



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

*Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive*

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

## STEERING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

### September 17 meeting

Amy Stutzman, who is “passionate about compassion,” told us about getting involved with the Charter for Compassion after reading *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong, and attending a Compassionate Action Network (CAN) conference in Louisville, KY. She asked us how might the Steering Committee or New Covenant Community help the message of compassion “ripple out” into our community? And how might Bloomington-Normal move toward becoming a City of Compassion? Ideas:

- Armstrong book in book discussion group of Adult Education at NCC
- A program at NCC for us and perhaps the larger community; Amy has the Power Point, etc.!
- A Compassion Week for Kids coordinated with Children’s Education curriculum

The Steering Committee approved the recommendation of the Partners in Mission group to donate mission funds of \$250 to Alzheimer’s, by way of the NCC Progressive Bipeds team, and to IPA’s local immigration program. Due to recent changes in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), our Session must adopt a Sexual Misconduct Policy similar to that signed by our pastors, so Kathleen distributed a draft of a policy based on samples sent by Great Rivers Presbytery. This can be approved after review and any necessary revision, and Susan and Kathleen will attend a Session Records Review meeting October 12.

The Christmas Eve Noel Nosh, a “small bites” event that happens before the evening service, can be a more substantial meal if we sign up to bring Crockpot soups, loaves of bread, and salad! So let’s do that, and make it more like a potluck, a fine NCC commensality tradition.

## COMMUNITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the **September 22 Community Meeting** following the service, we elected Nikki Brauer and Ben Moore to serve with Kim Tingley on the Nominating Committee, which will offer a slate of Steering Committee members and officers to be elected and/or reelected at the December 15 Community meeting.

We also voted on a proposal moved by the Steering Committee to hire a professional consultant from the Alban Institute to help us consider and plan the next phase of our life together as a community with regard to mission, building and growth issues. A lively discussion ensued with many sharing diverse opinions for and against the proposal. The motion was approved in accordance with our bylaws by a majority vote (21-17, with several abstentions). Plans will move forward for inviting the Rev. Sarai Rice from the Alban Institute to come for a weekend on a date to be determined in March or April of 2014.

As the vote reflected, there were conflicting thoughts about the best way to conduct future planning and visioning efforts. However, there appeared to be significant agreement on several points: 1) that we need to improve our ability to complete and implement a visioning process once undertaken; 2) that we ought to review previous visioning work as part of the new process, and; 3) that we need to make sure there are clear roles for implementing a plan and moving it through to completion. (Rev. Rice can help us with this if we choose to engage her for additional consultation.)

The Steering Committee feels that this was a very beneficial meeting, and thanks the entire community for their passion and dedication to NCC, and for sharing your valuable insights at the meeting.

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



## FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The Social Justice Group continues to meet monthly. Various members updated the group on the status of the numerous issues being followed by the SJ group. The following reports were of particular interest:

Margaret Rutter said that the "Partners In Mission" Group had recommended to the Steering Committee that \$250 be donated to the Alzheimer's Association and \$250 to Illinois People's Action. The money going to IPA is earmarked for its work to achieve immigration reform.

Joe Boudreaux reported that David Hirst is making progress entering existing directory information into the new database. Thank you, David!

Joe also reported on the September 5 meeting of the IPA Bloomington/Normal chapter. He noted that actions were held at branches of the Regents Bank which is offering high interest "Pay Day" style loans.

A "Pilgrimage for Citizenship" will be held on October 4th and 5th. Participants will march from Bloomington to Decatur on Friday and from Blue Mound to Taylorville on Saturday. All are welcome to join in. Register by calling 847-826-3001.

The anti-fracking efforts of the IPA are now focused on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources which is charged with enforcing the recently passed fracking regulatory bill. A meeting with the Department's director is being scheduled.

Charlene Watts advised the group that "Bread for the World" Sunday will be October 20. She will consult with Pastor Susan Ryder on how the community might observe this event.

The Social Justice Group appreciates the donation of several bags of books to the Book Bike project. Books for younger children are particularly in demand.

