



NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

NCC CELEBRATED 20 YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE MINISTRY Sunday, September 23, 2012



The Chapel of the Campus Religious Center was filled with NCC'ers and friends helping us celebrate our 20th Anniversary. The service included special music by our NCC Choir (thanks to Lena Yurs for getting them together), as well as a congregational singing of the song "Commensality" from the musical of the same name written by one of NCC's founders, Lloyd Farlee. Speaking of NCC founders, 6 of the original 12 were able to be with us for our celebration: Gwen and Jim Pruyne, David and Betty Rademacher, Garrett Scott, and Colleen Farlee. We've lost four of our founders to death over the years (Jacqui Adair, Lloyd Farlee, Sandra Scott, and Jody Stewart) while others moved away (Laura Pedrick and Dorothy Lee). The Reflection centered on a visioning project introduced by David Hirst, who invited us to take part in creating an NCC Mosaic over the coming year (details to follow in futures newsletters) by "gathering the fragments" to create something beautiful and representative of NCC.

The service was followed by a delicious potluck lunch (plus catered chicken for our main dish) with over 80 of us gathered around tables in the Chapel to continue the celebration. After the meal, John and Peg Kirk started off our program with an informative (and amusing) walk down NCC Memory Lane, sharing some of the highlights of the past 20 years as well as honoring the NCC pastors (Jim Pruyne, Dick Watts, and Bob & Susan Ryder). Bob and Susan were invited to share a few words, after which, to celebrate their 15 years as NCC Co-pastors, they were presented with gifts from the congregation which included a framed "wordle" with words shared by NCC members that describe the Ryders ministry; several gift cards; and a generous check. But that's not all! Kathleen Kirk read a special poem she wrote for the occasion which included words from the "wordle" (**her poem is on page 3**). We ended the fun with a time of storytelling, as NCC'ers shared stories of events that had been meaningful to them.

It was a wonderful celebration of our 20 years, made even more special by two display board "timelines" of significant events that have occurred in the past 10 years (we had the first 10 years already on display) put together by Joe Boudreaux and Garrett Scott. These displays will be put out in the back of the Chapel for the next several weeks so that everyone can have a chance to check them out and enjoy the history timeline. Special thanks to the event planners: Joe Boudreaux, Nikki Brauer, David Hirst, Peg Kirk, and Garrett Scott, and to all who worked hard to put everything together for our special day!

Thank you!

We want to thank you all for the wonderful gifts you showered upon us at the NCC 20th Anniversary. Your generosity is so appreciated, and we are grateful to have been part of such a great community for 15 years (and counting)! Blessings, Susan and Bob Ryder

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At the September 9 Community Meeting

we elected Donella Hess Grabill, Bob Warfield, and Mark Austill to serve with Nikki Brauer on the Nominating Committee, who will offer a slate of officers to be elected at the December 9 Community meeting.



FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

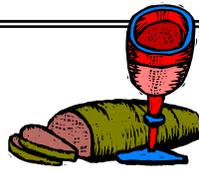
September 15 saw an exciting event in the fight for corporate responsibility. On that day the Make Wall Street Pay Illinois collective was formed at its charter meeting in Bloomington. NCC was represented at that meeting. MWSPI represents a coalition of Illinois Peoples Action (IPA, formerly CIOP) with two other Illinois organizing organizations. The coalition will push for full disclosure of the amount of income tax paid by each Corporation. According to the director of the Illinois Department of Revenue, two thirds of the state's corporations pay no income tax and all. Equitable corporate tax responsibility in Illinois is long overdue!

IPA had two meetings on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in September. Hydraulic fracturing involves the extraction of hydrocarbons from shale by drilling into the shale layer and pumping in huge amounts of water and various toxic chemicals. Since the water table is violated, serious health threats are possible. There are also environmental concerns, since methane, a potent greenhouse gas, can escape into the atmosphere. (Through the "Halliburton loophole," the industry received an exemption from having to comply with either the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act in 2005.) Now there is interest in obtaining a special use permit to perform hydraulic fracturing in McLean County. State legislation on fracking is also under consideration. IPA opposes hydraulic fracturing and is posturing itself accordingly.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 25 at 7pm at Charline's home. Anyone is welcome to join them.



COMMENSALITY BY GWEN PRUYNE



Communion, Lord's Supper, and Eucharist: All refer to the custom of sharing bread and wine, as part of the worship service. At NCC, we call it commensality. The term stems from a book by John Dominic Crossan. *Jesus, A Revolutionary Biography*.^{*} This book was our first adult study and it had a profound influence on the theology of NCC, especially Crossan's understanding of commensality.

More detail will follow, but summarily, we decided that the sharing of bread and cup would be a central part of our Sunday time together. Although the traditional language: "This is my body...blood given for you" seems to emphasize Jesus' death, we want to emphasize Jesus' life. Commensality means that everyone is invited and included—adults and children, members and non-members, Christians and non-Christians. Commensality means that we will strive to fulfill our mission statement, "to do in our time what Jesus did in his."

