



Scenes from the Science Fair Challenges in the Moomaw Center on March 9.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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CULMINATING SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THE SMALLER THINGS

by Starlet Baker, Senior Thesis Director and School of Rhetoric Instructor

Flannery O'Connor once said, "I write because I do not know what I think until I read what I say." This sentiment is so foundational to the Senior Thesis process that we have put it in our thesis manual. At first glance, this quotation is perplexing because thinking would seem to precede writing. With her characteristic wit, O'Connor has communicated the chicken-and-egg riddle of writing deeply and carefully about the deeper significance of everyday things. In undertaking a project like senior thesis, students encounter the wisdom of O'Connor's expression.

The path to this kind of deeper understanding is a long one. Students chose a topic at the end of their junior year and read about it over the summer. Then, at the beginning of the senior year, the real work began. There was more reading and more researching and writing and rewriting and discussion and rewriting and revising of plans that were not well executed and rewriting again. Oh yes, and more rewriting.

It is probably more accurate to say, however, that the journey began even further back, as far back as kindergarten. First the students learned

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WHAT'S NEW?

We Want To Hear From You



We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students and families. To help us achieve this goal, we invite you to participate in a confidential survey. Your honest feedback is invaluable in identifying our school's strengths and areas for growth. To facilitate this process, we have partnered with **Independent School Management (ISM)**, which has been a consultant with

New Covenant for twenty years. They will assist us in administering and reporting the findings of a survey designed to gather your valuable insights and feedback. ISM guarantees the anonymity of your responses and will only provide us with summarized data.

On **April 8** you will receive an email from ISM Surveys (surveys@isminc.com) with a link to the survey hosted

on their secure server. The link will be sent to Mom's email of record, so please collaborate with other parents or guardians in your household to complete the survey. If you do not receive the survey by the end of the day on April 8th, please check your spam folder. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful participation. Your input is essential to our ongoing efforts to enhance our school community.

H O N O R A R I A

2026 SENIOR THESIS TITLES

	THESIS TITLE
Eva Andrade	<i>Those Who Have Ears, Let Them Hear: The Role of Imagination in Christian Thought and Practice</i>
Gia Barlow	<i>You Are What You Eat: How Processed Sugar Negatively Impacts Both Physical and Mental Health</i>
Graden Bolton	<i>Rising Physiotherapies: A Comparative Analysis Between Fascial Manipulation and Chiropractic Care</i>
Grace Brady	<i>Helping Not Hurting: Guidelines for Faithful and Successful Christian Mission Work</i>
Luke Cordes	<i>Don't Put All Your Cleats in One Basket: Why Generalizing in Youth Sports Produces Healthier, More Resilient, and Higher-Performing Athletes</i>
Ella Dudley	<i>The Path to Healing: The Functional Medicine Approach to Chronic Disease</i>
Rosa East	<i>The Ableism Balancing Act: Finding the Balance Between Helping and Hindering a Learning-Disabled Child</i>
Andre Frenchik	<i>The Morality of Using AI in the Military: Can Its Usage be Justified for the Sake of Protecting a Western Way of Life?</i>
Alara Gezen	<i>Living Dangerously: The Cause of Live-attenuated MMR, Rotavirus, and Varicella Vaccines</i>
Ayla Gezen	<i>Be Not Afraid: A Guide to Nature in Monstrous Mystical Beings</i>
Nick Gieszczykiewicz	<i>When Leaders Lied: How Cover-Ups and Failed Communication Turned Accidents into Catastrophes</i>
Walt Gill	<i>(Au)tism, (Sta)tistics, and (Incompe)tence: Discrimination Against Autists and Steps To Be Taken to Remedy Them</i>
Stone Haibach	<i>The Digital Angels of War: The Drone and Its Effects on the Battlefield in Modern Military Conflicts</i>

