



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

## NCC STEERING COMMITTEE

Highlights from March 19 meeting

Approved Minutes of previous meetings can be found at <http://nccnormal.org/scminutes/>

In March, the NCC Steering Committee welcomed home our very busy pastors! They are back in full swing after their February leave—Bob is busy with CRC building duties, pastoral care & visiting, and campus ministry, Susan with ongoing and very visible church, committee, and communication duties, and both, of course, with their inspiring reflections.

NCC'ers who want to "go green" are encouraged to participate in WGLT's Good-to-Go program in May. We'll travel by foot, bike, bus, or carpool, "competing with other churches" (?!?!), with SC President Dave Hirst as our Team Leader. Our fearless SC leader also moved forward with several "action items" related to visioning, fellowship, social justice, mission, outreach, and transparency at NCC. Kim, our exhausted Treasurer, has been approved to seek an assistant. Joe Boudreaux will serve as NCC's delegate to the Delegate Church Association at Advocate BroMenn, replacing Elizabeth Anvick, who is otherwise occupied (with foster daughters)! And SC members are among NCC folk who will lead or participate in spring classes offered by the Adult Education Group. Among the Social Justice Group's many activities, please note that you can see the film "Gasland" on Wednesday, April 3, at 6:30. And you can save the date now—November 1-3—for the Pruyne Lectureship visit of Sister Simone Campbell.

The Steering Committee continues to review recommendations received by way of NCC survey responses, NCC individuals and groups, and presentations at the January, 2013 retreat. What a wonderful community we are.

### ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FAUCET FIRES

There is much that we need to know about fracking if we are going to turn back Illinois' march to disaster.

Come to the CRC coffee house at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3** for a movie night and discussion about fracking. The award-winning movie is the HBO Documentary, "GasLand." A half-hour discussion will be led by ISU Professor Emeritus Bill Rau after the film.



### NCC POETRY SUNDAY

As we have done for the past several years, we will observe National Poetry Month with **Poetry Sunday on April 7** at the 10:30am service.

Because so many of you have been bringing poems to share (YAY!) please bring just **ONE favorite poem** to read to us, and be prepared to tell us why you chose it. Even better, bring **ONE** of your own original poems to share.

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP REPORT

**Toxic Charity Book Group:** The book group is going well and includes two people who haven't attended book groups before. The group will meet March 17 with members of the other groups that have studied this book to discuss what possible action to take. We are waiting for the Steering Committee to take action on our proposal to form a mission group to research and decide where our mission money could go, and also to research community development and how we could possibly get involved as part of another group. There will be another book group in the spring led by Bob Ryder and Brian and Marla Finch. We are encouraging members of the Steering Committee to attend.

**Interfaith Network:** Charline sent out an e-mail proposing that the group meet via e-mail rather than meeting in person. We thought that reading *Toxic Charity* would be a great group project.

**IPA:**  
**Fracking:** We were excited to learn that Madigan agreed to a moratorium on fracking for two years. The McLean County Board wants the County, not the State, to decide zoning issues. We will show the movie "Gasland" to NCC'ers and other interested people on Wednesday night, April 3 (see below).

**Alternatives to Payday Lending:** Joe and Julie attended a meeting on February 18. The Mid-Illini Credit Union and Mount Pisgah Church have a plan to help low-income people start savings accounts. The ISU Credit Union and the PNC Bank are also discussing this initiative.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m., at the home of Charline Watts. All are welcome to join this group!



**The WGLT Go To Good Commuter Challenge** is a week-long event designed to encourage health living and promote the use of alternative transportation instead of driving alone. The Challenge is a friendly competition for the highest group member participation rate and between individuals, teams, groups and organizations to see who can tally the most miles. During the week, participants track and report their commutes online. Public transit, walking, bicycling, car sharing, carpooling, vanpooling, and telecommuting all count for the competition.

The annual challenge is May 11-17, 2013. It's open to anyone who lives, works, goes to school, or regularly commutes in, to or from McLean County. Get started now to save money and earn bragging rights! Everyone who registers gets a free Good To Go water bottle, a certificate for a free Carl's ice cream cone and a card good for one free bus ride. Contact David Hirst for more information about becoming part of the NCC "Good to Go" team! And check out the web site <http://wglit.org/goodtogo/challenge/> for more info.

