



It was Crazy Hat Day for first graders last week which was part of celebrating reading Go, Dog, Go!

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 7, 2022  
VOL. 25 NO. 11 MAJORIS

## THOUGHTS ON EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

by John Heaton, Headmaster

It's been over two years since Carl Trueman published the book, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*. People are still talking about it, which for our society suggests a longer shelf life than most publications. At 432 pages it's intimidating, but the reason it remains under discussion is that Trueman forthrightly engages with our society's obsession with sexual identity. It seems our students are locked in rooms where the most important thing to be

talked about is "who" one is – man, woman, binary, cisgender, LGBTQ++.

This article is not about those things exactly; rather, I'm interested in Trueman's analysis of what's driving the conversation. Building on the works of Philip Reiff (*The Triumph of the Therapeutic*, 1966) and Charles Taylor (*A Secular Age*, 2007), he maintains that we have entered into an age of "psychological man" in which people find their identity in inward

*continued on p.4*

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Men's Soccer Extends Its Season

*Fullback Jude Vollmer ('23) said, "As a team we were determined not to lose."*

New Covenant Men's Varsity Soccer achieved two school "firsts" last Friday when they traveled to Eastern Mennonite for the VISAA State Quarter-final. This is the farthest ever our athletes have advanced in the VISAA soccer tournament. Moreover, this game marked the first time that the Gryphons defeated Eastern Mennonite, one of the historically stronger programs in the league. The Gryphons were scored upon in the first half and were down one at the break. With adjustments in the second half, however, **Kaden Newsome** tied the score off a beautiful pass from **Micah Xayavong**.

The Gryphons controlled the ball most of the half and shot continuously at the goal. **Eli Johnson** eventually scored the winning goal, his first of the year. Athletic Director **John Maynard** remarked, "The resolve these men showed in the second half was remarkable to see. The work they have put in these last few years has gotten them to this point and they deserve every bit of the success they have achieved." The men advance to play Wakefield in the Semi-final in Richmond on Tuesday.

On the women's side in volleyball the Lady Gryphons lost to The Covenant School in the BRC Conference Championship. They move to the first round of the VISAA State tournament with a match against Westover tomorrow afternoon.



# H O N O R A R I A

## CAST OF “OUR TOWN” SELECTED

The School of Rhetoric's Panache Playmakers are putting the pieces in place for its winter performances of “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder. Auditions were held last week and the cast and crew selections are listed below. Performances are scheduled for February 24 and 25. This play was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Drama and tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens.



**Lizzie Bryant** – Stage Manager

**Elizabeth Deneen** – Emily Webb

**Will Kittrell** – George Gibbs

**Noah Caldwell** – Dr. Gibbs

**Brey Welch** – Mrs. Gibbs

**Stone Haibach** – Mr. Webb

**Mary Place** – Mrs. Webb

**Rebekah Bryant** – Rebecca Gibbs / lady in box / graveyard singer / choir/ 2nd dead woman

**Sam Miller** – Wally Webb / Howie Newsome / graveyard singer/ choir/ Si Crowell / Mr. Carter

**Nicole Clark** – Samantha Craig / Josephine Crowell

**Cora Helm** – Mrs. Soames / woman in balcony / graveyard singer / choir / 1st dead woman

**Enoch Tan** – Professor Willard / graveyard singer / choir / Joe Stoddard / Constable Warren

**Colin Mather** – Simon Stimson / Farmer McCarty / belligerent man / graveyard singer / choir

## OVERHEARD . . .

*By John Heaton, Headmaster*

You can hear a lot of funny things on the sidelines. At a recent soccer match I was talking to longtime New Covenant parents, **Todd and Suzie Tryall**, whose daughter **Delilah** graduated in 2014. They shared the story of Delilah's experience in a literature class while she was studying as an undergraduate at Liberty University.

On one particular day she was sleepy from having worked late, and, by her own admission, nodded off to sleep during the professor's lecture on Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Offended by her lack of attention, he called upon her abruptly, and suggested that perhaps she might reengage by reading the passage at hand. It happened to be the famous St. Crispin's Day speech, immortalized for all English speakers by Kenneth Branagh in the movie version (you need to Google Henry V St. Crispin's Day speech, and watch it!). The speech happens to be one of many literary passages New Covenant students commit to memory as they traverse the curriculum in the School of Rhetoric.

*Professor:* “Delilah, would you please read the passage for all of us?”

*Delilah:* “Yessir.” She stood to her feet and closed the text. She paused a moment, gathering herself, and then, to the great surprise of all, recited the speech from memory with all the drama it called for.

When she finished, the class was silent and everyone stared, disbelieving what they had just witnessed. After a moment, the professor continued.

*Professor:* “Young lady, where did you go to high school?”

*Delilah:* “New Covenant, sir; right here in Lynchburg.”

*Professor:* “You may be seated, and you may go back to sleep.”

## EVERYONE

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent via email this **Friday, November 11.**

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2023-24 school year is now open and will remain open until **January 15.** There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early! Go to <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid> to apply.

