

NEW COVENANT schools

JUNE 20, 2025 | VOL. 28 NO. 1

QUID NOVI

SUMMER EDITION

INSIDE

- Class of 2025 Honors
- Hands & Hearts Recap
- Thanks to Donors
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THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.



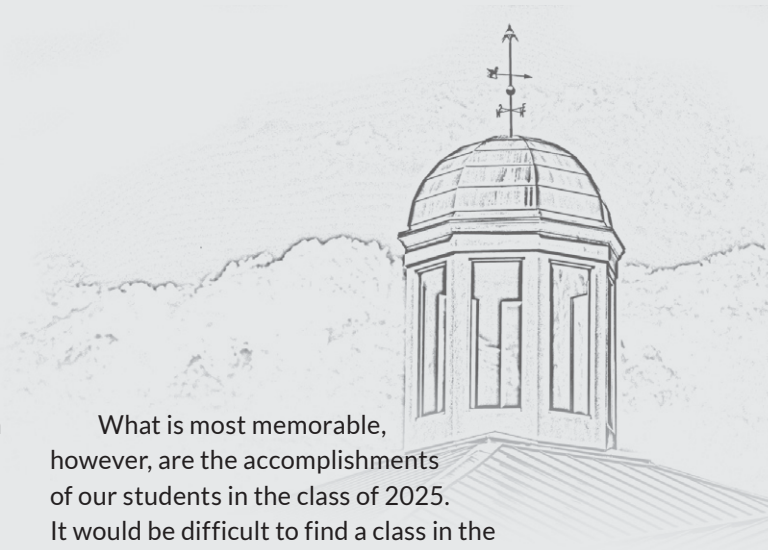
WHAT'S NEW?

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Making memories. That small phrase has slipped into our cultural vocabulary as a way of describing planned events like vacations, game nights, or outings with friends. You see it in the comment section on social media posts, usually with smiley emoji's and such. It's caught my attention by its misdirection, suggesting that we now order our affairs for the sole purpose of making memories, rather than just doing the thing itself.

I don't intend to be a harsh critic of this new way of talking. Having said that, however, I would point out that human beings have a more complicated relationship with the past. Often the things we remember most vividly are the things we *don't* plan or intend to retain at all. These include things that happen by chance, but which are impressed upon us forever—a bicycle wreck that resulted in a broken wrist and ended a football season; a 10-pound large-mouth bass that was landed on the first cast; or crossing the sand at Daytona Beach only to be struck by a car! These are all vivid in my mind because each actually happened to me. I didn't plan any of them, nor was I intending to "make a memory." But make a memory, I certainly did.

This year marks the conclusion of our 34th academic year, and a lot has taken place in the last twelve months—things we didn't expect, but which will remain, well, memorable. We didn't know, for example, how the school would be strengthened by the addition of two new Divisional Principals in the Grammar and High School. We vastly underestimated the impact of the Center for Paideia, which in its first year provided support for more than fifty children. We did not expect to launch a new podcast series (see p. 9), and we were surprised at the astonishing report we received from the Society for Classical Learning when they accredited the school this year. We had no idea that we would encounter financial support that would enable the school to retire all of its outstanding debt in the near future. We didn't know that our parents and friends would respond to our need for a new bus and new staging equipment for the Moomaw Center. We didn't know any of that, but it is certainly memorable.



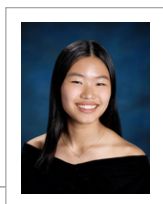
What is most memorable, however, are the accomplishments of our students in the class of 2025. It would be difficult to find a class in the school's history that distinguished itself as this group of students has done.

While we always have high hopes for our students, none of us could have predicted how their New Covenant story would conclude. Eight graduated *summa cum laude* and nine achieved *magna cum laude*. Jenna Ng earned the title of National Merit Scholar—the 9th in the school's history. Declund Stevenson and Ellie Jacobs both won appointments to the United States Naval Academy. As a class they were accepted to 53 colleges and universities, earning \$3,600,750 in merit scholarships, a school record by more than \$1,000,000. That's memorable.

While it was a studious bunch, every member of this class also played at least one sport season during the past four years, some while continuing to perform in band, choir, orchestra and drama. Outside the classroom our seniors will be remembered for leading ten sports teams that qualified for state playoffs, with three "final four" appearances in men's soccer, women's basketball and soccer, and one state championship appearance in addition to a women's volleyball team that made the conference championship for the fourth year in a row. Members of this class set ten school records in soccer, track and field, swimming, volleyball, and met career points club thresholds. Four obtained 1st Team All-State honors in their careers.

Together the faculty and their students never set out to "make memories" with any of this, but how would we ever forget the unexpected triumphs they leave behind in our halls? I invite you to take a few moments to read this summer edition of *QUID NOVI*, and to remember with us the great things we have enjoyed together this year.

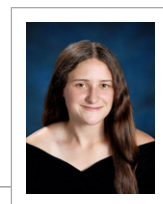
H O N O R A R I A



JENNA NG

VALEDICTORIAN

Jenna Ng has been an achiever since her early years at New Covenant Schools. Her academic performance is characterized by extraordinary levels of analytical skill by which she explored complex topics and tensions in her research. She ably offered nuanced interpretations and showed broad synthesis in class and in her writing. As a voracious reader, Jenna's love of language and words is far-ranging, making even reading the dictionary an enjoyable experience. As a repeat regional Spelling Bee winner, she represented New Covenant Schools in Washington, DC throughout her middle school years at the Scripps's National Spelling Bee competition. As a senior she became New Covenant Schools' ninth National Merit Scholar, a highly prestigious honor, and she was recognized for her excellence in literature, history, and theology by her teachers; her western civilization timelines are still on display and held in reverence by underclassmen. For two consecutive years Jenna served as Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook and Gryphon's Quill. In this role, she led two teams who created two distinct publications, each with its own style, and designed to share the love of language with the school community. Finally, Jenna is a skilled musician, sharing her incredible talents in violin and piano inside and outside the New Covenant Schools community. Her passion for music is not something that she keeps to herself, but, like all her endeavors, it is something that she shares for the benefit of her listeners. Jenna graduated with double cord honors, denoting the highest level of academic achievement—*summa cum laude*—for her years in the School of Rhetoric. This level of excellence and love of academics and fine art will be carried forward as she attends Vanderbilt University in the fall.

