



NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING

At the December 9 2012 Community Meeting, the following members were elected to the Steering Committee as the class of 2014 – Marie Genrich and Pam Unkrich were elected to serve a second term, and Bruce Chanlder and Karen Rousey will serve their first term. They join the Class of 2013 members: David Hirst, Kim Tingley, Joe Boudreaux, and Kathleen Kirk. Elected as Officers for 2013: David Hirst, Chair; Pam Unkrich, Vice-Chair; Kathleen Kirk, Secretary; and Kim Tingley, Treasurer. We also elected Mark Austill to serve on the Endowment Committee, and added our name as a sponsoring congregation of a resolution to declare the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination “open and affirming.” The resolution will go to the 2013 General Assembly.

We also approved a budget for 2013 with a projected deficit for the year. We did so with confidence that we will be able to reach our financial goals for the coming year. Perhaps some new folks will find NCC a meaningful experience to which they will want to contribute. Maybe some who didn't make a 2013 Pledge will do so (it's not too late to turn in your Estimate of Giving forms), or some who made a pledge for 2013 will consider increasing it a bit if they are able to do so. For those who cannot add more than what you are already giving, we do understand, and are grateful for all the gifts you share with us.

Happy New Year!

Thanks to your generosity we raised a total of \$1700 for our Christmas Offering.

One half of the money will go to the YWCA of McLean County while the other half will go to Plan International. Before we send the money to Plan International, NCC Kids will go through their catalog and choose the gifts they want to send needy families.

New Covenant Community
210 W. Mulberry St.
Normal, IL 61761
309.454.7362
www.nccnormal.org



Celebrate with us! **Ruth Reeves' Retirement**

Saturday, January 5
1:00 - 3:00
Speakers at 2:00
Normal Public Library
Community Room
206 W. College Ave., Normal IL



Join us for a party to celebrate
Ruth Reeves and her 34 years
at the Normal Public Library.

While we are so sad to see her go, we're excited
for all the wonderful adventures ahead of her!

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

- **Book Group** – A book group on *Toxic Charity* is planned for winter, with Julie Sullivan leading. We plan to continue sharing ideas from this book, and hope to do a reflection on the book's topics.
- **Congolese** – We are seeking information from the Bisimwas regarding housewarming items we could give them in their new Habitat home.
- **Illinois People's Action** – IPA's meetings with banks regarding alternatives to payday loans was discussed, as well as its efforts on winning state approval for Drivers' Licenses for Undocumented Aliens and the disclosure of corporation income taxes.
- **West Side Book Bike** – We will continue to provide bags in the sanctuary for books, including "board books" for pre-readers that we have learned are needed.
- **Sleep-in With Homeless** – An article from the Atlanta "Journal-Constitution" was discussed, centering on having community leaders spend a night with a group of homeless people. The aim was simply to increase awareness of the problem. Our NCC group gave several suggestions on local use of this idea, such as making sure there was an end goal that involved specific actions.
- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, at Julie Sullivan's home, 107 Warner, Bloomington. Anyone interested in social justice issues is invited to join us.

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 Addiction Recovery Unit (ARC) at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.

Advocate BroMenn's 18-bed Addiction Recovery Unit, located on 3 South, treats both inpatients and outpatients with various kinds of addictions.

RYDER 2013 SABBATICAL/ VACATION TIME

Bob and Susan will take the second half of their sabbatical/vacation time for a total of 10 weeks away in 2013. They plan to be away the month of February, May 1-15, and Nov. 4 to Dec. 2. If you are interested in providing worship leadership while they are away, please contact Susan or Bob ASAP so they can fit you on the schedule. Currently most of February is covered (except Feb. 17), and all other dates are all open.

Join us after the service
on Sunday, January 13
to work on our NCC mosaic project.



JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship at 10:30

Sunday School meets during worship

Saturday, January 12 ~ Steering Committee Retreat

January 20 ~ February 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

NCC WOMEN'S RETREAT ~ SAVE THE DATE!

The date for the spring NCC Women's Retreat is set for the weekend of **April 19-21**. We will be returning to the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield, from Friday evening through Sunday noon. More information and registration materials will be sent out in early March, but in the meantime, mark your new 2013 calendars with the date.



January Birthdays

- 4 Ruth Reeves
- 7 Arthur Beale
- 8 Mary Beth Taylor
- 10 Chrissy Cataldo
- 15 Peg Kirk
- 16 Linda Wilkins
- 19 Ben Moore
- 21 Grace Traynor
- 30 Dick Sanders / Jim Turner

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



POETRY CORNER

Road to Egypt

~ Phyllis White

The road stretches before us.
It is winter and the wind is chill.
We have not been this way before. We are alone.

I wish we could have stayed longer in the stable.
It was not all I had hoped for
but it was warm and safe and fragrant with the scent of animals
and hay.

I remember that night -
the dark velvet sky, full of sparkling stars
and one star in particular, radiating joy, and brilliant light.

And, suddenly -
a breeze, a sound of rustling wings -
and angels filled the air!

Their voices rang with laughter
and heavenly harmony like we had never heard -
Glory! Glory to God!
And, Fear not!

We were not afraid.

Then
in the darkness, as we slept
another Angel came.
Fear not, he said, and bade us go
quickly.
And so we went.

Now the stable is far behind.
The road is full of rocks that make the donkey stumble.
The nights are cold and dark. We cannot see the stars.
It is hard to Fear not.
I listen hard into the silence
and try to hear
the music.

THANKS TO YOU our NCC Kids made \$120 from their cookie sale in December. The money will be split between Wishbone Rescue and Clare House.

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 January 20 for the February newsletter.

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