



November 4, 2019
VOL. 22 NO. 13
MAJORIS

QUID NOVI

Olivia Kalafian recites her senior poetry selection at the bonfire recital Tuesday night.

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

ON HUMILITY

by Scott McCurley, SoR Dean

Recently our Academic Dean, Scott McCurley, gave a chapel talk in which he offered the following remarks on humility. We reprint it here for the whole community.

When I went off to college I had only recently become a Christian. As I was trying to work out this new-found faith, I was drawn to the plight of people in developing countries – the poor of the world. Although I didn't see myself as particularly good at sharing my faith, I did discover that I was quite comfortable being in an impoverished area. I applied to the Peace Corps and I was accepted and sent off to Senegal, West Africa.

In my host village I had a mud hut to myself.

It was a wonderful hut double walled for storage and cooling during the stifling heat of the summer, with a pit latrine right out the back-door. When I got to the village the hut was complete except for the front door. We had to travel to a nearby town where there was a wood shop, and the door turned out to be short, thick and heavy!

The locals transported the door with two oxen yoked together to a two-wheel cart. They were struggling, however, to get the oxen to move.

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WHAT'S NEW?

It's November already and many of us are planning for the upcoming holiday season. Have you made any year-end charitable giving plans? New Covenant Schools is listed as a non-profit organization which enables individuals to receive charitable deductions for gifts to our school. These gifts are used to disburse scholarships to deserving students, operate our facilities, and enhance our academic programming. There are various ways to offer a gift. A direct cash or check gift is accepted as well as transfers of stock, or for retirees – a qualified minimum distribution from an IRA. You could even get an extra bang for your buck by routing your gift through the New Covenant Schools Scholarship Foundation. Contact Dayna Renalds at drenalds@newcovenantschools.org to find out more information on our giving program. Thank you in advance for considering our school with your charitable contribution.

THINK. LEARN.
LOVE. LIVE.
GIVE.

THINK.

LEARN.

LOVE.

LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A



SCHOOL OF RHETORIC POETRY WINNERS

Congratulations to the School of Rhetoric poetry finalists. Four students were chosen from each grade to recite in the final competition. *Denotes grade level 1st place. Special Recognition to Sofi Forshey on winning the Jefferson Cup.

9th Grade -

Jael Brenning
Jenna Hackenbracht
Elizabeth Matney
Jude Vollmer*

10th Grade -

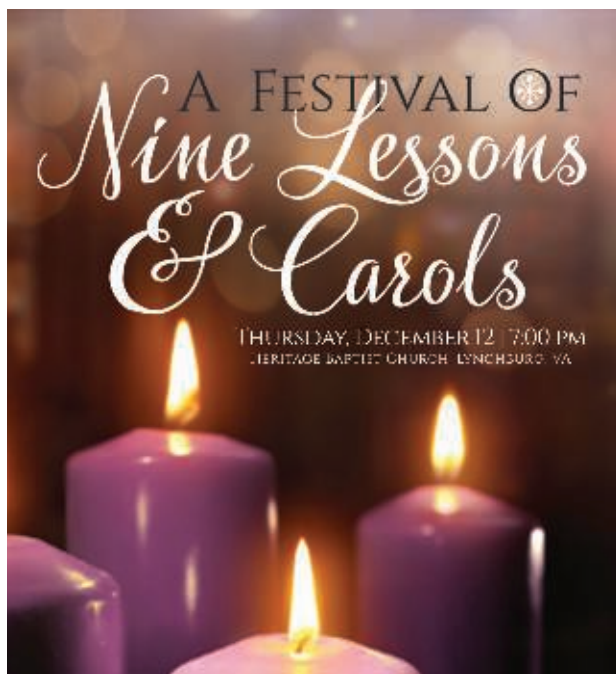
Gioia Calabretta
Skylar McCurley
Brie Olson
Ellie Walker*