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will break for Thanksgiving from **Monday, November 21 – Friday, November 25.** Students return on **Monday, November 28.**

### LUNCH ORDERING

It is time to order lunch for December. The ordering window closes the Friday before Thanksgiving Break on **November 18.** Please contact Debbie Williamson with any questions at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL

**WHEN: Friday, November 18, 1:30pm.**

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Long, loose athletic pants/jeans, shirt in the color of your team (teams will be posted near MS classrooms soon), athletic shoes which you don't mind getting dirty.

The event includes activities planned by the 8th Grade Council. More details to come!

### WINTER UNIFORM CLARIFICATION

For young women: leggings are allowed, but should meet the socks, fit like tights (not sweatpants) and match the uniform. No wild and crazy colors—stick with blue, black, white or light grey. Leg warmers are not allowed. On days when the forecast's high temperature is 40° or below, ladies may wear Flynn & O'Hara uniform slacks, even on dress day, with their normal dress day tops. 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 or light grey, it may be worn under a short-sleeved shirt as well. You may not wear a hoodie under your polo nor a shirt with writing on the sleeves.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR IN ART AND BIBLE

New Covenant Schools is seeking a middle school instructor in the disciplines of Studio Art and Bible, beginning **December 1, 2022.** The successful applicant will hold a Bachelor's degree. Familiarity with the traditions of classical, Christian education and experience teaching students in grades 5 – 8 are preferred. For more information, please

## SPORTS SCORES



*Wednesday, November 2*

### VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

Grace Christian ..... 1  
New Covenant..... 3

*Friday, November 4*

### VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant..... 2  
at Eastern Mennonite ..... 1

-----



The Varsity Women's Volleyball team earned the #5 State ranking and will travel to #4 Westover Christian on Tuesday for the State Quarterfinals.

contact Marion Patterson ([mpatterson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:mpatterson@newcovenantschools.org)) or submit an application, available on the website.

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$6,380
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$19,527
Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$141,000 <i>Received</i> \$32,492

### GIVING IS EASY

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.

quest for personal psychological acceptance, affirmation and happiness. It's not just a self-help search. It's a way of thinking that has become so fundamental that it has become a governing framework, running in the background like an operating system in a computer. Far from being limited to academia, it has been popularized powerfully by media, political parties, and corporate and entertainment conglomerates, and adopted uncritically by school boards across America including the places we live. One could summarize it this way:

- The triumph of the individual as self-referential: One needs nothing from outside to define individuality or the world;
- The rejection of all external authority, especially the Christian Scriptures;
- The individual is the maker of meaning: nothing has meaning beyond what one gives to it or accepts on his own judgment;
- So-called "objective" truths are at best mere constructs, and at worst are constructs designed by the powerful to harm the weak.

Taken together these assumptions issue in an "expressive individualism" which not only shuns external authority, but also carries a resistance to common practices and common liturgies, both of which are expressions of culture that are designed to inform habits of the heart and habits of behavior. It powerfully undermines common moral obligations and the sensibilities that come with it, such as respect for others, reverence, and adherence to community standards.

This is what culture does. Culture directs an individual outward. In

communal activities individuals find their true selves, which is *given* and *learned*. Culture provides the community wherein the individual finds self-consciousness in being recognized by that society. This occurs because one behaves according to the conventions of that society. The expressive individual is at one with the expressive community. A culture's viability turns on the authority of those institutions that enforce or inculcate norms and communicate them from one generation to another. This is precisely what classical, Christian education purports to do.

For the expressive individual, however, Trueman notes that "institutions cease to be places for the formation of individuals via their schooling in the various practices and disciplines that allow them to take their place in society. Instead they become platforms of performance, where individuals are allowed to be their authentic selves precisely because they are able to give expression to who they are "inside." He goes on, "In the world of psychological man...the commitment is first and foremost to the self and is inwardly directed. Thus, the order is reversed. Outward institutions become in effect the servants of the individual and a sense of inner well-being" (49).

The reason we find ourselves unable to speak with civility in political discourse, the reason that discussions are so acrimonious and futile, is that there is no longer a commonly accepted foundation on which such discussions might constructively take place. We have not only hardened into polarized political parties; we have hardened into polarized sovereign individuals. The great challenge for our community is to

strengthen our family and school cultures, to seek to be self-aware of how our own health is affected by such social viruses. Accomplishing that means that we reject a sanctimonious response in which we see ourselves as somehow standing apart. It means that we recognize and affirm that the triumph of the self is at bottom a quest for dignity. The argument is over where the dignity is sourced. It also entails that we maintain the very heart of our mission: to invigorate the authority, liturgies, practices, moral obligations, and the things we honor in our cultural inheritance. Thus we structure the curriculum and culture of the school to actively advocate an authentic Christian, educational community which the students are asked to respect, and in which they are asked to participate.



## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2023 • Nancy Hall • Kristin Hampton • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers  
Anne Umbarger • Darryl Whitesell • Class of 2024 • Mike Lovell • Class of 2025 • Neil Bohnert • Leslie Moeller • Bob Price  
Leland Seckman • Dan Vollmer

### EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster  
Eric Parker—School Warden

### 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