

Fifth graders rush to the recent MS Fall Festival.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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THE HIGH CALLING OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Little known to most people, even many students of the Bible, are the men and women who were engaged in the construction of the very first House for God in human history. It may have escaped our notice, but the later chapters of the biblical book of Exodus describe in detail the blueprints and the construction of a “tabernacle” through which God would draw near to his people, and dwell among them.

This part of the Bible is obscure to many, so it’s no surprise that there are two important characters, perhaps long-forgotten, who were intimately involved in the design and construction of the project. Their names are Bezalel and Oholiab, and they are first mentioned in Exodus 31. These two men were the lead architects, designers and

craftsmen who oversaw the construction of this amazing structure.

The LORD said to Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel...of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab...of the tribe of Dan. (Exodus 31:1-6)

I find it remarkable that these two men are the first persons whom the Scriptures indicate were “filled with the Spirit of God.” That’s right, great as Moses was, this particular attribute is never ascribed to him or anyone else. These two rather forgotten

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WHAT'S NEW?

**You Are Invited
to the Chapel
Open House on
December 13**

Join us for an Open House in the newly renovated Marie Macdonald Chapel Monday evening, **December 13 from 6:00 to 6:50pm**. Most parents must arrive early to drop off students participating in Lessons & Carols so it’s a perfect time to come inside, get some coffee and light refreshments before the Christmas program begins, and fellowship with each other. Grandparents and other friends are also invited to attend. Childcare will be available for those ages infant to four years old in the Kindergarten Commons beginning at 6:45 pm. We look forward to sharing this new space and celebrating the Advent season with you.



H O N O R A R I A

A GOOD PROBLEM TO HAVE

by John Heaton

As we go to print today we continue to express our thanks to all of those who have contributed to the Permanent Things Campaign. The lead article in the edition of QUID NOVI is a reflection on our builders; this article is a reflection on our givers.

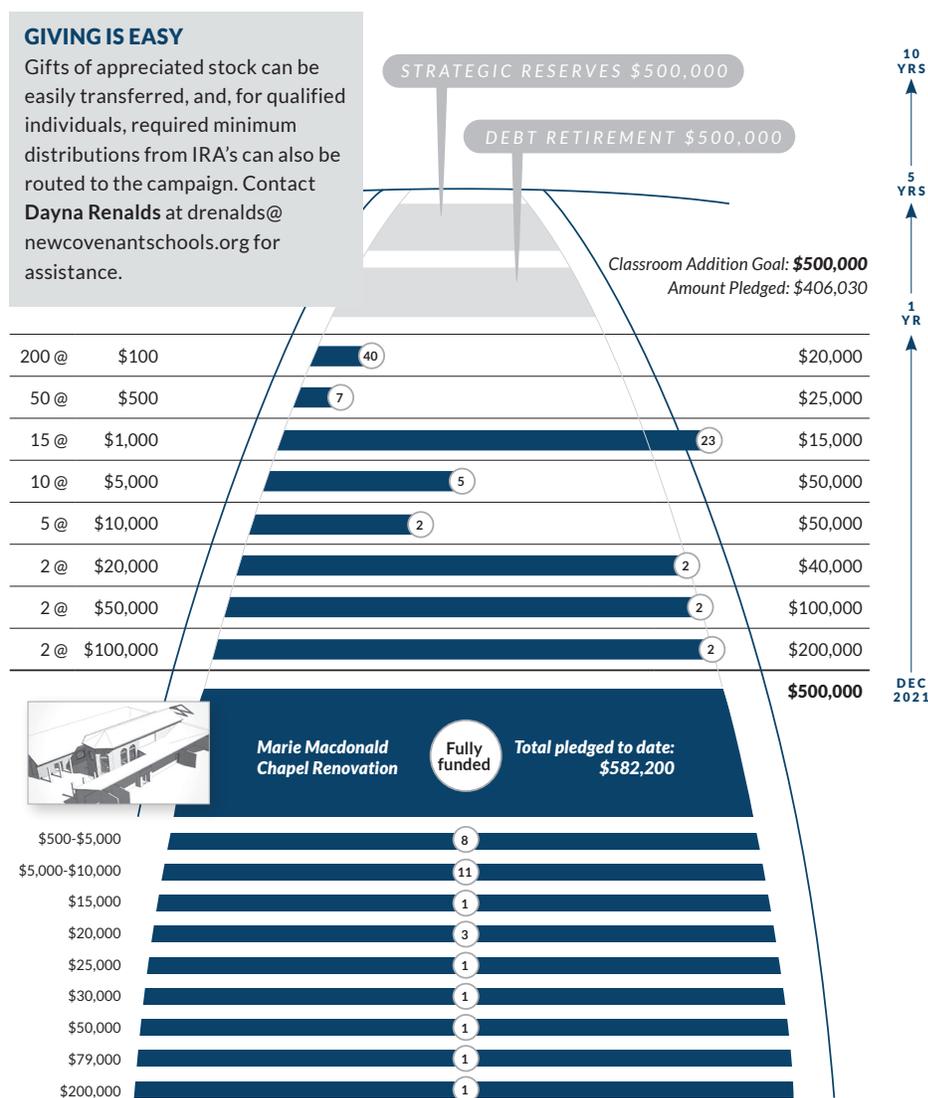
Again, as I have read back through Exodus, I came across this astonishing statement in chapter 36: The people “still kept bringing [Moses] freewill offerings every morning, so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, and said to Moses, ‘The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do’ So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.”