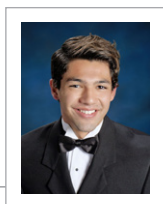


ELISE JACOBS

SALUTATORIAN

Elise "Ellie" Jacobs, has proven herself academically superior in a competitive field of fine scholars. Her teachers consistently described her as intellectually curious, with a desire to seek out truth and subsequently incorporate such findings into her work. Moreover, Ellie is a competitive athlete, participating in soccer, basketball, track and field, and tennis during her tenure at New Covenant Schools. She was selected as MVP, All-Conference, and All-State several years in a row. Ellie is one of those whom the opposing teams knew by name and number and they developed strategies to minimize her impact. She consistently overcame heightened and targeted opposition with success on the court and field. She holds the record as the top scorer in the history of women's soccer with 94 career goals. Finally, Ellie's teachers described her as a young woman of impeccable character, exemplifying the cardinal virtues of prudence (right action for the right reason), temperance (controlling desires with proper measure), justice (will to give people what they deserve whether praise or penalty), and fortitude (courage to endure in rightness through challenge and fear). She is viewed by her community as a young woman of integrity, desirous to be of service to others. It was under Ellie's leadership and guidance that students in the School of Rhetoric were trained in flag etiquette year after year, and she served as an effective leader in the music program as a principal clarinetist. During her senior year, she served as a Head of House Antioch and as Vice-President of the House Council. She graduates as a double cord scholar, denoting *summa cum laude*, for her high school career. She ends her high school experience with an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

H O N O R A R I A

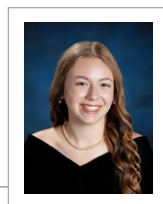


DECLUND STEVENSON

EXCELLENCE IN CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

The Classical Language Award is granted each year to a senior who has accumulated five years of high-school-level classical languages. Through years of Latin and Greek, **Declund Stevenson** demonstrated competency, dedication, and facility in the study of ancient languages, as reflected in grade average, reading ability, and curiosity for understanding the ancient world and its literature. In Latin classes Declund was curious about the history and culture of the Romans, and he had an eye for detail in terms of grammatical syntax. He was respectful to his teachers and fellow students and inspired others around him to elevate their understanding of the material. He pursued Greek I and II as an elective, and exhibited a firm understanding of the language. He was quick to ask questions and to master new material, and demonstrated exceptional insight into the language and theological concepts covered in advanced classes.

The faculty is pleased to recognize him with the 2025 Classical Languages Award.



AUBREY WELCH

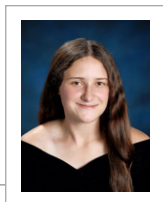
EXCELLENCE IN FINE ARTS AWARD

Thornton Wilder, when asked about why Theater is important, said, "I know that every good and excellent thing in this world stands on the razor's edge and must be fought for." This was an apt description of **Aubrey Welch's** love of the fine arts during her years at New Covenant, which caused her teachers to consider her an artist of excellent quality. She has become excellent with a rare combination of talent, work ethic, and grace. Aubrey not only works hard, but she also expects everyone to work as hard as she does. In that way she is not only excellent, but provokes excellence in those around her. On stage, she moved her audiences with her beautiful character work, soaring voice, and luminous violin. She captured the attention and imagination of those around her with the beauty she so willingly shared, changing those around her for the better. Additionally, Aubrey was a tireless advocate and ambassador for the fine arts program. When difficulties arose or plans made fell short, she rallied her peers and pushed forward with renewed spirit. Ultimately, Aubrey looked to Christ in word and action. In her time at New Covenant Schools, it was evident that she recognized He is the source of all true excellence.

The faculty is pleased to recognize her with the 2025 Excellence in Fine Arts Award.

The 'Excellence Awards' span the various disciplines in Classical Languages, Fine Arts, Mathematics/Science and Humanities. They are presented to members of the senior class who have, over their high school careers, demonstrated both an aptitude for that discipline, and an interest that sets them apart from their peers in the minds of the faculty.

H O N O R A R I A

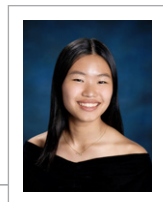


ELISE JACOBS

EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCES AWARD

In the realm of mathematics and sciences, **Ellie Jacob's** relentless pursuit of knowledge and constant determination were on display in every class of which she was a part. Her curiosity and passion drove her to excellence, not merely for a grade, but to uncover truths, ideas, and questions. In AP Calculus she mastered complex concepts and was able to make connections between them. Throughout the school year her teachers were genuinely impressed with her attention to detail and her problem-solving ability. In science, Ellie relentlessly pursued the best understanding or processes and mechanisms from organic chemistry to biology to astronomy. Never satisfied with easy or convenient answers, she could be found always digging deeper and further. Ellie's passion and ability in mathematics and science exemplifies a student who has a true love of wisdom.

The faculty is pleased to recognize her with the 2025 Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award.



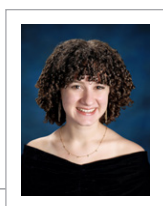
JENNA NG

EXCELLENCE IN HUMANITIES AWARD

In a class with many students who exhibited a passion and talent for the humanities, **Jenna Ng** distinguished herself through her depth of understanding and consistently strong engagement both in and out of class, displaying outstanding scholarship in the written and spoken word. In Harkness discussions and in her essays, Jenna revealed a sophistication of thought that can only come from immersion into each text she read. Far from a "cram, pass, and forget" mentality, Jenna drew from a deep well of reading. She gathered meaning by synthesizing across the disciplines, even outside of classroom assignments. One such example is when she won the Gerda Weissman Klein award for her poem, "An Infinite Time: A List to Remember the Holocaust." In this poem, Jenna presented a striking and heartbreaking look into the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. She expertly wove together historical facts with beautiful language. Jenna supported the creative work of others by reviving the student publication, *The Gryphon's Quill*, which is published each year in the spring. Finally, Jenna was an able contributor to Harkness seminars, often engaging with multiple texts and her own writing, and making connections across great works of literature.

