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DECEMBER 17, 2018
VOL. 21 NO. 18
MAJORIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

— PORTRAIT OF THE GRADUATE —

A New Covenant Graduate:

- is prudent in speech and action.
- is a lover of truth, goodness and beauty.
- is eloquent with the written and spoken word.
- is intellectually vigorous, seeking to know God, self and the world.
- is generous and rich in good works.
- is spiritually strong, looking to God in faith, hope and love.
- encounters success with humility and failure with confidence.

SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN THOMASSON (CLASS OF 13)

by Scott McCurley, Academic Dean

Over the past five years I have had the distinct pleasure of staying in touch with New Covenant grad, **John Thomasson ('13)**. We have gone for coffee and lunch and simply exchanged emails or text messages over the years – years that have seen him move away and then return to Lynchburg. JT, as we all know him, is a remarkable young man, and I am happy to have a chance to shine the annual “alum spotlight” on him.

The first thing to be said about JT (using his own words!) is that he “married up.” On October 10, 2015, he married his good friend and fellow go-getter, Miranda. Together they make a dynamic duo. Since returning to Lynchburg two years ago they have started two businesses (he just sold one of them a few weeks ago) and

bought two properties, living in one and renting the other. In addition to this JT is managing 52 rural mail route employees across 8 states for a business partner. He is also training to become a home inspector, having recently partnered with a seasoned practitioner on the cusp of retirement.

Not a bad position to be in at age 24. I asked JT about his perspective on his success in these areas and he readily listed God, a strong work-ethic and good people skills. I think a simple highlighting of JT’s story over these last 5 years fleshes that out.

He began working at the local Starbucks as a high school student. As he was working his way through his senior year he was undecided on a particular course of study. Ever the practical

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HOME COMING
JANUARY 11,
2019

You’re invited to join us for Homecoming, 2019, Friday, January 11. Reconnect with alums, faculty, and staff at the Alumni Reception anytime between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm. We’ll meet you in the Library. Also, don’t miss our Varsity basketball games that evening in the Workman Field House. The excitement begins at 6:00 pm with the Varsity women as they take on North Cross. At 7:30 pm be ready to take part in the “White Effect” as we cover the stands with fans wearing white for the men’s Varsity game against Temple Christian School. We look forward to visiting with you at Homecoming 2019.

Think.

Learn.

Love.

Live.

A L U M N I

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Several alumni responded to our invitation to share with us their whereabouts. Every effort has been made to achieve accuracy. We welcome news from all our graduates.

OLIVIA NYE (2017)

Currently attending Berry College where she plays soccer.

When I look back on my twelve years at New Covenant Schools, I am thankful for all the memories and experiences – whether it be going to Washington D.C. or preparing for senior thesis where our teachers helped us every step of the way. NCS had a huge part in shaping the person I am today. I have been chosen along with fifteen other girls around the state to be on the USA D-3 national team/tour going to Brazil for ten days where I will play in four soccer games. Next semester I will not be at Berry College because I will be studying abroad at CIMBA Italy an Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Leadership Undergraduate Program, which is located in Paderno del Grappa. I look forward to learning about the culture as well as eating good food, exploring Italy, and, of course, going to class.

REGAN ELLIOTT (2014)

Auburn University (18) and living in Nashville, TN

I graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. I am a LEED Green Associate (professional credential) which is all about sustainability in the built environment. I am employed at West End Interiors and my job focuses on boutique Senior Living Communities - so not an ordinary nursing home - more like a hotel style of design. I am involved with the March of Dimes and Alzheimer's Association. I am involved at a church here called Midtown Fellowship at Granny White. I am a dog mom of 1, the most exciting thing in my opinion!



