



The Blawenburg Beacon

November, 2013

A newsletter for the members and friends
of *The Blawenburg Reformed Church*

On November 10th, there will be a small change in our order of worship. The Passing of the Peace will be extended at the end of the service rather than having it after the Words of Assurance where it is now. Below see Pastor Bob's explanation for this change. Following his letter to the BRC Community, there is a reprint of the use of the passing taken from The Reformed Handbook. Enjoy the rather tongue-in-cheek, but practical, explanation of how to pass the peace! - ed.

Dear BRC Community,

The passing of the peace--the greeting of peace!--can theologically be at one of three places:

1. At the beginning of the service, as suggested by the RCA (see article below). This is a logical place to bring a greeting among the gathered body. If all congregants have come from places far separated from one another, and do not know each other, and do not speak to each other upon entry; then this is a good place to pass the peace. It must be said, that if this is the case week after week in a particular congregation, then one would have to wonder about the fellowship strategies of that particular church!

2. After the assurance of pardon, as we currently place the passing of the peace at BRC. This is a response to the knowledge that Christ's pardon of our sins brings peace to our hearts and souls. Thus, we celebrate and "pass" that peace to one another.

3. At the end of worship, as a way to confirm the peace which is demonstrated in the worship service/experience. [This is the way Martin Tel suggests--demands!--for the seminary community in Princeton.] The ending of the service with a wish for peace from one worshiper to another is a warm and wonderful way to end the service, and theologically is very appropriate.

Likewise after the pardon, which is where we place the passing of the peace now. It is just too close to the beginning, and becomes a strain for the congregation. We have all just greeted one another, and now we do it again? I must say, we keep a good face on it however! But the very fact that we can hardly come out of it (the hymn helps, but still it is difficult) shows that there is something strained--something artificial seems to be going on... I don't mean that our greetings are artificial--I mean that the practice is artificial. In fact, I have yet to meet anyone at BRC who disagrees that we should move it to the end...

Thus we will, for at least a time, close our worship with the greeting of peace, as a way to confirm the peace which is realized in the worship service/experience. We will end worship with the Threefold Amen, or the First Song of Isaiah, or whatever we choose, then we will be invited to pass the peace, to the beautiful strains of the postlude. Let me or the elders know how you like this change. I believe you will see that it fits nicely. We will carry on an ancient tradition of the church; but we will utilize it, theologically, for the realities of our church in the present. Plus, many churches through the centuries have enjoyed the passing of the peace at the end--so we are also in good stead with respect to tradition.

Your Pastor, Bob

HOW TO PASS THE PEACE IN CHURCH

(Taken from The Reformed Handbook, under the heading of “Church Stuff”, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pp. 46 and 47)

In Romans 16:16, Paul tells members of the congregation to “greet one another with a holy kiss.” The first letter of Peter ends, “Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ” (1 Peter 5:14). Some Reformed people worry that this part of the worship service could turn into a free-for-all. Some also feel uncomfortable because of their fear of being hugged.

But think of it this way. Passing the peace usually comes near the beginning of worship—right after “God’s greeting.” Christians may--even *should*—greet each other with the peace of Christ because God first greets and welcomes us to worship. It’s all about God. You can survive, and perhaps even embrace, the passing of the peace with these steps.

(1) Adopt a peaceful frame of mind.

Clear your mind of distracting and disrupting thoughts so you can participate joyfully and reverently.

(2) Determine the appropriate form of safe touch.

Handshaking is most common. Be prepared, however, for hugs, half-hugs, one-armed hugs, pats, and other forms of physical contact. Nods are appropriate for distances greater than two pews or rows. During flu season you may want to replace a handshake with a brief touch on a sleeve.

(3) Refrain from extraneous chitchat.

The passing of the peace is not the time for lengthy introductions to new people, comments about the weather, or observations about yesterday’s game. A brief encounter is appropriate, but save conversations for the coffee hour.

(4) Make appropriate eye contact.

Look the other person in the eye but do not stare. The action of looking the person in the eye highlights the relationship brothers and sisters in Christ have with one another.

(5) Declare the peace of God.

“The peace of the Lord be with you,” “Peace be with you,” “The peace of God,” “God’s peace,” and “The peace of Christ,” are ways of speaking the peace. Once spoken, move on to the next person.

Be Aware

Safe touch involves contact that occurs within your personal space but does not cause discomfort or unease.