The faculty is pleased to recognize her for achievement in humane learning.

H O N O R A R I A



ELIZABETH BRYANT

ARETE AWARD

The 2025 recipient of the Arete Award is recognized by the faculty for her ongoing example of virtue and wisdom. **Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bryant** never merely attended class, but sought to gain understanding in all that she studied, seeking truth, goodness, and beauty above all else. Her respect for her teachers cultivated a spirit of collegiality in her relationships. Likewise, her magnanimity toward those within the New Covenant community inspired them to a greater sense of loyalty and accomplishment. Her humility and charity towards those in her life convey her sincerely altruistic nature. She cares deeply for all, especially those in the most vulnerable communities as seen through her overseas missions work. She genuinely embodies the Scriptural meaning of servanthood.

The faculty is pleased to recognize her for the 2025 Arete Award.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

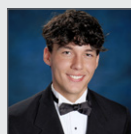
- *Is prudent in speech and action*
- *Is generous and rich in good works*
- *Is a lover of truth, goodness, and beauty*
- *Is eloquent with the written and spoken word*
- *Is spiritually strong, looking to God in faith, hope, and love*
- *Is intellectually vigorous, seeking to know God, self, and the world*
- *Encounters success with humility and failure with confidence*



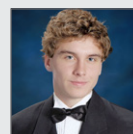
SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARDS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

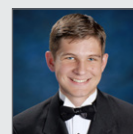
Distinction of a GPA of 4.50 or higher for career.



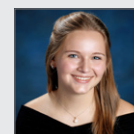
James
Brophy



John
Brophy



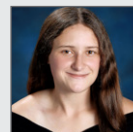
Corey
Hackenbracht



Cora
Helm



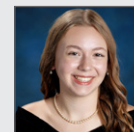
Melia
Leitner



Elise
Jacobs



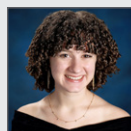
Jenna
Ng



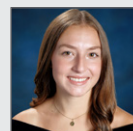
Aubrey
Welch

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

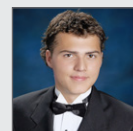
Distinction of a GPA between 4.20 and 4.50 for career.



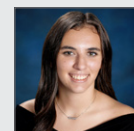
Elizabeth
Bryant



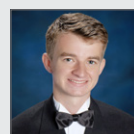
Elizabeth
Deneen



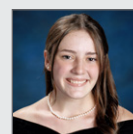
Jackson
Duncan



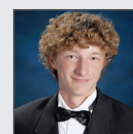
Emmalyn
Fritz



Noah
McCormick



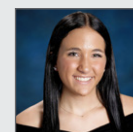
Mary
Place



John
Scruggs



Declund
Stevenson



Jocelyn
Walker

H O N O R A R I A

HONORS FOR 2024-2025 YEAR SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

Summa cum laude

John Brophy, 12
James Brophy, 12
Noah McCormick, 12
Enoch Tan, 11
Alicia Kenny, 11
Ruby Helm, 10
Caden Smith, 10
Ava Boettger, 09
Kendall Morrell, 09

Ellie Jacobs, 12
Cora Helm, 12
Mary Kate Place, 12
Grace Brady, 11
Ryleigh Taylor, 11
Charlotte McCarty, 10
Elora Williams, 10
Peter Brophy, 09
Naomi Rigg, 09

Jenna Ng, 12
Melia Leitner, 12
Declund Stevenson, 12
Andre Frenchik, 11
Ian Gill, 10
Joel Ng, 10
Elena Andrade, 09
Charis Durand, 09

Brey Welch, 12
Corey Hackenbracht, 12
Ashe Smith, 11
Rusty Hooks, 11
Emma Haupricht, 10
Joseph Robert, 10
Xander Arbaugh-Turner, 09
Lucy Kirshberger, 09

THE DEAN'S LIST

Magna cum laude

Lizzie Bryant, 12
Jack Duncan, 12
Micah Xayavong, 11
Alara Gezen, 11
Charlotte Libbey, 10
Judah Weber, 10
Christian Henson, 09
Josiah Thornhill, 09
Leila Kenny, 09
Britton Basten, 09

Jocelyn Walker, 12
Emma Fritz, 12
Eva Andrade, 11
Luke Cordes, 11
Ellia Ramsey, 10
Avery Harrison, 10
Sol Knapton, 09
Wyatt Copenhaver, 09
Claire Hansen, 09

John Scruggs, 12
Elizabeth Deneen, 12
Gia Barlow, 11
Olivia Hostetler, 11
Embry Carlton, 10
Journey Lancaster, 10
Lizzie Miller, 09
Reese Mahle, 09
Elle Vollmer, 09

Graham Kowalski, 12
Ella Dudley, 11
Emma Kate Lovell, 11
Sarah McCurley, 11
Hannah Edwards, 10
Michael Seckman, 10
Mindy Morse, 09
Elle Shesko, 09
Emma Christian, 09

Cum laude

Ellie Bonebright, 12
Walt Gill, 11
Stone Haibach, 11
Alina Gieszczykiewicz, 09
Colton Buckner, 09

Abby Burton, 12
Graden Bolton, 11
John-Paul Gauger, 10
Gabriel Leitner, 09
Kate Cordes, 09

Lucas Gorman, 12
Wyatt Renalds, 11
Nick Richmond, 10
Alex Pemberton, 09
Wyatt Cole, 09

