



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.

MARCH 2013

NCC STEERING COMMITTEE

Highlights from our February meeting – By Kathleen Kirk

In February, the NCC Steering Committee moved forward in its “visioning” discussion, turning ideas from the January retreat and fall NCC survey into “action items,” so look for a return of nametag Sundays and Tables of Six, and please continue to enjoy the small-group discussions of big ideas in the new book-group gatherings of 2013. SC President Dave Hirst, who called the meeting to order with the poem “i am a little church” by e.e. cummings, sees us as “making decisions about change constantly.”

The SC is in the process of making the position of the Treasurer more manageable, perhaps adding an assistant, and will turn to the congregation as needed—for that and any other hands-on help, with thanks to all the helping hands at NCC. With time considerations in mind, and for the convenience of our Sunday school leaders, the “Minute for Mission” will now be as close to a true minute as possible, arranged in advance with worship leaders.

Our pastors—on leave in February—have seen the minutes of our February meeting, and will rejoin the discussion in March. January minutes are available on the NCC website (click on the “About Us” tab and scroll to the Steering Committee section), and February minutes will be available after their approval at the March 19 meeting.

Change your clocks March 10.

Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9 so that you are on time for NCC the next morning. Daylight Savings begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 10.



NEW BEGINNINGS

The NCC Women’s Retreat is **April 19 – 21**, and our theme is “New Beginnings.” We will be returning to the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield as usual, from Friday evening through Sunday lunch. Registration materials will be available at NCC on Sunday mornings, are on **page 4** of this newsletter, and will be emailed to members next week.



Registration deadline Monday, April 1 (no fooling!) – your form AND check must be submitted in order for you to be officially registered. Space is limited, so register ASAP – once we are full we will start a waiting list.

New Covenant Community
210 W. Mulberry St.
Normal, IL 61761
309.454.7362
www.nccnormal.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP REPORT

FEBRUARY 2013

Toxic Charity Book Group: The group began February 17 and will run to the end of March. For the last session, participants from the last group will be invited to attend. Because some have expressed interest in an additional book group, this request will be taken to the adult education group.

NCC Survey: In response to the survey, the group discussed the idea of an NCC directory which would include, among other things, NCC members' community involvement to show the wide range of activities with which our community is involved.

IPA ~ Fracking: Joe Boudreaux presented two minutes for mission on this issue and coordinated sending "valentines" to Gov. Quinn opposing fracking which had a good response from NCC members.

In early March, IPA held an action/lobbying day in Springfield to coincide with a workshop on fracking for County Board members from around the State.

There are plans to sponsor a Sunday movie night to show the movie "Gasland" followed by a discussion and an educational discussion night about fracking. Details will be announced as plans are finalized.

Alternatives to Payday Lending: Discussions continue with local banks about viable alternatives.

Book Bike: The need for books continues – especially board books, children's books and Spanish language books.

The next social justice meeting will be on **March 13** at Joe Boudreaux's home. All are welcome. Check the on-line NCC calendar for more information.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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, family, and staff of the Outpatient Invasive Cardiology & Cardiac Catheterization Lab (OPICAR/CCL) at Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center for the month of March.

Advocate BroMenn's six-bed Outpatient Invasive Cardiology Unit serves patients undergoing cardiac catheterization procedures related to blood flow to the heart and other parts of the body. Many Cath Lab patients undergo angioplasty with stents, or small tubes, inserted to keep blocked arteries open, while others may need cardiac bypass surgery.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sundays

Worship at 10:30am

Sunday School meets during worship



March 19 at 6:30pm ~ Steering Committee Meeting

March 20 ~ April newsletter deadline

March 31 ~ Easter Sunday

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at

www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm

If you would like to add an NCC-related event to the NCC calendar, email Susan or Bob Ryder with the info. We can only include events to the calendar if we know about them!



March Birthdays

- 3 Anna Pogue
- 5 Brenda Huber & Jewel Beale
- 11 Rita Lenahan
- 12 Russ Rutter
- 14 David Rademacher
- 22 Mark Lewis & Matthew Dahmm
- 30 John Kirk
- 31 Karyn Turner

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



¡FIESTA, FOREVER! ¡A CELEBRATION IN POETRY!

