

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 9, 2007 – 11:00 AM

O Lord our God, let the shelter of your wings give us hope. Protect us and uphold us. You will be the Support that upholds us from childhood till the hair on our heads is grey. When you are our strength we are strong, but when our strength is our own we are weak. In you our good abides for ever, and when we turn away from it we turn to evil. Let us come home at last to you, O Lord, for fear that we be lost. For in you our good abides, and it has no blemish, since it is yourself. Nor do we fear that there is no home to which we can return. We fell from it; but our home is your eternity, and it does not fall because we are away.

Augustine, Confessions, Book IV/16

Welcome Romans 15:7 Pastor John Benson

Prelude Sandy Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

Veni, Emmanuel – arr. Beck
One Small Child – arr. Doran

*Call to Worship Psalm 72:18-19

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

People: *Blessed be his glorious name forever;
May his glory fill the whole earth.*

Leader: Amen and amen.

*Hymn #154 (to the tune of #473) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The “Bethlehem Candle” urges us to prepare

Video Clip: Bargil Pixner on Isaiah 11:1 from The 5th Gospel

First Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10 Carl Rodgers, Reader

Special Music – Shelley Connelie Accompanied by Kristin Karlson

Mary, Sweet Mary
Tiffany Arbuckle-Lee and Keith Thomas

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Prayer of Confession Hymnal #906

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

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

Offertory

*The Doxology Hymn #48

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #133 *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

Sermon Ruth 2:1-23

A Christmas Love Story
THE YOUNG WOMAN FROM MOAB

*Hymn #724 *For the Healing of the Nations*

*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:

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

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Greeters: Youth Group
Ushers: Bud Clark & Gordon Sloat
Reader: Amy Ackerberg-Hastings
Nursery: Kathy Knowles & Meti Kassa
Sound Tech: David Reitman
Candle Lighter: Jared Connelie

Scripture Lessons to read as you prepare for next Sunday-

The Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10	Lo, how a crocus e'er blooming
Luke 1:47-55	The magnificent Magnificat
James 5:7-10	Here comes the Judge!
Matthew 11:2-11	Even Baptists have questions

Birthdays Celebrated this coming week:

Today	Ed Doyle
Monday	Per Kullstam
Tuesday	Anna Bentley
Wednesday	Christina Coussa

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
	5:00 PM	Youth Group-Rehearsal for Christmas Show
Tuesday	9:45 AM	Women's Bible Study "Living Passionately for Christ"
Thursday	7:30 PM	Discussion of Ruth Chapter 2 in the church kitchen

SATURDAY 5:30 PM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

*For all church members, regular attenders, family and friends
Sign up in the hallway to attend and bring food for the meal
Table Host-Decorators are still needed – see Shelley Connelie
Program provided by the Youth Group –
"Ruth: A Biblical Puppet Show and Christmas Musical*

Next	9:30 AM	Sunday School
Sun. Dec 16	11:00 AM	Worship Service Sermon on Ruth, Chapter 3 <i>The Redeemer – How God's Will Is Done</i>

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.



Small Group Leaders, Hosts and Recruiters are now being sought for a special program which will “kick off” at Community Covenant Church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2008! We want everyone in the congregation, as well as others you’d like to bring, to be invited to attend a Super Bowl Party at the home of someone in the church. Those attending these parties will be invited to join one of the Small Group “Teams” which will be meeting for 6 consecutive Sunday Evenings during the Lenten Season. The focus of the groups will be on the theme of “Friendship” Creating a Culture of Connectivity In Our Congregation.” A variety of materials, resources and approaches will be available to those who volunteer to lead a group. The Friendship Program will wrap up on Maundy Thursday, March 20, with an All-Church Agape Meal and Celebration of Holy Communion. Groups may reorganize to continue after Easter. If you’re interested in serving as a Small Group Leader/Host or Recruiter, make a note of it on your Home Page today or talk to Pastor Benson. An Information & Planning Event for Leaders/Hosts/Recruiters will be held on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 PM.

Community Covenant Church Sponsors Marriage Education Program. Doug Thorpe and Nancy Scott of the Center for Pastoral Counseling will conduct a 10 week marriage education program for couples with children on Wednesday Evenings beginning February 6. Meeting at the church, the program is open to all members of the congregation as well as people from the community. Refreshments and on-site childcare will be provided. The program is being funded by a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services and will use the Granato Group’s FIT Relationships Curriculum designed to build healthy marriages and strong families. A copy of the curriculum is posted on the bulletin board. Tell your spouse about it today and encourage your friends and neighbors to attend. Talk to Doug if you would like to participate, if you have any questions about the program, or can help us publicize this special opportunity, provide childcare or refreshments.



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.

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.



In the Covenant Companion – “Jesus Gets Misplaced” – Jeanne Eikrem, the Choir Director at Trinity Covenant in Salem, Oregon, tells how the Christ Child was almost lost during the hustle and bustle of a Christmas Pageant. 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.



Casseroles are being brought to Rising Hope Mission Church this Wednesday. Please sign up to bring a casserole outside in the hallway. You can bring your casseroles before Wednesday and place them in the refrigerator.

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.



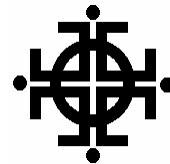
How to Contact Pastor Benson – You can call him at home, where he maintains an office, at any time – 703-451-6624. His e-mail address is johnsbenson@hotmail.com. Or you may contact him at his office at church – 703-455-4150. The church's e-mail address is communitycovenant@verizon.net. Prayer requests 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.

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 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!



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. **Plan now to attend the Adult Sunday School Class "Exploring Covenant Affirmations" which begins on Sunday, January 6 at 9:30 AM. At 11 AM that day, Rev. Benson will introduce "We Say Yes!" – a series of messages about the Covenant Affirmations.**