



# The Blawenburg Beacon

**March, 2012**

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

## **Growing Our Church**

*Sharing a Meal and Ideas*

On February 12, we gathered after church to share a meal and to share ideas about how we can help ourselves and each other become more passionately spiritual Christians. We met as a part of the Natural Church Development process that we began last year. Natural Church Development helps a church to grow by working to strengthen six essential quality characteristics of a healthy church. As a congregation, we first identified “passionate spirituality” as the characteristic we needed to work on most. We met a second time last year to identify the things that bring us closer to God and those that get in the way. The purpose of our gathering this month was to identify some concrete steps that we can take to develop passionate spirituality. The two questions we looked at were:

What specific ways can we help each other develop a closer relationship with God?

What specific things can we do as a church community to support each other to make the time and space in our busy lives to read the Bible, pray, and do other things that help us to be closer to God?

Below are the responses we received. If you weren’t able to join us on February 12, or even if you were there but have more ideas to share, please pick up the phone and call one of the church health team members (or corner us over a coffee after church). The church health team will be working with consistory to see which of these ideas can be put into action. Pray for a renewal of spirit and passion!

### **Ideas**

#### **Prayer**

- Hold prayer services.
- Open the church one or more days per week for prayer. (Docent needed)
- Pray for the pastor.
- Have a quiet time for prayer/meditation before church in sanctuary or lounge.
- Gather prayer requests by email, phone, etc. from the church and community
- Have prayer partners/buddies. Meet live or on the phone to pray at least once per week.
- Have a prayer workshop to learn how to pray better.
- Have a prayer group for those who are ill, having surgery, or personal problems.
- Make and distribute prayer quilts – Covered in Prayers. (See p. 6.)
- Publish the Prayer for the Week – in email announcements, bulletin, phone

- Put an answering machine on another phone line that contains the weekly prayer.

#### Children and Youth

- Establish a youth group and invite youth from community to join.
- Make special efforts to have more children attend church.
- Develop a home church school program.
- Do service projects that bring youth to the church to help.

#### Online

- Have an online daily scripture and prayer that would be emailed to subscribers.
- Have a weekly blog with several people sharing the writing.
- Use social media such as Facebook to spread the Good News.

#### Outreach

- Start a community course on the basics of faith – like an Alpha course.
- Offer a community course on marriage.
- Provide spiritual support for Carrier, Crawford House, and Stonebridge.
- Visit the sick.

#### Communication

- Print and mail copies of the Beacon to those who do not want the online version. (Note: We do this now, so it is a matter of letting more people know about the mailing option.)
- Re-establish the phone prayer chain. Incorporate email for those who want notification that way.

#### Personal

- During Lent, commit up to 15 minutes of silence/prayer each day.
- Turn off the cell phone to pray/meditate.
- Get to know people in the church better. Re-establish some version of the First Friday Dinners.
- Call someone who has left the church or is sparsely attending to invite them to church.
- Recognize that church may need to be a higher priority in our lives. Shift priorities to find more time for God.

Peace in Christ,

Wendy Herbert

For the Church Health Team: Alan, Wendy, Andrea, Mike, Dave, and Bob

(Review the earlier article from the health team in the November, 2011, issue of the *Beacon*. It can be found on the church's website: [www.BlawenburgChurch.org](http://www.BlawenburgChurch.org))

## MEET YOUR CONSISTORY

BY BOB BRADSELL

**CATHERINE MURPHY** was elected as Deacon last spring, and is serving a first term on Consistory. Catherine, known to most of us for the beautiful lilt of her British accent, has become a fixture here at BRC and is excited to be a part of its governing board as we head into a period of transition and change.

She was born Catherine Bryan in the English town of Guildford, but grew up in Berkshire, west of London. Her father, Tony, served in the Royal Air Force and became an electrical engineer. Her mother, Gillian, was also an electrical engineer. “My brother, Jeremy, got those genes,” says Catherine. “He majored in math, and now has his own computer company in England.”

As a child, Catherine attended an Anglican church with her family. In this country, it would have been called “Episcopal”. And through the elementary grades, she attended the church school...quite a common experience there. “It was called ‘Grammar School’,” Catherine says, “and it was tiny.”