The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a family of God's people united in Christ through the Holy Spirit. We commit our gifts to worship, hospitality, life-long learning, serving those in need, and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Worship

We gather as a community to celebrate God's presence among us!

- Nov. 3 9 am Spanish service in Cook Hall with Rev. Ramon Orostizaga, Luke 19:1-10
- 10 am Carlos Corro preaching. Carlos is a student at Princeton Seminary. Some of you met him and his wife, Charlotte, at the summer services at Griggstown and Rocky Hill. Carlos has been in ministry for ten years and is an RCA student under the care of City Classis in San Francisco. *
- Nov. 10 Communion and Stewardship Sunday: Kick-off of our Stewardship campaign.*
Sermon Series: *What We Are on our Knees Before God...Is What We Are:*
(6) Why We Must Pray Together (cont.) - Acts 1:1-14
Praying together and praying as one: *God, we pray as the body of Jesus this one prayer.*
- Nov. 17 *(7) Pause for Practicality: How Prayer Can Bring the Thrill Back to Life*
I Thessalonians 5:16-22
Basics of prayer as daily strategy and as spiritual connection.
(A short congregational meeting after church for a presentation of our 2014 proposed Budget.) *
- Nov. 24 *(8) When There Are No Words: Praying the Psalms—*
Ephesians 5:19 and selected Psalms
--Praying the Psalms (the prayer book of Israel) such that they become the deepest cries of my heart. What do I say when I simply have no words, or when life hurts too much for words? See how the Psalms become our life given to God in prayer. We will practice actually praying some of the Psalms.
Matthew Schwinghammer will be our organist today. *

* Remember that Nursery and Sunday School are available during church every Sunday!

Seasonal Choir

**Welcome be thou, heavenly King!
Welcome born one glad morning!
Welcome for whom we shall sing!
Welcome Yule, welcome, Yule,
Welcome, welcome, Yule!**

Choir rehearsals begin **Thursday, November 7!** As last year, we'll rehearse **4:30 – 5:45**, usually in Cook Hall so as to avoid heating the sanctuary. You are invited!

Perhaps some of your friends in the area would also enjoy a limited-time, seasonal choir experience if they are not attached to another church and/or choir? They are most welcome, so long as they can attend rehearsals regularly. And because we do not have a youth choir program, 7th graders and above (members & non-members) are also extremely welcome. Again, regularity of attendance is critical.

From the first rehearsal we'll work on music for Christmas Eve (5 pm Tuesday, December 24 service preceded by rehearsal) so please don't hold out until later to join us. We will also sing throughout November and especially December as we are able, though not every week.

In the week of Thanksgiving, we'll rehearse on TUESDAY November 26, 4:30 – 5:45, rather than Thursday.

Please let me know *asap* --

- your willingness to sing
- interest or possible interest of friends with contact info and voice parts, if known
- specific dates you cannot be present (Thursday rehearsals, Sunday mornings, Christmas Eve)

It's important to know whether we can cover four voice parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), how many copies of music to prepare, and to have a sense of numbers for the season, for given Sundays, and perhaps especially for Christmas Eve.

Katie Connolly
Music Director

609 737 9389
Kathleen.Connolly.78@verizon.net

Consistory Highlights

Consistory met on October 10th in the west room of Memorial Hall. Pastor Bob was away, but Rev. William De Young of Harlingen Church was there, pinch hitting for Rev. Leung-Kahler, who is currently serving in Antarctica.

Our opening devotions centered on Luke 17:5-10 and Mark 11:22-24: we need to truly believe in the effectiveness of our prayers and visualize an active thriving Kingdom of God here.

This was our first meeting with our Team Liaisons reporting under our new structure:

Jean Beachell reported for the Search Committee that they are working on the church profile. They've met with the RCA Pastoral Services person who has given them good advice.

Grace Johnson reported for the Worship & Music Team that Rev. Ben Rivera was well received in September and Rev. Ramon Orostizaga would preach on Oct. 13th. The November schedule was as reported, noting that communion was moved to Nov. 10th, Stewardship Sunday. The Christmas Eve service will be at 5 PM again this year.

Alan Taback reported for Lifelong Learning on the Tuesday morning Bible study.

Barbara Pavlicek reported for Missions that we completed 10 Baby Kits for Church World Service at the end of September. We will be sending 42 combined school and baby kits to CWS.

