

**THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
**LAUNCHING OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
*The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*  
**Sunday, July 27, 2008 – 10 AM**

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:**

*I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength*

*Philippians 4:13*

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.

Prelude Becky Ericson, Pianist

\*Call to Worship Psalm 105:1-4

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord.  
Proclaim his greatness.  
Let the whole world know what he has done.

People: *Sing to him, sing praises.*  
*Tell everyone about his miracles.*

Leader: Glorify his holy name.  
Let your hearts be filled with joy.

People: *Depend on the Lord and his strength.*  
*Always go to him for help.*

\*Hymn #51

*We Will Glorify*

\*Prayer of Invocation

\*The Lord's Prayer

First Lesson Genesis 29:15-28

Second Lesson Romans 8:26-39 Bill Anderson, Reader

Prayer for VBS: The Staff, Program and Children

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

\*The Doxology

Hymn #48

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #444

*I Am So Glad That Our Father in Heaven*

Sermon

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

BURIED TREASURE

\*Hymn #682

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hand*

\*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.

**Parents!** Families with children are always welcome at Community Covenant Church, even on Sundays when we celebrate Communion. During the summer we provide nursery care throughout the service for infants and toddlers. We also have Summertime JAM for children ages 3 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade on selected Sundays. Our full program of family ministries resumes in September with Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9:30 AM and Worship at 11 – including Preschool Praise and Jr. JAMboree!

## 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

**Today** 10:00 AM Worship Service

11:15 AM All VBS Staff Meeting

**Monday to Friday 9 AM to Noon Vacation Bible School**

Thursday 6:00 PM Youth Group Gardening

**Next Sunday 10:00 AM VBS CELEBRATION SERVICE**  
**August 3**  
- Bring *canned goods* for outreach to those in need in our area  
- Bring *change* for the change box to fund capital improvements

11:15 AM Christian Formation Committee

### 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** that 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.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** will be celebrated on Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, August 31, at 10 AM. Please include this special time of worship for us all in your plans as we conclude our summer schedule together as a Church Family.

**Our Fall Program gets underway September 6 and 7 with *The Veggie Tales Pirates Rally Weekend*.** It all begins with food and fellowship, fun and games for everyone at our Annual All Church Family Fish Fry on Saturday Night. Then it’s our Sunday School Year Kick-Off – All Hands on Deck – at 9:30 AM on Sunday Morning and Worship at 11. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join in the festivities and to be part of our school year ministries. Watch for the details.

**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.

**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.

**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**

## 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!

The Springfield Women's Connection invites you to get ready for Fall with a NEW LOOK! Omar and Mae of the Jon David Salon & Spa will be there to do a hair and makeup makeover. Then hear speaker Debbie Mills as she relates how she searched for happiness and found JOY. Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Springfield Golf & Country Club from 11:30 to 1:00. The cost is \$17 and includes lunch. Please reserve your place by August 11 by calling Ginny (703-569-4780) or Liz (703-876-4780) or email SpingWmConn@yahoo.com.

## YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets each Thursday evening at 6:30 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.

**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** – “Decoding the Parables” – Stan Friedman reviews North Park Professor Klyne Snodgrass's acclaimed new book, Stories with Intent. 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).

**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 32:22-31	Jacob wrestles with God
Psalms 17	Seeing the face of God
Romans 9:1-5	Paul's anguish for Israel
Matthew 14:13-21	5,000 men, women and children

**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.

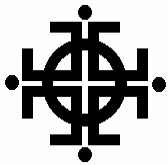


**How to Contact Pastor Benson** – You may contact him at his office at church – 703-455-4150. The church’s e-mail address is [communitycovenant@verizon.net](mailto:communitycovenant@verizon.net). Prayer requests and other matters can also be brought to his attention by using the Home Page insert in 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.

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

**Updates for the Buddy Board:** Please check out the Buddy Board at the door to the sanctuary and make sure the information is correct. If you are not on the board and would like to be, please feel free to post your jobs!

**Recycle!** We now have a RecycleBank, which gives the church points that can be redeemed for products at local stores. Please place your recyclable materials in the bins in the kitchen.



*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 centrality of the word of God. We believe the Bible is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct. The dynamic, transforming power of the word of God directs the church and the life of every Christian. Not to be shaped by the word is to be shaped by the world.