously?

What exactly would the alternative be, anyway? Maybe taking Jesus casually? Taking Jesus trivially? What about taking Jesus cheerfully or even humorously?

Don't get me wrong, I think we should be taking Jesus seriously, but we need to be clear about what it is that we mean.

For me, taking Jesus seriously means actively working to understand and embody his teachings and actions in a way that's deep and intentional, thoughtful and genuine. That doesn't mean we can't also be cheerful and lighthearted along the way. It also doesn't mean that we take ourselves so seriously that we can't recognize when our beliefs and practices are in need of rethinking and transformation.

In the June edition of Messenger, our denomination's monthly magazine, Annual Conference moderator Shawn Flory Replogle calls on the church to rediscover and reclaim "taking Jesus seriously" as a core value and guiding principle. If we are to do so, it is imperative that together we recognize this as a guideline for how we believe, but not necessarily dictating what we believe.

Sharing this kind of core value could prove both incredibly challenging yet also hopeful and unifying as we within the church (both locally, denominationally, and globally) struggle to coexist amidst our different theologies and worldviews.

What might it mean for us to take Jesus (not ourselves) so seriously that we are hospitable to those unlike us while still living in a way that prophetically embodies the good news of Christ, as we have come to understand it? How does this translate into our life together as a church? You can be sure I'll let you know if I find any answers in Pittsburgh!

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Matt*

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

Celebrating Baptism & New Membership!

It is always a joy for us to welcome new members to our fellowship, and especially so when we are given the privilege to share in the baptism of a new believer into the family of faith. On Sunday, July 25 we will join in worshipful celebration as we welcome Lindsey Frye, Chris Fretz, Jane Muller, Jeff Muller, and Jabani Adzibiya as new members of our congregation. During the latter half of our worship gathering we will travel to the Nicholson's Pond (1240 SW 15th St.) to continue our celebration with Chris Muller's baptism! Come and share in this special time of worship as together we reaffirm our commitments to Christ and to one another as we travel together on the journey of faith.

Vote on Doug Veal's Ordination July 18th

Our congregation has been a part of Doug Veal's path to ministry, having licensed him several years ago. Now as Doug prepares for the next step of ordination, we again are called to accompany him on this personal and professional journey. Doug has been called to serve as interim pastor at Lafayette Church of the Brethren and has been approved for ordination by the South-Central Indiana District. On July 18th, we as a church family will take a moment at the beginning of worship to celebrate with Doug and Tasha and hold a very short congregational meeting to officially vote on approving Doug for ordination as well.

As always, our Pastoral Relations Committee would welcome a conversation with those who are considering their own call to ministry. Contact Kurt Ritchie, Paul Morenz, Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, or Karen Poling.

Update on Church Giving

Contributions to the church during June totalled \$8703.77. Of this \$1203.50 was for the National Youth Conference, \$194 was for Open Arms Ministry, and \$179 was for the new lawn mower. Total contributions from January through June this year come to \$41,668.38. If we continue to give at the same rate, the total for the year will be \$83,336.76, in comparison to an annual budget of \$93,500. We have now contributed \$4,964.23 to the youth to attend National Youth Conference, reaches their goal. Let us be thankful to God for the generosity of our congregation and pray that it is a blessing to many.

Happy July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

1	Kim Reish (2002)	16	Jenny Williams
	Carla Maurer	17	Matt & Ellen Moyle
2	Curtis Healton	18	Alfred Singh
3	Lin Reish (1998)	22	Taylor Kollman
5	Brenda Reish		(2000)
6	Ellen Moyle	24	Lydia Shively (2000)
7	Jennifer (Jen) Lewis	29	Chris Fretz
15	Ruthanne Ekwealor		(1994)

Musicians Needed!

Do you have musical talents to share? The music coordinator is creating a list of those who may be able to offer a musical number or two for use as a prelude, offertory, or postlude. Do you want to play one or two hymns a month, but are unable to prepare more? There is a place for you! In fact, we all need to be creative as we continue to provide music that inspires and deepens our spiritual engagement in worship. All talents and talent levels are welcome. Please contact Pastor Matt, Adrienne in the office, or Amy Ritchie-music coordinator.

