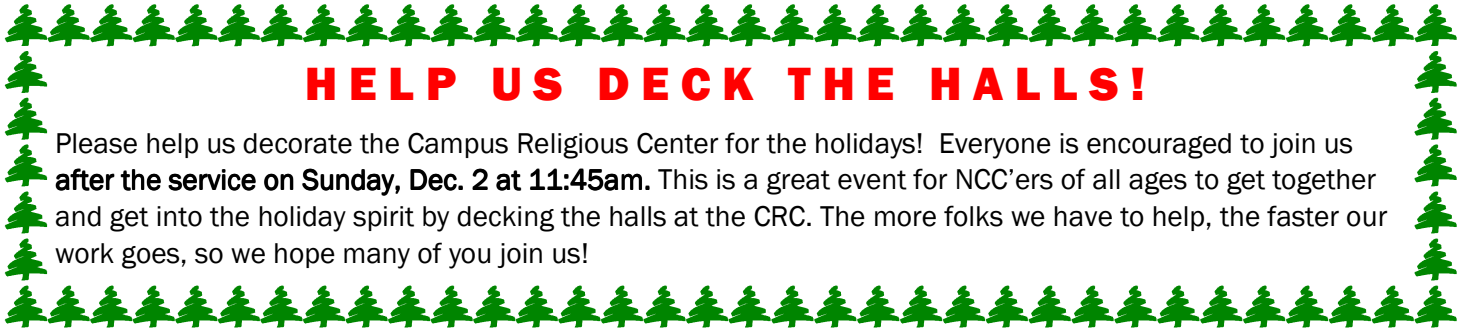




# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



## 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!

## NCC COMMUNITY MEETING DEC. 9 (after the service)

This notice serves as your official call to the December 9 Community Meeting after worship (around 11:30am). The stated purpose of this meeting is to elect members to the Endowment Committee, Steering Committee, and officers for NCC; consider support of an Open and Affirming resolution being sent to the 2013 Disciples assembly; and adopt our 2013 Budget.

We realize that some of you who pledge regularly have not yet done so, and it's not too late – we urge you to send in your pledge forms – if possible before the December 9 meeting – so that we have the most up-to-date figures to report as we consider adopting the budget. We also encourage those who have not pledged before to consider making a pledge for 2013. **You may email your pledge amount to NCC Treasurer, Kim Tingley at [k.tingley@comcast.net](mailto:k.tingley@comcast.net)**. We will update you on received pledge totals at the meeting when we present the budget for your approval. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting in the life of NCC.

2012

### Christmas Offering Recipients

**LOCAL MISSION:**

Y.W.C.A of McLean County  
<http://www.ywca.org>

**GLOBAL MISSION:**

Plan International  
<http://plan-international.org>  
(Suggested by Sunday School kids!)

Read more on page 2!



## CHRISTMAS EVE 2012



**5:00pm "Christmas Happy Hour" - Wine and hors d'oeuvres (BYO)**

*Last year people enjoyed our happy hour so much, we ended up not being hungry for dinner! So this year we are going to try it without the catered meal. Instead please bring snacks and heavy appetizers to share, along with some Christmas "cheer."  
We'll provide plates, napkins, and glasses.*

**7:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**

*You may attend the service without attending the Happy Hour.*

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



## 2012 CHRISTMAS OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Each year the Steering Committee chooses two groups to split our special Christmas Offering—one a local agency, and the other a global agency. For 2012 we have chosen the following organizations as our offering recipients:

### LOCAL: Y.W.C.A. of McLean County

<http://www.ywca.org>

For over a century the YWCA McLean County has been serving the women, children, seniors and families of our community. They have helped to empower women through their vision of helping women dream, believe, and achieve. Just last year they served more than 650 children in a variety of **Child Care** programs and assisted parents with financial support to cover child care costs. They also served 161 victims and their loved ones, providing safe and confidential assistance through **Stepping Stones** sexual assault program, answered 305 hotline calls and had 1,501 informational and referral contacts. And much, much more. Visit their web site for more info.

### GLOBAL: Plan International

<http://plan-international.org>

Our Global Mission half was suggested by one of our own NCC kids, Hayley Bowman. The Bowman family sponsors a child through **Plan International**, one of the oldest and largest children's development organizations in the world. They work in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty. Plan is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realize their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity. For Christmas the Bowman's received a catalog of gifts they could choose from to send to their child and others around the world in need. Hayley and her generous, compassionate heart wanted to send several of the items listed, which include goats, a fruit tree, mosquito nets, and support of the "Because I am a Girl" program. The Steering Committee chose this recipient so that after the money is collected, our Sunday School kids can go through the catalog and choose the gifts they wish to send themselves. You can see some of the gifts they are offering at this web site: [www.givedifferently.org](http://www.givedifferently.org) **THANK YOU HAYLEY FOR YOUR GREAT SUGGESTION!**

You may leave your Christmas Offering gifts in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, marked "Christmas Offering" in the memo line. Or mail Kim Tingley your contribution. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



### 2012 LOCAL MISSION GIVING

*Over the past year, the Steering Committee voted to send the following local groups money from our local mission budget line item: PFLAG, McLean County AIDS Task Force, Sterile Feral, Recycling for Families, the Ecology Action Center, Project Oz, and Friends Forever. Thank you for your suggestions, and keep them coming for next year!*

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10:30**

Sunday School meets during worship

**November 2** ~ CRC Decorating after the service.

**December 9** ~ Community Meeting after the service

**December 20** ~ January newsletter deadline

**December 24** ~ 5:00pm Christmas Eve Happy Hour and 7pm Service of Lessons and Carols

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)



**December Birthdays**

- 1      **Suzie Hutton**
- 2      **Tony Bowman**
- 5      **Dick Watts**
- 7      **Hayley Bowman**
- 14     **Magaret Rutter**
- 19     **Tim Pogue**
- 21     **Pam Lubeck**
- 24     **Joe Boudreaux**
- 25     **Gwen Pruyne**



**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, families, and staff of the **Acute Rehab A Unit (REH)** at Advocate BroMenn for the month of December.

Advocate BroMenn’s 15-bed Acute Rehabilitation Unit on 4 South serves patients needing extensive rehabilitation from head, spine and other traumatic injuries and illnesses.

**New email address for Willemina Esenwein:**  
 willeminauyterlinde@gmail.com

**POETRY CORNER**

*This sonnet is about our NCC Advent Wreath, so including it in our December newsletter is a tradition.*

**Advent**

**by Kathleen Kirk**

First, we bring rocks: earth curves in a bow  
 around the source, light. Is it miracle  
 or did rock bend always as the willow?  
 What next? Acorn, walnut, holly, bluebell  
 pressed with a ribbon, tuft of baby’s breath,  
 pine cone, lighting of the second candle  
 by a child. Magic again? Now our wreath  
 a parade of fauna: camels, a cat, a cow,  
 marble hippo, rocking horse. Nothing yet  
 prepares as well for what’s to come: our own  
 meager arrival as human figurines,  
 plaster or plastic, a fragile sturdy crowd  
 of admirers, rigid with unspoken awe.  
 We stand alive, wild at heart, hope raw.

**ADVENT WREATH –  
 WHAT TO BRING:**

- Sunday, December 2– Rocks**
- Sunday, December 9– Greens**
- Sunday, December 16–Animals**
- Sunday, December 18 – People**



**Merry Christmas!**



**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 December 20 for the January newsletter.*

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