Rev. De Young shared information about how their summer mission trips work and how they raise money for them and invited BRC participants to join them next summer if they wished.

Jean reported for the Stewardship & Finance Team that the letter is ready to go out for our Stewardship campaign. She asked each team to submit their budget requirements by Nov. 7th. Jean asked for a new account to be opened to hold the security deposits for our rentals as well as 20 % of each month's rental to use for any necessary capital improvements to those rental properties. Jean was also approved as an additional signer on all the church accounts.

Peggy Querec reported on upcoming projects for Properties and David Cochran reported on plans for our work days on Oct. 19th & Nov. 23rd. Jean Beachell is the liaison for an eagle project in front of the sanctuary. The candidate is hoping to build a sloped pad for wheelchair accessibility from the parking lot pavement to the sidewalk as well as a possible sitting area.

Gracie reported on our rentals. We have recarpeted the front entry hall and stairs in Memorial Hall, and Properties has contracted to have all the south facing upstairs windows re-glazed and painted. Our Yoga Instructors, Andrea Sacchetti and Joel Mandelkorn, who are renting the southwest room in Memorial Hall, will be painting the room.

David Cochran reported that the Communications Team had their organizational meeting and will be looking at our internal as well as external communications.

Gracie reported that the BRC Cemetery Assoc. has re-organized and is looking at maintenance, archives and sales.

Peggy Querec commented on the monthly report from Karen Hill about BVS: enrollment keeps improving; they have had unexpected staff changes but recovered quickly. They will have a Halloween Trunk or Treat in our parking lot and their Christmas Pageant on Dec. 7th at 3:30 PM.

Alan Taback reported that the Church Health Team is looking at a possible new mission statement; involving more lay people with Children's sermons; and encouraging youth involvement with music including BVS children.

Gracie reported on the Classis meeting held two days earlier: Minister salary and new health insurance guidelines; \$2 reduction of per member assessment; revitalization partnerships; new church starts; an invite to NBTS lecture.

THE SEARCH IS ON...

Remember the *Search Committee*...Jean Beachell, Gracie Johnson, Joe Pavlicek, Ginny Doremus, Evelyn Cochran and Bob Bradsell? Well, they've been hard at work, and they felt it was probably time to let you know what they're up to.

Right after Labor Day, they mailed a survey. *Did you get one?*

"Oh yeah, I got one of those. I didn't fill it out, though...I hate those things."

Well...as it turns out, they got quite a few back. They mailed out about 90 surveys to members and friends of the church. They also mailed several to neighbors, parents of pre-schoolers and the like. They didn't get many back from those folks, but from members and friends, they got some 30 responses...not a bad return rate as surveys go. (Professional pollsters look for a 20% response rate from a *known list* like that. The Search Committee got about 30% back from its 'A' list.)

So...here's a summary of what you told the committee...

1. What would you like this church's role in the community to be?

- *Church to be the hub of the community
- *Church should be open to all
- *Church should be there when people need us
- *Let people see a better life for their families

2. What do you want this church's role in your life to be?

- *Inspirational support
- *Moral leadership
- *Christian fellowship
- *Path to accountability
- *Hear the word of God
- *Be part of the church family

3. What kind of pastor do you think this church needs to accomplish these roles?

- *Pastor should be young, active with children.
- *Communicator, collaborator, good social skills.
- *Bring in more families to the church.
- *Vision with open mind and enthusiasm.
- *Passion of faith.
- *Inspiring sermons.
- *Secure in self and be able to bring out the best in others.

4. What do you think those in the community who do not attend church need or want from this church or its pastor?

- *Moral leadership.
- *Become part of the community.
- *Support when needed (911, etc).
- *Place to raise their children with religious instruction.
- *Place to turn to when all else fails.
- *What we do, not what we say.
- *Minister is approachable, warm and friendly neighbor.
- *Attracted by example/not advertisement.

And when asked to select from a list, 5 characteristics of a pastor most important to you, here's how you responded (by number of responses to each)...