Regan Elliott

TYLER LAYNE (2013)

Longwood University (17)

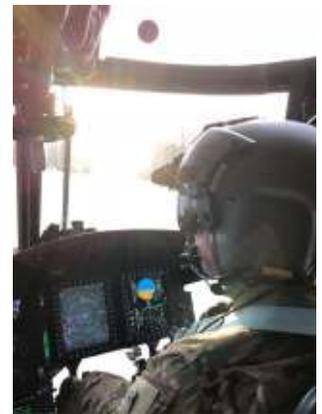
Since graduating from New Covenant in 2013, I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in physics. I am working as a Technical Support Engineer at Innerspec Technologies, assisting customers with technical support and developing software and technical documentation for industrial automated Non-

Destructive Testing inspection systems. I enjoy traveling all over the country with work, meeting people and helping to solve technical problems. I rely on critical thinking and problem-solving skills that I learned at New Covenant every day!

JAY LAMAGNA (2012)

Virginia Military Institute (16) and living in Ansbach, Germany

After flight school this is my first duty station as a platoon leader in a Chinook helicopter company. Stationed by the Army in September, 2017, I'll spend two more years in Europe before I am assigned back in the States. I've had many positive experiences here, flying through Poland, Lithuania, Denmark, Sweden, France, Norway, and England, and seen some amazing sites. Last July I had the opportunity to fly down the Thames River in London, and this past month I flew around the beautiful mountains of Norway. I love my current job and I'm so thankful to be able to do this as a career.



Jay LaMagna

RUTH BETTIS MILLER (2011)

Texas Christian University (15) and living in Ft. Worth, TX

I am happily married to Keith, a lineman for AT&T. We own our first home and have two American Eskimo dogs. I am an office manager for an outpatient hospital rehabilitation facility. No kids yet, but Keith and I plan on a mini-me in a few years. We are huge TCU football fans!

MARTI DEACON (2008)

Graduate Shenandoah University (12) and living in Matthews, NC

I am a Clinical Supervisor in Charlotte, NC at a level 1 Trauma Center, where I work on a specialty floor with pancreatic and liver cancer patients. I am studying for my masters and co-leading a Bible study ministry at my church. A medical mission trip will take me to Haiti in the spring of 2019.

A L U M N I

MILESTONES

CLASS OF 2013 CELEBRATES 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- Josh Aultice
- Lizzie Jade
- Hattie Eshleman
- Sam Kiernan
- Tyler Layne
- Sam Sireci
- John Thomasson
- Laura Williamson

CLASS OF 2008 CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- Jessica Buzzy Kan
- Marti Deacon
- Katie Hall Harris
- Ross Leitch
- Sean McCullough
- Elizabeth Petrey Bryant
- John Samson

CLASS OF 2003 CELEBRATES 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- Joshua Black
- Nathan Davy
- Jessica Kan Ignacio
- Ben Viemeister
- David White



Jack Hindman (2014) and Collyn Towns (2015) were married by Chaplain Morse, September 9, 2018

FACULTY UPDATES

SARAH MAYS served as kindergarten and art teacher from 2004 to 2017



Hello, from the Seacoast Region of New Hampshire! I hope all who read this are well and happy. Kelvin and I are happily settled into our new home and town here in sunny New Hampshire. We moved here over a year ago and love the natural beauty including the weather, the people and semi-retired life! To all who wonder about the winters: yes, it did snow quite a bit last year but with steady city plowing, a short driveway (literally the length of our pickup truck) and self-propelled snow blower we were never snowed-in. “No worries” as they say up here.

Aside from setting up home, learning a new map, marrying off a daughter/gaining a son, and other family milestones, I have been busy launching my art business. After years of watching my students create I am finally taking the time to make my own art and work on all the in’s and out’s of a small business. I am still very new at it and I have ample room for growth but check out my start at www.presentbeingart.com and similarly titled social media.

When I am not painting or showing my paintings we love to explore the beautiful outdoors, the little villages and larger cities. We are about twenty minutes from the shore or an hour from the lakes/mountain region so we have a long list of places we want to see.

Finally, we have found a loving and active church home! We have an extensive feeding program and I fit right in with the Women’s Craft Group so it was an easy transition. Felicity says to hello to everyone! She is over twelve years old now and happily retired with us.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and encourage you all to make something beautiful with your life!