**GoodToGo**

## 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. During April, NCC will be praying for the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation (CPR) area, where patients recovering from heart and lung problems receive supervised and graded exercise and rehabilitation. Many of these patients have already been through heart or lung surgery.





## ADULT EDUCATION GROUP REPORT

The Adult Education Group met at Donella Hess-Grabill's home, Thursday, March 7 at 6:30. Those present were Susan Ryder, Tom Sullivan, Pam Lubeck, Charline Watts, Marla Finch and Donella Hess-Grabill. Karen Rousey also attended our meeting – although it was unintentionally by herself at NCC!

### *Two Spring Book Study Classes and One Summer Class Finalized*

Participants have been enthusiastic about the process of enjoyable and profitable learning experiences in the fall and winter book studies. Join a study class of your choice in April and May and put a smile on your face and a renewed spring in your step!

There is still time to propose another summer class! Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a class that you believe would be appropriate and timely for Adult Education. We welcome written descriptions so the Adult Ed can give informed attention to your request.

*Discussion of other issues* focused on the need to collaborate with and/or improve communication with other planning entities within and outside of NCC. We resolved to stay in more intentional communication with the Steering Committee and other planning groups, including Lectureship, so that our efforts can be coordinated and integrated with the larger NCC programming.

*Our next meeting* to discuss summer and Fall Adult Education activities is scheduled for **6:30pm on Wed, April 24** at Donella Hess-Grabill's house, 21 Knollcrest Court, Normal. We can use one other member of our Group. If you are interested in this activity arena of the Community, please consider joining us and experience the reward of being part of NCC's growing edge for adults!

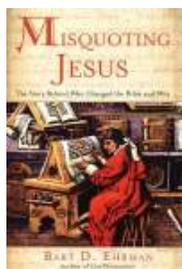
## SPRING TERM BOOK-STUDY CLASSES

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:00 – 10:15 a.m Beginning April 7, 2013

#### *TOXIC CHARITY:*

*How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help*  
*Convened by Marla Finch, Brian Finch, and Bob Ryder*



### TUESDAY EVENINGS,

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Beginning April 2, 2013

#### *MISQUOTING JESUS by Bart Ehrman*

*Convened by Tom Sullivan*

COMING in JUNE ... Part 3 of "Living the Questions"



## SAVE THE DATE! NOV. 1-3, 2013

For the third Jim and Gwen Pruyne Lectureship in Progressive Christianity, we are pleased to announce that Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Director of Network, and of “Nuns on the Bus” fame will be speaking at a free Public Lecture on Friday evening, Nov. 1, a workshop on Saturday, Nov. 2, and worship with us on Sunday morning, Nov. 3. For more information about Sister Simone, go to <http://www.networklobby.org/people/simone-campbell-sss>.

We hope you will mark your calendars now for this exciting weekend, and invite your friends! More information will be forthcoming as it is finalized.



Follow us for the most update information:

<http://nccnormal.org/pruyne-lectureship/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/PruyneLectureship>  
<https://twitter.com/pruynelectures>



### PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

In the Fall of 2008, the Steering Committee formed the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (PPR). The impetus for the PPR came as a result of NCC's visioning process earlier that year, and was created for the purpose of helping the pastors and congregation share ideas and concerns, as well as to provide a conduit for communication between the pastors and the congregation.

The PPR does not serve as a personnel committee (the Steering Committee fills that role overseeing performance, salary reviews, job description, etc.). Rather, the PPR is a resource for communication and support as the pastors perform their various responsibilities. To that end, the PPR is tasked with monitoring the relationship between the pastors and congregation, communicating with the pastors about concerns from the congregation, and with the congregation about concerns from the pastors, as well as managing any conflict that may arise.

Current PPR members are Nikki Brauer, Caroline Fox, Peg Kirk, Mark Lewis, and Jim Turner. You are welcome to contact any of them if you have any questions or concerns relating to our pastors, as well as to let them know any kudos you want to share with them about Bob and/or Susan. (Of course you are always encouraged to contact our pastors directly regarding any issues.)

### APRIL 2013

**Sunday Worship at 10:30am**

Sunday School meets during worship

**April 7 ~ Poetry Sunday**

**April 10 ~ Social Justice Group @7pm**

**April 16 ~ Steering Committee Meeting @6:30pm**

**April 19-21 ~ Women's Retreat**

**April 20 ~ May 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)



## NCC MOSAIC PROJECT



Since its inception in September, 2012, the following progress has been made:

Ceramic alphabet tiles were made, fired and glazed. (250 pcs.)