Ayla Gezen, 11
Nick Gieszczykiewicz, 11
Addie Ruhl, 09
Alaina Hilton, 09

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summa cum laude

Idella Olmsted, 08
Chloe Brophy, 07
Emilia Andrade, 07

Claire Reynolds, 08
Kalisteth Burrows, 07
Landis Hoskins, 07

Judah Durand, 08
Eleanor Bebeko Lane, 07

Bryce Hampton, 08
Tinley Tucker, 07

Magna cum laude

Eleanore Seckman, 08
Jack Gauger, 08
Nora Misiano, 07
Lina Bengds, 07

Micah Harrison, 08
Morgan Eggleston, 08
Elise Williams, 07

Gwen Kesler, 08
Isaiah Tan, 07
Arden Shesko, 07

Lillian Richmond, 08
Annalise Gutenkauf, 07
Tye Boettger, 07

Cum laude

Luke Ancona, 08

Meg Maslow, 08

Mitchell Rogers, 08

Wyatt Gill, 08



HANDS & HEARTS RECAP

Below is a detailed look at the works of service undertaken at 10 work sites in our community for Hands & Hearts 2025. You can be proud of our students and adult volunteers for another successful year of this tangible ministry of loving our neighbors.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and School of Rhetoric

- Rolled plasticware inside of napkins for Salvation Army
- Placed cereal into sandwich bags
- Created personal hygiene bags
- Put powder laundry soap into small containers
- Cleaned in hallways and gym
- Picked up sticks and trash around the campus
- Helped the younger students rotate through centers and projects

OLD CITY CEMETERY

2nd Grade

- Picked up sticks around the property
- Helped with the beekeeping area

LYNCHBURG GROWS

3rd Grade

- Weeded garden beds
- Planted seeds and other vegetables for a community garden

COMPASSION CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

4th Grade

- Sorted and arranged food items
- Distributed food to individuals
- Pushed shopping carts for visitors
- Prayed with those receiving help

SALVATION ARMY

5th Grade and School of Rhetoric

- Spread mulch around the campus
- Washed windows and cleaned in the chapels
- Painted the red kettle bell stands
- Organized in the food pantry and helped prepare for the evening meal
- Shredded documents
- Cleaned and organized a storage closet
- Cleared large outdoor area of debris and overgrown trees

WORLD HELP

6th Grade

- Sorted clothing items to send to churches of countries in need

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTHY VETERANS

7th Grade

- Spread mulch in flower beds
- Cleaned horse stalls and chicken coop on the farm
- Planted vegetable garden
- Painted fence around the barn

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTHY VETERANS

8th Grade

- Spread mulch in flower beds
- Cleaned horse stalls and chicken coop on the farm
- Planted vegetable garden
- Painted fence around the barn

ISAIAH HOUSE

School of Rhetoric

- Spread mulch
- Repaired groundhog holes in the yard and under pavilion
- Installed plyboard to cover insulation under porch
- Organized clothing donations

WALKER PENNOCK HOUSE

School of Rhetoric

- Laid sod in the front yard and mowed the grass in the back yard
- Pressure washed front of the house
- Planted shrubs and planted a tree in the front yard
- Built a handicap ramp
- Regraveled the driveway
- Took items to the donation center

RUSH HOMES

School of Rhetoric

- Spread mulch around several campuses
- Repaired garden beds and planted pollinators
- Painted bird bath
- Created bulletin boards for hallways
- Cleaned porches and patios for tenants
- Delivered items to donation centers
- Painted a mural on the community room wall



