



NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

2014

Christmas Offering Recipients

LOCAL MISSION:

Labyrinth Outreach

www.labyrinthoutreach.org/

GLOBAL MISSION:

Fugees Family

www.fugeesfamily.org/

Read more on page 3

INFORMATIONAL MEETING DEC. 7 (after the service)

You are encouraged to stay after the service on Sunday, Dec. 7 for an informational community meeting related to the 2015 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 2015 pledge totals, ask questions, engage in dialog, and offer input on the proposed budget options emailed by the Steering Committee in October.

COMMUNITY MEETING DEC. 14 (after the service)

This notice serves as your official call to the December 14 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 2015 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 14 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 2015. **You may email your pledge amount to NCC Treasurer, Marie Genrich at mgenrich@frontier.com** 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 2014



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 a variety of soups, along with bowls, plates, plastic ware, napkins, and glasses.

We also need help with clean-up before the service starts, so we hope several of you can lend a hand.

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



SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

November 2014

IPA:

1. IPA held a voter registration drive and led an effort to get voters to the polls on Election Day.
2. IPA attended and spoke at the McLean County Zoning Board meetings in opposition to proposed exploratory oil drilling in McLean County by Minard Oil. The Zoning Board's recommendation to the County Board is to deny the special use permit. IPA members will attend the County Board meetings where this issue will be voted on by the Board.

Book Bike: Labyrinth has a Little Library in front of their women's house. The consensus of the group was to give some of the book bike donations to the Little Library. Julie will take care of this.

New Social Justice Members: The group still seeks new members.

Sustainability: Bob Ryder will be asked to attend the next social justice meeting to talk about NCC issues.

Mental Health:

1. The movie, Shortchanged, about mental health in McLean County was premiered to an overflow crowd at the Normal Theatre.
2. County action on mental health is moving forward. A next step will be community education, which may include a request for presentation at NCC.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be January 14, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Julie Sullivan's house.



2014 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 2014 we have chosen the following organizations as our offering recipients; suggested to us by the Partners in Mission group.

LOCAL: Labyrinth Outreach

www.labyrinthoutreach.org

Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that provides long term supportive services to women from McLean County who have been incarcerated or are on probation. Their goal is to collaborate with all available local social service agencies to assist the women to remain free of future court involvement.

GLOBAL: Fugees Family

www.fugeesfamily.org

Fugees Family, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to working with child survivors of war. The organization builds upon the power of soccer to galvanize program participants by giving them the support and structure they need to realize their vast potential. They provide refugee boys and girls, grades 6-12, with mentorship, structure, and support to help them succeed in soccer and academics.

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



December Birthdays

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

If we don't have your birthday, please let Susan Ryder know so that we can include you.



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 **Same Day Services** (SDS) at Advocate Eureka for the month of December.

Advocate Eureka's Same Day Services unit has eight beds for medical and outpatient surgical needs. Medical patients seen on this unit are primarily patients receiving IV infusions, injections and chemotherapy. Surgical patients include all types of outpatient surgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery and gastrointestinal procedures.

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 7 – Greens
- Sunday, December 14 – Animals
- Sunday, December 21 – 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 normal sue@aol.com by December 20 for the January newsletter.

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