<u>28</u> Great Sermons	<u>10</u> youth group leader
<u>18</u> motivator of people	<u>8</u> children's sermon
<u>15</u> involvement in community	<u>7</u> home visitation
<u>14</u> visit sick, shut-ins	<u>5</u> personal counseling
<u>10</u> administrator	<u>2</u> adult Sunday school

So now the serious work begins. The Search Committee is almost finished with its recommended **church profile** – that's sort of a snapshot of who we are, and your survey responses were key to developing that. Once Consistory signs off on the **Profile**, it goes to the RCA (Reformed Church in America) to be matched up with their list of prospective and available pastors.

Elaine Tetreault (pronounced 'Tet-tro') is the coordinator at the RCA offices in New York who does a lot of the matching of church profiles with pastors' resumes. Elaine visited our church a few weeks back, and had lunch with the Search Committee. They report that her observations and recommendations were really quite helpful in their work of developing a BRC Profile. Elaine doesn't live far from here, and she's offered to meet again with the committee if they wish. They apparently may take her up on that offer.

The committee anticipates receiving profiles from a number of applicants beginning after the 1st of the year. The process of reviewing qualifications will likely take a while. Consistory hasn't set a firm time line for this work, but there is an unofficial goal of having a new pastor in our pulpit to start the new season off next fall.

Check with committee members over coffee. If you have questions, they'll do their best to answer them.

And thanks for your responses to the survey.



(EdNote: Pastor Dave Leung Kahler, minister of Griggstown Reformed Church and our Classis Supervisor, is stationed in Antarctica as an Air Force Chaplain for three months.)

BRC Search Committee,

I am so proud of you for meeting your goals of the survey and profile! You did it! You've worked really hard, and you made it happen! Below is a little blurb about my week here:

Dear Sweet Jesus it's cold here! Despite the average temps of -5 degrees F, -20 degrees windchill factor, I still manage to drink my water with ice at lunch and dinner. I got out to Scott's discovery hut this week. It was too cold and windy to take my hands out of my mittens and take some pictures. I will try again near the end of my tour of duty. I've been meeting some really neat people and having some good conversations with folks. The Lord brings BRC to my mind, and I send up prayers on your behalf. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers.

With love,

Pastor Dave

Hanging of the Greens

Please help us decorate the Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 9 AM for the Advent/Christmas Season. Bring gloves, clippers and greens if you have them. Otherwise, just join us for the fun of it. The work goes quickly!



Life-Long Learning Team

“We commit our gifts to ... life-long learning...”

Nursery – Childcare for young children will be available during worship in the schoolhouse from 9:45 A.M.

K-6th Grade and ‘kids of all ages’ join us for our Sunday School mission activity and lesson on November 17th when we pack our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We’ll ask the ‘grown-ups’ to help us finish these up at coffee hour. [See Mission article on page 13.]

The Mary and Martha Prayer/Study Group—The Mary and Martha Prayer and Book Study Group will meet on Saturday, November 23rd ----Prayers come first with the group. Feel free to send them your prayer requests (vns206@aol.com). All ladies are welcome to join them at 7:45 AM for a light breakfast, prayers, and discussion. The two books they are considering for their next read are Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis by Lauren F. Winner or Patrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Tuesday Study Group This group meets in Cook Hall lounge from 10 to 11:30 AM. Come and share your ideas. The group is studying the Gospel of Matthew. Alan Taback and Barbara Pavlicek facilitate the discussion.

Come learn and grow with us!

Adult Sunday School meets downstairs after Fellowship in Cook Hall. Take your coffee and snack with you to the west end.



Blawenburg Village School

P.O. Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

The month of October was very busy at BVS. We began our weekly Bible Stories, CompuChild Computer classes and Music and Movement Program. Our students participated in various studies with graduate students from Rutgers. The Montgomery Fire Department shared their fire truck and equipment with our students. They really enjoyed sitting in the "car seats" on the fire truck. We visited Norz Hill Farm where we learned about many farm animals, took a hayride and picked our own pumpkins and gourds. Our annual trunk or treat brought together our families as our students in parade fashion visited each car in the parking lot. We are looking forward to November as we learn about food, nutrition and Thanksgiving.

Recently, a 1 year old boy in our preschool family has received a Retinoblastoma diagnosis which is cancer of the Retina. This particular kind of cancer has a 95% cure rate, but the next few months are going to be dedicated to traveling to and from intense and highly specialized treatment. To assist this family and show our support, we have set up a fundraiser with Tiger's Tale. If you visit Tiger's Tale with the attached flyer, on November 14th (11:00am-midnight) 10% of the proceeds will be donated to this cause. Please join us in support of this family.

