



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

JUNE/JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

## Summer Worship is now at 10am



Just a reminder that we are now meeting at 10am throughout the summer until after Labor Day. Sunday School for children will also meet at 10am.

## NCC WINS OUR DIVISION IN THE WGLT GOOD TO GO COMMUTER CHALLENGE

The annual challenge was held during the week of **May 11-17, 2013**, and 2013 was our first year participating as a congregation. David Hirst was the NCC organizer, and those who signed up to participate included: Brian Finch, Andrew Hedges, Jen Ho, Chris Kaufman, Kathleen Kirk, Devon and Carys Lovell, Karen Rousey, Tom Sullivan, Kim Tingley, and David himself. Carys logged the most miles and avoided the most CO2 emissions, while Kathleen burned the most calories.

From the WGLT web page: "Last year four area churches, Northside Church of Christ, Calvary United Methodist, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal, and Mennonite Church of Normal, organized a friendly competition among the faith community. Those four churches participated again this year and two other churches, **New Covenant** Community and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)-Bloomington also got in on the action. New participants **NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY** (that's us!) edged out the competition and also won their respective division."

Congrats to all participants—we will be the ones to beat next year! We hope more of you will take part.

Bike to work

Car Pool



Walk

Tele-commute

Take the bus

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



## 5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK JUNE 30

We will have a community potluck after the service on Sunday, June 30. Sign up to bring something to share, and join us for a time of fellowship and food as we break bread and get to know each other better. There will be a sign-up sheet about what to bring on the back table on Sunday mornings, or you can contact Susan and let her know what you will be bringing. Hope to see many of you there!



## NEED TO REACH BOB OR SUSAN?

Bob and Susan do not keep regular office hours at the CRC. More often than not they work out of their home offices. If you need to contact one of them in a timely manner, please don't hesitate to call their home or cell phones (listed in the NCC Directory) and leave a message. Email is also a great way to communicate with them.

## PARTNERS IN HEALING



NCC is a member congregation of Advocate BroMenn Medical Center's "Partner's in Healing" program, which is a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units 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.

NCC will be praying for the patients, families, and staff of **Critical Care Unit** at Advocate Bromenn (CCU). Located in Advocate BroMenn's newly opened patient bed tower, the Critical Care Unit has 12 beds and serves the medical center's most seriously ill medical/surgical patients.



## JUNE/JULY CALENDAR

### Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Sunday School meets during worship

June 12	7pm Social Justice Group
June 18	6:30 Steering Committee
June 30	5th Sunday Potluck
July 20	August 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)

## ADULT EDUCATION GROUP NEWS

The Adult Education Group met at Donella Hess-Grabill's home on Wed, April 24 at 6:30. Those present were Susan Ryder, Charline Watts, Marla Finch and Donella Hess-Grabill. We welcomed our newest member Nikki Brauer, who replaces Karen Rousey.

We finalized plans for a summer class, and discussed our Fall Adult Education Academy, where we will once again offer 3 options which will rotate during the academic year so that everyone has a chance to take each of them during the fall, winter, and spring. "Living the Questions" Part 3 will be offered, along with a class on Progressive Christianity and one on spirituality and democracy. Titles TBD.

We also discussed showing occasional films/documentaries throughout the year as "stand alone" events. Susan is hoping to receive a "viewing party" copy of "American Winter" to show this summer. We will keep you posted.

Our next meeting to finalize Fall Adult Education classes is scheduled for **6:30pm on June 26** at Donella Hess-Grabill's house.



## MAY 19, 2013 COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

Steering Committee President Dave Hirst convened this informational NCC Community Meeting at 11:25 a.m., May 19, 2013, directly following worship service in the Campus Religious Center, with thoughts on it being Pentecost Sunday. Bob Ryder thanked our guests and guest speaker Jenn Carrillo, present for early morning workshop on immigration and guest reflection on that topic. Guests and others present for worship who did not wish to attend Community Meeting left.

Treasurer Kim Tingley distributed a required written report on the Endowment funds, briefly explaining figures, distribution, and recent changes. Questions about Endowment should be taken directly to the NCC Endowment Committee.

