



The annual SOR Turkey Bowl was held on November 20. The day featured a flag football tournament, sack race, three-legged race, pumpkin decorating, and more.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

DECEMBER 2, 2024
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LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS

by Kathryn Martin, School of Dialectic Principal

Each week faculty and students gather in the Marie MacDonald chapel to worship and reflect on who Christ is and what He has done. For Middle School, Mr. Hart and Mr. Webb lead faculty and students in the liturgy and deliver homilies rooted in scripture and the rhythms of the church calendar. As we begin the season of Advent, please enjoy the following excerpt from a recent Middle School chapel homily delivered by Mr. Webb on the topic.

“Christmas is such a joyous season that we can’t possibly condense everything into one day. But did you know the Church recognizes and celebrates the build-up, or the countdown, to Christmas as well? This build-up is referred to as Advent by the church.

During Advent, we wait for Christ. But what does it look like to wait in this way?

Because Advent is not only a time of expectation, but also of preparation, waiting—for the people of

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WHAT’S NEW?

School Recognition



New Covenant Schools has served our local community for many years through Hands & Hearts, our annual day of service. Organizations such as The Salvation Army of Central Virginia, Rush Homes, and The Arc have been helped as our students complete a wide variety of tasks each year which these groups would not have been able to be accomplished without many hands.

Recently, The Arc recognized our school as its volunteer group of the year at a year-end banquet. Heather Allen, Director of Development at The Arc, had these kind words to say to our community:

“To the students, staff, and families of New Covenant Schools: thank you for pouring your hearts into The Arc year after year. Your efforts go far beyond the flowers you plant

or the windows you wash—they help create a space where the individuals we serve feel pride, belonging, and joy.

It is with profound gratitude and admiration that we recognize New Covenant Schools for your steadfast commitment to The Arc of Central Virginia. You are a shining example of what it means to serve with hands and hearts, and we are so blessed to call you partners and friends.”

H O N O R A R I A

UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG'S HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION



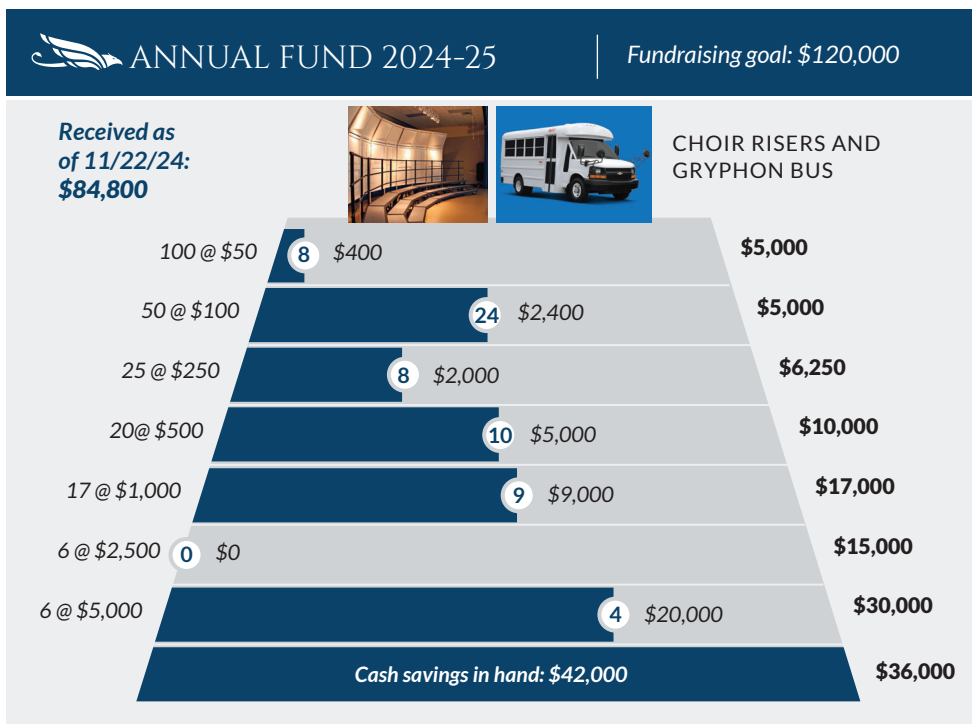
Ruby Helm was awarded the University of Lynchburg's Choice Award at the juried art show that included student artwork from nine area schools. Two of her pieces received an equal number of votes, so they were jointly awarded the prize. Many thanks to art teacher **Hattie Eshleman** preparing submissions and encouraging New Covenant students to submit their work to this exhibition.

