



NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Worship Moves to 10am Sunday, May 27

Just a reminder that the time of our NCC worship service will move to 10am for the summer on Sunday, May 27. We will meet at 10am throughout the summer until after Labor Day. Sunday School for children will also meet at 10am.



RYDER SABBATICAL

As part of their contract when called as Co-Pastors of New Covenant Community in 1997, the Ryders receive a 3-month (12 week) Sabbatical for every seven years of ministry with NCC. During a Sabbatical year they are still entitled to their usual 4 weeks of vacation, while their 2 weeks of study leave is suspended since "study leave" is accomplished during the Sabbatical itself. The Sabbatical time is used for rest, relaxation, reading and continuing education. Their last Sabbatical was in 2005, which means their next Sabbatical is due now, in 2012.

Because they recently started a dog training business as their second income source, they do not feel they can be gone for three-months in the same calendar year without negatively impacting the business. So, in consultation with the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee and the Steering Committee last year, they came up with an alternate plan for them to spread their Sabbatical over two years, taking 6 of the 12 weeks in 2012 (plus 4 weeks vacation for a total of 10 weeks), and taking the remaining 6 weeks in 2013 (plus 4 weeks vacation for total of 10 weeks). They will split this into 2, 3, and/or 4 week blocks, during which NCC'ers will take responsibility for Sunday services and other leadership positions as we did in 2005. In the event of an emergency while the Ryders are away, please contact Nikki Brauer, NCC President, who will put you in touch with a member of the Care Committee or retired clergy.

So far they have taken 2 weeks of vacation (February). They will take their first 3 weeks of Sabbatical May 7 to 28, renewing themselves by relaxing and catching up on some reading in a little cabin on a pond in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The remaining 5 weeks will be split up during the rest of the year, and are yet to be determined (because as some of you may know, they are trying to sell their bi-level home in Normal and hoping to move to a ranch-style home without stairs). They plan to save their additional 2 weeks of vacation for a move sometime this summer, and take the remaining 3 weeks of Sabbatical later in the Fall. As soon as the house sells and dates are firmed up we will let everyone know.

A Sabbatical is not only a great experience for the Ryders, but also offers us the opportunity to share reflections, lead worship, and get to know each other better in the process. Please consider saying "Yes!" if asked to lead a service and share a Reflection while the Ryders are away. Or better yet, volunteer to lead one by letting Susan or Bob know you would be willing to cover one of the Sundays they are going to be gone.

Thank you, The NCC Steering Committee

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 the **Pediatric Unit (PED)** at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center for the month of May. This is a colorful 22-bed unit on 4 North, dedicated to the care of families with children who require hospitalization. Many of the children are on the unit for only a day as they recover from tonsil and adenoid surgery.

NCC Women's Retreat Explores The Theme of Risk Taking

Twenty-six women enjoyed a wonderful weekend together at the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield the weekend of April 20-22. Our theme was "Risky Business: The Spirituality of Taking Risks," which we discussed in large and small groups. We also enjoyed a movie about women taking risks, "The Help." It was another great weekend for us all!

Next year's retreat is **April 19-21, 2013.**



MAY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship at 10:30am

Sunday School meets during worship

May 1 at 6:30pm ~ Steering Committee Meeting

May 6 ~ Community Meeting after the service

May 7-28 ~ Part 1 of Ryder Sabbatical

May 27 ~ Worship moves to 10am

May 28 ~ June/July 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



May Birthdays

- 2 Nikki Brauer / Anna Dahmm
- 4 Danielle Cook
- 7 Sierra Alomoto
- 11 Phyllis White
- 13 Charline Watts
- 15 Nan Carlson
- 18 Anne Pryor
- 28 Joe White

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 by **May 20** for the combined June/July newsletter*

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