

The Celebration of Holy Communion

First Sunday in Advent – December 2, 2007 – 11:00 AM

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Prelude Sandy Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
Setting by Mark Sedio

*Call to Worship Psalm 122:1-2,7

Leader: I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

People: *Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem*

Leader: Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.

*Hymn #128

Prepare the Way, O Zion!

*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath “Flames for the Faithful”
The “Prophecy Candle” urges us to listen

First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5 Sandra Benson, Reader

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

+Children Age 3 to Grade 4 are invited to Junior JAMBoree+

Offering

*The Doxology Hymn #48

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #127

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Sermon Ruth 1:1-22

A Christmas Love Story

FAMINE IN THE HOUSE OF BREAD

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

*Affirmation of Faith 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Hymnal #876

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

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

*Hymn #207

Christ Is the Truth, the Way

*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. Nursery care for children up to the age of 5 is available downstairs.

SERVING TODAY:

Greeter: Ruth Kendrick
Ushers: Robert Hamilton & Beth Badassa
Reader: Sandy Benson
Communion Prep: The Hastings
Nursery: Shelley & Jared Connelie
Sound Tech: Tom Connelie
Candle Lighter: Jenny Connelie

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Greeters: Erik & Anna Karlson
Ushers: Aaron Knowles & Bob Ericson
Reader: Carl Rodgers
Nursery: Mary Hamilton &
Sound Tech: Jim Hamilton
Candle Lighter: Meron Berhe

Scripture Lessons to read as you prepare for next Sunday-
The Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 11:1-19 A shoot from the stump of Jesse
Psalm 72:1-7 A king who is like the rain
Romans 15:4-13 In him shall the Gentiles find hope
Matthew 3:1-12 The voice in the wilderness

Birthdays Celebrated this coming week:

Today Darien Southall
Tuesday Claire Bentley, Jonathan Kalis
& Jenna Sokolowski
Sunday Ed Doyle

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

Celebrating our 35th Year of Ministry

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152
703-455-4150 communitycovenant@verizon.net
www.covchurch.va.org

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 Service of Holy Communion
12:15 PM Christian Formation Meeting
5:00 PM Youth Group-Rehearsal for Christmas Show

Tuesday 9:45 AM Women’s Bible Study
“Living Passionately for Christ”

Wednesday 7:30 PM Church Council Meeting

Next 9:30 AM Sunday School
Sun. Dec 9 11:00 AM Worship Service
5:00 PM Youth Group

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.

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 encouraged to join us – even if you're not a member of this congregation! Everyone will be invited to come forward. 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 Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Our custom is to wait until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.



Will You Be Here on Christmas Eve? Ushers, readers and people who can provide special music are needed for the Service of Lessons and Carols at 10 PM on Christmas Eve – If you can help, make a note about it on the home page insert in your bulletin, tell Pastor Benson, or sign up at the table in the hallway. Volunteers are also needed to fill these positions on December 23 and December 30.

The Women's Bible Study meets at 9:45 each Tuesday morning in the church kitchen. This year's study is "living Passionately for Christ" by Cas Monaco – a Bible Study on the book of Philippians. For more information, please speak to Betty Sloat.

Seeking – A Person with a Heart for Our Children: We are in need of a Nursery Maintenance Worker. This is a Volunteer Position, and will require only a short amount of time. Duties include switching linens in the crib and seeing that the nursery is organized and well-stocked. If you are this person, please speak with Kristin Karlson or Kathy Knowles.

Help yourself to a 2008 calendar from Pastor Steve Eun and the Peniel Presbyterian Church on the table in the hallway. Thanks to everyone who supported last Sunday's joint service and shared meal with Peniel by attending and bringing dessert.

fracture/dialysis); Kim (brain surgery); Angela (depression/surgery recovery); Kyle (mental illness); Versal (heart); Beverly (heart); Betsy (physical therapy); Casey (surgery); Ku'uipo (kidneys); George (coma); Ardis (Alzheimer's); John (depression); Zachary (juvenile diabetes); Leonard (heart); Don (head injury); Betty (depression); Margie (stroke); Betty (lost eyesight); Evelyn (memory loss/depression); Pam & Noel (drug rehab); Samantha (Turner's Syndrome); Dottie (benign node); Virginia (dizzy spells); MaryLou (vision restoration); Opal (fibromyalgia); Leah (Lupus); Karlin, Jan, Kathy (physical therapy); Rich (alcoholism).

Those who care for elderly relatives: Mark & Shira; Ray and Raphael; Ed, Yalala and Kathy, Ada.

For service members here and overseas: Andy, Scott, Nate, Chris, Ricky, Daniella, Robert, Dustin, Andrew, Jon, Shaune, Patrick, Mark, Joe, Alexander, Niko.

For those experiencing marital difficulties, divorce or custody issues: Jim and Josephine, Sheri and Chris, Jennifer, Louise, JoAnne and Kenny, Sean and Karlin, Tim and Suzy, Eric and Josie, Adama.

For spiritual awakening: David, Tina, Casey, Don & Mimi, Myrtle, Jean, Sabrina, Christina, Jennifer, Megan, Justin, Bob, Peter, Rich, Don, Armand & Cynthia, Alexander, Mike.