JENNA NG RECEIVES THE UVA JEFFERSON SCHOLAR NOMINATION

Virginia high schools annually nominate a student in the senior class who best exemplifies excellence in the areas of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. Successful nominees demonstrate exceptional leadership talents, an understanding of the broader community around them, and uncommon academic abilities. The faculty of New Covenant have selected **Jenna Ng** as this year's nominee.



Jenna will now compete with others across the state for the Jefferson Scholarship which is intended to cover the entire cost of attendance for four years at the University of Virginia, plus coverage of supplemental enrichment experiences.



FUNDRAISING REPORT		
	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$120,000	\$84,800
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$2,500
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$235,800 Received \$127,129

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

NCS SOCCER ALL-STATE ATHLETES

1ST TEAM
Lucas Gorman
Evan Bosak
James Brophy

2ND TEAM
John Brophy

E T C E T E R A

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA TRYOUTS

Middle School students wishing to try out for the spring play, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, should plan on staying after school on **Wednesday, December 11**. Tryouts will be held from 3:30 until 4:30pm in the library. Students who are cast in a role will be enrolled in the Drama Exploratory beginning in January. For any questions, contact **Ethan Roberts**, eroberts@newcovenantschools.org.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

LU TECHNICAL STUDIES VISIT

The senior director of the new partnership between Virginia Technical Institute and Liberty's Technical Studies Program will visit on **Wednesday, December 4 at 12:40pm** (6th period) to speak to interested SOR students about careers in the trades, paths to employment, and the local programs available.

EVERYONE

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for an evening of Lessons and Carols on **Monday, December 16**, at Waymaker.Church, beginning at 7:00pm. This special program will feature the

combined orchestras, bands, and choirs of the 7-12 grade students. Please note that the following morning, **Tuesday, December 17**, will have a 9:00am start time. All are warmly invited to attend.

LOST AND FOUND

All items left unclaimed in the Lost and Found will be purged and donated on **December 19**. When visiting our campus during any of our events, please take the time to check for any of your family's personal items.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The end of the 2nd quarter and the beginning of Christmas Break is on **Thursday, December 19**. We will have an 11:00pm dismissal on the 19th and school will break for Christmas through **Friday, January 3** with students returning on **Monday, January 6**.

LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for January opens this **Friday, December 6** and closes **Thursday, December 19**. As a reminder J Term will run from **Monday, January 6 - Tuesday, January 14**, and SOR students may be off campus during that time, so please keep that in mind when ordering lunches. Corn dog nuggets, pancake and sausage sandwiches, and hamburgers are just a few of the featured items in January. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

PRE-K APPLICATIONS

Apply now for Pre-K, 2025-26! If you or someone you know has a child who will be 4 years old by **September 30, 2025**, they may be eligible for our Pre-K program. Applications are being accepted and you can apply by using this link. <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>. If you have questions or would like to tour, please contact **Linda Simon** at lsimon@newcovenantschools.org or call the office at 434-847-8313.

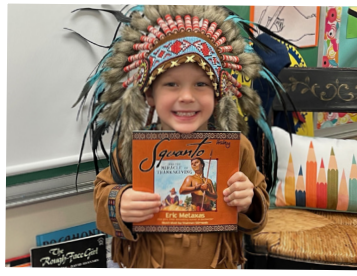
TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for 2025-26 school year is accepting applications and will remain open until **January 15**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early! Go to <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aidapply>. See email sent on **October 28** for details and instructions.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

Gryphon Outfitters, our school store, accepts donations of uniform items in good condition. To donate, simply leave your items at the front desk. Please be sure to donate **only FlynnO'Hara uniform pieces, free of stains, tears or personalization**. As a reminder, Gryphon Outfitters is open each Thursday school is in session from 2:30-3:30pm.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING BEFORE THE HOLIDAY BREAK