	THESIS TITLE
Rusty Hooks	<i>Adolescents Interrupted: How the COVID-19 Lockdown Disrupted Structure, Learning, and Neurodevelopment</i>
Olivia Hostetler	<i>The Loud Standard: America's Cultural Obsession with Extroversion</i>
Tristan Isenhour	<i>College Sports are Falling Apart: The Damage that the Transfer Portal and NIL Bring to College Sports</i>
Alicia Kenny	<i>It's Alive!: The Future of 3D Printing Organs</i>
Emma Kate Lovell	<i>What Makes America Exceptional?: A Case that the Principles America Was Founded on Are What Made America Great</i>
Sarah McCurley	<i>Headlines and Hesitancy: The Media's Role in the Vaccine Debate</i>
Sam Miller	<i>Grand Theft Ethics: The Morality or Lack Thereof in Violent Video Games</i>
Cole Murdock	<i>Artificial or Traditional?: Why Artificial Insemination is the Better Method for Breeding Cattle</i>
Wyatt Renalds	<i>Sports: The Medicine Needed to Heal the Youth of America</i>
Ashe Smith	<i>I Ought to Be Thy Adam: How Creativity Proves the Unity of the Body and Soul</i>
Enoch Tan	<i>Release the Swarm: A Case for the Widespread Implementation and Development of Swarm Robotics</i>
Ryleigh Taylor	<i>What's Your Superpower? The Advantages of Neurodivergent Individuals</i>
Ian Walker	<i>Beyond the Green: Why Golf Is the Ultimate Life Lesson</i>
Micah Xayavong	<i>Man's Best Friend: The Ethics and Efficacy of Animal Assisted Interventions in a Growing Field of Research</i>

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

HANDS & HEARTS

Thank you to those who have returned sponsorship packets to the office. Tickets will come home with the youngest student in each family on **April 13** and tickets will be collected at lunch **April 15 & 16** with prize drawings to be held on **April 21**. If you have not returned your packet and would like to participate, please bring your completed packet to the office as soon as possible.

REPORT CARDS

Parents will receive an email with a link to view student report cards **Wednesday, April 1**.

EASTER BREAK

Maundy Thursday is **April 2** and students will have a **noon dismissal** that day. Easter Break will begin on **Friday, April 3** and continue through **Monday, April 6**. Students will return to school on **Tuesday, April 7**.

MOMS' NIGHT OUT

Save the date for our annual Moms' Night out on **Friday, April 24**. More details to come.

BREAKFAST WITH THE HEADMASTER

Join Headmaster **John Heaton** for breakfast along with other parents from New Covenant at the home of **Brittany and Rob DeRise** on **Wednesday, April 1** at **8:45am** or at the home of **Jessica and Tim Lee** on **Thursday, April 9** at **8:45am**. Please check your schedule and let us know you are coming: bit.ly/HHbreakfast26. Headmaster Heaton looks forward to visiting with each of you, answering questions, and sharing ways to support your child and participate in our school community.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SOR PARENT COFFEE

The Guidance Office will be hosting informational meetings about various topics. You are welcome to attend any of interest:

- Finding the Right Fit: Insights on Cost and College Options – **Friday, April 10** at **8:00am**
- Inside College Admissions: Mapping the College Applications Process – **Friday, April 17** at **8:00am**
- The College Transition: Reflections and Advice from Class of 2025 Parents – **Friday, April 24** at **8:00am**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HOLY WEEK

- March 29 Palm Sunday**
8:30am and 11:00am
- April 2 Maundy Thursday**
7:00pm
Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar
- April 3 Good Friday**
12:00pm
Ante-Communion with Sermon
- April 4 Holy Saturday**
4:30pm
Choral Evensong with baptisms and blessing of the Paschal Candle
- April 5 Easter Sunday**
8:30am and 11:00am
Reception and Easter Egg Hunt between services starting at 10:15am

All Saints Church 
Lynchburg, Virginia

NEW COVENANT SHOWS UP!

Whether it's snow removal in winter or brush removal in spring, New Covenant volunteers show up. On Thursday during Spring Break, volunteers showed up to assist with campus beautification. About 25 moms, dads, students, and alumni gave hours of their time to clear brush and fallen trees on the east side of the property. They also spread mulch in the area of the fire pit and raked out gravel that was delivered to refresh the parking lots behind the Moomaw Center.

With so many hands we accomplished much more than our facilities crew could get to, although they were busy with regular spring projects like mulching all the garden beds around the buildings. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed fried chicken for lunch! Your volunteering is greatly appreciated and has improved the curb appeal of the chapel side of the school.



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phonograms, which taught them that combinations of letters have meaning beyond just the sound each individual letter makes. In grammar school students learned to put sentences into organized clusters known as paragraphs. In so doing, they learned that sentences have greater meaning when connected to other sentences. As the students grew, so did their appreciation for patterns in science, in music, in mathematics, and in the humanities. In logic classes and rhetoric classes students learned to make meaning from these patterns and to argue towards an interpretation of the greater significance of these patterns across the disciplines. Senior thesis, then, is the culminating masterpiece for which students utilize all these tools they have sharpened along their educational journey.

