

## THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, July 13, 2008 – 10 AM

*Father of Mercies, we have need of thy preparing grace;  
let the same hand that gives the seed, provide a fruitful place.*

- William Cowper (1731-1800) -

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  
Jennifer Garretson, Piano

\*Call to Worship Psalm 119:105-106

Leader: Your word is a lamp for my feet  
and a light for my path.

People: *I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again;  
I will obey your wonderful laws.*

\*Hymn #524

*Thy Word*

\*Opening Prayer

Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Jim Hamilton, Reader

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

\*The Doxology Hymn #48

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*Prayer of Consecration

\*Hymn #529

*Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*

Sermon Matthew 13:8

## PREPARING THE GROUND FOR VITALITY

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

\*Affirmation of Faith Romans 8:1-11

\*Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

\*Hymn #604

*God, Renew Us By Your Spirit*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Those who are able, please stand

**We're celebrating the Lord's Supper today.** If you *confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead*, you are welcome to join us – even if you're not a member of this congregation. Everyone will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and the cup. If for any reason you do not wish to participate, please feel free to remain in your seat. Children are welcomed at the Lord's Table – the youngest are given grapes. Older children may receive the bread and the cup if, in the opinion of their parents, they understand the significance of the celebration and have put their faith in Christ. Our custom is waiting until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.

## COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

### Celebrating our 36<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.*

### Our Life Together This Week

<b>Today</b>	10:00 AM	Communion Service
Thursday	6:00 PM	Youth Group Gardening
<b>Next Sunday July 20</b>	10:00 AM	Celebration of Holy Communion
		- Bring <i>canned goods</i> for outreach to those in need in our area
		- Bring <i>change</i> for the change box to fund capital improvements

### Next Sunday is a “Designated Picnic Sunday”

Share your picnic lunch and some time with church friends after the service. A grill is available below the stairs on the side closest to the new picnic area. You can do this any Sunday, of course, but July 20, August 3 and 17 have been designated to encourage your planning and participation.

**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.

**Ahoy Mateys!** All Hands on Deck! Join us for a Pirate Bash Set-Up Party, Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.! Everyone in our congregation is invited to help decorate our ministry space here at CCC for our Veggie Tales VBS. Come join the fun and fellowship for any or all of this time. There’s a job for everyone!

In other VBS news, there will be a brief “All VBS Staff Meeting” immediately following the service July 27.

**The Next Christian Formation meeting** is scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup> after the church service. Everyone is always welcome to join in the meeting. We are in need of 3 more volunteers for the Children’s Sunday School program this Fall. So please keep this prayerfully in your hearts.

### Ladies –

Join us for a garden stroll and breakfast tea at historic Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11 AM. The cost is \$25.00. Please tell Claire by July 18<sup>th</sup> as reservations need to be made.

It is time to start thinking about the Women Ministries’ Fall retreat and to register. As in the past, it will be in Quarryville, PA on September 26-28. Our speaker is Rose Cornelious. She is an ordained minister and has worked with people of all ages in over 25 nations and in over 200 churches throughout the US. Last year we had to turn people away, so register early. Brochures are on the back credenza.

Rip ‘n’ Roll is coming up on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Save that date!

**FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY** – We will have a vacancy on the Church Council this fall in the area of our fellowship ministries. If you are interested in joining the team that helps people make connections and build relationships in our congregation through fellowship activities, then tell Pastor Benson or make a note of it on your Home Page today.

**Men’s Retreat** – “And the Lord sought a man after his own heart...” Are you that man? Plan now to attend the Men’s Retreat at Pilgrim Pines October 10-12. Featured Speaker is Bill Page, a gifted communicator whose appeal is anchored in a depth of life experience, including 20 years of police and detective work in New York. An information card is posted on the bulletin board.

**The next Covenant Crafters** is scheduled for Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:00. The meal is Fried Chicken and Fixings. Please bring your favorite side dish and sign up for the extras. For those who just want to join in the meal, dinner starts at 6:00. Everyone is asked to note on the sign-up sheet if they are coming so we know how much chicken to get.

**See the latest Eagle Project!** For his Eagle Scout Project for Troop 1853, James Kennedy has completely re-built the stairs on the south side of the building (leading from the sanctuary to the south lawn and the picnic area). He repainted the existing platform and attached it firmly to the church; replaced our flimsy, aging structure with a brand new, solid stairway that now meets Fairfax County Code requirements, including support posts, vertical and horizontal elements; handrails and steps; he also put down a wood chip base.

**The new stairs** will need to be stained in about a month. Any volunteers? Make a note of it on your home page today.

**The Next Eagle Project:** On July 17, 18 & 19, Scout Matt Mitchell will be working on his project – a walkway between the church property and the pool next door. Everyone is welcome to come and help out. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.



**The Books and Culture Discussion Group:** The book discussion for August is My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell. We will meet at church at 6 PM on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and may either order pizza or adjourn to a restaurant. Stay tuned for details.

**In the Covenant Companion** – “Come Back to Jesus” – Mark Pattie, pastor of Salem Covenant Church in New Brighton, MN, says that God speaks to us in every encounter. The question is, are we listening? You can subscribe to our award-winning denominational magazine by calling 773-907-3310 or online at [www.covchurch.org/communications](http://www.covchurch.org/communications). Subscriptions are \$19.95.