2025 Hands&Hearts *by the numbers*

1 wall mural
painted for
Rush Homes



454
TOTAL DONATIONS

86 DAYS
of planning by the
H&H committee



12 Red
kettle
bell stands
painted

10 Lynchburg
area non-
profit groups
served

3,366
total volunteer
hours logged



1,880 yards of
sod laid



53,834 DOLLARS
RAISED

1,350
SETS OF FLATWARE
ROLLED IN NAPKINS

3 Borrowed
pressure
washers



604
Hands&Hearts
t-shirts
distributed



2 Dump
truck
loads of
gravel



5
Dump
truck
loads of
mulch



56 parent
drivers



116
CUPS OF LAUNDRY
DETERGENT FILLED



4 Pairs of
work gloves
left unclaimed

561 Students, faculty,
staff, and parents
participating

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

ANNUAL FUND 2024-25

Fundraising goal: \$120,000

RECEIVED AS OF 5/31/25: \$157,300

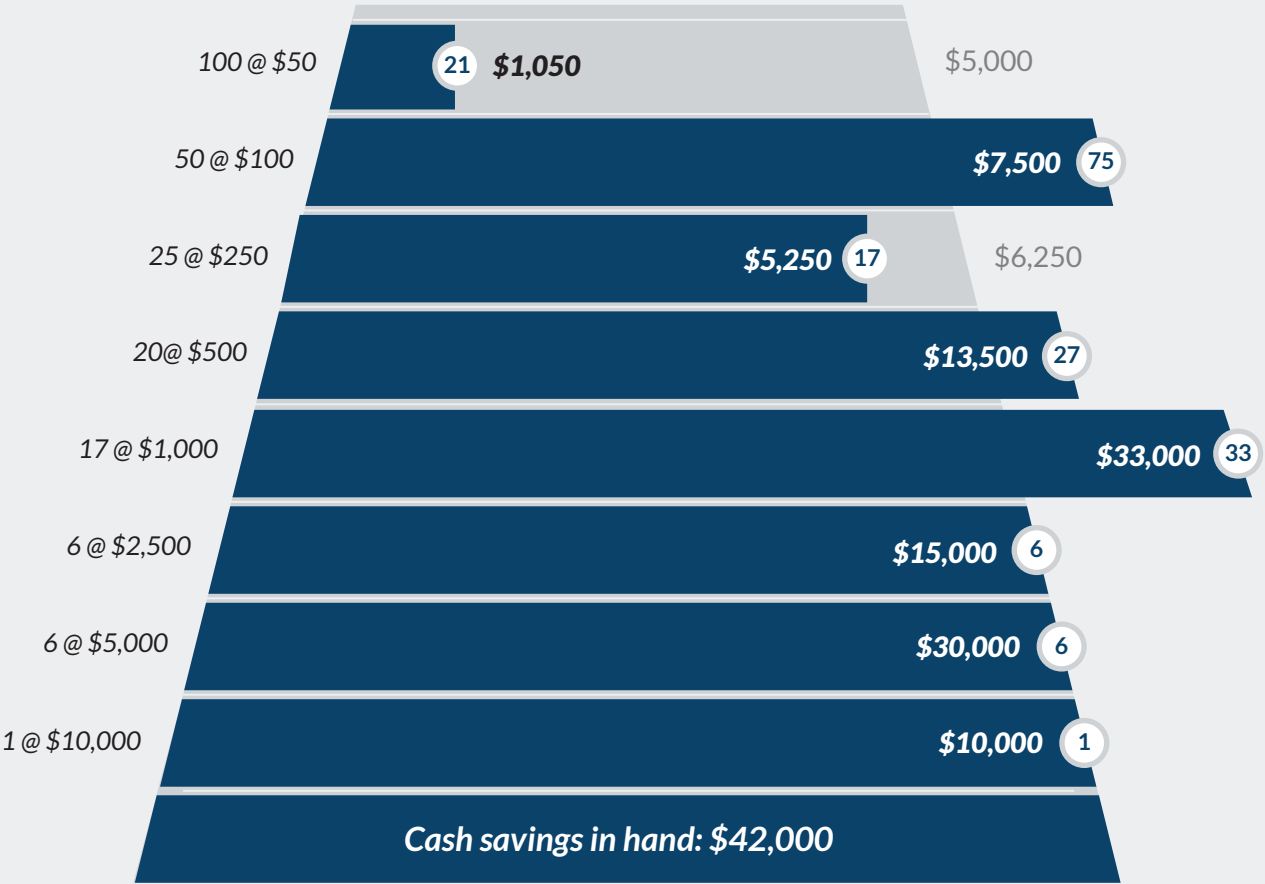
CHOIR RISERS AND
ACOUSTICAL SHELL



GRYPHON BUS



FULLY FUNDED





Marion Patterson joined by family and loved ones at the dedication of the library in her name on October 6, 2024.

THE MARION A. PATTERSON LIBRARY

Mrs. Marion Patterson concluded 27 years with the school in the spring of 2024. Her legacy would be difficult to overstate, and her influence upon thousands of students over the span of her career cannot be measured. At a board meeting last fall, it was determined that the library at New Covenant would be named in her honor as the Marion A. Patterson Library. In addition, the office for student support, which she designed before her retirement, became "The Center for Paideia." The honorary designations were recognized in a ceremony attended by the board, faculty, and family members on October 6, 2024.

GENTLE FOLK PODCAST

by John Heaton, Headmaster

After many conversations with our staff throughout the year, New Covenant has embarked on its latest initiative to produce a podcast that centers on conversations around classical, Christian education.

For years, I have written letters, emails and *QUID NOVI* articles, addressed to the community simply as "Gentle folk," largely unaware that this salutation was to become a signal feature of the communication complex that has grown at the school. I don't know why I chose this term of endearment for our parents and students, but it fell out more than two decades

ago, and sounded better than the anodyne greeting, "Dear parents."

When we decided to create a podcast, I queried the staff as to what we should call it. They instantly said, "Why, Gentle Folk, of course!"

The podcast can be found on our website, Apple Podcasts and Spotify. If you prefer you may contact the Development Office to subscribe for automatic delivery each month. You will get to know our school and appreciate its community on a different level through this new venue.



Recording the first Gentle Folk podcasts. (L-R) Kathryn Martin, Jessica Arango, John Heaton, and Bridges Spiva.



G R A T I A

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The following list of donors recognizes those who have given to New Covenant Schools during the current school year (June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025). Our sincere gratitude is extended to the board of directors, our parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends for their generosity.

*The total amount raised
from all campaigns below is:*

\$828,473

2024-25 ANNUAL FUND

GOAL: \$120,000 | RAISED: \$157,300

*The following contributed to the Annual Fund through which the school acquired a new bus
and staging equipment for the Fine Arts Department.*

GUARDIAN

Mrs. Andrea Adams
Anonymous
Dr. Soni and Mr. Cavan Carlton
Mrs. Patricia Shaw Christian
Mr. and Mrs. Warner Hall
Mr. and Mrs. William Tucker
Ms. Anne Umbarger

BENEFACTORS

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Bohnert
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cox
Mrs. Nancy Hunter – In memory of
James G. Hunter, Jr., In honor of
John Heaton
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mizener
Drs. Holly & Brad Lentz
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2024-25 SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISED: \$86,959

The following list recognizes gifts to the General Scholarship Fund.

Mr. and Mrs. James Durand
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2024-25 RESTRICTED GIFTS

The following list recognizes donors who gave a total amount of \$66,135 in designated gifts.

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2024-25 NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION GOAL: \$300,000 | RAISED: \$465,164

The following list recognizes donors who gave restricted gifts to the Scholarship Foundation. Donors giving to the Foundation receive a tax credit issued by the state for 65% of the donation amount. This tax credit may be applied against any liability the donor may owe the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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2024-25 GIFTS-IN-KIND

The following list recognizes donors who gave gifts-in-kind.

Dr. and Mrs. Norman Prillaman

GRATIA

2024-25 HANDS & HEARTS CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

GOAL: \$50,000 | RAISED: \$52,915



The following list recognizes donors who gave to the Hands & Hearts Campaign (June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025). Gifts to Hands & Hearts support the school and are used to fund projects with local and regional charitable organizations that meet human needs and relieve suffering. The student body, along with dozens of parent volunteers, make significant improvements to the campuses of multiple organizations in this annual project.