Word tiles were made (using the words the NCC community used to represent ourselves in Sept. from the Bingo activity) and fired (35 pcs.)

Nature tiles (flora) were created and fired (150 pcs.)

We have been collecting fragments and mementos from you, the NCC community. We will continue to do so until August.

### Looking forward:

March 24 - Impressions - there will be *take-home-kits* distributed for a do-it-yourself workshop. We ask that each person/family bring back the pieces created at home on the next Sunday. (Easter Sunday)

April 7 - Million Bones - after church workshop - our activities will include applying glaze to the most recently fired tiles and creating bones to send to the Million Bones Project and some to include in our mural. <http://www.onemillionbones.org/>

May 5- Fish and Funky - after church workshop -We will glaze the swirls and spirals from the April workshop and create fish and unique and creative shaped tiles

June 2- Verbosity and Vocab -after church workshop- Glaze fish and make more letters and words (affirmations)

July 7- Eyes and Ayes - after church workshop - Glaze letters and words from other sessions. Create eye tiles and affirmation symbols and words

Aug. 4- Gluing and Grouting - construction, odds and ends. May need more than one week.

Sept. - presentation of finished artwork

**FYI**-It may be helpful when looking at the list, to understand a few pottery terms and the processes we go through to get the pieces ready to use.

Clay-a moist earthenware substance, like mud, used to create ceramic objects

Ceramic- anything made with clay

Firing- "baking" clay objects to near 2000 degrees, in order to vitrify and harden them

Glaze- n. a suspension of ground glass, colorant and binder that bonds to the surface of a clay object when it is fired, to create a permanent, glassy surface; v. to apply the liquid to the ceramic object; painted, dipped, sprayed, etc.

Tile - refers to any flat, fired, ceramic object that can be attached to another flat surface

And...there may a few additional activities tucked in, as well. If you have ideas please send them our way.

Marcia Hirst [mbhirst@gmail.com](mailto:mbhirst@gmail.com)

Mark Genrich

[megenrich@hotmail.com](mailto:megenrich@hotmail.com)



## April Birthdays

- 4 Pam Unkrich
- 5 Donella Hess Grabill
- 10 Sandy Hupp
- 11 Devon Lovell
- 12 Kelly Mirsky
- 18 Dawn Duff
- 21 Tory Dahmm
- 23 Eli Maurer
- 26 Jim Pruyne / Lucas Dahmm

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



## POETRY CORNER

**Dandelions** ~ Phyllis White

Sprinkled lavishly  
over fields and lawns and parkways

shining fragments of the golden sun  
have fallen to earth  
and today their brilliance glows against the green.

Tomorrow  
their heads will turn to white  
like throngs of little old men  
and then  
on another day  
the tiny star-shaped seeds  
will all drift away  
like fairy parachutes  
on the wings of a fragrant breeze.

The Handbell Ministries of Wesley Methodist Church will present "Ring to the Lord — A concert of memories," on Sunday **April 28, 2013 in the sanctuary at 3:00 pm.** Lucas and Joshua Dahmm will be part of the hand-bell choir, and Anna will sing. The concert will offer a wide range of music including sacred, spiritual, classical and some familiar fun! Guest artists will include Harpist Rex Moore, Melody Palm on string bass, Amanda Aukerman on percussion and Wesley's Chancel Choir, Wesley Singers and brass ensemble.



Please come see *Middletown*, by Will Eno, at **Heartland Theatre, April 18 – Sunday, May 5.** Several NCC people are involved: Devon Lovell, Rhys Lovell, and Kathleen Kirk are in it, and John Kirk is directing, with the assistance, sometimes, of Peg Kirk! *Middletown* is a beautiful, funny, quirky, sweet play about birth, death, life in a small town like ours, and being human in the universe. It's like an edgy *Our Town* for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It could stimulate many heart-to-heart one-on-one conversations and/or some lovely small-group discussions on how to connect to each other and survive on earth. Heartland Theatre is in the Town of Normal Community Activity Center at 1110 Douglas Street (off Lincoln, off Beech), and tickets can be had by calling (309) 451-8709 or emailing [boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org). For more information on the play or Heartland Theatre, or to get directions, visit the website at <http://heartlandtheatre.org/>.

### 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 April 20 for the May newsletter*

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