

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Sunday, August 17, 2008 – 10 AM

O God, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and on earth: We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for Trinity, VIII, The Book of Common Prayer

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.
On selected Sundays, we also provide Summertime JAM for children
Ages 3 to 4th Grade. Watch and listen for the announcement.

Prelude Sandra Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

Call to Worship Psalm 133

*Hymn #426
God of the Ages

*Prayer of Invocation

*The Lord's Prayer

First Lesson Genesis 45:1-15

Second Lesson Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

*The Doxology #48

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #408
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Sermon Matthew 15:21-28

CRUMBS FROM THE MASTER'S TABLE

*Hymn #83
What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

*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 4th grade on selected Sundays. Our full program of family ministries resumes on September 7 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 36th 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 Celebrating VBS

Today 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

Thursday 6:00 PM Youth Group Gardening

Next Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service

August 24

- Bring *canned goods* for outreach to those in need in our area
- Bring *change* for the change box to fund capital improvements

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 Apple Tree on the Wall or Why Does My Homepage Say Hi?

The **H** is there to give you a place to list the volunteer hours (or partial hours) you have donated to children's ministries – our goal is 1,000 hours and they show up as *leaves* on the Apple Tree on the Sanctuary wall. The **I** is for listing the number of invitations you have extended to a child or a family to participate in one of our children's ministries. Our goal is 100 invitations, and they show up as the smiling *flowers* underneath the tree. Each *apple* on the tree represents \$50 in contributions for our children's ministries and outreach to families. Our goal is \$5,000 and you can use the special envelopes on the credenza to make a contribution.

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.

What Happened to the Cookbook? It's still in a holding pattern but, meanwhile, that means you can still donate recipes. Hand your recipes to Kathy, leave them in her mailbox or on her desk, or just email them to the church email address!



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. Please tell Pastor Benson if you're thinking of going. Some interest has already been expressed, and we'd like to form a group to attend together if possible.

Ladies –

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 30th. Everyone should meet here at church at 9 AM. Our friends from Bowie will be joining us, and lunch will be provided.

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. Thank you for your donations!

Directory Time! Please take a look at the large print directory on the table outside the sanctuary to make sure your information is correct. If you have corrections for any of the “Friends” listed, please make them.

The Books and Culture Discussion Group: The book discussion featuring “My Family and Other Animals” by Gerald Durrell is tentatively rescheduled for Friday, September 12. Please call Becky if you have any questions.

In the Covenant Companion – A report from the 123rd Annual Meeting, where the Covenant Church elected a new president – Gary Walter, and conducted other important business – including welcoming a new congregation in our Chesapeake District: Paradise Holtzschwamm Covenant Church in Thomasville, PA. You can subscribe to our award-winning denominational magazine by calling 773-907-3310 or online at 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.

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) and click on the Newswire button.

Lessons to Read for July 20 - the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

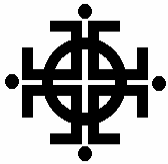
Exodus 1:8-2:10	The birth of Moses
Psalms 124	The Lord was on our side
Romans 12:1-8	Present a living sacrifice
Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of faith

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How to Contact Pastor Benson – You can call him at home, where he maintains an office, at any time – 703-451-6624. 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.

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**



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 necessity of the new birth. 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 in Christ 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.