A quick glance over the thesis

titles reveals a class of vastly different interests: students have written about everything from advocating for the neurodivergent to debating the use of vaccines to defending drones in modern warfare to the contemplation of holy monstrosities or the unity of the body and soul. Yes, there has been great struggle in the process of refining their thoughts and sharpening their discernment, but as Francis Su says in *Mathematics for Human Flourishing*, “Every human longing contains at its core a question of ultimate significance.”

Senior thesis feels strenuous and uncomfortable because it is an opportunity to work an underdeveloped muscle group, a muscle group not used in a Google-dominated world conditioned to receive and discard randomly unrelated content. Much like the man emerging from Plato’s cave who struggles in the

sudden brightness of the sun, so too the student who wrestles with finding the greater significance of a chosen topic struggles under this new experience. When asked about the time-consuming process of carefully crafting such in-depth documentaries, Ken Burns responded, “Meaning accrues in duration.” This is precisely what students have done. They have endured the ups and downs of the thesis process to discern the greater significance of themselves, as creatures made in the image of God, and of their topics. The point of senior thesis is to discover what is revealed about *ourselves* in the process. The point of senior thesis is to know that the interests we have in the imagination, in swarm robotics, in pets, and in sports all matter because they point to a greater truth—THE great Truth that gives significance to all the smaller things.

CURRENT OPENING 2026-27

NEW COVENANT schools



PREK FULL-TIME TEACHER

Responsible for leading the PreK classroom and maintaining a nurturing, orderly learning environment. Plans and implements developmentally appropriate instruction supporting early academic, fine motor, and social growth while establishing routines that prepare students for a successful transition to kindergarten. Directs classroom activities and transitions, guides daily routines such as snack, recess, and clean-up, and collaborates with the PreK aide to ensure a safe and supportive classroom environment.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor’s degree preferred; demonstrated experience teaching or leading young children required.
- Ability to nurture and guide young children while reinforcing clear expectations with patience and grace.
- Dependable, organized, and able to collaborate effectively with colleagues while providing leadership within the classroom.

Hours: 7:30–3:30. **Compensation:** The position is paid at an hourly rate.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2025 — Neil Bohnert, Leslie Moeller, Bob Price, Leland Seckman, Dan Vollmer
CLASS OF 2026 — John Gauger, Nancy Hall, Chris Misiano, Sam Mizener, Tom Rogers, Anne Umbarger | CLASS OF 2027 — Dusty Miller, Court Shipman, Davidson Morse, Warden

EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster

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



2026 SUMMER CAMPS

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CAMP



*Rising 2nd – 5th Grade Girls
June 8 – June 12*

In honor of the United States' 250th anniversary, we will be learning about Felicity, who is from 1774! The American Girl Doll Camp will run for one week, **Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12** from 9:00am–12:30pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Camp is limited to 12 girls. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/AG_Camp2026

CERAMICS CAMP

*Rising 8th – 12th Graders
July 14 – July 20*

Ceramics camp is a week-long, hands-on experience designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of wheel-throwing. Students will learn how to create hand-thrown ceramic art from start to finish. This camp runs from **Tuesday, July 14 – Monday July 20** from 9:00am–noon. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Camp is limited to six students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Ceramics_Camp2026

DRAMA CAMP 1 “THE FROG PRINCE”

*Rising 3rd – 5th Graders
July 6 – July 10*

(Play performance will be held on the afternoon of July 10.)

This camp will focus on creating a short performance of the classic fairy tale, *The Frog Prince*. Students will learn how to work together as an ensemble to present this clever tale of transformation. It runs **Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10** from 9:00am–1:00pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. The camp is limited to 20 students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/DramaCamp1_2026

DRAMA CAMP 2 “RAPUNZEL”

*Rising 6th – 8th Graders
July 13 – July 17*

(Play performance will be held the afternoon of July 17.)

Students will create a performance of the classic fairy tale, *Rapunzel*. Students will learn about staging, acting, costuming, and ensemble work as they develop this story during the weeklong camp. It runs **Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17** from 9:00am–1:00pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. The camp is limited to 20 students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/DramaCamp2_2026

STAYFIT CAMP

*Rising 1st – 7th Graders
Two Sessions*

Our annual StayFit Camp will be offered in two sessions this year. The camp will be Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The first session will be held **June 15 –25**, 9:00am–noon. The second session will be held **July 6–16**, 9:00am–noon. The cost is \$200 for a two-week session for the first child in a family and \$50 for each additional sibling. The cost is \$350 for a four-week session for the first child in a family and \$75 for each additional sibling. **The deadline to sign up is Friday, May 18**. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Stayfit_2026

STRINGS CAMP

*Rising 5th – 12th Graders
Two Sessions*

The Strings Camp will help students of all skill levels develop their ability in a small-group setting. This camp will be offered in two sessions. The first session will be **Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12**, 9:00am–noon. The second session will be **Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19**, 9:00am–noon. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Limited scholarships are available for those with documentable financial need. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Strings_Camp2026

ART AND SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS



Art Fair submissions were on display throughout the building for the NCS community to appreciate our students' artistic talents.

