



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

*Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive*

**AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER**

## **JULY 27 COMMUNITY MEETING**

At the July 27 Community Meeting, the congregation approved NCC's participation in the Bridge of Hope program, which includes a commitment of \$3000 in local mission budget funding each year for two years, beginning in 2014, as well as volunteer mentors from the congregation. If NCC members wish to make extra donations for this mission project (which will reduce the amount taken from the overall local mission budget), donations may be given to our treasurer, Marie Genrich, marked for "Bridge of Hope."

We also approved two recommendations that came from the consultation report. The first is that the Steering Committee will work with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (Nikki Brauer, Caroline Fox, Peg Kirk, Mark Lewis, Jim Turner) to develop a process for the pastors' annual evaluation (the Steering Committee previously approved a recommendation to update the pastors' job description, in cooperation with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee). The second is that the Steering Committee will begin a process to review the bylaws and return to the Community with further recommendations for possible changes to the bylaws, specifically about (but not limited to): participatory vs. representative governance models; written descriptions to clarify the roles and decision-making authority of the Steering Committee and the Community at large. Continuing conversations about other aspects of the consult report will occur in the fall when more folks are around.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS**



NCC will again be collecting school supplies for Suzie Hutton's team at Bloomington Jr. High School. Most needed are pencils, colored pencils, pocket folders, lined paper, and eraser caps. Another way to help is by donating through gift cards or a check (make the check out to N.C.C. and put school supplies in the memo line). Look for the plastic tote on the back table. Thanks!!



New Covenant Community  
210 W. Mulberry St.  
Normal, IL 61761  
309.454.7362  
[www.nccnormal.org](http://www.nccnormal.org)



## **5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK AUGUST 31**

We will have a community potluck after the service on Sunday, August 31. Sign up to bring something to share, and join us for a time of fellowship and food as we break bread and get to know each other better. There will be a sign-up sheet about what to bring on the back table on Sunday mornings later this month, or you can contact Janet Chandler and let her know what you will be bringing. Hope to see many of you there!

## **AUGUST ADULT EDUCATION “MINI” CLASSES**

It's not too late to sign up!

Email Susan Ryder if you want to take part in one of these classes.

You do not have to attend all of the sessions of the classes,  
but we would like to know who and how many to expect.

### **“Animals as Sacred” (August 3<sup>rd</sup> Only) - 8:30am to 9:45am in the Boardroom**

*-Bob and Susan Ryder*

Ancient indigenous peoples recognized no separating wall or gulf between human and animal kingdoms. They saw all creatures of the world as fellow travelers and spiritual companions. They respected animals for the wisdom they had to offer about living on Earth; tribes and individuals adopted totems — animals whose power and knowledge could serve as a source of strength, insight, and renewal. And in stories, myths, and dreams, animals shared their secrets about the magic and mystery of life. Join us for a discussion about the sacred place animals have in our lives as Bob and Susan present their views on animals as teachers.

### **"What's Fair, How, and for Whom?" (Three Weeks: August 10, 17, and 24)**

**8:30am to 9:45am in the Boardroom**

*-Margaret Rutter and Charline Watts*

Charline and Margaret, volunteers in management and sales at the Crossroads store (in downtown Bloomington), have passion and considerable experience in marketing and selling goods crafted by indigenous people. From this context, they focus their series on FAIR TRADE and why it is a better system for doing business than America's typical business model. Participants will come away from this participatory class with a clearer understanding of fair trade, its components and criteria, its relationship to Biblical justice, and specific ways to participate in fair trade for the benefit of us all. Videos, presentations, conversation, and activities will be used to enrich each week.

Titles for their three sessions include: 1. Why Fair Trade?, 2. Fair Trade's Human Stories and Specific Ways to Live a Fair Trade Life, and 3. Fair Trade in Your Coffee Cup and Your Chocolate Bars.

### **“Collaging as Spirit” (August 3, 10, 17, and 24) - 8:30am to 9:45am in the Corner Classroom**

*-Nikki Brauer and Donella Hess-Grabill*

We all have aspects of ourselves and life – understandings, awarenesses, perceptions, and yearnings - that are uncollected, disconnected, and/or unexpressed in words. Educators, Donella and Nikki, have found COLLAGING to be a tool for bringing these to the surface with a lighthearted touch. Their method is an intuitive process using images, most often from magazines, calendars, and random other tangibles, to create resources that connect fun with engagement, insight, reflection, encouragement, perspective, inspiration, direction, and reaching beyond ourselves.

