

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
December 23, 2007 – 11:00 AM

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Prelude Sandy Benson, Organist

What Child Is This?
He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising
arr. Manz

*Call to Worship Psalm 8:7 and 19

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts,
let your face shine,
that we may be saved.

People: *Restore us, O God of hosts,*
let your face shine,
that we may be saved.

*Hymn #130

Come, You People of the Promise

*Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The “Angels’ Candle” urges us to rejoice

Second Lesson Romans 1:1-7

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

*The Doxology Hymn #48

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #773

While We Are Waiting, Come

Sermon Ruth 4:1-22

A Christmas Love Story
FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!”
And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse
aAnd the grandfather of David. – Ruth 4:17

*Hymn #146

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

*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.

Lessons to Read for Next Sunday –
The First Sunday after Christmas

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
Celebrating our 35th Year of Ministry
7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152
703-455-4150 communitycovenant@verizon.net

Isaiah 63:7-9 The Christmas Presence
Hebrews 2:10-18 He did not come to help the angels
Matthew 2:13-23 Out of Egypt I have called my son

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 11:00 AM Worship Service

Monday 10:00 PM Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Service
 Lessons and Carols

Thursday 7:30 PM Discussion of Ruth Chapter 4
 in the Church Kitchen

Next Sun. Sunday School will not be held
Dec 30 11:00 AM Worship Service
 “Choose Your Favorite Carol”

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.

Next Week is BRING A CHRISTMAS COOKIE to Church day. Because so many of our congregation are away for the Christmas Season, and there is no Sunday school, we have not assigned anyone to bring snacks on December 30th. We would appreciate leftover Christmas Cookies for our social time after the service. Thank You!

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 I 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.

The first Covenant Crafters of 2008 is planned for Saturday, January 19th beginning at 3. Claire is bringing a game that she says is really fun, so those of you who aren't into crafting can come and play. A very large jigsaw puzzle will also be available. Dinner is Hobo Soup, so bring something for the pot, and you can sign up to bring something extra. The Books and Culture Group will meet immediately following dinner.

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.

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.



Books and Culture will read C.S. Lewis for the Third Millenium by Peter Kreett. The book is available on-line both new (about \$10.17) and used (\$4.99 and up). The group will meet on January 19th, 2008 at 6 PM.

In the Covenant Companion – “Hail Mary, Full of Grace” – Jason Byassee reflects on the person, character and significance of the mother of Jesus. 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

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!



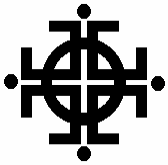
Did you miss last week's sermon? Hear it and read the bulletin each week on the church website. It is updated weekly. Please visit us at www.covenantchurchva.org.



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 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.



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 Church as a fellowship of believers, characterized by mutual participation and sharing of the new life in Christ. *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.*