

The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

Early Summer2017

June 1, 2017

Dear Friends,

We are approaching the end of the program year. In our part of the world, folks are not always around in the summer time, so church life unfolds starting in the fall, moving through the winter, and concluding in the spring. Ministry at our church won't end in the summer months, but we, like many other churches, don't have less going on in the summer time. As we approach the **end** of this program year, I wanted to highlight some of the **new beginnings** we have shared.

Almost everything was a new beginning for me this year! I had never been a solominister before and I had never had so much responsibility for the life of a church community. There were so many new things for me to learn about and get used to. I had a new home and community. I had a new office, new colleagues, new teams, new lay leaders. I had a new sanctuary, a new Bible study, not to mention a whole new

had a new home and community. I had a new office, new colleagues, new teams, new lay leaders. I had a new sanctuary, a new Bible study, not to mention a whole new congregation full of people who were all new to me. After a year of ministry, I think we have done a pretty good job helping me to settle in and get used to all these aspects of my life and ministry that, not so long ago, were brand new to me. Thank you for your patience and for your help as I learned about my position.

There are many other things besides me that were new beginnings this year.

In November, Jamie and I welcomed a new member of our family into the world. On May 14th, we celebrated the beginning of her life as a baptized member of the church. Thank you all for helping to welcome Margot into the world and thank you for welcoming her into the life of the church.

This year we also welcomed eight new members into the life of the church through the "new-members" process. Many of these people had been around for some time, but this winter and spring they made their commitment to the church official. They signed on to share their gifts and talents along with the established members of our church.

We also welcomed a new staff member, Karen Larsen. Karen came on as our church administrator just before I did. Aside from the work that she does putting together our bulletins, helping keep the books, helping manage our communications, and running the office, Karen has also been very involved in the life of our church. It is fitting to thank God, not only for our eight new members, but also for Karen as a new friend and a important partner in our service to Christ.

Continued on page 2

This Issue Includes:

Greeting	
Administra- tion	2
Worshin	8

Life-Long	13
Learning	13

BVS	14
Missions	15

Proclamation	16

20

Upcoming Dates

... and more

Finally, I want to point out that the mission team has seen some new beginnings this year. They have developed a new four tier mission emphasis that is reminding us that we are called to make an impact in our personal lives, our local community, our regional area, and all throughout the world. The mission team has also helped to organize some new mission endeavors. This year we made blankets for the animals at SAVE, we participated in Run with Rotary, and we made and served a lunch at SHIP in Somerville at the United Reformed Church. We also have a new international mission to support in South Africa working to help families with adoption services. We will hear more about this global mission on Sunday, June 11, (which is Children's Day on our Church calendar) both in worship and during fellowship.

Along with many other things, which I did not mention here, I think we all can agree that we have had a lot of new beginnings this year. I think it is fitting that we would recognize that we worship and serve a God of new beginnings. According to scripture, God has given each of us a fresh start in Jesus Christ. It is a new beginning free from sin and fear. Our God is also one to bring to life in our world, new ways for us to be faithful and to serve God's purposes. As God says through the prophet Isaiah, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth" (Isaiah 43:19). As our program year comes to a close, I celebrate the new beginnings God has given us and I look forward to the new beginnings God has in store for us next year and in the years to come.

Pastor Jeff





Serving lunch at SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program).

Consistory Highlights from the meeting of May 22nd.

- We welcomed our nominated Elder, Joe Pavlicek and Deacon, Nancy Meyer.
- Karen Hill was a guest who spoke to consistory about the upcoming projects of BVS.
- Worship Team reported on their discussion of recent successes with special music, the National Day of Prayer service and ideas for Pentecost.
- Properties Team reported that work on the church doors should begin soon. Funding for this project comes from the Rummage Sale.
- A meeting of the church leadership will take place on June 19th at 6:30pm, the focus will be planning the calendar and programs for the next 12 months.
- The Care Team reported that 4 people received visits, 6 cards were sent and 8 prayer chain notifications were sent
- A Congregational meeting is planned following worship on June 4th.



