

The Service of Worship
Sunday, February 17, 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 – 4th grade is also offered throughout
the service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Prelude

Sandy Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven - Goss

*Call to Worship

Rom. 8:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:57

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for
those who are in Christ Jesus.

People: *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set us free from the law of sin and death.*

Leader: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ

*Hymn #498

I Sing with Joy and Gladness

*Prayer of Invocation

*The Lord's Prayer

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

Tom Connelie, Reader

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

*The Doxology

Hymn #48

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #587

Slaves Once Were We

Sermon

Galatians 5:1, 13

Exploring Covenant Affirmations
WE SAY YES TO FREEDOM IN CHRIST

*Hymn (Insert)

Thou, Whose Purpose Is to Kindle

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Those who are able, please stand.

Welcome! Whether this is your first time with us, a return visit, or something you do every Sunday, we're happy that you're here. Please fill out the Home Page insert in this bulletin, including your address and prayer requests, and make it part of the offering today. The offering is an opportunity to share financially in the ministries and mission of our congregation. If you're a visitor or a newcomer, please feel no obligation about this.

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

Celebrating our 35th Year of Ministry

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152

703-455-4150 communitycovenant@verizon.net

SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Youth Group
Ushers: Bob Ericson & Gordon Sloat
Nursery: Kathy Knowles
Sound Tech: Jim Hamilton
Snack: The Ericsons
Candle Lighter: Meron Berhe

SERVING NEXT WEEK: February 24

Greeters: Carl & Rose Rodgers
Ushers: Jim Hamilton & Liz Reitman
Reader: Sandy Benson
Nursery: Martha Reitman
Sound Tech: Daniel Mayfield
Snack: The Seguins
Candle Lighter: Jared Connelie

Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebrated Last Week:

(Your Secretary got her weeks messed up!)

Wednesday Shawn & Dawn Kalis
Thursday Anna Karlson
Saturday Emily Sanders

Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebrated This Coming Week:

Wednesday Justin Pruitt
Thursday Nora Kastanowski
Saturday Lisa Ann Abranchess
Chelsea Redding

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

Today 9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service
12:15 PM Small Group: Praying for Revitalization
Betty Sloat leading
Brief meeting in the church kitchen
5:00 PM Youth Group
5:30 PM Small Group: Jesus and the Children
Rob Ericson leading
Meeting in the church kitchen till 7 PM

Tuesday 9:45 AM Women’s Bible Study – Church Kitchen
Using Beth Moore Study on Daniel

Wednesday Covenant Founders Day – “*I am a companion of all those who fear thee.*” Psalm 119:63
7:00 PM FIT Relationships Marriage Education
Led by Doug Thorpe, Nancy Scott
703-636-1200 x 257 to register

Saturday 3:00 PM Covenant Crafters (see notice)
6:00 PM Hobo Pizza Meal for All (see notice)

Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages
Feb. 24 11:00 AM Worship Service

**Don’t be late for worship next Sunday or you’ll miss the kids from Jr. JAMBoree singing three great songs to open the service*

12:15 PM Prayer for Revitalization Group
5:30 PM Small Group on Children

What if the Veritas 13 became the Veritas 21? Imagine if several more people from our church experienced the truth about congregational revitalization the way some of us did on Saturday, Feb. 9, in Livingston, NJ! Now you can! Dr. John Wenrich, Director of Congregational Vitality for the Evangelical Covenant Church, is leading another Veritas Workshop at St. Paul's Wolf's Covenant Church in York, PA, on Saturday, June 7, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Learn what it takes and join in as we seek to become a healthy missional church. The workshop is free and it's only 2 ½ hours away. Tell Pastor Benson if you would like to attend.

Two Small Groups are getting underway today. You are invited to join either one...or both! Betty Sloat is leading a group, which will gather to pray for the revitalization of our congregation following the worship service each Sunday. The group will be open each week for anyone who wishes to unite in prayer for Community Covenant Church to be renewed in its vitality and mission. This group will meet for a brief organizational meeting at 12:15 today in the church kitchen. Rob Ericson is leading a "Red Letter Bible Study" group which will focus on what Jesus and the New Testament have to say about children – both welcoming children and cultivating a childlike spirit throughout the congregation. This group will meet from 5 to 7 PM beginning today in the church kitchen. This is the same time that our youth group meets, so parents are encouraged to attend. Even if you didn't already sign up to be in a small group during Lent, you are welcome to jump into these groups!

