



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

## It's that Time of Year Again

In October you should have received an emailed stewardship letter from the Steering Committee, a draft 2013 budget, and a 2013 "Estimate of Giving" form. If you did not receive a letter there are copies available at worship on the back table or online: <http://nccnormal.org/wp-content/uploads/2012-Letter.pdf>

<http://nccnormal.org/wp-content/uploads/2013-Draft-Budget.pdf>

The Steering Committee would like to receive your "Estimate of Giving" forms by Sunday, November 25 if possible, in time for our November 27 Steering Committee meeting, where we will be finalizing the budget we present to the entire congregation at the December 9 Community meeting.

Submitting an "Estimate of Giving" form helps us anticipate money we will receive for the coming year, and thus create a more accurate operating budget. Many of you give generously to NCC each year without submitting a form, and your gifts are greatly appreciated. Turning in a form helps us with our planning, so if you have not done so in the past, we encourage you to consider doing so this year. Thank you!



### New contact info:

Ellen MacCannell Morgan  
603 N. School St  
Normal, IL 61761  
309-452-1204 (H)  
309-532-4655 (C)



## Welcome NCC's Newest Members

### Linda Wilkins and Ruth Reeves

Having grown up in a fundamentalist church and leaving that church when I went to college, I wasn't sure if I would ever join another church. New Covenant Community has changed my thinking on church membership. I do want to be a part of NCC, a community of "seekers."

I also want to thank all those who offered good thoughts and prayers, visits, food, phone calls, and rides during my surgery and recovery.

You are appreciated very much. ~ Linda Wilkins

\*\*\*\*\*

*I came to New Covenant Community in the first place because people I knew, cared about, and respected came here.*

*I came back because the members were so welcoming.*

*I stayed because they are all so open-minded and open-hearted. They are teaching me what it is like to be part of a community that dedicates itself to being "inclusive, compassionate, and joyful." I would very much like to be part of this community that sees its mission as "working for the healing of our world in this time as Jesus did in his."*

Sincerely, Ruth Reeves

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

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Gwen Pruyne



“He is an ecu-maniac.” Compliment or insult? For New Covenant Community, it is a compliment because NCC is a product of the ecumenical movement, bringing three different denominations together in order to promote unity and cooperation in thought, action and organization. At the left is our symbol. In the four quadrants of the cross are the chalice of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the cross and crown of the United Church of Christ, the open Bible of the Presbyterian Church and the ship, representing the National Council of Churches. It represents almost all of the mainline protestant denominations and the Orthodox churches of America.

**Brief History of Denominationalism:** For many centuries, in the western world, Christians were nominally Catholic or Orthodox. The social, economic, and political changes of the Middle Ages, influenced the church and its members. Even before the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, there were groups who began to follow the teachings of men who could read and interpret the Greek and Latin scriptures. During the Reformation and the Enlightenment of the Eighteenth Century, these protestors who separated from Catholicism, became identified by names.. Sometimes the name was that of a reformer: Lutheran, Mennonite, Calvinist, Amish, for example. The name frequently reflected the practices, theology or polity of the group: Baptist, Brethren, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, Unitarian, to name just a few. In Google, several pages are needed to list all of the denominations and their off-shoots.

Back to NCC: Presbyterianism began in Geneva under the leadership of John Calvin. John Knox (a disciple of Calvin) led this movement to a new “reformed” understanding of the church in Scotland in the Sixteenth Century. The Christian Church (Disciples) was established in the U.S. in the early 1800’s. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a merger in 1957 of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church. Each of these denominations brings strengths to NCC. Presbyterians have a three-level form of government and well-defined statements of belief and polity, as well as history and tradition. Both UCC and Disciples are strong in social justice, inclusion and congregational form of government. Both are non-creedal. We use the Disciples’ hymnal. Communion every Sunday is also from the Disciples tradition. Each of these denominations has programs, meetings, and mission and social justice resources that we can and should utilize.

---

Note: Followers of Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26)

### PRESERVING NCC'S GROWING HISTORY

**Attention all storytellers, historians, photographers, scrapbookers, newspaper readers, the computer literate, and anyone who knows how to use a scissors.** The Steering Committee is interested in the formation of a multi-discipline group which would chronicle the history of New Covenant Community on an ongoing basis. This group could explore how to best capture and promulgate our unfolding story. The materials generated will not only provide a timeline for milestone occasions such as anniversaries, it could be used in newsletters, on our website, in advertising, and to inform potential or new Community members. If you have any interest in joining such a group or are willing to serve as a temporary consultant to the group, please e-mail or call Joe Boudreaux ([vjboudreaux@hotmail.com](mailto:vjboudreaux@hotmail.com) or 827-0797).



## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

- **Charity Book Group:** The six participants in the group have engaged in lively discussion and are developing ideas for ways that the NCC and wider community can become involved in social justice issues.
- **Social Justice Network:** The next meeting of the multi-congregation group will be Nov. 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Moses Montefiore Temple.
- **Alternative Gift Giving:** The group discussed ways to promote fair trade and other socially responsible means for gift giving and plans to present ideas to the congregation in mid-November.
- **Illinois People's Action (IPA):**
  1. Joe Boudreaux will serve on the IPA anti-fracking leadership group. On November 10, there will be a public ban fracking meeting from 10 a.m.-noon at the First Methodist Church, Normal.
  2. IPA held a training on alternatives to payday loans which Pam Lubeck and Julie Sullivan attended. IPA is working to set up meetings with banks and credit unions in several IPA communities to ask these lenders to offer viable payday alternatives.
- **Environmental Impact:** The group continues to explore ways to enhance environmentally sound practices at NCC.
- **West Side Book Bike:** Bloomington alderwoman, Karen Schmidt, has asked for donations of new or gently used children's and Spanish language books for the book bike. There will be a donation basket on the back table on Sunday mornings.
- In addition, the Social Justice Group continues to stay informed on Adopt-a-School, the Congolese, and sex trafficking.

You are invited to a public meeting

### STOP FRACKING IN MCLEAN COUNTY

Saturday, November 10

10 a.m.-Noon

First United Methodist Church, Normal

Learn about fracking and how it would hurt McLean County.

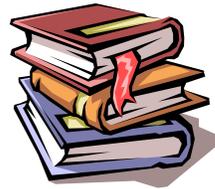
Sponsored by Illinois People's Action

For more information

IPA Office: (309) 827-9627

Website: [www.illinoispeoplesaction.org](http://www.illinoispeoplesaction.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/IIPeoplesAction](http://www.facebook.com/IIPeoplesAction)



### Wanted: Books for the West Side Book Bike

*Looking for donations of new or gently used children's books in English or Spanish*

Books may be left in the basket on the back table at NCC.

*What is the Book Bike?*

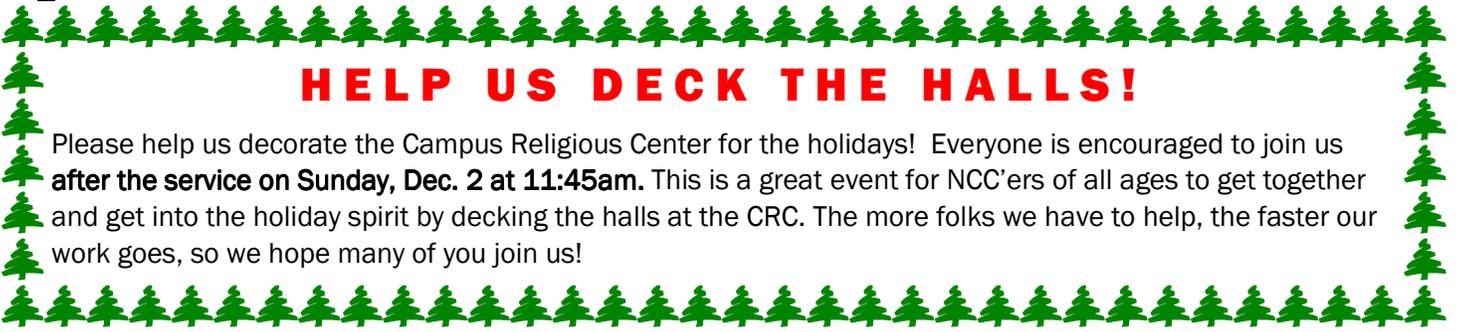
The Book Bike pedals through the west side and other spots in the community to bring free books to children and adults.

For more information, visit

[www.westbloomington.org](http://www.westbloomington.org) or

West Bloomington Book Bike on Facebook.





## HELP US DECK THE HALLS!

Please help us decorate the Campus Religious Center for the holidays! Everyone is encouraged to join us **after the service on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 11:45am**. This is a great event for NCC'ers of all ages to get together and get into the holiday spirit by decking the halls at the CRC. The more folks we have to help, the faster our work goes, so we hope many of you join us!



### November Birthdays

- 1 Heidi Bowman
- 4 Joshua Dahmm
- 5 Diane White / Willemina Esenwein
- 11 Janet Warfield
- 12 Cynthia Ashbrook
- 15 Steve Newman / Eric Bowman
- 16 Nancy Pichla
- 18 Ave Rio

*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 the Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. As part of that delegation, we participate in a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units associated with the Medical Center 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 **Same Day Services Unit** at Advocate Eureka during November. 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.

### LOCKING THE CAMPUS RELIGIOUS CENTER DOORS:

A student has been engaged to lock up the outside doors of the CRC each evening, so we no longer need to lock the building on Sundays or after meetings while school is in session. There are an increasing number of appointments and functions at the CRC, and some individuals have found themselves locked out, especially on Sundays. So please do NOT lock the building when school is in session—we will let you know when/if it needs locking by leaving notes on the doors. Thank you!

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10:30**

Sunday School meets during worship

**November 20** ~ December newsletter deadline

**November 25** ~ Estimate of Giving forms due

**November 27** ~ 6:30 Steering Committee

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)

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

New Covenant Community  
210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 454-7362 | [www.nccnormal.org](http://www.nccnormal.org)