Church Website Update: New Resources!

Online Directory

Need contact info for a church family member? Inspired to send a birthday or anniversary card? The directory is now online! Go to <http://www.richmondcob.org/directory> to access both Open Office and .pdf files of the directory. Please note that this page is a PROTECTED page that you can only access if you are logged in at the Richmond CoB site. Don't have a log-in? Create an account here <http://www.richmondcob.org/user/register> to get started!

Online volunteer list

We thought it'd be great to have volunteer lists easily available to the congregation. Now, in addition to the bulletin board in the church gathering area, you can also look online at <http://www.richmondcob.org/volunteerlist> to download the most recent .pdf of the schedules for childcare, greeters, ushers, and church lawn care. Please note that these pages are for informational purposes only, not sign-up sheets. If you need to **change** your date or would like to **volunteer** for a date with a blank space, please contact the area Coordinators: Hopi Stosberg (childcare & greeters); Esther Lang (ushers); lawn/mowing (sign-up sheet on bulletin board; Brian Schleeper).

Handbell Interest?

There is a possibility that we at RCOB might have a handbell group. If you would be interested in playing in it, would you please send Nancy Faus-Mullen a note: fausna@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS & INVITATIONS

Global Women's Project

Mother's Day Gratitude Project Report

Your response to our Mother's Day Gratitude Project was overwhelming. Because of your generosity, almost **\$2400** is now available to fund projects for women throughout the world. Gracious thanks!! --*The Global Women's Project Steering Team—Judi Brown, Carrie Eikler, Nan Erbaugh, Anna Lisa Gross, Myrna Frantz, Kim Hill Smith*

verizon.net E-mail Address Discontinued

Since our local internet service is transitioning from Verizon to Frontier, we are taking this opportunity to discontinue the use of our old richmond_cob@verizon.net email address. Please take a moment to remove it from your email address books, replacing it with **office@richmondcob.org** to reach Adrienne, our office manager, and with **pastormatt@richmondcob.org** to reach Matt. Our old Verizon address will stop working completely sometime in the coming months, so go ahead and make this change now!

Camp Mack Seeks Counselors

A note from Phyllis Leininger, Camp Mack Office Manager:

Thank you so much for all the recruiting of campers and counselors that you have done for Camp's summer program. Great camper experiences are happening because of the wonderful volunteers that you have helped to secure. We have nearly enough counselors for the summer, but we must ask you to help a little more.

Please help us call out 5 male counselors that are needed to serve in the following camps from August 1-6: Seekers (grades 3 & 4) Aug 1-6 needs 3 males
Finders (grades 5 & 6) Aug 1-6 needs 1 male
Eco-Adventure (grades 5 & 6) Aug 1-6 needs 1 male

To download a volunteer counselor application, go to www.campmack.org Click on the green Volunteer/employment bar in the column on the left side of the screen. Then scroll down to Summer Camp Leadership Positions to download the application.

Thank you again for your support!

Butterfly Release Benefit for Community Food Pantry

Please join us in Richmond in this 5th Annual fundraising activity to benefit Community Food Pantry. This is a unique opportunity to remember and honor that special person in your life who has made a positive impact through nurturing, mentoring or caring. With each \$20.00 donation to the Community Food Pantry you will receive one butterfly for a person who made a difference in your life. On Friday July 16th, at 12 noon the butterflies will be released at a ceremony honoring these important people at The Secret Ingredient. A lunch buffet will follow for those in attendance.

Christian vegetarian resources: A follow-up note from Adrienne & Nate

Following our "faith & food" potluck & panel conversation on June 23rd, a few RCoB folks have asked me about contemporary Christian reasoning towards veganism. One of the best resources I have found on this topic is the Christian Vegetarian Association (where vegetarian means Vegan, as the organization promotes a lifestyle free of animal "products"--flesh, eggs, dairy, & honey--as food or elsewhere) online at <http://www.all-creatures.org/cva/default.htm>.

