



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

2013

## Christmas Offering Recipients

LOCAL MISSION:

Neville House

<http://www.mccainc.org/cdv.htm>

GLOBAL MISSION:

Doctors Without Borders

[www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

Read more on page 3

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING DEC. 8 (after the service)

You are encouraged to stay after the service on Sunday, Dec. 8 for an informational community meeting related to the 2014 Budget. While no official business will be conducted at this meeting, it will be a good opportunity for you to get an update on the most recent 2014 pledge totals, ask questions, engage in dialog, and offer input on the proposed budget options emailed by the Steering Committee in early October.

## COMMUNITY MEETING DEC. 15 (after the service)

This notice serves as your official call to the December 15 Community Meeting after worship (around 11:30am). The stated purpose of this meeting is to elect members to the Steering Committee and officers for NCC, and to adopt our 2014 Budget.

We realize that some of you who pledge regularly have not yet done so, and it's not too late – we urge you to send in your pledge forms – if possible before the December 15 meeting – so that we have the most up-to-date figures to report as we adopt the budget. We also encourage those who have not pledged before to consider making a pledge for 2014. **You may email your pledge amount to NCC Treasurer, Kim Tingley at [k.tingley@comcast.net](mailto:k.tingley@comcast.net).** We will update you on received pledge totals at the meeting when we present the budget for your approval. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting in the life of NCC.



## CHRISTMAS EVE 2013



5:00pm “Noel Nosh”

*Please sign up to bring something to share at our gathering in the CRC coffeehouse. BYO wine, along with noshes/appetizers/small bites/tapas; drinks for the kids (and those not drinking wine), and desserts. We will provide three soup options, along with the bowls, plates, plastic ware, napkins, and glasses.*

7:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

*You may attend the service without attending the Noel Nosh*

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



## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

November 2013

**Partners in Mission Group.** This group will meet December 2. They will recommend recipients of the 2013 Christmas Offering (one local, one global) to the Steering Committee.

**NCC Directory.** Photographs will be taken in December.

### IPA:

Fracking. Meeting with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was disappointing. Public hearings in Central Illinois will be held later.

Immigration Reform. The process has been started that will enable undocumented people to obtain drivers licenses. Chapter Meeting. The next Chapter Meeting will be January 6, 2014.

**Book Bike.** We are still collecting for the Book Bike.

**Charter for Compassion.** On Sunday, Nov. 10, Amy Stutzman gave an enthusiastic Reflection on the Charter for Compassion with lots of information.

### New Business:

We discussed the necessity for having a new project. Possibilities include following up the Sister Simone Lectureship and making NCC more environmentally responsible.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 7 p.m., at the home of Julie Sullivan. Margaret will chair and Janet will take minutes.

The SJ group invites all to attend our meetings.



## GET READY, GET SET, SMILE! YOU'RE ON NCC CAMERA!

As part of our new directory project, photographing NCC parishioners is happening NOW.

David Rademacher is taking pictures of our members and friends before the service and after the Community meetings the next two Sundays (December 8, and 15). You can be photographed as an individual, a couple, or family.

You will be asked to fill out an information sheet. Copies of this sheet have been emailed and will also be available on the back table of the sanctuary.

We are so grateful for David Rademacher and his contribution to this project. He brings a great talent and a generous expenditure of time and energy to make this endeavor a reality for us.

THANK YOU, David!





## 2013 CHRISTMAS OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Each year the Steering Committee chooses two groups to split our special Christmas Offering—one a local agency, and the other a global agency. For 2013 we have chosen the following organizations as our offering recipients, suggested to us by the Partners in Mission group.

### LOCAL: Neville House

<http://www.mccainc.org/cdv.htm>

The shelter has a daily capacity of 13 women and children, and four infants. Special provisions are available to assist individuals with disabilities, males in need of shelter, and families larger than shelter room capacity. Residents staying at Neville House work closely with a trained domestic violence caseworker that will assist in finding resources for housing, childcare, employment, legal representation, transportation and enhancement of life skills. Twenty-four hour emotional and educational support is available to assist individuals and families respond to crisis and increase self-sufficiency.

### GLOBAL: Doctors Without Borders

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org>

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971. Today, MSF provides independent, impartial assistance in more than 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters. MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF also reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols. In 1999, MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize.

*You leave your gifts in the offering plate on Sunday mornings during December, marked "Christmas Offering" in the memo line. Or mail Kim Tingley your contribution. Thank you in advance for your generosity!*



### 2013 LOCAL MISSION GIVING

*Over the past year, the Steering Committee voted to send the following local groups money from our local mission budget line item, thanks to recommendations from the Partners in Mission Group: The Walk to End Alzheimer's, IPA Immigration Project, Orlando Unity Center, and Recycling for Families each received \$250 from New Covenant Community.*

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10:30**

Sunday School meets during worship

**Dec. 8 & 15** ~ NCC Pictorial Directory picture taking

**Dec. 8** ~ Informational meeting after the service

**Dec. 15** ~ Community Meeting after the service

**December 20** ~ January newsletter deadline

**December 24** ~ 5:00pm Christmas Eve "Noel Nosh" and 7pm Service of Lessons and Carols

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)



**December Birthdays**

- 1      **Suzie Hutton**
- 2      **Tony Bowman**
- 5      **Dick Watts**
- 7      **Hayley Bowman**
- 14     **Margaret Rutter**
- 19     **Tim Pogue**
- 21     **Pam Lubeck**
- 24     **Joe Boudreaux**
- 25     **Gwen Pruyne**
- 26     **Janet Chandler**



**PARTNERS IN HEALING**



NCC is a delegate congregation to Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. As part of that delegation, we participate in a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units associated with BroMenn 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 for a month. NCC will be praying for the patients, families, and staff of the **Progressive Care Unit** at Advocate BroMenn for the month of December.

Located in the newly opened patient bed tower, this 18-bed unit provides care for neurosurgical and other high acuity patients.

**POETRY CORNER**

*This sonnet is about our NCC Advent Wreath, so including it in our December newsletter is a tradition.*

**Advent**

**by Kathleen Kirk**

First, we bring rocks: earth curves in a bow  
 around the source, light. Is it miracle  
 or did rock bend always as the willow?  
 What next? Acorn, walnut, holly, bluebell  
 pressed with a ribbon, tuft of baby’s breath,  
 pine cone, lighting of the second candle  
 by a child. Magic again? Now our wreath  
 a parade of fauna: camels, a cat, a cow,  
 marble hippo, rocking horse. Nothing yet  
 prepares as well for what’s to come: our own  
 meager arrival as human figurines,  
 plaster or plastic, a fragile sturdy crowd  
 of admirers, rigid with unspoken awe.  
 We stand alive, wild at heart, hope raw.

**ADVENT WREATH –  
 WHAT TO BRING:**

- Sunday, December 1– Rocks**
- Sunday, December 8– Greens**
- Sunday, December 15–Animals**
- Sunday, December 22 – People**



**Merry Christmas!**



**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 [normalsue@aol.com](mailto:normalsue@aol.com) by December 20 for the January newsletter.*

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