



The New Covenant community enjoyed the many activities and sports at Friday's Back-to-School Picnic.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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FROM GOODE TO GRACE: WHY WE PAUSE AT 8:48 AM

By Kathryn Martin, School of Dialectic Principal

Every morning at 8:48am, energetic and still sleepy New Covenant Middle School students as well as faculty make their way to the sunlit chapel for daily Matins. This is a new practice for grades 5-8 this year and lasts for about ten minutes. This might seem like a routine common to most Christian schools, except perhaps for its purpose and how we aim toward it. As part of the New Covenant community, Middle School students and faculty are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet daily in addition to our weekly chapel to cultivate the virtue of reverence and the habit of recollection.

In the spring and summer of 2020, when New Covenant could not meet in person during the pandemic, a group of Middle School faculty members came together to hike several mountains—100 to 150 miles by the end of the season. One day I was driving a carful of New Covenant faculty, including **Mrs. Spiva, Mrs. Olenik, Dr. Uminn, and Mrs. Hostetler** to that day's hiking destination. The conversation was light, and the morning sun shone as we headed towards Flat Top Mountain through Goode.

A large truck, which we had been following for a few miles, stopped in front of us and began to turn

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WHAT'S NEW?

Paradise Lost Book Club for NCS Community

For all those who desire to read what our students are reading during their NCS career, **Dr. Carl Curtis** has graciously offered to guide us through the classic text, *Paradise Lost* by John Milton throughout the school year. The class will meet on various Thursdays listed below at 7:00pm in the NCS Library

and lasts from 7:00-8:15pm:
September 25, October 16, October 30, November 13, December 4, January 8, January 22, February 5, February 19, March 5, March 26, April 9, and April 23.

Please consider reading Book I of *Paradise Lost* before our first gathering on **September 25**. Even if you

don't get to read beforehand, please still attend and be inspired to begin reading this epic poem. Below is a link to a recommended edition, but any copy is acceptable to use as we enjoy this book together . . . even your child's own copy that may have lots of good notes inside!

www.amazon.com/Paradise-Lost-Hackett-Classics-Milton/dp/0872206726

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

ROSA EAST EARNS HIGHEST GIRL SCOUT AWARD



Congratulations to **Rosa East** for earning her Gold Award, Girl Scout's highest service award. For her project, Rosa designed and created an outdoor living classroom for the Compass Academy/Brookhill Wesleyan Church. She organized a team of helpers to clear and clean the site, raised funds for supplies, and built many of the classroom features herself. Rosa installed a chalkboard, whiteboards, and an activity

table she constructed, along with desks and chairs she made from logs. She created a dig pit and completed the project with extensive mulching.

This multi-year project marks the culmination of Rosa's 12+ years of service in Girl Scouting. She previously earned the Bronze and Silver Awards, and by completing her Gold Award, she has now achieved all three of Girl Scouting's highest service honors. In recognition of this, Rosa has been awarded the Triumph Award and a lifetime Girl Scout membership. Rosa is a member of Girl Scout Troop 440 in Lynchburg.



SPORTS SCORES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER

New Covenant.....	1
Grace Christian	4

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant.....	2
Grace Christian	2

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	2
Temple Christian	0

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	3
Temple Christian	1

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

JV BOYS' SOCCER

North Cross.....	4
New Covenant.....	1

VARSITY WOMEN'S TENNIS

Miller School.....	8
New Covenant.....	1

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Onward Christian.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Covenant School.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Covenant School.....	3
New Covenant.....	0

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER

Roanoke Valley Christian	0
New Covenant.....	9

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

Roanoke Valley Christian	0
New Covenant.....	5

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

North Cross.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

North Cross.....	3
New Covenant.....	1

SATURDAY 3K & 1K

**SCOTT ROBERT MEMORIAL
GRYPHON GROWLER & PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

9AM

NEW COVENANT

SEPTEMBER 20TH 2025 122 FLEETWOOD DR. LYNCHBURG

REGISTER Click Below to Register:
<https://bit.ly/4mJNTFF>

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

GRYPHON GROWLER

The Scott Robert Memorial Gryphon Growler will be held on **Saturday, September 20 at 9:00am**. This event is for the whole family and includes a 3K run as well as a 1K run for our younger children and those who like shorter courses. A pancake breakfast with all the fixings will follow. Ticket prices start at \$5 for just breakfast, \$10 for the run and the breakfast, or \$30 for a family of 3 or more. Get registered today by following this link: bit.ly/GGgrowler2025.

MS RETREAT LUNCHESES

Due to the Middle School retreat this week, all lunch preorders for 7th/8th grade students attending on Thursday and 5th/6th grade students attending on Friday will be canceled. The amounts will be credited to your child's Prepay Lunch Account.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

HJ Photo will be on campus **Tuesday, September 30** to take individual and classroom photos. **Please make every effort to have your student on time and do not plan any appointments on this day, if possible.** All photo ordering will be done online, and nothing is needed from you in advance. Senior class, individual, formal and casual portraits will also be taken on this day, so please make sure to have a casual outfit in accordance with dress code guidelines, Tuesday's school uniform, and your cap and gown.