The Social Justice Group is looking for new members. COME JOIN US IN TRYING TO BRING MORE JUSTICE TO OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD! Attend our next meeting at 7 PM on October 9 at the home of Joe Boudreaux (1008 Witten Woods Drive).

### 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 Mental Health Unit (MHS) during the month of October. Located on 3 North, Advocate BroMenn's Mental Health Unit has beds for 17 psychiatric patients. It is a voluntary but locked-door unit.

**Free for the digging!** Cherry trees and rosebud trees ranging from a foot to four foot tall. Also American and/or French Lilac starts, as well as Fern & Hosta. Phone Jim & Sally Turner at 309-824-0642."

### ALZHEIMER'S PROGRAM

On **Sunday October 6th** following worship, we will have a 1 hour presentation in the Chapel by Heather Moulder, a community educator for the B-N Alzheimer's Association, informing us about key aspects of the disease and how we can develop our abilities to support family, friends and neighbors who are affected. We hope many of you can stay for this important meeting.

Also congrats to our "Walk to End Alzheimer's" walkers, who raised almost \$900 of their \$1000 goal on Saturday, Sept. 28. You can still donate to put us over the top to reach our team goal! See Bob Ryder for more info. Thank you to all the donors, and to Ron Hardy, Jen Ho, Kathleen Kirk, Bob and Daisy Ryder, and Kim Tingley for walking on the "Progressive Bipeds" team for New Covenant Community.

**Happy Halloween**





# Sister Simone Campbell



## Nov. 1-3, 2013 to Bloomington-Normal

Sister Simone is the national coordinator of NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby striving to close the gap between rich and poor, and founder of the “Nuns on the Bus,” who first traveled through nine states during the 2012 presidential campaign highlighting the struggles of the poor and elderly. Their recent summer 2013 “Nuns on the Bus” tour – 6500 miles through 15 states – brought awareness to common sense, ethical immigration reform. Campbell will talk about faith, and how it can move us to achieve universal justice.

### Three Great Events

**Friday, November 1:** Free Public Lecture in Cooperation with Illinois Wesleyan University, *Living the Biblical Demand for Social Justice: How and Why Do We Speak Truth to Power?*

Location and Time: Presser Hall, Illinois Wesleyan University 7:00 PM

**Saturday, November 2:** Workshop, *Promoting the Common Good*, 9:30 AM- 2:30 PM

Location and Time: Alumni Center, Illinois State University, registration opens at 9:00 AM

Cost: \$20, Free For Students.

You can register online at [www.pruynelectures.com](http://www.pruynelectures.com), or download the registration form and mail it in.

**Sunday, November 3:** Worship at New Covenant Community

Location and Time: 210 W Mulberry St, Normal, IL 61761, 10:30 AM

For more information go to our web site at [www.pruynelectures.com](http://www.pruynelectures.com).

## COMPASSION AND CHOICES

The McLean County Chapter of Compassion and Choices is pleased and excited to present an interactive program:

**“WHAT WOULD YOU DO?”**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

**Illinois State University Alumni Center, Room 116**

Heartland Theatre’s YOUNG AT HEARTLAND acting troupe will re-enact four scenarios that illustrate medical decisions that families may face at some point. Choices at such times are difficult and complex; emotions are hard to manage. Being faced with real choices in the future may be made easier by facing those decisions through these powerful re-enactments.

As the audience observes these scenes, they may discover a decision that seemed best may suddenly need to be re-evaluated. They will find their own feelings pulled into the lives being illustrated and will have a stake in the outcome. At some point in the scenes, the action may be paused to allow feedback and discussion.

Scene #1 -- “Hospital Hallway”

Scene #2 -- “Brain Tumor”

Scene #3 -- “Phone Call”

Scene #4 -- “Oh Doctor”

There will be no admission fee or donation request of any kind for this program.



### October Birthdays

- 2 Chloe Brauer
- 5 Julie Pogue
- 9 Kim Tingley
- 17 Karen Pfost
- 18 Colleen Farlee
- 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 6** ~ 11:45am Alzheimer’s Program

**Oct. 9** ~ 7pm Social Justice Group

**October 15** ~ 6:30 Steering Committee

**October 20**~ November newsletter deadline

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)

### 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 October 31 for the November newsletter.*

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