Mom's Morning Out will be held on Thursday, November 14th & 21st (9:00-12:00). It's available for children ages 2 - 6 for a cost of \$30.00/session, and can be used as needed. Children do not need to be registered students to attend. Students will be provided with a wide range of activities such as: art exploration, dramatics and pretend play, stories, music, snack, and outdoor activities. Please call or email the school to register.

BVS is participating in Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes are due on November 15th.

Save the Date: The Christmas Concert - A Journey to Bethlehem will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 3:30 in the Church.

We warmly welcome anyone interested in volunteering at BVS. Reading a story, assisting with a craft, or just "playing" is always a fun way to spend an hour. Give us a call or send us an email if you'd like to join the fun.

There are limited openings available in some programs for the 2013-2014 school year. If interested please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to blawenburgvillageschool.com.



BVS Annual Trip to the Farm



Dr. Michael Kaufman and Gene Keller brought the fire truck to the preschool for Fire Safety Month. Dr. Kaufman is father to one of our Blossoms, and Gene is son of LaFerne.



Trunk or Treat at BVS



Shawn, Christine & Ryan getting ready for Halloween—Ryan is the grandson of Tom & Lisa and great grandson of Ray—inset picture taken at Ryan’s baptism in 2012.



♪ Splish splash we were taking a bath ♪



Our Bumble Bee Director, Karen Hill, helping children collect treats.

Our BVS Board of Trustees (minus Peggy Querec) - Bernice Van Nostrand, Ethel Terhune, & Evelyn Cochran.



Missions

We commit our gifts to ... serving those in need.

CROP Hunger Walk

The Church's Mission Team gives a huge thank you to our Walkers and Sponsors for helping to take a bite out of hunger with this year's Walk. Our Walkers were (l to r) Clare Schmidt, Catherine Murphy, Wendy Herbert, Sonya Hunt and Gracie Johnson. Our generous Sponsors contributed a total of \$1,545.00 and 15 pounds of peanut butter. One jar alone weighed four



pounds! The peanut butter has been given to our local food bank; and 25% of the money raised will be split between the Somerset County Food Bank Network and SHIP, the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program.



HEIFER

Remember Heifer International when planning your Christmas gift giving. This mission project will commence again at Sinterklaas and go through the holidays.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please bring your filled shoe boxes, your bulk purchases, or your financial contributions to Church or to the Missions Table in the basement of Cook Hall by SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17.



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Please join us, along with BVS families, in filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, treats and other items suitable for children who are 2-14 years old in countries suffering from natural disasters, wars and endemic poverty. Our Sunday School children will be **packing shoeboxes on November 17th**. We hope you can support this outreach effort by packing a shoebox or two or buying bulk items for several shoeboxes and by joining us at Fellowship/ coffee hour on November 17! For packing instructions go to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ or pick up a flyer at church. (Please note the request for a \$7.00 donation online or a check made out to Samaritan's Purse in an envelope on top of the gifts in your box to cover shipping and other costs.) If you are unable to join us on the 17th, bring filled shoeboxes or any variety of gifts for us to fill shoeboxes to the Mission Table in Cook Hall by the 10th. Items will still be accepted on the 17th. ***If you cannot shop yourself, please consider giving a financial donation, and someone else will shop for you. Make checks payable to Blawenburg Reformed Church with OCC on the memo line. You may also use the Mission Envelopes in the pew or on the back table in the sanctuary for a cash contribution. (Please write your church envelope number on the Mission Envelope to credit your church account if you wish.)***

GIFT IDEAS

TOYS - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - pens, pencils and manual sharpener, erasers (about 2"), small boxes of crayons or markers, rubber stamps and ink pad sets, small writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS – individually wrapped toothbrush, toothpaste; mild, non-perfumed bar soap like Dove (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth (Home Goods has bulk packaging.), etc.

OTHER - Hard candy and lollipops (Please double bag all candy.), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), Chapstick/lip gloss.

A PERSONAL NOTE - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Proclaiming

We commit our gifts to ... proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

SINTERKLAAS BAZAAR: Saturday, December 7, 9a.m.-2p.m.

The frosts and changing leaves make us think of celebrating winter holidays, of gift-giving, and SINTERKLAAS DAY [actually December 6th]. Plan to join us to celebrate this day and think about how you can help make this event a day of fun and fellowship for our church and our community. We will once again be giving a significant percentage of our profits to missions.