The Christian Vegetarian Association (CVA) is "an international, non-denominational ministry of believers dedicated to respectfully promoting healthy, Christ-centered and God-honoring living among Christians." The mission

is threefold: 1) to support & encourage Christian vegetarians around the world; 2) to share with non-vegetarian Christians how a vegetarian diet can be a powerful & faith-strengthening witness to Christ's love, compassion, and peace; and 3) to show the world that plant-based diets represent good, responsible Christian stewardship for all God's creation. The CVA encourages a vegan diet because it is ecologically sound, helps alleviate world hunger, and benefits human health. CVA respectfully addresses humans' relationship with animals from a biblical perspective, attempting to actively participating in the "reconciliation of Creation" that promises to result in the "Peaceable Kingdom" foreshadowed by Scripture (see Gen. 1:29-30; Isa. 11:6-8; 65:17-25; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Col. 1:16-23).

If you're interested, I requested some booklets from CVA for our church--available on the table in the gathering area & library. There are also six copies of the new book "Compassionate Eating as Care of Creation" by Matthew Halteman (Calvin College), prepared with the Humane Society of the US, for lending. Finally, the website is a great reference with lots of reflection on Scripture.

The other resource we mentioned was Mercy For Animals, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit animal advocacy organization. Founded in 1999 by a young adult (raised on a farm in rural Ohio) who investigated first-hand the horrors of factory farms, MFA works to "create a society where animals are treated with the respect & compassion they so rightly deserve." MFA is based in Chicago, IL, and their website is www.mercyforanimals.org.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

*Richmond Church of the Brethren
partners with GENESIS of the YWCA
for July Outreach Emphasis*

GENESIS of the YWCA, located at 15 S. 11th Street, provides temporary housing & support for battered and homeless women. GENESIS serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, & homelessness—free of charge—to residents of Wayne, Rush, Franklin, Fayette, & Union Counties.

The goal of the GENESIS program is to assist in ending the cycle of abuse. To that end, they provide temporary housing, support groups, victim advocacy, & community counselling. Importantly, GENESIS offers a 24-hour crisis line. If anyone has an abuse crisis and/or wishes to talk about a past or present concern, they may call GENESIS at (765) 935-3920 or 1-800-886-4508 (toll-free).

There is a great need for GENESIS' services. GENESIS addresses domestic violence: the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. In our community, as in the wider US, **one out of every four** women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime; **one in six** will be sexually assaulted. **Every two minutes** someone in the US is sexually assaulted; only **6%** of rapists ever spend a day in jail. College-age women are more than **four times** as likely to be assaulted. Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. It results in physical injury, psychological trauma, & sometimes death; the consequences can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

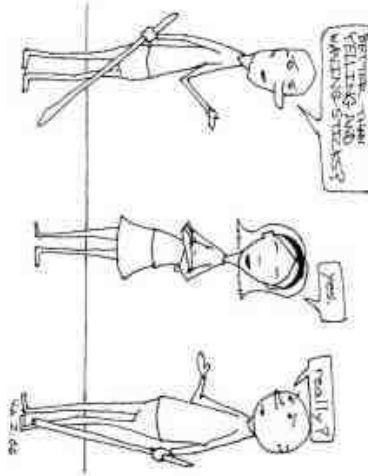
GENESIS needs our financial support to continue their lifesaving work. (Donations of food and cleaning supplies are also needed & can be left in the church office this month if you would also like to give in that way). Our church is proud to partner with GENESIS in the month of July to *directly impact* the lives of hurting women and children in Richmond. If you feel called to make a donation, make your check out to Richmond Church of the Brethren with GENESIS in the memo line, or place a donation in the Brethren Service Cup at the worship center.

(Data for this article derived from Waynet.org, RAINN, the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence). Article by Adrienne Lowe.

don't **Yoga @ Richmond CoB 2nd & 4th**
forget! Mondays in the Fellowship Hall!

973.8511 ● IU East, Springwood Hall
www.conflictrescenter.org

Conflict Resolution Center



Need a better way
to work it out?



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