

**CELEBRATING THE LORD'S NATIVITY**  
**The New Year and the Holy Name of Jesus**  
**Our Annual "Choose Your Favorite Carol" Service**  
**On the Sixth Day of Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 30, 2007 – 11:00 AM**

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Prelude Sandy Benson, Organist  
Becky Ericson, Pianist

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* - arr. Hustad

Call to Worship Ephesians 5:19, 20

**Christmas Carols Selected by the Congregation**

+ *Look for your favorites in the Hymnal from #120 to #213* +

\*Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading Psalm 148 Thomas Connelie

Special Music *Welcome to Our World* Shelley Connelie

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

\*The Doxology

Hymn #48

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Christmas Carols Selected by the Congregation**

Sermon

Isaiah 63:7-9

**CHRISTMAS PRESENCE**

**Christmas Carols Selected by the Congregation**

\*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 35<sup>th</sup> Year of Ministry

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152

703-455-4150 communitycovenant@verizon.net

### SERVING TODAY:

Greeters: David Hogan  
Usher: Jared Connelie  
Nursery: Claire Bentley  
Snack: Cookie Day!  
Sound Tech: No Volunteer  
Candle Lighter: No Volunteer

*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

#### SERVING NEXT WEEK – JANUARY 6

Greeter: Ruth Kendrick  
Ushers: Paul Seguin & Carl Rodgers  
Reader: Gordon Sloat  
Nursery: Kathy Knowles  
Sound Tech: Robert Hamilton  
Candle Lighter: Jared Connelie

**Today** 11:00 AM Christmas Carol Service

**Monday** *Happy Birthday to Courtney Sanders!!!*

**Tuesday** New Year's Day

**Thursday** *Happy Birthday to Russ Dumas!!!*

**Friday** *Happy Birthday to Keith Danielson!!!*

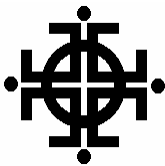
**Saturday** 1:00 PM Help un-decorate the Church

**Next Sun.  
Jan. 6** *Happy Birthday to Alyssa Newberg  
& Renee Kalis!!!*

9:30 AM Sunday School Classes Resume

11:00 AM Service of Holy Communion

7:30 PM Planning Meeting for Friendship Groups –  
see the small group notice in today's bulletin



*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](http://www.covchurch.org)*

**A Covenant Affirmation** – We affirm the whole mission of the church – both evangelistic outreach and social action. *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.*

**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.

**Don Cameron** has joined the Navy! Russ and Dru Dumas send word that Don has enlisted and is now in boot camp at Great Lakes. Please pray for him and for others in the military and their families at this time of year. Send cards and letters to him at:

SR Cameron, Donald W.  
DIV 074 SHIP 09  
3415 Sailor Drive  
Great Lakes, IL 60088-3515

*The reason we give Christmas gifts* is because God has given us his Son. Thank you for showing both the love and the generosity God has for us in the check which came from the congregation as a gift to Sandy and me. We also want to thank all of those who helped to make this Christmas Season a special one for all of us by decorating the church, reading the Scripture Lessons, lighting the Advent Wreath, sharing your musical talents and by serving in other ways – Pastor John

*Exploring Covenant Affirmations* – Join us for an innovative, thought-provoking, conversational experience as we learn more about the historic and theological foundations of our church body. Through video, discussion, biblical study, and communal prayer, we will learn more about what shapes Covenant identity, how that identity can be expressed to others, and how to be encouraged in our faith walk. This series engages head, heart and hands and was developed by North Park Seminary and the Department of Christian Formation of the Evangelical Covenant Church through a grant from the Lilly Endowment. The Series begins on Sunday, January 6, during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 AM and runs for 7 weeks.

**The first Covenant Crafters of 2008** is planned for Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 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 are invited to join us for dinner as they meet immediately after. Remember, everyone is welcome to come and eat, whether or not they come for the crafting.

**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.

**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.

**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 Philipians. 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6 PM. Call Becky Ericson 703-503-3297 for information.

**In the Covenant Companion** – "Rediscovering Our Mission" – Keith Carpenter tells how missional congregations are finding new ways to serve their communities in Jesus's name. You can subscribe to our award-winning denominational magazine by calling 773-907-3310 or online at [www.covchurch.org/communications](http://www.covchurch.org/communications). Subscriptions are \$19.95 a year.

**Lessons to Read for Next Sunday –**  
The Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations, Kings and Camels Come
Ephesians 3:1-12	A Mystery Revealed to Humankind
Matthew 2:1-12	The Wise Men and the Star



**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](http://www.covenantchurchva.org).

## 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!



**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 his office at church – 703-455-4150. The church's e-mail address is [communitycovenant@verizon.net](mailto: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**