**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).

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

“When we are linked by the power of prayer, we hold each other’s hand, as it were, while we walk along a slippery path.” **St. Gregory**

**Get Connected with Covenant Newswire** – this free service delivers the latest news from Covenant Churches around the world to your home or office in a single daily email. It’s a great way to keep informed about what’s happening among the mission friends. To sign up, visit the Covenant Web Page ([www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)) and click on the Newswire button.

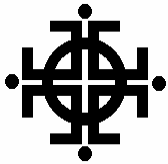
**Lessons to Read for July 20** - the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a	Jacob’s ladder
Psalms 139	How well God knows us
Romans 8:12-25	Hope for what you do not see
Matthew 13:24-43	The parable of the weeds

The Youth Group meets each Thursday evening at 6:00 to work in the garden. All proceeds from the sale of the produce go toward the support for our sponsored child, Yohannes. Money toward Yohannes' support can also be placed in the donations box at the back of the sanctuary. The Youth Group has pledged \$40 per month toward his support, but members of the congregation are welcome to participate.



**How to Contact Pastor Benson** – You contact him at his office at church –703-455-4150. The church's e-mail address is [communitycovenant@verizon.net](mailto: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 a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit. We believe it is the Holy Spirit who instills in our hearts a desire to turn to Christ, and who assures us that Christ dwells within us. It is the Holy Spirit who enables our obedience to Christ and conforms us to his image, and it is the Spirit in us that enables us to continue Christ's mission in the world.

**WATCH CLAIRE'S TREE COME TO LIFE!**

Based on our theme verse for the year, Claire Bentley has painted an apple tree on the sanctuary wall. You can make it come to life by participating in our Over and Above Stewardship Campaign for outreach to children and families.

- For every 3 hours of combined volunteer time spent in strengthening our ministry to children since the beginning of the year, Claire will add one leaf to the tree. If you have donated any time (such as renovating and improving our facilities, helping out with our special outreach events like Easter and VBS, praying or doing anything to enhance or expand our regular ministries to children and families), then report your hours, or partial hours, by the H on your Home Page any Sunday. Our congregational goal is to contribute at least 1000 hours (333 1/3 leaves) this year.
- For every personal invitation you have extended to a child or a family in the community to participate in one of our regular children's ministries or special events, Claire will add one smiling flower face to the landscape beneath the tree. We want invitations to go out whether or not children attend. If you have done this, put the number of invitations you have extended by the I on your Home Page any Sunday. Our goal is at least 100 personal contacts and invitations (100 flowers) this year.
- For every \$50 in combined contributions for enabling and improving our outreach and ministry to children and their families, Claire will add one apple to the tree. Funds to provide resources beyond our budget for outreach and special ministries to children, and to purchase new audio-visual equipment for Sunday School and Jr. JAMboree. Use the special envelopes (with the kids' faces) on the credenza to make a contribution in the offering any Sunday. (Please designate checks for the children's ministry and include your name if you wish your contribution to be tax deductible.) Our goal is at least \$5000 (100 apples) this year.

*Beloved, like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my God. I delight to sit in his shade and his fruit is sweet to my taste – Song of Solomon 2:3. Let's trust God to give the growth as we each do our part!*

## CALLING ALL HEROES: BIBLE ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Ahoy, Mateys! CCC is about to set sail with The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales VBS! Be a part of our Vacation Bible School July 28 - August 1 from 9 AM to noon. This year, the high seas adventure will be for preschoolers ages 3 - 5, and we hope to reach 24 children with this program! That is 24 children who will grow in their relationship with God. As we plan and prepare for VBS:

Please pray that God would give us wisdom in planning  
Pray for the right staff members to join our team  
Pray that God would begin working in the hearts of  
the children who will come

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In other VBS news, there will be a brief "All VBS Staff Meeting" immediately following the service July 27.

**Ahoy, Mateys!** All of you aboard the HMS Steadfast (That's everyone here at CCC!) We are about to set sail this summer with a very fun, activity-based preschool VBS. Our 4 captains have submitted a list of props they need for their activity sites. If you have any of these listed items, and you would be willing to loan them to us for VBS, simply write your name on it, and give it to the site captain. Thank you!

### Captain Martha Reitman:

Mr./Mrs. Potato Head	Hero capes
Child-size rolling pins	Fishing games
Fish-themed puzzles	Small paint rollers
Small life jackets	Inflatable row boat
Small oars	Fishing nets
Plastic or stuffed fish	Paper towel tubes
Small plastic shovels/scoops	Water toys
Clean, empty, plastic water bottles with lids	

### Captain Claire Bentley:

Artificial bush	Small white Christmas lights
Disposable wipes	Fishing nets
Inflatable boat	Blue sheet or blanket
Balance Beam	Play parachute
Empty film canisters	Empty spools of thread
Rectangular foam or cardboard blocks	
8 floor tiles to use as stepping stones	
Plush robe for King Nebuchadnezzar (adult size)	
Tent (large enough for 10 people to sit in)	

### Captain Ruth Kendrick:

Chef's hat  
Small plastic or cloth lobster (to fit in an oven mitt)

### Captain Kristin Karlson:

Paper towel tubes      Koosh balls      2 spray bottles

### Other items needed for decorations, costumes or props

Treasure chests of all sizes	adult size ruffled shirts
Suede vests	Spy glasses
Bandanas	Large ship bell
Rope for rigging	Super Soaker
2 mops	2 buckets
Toy banjo	empty colored glass bottle
Large toothbrush	