Dave spoke on 10 areas of action related to NCC visioning:

1. A Partners in Mission working group will make recommendations to Steering Committee on mission contributions. SC member Karen Rousey will be in this group, as will NCC member Pam Lubeck.
2. Summer plans continue for Tables of Six for fellowship outside worship services.
3. Positive feedback on recent nametag Sunday mean this “optional, non-threatening” form of getting-to-know-you fellowship will continue, tied into worship topic.
4. Likewise, work continues toward a pictorial and possibly digital NCC directory, where people can learn of mutual areas of interest.
5. Marie Genrich has agreed to be Assistant Treasurer, helping Kim Tingley as Treasurer.
6. Mosaic mural project is flourishing, with colored tiles on display at the meeting and Mark Genrich working on the display box. Next workshop is June 2, incorporating words, specifically “words of affirmation” and “exclamations of joy.”
7. Church choir flourishing, with volunteer singers of all ages.
8. Transparency in communication continues with posting of SC Minutes as soon as they are approved. Dave reminded those present that if you want change, be ready to step forward to enact it. Get involved.
9. SC is figuring out how to handle our annual Christmas Eve dinner or happy hour (aka “nosh”) before the singing service.
10. At the time of the meeting, NCC was #1 in the WGLT Good To Go commuter challenge program in our category. Thanks to all NCC people who participated in walking, biking, carpooling, or taking public transportation the week of May 11-17 to help reduce CO2 emissions in our community and our world. Special thanks to Carys and Devon Lovell for the many miles logged. Our participation also gets our church’s name out there!

The Community then spoke up on these ten points:

1. Nikki Brauer noted that the Community Meeting is a main mechanism of communication at NCC and thanked all those who stayed.
2. Janet Chandler wondered if the NCC choir can be involved in the Christmas Eve “nosh” night and suggested hymns and songs in Spanish and perhaps inviting members of David’s Spanish classes. She also reported that at both the UCC and Episcopalian churches they visited recently, everyone wore nametags. She recommended the book *Emergence Christianity* by Phyllis Tickle.
3. Jim Turner noted that he contributed in spirit to the Good To Go challenge by transporting 10,000 kids to school in his school bus that week!
4. Chris Kaufman said she sees SC President Dave Hirst as “completely transparent.” This may have been a joke.
5. Brian Finch reported on lots of recent and upcoming work on the Campus Religious Center, praising Pam Unkrich’s work on the apartment rehab; also tree removal, new drinking fountain, exterior repair on east wall of CRC. Many thanks to our CRC Board.
6. Bob Ryder added thanks re: CRC work, and also reported on a new cleaning company, the new business of daughter of Pam Unkrich, that will be cleaning the CRC on a regular basis. It was also mentioned that the Chapel carpets were cleaned recently.
7. Joe Boudreaux reminded us that, to keep the carpet clean, we should probably move our coffee hour fellowship after worship out to the Coffee House, as we did last week. It’s OK to have water in the chapel.

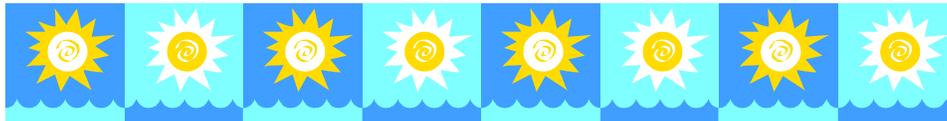
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8. Nikki Brauer reminded us to share this no-refreshments-in-chapel policy with others who use our space, and Susan Ryder referred to the signs on the doors about that. (But does anybody read them?!)
9. Charline Watts requested acknowledgement of the presentations made to the SC at the January 2013 visioning retreat. Margaret Rutter requested the same as discussion of this topic continued. Dave Hirst thought that SC focus and its activities since January were an acknowledgement of this presentation, as well as an acknowledgement of other requests from the rest of the NCC community via survey responses and personal communications and conversations. Dave and Charline have already met to discuss this and may need to do so again, and the SC will have a chance to return to this topic at May 21 meeting.
10. Brenda Huber led the discussion toward its close by praising the passion of both parties and saying to Dave Hirst and Charline Watts, "Your work is appreciated."

It was moved and seconded that we adjourn. The NCC Community Meeting ended with our closing song, "Go Now in Peace."



## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY 21, 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Steering Committee met May 21 to move forward with ongoing business, to celebrate good news like our WGLT Good to Go win, and to de-brief from the Community Meeting on May 19.

We approved a request from the Adult Education Planning Group to purchase a projector for class use, stand alone "movie nights," and other NCC purposes, such as reflections that use visual aids. The projector would be housed at NCC, used only on the premises, and, like our sound system, locked up. At some point, we might need a screen, but the plan for now is to project images on a blank wall.

SC member Karen Rousey will be looking for people to join the Partners in Mission focus group, to make recommendations to the Steering Committee on where to send our mission contributions. If you are interested, please speak to her.

In de-briefing from the informational Community Meeting of May 19, which began with great positivity and interaction, but ended with evident conflict and misunderstanding, the Steering Committee realized it should re-visit a request from Charline Watts in regard to a church-wide visioning conversation to be organized and facilitated by members of a class that met in 2012 called "The Church is All Of Us." Previously, the Steering Committee had taken Charline's recommendations under advisement, adding them to those offered via the annual survey and other NCC communications, and moved forward on specific action items that seemed to reflect the interests of the whole community. To make sure that we more specifically acknowledged Charline's original request from the class, the SC returned to the minutes of the January 12 meeting and addressed it. She had asked for the SC's "endorsement and authorization to create opportunities for every member of the community to be involved in continuing the conversation with class members as facilitators and organizers." It was moved and carried that we not endorse or authorize "The Church is All of Us" class to organize and facilitate this continuation of its original visioning conversation. In discussion, we found that, since visioning is a function and aspect of the whole church, the SC favors a more organic visioning process and diverse group of activities and discussion leaders. While the SC appreciates the value of continuing the visioning dialogue at NCC, it did not feel it was appropriate to limit such dialogue to any one group or set of leaders, nor to imply that every member of NCC be involved in this one kind of discussion of the church's mission. The SC notes that ample opportunities already exist at NCC for any person who so wishes to become involved in small group discussions, church mission-fulfilling activities, classes, social justice events, book groups, and fellowship activities. The SC appreciates the passion, commitment, and effort of those involved in "The Church Is All Of Us" class and the January presentation.

And thanks again to those who participated, in body or in spirit, in the WGLT Good to Go Commuter Challenge, which begins to answer NCC survey requests that our church participate in more "green" activities. Let's do it again next year! Happy Summer.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP UPDATE

The Social Justice Group had its monthly meeting on May 8th.

The group made plans for the immigration reform workshop and worship service to be held on May 19. Members were assigned tasks such as coordinating with the presenter, Jennifer Carrillo. They also took responsibility for the various parts of the service. Information which needed to be included in the bulletin was routed to Susan through Janet Warfield.

NCC was represented at the recent IPA chapter meeting. The SJ group discussed IPA's current priorities and whether or not those were shared by the members of the SJ group. Julie was asked to schedule a follow-up meeting of IPA staff and the three NCC representatives to IPA.

Mark announced in interfaith walk on the afternoon of May 19th from the mosque to the synagogue. Refreshments will be served after the walk.

There was some concern to know what the responsibilities of the new Partners in Mission group were going to be. Joe stated that this working group was to make recommendations to the Steering Committee as to where our mission money might be directed.

Pam gave an update on the annual Block Party at First Christian Church. A sign-up sheet for the bake sale and for event volunteers will be placed on the back table.

The SJ group continues to follow other issues such as the Book Bike, sex trafficking, and the development of a church directory which includes our members' community services.

**Next meeting – July 12 at Pam Lubeck's home.**

### NCC MOSAIC PROJECT — Next up!

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

#### A message from Caleb Sneed

This summer I am looking for part-time work. If you find yourself wishing you had help in any of the following areas, I am available. Pet care; Child care (toddler and up); Yard work; Cleaning; Planting; some painting/scraping experience. Also willing to learn new skills and work with you

**309-846-4523 / Calebsneed@gmail.com**



*We would like to sincerely thank all of you who showered us with love, warmth, good wishes and diapers! Elizabeth and I are truly overwhelmed at the love and support we've received from our family and friends as we begin a very exciting but challenging new chapter in our lives as a family! Our NCC community has always been so welcoming and supportive of us, and we are so thrilled and touched that our girls have been welcomed just as graciously. What a lucky group we are!*

*With much love, Caroline, Elizabeth, Akira, and Adrianna*

## GARDEN IN TRANSITION

A number of changes are coming to the gardens and grounds of the Campus Religious Center. The CRC plans to remove the dying tree in the children's garden. Pathways are being established to provide access to plants closest to the building and to provide hardscape interest. Eventually memorial bricks may be available. The CRC is providing a storage shed and screening for the work area in the courtyard.

