



# New Covenant Community

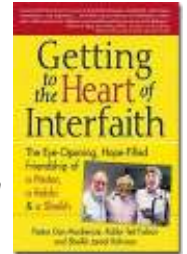
*Our purpose is to continue in our time what Jesus began in his - working for the healing of our world as an inclusive, compassionate, joyful community.*

**FEBRUARY 2012**

## **FEBRUARY/MARCH BOOK GROUP**

To prepare for the visit of the Interfaith Amigos, who are coming to Normal April 13–15, 2012, we are hosting a six week book group discussion of their first book:

***Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi & a Sheikh***



The group will meet Sunday mornings at 9am at NCC beginning Sunday, Feb. 12 and going until Sunday, March 18. You can sign up now through Feb. 5 for the book group on the back table at NCC. If this day/time does not fit your schedule, other groups will be offered throughout the community – you can check with Lectureship Committee members for more information about other groups.

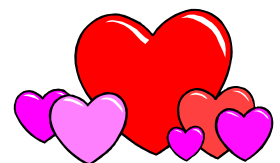
**Welcome to our newest members, Brian and Marla Finch.  
Brian and Marla have been long-time attenders of NCC, and  
officially joined New Covenant Community in January!**

## **ABOUT SPIRITUALITY AND AGING**

You may sometime or other have picked up a copy of **News & Views**, a free monthly newspaper for seniors, at Kroger's, the public library, the Post Office, or elsewhere around town. If so, you have noticed that Dick Watts has a regular column in the paper, dealing with issues of spirituality for the "mature years." If you're unfamiliar with **News & Views**, you may want to pick up a copy of the February issue (Dick's topic is "The Healing Power of Humor") which will be available on the back table after Sunday worship.

Looking ahead, be sure to keep an eye out for the April issue, when Dick will discuss the ministry of the "Interfaith Amigos," Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Imam Jamal Rahman. The "Interfaith Amigos" will lecture and lead a workshop on April 14, as the second "Jim and Gwen Pruyne Lectureship in Progressive Christianity" offered to the wider community by NCC.

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



## 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 **Mother/Baby Unit (MBU)** at BroMenn for the month of February. Located on 2 South, this unit includes six, private labor/delivery rooms, a 26-crib nursery, an emergency area for C-sections and 26 post delivery care rooms, 12 of which are private and 7 semi-private.



Our dear NCC family,

For whatever kind thing you did for Chet and me during his illness and upon his death, we are so very grateful. You are church at its best.

And here's Chet's favorite closing for those he loved especially: Blessings!

Sue O'Neal

## NCC WOMEN'S RETREAT 2012

The NCC Women's Retreat is **April 20-22**, and we will be returning to the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield from Friday evening through Sunday noon.

Registration materials will be sent out in March ~ in the meantime, mark your calendars with the date.



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10:30**

Sunday School meets during worship

**Feb. 4** ~ 9am to 1pm - Steering Committee Retreat

**Feb. 13 to Feb. 28** ~ Ryder Vacation

**February 28** ~ March newsletter deadline (newsletter will be sent late)

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)

**Kirkshop the Workshop: Kathleen Kirk's Poetry News**

Kathleen Kirk has a new chapbook coming out, *Nocturnes*, best ordered online straight from the publisher, Hyacinth Girl Press, at <http://hyacinthgirlpress.com/>. Nocturnes are "night songs" so each poem is lyrical and has something to do with night.

Kathleen will read a few of the nocturnes that respond to paintings at the McLean County Arts Center on Thursday night, February 23, at 7:30, along with students in her ekphrasis class there. Ekphrasis = poetry in response to visual art. So please join them—it's free!—and see the current exhibit *Learning Simple Things*, colorful art by John Cassidy, in the small gallery that night. Kathleen won the Ekphrasis Prize 2011 from Ekphrasis Journal this past year.

The winner of a love poem contest at Adanna Journal, Kathleen will read her work at the AWP (Associated Writing Programs) Conference in Chicago on Saturday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. in Private Dining Room 1 of the Chicago Hilton Hotel. Though the dining room is "Private," the reading is public!

And you can mark your calendar now for a reading March 27 at the McLean County Museum of History, Potluck o' the Irish, Tuesday night, 7:30-8:30, in the Governor Fifer Courtroom, free and open to the public. Kathleen and her ongoing poetry workshop—now dubbed Kirkshop the Workshop—will read poems on Irish history and, in several cases, their own Irish heritage to help the museum celebrate the opening of its new Irish history exhibit. They will also read some "letter poems" in honor of the museum library, which preserves letters as historical documents. Peg Kirk and Judy Boudreaux, who have Irish heritage, are among the poets reading at this event!

**POETRY CORNER****Nocturne**

--James McNeill Whistler, *Nocturne—Blue and Silver: Cremorne Lights* (1872)

No one noticed my shy shift to joy  
as the lights came on in the bay.

The water reeds were characters  
of an ineffable alphabet.

I switched from show tunes to Chopin,  
floating on the blues.

I wrote my last testament,  
left my estate to nuthatch and finch.

--Kathleen Kirk  
(first published in *Beauty/Truth*)

**February Birthdays**

- 1 Dave Hirst
- 9 Aaron Pogue
- 14 Bob Ryder
- 15 Caleb Sneedan
- 18 Krystal Lewis
- 20 Kathleen Kirk & Pam Lewis & Marie Genrich

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

**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 February 28 for the March newsletter (which will be late due to the Ryder vacation).*

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New Covenant Community  
and the Jim and Gwen Pruyne Lectureship in Progressive Christianity present ...

# The Interfaith Amigos

Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Imam Jamal Rahman

[www.interfaithamigos.com](http://www.interfaithamigos.com)

Saturday, April 14, 2012



## Presentation & Workshop 9:30am to 3:00pm

\$25 per person (includes delicious buffet lunch—food appropriate for all faiths)

Illinois State University Alumni Center

### Morning presentation: "Getting to the Heart of Interfaith"

*Why would someone even want to "get to the heart of interfaith"? Is there something we are not yet realizing about the relationship of different spiritual traditions in our world? These are the questions that came up when these three men got together following the destruction of 9/11. In this morning's presentation, they introduce the five stages of interfaith dialogue. They focused on the core teachings in order to evaluate other aspects of that religion, and found beliefs and rituals that supported those core teachings and those that did not. This is the area that has long been avoided.*

### Afternoon Workshop: "What's Been Missing in Interfaith Dialogue"

*After working with groups throughout the country, the Interfaith Amigos have found some specific practices that help us move into dialogue with others more naturally. Participants will experience the stages of interfaith dialogue and their importance, and learn ways to enter into dialogue with those whose beliefs are radically different from their own.*

## Free Lecture at 7:00pm

Astroth Community Education Center, Heartland Community College

### "Religion Gone Astray: What We Found at the Heart of Interfaith"

*A consideration of the crucial ways our institutions (and our egos - our personal institutions) drift from their essential purpose. The Pastor, Rabbi, and Imam will focus on four specific areas that separate us from each other, and address how it is that institutions so often support that separation. Within each Abrahamic religion, issues of exclusivity, violence, the inequality of men and women, and homophobia cause the kinds of pain and distance that seem contrary to the essential teachings of each faith.*

Visit [www.nccnormal.org](http://www.nccnormal.org) for more information.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR SATURDAY WORKSHOP WITH THE INTERFAITH AMIGOS — REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 6.

NAME(S) : \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make sure to list the names of all participants for registration and nametag purposes.)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people

Please cut off this portion and mail to:

Pruyne Lectureship — New Covenant Community  
210 W. Mulberry St.  
Normal, IL 61761