MUSIC LESSONS

Allegro Music will offer on-site music lessons again this year. There are a few openings for piano, guitar, and beginner

voice. Visit www.allegromusic.school or text (610) 350-1780 for info.

ROME TRIP MEETING

There will be a meeting about the Rome Trip for families who have signed up on **Wednesday, September 17 at 3:30pm** in room 405 (Ms. Eldridge's room).

MEN'S RETREAT

This year's Men's Retreat will be held on **November 14-15**. Watch for more details to come.

SOR PARENT COFFEE

This SOR Parent Coffee will discuss *Preparing Practically with Perspective* on **Tuesday, September 23 at 8:00am** in the Library (L1). Please come for a 30-minute introduction to our college preparation timeline, including testing, trends, and resources, followed by time for your questions.

MOMS IN PRAYER

Please join us this Wednesday from 2:00-3:00pm in the chapel for a time of prayer for our students, teachers, staff, and community.

PROGRESS REPORTS

First quarter progress reports will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, September 10**.

WORKOUT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

New Covenant alum **Janna Renalds** ('21) is offering a workout and training program for NCS moms at New Covenant on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Sessions include strength training, cardio, and flexibility. Childcare is not available. For details and pricing, contact Janna at renaldj828@lynchburg.edu.

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING EDUCATION



The recent passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) has expanded the terms of usage for anyone with a 529 educational savings account, specifically for those who might use it for K-12 private education. The Development Office will be explaining these changes, the VA Educational Improvement Tax Credits Scholarship Program, and other tax strategies at an information meeting on **September 10 at 7:45am**. The meeting will last about 30 minutes. Sign up here to reserve your spot: <http://bit.ly/4p4aVs8>.



Have you listened to the latest?



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left across the opposite lane into the Goode Country Store parking lot. Just as the driver neared the middle of the opposite lane, a car coming on at about 40 mph from the opposite direction suddenly crossed into our lane, appeared to be momentarily airborne, passed quickly over the front of our vehicle, and slammed down into the ditch to our right.

Apparently, the truck driver in front of us did not see the oncoming vehicle as he began his turn. We narrowly missed a head-on collision. It took my breath away. For a few moments I considered what might have happened if we'd been even slightly closer to that truck than we were. In that moment, in our near miss, my attention suddenly shifted to God and to the eternal value of every soul that was in my car. I thought of their children and spouses and what might have been. That moment of recollection, in addition to the actual protection we received, was a great grace that lifted me out of the everyday to the reality of the infinite value of each person in my car and to reality itself: God with us. Every time I think about that incident, I am recollected; I am reoriented to the ultimate reality and thankful for the grace of recollection inspired by the accident that almost happened.

Of course, one does not have to have such a dramatic experience to be reoriented to the reality of God's presence in a special way. There are far safer moments during which we can receive the same benefit, prayer being the most obvious one when we actively remember that God is not an idea or a principle. He's a person who is with us. Attending church and reading the Bible are also ways we explicitly remind ourselves that God IS, that he loves us, and that he has called us to love him and one another. And just as we at times must straighten things that have become crooked, in moments of recollection, our

hearts can be realigned with the ultimate reality of God with us and what that means for us and our neighbor.

Cultivating the habit of recollection is the purpose of Middle School Matins; an intentional pause during the day to contemplate God's presence with us and to see ourselves and others more accurately in his light.

What do we do during Matins? First, we process into the chapel in such a way



that our movements reflect a change from the day-to-day routine. We take our time settling into the quiet so that our minds and hearts can take on a more restful posture. We sing the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms. We listen to a Gospel reading and leave a moment of quiet afterwards to consider it. We also pray with the Book of Common Prayer.

Recently **Mr. Hart** reviewed this practice with students. "To start," he said, "you'll notice that it's called the Book of 'Common' Prayer. 'Common' is a word that comes from the Latin communis, which means common or shared. So, our prayer is 'shared' prayer. Shared with whom? Well, first, with each other in this room. There is a beautiful genius to how

we can all speak the same words and yet see our own specific situations in our hearts when we do so. The Prayer Book gives us this shared universe of language, where one shared voice takes up all our particular and individual worries, fears, hopes, requests, and offers them to God together."

That roadside near miss, one isolated moment of divine grace, continues to serve as an abrupt recollection and occasion for reverence. But the daily quiet, shared time in our sunlit chapel cultivates the habit of recollection and reverence more gently among our Middle School community. It is more than just a 10-minute pause. By choosing to step away, to quiet ourselves, and to recall God's presence, we teach our students not just how to pray, but how to be reoriented to the True, the Good, and the Beautiful. To God. In this shared reorientation we can be refreshed to face our duties with grace and virtue, not as individuals going about our separate lives, but as a recollected and beloved community of God's people.

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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