RENAE REIMER BULLOCK served as a science and math instructor from 1996 to 2011



In the nearly 8 years since I was at New Covenant Schools, God has guided and blessed my path. I continued my teaching career at the college level as an adjunct at Liberty University in the biology department in the fall, 2012. After I completed an M.Ed. in Teaching Science at Lynchburg College in the Summer of 2013, I was hired as a full time instructor.

During the fall of 2018, I started an assistant professorship and in November defended my dissertation to complete an EdD in Leadership from Liberty University. The title of my dissertation was *The Relationship between the Epistemological Beliefs of Undergraduate Elementary Education Majors and Their Attitudes towards Science*. My plan is to publish at least one article from this research study. God has truly blessed and worked in me “exceeding abundantly above all that we could ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).



ALUMNI John Davy, (2010) and Alyssa Hartman Davy (2010)

JD and I moved to Durham, NC this summer. He graduated from UVa Med in May and has started his internal medicine residency at Duke. I am now a full time grad student at Duke in their DNP-CRNP program. Both of these programs will keep us pretty busy for the next three years! During our free time, you can find us outside (hiking!) & playing with our dog, Wally!

JOIN OUR ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE AND GET CONNECTED!

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

2019-2020 Academic Calendar - Key Dates

New Covenant Schools attempts to set its academic calendar as far in advance as is reasonably foreseeable, so that families may plan appropriately. This list may not include all half days, please refer to the full calendar that will be emailed to you and available online later in the school year.

Meet Your Teacher and Middle School and School of Rhetoric Registrations	August 13
First Day of School (Noon Dismissal for Pre-K - 1 st grade)	August 14
Labor Day-No School	September 2
1 st Quarter Ends, (Pre-K-8 th Grade Noon Dismissal, SoR Block Exams, 12:15 Dismissal SoR only)	October 11
Fall Break	October 14 & 15
K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences (Students Do Not Attend)	November 1
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-29
Students Return Monday	December 2
8 th Grade Exams, Regular Dismissal	December 17-18
SoR Semester Exams, 12:15 Dismissal (SoR only)	December 17-18
End of 2 nd Quarter, 11:00 Dismissal	December 19
Christmas Break	December 20-January 3
Students Return Monday	January 6
Martin Luther King Day – Students do not attend, Faculty Development	January 20
Winter Break	February 13-18
Students Return Wednesday	February 19
End of 3 rd Quarter (Pre-K – 8 th Noon Dismissal) SoR Block Exams, 12:15 Dismissal	March 13
Spring Break	March 16-20
Easter Break (11:30 Dismissal on Thursday, April 9)	April 9-13
Students Return Tuesday	April 14
Senior Exams	May 14-15
Pre-K and Kindergarten Last Day (Noon Dismissal) & K-Graduation	May 21
School of Rhetoric Exams, 12:15 Dismissal (SoR only) and SoR Last Day (May 21)	May 21-22
Last Day of School – Grades 1-8 (Noon Dismissal)	May 22
Graduation	May 23
Seniors Travel to New York	May 25-29

A L U M N I

INTERVIEW

We caught up with alumni parent, Nancy Hall, who shared some reflections with Scott McCurley, Academic Dean.

When Warner and I moved from Winston-Salem to Raleigh in 1999, my mother, who was on the board of New Covenant Schools, suggested that we look at a classical, Christian school located there. At the time we had no idea what classical education meant, but because we had some less than desirable experiences with the public-school system in North Carolina, we decided to give it a try. Trinity Academy was a wonderful introduction to the classical Christian experience, so when we moved to Lynchburg eighteen months later, we didn't even consider other schools — we transferred Katie and Rachel, grades 6 and 3, to New Covenant Schools. Abby followed five years later in 2006.

Over the ensuing eighteen years Warner and I have watched our children grow into women that have been successful, even while enduring trials. NCS and its mission to instill in students how to Think, Learn, Love and Live has played a tremendous role in their success.

As our children have graduated from New Covenant and gone out into the world we have been constant in advising them to:

Do your best in all things — whether it's in a classroom, in a workplace or in your own home with your own family.

