

The Service of Worship
Sunday, February 24, 2008 – 11:00 AM

Welcome

Pastor John Benson

*The Doxology

Hymn #48

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.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #325

Prelude

Sandy Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

*Unison Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1

Sermon

1 John 1:1-7

*O come, let us sing to the Lord.
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

Exploring Covenant Affirmations
WE SAY YES TO THE CHURCH

Three Songs from Jr. JAMBoree

*To God Be the Glory
I'll Stand Up For You, Lord
Father, I Adore You*

*Hymn #599

O Breath of Life

*Benediction

+ The children are dismissed for Jr. JAMBoree+

*Postlude

Prayer of Invocation

*Those who are able, please stand.

Gospel

John 4:5-42

Sandy Benson, Reader

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

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

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	<u>Small Group: Praying for Revitalization</u> Meeting downstairs – Elementary Classroom
	5:30 PM	<u>Small Group: Jesus and the Children</u> Meeting downstairs – Church Nursery Meeting in the church kitchen till 7 PM
Tuesday	9:45 AM	Women’s Bible Study – Church Kitchen Using Beth Moore Study on Daniel
	7:30 PM	Church Council “Balcony Meeting” Everyone is invited to participate Meeting downstairs – Fellowship Area Topic this month: revitalization
Wednesday	7:00 PM	FIT Relationships Marriage Education
Sunday Mar. 2	9:30 AM	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00 AM	Celebration of the Lord’s Supper Sermon: “Our Communion”
	12:15 PM	Prayer for Revitalization Group
	5:30 PM	Small Group on Children

EASTER OUTREACH: Help us plan for a family-friendly Easter Sunday morning attractive to our community – 9 AM March 23 – Easter Brunch (Free Breakfast!) and Easter Egg Hunt (Kids get more candy!). 11 AM - Family Worship (Intergenerational!) The church council needs your help to make it happen! Tell us if you will on your Home Page today.

And that means: To help make the Easter Egg Hunt happen, we need candy or small prizes to place in the plastic eggs. Please bring your donations in before the 23rd and place them on Kathy’s desk. On Easter Sunday we will again provide bags for the candy and a prize for each child who turns in their eggs to reuse next year.

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 underway. 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 at 12:15 today in the Elementary Classroom downstairs. Rob Ericson is leading a “Red Letter Bible Study” group focuses 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 today in the Church Nursery.

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.

Covenant Crafters meets this coming Saturday, March 8th in conjunction with the Books and Culture group. The meal will be Tacos. The meat will be provided. A sign-up sheet for the rest is on the table outside the sanctuary. A large jigsaw puzzle is available for 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. The Books and Culture Group will meet following the meal. All are welcome. For more information, please see Kathy.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet today at 5:00 here at church. 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

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.



In the Covenant Companion – “Postcard from Lesotho” – Dick Nystrom, interim pastor of the Bowie Church now ministering at Maluti Hospital in Lesotho, tells about a woman dying with AIDS, whose story “is Lesotho in a nutshell.” In “Today’s Writers Consider What Church Is,” Daniel De Roulet takes a look at four authors whose works are engaging Christian ideas. 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.

Lessons to Read for Next Sunday – Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 15:1-13	The anointing of David
Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Ephesians 5:8-14	Live as children of light
John 9:1-41	Jesus heals a blind man

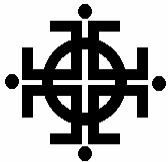
Recycle! We have the bins in the kitchen – 3 of them! Please place your recyclables in the appropriate bin. Thank you!

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) The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday.

Life is No Picnic for many, even in a prosperous area like Northern Virginia. Remember what Jesus said about being hungry, and bring some canned goods for the food pantry at ECHO when you come to worship him on Sunday. Put them in the picnic basket by the hymnal rack.

New Guidelines for Labels to save for the Education Program at the Covenant Home in Cromwell have been developed and are in the basket on the coffee tables where labels are gathered. Take a copy home and post it on your refrigerator.

How to Contact Pastor Benson – 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 church as a fellowship of believers, characterized by mutual participation in and sharing of the new life in Christ. Membership is by confession of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is open to ALL believers. Considerations of class or race, education or pedigree, wealth or prestige do not enter. Uniformity in credal details is not expected. What is required is that one be “born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3) “The doors of the church are wide enough to admit all who believe and narrow enough to exclude those who do not,” said our forbears. We affirm no less today.