Are you a crafter? Donations for the **SEWING/CRAFT TABLE** will be greatly appreciated by **Bernice Van Nostrand**, Chair. In spite of being consumed with care for Maitland, she and her quilting friends have still found time to keep up their quilting and sewing. Bibs, potholders, knitted dish cloths, baby hats and sweaters, scarves, crazy socks..... what can you think of to make? Hand-made cards, tags and Christmas ornaments and decor? Please put a suggested sale price on your item.

Do you like to cook? Talk to **Evelyn Cochran or Jean Beachell** about the **BAKE TABLE**. They can use cookies, candies, breads - like pumpkin and zucchini, cakes and pies, as well as jams and jellies. Please package cookies 6/pkg. All kinds of creative culinary treats are welcome. Please make sure to label everything with all ingredients and your initials.



David Cochran has offered to chair our popular **FROZEN SOUP** table. See his helpful tips below.

Have a treasure to pass on? **Peggy Querec** is looking for treasures for the **WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE**. Holiday décor, ornaments and china are appreciated, as well as collectibles and new or gently used items appropriate for gift giving. This will be the spot for any toys this year. Because of our limited space, this is the time and place for your ‘treasures’, not rummage. Boxes may be left anytime on the floor in the big closet in Cook Hall, clearly marked “White Elephant”.

Like to serve and help in the **KITCHEN**? Ask **Lisa Hunt** about her needs for coffee and/or **LUNCH** preparation and clean-up.

HEIFER: And don't forget to count on our mission table for Heifer Int'l. for your gift-giving needs again this year. If you happen upon small stuffed animals or inexpensive books about the animals we buy for the Ark, **Sonya Hunt** would love to have them to sell along with the donation for the animal. It makes a nice gift package for young children learning about the mission of Heifer. [Cows, sheep, camels, oxen, water buffalo, pigs, honeybees, goats, donkeys, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, geese, chicks, and llamas.]

We can also use help with parking, signage, publicity, etc. Any suggestions about other things we could do or offer?? Let us know. Please sign up in Cook Hall for staffing or call/email Nancy D'Alessandro [609-466-8167 mikeandnan@aol.com] or Gracie Johnson [609-466-1862 gtuckerbj@gmail.com]

It's Soup Time



It's that time of year again when we will be building up our soup supply for the big sale at Sinterklaas on Saturday, December 7th. Soup sales have been a big hit at previous Sinterklaas events and we would like to continue the tradition this year. We are looking for at least 125 quarts of soup. The good news is that if many of us do just a few quarts each, we will reach our goal.

The process is straightforward.

1. Find your favorite recipe.
2. Get soup containers in the basement of Cook Hall. We have both pints and quarts to accommodate different family sizes.
3. Make the soup at your convenience.
4. **IMPORTANT**: Tape a label on the LID of the soup container that lists the name of the soup and its ingredients.
5. Bring the soup containers to Cook Hall anytime. Be sure to print your name and the name and quantities of your soups on the clipboard near the freezer. Put your soups in the freezer. That's it! Sit down and relax knowing that you've helped the church raise money for missions and God's work in our church.

Thanks in advance for your help. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Dave Cochran
Soup Team Chair
davide99@aol.com



Your Nominee Input Needed Now For The Lay Recognition Dinner in March!

March 28, 2014 at The Imperia in Somerset

Every other year, our Regional Synod provides us with the opportunity to honor those in our congregation whose lives “Magnify the Lord” in exemplary ways – through sharing their gifts of service and/or thanksgiving. Over the past 10-12 years the following persons/souls have been honored:

Barbara Pavlicek & Dave Cochran
Tom & Bea and Harold & Jean Skillman
Len Hunt and Bernice Van Nostrand
Gracie Johnson & Ethel Terhune
Grace Terhune & Bill Herbert

By our next meeting on November 14th, our Consistory would like your input as to who you would like to honor next Spring on March 28th. Please either let a Consistory member know, submit a prayer card in church marked “Lay Recognition”; or email the office with your suggestion[s].

This is one way we can show our gratitude to those who regularly give selflessly of themselves in gratitude to God! Thank you in advance for your input.



The monthly Men’s Breakfast held on Halloween morning—who is that mystery guest?

The next men’s breakfast will be held on November 21st at 7:30 AM, third Thursday.





Thanks for Helping on Workday

Thanks to all who were able to help on the workday on October 19th. In addition to ten members of our congregation, we had help from BVS parents (and children!), and Crawford House residents. We were able to clean the foyer of the sanctuary for the first time in years. We also cleaned most of the downstairs windows in Cook Hall and the classroom windows in BVS. We weeded and mulched the area in front of Cook Hall and all of the play yard at BVS. We also cleaned and repaired most of the gutters on Cook Hall and BVS. We are grateful for all that was accomplished.



Help Clean the Sanctuary on November 23rd

We would like to give our sanctuary a good cleaning in preparation for Advent and the decoration of the church for Christmas. We need to vacuum all the pews (including the cushions), wash woodwork, and clean less obvious places like the balcony.

We need your help to do this, so please mark your calendars to give just three hours of your time from 9:00 to noon on November 23rd. Thanks in advance for your help.



Tear out or print this page. Put it on your frig. Make someone's day!
Wish them a happy birthday/anniversary!



11/12 Grace Terhune
11/22 Gracie Johnson
11/24 Wendy Herbert

Anniversaries

3 Todd Quackenbush & Pamela Wanner
27 Barbara & Bob Bradsell

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

November 2	Before Bed	Set Clocks Back One Hour to EST
November 3	9 AM	Hispanic Service—Cook Hall—Rev. Ramon Orostizaga
	10 AM	English Service—Sanctuary—Carlos Corro
November 7	7:45 AM	Communications Team Meeting—Cook Hall Library
November 10 to 17		BRC Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Bulk contributions and financial donations thankfully accepted.
November 10	10 AM	Worship with Dr. Sharman—Communion & Stewardship Sunday
November 14	11 AM to Midnight	BVS Fundraiser (Support a Family) (See attached flyer.)
	7:30 PM	Consistory in Memorial Hall
November 17	10 AM	Worship with Dr. Sharman Sunday School—Packing OCC shoeboxes (See page 13.) Home-Packed OCC shoeboxes due
	11 AM	Short Congregational Meeting—2014 Budget
November 21	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast (Note the Date Change.)
	10 AM	Montgomery Senior Citizen Breakfast
	7:30 PM	Long-Range Planning Meeting—Cook Hall
November 23	7:45 AM	Mary's & Martha's Prayer/Study Group (See page 8.)
	9 to 12	Church Work Day (See article on page 17.)
November 25		Beacon Deadline for articles, photos and information

Plan Ahead

December 1	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion 1 st Sunday of Advent with an Advent Hymn Sing! Poinsettia orders due (See order form on page 19.)
December 3	9:00 AM	Hanging of the Greens (See page 8.)
December 7	9 to 2	Sinterklaas (See pages 14 and 15.)
	3:30 PM	BVS Christmas Concert—Sanctuary (See page 9.)
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship

Lunches for Locals
November, 2013

Every Tuesday, from 11:30 to 1:00, we serve lunch buffet-style in Cook Hall and a free-will donation is accepted. Lunches will always have salad, bread and beverages.

November 5

Corn chowder, Asian chicken salad, apple something

November 12

Vegetable soup, Hot turkey & gravy on toast, chocolate cake

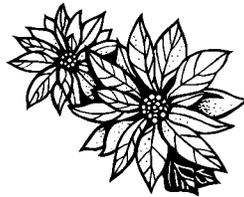
November 19

Tomato bisque, grilled cheese, cookies

November 26

Chili, hot dogs, pumpkin pie

IT'S TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



We will be placing Poinsettias in the church sanctuary again this year. Anyone wishing to order a Poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of the Season can do so. The cost will be **\$15** again this year for each Poinsettia. Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page, and return it with payment to the church office (or the secretary's box) by **Sunday, December 1**. If you have any questions please call Nancy at the church office (609-466-3108) or Jean Beachell (609-924-7637). Additional order forms can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to Jean Beachell.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Name _____

Phone _____

Quantity: Red _____ x \$15 = _____

Check Enclosed _____ (payable to Jean Beachell)

Cash Enclosed _____

Dedication: From _____

In honor or memory of: _____
(circle one)

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

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The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a covenant community of God's people united in Christ through the Holy Spirit. We commit our gifts to worship, hospitality, life-long learning, serving those in need, and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.