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T R A N S I T U S

CHANGES IN BOARD, FACULTY & STAFF FOR 2024-25

FAREWELLS



Mark Dunne

Mark Dunne (Maverick-K) has taught in the Middle School for Dialectic for eleven years. He leaves the faculty to join the engineering team at L3Harris Corporation in Lynchburg, VA.



Anya Ballanger

Anya Ballanger who taught history and rhetoric in the School of Rhetoric, delivered her first child last November. During the course of her maternity leave, she and her husband Jacob decided that she would remain at home for now. Her position was covered for much of the last term with long-term substitute teachers. Her successor will be **Brandi Marchant**.



Brenda Davis

Brenda Davis will retire from Food Services after fifteen years of service.

WELCOME



Maria Hayden

Maria Hayden (Evangeline-8th), has joined the staff as the Administrative Assistant in the office. Maria and her husband Lucas have been in association with New Covenant for nearly ten years.

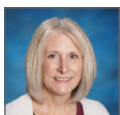


Brandi Marchant

Brandi Marchant (Patrick-5th, Kathleen-1st) will be joining the School of Rhetoric as instructor of history and thesis. Brandi comes to New Covenant Schools with a wealth of academic and field experience. She holds the B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations and the M.A. in History. She spent a decade working for VDOT in a managerial role

for Right of Way, planning and overseeing real estate projects. Her field experience includes research for the National Civil War Chaplain's Museum and Museum Guide at the Lynchburg Museum System, and she held graduate and teaching assistantships at Liberty University. Brandi and her family attend Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.

INTERNAL TRANSITIONS



Linda Simon

Linda Simon (Emily-Class of '18; Charity-Class of '20) will be reducing her hours at New Covenant, and will move from the Director of Admissions, a position she has held since 2012, to become the Director of Alumni Affairs. She began her employment with the school in 2007, working the

lobby desk part-time, which was shortly after enrolling her daughter Emily in Kindergarten.



Eliza Olson

Eliza Olson (Camden-9th, Harvey-6th) has served as the Director of Parent Relations since 2022. On June 1, she assumed the duties of Director of Admissions.



Tiffany Fulcher

Tiffany Fulcher (Hayden-5th, Madison-2nd) has served as an Administrative Assistant in the front office since 2020. On June 1, she assumed the duties of Director of Parent Relations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dan Vollmer

Dan Vollmer (Jude-Class of '23, Elle-10th, Macy-7th) has served in the profiled seat of a "local businessman." He and his wife Rachel began their association with the school in 2010 when Jude was enrolled in Kindergarten. Dan joined the board six years ago and served two three-year terms, and for much of that time, chaired the board advancement committee, a strategic task that identified and recruited new board members.



Bob Price

Bob Price (Wesley-Class of '14; Evan-Class of '19) has served in the profiled seat of "alumni parent" for two three-year terms, and two years as board chair. His long association with the school—more than 20 years—enabled him to bring institutional memory, and his background in math made him a welcome analytical board member. His easy personality and winsome support of his colleagues was a hallmark of his board tenure. During his time on the board he served two terms as board chair, in addition to serving on HSEC and Finance committees.



Leann Perault

Leann Perault (Tye-7th) will join the board in the class of 2028, and is currently the Director of HealthWorks at Centra Health. Leann is a licensed physical therapist and earned her undergraduate degree at the College of William and Mary. She also holds an MS in Physical Therapy from Virginia

Commonwealth University. Having worked in healthcare for over 25 years both as a caregiver and in leadership, her experience in workflow operations, process improvement, and financial management are talents that she brings to the board. She and her husband Dave attend Heritage Baptist Church.

T R A N S I T U S



Scott
McCurley

Scott McCurley (Skylar-Class of '22, Kate-Class of '24, Sarah-12th) will join the board of directors in the class of 2028. Scott joined the faculty in 2009 and served for years as the Academic Dean of the School of Rhetoric, stepping away in 2024 to lead a local nonprofit organization. He holds the BS in Environmental Science and the MALA in Humanities. His long association and knowledge of the school commends him to this new role. He and his wife Jen attend All Saints Church.

MILESTONES

New Covenant Schools continues to enjoy low turn-over among its faculty and staff. This year at the annual faculty/staff luncheon, the following members were recognized for their sustained partnership in our community.

5 YEARS | The following marked five years of association with the school as a staff or faculty member:

Andrea Adams (Office Manager), **Melissa Bailey** (Choral Director), **Tiffany Fulcher** (Administrative Assistant), **Sarah Gauger** (Food Services), **Jonathan Hart** (MS-Latin), **Mark Hernandez** (Publisher & Graphic Design), **Carrie Johnson** (GS-4), **Darren Johnson** (Facilities Manager), **John Maynard** (Athletics Director), **Stephanie Leitner** (Staff Substitute), **Juette Renalds** (MS-Latin, Mathematics, Athletics), and **Amanda Taylor** (Clinic Nurse).

10 YEARS | The following marked ten years of association with the school as a staff or faculty member:

Joy Copenhaver (GS-1) and **Doreen Loy** (GS-2).

15 YEARS | The following marked fifteen years of association with the school as a staff or faculty member:

Brenda Davis (Food Services), **Joe Nigro** (Orchestra), **Natalie Olenik** (MS-Mathematics and Literature), **Bridges Spiva** (GS Principal), and **Jacob Webb** (MS-Logic & Latin).

25 YEARS | The following marked twenty-five years of association with the school as a staff or faculty member:

Phaedra Callaway (Library), **Cathy Hindman** (GS-2), and **Debbie Williamson** (Manager-Food Services).