Grief Support Group

A Grief Support Group offered from a Christian perspective, will be meeting at the Blawenburg Reformed Church, 424 Route 518 in Skillman, on a bi-weekly basis from June 7 through August 2 from 5 to 6:30 PM.

Week One (June 7) – Your Grief is Normal / You are Normal

Week Two (June 21) - What Affects Your Grief

Week Three (July 5) – Where is God in Your Grief

Week Four (July 19) – Creative Outlets for your Grief

Week Five (August 2) – The First Year

The facilitator for this group is Chaplain Nancy Curtis. Chaplain Curtis works as a clinical chaplain intern with the RWJ-Barnabas Health system in Hamilton, NJ. Engaged in her final 400 hours of Clinical Pastoral Education this summer, Ms. Curtis has focused her professional training on hospice, palliative care, and the needs of the dying and their loved ones. Ms. Curtis also has her Certificate in Theological Studies from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and is currently working toward her Certificate in Expository Preaching.

For more information or to register for the group, you may contact the Blawenburg Church at 609-466-1832.



Pastor Jeff introducing new members. Missing from picture is Pam Bainbridge.

WE HAVE NEW MEMBERS HERE AT BLAWENBURG!

On Monday, February 20, eight individuals met with the Elders and Pastor Jeff, and were officially welcomed as the newest members of the Blawenburg Reformed Church. They are Pam Bainbridge, Kaitlyn Clancy, Kevin Clancy, Jamie Knol, Ray Liao, Sarah Liao, Emma Tufano, and Frank Tufano. In the coming weeks they will receive a formal welcome in church, either individually or in groups. A bio, perhaps with a picture, for each of them will be found in a future issue of the Beacon. Please extend to them a warm welcome the next time that you see them. Welcome to the fold Pam, Kaitlyn, Kevin, Jamie, Ray, Sarah, Emma and Frank!

Marble Collegiate Partnership Ends

by David Cochran

Our three-year partnership with Marble Collegiate Church in New York City will end on June 30. Consistory decided this winter that our own activities are keeping us very busy, and we have many new activities on the horizon. We felt that we should expend our energy on our local and regional communities rather than try to continue the partnership.

In a letter to Rev. Michael Brown, David Cochran, on behalf of the Consistory, stated, "At this moment in time the leadership of our church believes that we need to commit the majority of our attention and energy into our local activities rather than working to find new ways to engage with Marble Collegiate. Having said this, we would like to keep the door open for further discussion of common goals and activities should either of us have an idea about how we could work together. Perhaps in a few years we will be in a place where we are able to reach beyond our community to serve the Lord in partnership with you."

We have also expressed our gratitude for the financial assistance that they gave us while Travis Winckler was here and for a follow-up grant last year. While we did not accomplish all the goals of the partnership, we are grateful for the many blessings it brought our way.

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Congregational Meeting – June 4th

Please plan to attend a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 4th following worship. At the meeting we will celebrate David Cochran and Barb Pavlicek, who are ending their terms of service on Consistory and we will elect their successors. We also have some additional agenda items relating to the life of the church to discuss at the meeting. If you are a member, we would strongly encourage your attendance!

Election of New Consistory Members

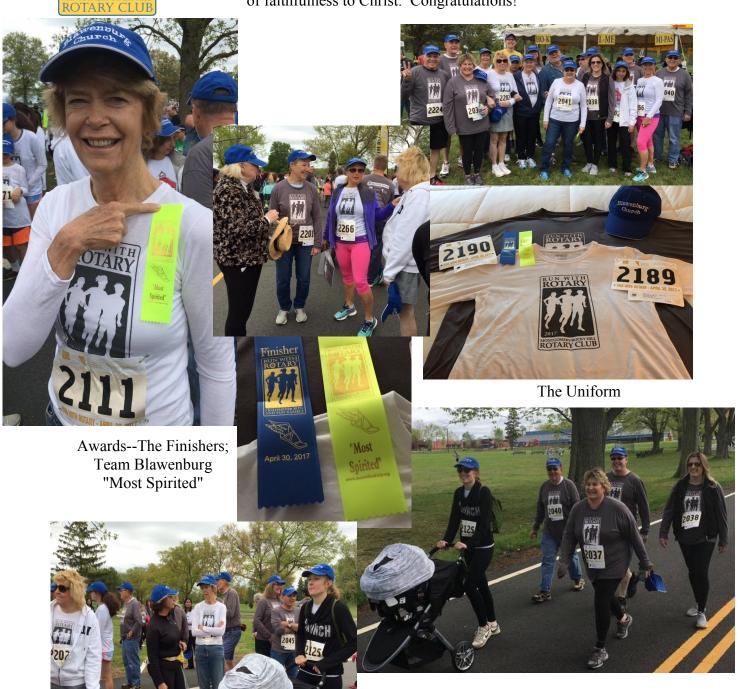
The Consistory is our church board and is made up of Elders and Deacons, who together with the minister make decisions about our church's ministry. This June, David Cochran and Barb Pavlicek will be ending their time on consistory. Dave has been serving as an Elder and the Vice-President of Consistory. Barb has been serving as a Deacon. Our nomination committee has proposed Joe Pavlicek as Elder and Nancy Meyer as Deacon to fill the spots. If elected at the June congregational meeting, Joe and Nancy would serve from July 1, 2017 to June 30 2019, and they would be installed into their roles in worship on Sunday, June 18th. If you have any reason to object to the nominations, please reach out to a church Elder in the coming

RUN WITH ROTARY Sunday, April 30th Register at RunwithRotany5korg Run or Ramble in The Morning Special Evening Worship at 5pm

Administration Section - Continued

Blawenburg Team "Most Spirited" at Run with Rotary

The event was held in Skillman Park on April 30th, beginning at 10am. Twenty-five people joined Team Blawenburg, identifiable by their sporty blue hats. The team's enthusiasm, unity, and camaraderie gained them the title of "Most Spirited", a witness of their spirit of faithfulness to Christ. Congratulations!



The Ramblers

Worship was held at 5pm and a special service with the theme of evening prayer was led by Pastor Jeff.

Academic Year Intern—Kyle Dipre

by Pastor Jeff

This fall, Kyle Dipre will be joining us as a Princeton Seminary student intern. Kyle is a gradu-

ate of Hope College, which is a Reformed Church in America school. He has an interest in law and hopes to become a lawyer who can work closely with churches on legal issues. For his seminary education Kyle needs to intern as a student pastor and he will have that opportunity with our congregation. He will be with us during his academic year and will seek to do about 10-12 hours of ministry through our church every week. For some of those hours Kyle will shadow me in the work that I do. For some of those hours Kyle will lead as a student minister, helping lead Bible study, worship, and give pastoral care. For some of those hours Kyle will work with our teams to help develop, plan, and lead ministry projects. I am looking forward to having Kyle around next year as an intern and I would ask



that you keep him in your prayers. This summer he is doing another internship in Washington DC. Kyle shares this information about his work:

"Kyle is presently a summer clerk with the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, one of the nation's leading organizations dedicated to protecting religious liberty and church/state separation. In this capacity, he will track religious liberty disputes nationwide, monitor pertinent legislation, educate Congress about religious liberty, and assist in drafting amicus briefs for upcoming Supreme Court cases. Thus far, he enjoys using his seminary training to educate religious liberty attorneys on the challenges of referencing the Sacraments in legal arguments! To learn more about the Baptist Joint Committee and its groundbreaking work on these issues please visit: http://bjconline.org/."

In addition to his interest in religious liberty, Kyle is an expert tassel maker (see below).





PROPERTIES UPDATE

Coming this summer, work and painting are scheduled to begin on the front doors and entrance to our sanctuary. Prayerfully, our share of the rummage sale profits will get us off to a good start.

Gratefully, Memorial Hall has the Farm House Store renting our warehouse space and has committed to a three year contract, which greatly helps us with the building's expenses.

Due to the budget shortfall, our team has put a freeze on all unbudgeted and nonessential projects. Yet there is always a need for weeding and mulching around our buildings, as well as painting of the black exterior handrails and some interior walls of Cook Hall. Might we get some volunteers? (Call Ethel 908.359.6027)

Please remember to put away anything that you use in the kitchen, clean up any "messes", and take garbage to the dumpsters so that no food items whatsoever are left out on the counters, tables, or in the trash. Your consideration is appreciated.

At times the care of our facilities is overwhelming. However we are constantly reminded how truly blessed we are to have such beautiful property and buildings. Please don't forget to call me if you are able to volunteer. Ethel

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Join us for a Cookout

Pastor's Appreciation Backyard Cook Out: June 24, 4-7pm at the Parsonage

On Saturday June 24th, Pastor Jeff invites you to come to a backyard cook out in appreciation of all the ministry support you have given him this year. The cook out will begin in the early afternoon and end around 7pm in relationship to Margot's bedtime – dinner will be served around 5:30pm. The Knols will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and fixings and you are invited to bring a side or salad to share. This is a "BYO" event so please bring your own lawn chairs and beverages.

We commit our gifts to WORSHIP gathering as a community to celebrate God's presence among us!

National Day of Prayer Service, May 4, 2017

The service included music, prayers, and comments about peace and unity from several perspectives. Participants in the program included Rev. Jeff Knol, Blawenburg Reformed Church; Father Peter Baktis, Mother of God Orthodox Church; Salim Manzar, representing the Islamic tradition; Rev. Dr. Anthony Godlefski, Montgomery United Methodist Church; and music by Montgomery Ministries and Barb Antoniewicz and Pastor Jeff.



WORSHIP - Continued May Breakfast Worship



"King Nebuchadnezzar" demands, "You worship me."



"Daniel" from the lions' den refuses, "No, I worship God."

June Breakfast Worship

The June Breakfast Worship is scheduled for June 11 at 8:32am. in Cook Hall Fellowship area.

All are welcome!

Pastor Jeff will be leading a kid-friendly worship following breakfast. Come join us for prayer, praise and pancakes.

Summer Worship Focus



This summer we will listen for God's Word to us, through the stories found in the later parts of the book of Genesis. These readings convey the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Jacob, Esau, Joseph and others. As we read their stories we will seek to open our hearts to God's words of comfort and challenge. See page 11 for the summer scripture schedule.

Worship—Continued

Baptism of Margot Adelaide Knol, May 14, 2017



Knol family with Jamie's dad and stepmom



Knol family with Jeff's grandmother, parents, and sister-in-law



A few of the many who have been baptized at BRC

Thank You Chip Mergott

We welcomed Chip Mergott on May 21st as guest preacher and musician. A former deacon in the Baptist church, Chip has made a lifelong study of the doctrine of grace and has led services centered around the topic at numerous area churches. Musically, Chip was discovered by Bonnie Raitt and signed to a major label early in his career. He recently released his 18th record "I Can't Stop Myself" on Notebook Records, one of the country's longest running independent labels, which he founded. His "Mergott Music Minute" is heard on WDVR and WPRB ("Music You Can't Hear on the Radio") among other stations and is a weekly feature in The Bucks County Herald. He's been teaching music privately in Hunterdon County, NJ and Bucks County, PA for over 20 years and has just authored his first book How to Play the Guitar in One Hour. He and his wife, schoolteacher/singer/songwriter Annie Bauerlein, live in Bucks County with their 11 year old son Eli.

Thank you, Chip, for your message and music.

WORSHIP - Continued

Special Music in Worship



On May 7th we enjoyed the music of Hopewell Hall. The group sang various versions of the 23rd Psalm throughout the service.



The piano offertory on April 23rd was simply beautiful. Thank you, Preetham.

Scripture for Upcoming Services

Date	Special Event	Sermon Reading
June 4	Pentecost/Communion	Acts 2:1-21
June 11	Breakfast Worship	Matt 28:16-20
June 18	Installation of Consistory	Genesis 18: 1-15
June 25		Genesis 21: 8-21
July 2	Communion	Genesis 22: 1-14
July 9	Breakfast Worship	Genesis 24 selected passages
July 16		Genesis 25: 19-34
July 23		Genesis 28:10-19A
July 30		Genesis 29:15-28
Aug. 6	Communion	Genesis 32: 22-31
Aug. 13	Breakfast Worship	Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

WORSHIP - Continued Special Music by BVS Students on April 23rd



Mrs. Lizzi leading movement and music prelude with BVS children



Mrs. VanNostrand telling children's story



Children leading congregation

We commit our gifts to LIFE-LONG LEARNING providing spiritual growth opportunities for all.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 10 am in Cook Hall. Come join us as we read and discuss scripture for the upcoming Sunday and take time to pray with one another. Coffee and the occasional treat will be provided. See page 11 for summer scripture readings.

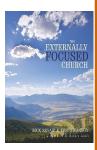
Wednesday Evening Bible Study—6:30pm This study group will not meet on June

7th, however it will meet on June 14th. The plan is to meet from 6:30pm to 8pm and to spend the time in fellowship, study, and prayer. If you are interested in being involved in the study, please send an email to revieffknol@gmail.com and Pastor Jeff will include you on the email list.

This Study will meet in members' homes. Watch the weekly e-news, or call the church office for the location. If you cannot arrive by 6:30, you are welcome to come when you can.

Mary & Martha

The Mary and Martha book study will meet on Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 pm in the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. All women are welcome. Our book is The Externally Focused Church by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson. For the study, read as much as you can, especially chapter 10.



A Thank You from Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity



"We want to thank Blawenburg Reformed Church for your inspiring donation of \$2,300.00 to support Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity's Women Build event from your recent rummage sale. We're grateful for your commitment to Habitat for Humanity's mission to provide decent, safe, and affordable homes for low-income wage earners in Somerset and Hunterdon counties. Through contributions such as yours, we look towards a time when everyone has a decent place to live.

Your gift builds so much more than homes. It builds strength, stability, self-reliance, and shelter in the lives of those touched by our mission. We're currently in the process of working on a home alongside the Thomas family! As a single mother with four children, she works hard to provide the best life she can, but they are currently living in a small, overcrowded apartment in a dangerous neighborhood where the kids can't play outside. They're really looking forward to having a safe place to call home with their own bedrooms and a backyard!

Thank you for making a difference.

Executive Director, Jan Holmstrup



Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504 | 609-466-6600 info@blawenburgvillageschool.com | Karen Hill, Director

BVS students Pedaled for the Playground and raised \$6500.00! An awesome accomplishment.



So far, \$10,000.00 has been raised for the fence and a donation of \$1,300.00 is being sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital. We have one more fundraiser and hope you'll join. We will be enjoying wine and painting at the Painter's Loft Art Studio (1 Tree Farm Road, Pennington, NJ) on June 7th, 7:00-9:30pm. Cost is \$40.00/person. To register, email Karen Hill (khill@blawenburgvillageschool.com).



On June 2^{nd,} all classes will be visiting Doyle's Unami Farm in Hillsborough. We will tour the farm, take a hayride, plant flowers and enjoy a picnic lunch.

Father's Day and the last day of school will be celebrated on June 16^{th} . Our Dads will be joining us at 9:00am for doughnuts.

Graduation will take place on Monday, June 19^{th} at 9:30 for our Blossoms class. The following students will be graduating:

Avery Burkett Madison Moran
Grayson Burkett Lucy Olenick
Grace DelNero Evelyn Radley
Benjamin Friedrich Francesca Radley
Michael Redding Philip Richards
Daina Kuppe Paul Satish

Alma Madsen Seth Steinmeire

William McInerney Emma Zhu

Travis Mitchell

We are currently enrolling for summer camp. Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm.

Cost: \$200.00/week

Week 1: July 10 - July 14 Under the Big Top Week 2: July 17 - July 21 Kids in the Kitchen Week 3: July 24 - July 28 Jammin in the Jungle

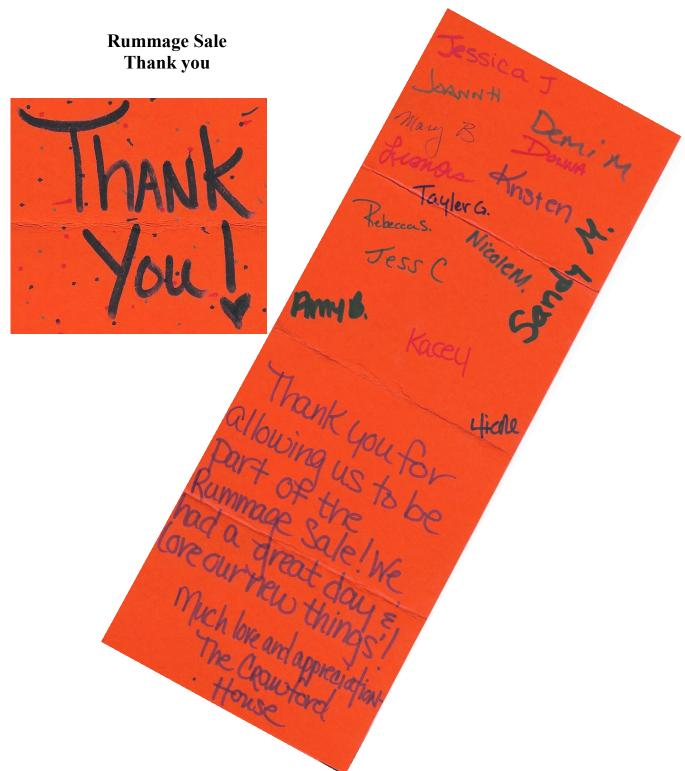
Week 4: July 31 - August 4 Wet and Wild

We commit our gifts to MISSIONS serving those in need both locally and around the world.

GARDENING AT CRAWFORD HOUSE



. We will be meeting the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm, April through September. We will be meeting again on June 12, July 10, August 14 and September 11. If you think that you might be able to participate on any of these dates, please contact Ethel, 908.359.6027 (home) or 609.922.4118 (cell). Thanks!



We commit our gifts to **PROCLAMATION** spreading the good news of salvation



BRC to Host Weekend Journey through the Past October 14-15

We will once again host visitors from around the region during the Somerset County Weekend Journey through the Past. We participated in this Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission program for the first time in 2015. Our sanctuary will be open on Saturday,

October 14 from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, October 15 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. On Saturday, there will be visitation by the public. On Sunday, the sanctuary will be open for visitation and Katie Connolly will again do a concert in the afternoon.

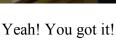
We will need your help to do this. We plan to have four or five stations staffed by members and friends where visitors can gain information about the church history. We hope you will volunteer to serve on either or both days for a few hours.

You will have the opportunity to sign up to help later this summer. All volunteer docents will be provided information about their station to help them answer questions.

We appreciate your support of this event. All you need to do now is save the dates: October 14-15.

Game Night—May 5th The game was Charades. It was great fun!







Eight words, first word ...

Join us for the next Game Night, June 2 at 7pm.

PROCLAMATION—Continued

Blue Pomegranate—May 18th





The Blue Jersey Band, great background music for viewing the art



Dave Cochran talks with photographer Dave Burwell



Art admirers

Also providing music for the event was cellist Dan Kassel.

The next Blue Pomegranate will be on June 15th in Cook Hall, 7-9pm.





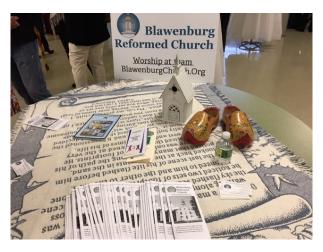
Alan Taback with Spriha Gupta, the painter who created the works above from recycled products, tissue paper, cheese cloth, old magazines, leaves, flowers and tree bark. Much of these materials came from Skillman Park.



PROCLAMATION—Continued

In the Blink of an Eye

All were invited on April 20th to a free event, entitled "In the Blink of an EYE" at Montgomery High School. It was an important discussion about stress, anxiety, alcohol and drug use in the community. Pastor Jeff and Gracie attended and represented BRC in the community. At BRC we sponsor weekly AA meetings and currently have the 24 Club of Princeton meeting on our campus.



BRC information table in lobby



Pastor Jeff introducing himself and BRC to the community



Pastor Jeff and Gracie meeting and greeting people



Some of the materials that were available at the event have been added to the church library.

PROCLAMATION - Continued



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be held at 7:30 am on Wednesday, June 21 at the Blawenburg Café. On July 19th the group will meet at the Red Oak Diner.

Let Joe know if you plan to be there at jpavl1999@aol.com. Come enjoy a time of food and fellowship with friends.

Third Graders Learn About Blawenburg and BRC

Each spring, over 300 Montgomery third graders, as part of their curriculum, visit our church. Dave Cochran does a terrific job presenting a program that provides the children with a good idea of what life was like in Blawenburg as well as in our church over the past 200 years. Dave always asks questions of the students and typically receives honest answers that are often "gems". This year was no exception. Dave explained that children many years ago were paid to pump the organ. When asked what a child should be paid today to do the job, one young man said, "Nothing. I would do it for the love of God!" It's no wonder that Dave continues to do this year after year!







OFFICE HOURS

MON 8:30 to 1:30 THUR 8:30 to 3:30 FRI 8:30 to 11:30

The Blawenburg Beacon is a publication of

Blawenburg Reformed Church

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VP of ConsistoryDavid Cochran

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> **Beacon Editor** Barb Pavlicek



Summary of Dates (See articles for more information.)

Plan Ahead—

June 2—Game Night, 7pm

June 4—Congregational Meeting,

June 5—Communications Team, 1pm

June 6-Mission Team, 11:30

June 7—School Presentation , 9-1
Grief Support, 5pm

June 11— Breakfast Worship, 8:32am
Children's Day (Mission Info.)

June 12—Garden @ at Crawford House, 6:30pm

June 13—Worship Team, 4:15

June 15—Blue Pomegranate, 7-9pm

June 16—BVS Father's Day Program, 9am

June 18—Ordination/Installation of new Elder and Deacon

June 19—BVS Graduation, 9:30am

June 20—Mary & Martha, 6:30pm

June 21—Men's Breakfast, 7:30am Grief Support, 5pm

July 4—Independence Day

July 5 Grief Support, 5pm

July 7—Game Night, 7pm

July 10—18, Pastor Jeff's vacation

July 10-Garden @ Crawford House, 6:30

July 18—Mary & Martha, 6:30pm

July 19 Men's Breakfast, 7:30am Grief Support, 5pm

Aug. 2 Grief Support, 5pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June

- 7 Bernice Van Nostrand
- 7 Alan Querec
- 14 Dave Cochran
- 20 Don Thiel
- 25 Bud Lewis
- 26 Ariel Meyer

July

- 2 Kevin Clancy
- 8 Will Quackenbush
- 12 Lisa Hunt
- 21 Palmer White
- 29 Todd Quackenbush

August

- I Frank Tufano
- 2 Will Herbert
- 11 Nancy Meyer
- 18 Barb Van Liew
- 19 Tom Hunt
- 21 Pam Bainbridge
- 22 Kaitlyn Clancy
- 24 Diana Pfannebecker
- 31 Rick White

ANNIVERSARIES!

June

- 5 Rick & Lisa White
- 16 Sarah & Marc Hong
- 22 Dave & Evelyn Cochran
- 24 Alan & Peggy Querec
- 24 Alan & Louise Taback

<u>July</u>

12 Eric & Sue Perkins

August

- 7 Jamie & Jeff Knol
- 11 Nancy & Mark Meyer
- 14 Jotham & Gracie Johnson
- 24 Jim & Jean Beachell



BLAWENBURG REFORMED CHURCH

In Service to the Risen Christ since 1832

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.