Overgrown shrubs in the courtyard are being replaced. There will be further development of garden plantings emphasizing perennials with less reliance on annuals. Consistent color themes will provide harmony and variety.

Please do not add plants or other items to the gardens without first checking with a member of the garden group. The group now includes Joe Boudreaux, coordinator, and Mary Beth Taylor co-coordinator, Pam Lubeck, and Pam Lewis. Each of these individuals has responsibility for a different part of the property. If you have an interest in gardening, we would love to have you join our group.

If you have perennials (including spring bulbs), shrubs, or groundcover to spare, let the Garden Group know. We can also use stones and paving material (to make stepping stones), hoses (including segments 10' or more), sprinklers, tools and other yard equipment. If you can supply any the above items, please contact Joe Boudreaux at 827-0797.

Our thanks to Ron Hardy who donated a day's work in the courtyard. There will be plenty of opportunities for others to volunteer now that we are in the growing season.





## POETRY CORNER ...

NCC member Kathleen Kirk received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Normal Community High School this year. She was asked to read a poem at Commencement, May 18, and was able to read it to her beautiful daughter, Ave, who graduated this year. Kathleen got to hug Ave as she received her diploma, and see the beautiful faces of Ave's friends and classmates as they received theirs!

### Book of the Heart

The wise ones say to know yourself. They're right.  
If you don't learn to know yourself, you might  
someday wake up in the middle of the night  
afraid, unable to get back to sleep  
and wonder if you lived your life right.  
But the wise ones, who are many, are very deep.  
They know already what you keep  
inside you, like a secret flame:  
We are all human. We are the same:  
hopeful, yearning, timid, if there's need,  
bold, courageous, able to succeed  
at loving one another, if we really try.  
That's all that really matters. You and I,  
we know that, don't we? We learned it here,  
in the book of the heart, year after year after year.

—Kathleen Kirk

## June Birthdays

- 4 Dave Vitek
- 6 Garrett Scott
- 9 Mark Genrich
- 10 Hudson Rio
- 13 Jodi Erwin
- 23 Jen Ho
- 28 Betty Rademacher

## July Birthdays

- 9 Kathy Berberich
- 14 Kristin Sheridan / Michelle Vought
- 15 Jeremiah Alomoto
- 17 Tom Sullivan
- 18 Tony Rio
- 19 Bob Warfield
- 21 Joe Grabill
- 24 Kylie Maurer

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

## PRUYNE LECTURESHIP UPDATE

It's official! The Jim and Gwen Pruyne Lectureship in Progressive Christianity will sponsor nationally-renowned speaker/activist Sister Simone Campbell the weekend of November 1-3, 2013, beginning Friday, November 1 with a public lecture at Illinois Wesleyan's Presser Hall, followed by a Saturday workshop at the ISU Alumni Center.

She and two other Catholic nuns lead The "Nuns on the Bus" tour last summer, a political rallying point for social justice during the recent presidential campaign.

Nuns on the Bus will begin another national tour this summer, taking their mobile social justice platform to our southern border to push Congress to pass immigration reform.

Campbell is the national coordinator of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby striving to close the gap between rich and poor. Campbell appeared on news shows. "60 Minutes" and "The Colbert Report," and spoke at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. During her Bloomington-Normal appearances, Campbell will talk about grass roots action our community can take to champion social and economic justice. Watch for more details about this exciting lectureship opportunity. We hope you'll consider getting involved.



### 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 [normalsue@aol.com](mailto:normalsue@aol.com) by July 20 for the August newsletter.*

New Covenant Community  
210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 454-7362 | [www.nccnormal.org](http://www.nccnormal.org)