NEW SERVICE RECORD - 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

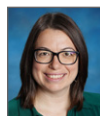


Gail
Mitchell

Gail Mitchell was not there quite at the beginning, but joined the faculty in 1995 when the school was just four years old. She was an early colleague who carried an enormous burden in the School of Rhetoric, which at the time was in its first years. She was thus one upon whom the school relied. Reliable. That's the way we think of Gail. If something wasn't done, it would have to have been an honest oversight, because if Gail thought for a second that something was left undone, she would see to it that it was dispatched. Having Gail around was like replacing your old computer with a new one. You likely remember working one of those old machines that would take long minutes to boot up, and would spin for more minutes before performing a function. Then, when you got a new computer, you had that wonderful feeling that it was waiting on you. That's the way Gail is. If we so much as breathe that we need something, she is off completing it and waiting on you for another task.

For 30 years Gail has been teaching our students, telling us how to save grades and lesson plans in FACTS, what time to be where in creating our schedules, recording and transcribing our students' records, setting up our dances, and doing a hundred other things all at high speed with unflagging energy. She is a beloved and tireless member of our faculty whose presence has contributed mightily to the culture that is New Covenant.

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Jessica
Arango

Jessica Arango, who joined the faculty in 2018, has completed a Master of Humanities in Classical, Christian Education. The degree was conferred by the University of Dallas this spring.



CLASS OF 2004

Michal Mabray graduated with an M.Div. from Beeson Divinity School (Dec. 2022) and she is now working as the Children's Ministry Director at Red Mountain Church (PCA) in Birmingham, AL.

CLASS OF 2011

Ruthie (Bettis) Miller and her husband Keith continue to live in Texas. They recently welcomed their second child Archie to their family in January 2025. Parents, big brother, and the new baby are all doing well.



Fiona (Leitch) Shuler and her husband Nathan are currently serving as

American diplomats at the US Embassy in Budapest, Hungary along with their two small children (Finlay, age 4 and Isla, age 2). She notes that it is an honor to serve our country in diplomacy abroad. They love Hungary and it will be hard to leave next year to take an assignment in Muscat, Oman in the spring of 2026.

CLASS OF 2012

Taylor (Thornburg)

Overos continues to work at IntelliDyne, LLC doing business development for government contracts. Her husband Henry is working as an AI Expert at a University of Maryland lab. They welcomed their first son Otto last July!

CLASS OF 2013

Lizzie Erhartic left her job as an Accessibility and Equity Specialist Lead and ADA Coordinator at Charlotte Douglas International Airport in 2024 to open her own business called Help En Route. She is also working on publishing her collections of poetry under the pen name Jade Divac, with her first book, "Emote," launching September 2025.



Josh Aultice is living in Lynchburg with his wife Jordan and has been working for

Cenvar Roofing & Solar for the past three years. He is the top solar rep in the company. His beautiful daughter Ivorie Brooke Aultice will be attending New Covenant for Pre-K in the fall of 2026.

CLASS OF 2014

Sydney (Rucker) Holm welcomed twins, Miley Rose and Merrit Everly, in December 2024.



Galen & Jessie (Scruggs) Creekmore welcomed baby

Charlie Sue on November 18, 2024. Their oldest Lainey loves being a big sister.

CLASS OF 2015

Will Reeves is in his second year of living in Tampa, Florida. He remains in the Air Force, working at Special Operations Command Central on MacDill

Air Force Base. His assignment keeps him responsible for providing intelligence support to U.S. special operations in the Central Asian countries. He routinely has the opportunity to engage directly with military representatives from these countries as part of the U.S. effort to strengthen these countries' security capabilities.

Hannah Flowers plans to wed Josiah Gavlin in October 2025.

Justin Bass was married on November 2, 2024. He and his wife live in Charlotte, NC.

CLASS OF 2016

Trey Ivins and Sarah (Gillespie) Ivins (2017) welcomed baby Oakley Mae on August 16, 2024. Sarah also just finished her master's degree from Liberty University in Human Services Counseling.

CLASS OF 2017



Tanner Olsen earned his master's degree in Criminal Justice from Liberty University. He was then accepted into the Lynchburg Police Academy and graduated in June of 2024, receiving the "Academic Achievement Award." He is now serving his community as a police officer with the Lynchburg Police Department.

Abigail (Ashcroft) Warren & Tyler Warren became proud parents to James Michael Warren in February 2025.

Allie Kittrell is halfway through her Master of Public Administration degree at New York University. She is engaged and plans to marry her fiancé Carl next summer. They plan to relocate to his hometown Pittsburgh after she graduates.

CLASS OF 2018



Tim & Emily (Simon) Brophy moved home to Lynchburg last summer after two

years of living abroad. Emily is teaching Kindergarten at Linkhorne Elementary, and Tim is working on a MA in History at Liberty. They're happy to be home!

Mitchell Smith is working full-time for a company he started a year and a half ago after working at a nonprofit for five years previously. His company, Mitchell Ford Rod Co., makes high-quality, custom fly rods!

Carson Reeves has been living in Washington, DC for three years and works in the cybersecurity risk management office at Capital One. She has enjoyed becoming a member of Restoration Anglican Church (where she attends with **Claudia Darden, Class of 2015**) and serving with their youth group. Carson ran the Richmond Half Marathon with her fellow NCS alumnae **Abby (Hall) Rives** and **Virginia (Hicks) Wright** in 2024.



A L U M N I N E W S

Josh Ivins and his wife Maddie welcomed baby Everett "Rhett" into their family on December 20, 2024.

CLASS OF 2019



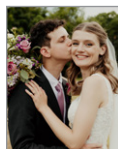
Maryah Haley works as a project manager for Liberty University's Digital Advertising Department. She is also pursuing her MBA through LU.



Chloe Ingersoll completed her master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia.

Anna Claire (Kittrell) Vaughan completed her Master of Medical Science degree at Baylor last summer. She and husband Adam welcomed their first child Anne-Porter on March 6, 2025. They live in Fort Worth, TX.

CLASS OF 2020



Charity (Simon) Gould married Timothy Gould on June 30, 2024, and is living in Lynchburg.



Tyler Dixon graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Accounting and Information Systems in May 2025. He has been taking master's level classes as well and will finish that degree soon.