ART FAIR WINNERS

4TH / 5TH / 6TH

MIXED MEDIA

- 1st—Elliot Watkins - *Star Destroyer over Tatooine*
 2nd—Naomi Johnson - *Hopeful Chaos*
 3rd—Hamilton Griffin - *Unknown*

PAINTING

- 1st—Berkley Coleman - *Laundry Day*
 2nd—Ilayda Gezen - *Bird Laying in a Nest*
 3rd—Berkley Coleman - *Queen Bee*

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 1st—Rouen Robinson - *Dinosaurs*
 2nd—James Harrison - *Berchlesgaden National Park-Germany*
 3rd—Matthew Renalds - *A Nut*

SCULPTURE

- 1st—Hank Lancaster - *Bubbles*
 2nd—Elliot Watkins - *Star Destroyer*
 3rd—Emma Neeley - *Emma's Bakery*

FILM

- 1st—Vallen Robinson - *Captain Guy*
 2nd—Vallen Robinson - *Sonic*
 3rd—Isla Van Wynsberg - *Gus Gus*

7TH / 8TH / 9TH

MIXED MEDIA

- 1st—Elise Williams - *For the Pie*
 2nd—Alex Quaranta - *Le Pookie Sunshine Le Jame de Goat King*
 3rd—Olivia Steed - *Grapes*

PAINTING

- 1st—William Marotta - *Nighttime Forest*
 2nd—Shelton Speakes - *Lady Holding Flowers*
 3rd—Bethany Beavers - *Starclan (Warrior Cats)*

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 1st—Austin Harrison - *Irish Mountain Trail*
 2nd—Wills Gauger - *Footprints*
 3rd—Jack Gauger - *Trees*

SCULPTURE

- 1st—Gwen Kesler - *Sloth and Plants*
 2nd—Ella Dunaway - *Armadillo*
 3rd—Bethany Beavers - *Frog Pond*

FILM

- 1st—Chambers Robinson - *Clone Trooper*
 2nd—Chambers Robinson - *M2*

10TH / 11TH / 12TH

MIXED MEDIA

- 1st—Alicia Kenny - *The Hunt*
 2nd—Ashe Smith - *Hello?*
 3rd—Josiah Thornhill - *Stranger Things 5*

PAINTING

- 1st—Ruby Helm - *Nina*
 2nd—Josiah Thornhill - *Gargantua (the Black Hole)*
 3rd—Mindy Morse - *Trees in the Sunset*

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 1st—Christian Henson - *Cathedral Stairs*
 2nd—Emma Haupricht - *The Beauty of Ruins*
 3rd—Christian Henson - *Umbrella Sky*

SCULPTURE

- 1st—Ruby Helm - *Box*
 2nd—Ruby Helm - *Pots*
 3rd—Kylie Garnett - *The Other Mother's Box*



Mrs. McCarty measures the distance for the wind-propelled vehicle challenge.

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

5TH GRADE (TALL TOWERS)

Team: *The Galaxies+*

- Patrick Marchant (Capt.), Cole Bryars, Malachi King, Benji Howell, John Raleigh Olmsted

6TH GRADE (BRIDGE BUILDING)

Team: *The Shoes*

- Eden Grissom (Capt.), Khloe Briggs, Claire Bailey, Phoebe Liang

7TH GRADE (TOWER OF PASTA)

Team: *The #1 Seed*

- William Hansen (Capt.), William Marotta, Wills Gauger, Tye Perault

8TH GRADE (STRAW ROCKETS)

Team: *Dumb, Dumber, Dumbest, & Rocco*

- Rocco Hige (Capt.), Lindyn Cannon, Geno Kolegue, Harper McClure

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

1st Place—Eleanor Seckman, Ada Dudley, Annalise Weber

2nd Place—Walt Gill, Ian Gill, Wyatt Gill

3rd Place—Elle Rose, Emma Haupricht, Charlotte McCarty, Elora Williams