



*The annual Lessons and Carols is scheduled for December 10.*

# QUID NOVI

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THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



## IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS UNTIL WE HAVE LESSONS & CAROLS *By the Rev'd Davidson Morse, Chaplain*

One of New Covenant's signature events, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, is only weeks away! On **Thursday, Dec. 10**, we will gather<sup>1</sup> at **Hyland Heights Baptist Church at 7pm** to celebrate the birth of our Lord. This year has been challenging for all in our school family, but we have been blessed by God's merciful care along the way. This service is the perfect way for our whole community to join together in worship and praise for all that we have received at God's hands.

Lessons and Carols has become synonymous with Christmas for many people in the English-speaking world. Here in our community after a

particularly beautiful performance, I was greeting guests and an older woman introduced herself as a visitor who didn't have any connection to the school. She said, "I just love this service! I'm not even Episcopalian! It just isn't Christmas until I've been to Lessons and Carols!" Of course, she was exactly right. The service combines our favorite songs with the greatest story ever told. It speaks to us of a simpler age, when the world seemed a bit smaller, and life didn't move at such frantic speed.

The service, however, is actually not all that old, especially within the 2000-year-long story of Christianity. It began when the newly consecrated

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## WHAT'S NEW?

Last Friday **Governor Northam** amended his Executive Orders 63 and 67 regarding restrictions in the Commonwealth for COVID mitigation. Most of the amendments do not apply to us, nor do they affect K-12 schools and religious services. There are two things, however, that do affect the school. **First, students in all grades, aged 5 and up, are now required to**

**wear masks for in-person instruction.** Our mitigation plan only required this for students in grade 5 and higher, so this order expands that protocol. Students are not required to wear masks outside, at recess, or at physical education classes. **Second, the order now limits non-religious gatherings to 25 persons or less.** This affects a number of activities at the school.

## AMENDED EXECUTIVE ORDERS 63 AND 67

Athletic events will continue, but we can no longer accommodate large numbers of spectators. We will now allow only two persons per player for basketball in the field house. Gatherings such as this Thursday's Fall Athletic Awards are cancelled, but the presentations will be made in school. We regret that parents cannot participate in this part of student life.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# T A B U L A E

## Archives

### LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT GOD WILL DO

*John Heaton, Headmaster*

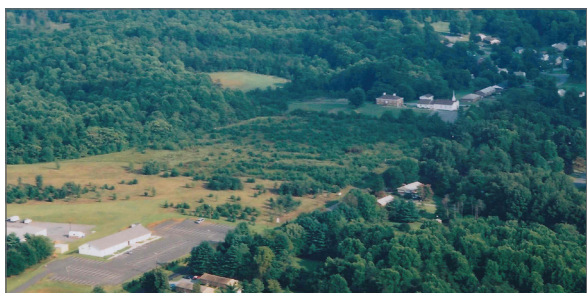
The year was 2001 about 19 years ago this week. New Covenant had recently purchased the 50 acres that it now calls home. Back then it was an empty field that gave way to acres of woods. We were making plans to develop it into the campus we enjoy today. As summer faded and the fall academic term drew near, I had planned to announce the school's intentions to the parent community, disclose the amount of pledges we had on hand, and appeal for their support at a groundbreaking event to be held on the new site. The event was to occur under a big tent around October 1, guaranteeing beautiful weather. Students were rehearsed to sing and give recitations of things they had learned, including those in Latin. The student band and choir were engaged to play and sing.

A little more than two weeks before our public campaign announcement, the Providence that had blessed our efforts so far, seemed to frown upon us. On September 11, 2001 everything changed. The World Trade Center was attacked and collapsed, and with it financial markets, foundational assets, and economic confidence. The magnitude of the human tragedy was immense in itself, and it was difficult to impossible to try and raise money

for our project. We had already raised over \$2,000,000 which was enough to begin the project, but not nearly enough to finish.

We held the the groundbreaking anyway right before Thanksgiving and I have vivid memories of the mixed mood of those gathered at the site. There was palpable anxiety that everyone felt in the wake of 9/11. Yet, as then board chairman, **John Peniche**, said, "Isn't it good to be together, to laugh, to sing, and to look forward to what God will do in the future?" It was good to be together; we needed it, and heads nodded in agreement. Hearts were full of gratitude that Thanksgiving for what was developing on Fleetwood Drive.

The campaign for the school continued, ultimately raising \$3,700,000, which funded the first phase of the building project. It took about one year to construct, and the first students occupied Phase 1 of the campus in January 2003. An extended Christmas break provided time to move from two rented campuses to the new facility. New Covenant moved in with 231 students.



### FUNDRAISING REPORT

|                     | GOAL      | YTD      |           |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Annual Fund         | \$30,000  | \$15,862 |           |
| General Scholarship | \$10,000  | \$13,922 |           |
| Foundation          | \$200,000 | Pledged  | \$349,500 |
|                     |           | Received | \$32,566  |

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

# E T C E T E R A

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

This event scheduled for this **Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 pm** has been **cancelled**. The awards will be made in person during the school day on **Wednesday, December 2 at 12:10 pm**. We regret that parents will not be able to attend per the Governor's amended Executive Orders 63 and 67.