Tidbits from Crossan: The account of sharing the loaves and fishes is the root of later ritualization of bread and wine. The four words in the traditional Eucharist (Luke 22:19) and the Emmaus meal (Luke 24:30), "took blessed, broke, gave, have profound symbolic connotations. . . . They indicate a process of equal sharing, where by whatever food is there is distributed alike to all. . . . Took and blessed are the actions of the master (Host-male). . . . Broke and gave are the actions of the servant. . . . Jesus serves like any housewife (female)." (pp. 180-181)

^{*}The book was difficult for many of us. Richard Watts collaborated with Crossan to produce a "user friendly" edition, *Who is Jesus?*

RYDER VACATION/ SABBATICAL TIME OFF

Bob and Susan will be taking the remaining four weeks of their combined 2012 vacation and sabbatical time beginning Oct. 8 through Nov. 5. We are pleased that Jim Turner, Tasha Dunn, David Hirst, and Kathleen Kirk will be leading worship while they are away – don't miss the great services they have planned! In case of an emergency while Ryders are away, please contact Nikki Brauer, David Hirst, or another member of the Steering Committee for assistance. NOTE: Bob and Susan will not be available via phone or email while they are away.



Happy Halloween



COMPASSION AND CHOICES of McLean County invites anyone interested in "UNDERSTANDING PALLIATIVE CARE" to the Normal Public Library Community Room on Wednesday, October 17, from 7:00-8:30pm. This program, presented by Dr. Uday DeOskar, Geriatric and Internal Medicine, will focus on the nature of the medical care commonly used to reduce pain and suffering of individuals dying from heart and lung disease, cancer, and dementia. There is free parking in the Parking Ramp.



POETRY CORNER ...

Bob and Susan, 15 Years

(a *risk-taking* hurdle-girdle-wordle pantoum by Kathleen Kirk)

Fifteen years ago they came, bringing **enlightenment**,
friendship, and a **dollar** for each member of the search committee:
Soulful and **comfortable**, Susan in her toe-ring,
Engaging and **thoughtful**, Bob...shaved his head.

Friendship, and a **dollar** for each member of the search committee,
assured they were hired, and wasn't there **cheesecake**?
Engaging and **thoughtful**, Bob shaved his head,
making a **sacrament** of **risk-taking**.

Assured they were hired (and wasn't there **cheesecake**?),
they moved to Normal from a town that stank,
making a **sacrament** of **risk-taking**.
(Good thing Normal was a town that drank!)

They moved to Normal from a town that stank,
embracing the prairie, that smells of corn.
Good thing Normal was a town that drank:
Susan (and P-Dub) love their cosmos.

Embracing the prairie, that smells of corn,
Susan and Bob are **open** and **fun**, **supportive**, and **encouraging**.
Susan (and P-Dub) love their Cosmos.
And their Cosmos loves them back, and Bob.

Susan and Bob are **open** and **fun**, **supportive**, and **encouraging**,
accommodating daylight saving time, and putting it in its place
in the newsletter, so we don't forget when to come to church
(if we read the newsletter, a **valuable** source of information,

as is the new website, which archives the **inspiring**
and **intellectually stimulating** reflections!) This pantoum
has fallen apart, but the Cosmos has my back, and Bob's,
and this is a **wholistic** (holistic?) hole-in-it endeavor.

This pantoum has fallen apart, but what's **valuable**
here are the colorful words, fresh from the congregation:
"Generosity," for example, is what we say when we think
of you two, Susan and Bob. Happy 15 Years!



FROM OUR TREASURER, KIM TINGLEY

Pledge/Contribution Updates

If you would like a copy of your 2012 NCC contributions made to date, please email Kim Tingley at k.tingley@comcast.net. She will be sending them out via email to those who request one in October. Otherwise you will just receive your end-of-year forms for tax purposes as usual. If you do not have email you can let her know at church or call her and she will mail you a copy.



Do you know where your money is going?

Each year the NCC budget has an allocation called "Local Mission." The NCC Steering Committee votes on local organizations or groups that can use our financial help and are consistent with our mission. This year we have given to PFLAG, The McLean County AIDS Task Force, Ecology Action Center, Sterile Feral, and Wishbone Animal Adoption. Later this year we are anticipating assisting local food pantries. If you have any organizations you would like to recommend for this giving opportunity you can email or talk with any member of the Steering Committee.

Mailing Your NCC Pledges

People sometimes ask if they can mail their pledges to NCC or to the treasurer's home. The answer is Yes! Kim loves getting checks in the mail especially when they include handwritten notes to her! Her mailing address is 106 Nottingham Chase, Normal, IL 61761.

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 **Operating Rooms** at Advocate Eureka Hospital during October. A variety of surgeries are performed in Advocate Eureka's two operating rooms.



October Birthdays

- 2 Chloe Brauer
- 3 Lois White
- 5 Julie Pogue
- 9 Kim Tingley
- 17 Karen Pfost
- 18 Colleen Farlee
- 26 Tina Kohn
- 31 Anna Genrich



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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Adult Education at 9am
 Sunday Worship at 10:30
 Sunday School meets during worship

October 2 ~ 6:30 Steering Committee

Oct. 25 ~ 7pm Social Justice Group

October 31 ~ November newsletter deadline (due to Ryders being gone, the deadline is extended and the November newsletter will be sent Nov. 6)

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm

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 October 31 for the November newsletter.