Please join **David Hirst** (NCC Steering Committee Chair), **Kathleen Kirk** (NCC Steering Committee Secretary), and two other poets from the Bloomington-Normal community for a free poetry reading on Tuesday, March 12, 7:30-8:30 at the McLean County Museum of History, 200 N. Main St., Bloomington. Hirst, Kirk, **Jan Neuleib**, and **Susan Baller-Shepard** will read poems written in response to the current museum exhibit on Mexican art through the ages and tourist art gathered from local collectors. Hirst teaches Spanish at Normal Community West High School, Kirk is the poetry editor for *Escape Into Life* magazine, Neuleib is a retired ISU professor, and Baller-Shepard is a Presbyterian minister who facilitates the Spirituality Book Club.

Tuesday, March 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
McLean County Museum of History
200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL
(309) 827-0428

POETRY CORNER

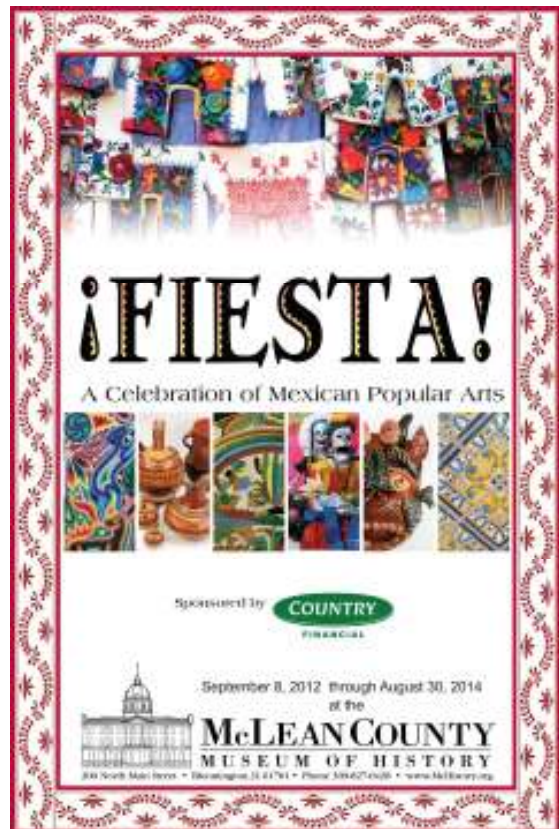
Our Life Song

The vessel through which
We live our lives
Is already broken in earthen design.

In vibrating resonance
With all that is
Loving
We silently shatter as we sound.

No matter
We sing our song.

-Ron Bell
1/31/13



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

by March 20 for the April newsletter

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New Covenant Community 2013 Women's Retreat

New Beginnings

Join us for a weekend of communing with other women at beautiful Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield, as we explore the variety of new beginnings and opportunities that can come from endings and loss.

Group discussions will examine such questions as:

- What losses have you experienced throughout your life that also created new opportunities?
 - How do you recognize and act on opportunities for new beginnings in your life?
 - What challenges, impediments, and risks are involved in pursuing them?
 - And much more!

There will be large and small group experiences as well as games, a movie, a campfire (weather permitting), and plenty of free time to nap and walk the grounds. We will also scatter some of PDub's ashes on Saturday by the lake.

Friday, April 19 - Sunday, April 21
Villa Maria Retreat Center, Springfield IL

You may arrive between 3pm and 6:30pm on Friday.

We will begin with our opening circle at 7pm on Friday.

We'll conclude with lunch on Sunday (hit the road by 12:30pm)

\$130 for a single room - \$100 for a double room

Price includes five meals, two nights lodging, our liquor license, and other incidentals related to our weekend.

Registration deadline is Monday, April 1, 2012

Space is limited (especially for single rooms) so sign up ASAP to secure your spot!
We'll start a waiting list once we are filled up.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SINGLE OR DOUBLE? _____

ROOM WITH? _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

DETACH AND MAIL THIS FORM
WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

New Covenant Community

210 W. Mulberry St.

Normal, IL 61761

Make checks payable to NCC.