



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.

MARCH 2010

Meet NCC's New Parish Associate

We are pleased to welcome Rev. William R. DeLong, Ed.D, as NCC's New Parish Associate Minister.

A Parish Associate is a minister who "serves in some validated ministry other than the local parish, who wishes to define and maintain a relationship with a particular church." Bill is the Vice President for Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, and is the ACPE Supervisor. In his role as Parish Associate he will preach occasionally, provide emergency pastoral care, and offer occasional workshops on End of Life/Living Will issues. We are happy to have Bill, his wife Alice, and daughter Meredith as part of NCC, and look forward to this new relationship with Bill.

Change your clocks March 14.

Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13 so that you are on time for NCC the next morning. Daylight Savings begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 14.



MARCH WORSHIP

March 7 ~ Susan will share a Reflection on forgiveness.

March 14 ~ Bob's Reflection will continue with the story of Jacob and Esau.

March 21 ~ Susan will share a Reflection based on some of the findings from our recent NCC Survey.

March 28 ~ Bob will offer a Palm Sunday Reflection.

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



EXPLORING OUR PASSIONS

The NCC Women's Retreat is **April 23-25**, and our theme is "Exploring Our Passions" (thanks Kim T. for the idea)! We will be returning to the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield as usual, from Friday evening through Sunday noon. Registration materials are available at NCC on Sunday mornings, or online at: <http://www.nccnormal.org/nccretreat.pdf>



Registration deadline is April 1 — and your form and check must be submitted in order for you to be officially registered. Space is limited, so register ASAP — once we are full we will start a waiting list.

JIM AND GWEN PRUYNE LECTURESHIP IN PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

In the early years of New Covenant Community, our theological character was formed in part by the influence of such distinguished progressive scholars as Dominic Crossan, Marcus Borg and Matthew Fox, who spoke from our lectern and helped introduce us to the wider community.

Seeking to continue this strong tradition into the future, and at the same time honoring Jim Pruyne as founding pastor of NCC, and Gwen as a steady advocate for progressive Christian education, we are pleased to announce the endowment of the: *Jim and Gwen Pruyne Lectureship in Progressive Christianity*

To make this idea a reality, Dick and Charline Watts have offered a generous initial grant of \$25,000 and are asking members and friends of NCC, along with friends of Jim and Gwen, to match this gift with an additional \$25,000 by Easter Sunday (April 4, 2010). Once our ultimate goal of \$50,000 is reached, a committee will administer the program. The Committee consists of Scott Bolbock, Chrissy Cataldo, Caroline Fox, David Hirst, Pam Lubeck, Betty Rademacher, Mary Beth Taylor, and Charline Watts. At least every other year, they will select and host a prominent lecturer to speak on one of the progressive themes articulated by the Center for Progressive Christianity.

All funds received for the Lectureship will be used for the sole purpose of the program and attendant expenses, and qualify as tax deductible contributions. We hope you will consider a generous gift to help us reach our goal by sending a check to NCC with "Pruyne Lectureship" in the memo line – thank you for your consideration.



PARTNERS IN HEALING



NCC is a delegate congregation to the Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. As part of that delegation, we participate in a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units associated with Advocate BroMenn Medical Center 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 **Critical Care Unit** at BroMenn for the month of March. Located on the West End of 1 South, this unit has 13 beds in individual rooms, which serve the most serious medical/surgical patients.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sundays

Adult Education Academy at 9:00am

Worship at 10:30am

Sunday School meets during worship

March 2 at 6:30pm ~ Steering Committee Meeting

March 20 ~ April newsletter deadline

April 1 ~ NCC Women's Retreat deadline

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at

www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm



March Birthdays

- 3 Anna Pogue
- 5 Brenda Huber & Jewel Beale
- 11 Rita Lenahan
- 12 Russ Rutter
- 14 David Rademacher
- 16 Lamont Sheridan
- 22 Mark Lewis & Matthew Dahmm
- 30 John Kirk
- 31 Karyn Turner

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



SAVE THE DATE

Illinois People's Action (formerly CIOP)
is sponsoring a

Showdown in the Heartland
April 10, 2010 in Peoria, IL

We met in Decatur, we met in Chicago and now it's time to bring the show to Peoria. Foreclosures are increasing, predatory loans continue, and mega-banks have no meaningful regulation. Save the date and join IPA to make your voice heard.

Contact Pam Lubeck or Julie Sullivan for more information, as it is available.

INVITATION FROM FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you've seen the movie "Blood Diamond" or read the book *Long Way Gone*, you may want to reserve Sunday, March 28 from 7-9 p.m. to join First United Methodist Church in a study of Current African Issues.

Our study will be led by Dr. Ky Ajayi, ISU Dept. of Politics and Government, who is a specialist in African politics, and will cover topics such as the Darfur genocide, child soldiers, and conflict minerals. Some of you may be familiar with Dr. Ajayi from his very interesting and dynamic classes for the Senior Professional's Academy of Seniors. If you are interested in attending, please contact Peggy Scott pescott@ilstu.edu; or 454-2990 or stop by the church office at 211 N. School to sign up so they will have enough materials for all who attend.

A Light Exists In Spring by Emily Dickinson

A light exists in spring
Not present on the year
At any other period.
When March is scarcely here

A color stands abroad
On solitary hills
That science cannot overtake,
But human nature feels.

It waits upon the lawn;
It shows the furthest tree
Upon the furthest slope we know;
It almost speaks to me.

Then, as horizons step,
Or noons report away,
Without the formula of sound,
It passes, and we stay:

A quality of loss
Affecting our content,
As trade had suddenly encroached
Upon a sacrament.

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 March 20 for the April newsletter*

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