11th Grade -

Tessa Hackenbracht*
Konner Johnson
Virginia Robert
Cayli Snipes

12th Grade -

Thea Eshelman
Sofi Forshey*
Olivia Kalafian
Lausyn McBride



NEW COVENANT ORCHESTRA MEMBERS PLAY UP

The University of Lynchburg Chamber Orchestra will present its Fall Concert next Thursday. The orchestra is conducted by Mr. Joseph Nigro, who also leads our strings groups at New Covenant. But that's not the only connection between this orchestra and New Covenant Schools. This college level ensemble includes New Covenant students, graduates, faculty members and a parent, all invited by Mr. Nigro to share in the experience of playing beautiful music. The ensemble includes five current School of Rhetoric students. **Cayli Snipes**, **Elizabeth Olmsted**, and **Elizabeth Matney** will play violin; **Chris Matney**, viola; and **Jonathan Matney**, cello. Two New Covenant graduates, **Christian Kumar** and **Nina Caldwell** study at the University and play in the ensemble on violin. In addition to Mr. Nigro, two New Covenant faculty members are taking part, cello teacher **Teresa Angell** and **Marion Patterson**. One NCS mom, **Linda Kananen** (Cayli Snipes) is lending her talents on the violin to this concert as well.

The group will play works by Bach, Elgar, Mozart and Dvorak. You can enjoy the music and support our school's musicians on **Thursday, Nov. 14, 7:30 pm**, in the Snidow Chapel on the University of Lynchburg campus. It's free and open to the public. Your presence in the audience will be a great encouragement to young artists both here and at the University.

VETERANS DAY iHISTORY ASSEMBLY - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2:10 PM

This year New Covenant will observe Veterans Day by hosting three retired military officers at a school-wide assembly. iHistory is a program that brings grandparents and friends of the school – people who lived history – to tell their stories. Our guests (l to r) are Cpt Michael Connolly (USN-ret), Army Cpt Neil Bohnert, and Commander Michael Reeves (USN-ret). These men will give a live demonstration to the entire student body of the military bugle and the boatswain's pipe. With a series of calls or sounds, military officers on the battlefield or aboard ship could command troops over a large area. Many of the calls are still in use today, even with high tech equipment. The program will begin at 2:10 pm in the Field House. Parents are welcome to attend.



NEW COVENANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR STEPPING DOWN IN 2020

by John Heaton

It is with great regret that I share the news that **Kyle Alexander, New Covenant Schools' Athletic Director**, will be stepping down at the end of the current term in 2020. The decision is entirely his, and I received the news with sadness a couple of weeks ago.

Kyle and his wife, **Jill** have been associated with New Covenant for many years. Their son, **Daniel**, now married, attended grammar school here as a young lad before heading to VES to play football where his dad was serving as Athletic Director.

Several years later when Coach Alexander left VES, he stopped by my office to see if I had any needs in the athletic department, and to inquire about working at New Covenant. I didn't have an opening at the time, but I made a mental note



that if ever I had the chance, I would love to have Coach Alexander on our staff. Meanwhile, we did get him to coach a season of lacrosse!

Several years later we had an opening. I immediately called Coach Alexander, only to be dismayed to find him happily teaching at the collegiate

level at the University of Lynchburg. He was not looking to make a change, so naturally, I promised him the moon if he would join our team and provide new vision for our athletic program. Later he would tell people that "John was relentless, and made it impossible to refuse."

He took me up on the invitation and hit the ground running in 2015. Coach Alexander knew everyone in town and had served several other schools in varying capacities. He was instantly loved by our athletes and respected by our parents. In four short years he had a record number of students competing in athletics at every level. He added swimming, golf, tennis, and track and field to our stable of athletic offerings. Just this year we fielded a record number of Cross Country runners and recruited 26 students to swim

this winter.

It's hard to overstate the impact he has had on our program. Last year 92% of our students in grades 5-12 participated in a co-curricular sport at some point in the school year!