Stand up for what you believe in — even if it means failing a class where your world view is different from that which is being taught or not getting a certain job.

Learn how to live — when you go to college then on to a career/family — don't just "do it by rote" — figure things out, use your God-given gifts and talents, and enjoy the life God has given you to the fullest.

The mission of New Covenant has paralleled our advice at home, and we have been blessed to see the seeds that were planted there bearing fruit:

Katie (NCS '08, Elon '12) was on staff with Campus Outreach for five years after graduating from Elon University. During that time, she was responsible for office management and event planning; however, she ultimately used her job as a platform to reach college students, sharing her journey and her love of the Lord with them. With two children of her own, twins Foster and Charlotte, she

continues to minister to college students as she demonstrates an honest appreciation for all that He has done for her simply by living out her faith.

Rachel (NCS '11, Elon '15, LU '16) worked for an adoption agency upon graduation from Elon University, and now works for a pregnancy center in New Jersey where she is the Director of Education and teaches high school students about sexual abstinence. She has always had the gifting to help others, and she has been successful in demonstrating and living out her Christian faith and beliefs. Though the bulk of her teaching occurs in the secular world, she chooses to focus on what's good in the specific situations she encounters by using the gifts that God has given to her.

Abby (NCS '18, UVA '22), a first year student at UVA, continues to demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking that she learned at New Covenant, and a strong desire to learn. Warner

and I have laughed over the years about how our kids can be too logical, making parental discussions somewhat difficult at times. Abby has demonstrated the ability to look at pros/cons and advantages/disadvantages, and to seek clear objective input from those that she respects and trusts. It is also a joy to see her choosing classes based on truly wanting to learn (for example, she dropped a math class because it was "too easy" and picked one up that was more difficult.)



Katie, Rachel, & Abby with Katie's twins, Foster and Charlotte.

Spotlight, continued from page 1

thinker, he decided to forgo the accumulation of college debt that lay before him at a four-year school and instead went to CVCC. He stayed there for 3 semesters, continuing to work at Starbucks.

Then his first break came. He had noted a repeat customer week in and week out and eventually struck up a conversation with him. They had common interests which led to a friendship, through which JT learned of his contracts for rural mail routes in the mid-west. It turns out these actually pay pretty well, so when a route unexpectedly opened, JT jumped at the chance. Within a week he moved himself to North Dakota.

Eventually he was joined by Miranda, and they worked multiple routes, saving every penny because they wanted to return to Lynchburg. I recall a conversation with him while he was there. He was near an area that was booming due to the rapid expansion of natural gas production. He described to me how guys his age, flush with the first 'real money' of their lives, went out and financed \$50,000 F150's. JT, though fully able to buy such a truck, instead drove his \$1,000 Forester into the ground. Although he didn't use this word, what JT was demonstrating was *prudence* – buckets full of prudence.

Eventually they returned, and started a janitorial company and a power washing company. JT's commitment to doing things right (treating the customer as one would want to be treated) helped him build the reputation of his company, Blue Mountain Pressure Washing. They quickly garnered large jobs including LU's indoor track facility and the new natatorium. Then he landed a statewide contract with the VA police department, just in time to sell the business and start his hand at something new!

I love the energy JT has for life and for learning. He has recently re-partnered on the rural mail routes, this time managing them rather than driving one himself. Also, as he got involved in real estate, he became interested in the home inspection process. He took an opportunity to pursue a man with twenty years' experience in the trade and began working with him. I asked JT what it took to become certified and he casually described the inches-thick manuals he had to read. Being intellectually vigorous is certainly not limited to the pursuit of a university degree.

The Lord leads us all in different paths. Although 90%+ of NCS grads have headed off to 4-year institutions of higher learning, this is clearly neither the right nor the best path for everybody. One who looks for God's leading and has the fortitude to follow is blessed indeed.



MISSION STATEMENT

New Covenant Schools is an educational community serving families of Central Virginia, providing an exceptional education in a classical curriculum within the framework of historic Christianity, furnishing the student with the tools of education and the inspiration to be a life-long learner.