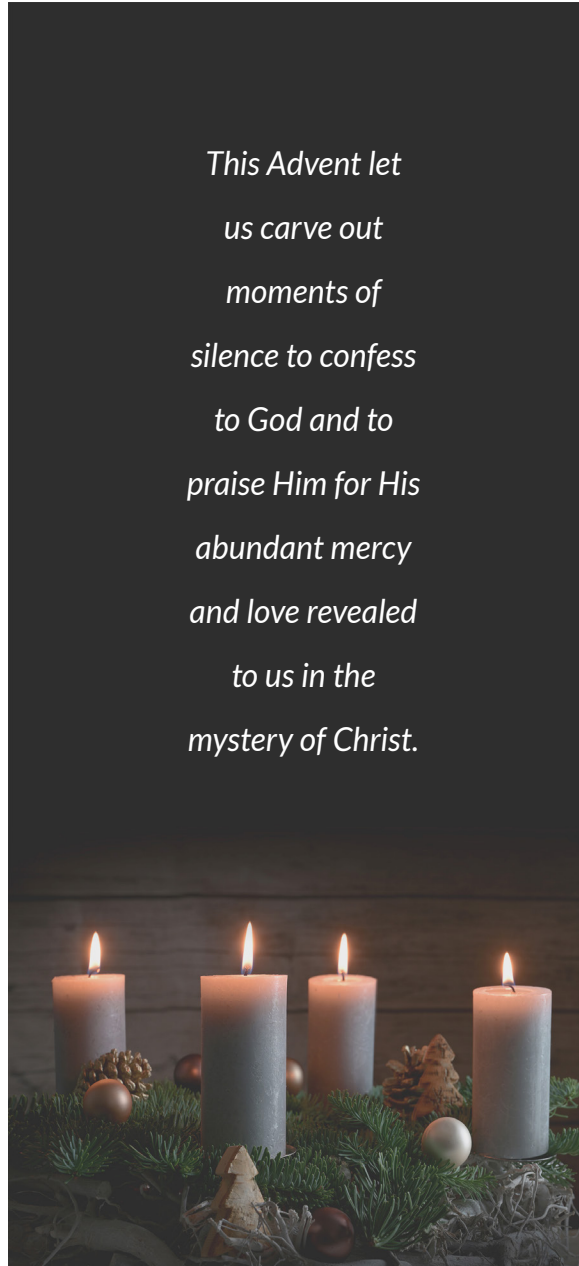
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God—looks like prayer. It looks like performing acts of justice and mercy. It looks like repentance.

You might wonder, 'How could we possibly repent during such a celebratory time as this?' Recall that repentance is a sorrow that leads to joy. It is removing things that we know are displeasing to God; changing those habits that hinder us from delighting in Him and loving our neighbors. It is ridding ourselves of those vices that mar our humanity and injure others.

To become aware of these hidden faults, the things which we have become accustomed to despite their harmful nature, we need time in prayer. The Church prescribes prayer—among other practices—because in prayer, we can confess to God and ask for His help and for a heart of repentance.

Repentance, I think, is wonderfully demonstrated by that famous literary character, Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge worshiped money. He neglected those around him and his own soul. He oppressed those whom he had the power to help. His change of heart came only after seeing himself as he really was and that his life thus far had been misspent. Yet, he changed course. He began to live a rich life caring for the young, the sick, and the needy. He learned through repentance, justice, and charity how to keep Christmas.



*This Advent let
us carve out
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So, repentance is about changing course. It is recognizing that our time here is limited, and so while we can, we ought to move toward God.

If, for example, we do believe that Christ has come and will come, do our lives reflect that?

I must confess to you students and colleagues that I don't do this nearly as

well as I should. I, like Scrooge, think I will always have more time.

Thus I, for one, am thankful for Advent, for a time to reflect on all these things and to repent: to see how I can better love those around me; to be more generous with my talents and resources; to be a light that shines a little brighter in the world; to renew my hope and to look forward to the arrival of Christ by reflecting on His birth.

This Advent let us carve out moments of silence to confess to God and to praise Him for His abundant mercy and love revealed to us in the mystery of Christ. Let us befriend the friendless in our school and in our respective communities, and be a little kinder to those around us, our siblings, and our parents. Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ—to keep watch and wait for the joy of Christmas. Amen.”



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