



Gryphon JV Girl's Volleyball taking on Grace Christian School on Friday at the Workman Fieldhouse.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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ST. FRANCIS—DEVOTED TO GOD AND HIS CREATION

by Rev. Davidson Morse, Chaplain

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6.21

He lived in my grandmother's side yard under a sprawling magnolia and surrounded by ivy. She buried a long line of deceased beagles and an occasional parakeet next to him among the tangled vines. He was blotched with mold and weather-stained. Yet he stood there timeless, an enigma to a little boy whose life had been carefully purged of statuary and especially "yard art." He was St. Francis.

Raised a thoroughgoing Presbyterian, all I knew about Francis was what I could intuit from that concrete statue. He had a funny haircut, wore a bathrobe, and had birds on his shoulders and bunnies around his feet. Perhaps he was an early prototype to the Dr. Doolittle that I was familiar with.

As I grew older and entered formal education, in Church History I learned that Francis began his unique mission at a time when the Western Church was gripped by division, decadence and heresy. The

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WHAT'S NEW?

Blessing of the Animals Instructions—This Friday



Parents are invited to bring their children's pets for the Blessing of the Animals in the Bell Tower courtyard on **Friday, October 6**. Grammar School students will meet their parents in this area at 2:15pm with the Middle School students following at 2:40pm.

Please make sure your animals are caged or restrained and are not brought inside the buildings. Containers are provided for you to clean up

after your pets. Larger animals are welcome (we've had farm animals before!), but please notify us in advance if this is the case. You can bring any critter you have as long as it is one cared for or tended by your children. After checking out with their teachers, students may dismiss from the courtyard.

Parking is available in either lot or in a diagonal fashion along the grass at the edges of the

lots. Please reserve the first two lanes of traffic for those who are not participating in the event but only coming for pickup. The third lane should remain open for thru-traffic.

Parent volunteers are needed to direct traffic in the lots, especially during dismissal time. If you would like to help, please contact **Andrea Adams** at aadams@newcovenantschools.org.

H O N O R A R I A

JACOBS NOMINATED FOR DAR GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Senior Mae Jacobs is the recipient of the faculty and staff nomination for the James River Chapter of the **Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award**, a distinction of honor for her record of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.



Mae now has the privilege of participating in the accompanying DAR essay contest where she can express the attributes of citizenship that are essential to both a thriving community and a stable country. We wish her the best in this next challenge and are thankful for her example of faithfulness here in our own community.

NCS STUDENTS AND FACULTY TAKE ON THE VIRGINIA 10 MILER AND 4+ MILER

New Covenant student and faculty runners participated Saturday in The Moore & Giles Virginia 10 Miler and its companion 4+ Miler race. This was the 49th running of the race which has had the privilege of hosting many elite runners over the years, including Bill Rogers, Frank Shorter, Rod Dixon, and Joan Benoit Samuelson.¹

Since 2007 the Lynchburg Road Runners Club, a member of the Road Runners Club of America, has organized the race. The club has been promoting fitness through running for over 30 years in the Lynchburg community.



10 Miler

Michael Seckman	1:06:33	62 nd Overall	2 nd in Male 17-under Age Group
Luke Cordes	1:15:09	108 th Overall	7 th in Male 17-under Age Group
Caleb McCormick	1:17:35	133 rd Overall	9 th in Male 17-under Age Group
Alex Fuhr	1:21:05	203 rd Overall	7 th in Male 17-under Age Group
Melia Leitner	1:23:54	256 th Overall	4 th in Female 17-under Age Group
Micah Xayavong	1:46:50	771 st Overall	20 th in Male 17-under Age Group
Coach Stephanie Leitner	1:52:25	865 th Overall	38 th in Age Group

4+ Miler (4.4 miles)

Coach Chris Deneen	28:51	7 th Overall	3 rd Place Male Open
Noah McCormick	31:38	26 th Overall	4 th in Male 15-19 Age Group
Gia Barlow	32:11	28 th Overall	2 nd in Female 15-19 Age Group
Colton Buckner	33:12	35 th Overall	4 th in Male 10-14 Age Group
Kelly Hoskins	33:28	36 nd Overall	5 th in Male 10-14 Age Group
Coach Larry Barlow	37:34	87 th Overall	1 st in Age Group
Jesus Reinel Castaneda	38:08	97 th Overall	1 st in Age Group

¹virginiatenmiler.com/about-us/history/

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Parents of students in K-8th grade are invited to bring household pets for a blessing from **Rev. Davidson Morse** on **Friday, October 6**. See announcement on page 1 for details.

