

**THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
**Sunday, January 20, 2008 – 11:00 AM**

Welcome Pastor John Benson

As we welcome families with children to worship, be aware that nursery care is available for infants and toddlers downstairs throughout the service.

Jr. JAMboree for children ages 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is also offered throughout the service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

Prelude Sandy Benson, Organist

Becky Ericson, Pianist

*My Faith Has Found a Resting Place* – arr. Andre Gretry  
+ You will find the words of the prelude at #354 in the Hymnal +

\*Unison Call to Worship Kathleen Norris, Amazing Grace, p. 246

*Worship is primary theology. It is also home. There is no one who is not welcome in God's house, and no amount of human pettiness or pompous religiosity can alter that fact. "I work," God says in Isaiah 43, "and who can hinder it?" When people come together to worship, they come as God knows them, with their differences, their wildly various experiences and perspectives. And by some miracle, they sing, and listen, and pray as one. Recklessly we let loose with music, and with the words of hymns, psalms, canticles, and prayers. We cast the word of God out into the world, into each human heart, where, to paraphrase the prophet Isaiah, it needs to go to fulfill God's purposes. So we come, we celebrate, and we sing first a bright hymn of praise.*

\*Hymn #299

**O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

\*Prayer of Invocation

\*The Lord's Prayer

Responsive Reading of Psalm 40 with sung response Hymnal #803

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

\*The Doxology

Hymn #48

**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #489

**I Have a Friend Who Loveth Me**

Gospel: John 1:29-42

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, Reader

+ The children's bulletins for today are based on this passage +

Sermon

John 1:29, 39

**Exploring Covenant Affirmations:  
YES TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

\*Hymn #330

**Out of My Bondage, Sorrow and Night**

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Those who are able, please stand.

## COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

Celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Year of Ministry

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152

703-455-4150 communitycovenant@verizon.net



*Our mission as a congregation is calling people from this community and around the world into communion with Christ. Our communion with him and with each other grows as we enter into the promises and challenges that a covenant with Christ includes.*

### THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Worship Service No Youth Group
Monday	Celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	
Tuesday	9:45 AM	Women's Bible Study – Church Kitchen Using Beth Moore Study on Daniel
Saturday	9:00 AM	“Planning for Revitalization Retreat” -You are invited to participate!- See the notice in today's bulletin
	9:30 AM	Rip ‘N Roll at the Bowie Church
	6:00 PM	Join the Books and Culture Discussion of <u>C.S. Lewis for the Third Millennium</u>
<b>Sunday January 27</b>	9:30 AM	Sunday School for all ages Adult Class on Covenant Affirmations: “Commitment to the Whole Mission”
	11:00 AM	Worship Service with Holy Communion Sermon: Yes to the Mission!
	5:30 PM	Church Family Pot-Luck Supper
	7:00 PM	Congregational Annual Meeting

**The Congregational Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday Evening, January 27, 2008, at 7:00 PM. Annual Reports will be available next Sunday morning to read in preparation for the meeting. On the agenda: Council nominations and the budget for 2008, including increases for evangelism, missions and outreach; for Christian Education and children's ministry; and for staff salaries. The meeting will be preceded by a **potluck supper** at 5:30 PM. Beverages and table service will be provided – everything else is up to you! Everyone in the congregation, members and non-members alike, is invited to participate in this important time of fellowship and decision making.

**We already have 2 Super Bowl Parties lined up for February 3!** If you are also willing to open your home and host a party for members of our church family, sign up at the table in the hallway. We will list your address in the bulletin on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3. It doesn't matter how big your TV is. (Although some fans may ask!) What matters is your hospitality. You don't have to invite anyone (unless you want to). You don't have to provide all the food. People coming to your house should bring something for the table. We hope many will take advantage of this fellowship and friendship-building opportunity.

**If you would like to be a small group during Lent**, sign up at the table in the hallway today. A group (or groups) will be organized depending on the amount of interest shown and on the group members' willingness to participate in sharing the leadership and hosting. Talk to Pastor Benson if you have an interest in being in or leading a specific type of group, ideas about what should be studied or discussed, suggestions about meeting times and places, or questions. You can also make a note about this on your home page. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, and continues through March 22, the Saturday before Easter.

**CCC GOES GREEN!** There are 3 recycling bins available in the kitchen. Please place your recyclable materials in the bins!!