### ATHLETIC COMPETITION

Scheduled games continue at New Covenant, but spectators are now limited to two persons per player. Under the Governor's EO 63 and 67 as amended, we are required to restrict the size of gatherings at athletic events.

## EVERYONE

### SPIRIT STORE

Our first online store of this school year is open. It features athletic apparel in Youth, Women's and Men's cuts and sizes. With each purchase, a small portion of the payment comes back to support NCS Athletics. The store is open immediately and will close at **midnight on Sunday, November 22**. Orders will be ready before Christmas and will need to be picked up at Play it Again Sports (1033-A Woodberry Square Pl). Note: Items purchased for New Covenant students are NOT to be worn as part of their regular school uniform. Use this link to view and place an order: <https://ncswinter2020.itemorder.com/>.

### JOB OPENING

We are seeking a School of Rhetoric student who is at least 16 years old to fill a new position—Assistant Manager of winter concessions. This will be a

competitively paid position requiring a commitment of 5-10 hours per week during basketball season. If interested, please contact **Linda Hackenbracht**, Director of Finance, for an application and detailed job description.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP is accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year and will remain open through **January 31, 2021**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis! So **do not delay** in applying! To apply, visit: [www.factsmgmt.com/aid](http://www.factsmgmt.com/aid). Please refer to an email sent on **Thursday, November 5** for detailed instructions.

### ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Applications for the 2021-22 school year are now being accepted for brand new siblings in all grades. As a reminder, Kindergarten classes can fill quickly. Current families who submit a K-12 new student application will receive preference until **December 1**. After that date, outside applications will be considered for placement. Visit our website to start your application: [www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/](http://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/).

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

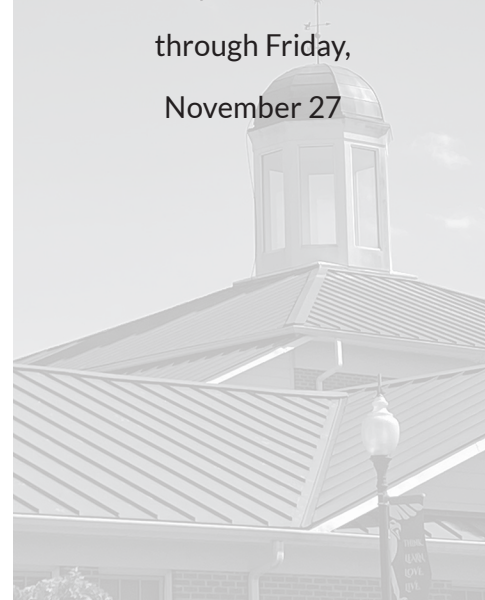
There will be no school **Monday, November 23** through **Friday, November 27** for our Thanksgiving Break. Students return to school on **Monday, November 30**.

### LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for December is open. The deadline to order is this **Friday, November 20**. Remember, Friday pizza must be preordered. Monthly lunch ordering is a family task. The lunch staff does

## THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Monday, November 23**  
through **Friday,**  
**November 27**



not do this for you. Once the ordering period closes, parents are unable to add orders. Helpful information on the ordering process may be found on the school website by clicking **My NCS>My Meal Plan** and then **View instructions for ordering Lunch**. Questions may be directed to **Debbie Williamson** at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Student progress reports will be issued by email this **Wednesday, November 18**.

## PLEASE NOTE

The school nurse email address is:  
[schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org)





*Students preparing for the 2019 Lessons and Carols performance.*

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Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, England, **Edward Benson**, was trying to think of ways to keep the men of the town out of the pubs before the first Christmas Communion service at midnight. It was an inauspicious beginning with a congregation meeting in a thrown-together wooden building alongside the ancient stone cathedral that was being renovated. The service was popular, but really took off when the choir of King’s College, Cambridge offered the service in its historic chapel in 1918 in celebration of the end of the first world war. The very next year King’s Choir began the service singing “Once in Royal David’s City” and that has become a permanent introduction to the service.

The Nine Lessons that we use today are the same ones that King’s Chaplain **Eric Milner-White** chose that first performance in 1918. Beginning in the book Genesis we hear how the merciful Creator would not let his beautiful world be destroyed by human rebellion but promised that he would send a Son to defeat the Serpent. Abraham responded

in faith to God’s test, agreeing to sacrifice his son on the mountain. Again, God showed himself active in redeeming the world through sending a son. Again and again we hear how God promised to forgive and rescue his wayward people Israel when he sent their long-expected king, the Messiah. But the greatest mystery is reserved to the end: that the one who would save Israel was none other than God himself, the Son who has made the Father known to the world that he loved so much.

This year our service will feature performances from the School of Rhetoric choir, band and orchestra. Our middle school students were unable to prepare due to mitigations associated with COVID. Regardless, we invite our entire community to join together for a worship service like none other. Even if you do not have a student performing in the musical ensembles on stage, come and add your voices as we sing carols, say the prayers, and hear again what God has done for us in the birth of his Son.

<sup>1</sup> The Governor’s recent order continues to permit church services and religious practice. This service is sponsored by our affiliate parish, All Saints Church and will be held at Hyland Heights Baptist Church. The church is spacious with ample accommodation for social distancing. Participants will also be socially distanced on the very large stage afforded by this venue.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## EX OFFICIO

Rev’d John Heaton

## 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 lifelong learner.

new covenant schools