E T C E T E R A

GRAMMAR

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (Grades K-4) will be held this **Thursday, December 20, 8:15 am** in the Moomaw Gymnasium.

EVERYONE

SCHOOL DISMISSED for Christmas Break **Thursday, December 20 at 11:00 am**. This also ends the 2nd Quarter. Students return on **Monday, January 7**.

WEATHER HOTLINE: 847-5707
Enter our Weather Hotline number into your cell phones. All information regarding schoolwide closings or delays related to weather will be communicated via this number as well as on ABC News 13/TV and their online closings list.
A decision to close or delay school will be made by the headmaster by 6:00 a.m. If you are unable to get to school because of unplowed roads, your child's absence will be excused. Please note that our families and faculty are spread out over several counties; therefore, our decision to delay or cancel may be based on conditions very different from those you see outside your own home.

LUNCH ORDERING for January is now open. Remember to order before Christmas Break. The deadline to order is **Thursday, December 20**.

THINK LEARN LOVE LIVE T-shirts are available in adult sizes for \$10.00. You may visit the school store during store hours (Thursdays 2:30pm-3:30pm when school is in session) to purchase.

LITTLE GIVENS Please remember to shop local this Holiday season. If you mention New Covenant Schools at the time of purchase, our school will receive 3% of your purchase in credit to Little Givens Book Store. Thank you for supporting our library!

BUSY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? Consider shopping online at AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile donates to New Covenant Schools when you make a purchase. Simply go to www.amazon.smile.com and enter New Covenant Schools as your charity.

SOR

SENIOR PARENTS It's time to place a celebration ad in the yearbook to honor your seniors! Half page ads are \$150 and Full Page ads are \$200. Please submit 3-5 pictures for a half page ad or 5-7 pictures for a full size ad. These pictures should be in .jpeg or .pdf format. Include your text in a word document. Email **Andrea Loy** aloy@newcovenantschools.org **NO LATER THAN JAN 31** with your content. A form will be sent home with all seniors for you to sign and return. You will receive a design proof to approve before the ads are printed.

SOR EXAMS Students in grades 9-12 will sit for exams on Tuesday thru Wednesday, December 18 and 19. They will dismiss both days at **12:15 pm**. Supervised study halls for SoR students will be provided until 3:00 pm on Tuesday if needed. Students should plan a way home at **12:15pm on Wednesday, December 19**.

GYMNASIUM



Boys' Jr. Gryphon Basketball

NCS	30	JRDS	23
NCS	13	JRDS	14

Girls' Jr. Gryphon Basketball

NCS	20	JRDS	8
NCS	17	JRDS	16

Girls' MS Basketball

NCS	11	HolyCross	16
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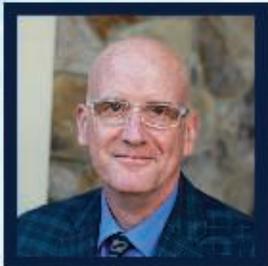
Women's Varsity Basketball

NCS	53	Holy Cross	54
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Swimming

WOMEN 3rd place RELAY MEET
MEN 4th place RELAY MEET
The NCS Gyphon's Co-ed Swim Team spent Saturday afternoon at the Hargrave aquatic center in a multi-school swim meet. It was a unique experience for the swimmers in that the entire meet consisted of relay events – and some strange ones at that. For example (and those steeped in swim meet jargon will appreciate this most), they swam a 200 free relay with the four students swimming a 100, a 50 and two 25's, respectively. Another example was a 400 medley, which involved each of the four swimming a 100 IM. Quite interesting! Of course, swim meets involve quantity as well as quality, and unfortunately NCS, in just its second year of the swim program, does not yet have enough quantity to compete for an overall meet title. However, pound per pound we were the best team in the pool that day. We competed in fourteen of the twenty-two events. We came in first (6) or second (5) in eleven those fourteen events. Way to go Gryphons!

SAVE THE DATE



Daniel Willingham
Guest Lecturer
New Covenant Schools
January 21, 2019
7:00 PM
Raising Kids Who Read: What Parents and Teachers Can Do