For those with cancer: Marvin, Jim, JoAnne, Richard, Emma Peter, Shirley, Bill, Tim, Wendy, Ryohei, Fred, Jessica, Chris, Loretta, Terry, Judy, Donna, Patti, Kathy, Nancy, Neri, Bas, Mike & Ruth, Lindsey, Jacob, Wayne, Jack, Bruce, Nicholas, Trisha, Ellen, Nora, Katrina, Cindy, Evan, Charlie, Anne, Bill, Dick.

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



Casseroles are being brought to Rising Hope Mission Church in the beginning of December. Please sign up to bring a casserole outside in the hallway. Your casseroles should be brought to church by December 5th and placed in the freezer.

Once again we have the **Angel Christmas Tree** set up in the back of the sanctuary. Each Angel ornament has the name and gift request of a prisoner's child. We will be purchasing and delivering gifts for the children of prisoners through Prison Fellowship Ministries. If you wish to participate in this outreach, choose one of the ornaments and take it home with you. Purchase the suggested gift, gift wrap it and bring it back to church by December 16. Be sure to stick the angel on your gift – it serves as the gift card. The suggested amount to spend per gift is \$20. A few of the gifts may cost a little more. If you don't enjoy shopping, Mary does, and you can participate by letting Mary spend your money on a gift! Please contact Mary, if you have any questions.

Join in our "Above and Beyond" stewardship campaign for Covenant World Missions. Look over the bulletin boards in the back of the sanctuary, read the brochure "Strong and Crazy for Christ," and make a contribution or a pledge today, using the envelopes provided on the credenza. You may put the envelope in the basket or in the offering. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 beyond our budget for Covenant World Missions by the end of the year. So far \$3,200 has been raised.

CROP Walk Results are in: Community Covenant Church's participation in the CROP Walk brought \$326 in donations. Thanks to the six walkers and all of the donors for this event.

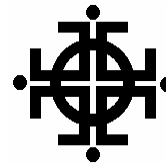
New Guidelines for Labels to save for the Education Program at the Covenant Home in Cromwell have been developed and are in the basket on the coffee table where labels are gathered. Take a copy home and post it on your refrigerator.

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 two food pantries we support – ECHO (in the basket on the table by the sanctuary door) and RISING HOPE (in the plastic container under the table).



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.

Have You Forgotten the Buddy Board? There are many people available and willing to do a variety of things for you. Please take a look at the bulletin board above the hymnal shelf to see who's volunteering for what. If you would like to place your name on the board and volunteer, please do!



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 centrality of the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the authoritative Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct. Not to be shaped by the Word is to be shaped by the World.

Prayer Corner

*Before they call, I will answer,
and while they are speaking, I will hear.
Isaiah 65:24*

Praises and Prayers raised on behalf of the congregation:

Travel mercies are asked for those traveling for the holidays, especially Dustin who leaves for San Diego this afternoon. Please pray for those who mourn the passing of loved ones, especially Stacy, Daniel and Stacy's parents.

Please continue to pray for the following: The Ethiopian Church building project; David (meals for breast cancer patients); Thomas (broken arm); Rose (hip surgery); Bill (health); Bud (healing); Rachel (freedom from pain); Robert & Kathy (building project); Peter and Ruth (mission challenges); Shira (continued health); Joe (job protections).

Praises and Prayers raised on behalf of relatives and friends:

Please remember in prayer those who have recently lost loved ones, especially Paula, the Lee family, and Bill.

Please continue to pray for the following: Jennifer (healthy pregnancy); Barbara, Mark, Ben, Gareth, David (unspecified); Earnest (finances); Barb (work difficulties/depression); Robyn (violent neighbor); Helen (confusion); Jason & Teresa (broken engagement); Drew & Kathy (anger management); Lisa (stress); Chris (neurological testing); Carlos (family issues); The Moores (troubled teen); Prison Fellowship Ministries; This year's Angel Tree Children; Ray, Alicia, Clarissa (drug addiction of a family member); Marie (comfort).

Those in need of healing: Jim (surgery recovery; other health issues); Ruthie (Graves Disease); Nancy (heart); Tim (surgery); John (diabetes); Mr. Greene (heart); Don (stroke); Beth (stroke); Renee (surgery); Diane (pneumonia/chronic lung disease); Corinne (epilepsy); Renee (sexual assault); Tina (eating disorder); Byron (hip

YOUTH GROUP

The Annual Youth Group Christmas Caroling Invitational will take place on **Saturday, December 22nd** at 5:30 PM. The date has been changed so that our college students can take part. Everyone is invited to attend. We choose a section of the surrounding neighborhood to carol in. Your dogs are welcome, we even sing a special carol at homes with animals! Hot chocolate, hot cider and Christmas cookies are served when we get in from the cold. Please come, and bring your friends.

Youth Group Meets today and next Sunday from 5:00 to 6:45/7:00 to rehearse their program for the Annual Christmas Dinner. Practice your parts and be ready to go! Snacks and drinks are welcome – they'll keep our energy up!

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. This month we are adding an extra \$18 for a Christmas Present!



In the Covenant Companion – News Items – VBS Raises Funds for Sudan, Record Enrollment at North Park, World Relief Helps Amputees in Sierra Leone, First Campus Chaplain at MIT, Bombed Birmingham Church Renovated, “Green Bible” Published. 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 a year.



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.