



# New Covenant Community

*Our purpose is to continue in our time what Jesus began in his - working for the healing of our world as an inclusive, compassionate, joyful community.*

**FEBRUARY 2013**



## NCC STEERING COMMITTEE

Your NCC Steering Committee is hard at work as the new year begins. Members of the SC are: David Hirst (Chair), Pam Unkrich (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Kirk (Secretary), Kim Tingley (Treasurer), at-large members Joe Boudreaux, Bruce Chandler, Marie Genrich, and Karen Rousey, plus our pastors, Bob and Susan Ryder.

Meeting for a half-day retreat in early January, we began work on designing a visioning process for the entire congregation based on information we received from the fall 2012 survey, plus suggestions shared with us from the "We Are the Church" class that met last fall, and mission giving philosophy suggestions from the Toxic Charity book group. We will continue to explore a visioning process at future SC meetings, with more news coming later in the Spring.

We also dealt with regular business, including updating our 2013 income expectations. We had a surplus of \$4,000+ from 2012, which we moved as a "balance forward" to our 2013 income. This means the approximate \$5,000 budget deficit adopted at the December Community meeting has been reduced to less than \$1000. We also approved the timing of the ten weeks of sabbatical/vacation time the Ryders will be taking this year, and had an update on the NCC mosaic art project.

FYI: Once they are approved, minutes of the Steering Committee are available on the NCC web site via the "About Us" tab. Just scroll down to the Steering Committee and you can find a link to minutes from 2012.

As we continue our 21st year of ministry, here's to a year of visioning about how we can continue in our time what Jesus began in his - working for the healing of our world as an inclusive, compassionate, joyful community.

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP

**February 3** ~ Chrissy Cataldo will offer the Reflection.

**February 10** ~ Tasha Dunn will give a Reflection on Evolution for Evolution Sunday.

**February 17** ~ Chris Kaufman will offer the Reflection.

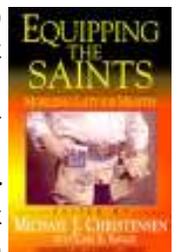
**February 24** ~ Dick Watts will offer the Reflection, and the NCC choir will sing.

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

## ADULT EDUCATION MEETING REPORT



Members of the Adult Education Group met at the home of Bob and Susan Ryder, Thursday, January 17 at 6:30. Those present were Susan Ryder, Tom Sullivan, Pam Lubeck, Charline Watts, and Donella Hess-Grabill. The primary agenda item was to consider NCC's winter and spring adult class options. We finalized plans to offer two separate book discussion groups, **Toxic Charity** and **Equipping the Saints** for the winter term, which will meet on Sunday mornings, February 17-March 24 from 9:00 -10:15



a.m. **Sign up NOW through Feb. 3** (if you need a copy of the book).

The spring term in April and May will include the study of another book (TBD) and a repeat of the third in the course series entitled Living the Questions.

We look forward to welcoming Marla Finch and Karen Rousey to our group for our next meeting, and invite you to contact a member of the Adult Education Group if you have suggestions for programs and/or would like to join our planning team. The group, which meets quarterly, is important to the programmatic vibrancy of the Community and is a rewarding group experience.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

**Toxic Charity** – The fall book group was very impressed with many ideas from the book and hopes that many more in the NCC community will read the book. Bob and Susan have agreed to read the book during their sabbatical time and consider using ideas in reflections. We have also proposed to the Steering Committee that a focus group be formed.

**Interfaith Network** - Next meeting will be February 14.

**IPA** – Payday lending: A regional group of IPA leaders is exploring a local payday alternative with the community development department of a national bank, which may provide funding. Stay tuned!

**Book Bike** – We continue to collect books for the program. A bag will be on the back table. Children's books, especially board books, and Spanish books are in great demand.

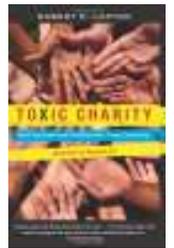
**Next Meeting** – 7pm Wednesday, February 13 at Luther Oaks. We welcome you to attend a meeting as a visitor or potential new member. Please contact Janet Warfield if you will be attending in February. [jwarfie@ilstu.edu](mailto:jwarfie@ilstu.edu)



### MORE ABOUT TOXIC CHARITY

Veteran urban activist minister Robert Lupton's book *Toxic Charity (How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help)* was a mind opening experience for those in the fall discussion group. The group would like to see more NCC people become familiar with the ideas presented in the book and hopefully open discussions about being more mindful about where our charity funds and mission work are directed.

Lupton states, "Giving to those in need what they could be gaining from their own initiative may well be the kindest way to destroy people." Through real live examples, he tells us how charity can be transformative, not toxic. Please join the Sunday morning adult education group to discuss this easy to read, but deeply disturbing book.



### NCC WOMEN'S RETREAT

The NCC Women's Retreat is **April 19-21**, and we will be returning to the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield from Friday evening through Sunday lunch. Our theme is "New Beginnings." Registration materials will be sent out in March ~ in the meantime, mark your calendars!



### FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10:30**

Sunday School meets during worship

**Feb. 19** ~ 6:30pm Steering Committee

**February 28** ~ March newsletter deadline  
(newsletter will be sent late)

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)

## MEDITATION GROUP

Newcomers are always welcome! We meet the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month from 4:15 to about 5:15 in the Classroom, the room immediately inside the back door of the CRC. If you are coming for the first time, please call Mary Beth Taylor, 530.6175, or Margaret Rutter, 454.2392, for complete information or in case we need to use a different room.



The mural making tile workshops will be up and running beginning with the next session on Sunday, Feb.3.

We will be making tiles based on a botanical theme as well as glazing our letter tiles and making new word tiles. We will meet right after the service and plan to order Avanti's sandwiches so we can eat and work. You may make a donation for your lunch at that time. If you have special dietary concerns or order specifics please email Marcia Hirst at [mbhirst@gmail.com](mailto:mbhirst@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome! Come one. Come all. No special art skills are needed but if working with your hands, fellowship in the name of art-making and having fun sound interesting - please join us! We plan for our workshops to be over and cleaned up by 1:00.

*oh! and bring an apron or old shirt if you worry about cleanliness!*

## FEBRUARY PASTORAL COVERAGE

Bob and Susan will be away from Jan. 28 to Feb. 28. If you have an emergency of any kind, please contact a member of the Steering Committee or the Care Committee—their names and contact information can be found in the new NCC 2013 Directory, which was emailed earlier this week.

## 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 **Adult Day Services/ Life Enrichment Center (LEC)** for the month of February. 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.



## February Birthdays

- 1 Dave Hirst
- 14 Bob Ryder
- 15 Caleb Sneeden
- 20 Kathleen Kirk & Pam Lewis & Marie Genrich
- 21 Bruce Chandler

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



## 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 February 28 for the March newsletter (which will be late due to the Ryder sabbatical).*

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