Coach Alexander was also instrumental in casting the vision to build the Workman-Hall Fitness Center. We had designed the field house with this addition in mind, but did not have the resources to build it. Coach brought new energy to the project and played a leading role in the design and in the selection of the needed equipment.

Coach Alexander's greatest strength, however, has been his personal concern for students. He has been an encourager, a mentor, and a supporter to so many student-athletes whose lives have been impacted because of his care. I have met with him weekly for his entire career at New Covenant, and I left every meeting impressed with his professionalism, his gentle demeanor, and his obvious care for putting students first.

So why is he leaving? Coach Alexander has expressed a desire to be more involved in teaching, coaching development and much less with administration. The administrative demands of this position are heavy, even with an assistant. He may remain with the school in some capacity, but he has expressed a strong desire to leave the all-consuming administrative burden to another able person. I urged him to change his mind, but he has thought through his decision carefully and firmly.

With his permission I am announcing his resignation now so that you might do two things: 1) celebrate this year with Kyle as a victory lap for a job well-done; please let him know how much you appreciate him; and 2) spread the word locally or refer qualified candidates to me for consideration.

I am certain that there will be much interest in this position and I look forward to the next chapter in our sports program. If you know of someone who might be a good candidate, please contact my office and I will take appropriate action to provide more details of our search.

We thank Coach Alexander for his time here, and we wish him the best in the next chapter, whether that is with New Covenant or in another place of service.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

PANACHE ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS

for 7th-and 8th-grade students to join the SOR students already cast for *The Sound of Music* on **Monday, November 11, 3:15-4:30 pm**. Students should be prepared to sing a short song of their choice (one verse, no intro) and read from the script. Rehearsals begin in December. Performance dates are **February 28, 29, and March 6 and 7**. *Students playing a winter sport may not audition*. Auditions for grammar school students will be held at a later date. Contact Gail Mitchell in the school office if you have any questions.

SECOND CUP Join our parent ambassadors and administrative staff at Second Cup on **Wednesday, November 13 from 8:15 – 9:15 am** before you head off to work. Headmaster Heaton will further the discussion of our desire for happiness, what happiness really means, and how it relates to our students. You will not want to miss this time to fellowship with other parents in our school. Breakfast items and, of course, COFFEE will be available.

YEARBOOK ADS Do you own or manage a local business? Please consider placing a business ad in the New Covenant Schools yearbook to support our graphic design class and receive nonstop advertising for years to come. Ads are available in full and half page slots. Contact Andrea Loy - aloy@newcovenantschools.org for more information. Design services are complimentary.

LUNCH ORDERING for December is now open and will close on **Friday, November 15**. Please login to your FACTS/RenWeb account or mobile app to place your orders. Look for a confirmation email or receipt at the end of the process. Please remember to add

money to your Prepay Lunch Account when the balance is low. When balances are below zero, limits may be placed on purchases.

THANKSGIVING BREAK School will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday beginning on **Monday, November 25**. Students will return on **Monday, December 2**.

BASKETBALL CLINIC will be held by the Varsity Womens Basketball team on **Saturday, November 16, from 9:00-11:00 am** in the Workman Fieldhouse for boys and girls in grades 1-6. The cost is \$10 cash at the door...no need to sign up in advance!

FAN GEAR AVAILABLE The online Fan Store will be open today **Monday, November 4** through **Sunday, November 17**. You can purchase using the following link: <https://newcovwinter2019.itemorder.com/>
The athletic department benefits from each sale with a \$2.00 per item store credit.

LESSONS & CAROLS

The Annual Service of Lessons & Carols will be held on **Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 pm** at Heritage Baptist Church.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/SOR

SEE YOU AT THE POLE High School and Middle School students are invited to meet around the Flag Pole this **Friday morning, November 8th**, for worship and prayer at **7:20 am**.

FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

JV and Varsity Athletes and their families are invited to attend the New Covenant Schools Athletic Awards Ceremony this **Thursday, November 14, at 7pm**, in the Moomaw Gym.