The series of four sessions includes these titles: 1. Moving with the Muse, 2. Engaging the Internal Eternally, 3. Staying for the Hearing, and 4. Connecting with Joy.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

June 11 ,2014 Meeting

**Present:** Joe Boudreaux, Pam Lubeck, Janet Warfield, Margaret Rutter, Julie Sullivan, Ruth Reeves

### Old Business:

**IPA:** The National Group [NPA] held its convention but did not act on immigration. The local IPA is pleased that action on fracking has been temporarily slowed down. Joe and Judy Boudreaux attended an open house about the Enbridge pipeline project.

**Book Bike:** Julie reports there have been several donations to the Book Bike. Announcements about donating will continue in our weekly bulletin, space permitting.

**Mental Health:** Julie reported that there now is greater awareness of the mental health situation in McLean County. We discussed the need for coordination among the different agencies working with mental health.

### New Business:

It was announced that Sister Simone's book has been published and suggested that a book group could be organized to discuss it.

We also discussed the situation of unaccompanied children crossing the border from Mexico into the United States, and we will follow up to see if we can help these children.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julie Sullivan.

## ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS AND MEMORY WALK



For the second year, New Covenant Community will host a team in the annual Bloomington-Normal Memory Walk, supporting our local Alzheimer's Association as well as the many friends and neighbors affected by this devastating disease.

The event will take place at CornBelts Corn Crib, 1000 West Raab Road in Normal on **Saturday, September 20, 2014**. Check in and festivities start 8:30AM. The Walk itself will begin 10:00AM, preceded by a ceremony at 9:30am.

### There are several ways you can participate. Consider...

- Walking with the NCC Team! You can register to join NCC's team (Progressive Bipeds) online at: [http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/IL-GreaterIllinois?team\\_id=214321&pg=team&fr\\_id=5076](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/IL-GreaterIllinois?team_id=214321&pg=team&fr_id=5076)
- You can also email Bob at [rwryder@aol.com](mailto:rwryder@aol.com) to indicate that you want to take part, and he will be in touch.
- Sponsoring a walker with a contribution supporting the event.
- Attending the Memory Walk (even if you prefer just attend the festivities and not to walk yourself).
- Making a contribution to our team. Contributions can be made online (see above link) or you can give Bob a check made out to B–N Alzheimer's Association and he will pass it on.



2013 NCC Team-Progressive Bipeds



## August Birthdays

- 10 Caroline Fox & Julie Sullivan
- 11 Susan Ryder
- 15 Rhys Lovell
- 22 Mark Austill
- 25 Kathy Vitek
- 26 Elizabeth Anvick & William Lovell
- 29 Sandy Bush
- 30 Ellen MacCannell Morgan
- 31 Carys Lovell

*If we don't have your birthday, please let Susan Ryder know so that we can include you next year!*



## SUMMER POETRY CORNER

August rushes by like desert rainfall,  
 A flood of frenzied upheaval,  
 Expected,  
 But still catching me unprepared.  
 Like a match flame  
 Bursting on the scene,  
 Heat and haze of crimson sunsets.  
 Like a dream  
 Of moon and dark barely recalled,  
 A moment,  
 Shadows caught in a blink.  
 Like a quick kiss;  
 One wishes for more  
 But it suddenly turns to leave,  
 Dragging summer away.  
 - Elizabeth Maua Taylor



In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs.  
 - Henry David Thoreau

## PARTNERS IN HEALING

NCC is a member congregation of Advocate BroMenn Medical Center's "Partner's in Healing" program, which is a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units on a rotating basis with other local congregations. Each congregation is asked to pray for patients receiving medical care in a specific unit, as well as for the staff who are treating them and/or for their families.



NCC will be praying for the patients, families, and staff of Advocate BroMenn Adult Day Services/ Life Enrichment Center (LEC) Advocate BroMenn Adult Day Services serves 25-30 clients and provides activities for adults of all ages who live with family but are not able to be left alone during the day. Activities are designed to both entertain and to stimulate the highest level of functioning possible and include games, crafts, outings, worship, and Bible study. The center, which is located at 207 Landmark Drive, Suite C, in Normal, is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday Worship at 10:00am

- August 13 7pm Social Justice Meeting
- August 19 6:30 Steering Committee
- August 20 September newsletter deadline
- August 31 5th Sunday Potluck

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at [www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm](http://www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm)

## NEWSLETTER CALL FOR NEWS

*Please share reports and announcements, what you are reading and poetry you've written, or let us know of a news story we could mention.*

*Please email articles to Susan Ryder at [normal@sue@aol.com](mailto:normal@sue@aol.com) by August 20 for the September newsletter.*

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