Lenten Bible Study: What did Jesus say about the next generation? Help answer this question on Sunday evenings 5:30 to 7:00 at the church. The themes for each study will be focused on the Bible and our community: February 17 – Content; February 24 – Conflict; March 2 – Change; and March 10 – Commitment. Please bring a red-letter edition of the Bible or New Testament.

SUMMER CAMPS AT CAMP SQUANTO for children entering Grade 2 through young people entering Grade 12 at the Covenant Camp in Southern New Hampshire. Brochures are on the credenza. Register now – camps fill up FAST.

Stacy Langley wants you to know about "Building Bridges" – a fundraising program designed to help extend the wellness programs and social services of the Bethesda YMCA where she works – to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. A \$7 donation will get you a half-pound bag of mouthwatering free-trade mocha blend coffee. Check out the notice posted on the bulletin board and talk to Stacy or Daniel today.

Covenant Crafters meets this coming Saturday, February 23rd. The meal is Hobo Pizza, which means you bring your own pizza toppings. Dough and Sauce will be provided. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the sanctuary for those who are willing to bring extras – like cheese, drinks, salad or dessert. A large jigsaw puzzle is available to those who aren't interested in crafting. Or, if you prefer, bring your favorite game and invite people to play. If you'd rather, just come for the meal at 6:00. All are welcome. The next Covenant Crafters will meet on March 8th, in conjunction with the Books and Culture Group. Next month's meal has not been determined, so if you have a suggestion, please see Kathy.

Take a Look toward the picnic tables and you will see a wonderful little play area, complete with three benches, just for our youngest members. This play area is the Eagle Project of Boy Scout Joseph LaCroix of Troop 1853. Whenever you see it, say a prayer of thanks for the scouts that meet in our church building. They support us in so many ways!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet today at 5:00. Friends are always welcome to join in. Snacks are welcome, too!

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.

Covenant World Mission Prayer Line: 1-800-FON-PRAY



In the Covenant Companion – “The Memory That Unites Us” – Kurt Peterson, Asst. Professor of History at North Park, takes a look at how our past in the Covenant can propel us into the future. You can subscribe to our award-winning denominational magazine online at www.covchurch.org/communications or by calling 773-907-3310. Subscriptions are \$19.95 a year.

The Books and Culture Group will meet at 7:00 PM on Saturday, March 8, to discuss A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce. The group discussion is open to anyone who wishes to participate. The purpose of the group is to provide a forum where church members and others can meet to discuss books which are significant in our culture. Contact Becky Ericson if you have questions or have a book to suggest. Covenant Crafters gather that day beginning at 3 and continuing through a shared meal at 6 PM. Covenant BookWorms are welcome to join in.

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.

Lessons to Read for Next Sunday –
Third Sunday in Lent

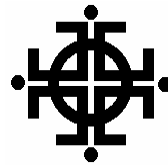
Exodus 17:1-7	Water from the rock
Psalms 95	Do not harden your heart
Romans 3:1-11	Obtaining access to grace
John 4:4-42	Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Recycle! We have the bins in the kitchen – 3 of them! Please place your recyclables in the appropriate bin. Thank You!

Remember, this building is regularly used by other groups. If you are planning an activity, remember to check the complete calendar in the church office. Please speak to Kathy Knowles, our Administrative Assistant, before scheduling any event. (Call 703-455-4150 or 703-425-5633) The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday.



How to Contact Pastor Benson – His e-mail address is johnsbenson@hotmail.com. Or you 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

A Covenant Affirmation - We affirm the reality of freedom in Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” (Gal. 5:1) This freedom is a gift of God in Christ, and it manifests itself in a right relationship with God and others. It is not a private gift to be used selfishly, but it is given to serve the community and the world. For Paul, this freedom means that we are set free from the power of those things that on their own tend to divide. United in Christ, we offer freedom to one another to differ on issues of belief or practice where the biblical and historical record seems to allow for a variety of interpretations of the will and purposes of God. We in the Covenant Church seek to focus on what unites us as followers of Christ, rather than on what divides us.