Calvin & Eva (Sayles) Hurt married in 2022. Calvin finished his degree from

Liberty University in May 2024, but missed his commencement to participate in the MCLA National Lacrosse Tournament in Round Rock, TX where his team made it to the semifinals. Calvin has recently started his own business, Smith Mountain Lake Enterprises, with one of his LU lacrosse buddies. Calvin and Eva are expecting their first child, a baby boy, in early October 2025.



Kayla Haley is working as a trauma nurse at the Medical University of South

Carolina. She is also furthering her nursing degree through Clemson University.

Emily (Brophy) Yilmaz married her husband Emre this past September and started working full-time as an archaeologist at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest.

Michael Minnick has been accepted to the University of Virginia law school and will begin in the fall.



Ellen Anne Deneen and Wagner Spiva are engaged and plan to marry on August 30, 2025.

Bailey Foster is engaged and planning a fall wedding.

CLASS OF 2021

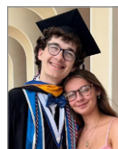


Elizabeth Olmsted graduated from UVA with a BA in Music and Minor in Design. She will be moving to Nashville and will participate in the Nashville Fellows program starting this fall.



Brandon Hostetler graduated summa cum laude from the Honors Program at Christopher Newport University on May 17, 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. He married Lainey Pratzner on May 31. They plan to live in the Norfolk area where Brandon will begin medical school at Eastern Virginia Medical School in the fall.

Stone Clark graduated from Liberty University with a degree in Theology and Apologetics.



Konner Johnson graduated from Christopher Newport University, magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Cellular, Molecular, and Physiological Biology. He married Sarah Lynn on May 25, 2025. He will take a gap year and be working in Newport News as a medical scribe and an administrative assistant for the Peninsula Community Foundation before returning to Lynchburg

to attend Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2026.

Cayli (Snipes) Howard is working as a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Carilion. She married her husband Kye on April 5, 2025. They honeymooned in Paris and throughout Switzerland.

Bibby Kittrell graduated with highest distinction from UVA with a B.S. in Behavioral Neuroscience. She'll spend this summer in New Jersey overseeing the medical clinic for YMCA Camp Mason. She has made many international friends through working at Camp Mason, including her best friend Joey who is from Ireland.



Chris Matney graduated from UVA in May 2025 and will be married in August this year. He and his wife will live in TX while he works on his master's in Biological Science and prepares for medical school.

CLASS OF 2022

Will Spruill has just completed his junior year at Liberty University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Data Analytics with a minor in Sports Management. Will worked with Liberty Football Operations as the in-game communications coordinator during home games and with the Women's Lacrosse team



A L U M N I N E W S

by providing data analytics for their fall season of competition. He also continues his lifeguarding at Liberty, a job he has held since his junior year at New Covenant.



Elise Uminn is engaged to Lucas Rabine and will wed on October 24th in Kalamazoo

County, Michigan. Elise will graduate from Liberty University in December with her B.S. in Business.

Dalton Foster married to his fiancée Shayla on June 20, 2025.



Josie Scruggs is marrying her fiancé Tanner in July 2025.

Brie Olson was engaged in December 2024.

Rylee Ames was married on May 31, 2025.

Ellie (Walker) Chelberg graduated from Liberty University and married her husband Ethan in May 2025.

Skylar McCurley finished her junior year at JMU where she is majoring in Justice Studies and minoring in Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication. She was elected President of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta and was selected for the Policy and Research internship at Freedom 424 here in Lynchburg this summer. She is also a Student Ambassador

at JMU, giving tours to prospective students and families.



Gioia Calabretta graduated this May with honors from Liberty University with

a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with a primary focus in graphic design. She continues to pursue her passion for creating more walkable cities (which began during her senior thesis at New Covenant) and is working as the Web and Design Intern for the national nonprofit Strong Towns. Additionally, she has also stepped up as a Local Conversation leader for the local chapter of Strong Towns, Livable Lynchburg.

CLASS OF 2023



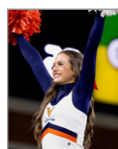
Will Kittrell has completed two years (of five) in the University of Miami School of

Architecture. He'll spend this summer as an intern at a firm in NYC. He's active in student architecture societies at the local and national levels and is a member of a rock-climbing club at the university.

Jonathan Matney is attending Christopher Newport University and studying biology. When his undergraduate degree is completed, he plans to attend dental school. He is also on the CNU sailing team.

Elizabeth Matney is currently studying nursing at Liberty University.

CLASS OF 2024



Mary Glenn Morse is a first-year Kinesiology major at UVA and a flyer for the cheer team.

She enjoyed cheering this year for football, women's basketball, and volleyball games. UVA cheer is also represented by senior **Chris Matney ('21)**, another proud NCS graduate.

Luke Libbey recently claimed the 2025 Fox Puss Golf Invitational tournament title at Boonsboro Country Club with a three-day, 6-under-par performance.

Zach Dixon finished his freshman year at LU on May 5. He is studying Accounting and Data Analysis.

We want to keep our records current in order to communicate with you. Please send any updates in your contact information to Linda Simon, Director of Alumni Relations, at lsimon@newcovenantschools.org.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni Soccer Game
Friday, November 28, 2025

Homecoming
January 2026

Alumni Lacrosse Game
May 2026



A strong turnout and spirited contest at the alumni lacrosse game on May 9, 2025.

NEW COVENANT schools

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Let's call it a year! Class of 2025 graduates put the final touch on the school year—and their high school journey—as they celebrate on the steps of Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church on May 24, 2025.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2026—John Gauger,
Nancy Hall, Chris Misiano, Sam Mizener,
Tom Rogers, Anne Umbarger
CLASS OF 2027—Dusty Miller,
Court Shipman
CLASS OF 2028—Neil Bohnert,
Leland Seckman, Leann Perault,
Scott McCurley

EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster
Davidson Morse—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