CONCERT DRESS REMINDER

The following guidelines for concert dress were emailed to parents on September 3, 2019. As a reminder, all band, orchestra and chorus students participating in our Annual Service of Lessons & Carols should plan to wear the following:

Grades 5-8: Dress uniform for boys and girls.

Boys must wear long Flynn & O'Hara pants - NO shorts.

Girls: In addition to the dress uniform girls are required to wear black tights and black Mary Jane shoes or black ballet flats.

Grades 9-12

SOR Men must wear black pants, long sleeved black shirt, black belt, black shoes and black socks.

SOR Ladies must wear a black dress (that comes to the knee or below when seated), black pants, or long to the ankle black skirt with a black shirt and black shoes. (If wearing a black dress or long skirt, dark tights are required).

WINTER UNIFORM

CLARIFICATION For young women: leggings should meet the socks, match the uniform, and fit like tights (not sweat pants). No wild and crazy colors or leggings that stop just below the knee. Leg warmers are prohibited. On days when the forecast high temperature is 40 or below, girls may wear uniform slacks, even on dress day, with their normal dress day tops (if slacks have belt loops, a belt must be worn). For young men and women: long-sleeved t-shirts may be worn under long-sleeved shirts for extra warmth. If the t-shirt is white or navy, it may be worn under a short-sleeved shirt as well. Outerwear, other than the New Covenant hoodie or fleece, may not be worn in the building.

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The door was loaded on the cart in front of the wheels, weighing down the oxen, whose noses were nearly in the dirt. As I stood and watched them struggle, my physics-trained mind was thinking about that fulcrum point – why didn't they slide the door back a bit to lift some weight off the oxen?

What happened next was a mess. I could barely communicate in broken French, so I moved up next to the cart and grabbed hold of the door, indicating that we should pull the door back. The shift in weight startled the oxen and they bolted forward, entangling themselves in some bushes. My brothers from the village all jumped back and then shot me the most disapproving look, muttering about me in their local dialect. I had interfered in something I knew nothing about. I knew about fulcrums, but I was ignorant of an ox and a cart and how to handle them. I made a mess; I was humbled, red-faced and downtrodden for the rest of the journey back to village. Of course, I learned an important lesson and repaired my relationships. My time in that village was life-altering.

In Mere Christianity C.S. Lewis speaks about the "great sin" of pride. He writes, "... now we have come to the center. According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride... it is the complete anti-God state of mind." He goes on to describe pride as a "spiritual cancer," for "... it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense."

The virtue standing opposite to this vice is humility. And this is what we want to ponder. Over the years I have heard many students say things like "This is soooo boring. Who cares about ____." (you fill in the blank). Why do I have to learn these things?" There is certainly a valid question in there – why *do* we study what we do? I would happily engage any student who wanted to talk about that, and our faculty would welcome the question. What we are attempting to do here is not haphazard, but has been thought about carefully at this school for longer than our current crop of students has been alive.

If a student should simply want to complain or vent, however, that student should be careful lest pride lead him astray. There is too often a gulf between what we think we know and what we actually know – a chasm as wide as the Grand Canyon. Humility is an intellectual virtue. It is a pre-cursor to knowledge. Plato said this. The Church has long taught this.

Perhaps Lewis says it best: "[God] wants you to know Him: he wants to give you Himself. He and you are two things of such a kind that if you really get into any kind of touch with Him you will, in fact, be humble – delightedly humble, feeling the infinite relief of having for once got rid of all the silly nonsense about your own dignity which has made you restless and unhappy all your life. He is trying to make you humble in order to make this moment possible: trying to take off a lot of silly,

ugly, fancy-dress in which we have all got ourselves up and are strutting about like the little idiots we are... [And] do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man [that] he will be...a sort of greasy, smarmy person...probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him... He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all."

QUID NOVI

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EX OFFICIO

Rev'd John Heaton
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OUR MISSION

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.