Did I read that correctly? The people were basically told to stop giving because there was more than enough! What an amazing problem to have. Now, I’m not ready to publish such a thing just yet, but I do want you to know that the response to our appeal has been heartening. The graphic on this page demonstrates the continued support of the effort from many parents and friends of the school. As you can see, the giving for the completion of the chapel is complete.

The next tier of the campaign is to provide for two classrooms and for a recreational complex below the Workman Field House. The school has been the recipient of a generous gift of \$100,000, which was matched in kind by New Covenant’s board of directors. The sum of their leadership has completely met the need for the leadership gifts required to guarantee the viability of this stage. We thank all of our board members (listed on p. 4 of QUID NOVI) each of whom has participated, and each of whom would invite you to join them.

GIVING IS EASY

Gifts of appreciated stock can be easily transferred, and, for qualified individuals, required minimum distributions from IRA’s can also be routed to the campaign. Contact **Dayna Renalds** at drenalds@newcovenantschools.org for assistance.



You’ll also notice that the next two levels of giving – also very significant – have been met with gifts from our parent community. On one line (\$1,000) we are experiencing the “tabernacle effect” with more gifts on the line than we were seeking. When all of the current gifts and pledges are tallied, we are approaching the \$1,000,000 mark which will completely fund the first two stages of the Permanent Things Campaign. Other categories, however, still await fulfillment, so the pyramid shows exactly how you can participate. We urge you to share the blessing that comes through giving by simply finding a level of contribution that fits with your ability. Remember, you can spread your gift over

three years, making it very easy to manage, and in some cases, such an arrangement might empower you to give more than you first thought.

Whatever you do, your offerings should be just as they were in ancient days, made according to your own “freewill. There is no pressure, no compulsion, no misleading hype. We firmly believe that when our community clearly sees the vision, the Permanent Things will be provided for, ensuring that New Covenant remains here, serving families, educating and shaping children and young people for years to come. Thank you for your support in any amount.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

PRESCHOOL

Due to increased interest in PreK for the 2022-23 school year, we will be opening a second section allowing for more students. Please let friends and family know that openings are still available in our earliest learning program. Our PreK program is the best start for your child's education at New Covenant. Use this link to apply: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2022-23 school year is accepting applications and will remain open until **January 15, 2022**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so do not delay in applying!

LESSONS & CAROLS

All are invited to join us for our Annual Service of Lessons & Carols on **Monday, December 13 at 7pm** in the Moomaw Center at New Covenant. Students in the combined School of Rhetoric band, orchestra and choir will be leading the service along with participation from 7th & 8th grade students. The service is participatory and there is even a 9:00am start to school the next day for all grades. All are welcome! Join us for this special service and begin your Christmas season with Lessons & Carols at New Covenant Schools.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The end of the 2nd quarter and the beginning of Christmas Break is on **Friday, December 17**. We will have an

11am dismissal on the 17th and school will break for Christmas through **Tuesday, January 4** with students returning on **Wednesday, January 5**.