LUNCH ORDERING

November lunch ordering begins **Friday, October 6** and ends **October 20**. Featured items include spaghetti and meatballs, hot dogs, and our very own pancake and sausage breakfast sandwich called the Gryphon Griddler. Remember—don't leave items in your FACTS online shopping cart. Complete the checkout process by finalizing your payment. A receipt will appear on the screen confirming your orders. Quarterly milk subscriptions will be billed in mid-October. The charge is \$35 for each milk subscription. Please direct any questions to **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

SCHOOL PHOTOS RETAKES

Good Photos will be returning on **Thursday, October 19** for picture retakes. If your student was absent on picture day, they will automatically be rescheduled. If they were present but you would like their picture retaken, please email **Eliza Olson** at eolson@newcovenantschools.org.

END OF QUARTER

Mark your calendars for the end of the first quarter on **Tuesday, October 10** for the School of Rhetoric and **Friday, October 13** for Grammar and Middle Schools. Report cards will be emailed to parents on **Friday, October 27**.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Friday, October 13**.

FALL BREAK

There will be no school and the office will be closed for our Fall Break **Monday, October 16 - Wednesday, October 18**. Students return on **Thursday, October 19**.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN 2024-25

Now is the time to submit a student application if you intend for your child to begin Pre-K or Kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. We offer early enrollment to our current families including our current Pre-K students. New sibling applications for all other grades are also being accepted. Your application for a new sibling will receive priority in our admissions process until **October 12, 2023**. Application is easy. Simply use this link to our website to begin: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>. School tours are also open. If you would like

to learn more about our Pre-K-12 program or know another family who is interested in our school, please use this link to schedule a tour <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/schedule-a-tour/> or contact **Linda Simon** in the admissions office by emailing lsimon@newcovenantschools.org.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

DC TRIP

The School of Rhetoric will be going on their annual trip to Washington DC this **Thursday, October 5 - Friday, October 6**.

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING EDUCATION

Would you like to know more about the VA 529 Savings Plan and the VA Educational Improvement Tax Credits Scholarship Program? These programs offer ways for you to pay school tuition with tax-free savings or make a bigger impact with your charitable gift. Join us for breakfast **any Wednesday in October at 7:45am** (except 10/18) to hear from our Director of Development on how these programs work. You may reserve your spot here <https://bit.ly/FundingEducation2023>.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$122,100 <i>Received</i> \$44,051

The New Covenant Schools Scholarship Foundation exists to provide scholarships for students who would not be able to attend our school without significant help. Individuals who donate to this fund receive a 65% tax credit to be used against state tax liabilities and may use the remaining 35% as a deduction on federal taxes if itemization occurs. This is a way to steward your tax money and use it for a child's education. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

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church was a close-run thing somewhere between being endorsed by Pope Innocent III and being condemned as another sect of radicals. By the end of the 13th century, Francis was part of the “Friars Minor.” These friars had reached to every corner of Christendom and had become one of the most influential movements in church and university, and also a fixture in the fabric of medieval Europe.

Francis committed his life, and the lives of his companions, “To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps.” Poverty, chastity and obedience had been the marks of the monastic life for almost a millennia before the arrival of Francis. Francis took it a step further. The Friars Minor would be mendicant, travelling or homeless, and they could only provide for their needs by begging alms. In this way Francis sought the way of the cross, the way of the apostles, the way of Christ. And in the end he received the “stigmata,” the six marks of Jesus’ suffering.

But what can we make of Francis? G. K. Chesterton wrote his book *St. Francis* hoping his readers could “at least get a glimmering of why the poet who praised his lord the sun, often hid himself in a dark cavern, of why the saint who was so gentle with his Brother the Wolf was so harsh to his Brother the

WANT TO BOARD LUNA?

The Heaton’s will be heading out of town on **Wednesday, October 11** and **Luna** is hoping that a New Covenant student will board her until **Monday, October 16**. Luna is very little trouble, sleeps a lot, and is friendly with all children and most other animals (except groundhogs). Email heaton@newcovenantschools.org if you are interested.



Ass (as he nicknamed his own body), of why the troubadour who said that love set his heart on fire separated himself from women, of why the singer who rejoiced in the strength and gaiety of the fire deliberately rolled himself in the snow.” The key, says Chesterton, is to understand that Francis was the greatest of the troubadours, the professional poets, musicians and lovers of the Middle Ages. His, however, was no earthly love, nor was his Beloved a lady of high

estate. The object of his devotion was God himself, and the beauties Francis proclaimed were heaven and earth, mountains and oceans, snow and heat, animals and human beings.

Francis blessed the animals. We will bless the animals on October 6, and we hope you will come. But it would be a mistake to think that Francis blessed the animals because he was a devoted pet owner. He didn’t own anything, not even his own body. He blessed them because they, like he, had been made by the most desirable One of all, God himself. In blessing them, he blessed the One who made them in all their wondrous variety. Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.



QUID NOVI

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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 lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS