

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Christian Formation Sunday
September 14, 2008 – 11 AM

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Families with children are welcome in worship.
Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers
downstairs throughout the service.

Prelude Sandra Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

Fugue – Pachelbel

*Call to Worship Psalm 114

*Leader: When the Israelites were liberated from Egypt.
When the family of Jacob left those slave-drivers behind-
Then Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his kingdom.*

People: The Red Sea saw them coming and got out of their way.
The Jordan River stopped and let them through
The mountains danced like sheep,
and the hills skipped like lambs.

*Leader: Sea, why did you run away?
River, why did you turn back?
Mountains, why did you dance like sheep?
Hills, why did you skip like lambs?*

People: The earth shakes in the presence of the Lord.
The Mountains tremble before the God of Jacob

*Leader: He turns the hard rock into pools of water,
Solid rock into flowing streams.*

*Hymn #119 *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

*Prayer of Invocation

*The Lord's Prayer

First Lesson Exodus 14:19-31 Bud Clark, Reader

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

Children age 3 through 3rd Grade are dismissed to go downstairs
for Jr. JAMboree (on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month)

*The Doxology #48 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #625 *I Then Shall Live*

Sermon Romans 14:1-12

SINCE WE ARE THE LORD'S

*Hymn #600 *We Are God's People*

*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 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	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Launching Out in Worship
Tuesday	9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 PM	Youth Group Gardening
Saturday	10:00 AM	Youngish Adults Outing in DC See bulletin notice for details
Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School Classes
Sept. 14	11:00 AM	Worship Service
	7:00 PM	Books and Culture Discussion Group See bulletin notice for details

When you come to Church on Sunday, remember to . . .

- 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) The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday.

Parents! Families with children are always welcome at Community Covenant Church – even on the 1st Sunday of the month when we celebrate Communion. We provide nursery care for infants and toddlers throughout the service every Sunday Morning. We also have Jr. JAMboree for children ages 3 through 3rd Grade during the 2nd half of the service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. On the 5th Sundays in the year we have special intergenerational worship services. Children's Worship Bulletins with age-level activities based on the Scripture Readings for the day; coloring books, crayons and paper are always available on the table by the door. Our family ministries also include Sunday School with nursery care, preschool and children's classes, spiritual growth, fellowship and learning opportunities for young people and thinking adults at 9:30 AM every Sunday Morning during the school year. We are committed to growing in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and we cordially invite you and your family to join us.

The Veggie Tales Are Coming! Veggie Tales LIVE at the Hylton Memorial Chapel on November 8 at 3 and 7 PM. Tickets are on sale now at 1-800-861-0850 or on-line at www.eventtickets.net.

Ahoy There, Maties! The Veggie Tales Movie, "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" will be shown "on the big screen" here in our sanctuary for the whole church family – children young and old – to enjoy together on **Saturday, Oct. 11, at 6 PM**. This movie gave us the theme for our Vacation Bible School and we're "Calling All Heroes" to come and celebrate. Popcorn and beverages will be provided. Come at **4 PM for our 3rd Annual Fish Fry** in our new picnic area and "pirate-inspired" games on the lawn. A sign up sheet for what to bring to the Fish Fry is on the table in the hallway. Put another smiling face under the apple tree on the wall by using this as an outreach opportunity – invite your friends, families, and neighbors to join us for this special evening.

Every Adult and Young Person in the Congregation is urged to participate in the VERITAS “Balcony Session” sponsored by the Community Covenant Church Council on Saturday, October 25. Let’s take the next step together with “The Livingston 13” in our pursuit of congregational revitalization! Your prayers, your attendance, and your enthusiastic participation are absolutely necessary if we are to become the healthy, missional congregation we believe God is calling us to be. Save the day now for this important event in our life together and watch for the details.

Ruth and Peter Dutton are returning to Southeast Asia this fall with a new approach to their mission in Laos. Read all about their summer travels and their plans in the newsletter posted on the bulletin board by the lower entrance. **On Reformation Sunday**, October 26, we will hear from the Duttons in our morning worship service at 11AM and pray for them and their family on the final weekend before Peter and Ruth leave for Thailand.

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.

Volunteers Needed! Community Covenant Church relies on its volunteers to run smoothly. If you would like to be one of our vital volunteers, please sign up at the table outside the sanctuary. Thank you to all of our current volunteers for your selfless and much needed service!

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.

The Change For Change Box has been emptied and tallied. There were 2,116 pennies, 394 nickels, 671 dimes, 247 quarters, 1 dollar coin, 4 Canadian pennies, 1 Canadian nickel, and 1 Canadian dime. The total in dollars is \$170.71 which will be put toward a new riding mower. Thank you for your generosity – keep the change coming!

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.



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 Children’s 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.

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!



Lessons to Read for September 21 - the 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15	Bread from heaven!
Psalms 105:37-45	God brought quails!
Philippians 1:21-30	We are one in the Spirit, one in the Lord
Matthew 20:1-16	Generous landowner, grumbling laborers

The Books and Culture Discussion Group: The book discussion featuring “My Family and Other Animals” by Gerald Durrell is rescheduled for Sunday, September 21 at 7:00. Please call Becky if you have any questions.

In the Covenant Companion – “Escaping the Hell of Addiction” – a young couple’s own experience with drugs and prison – and the life-saving witness of God’s people – leads them to offer housing, healing and hope to others at Crossroads Community Covenant Church in Yelm, Washington. 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.

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 table by the door of the sanctuary.

Youngish Adults: Please join us by the fountain at the center of the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden on Saturday, September 20 at 11:00 a.m. Bring a dish or food item to share and a beverage for your own brood. Amy will bring paper plates and napkins. If it is raining steadily at 10 a.m. that morning, please assume that the outing has been postponed to our rain date of September 27 (or call us at 301-984-5645). There will be optional side excursions to the Hirshhorn Museum’s sculpture garden and to the exhibit on “Jim Henson’s Fantastic World” inside the Smithsonian’s Ripley Center. All portions of the event are free, kid friendly, and Metro-accessible.

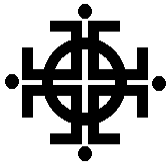
The Youth Group meets each Thursday evening at 6:30 to work in the garden. All proceeds from the sale of the produce go toward the support for our sponsored child, Yohannes. The Youth Group has pledged \$40 per month toward his support, but members of the

congregation are welcome to participate. Thank you for your donations!



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.

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



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, which is a gift of God manifesting itself in right relationships with others. It is not a private possession to be used selfishly, but is given to us by God for serving the community and the world. United in Christ, we give one another the freedom 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 purpose of God.