CUSTODIAL POSITION

We are in need of a custodian for the Workman Field House, who cleans and maintains the floors, storage and the Fitness Center. Training is offered and will involve 15 hours per week in the evenings. This position might be perfect for a local college student who wishes to be involved in the athletic world and needs only a part-time job. Interested persons should contact Facilities Manager **Darren Johnson** at djohnson@newcovenantschools.org.

LUNCH ORDERING

You can now order your student's January lunches. Set a reminder to get that done so you can check one thing off your to-do list during this busy season! The ordering window will be open through **Friday, December 17**.

LOST AND FOUND

All items left unclaimed in the lost and found will be purged and donated on **December 17**. When visiting our campus during one of our holiday events, please take the time to check for any of your family's personal items.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

Gryphon Outfitters, our school store, accepts donations of uniform items in good condition. We are grateful for those items that have been donated and welcome new donations. To donate, simply leave your donations at the front desk. Please be sure to donate only school-approved uniform items free of stains, tears or personalization. As a

reminder, Gryphon Outfitters is open each Thursday school is in session from 2:30-3:30pm.

GRYPHON FAN STORE

An online store is open to our Gryphon athletic fans. You can purchase using the following link: <https://ncswinter2021.itemorder.com/>.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Grammar School Christmas Program (grades PreK-4) will be held **Friday, December 17 at 8:15am** in the Moomaw Center.



Poinsettias adorn the campus with Christmas beauty courtesy of Deck the Halls volunteer Danielle Hottle.



BUILDING PERMANENT THINGS . . .
BRICK BY BRICK



Looking for a creative way to participate in the Permanent Things Campaign? Now you can by purchasing a commemorative brick and leaving your lasting legacy on the campus of New Covenant Schools.

Each standard brick size is 4"x8" and is available for a contribution of \$500.

Inscription space is three lines with 18 characters per line.

For more information, contact Dayna Renalds at drenalds@newcovenantschools.org or 434-847-8313.



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men, however, were divinely gifted so that they could execute the craftsmanship required for a sacred structure. No doubt, as former slaves in Egypt, building the magnificent ancient cities of Pithom and Raamses, they had plenty of years of skill development and know-how. It is also likely that they were well-known to both the Hebrews and the Egyptians.

As I have watched the process of our chapel expansion, from its design phase to its completion, I have thought about these two ancient craftsmen. I can't help but make comparisons as I have watched our own skilled artisans at work, sometimes pondering a problem and working through it to perfection, or making a design adjustment on the fly. Not having those gifts myself, I am fascinated by their knowledge and ability. I am humbled by their skill, and inspired by their diligence. I routinely talk to those who are working on site, and I have the sense that for most of them this has been a unique experience. They have built many things, mostly homes, offices or shops for others—but never a home for God, and never one quite like this. By the care they have demonstrated in their work, and the things they have said to me, it is clear that they are aware that this project has claimed their very best. And they have

delivered, such that one might think that God's own Spirit has been at work.

It is often assumed that a classical, Christian education, focused as it is on the liberal arts, might tend to exclude the practical arts, like building and artisanship. Not so. Attention to truth, goodness, and beauty—the hallmarks of such an education—are not the exclusive property those privileged to receive it. The skill of a brick mason, a carpenter, or a surgeon can also express the highest ideals for which we strive in the classroom. I would highly recommend that students consider the trades as a worthy pursuit for a lifelong vocation.

Thus, as the week opens, the first phase of the Permanent Things Campaign will come to fruition as we finish the expansion of the school's chapel. Thursday is "move-in" day, and our crews are putting the finishing touches on floors, paint and appointments. This Friday will see the first student chapel services in the renovated space. A consecration service will take place Sunday at 9:00 am, followed by an Open House on Monday at 6:00 p.m. I hope that you will take one of these opportunities to explore this beautiful addition to the community.

QUID NOVI

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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