

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 16, 2007 – 11:00 AM

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Prelude Sandy Benson, Organist
Becky Ericson, Pianist

*He Shall Feed His Flock
Away in a Manger/Pastorale
Arr. Whitworth*

*Call to Worship

Leader: Blessings on him who comes as King,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: *Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to his people on earth.*

*Hymn #33

Lift Up Your Heads to the Coming King

*Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The “Shepherds’ Candle” urges us to behold

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, Reader

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

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

Offertory

*The Doxology Hymn #48

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #148

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Sermon Ruth 3:1-18

A Christmas Love Story
THE REDEEMER

*Spread the corner of your covering over me,
For you are my family redeemer – Ruth 3:9*

*Hymn #122

O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer

*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.

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

Celebrating our 35th 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.

THIS WEEK

Today 9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service

Tuesday 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study
"Living Passionately for Christ"

Thursday 7:30 PM Discussion of Ruth Chapter 3
in the Church Kitchen

**SATURDAY 5:30 PM Youth Group Christmas Caroling Party
Hot Chocolate & Christmas Cookies!**

Next Sunday Dec. 23 Sunday School will not be held
11:00 AM Worship Service
Sermon on Ruth, Chapter 4
Unto Us a Child is Born

Lessons to read for next Sunday - The 3rd Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16 The prophecy about Immanuel
Psalm 80:1-19 A prayer to the Shepherd of Israel
Romans 1:1-7 Descended from David, declared Son of God
Matthew 1:18-25 The birth of Jesus the Messiah

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, December 24, 10 PM
The Service of Lessons and Carols*

*Sunday Morning, December 30
Celebrating New Year's & the 6th Day of Christmas
Our annual "Choose Your Favorite Carol" Service at 11
Sunday School will not be held.*

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.



Updates needed! It's the end of the year, and the 2007 Prayer Synopsis is being put together. Please look over the Prayer Corner and let Kathy know if you have any updates on any of the prayers listed.

Refrigerator Available: A former member of Troop 1853 has a 10-year-old side by side refrigerator for anyone who is willing to pick it up. It currently resides at a house right behind the church. Please let Kathy know if you are interested.

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.



In the Covenant Companion – "The Unexpected Nativity" – Jim Black, pastor of Hope Community Covenant Church in Boynton Beach, Florida, tells what happened when he met the owner of a strip club with a nativity scene on the roof. 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.

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

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.

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!



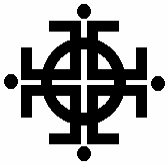
Did you miss last week's sermon? Hear it and read the bulletin each week on the church website. It is updated weekly. Please visit us at www.covenantchurchva.org.



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 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.



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 for entrance into God’s kingdom, and the importance of continuing growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ for sound spiritual health. *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.*