**Help us fix up the downstairs!** Sign up today at the table in the hallway to take responsibility for completing one or more of the various projects that have been suggested to clean up, repair and rejuvenate the nursery, classrooms and main room downstairs. We want the lower level to be a warm and welcoming place for the families, infants, and children who come to worship and learn with us. Call the office if you have any questions – 703-455-4150. Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

**Help us get ready for the Marriage Education Program** to be offered to couples with children in the community and in our congregation beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

1. Help us publicize the opportunity – tell someone about it and have them call the number on the bulletin insert to register or visit the website for more information. Take a couple of the green flyers from the credenza and put them up on a bulletin board near you this week. Thanks to Debbie Tobin for getting notices out to the area newspapers!
2. Help us provide snacks for those who come on Wednesday Nights. Sign up at the table in the hallway. Thanks to Claire Bentley for her willingness to coordinate the snacks!
3. Help us provide childcare for those who participate in the program. Sign up at the table in the hallway if you are willing to be a childcare worker during this time. *We also need someone to coordinate this aspect of this outreach opportunity.*

Note: funding is available to cover the costs of childcare and snacks. Help may also be needed to set up the snack table, childcare areas and the group's meeting space. If you are interested in any of these things, tell Pastor Benson. Contact Doug Thorpe if you have questions about the program itself – 703-903-9696 x 236.

**Did you miss last week's sermon?** Hear it and read the bulletin each week on the church website. It is updated weekly. Please visit us at [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org).

**Planning for Revitalization:** We want Community Covenant Church to be revitalized – healthy, strong, and fully engaged in outreach and mission. Do you feel the same way? You're invited to join the leadership of the congregation at two events designed to help our congregation become even more effective. A "Planning for Revitalization" Retreat to be held here at the church on Saturday, January 26, from 9 to 11:30 AM; and the Veritas Workshop at Trinity Covenant Church in Livingston, NJ on Saturday, Feb. 9 with Dr. John Wenrich, the Director of Congregational Vitality for the Evangelical Covenant Church. All current and former Church Council members are especially encouraged to attend, but anyone who has a burden for this in the congregation is also welcome to participate in either, or both of these significant opportunities for personal and corporate renewal. Contact Pastor Benson for a packet of information and resources.

**The Books and Culture Group** invites you to join them in reading C.S. Lewis for the Third Millenium by Peter Kreeft. A discussion of the book will be held on Saturday, January 26, at 6 PM in the Church Kitchen. The book is available online (new about \$10.17 and used \$4.99 and up).

**In the Covenant Companion** – "Walking in Hope" – Jocelyn Dong writes about a Covenant pastor and his family who found that God had not forsaken them, even though their faith was shaken. You can subscribe to our award-winning denominational magazine online at [www.covchurch.org/communications](http://www.covchurch.org/communications) or by calling 773-907-3310. Subscriptions are \$19.95 a year.

**Lessons to Read for Next Sunday –**  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4	Those in the dark have seen a great light
Psalms 27	The Lord is my light and salvation
1 Corinthians 1:10-18	The Foolishness in Corinth
Matthew 4:12-23	Fishing for people

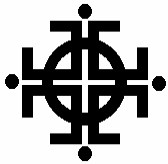
## YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets this afternoon from 5:00 to 6:45. Youth from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade up are welcome to attend. Visitors are always welcomed. The next Youth Group meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup>. February meetings are scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to place your donations for our sponsored child, Yohannes, in the donations box at the back of the sanctuary. The Youth Group has pledged \$40 per month toward his support.



**How to Contact Pastor Benson** – You can call him at home, where he maintains an office, at any time –u may contact him at his office at church – 703-455-4150. The church's e-mail address is communitycovenant@verizon.net. Prayer requests and other matters can also be brought to his attention by using the Home Page insert in the bulletin. Don't hesitate to get in touch when you, or someone in your family, is hospitalized, facing surgery or in need of pastoral care.



*The character of the Evangelical Covenant Church is expressed by our logo: at the center is the cross. Next is a circle – the symbol of being united in Christ. Then four different people, joined to one another, reach out to the world in love. The Covenant Web Page: [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)*

A Covenant Affirmation - We affirm the necessity of new birth. The Apostle Paul wrote, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come." (2 Cor. 5:17) New birth in Christ means committing ourselves to him and receiving forgiveness, acceptance and eternal life. It means being alive in Christ, and this life has the qualities of love and righteousness, joy and peace. New birth is only the beginning. Growing to maturity is a lifelong process for both individuals and communities of believers. God forms and transforms us – and it is through people transformed by Christ that God transforms the world.