Brother Jeremy may have run off with the math genes, but Catherine was a wiz with words. She attended the University of East Anglia, noted for its English program, and majored in English Literature and English History. After college, she went to work for Bayer – the aspirin people – in the town of Newbury. To help you visualize the locale, quite near the town is Highclere Castle, the setting for the popular PBS show *Downton Abby*. And not far away was a U.S. Air Force Base at Greenham Common.

In the 1980s, with the Cold War breathing its hottest, Greenham Common – a major nuclear weapons site – was the backdrop for many an anti-war demonstration. But even the Cold War couldn’t stop the lure of a curious new Yankee sport showcased at the Amer-

ican base...bowling! In an effort to sow some cross-cultural seeds of harmony, USAF officials opened the base’s bowling lanes to the locals, and the camaraderie of a bowling league softened the lines. “It was a Tuesday night social event,” Catherine says. “I went with friends, and it was a little like visiting a foreign country...everything from the bowling shoes to the pin-setting equipment was a new experience for us.”

Among the bowlers was a Yank from Massachusetts named Brian Murphy. A friendship beyond the bowling lanes emerged, and by 1990, with the airbase destined to close, Catherine and Brian faced some tough decisions. They married, and decided to migrate to the U.S.

“We landed at McGuire Air Force Base in 1992, soon after Hurricane Andrew,” Catherine recalls. “We shared base housing with many of the victims of that storm.”

Brian worked at McGuire, while Catherine’s pharmaceutical experience led her to a job with the Warner-Lambert company in Morris Plains. In an effort to balance their commutes, they settled on the Princeton area as an approximate midpoint, and moved to Rocky Hill.

Mathew was born in 1994, and the commute to Morris Plains got tougher. Catherine had worked for Johnson & Johnson for a while back in England, and when a position at that company’s Skillman office became available in 1995, she grabbed it. Catherine’s applied her language skills for the benefit of J&J ever since, often traveling globally in the effort.

Emma was born in 1997, and a year later the Murphys moved to their Mountain View Road home. Catherine visited some churches in the area, but didn’t land anywhere

Then, as Emma moved through the early grades in school, she found herself in the Brownies with Morgan Van Liew. Barbara, Morgan's mom, invited Catherine to join them at one of Pastor Rich Van Doren's Friday *Movie Nights* at Memorial Hall. "A visit to church followed," Catherine says, "and I just felt so at home...I found myself with neighbors Jean and Harold Skillman, and Wendy and Bill Herbert. And Emma was at home with friends Morgan, the Gurzo boys, and others, and we've been here ever since."

If we could pick our neighbors, we could do worse than to select the Murphys. They value their friendships, and they respond to emergencies. When Harold Skillman fell in his basement a couple of years ago, Brian and Mathew Murphy were first on the scene and called 9-1-1. "Jean is a good friend and neighbor," Catherine says. "We'd do whatever we could for her." At the funeral for Harold, Catherine stepped out of her comfort zone and spoke in remembrance of her friend.

Now she's working her way through her own emergency of sorts. Catherine had major hip surgery in December, and is still in the process of recuperating. "I was born at home, not in a hospital," she explains, "and my hip joint was not fully developed." It turns out to be a fairly common problem among babies, but if not discovered and treated right away, it can lead to major issues in later life. Catherine had lived with a troublesome walk, but the problems were magnifying and threatened to affect her spine. Doctors at Princeton Hospital had to create a functioning hip joint, and in the process, undo musculature that had developed over the years as a kind of anatomical work-around. Catherine is doing well, but you may notice a slow and very deliberate gait when

she walks.

She says she's "learning the ropes" on Consistory. But Catherine also admits to a certain excitement at seeing our old church take its first steps toward a new future. "I think we can all feel something very good happening with Pastor Bob Sharman and Andrew Long," she says. Her language skills and judgment have been a great asset to the folks at J&J, and there seems to be a consensus around the notion that Catherine Murphy will play a constructive role in the path only now beginning to unfold here at BRC.



Catherine with daughter Emma and Beacon Editor, Barbara

Say "hello" to Catherine, and thank her for her work for the church. You'll generally find her seated on the west side of the sanctuary, near the back, not far from her friend Jean Skillman. If you need a conversation starter, ask her why private schools in England are called "public schools".

*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.*

## **Worship Team**

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

Please note that the liturgical colors of the paraments on the pulpit and communion table have changed from white to purple. The deeper hues signify preparation and penitence in the 40 days leading to Easter. See Andrew's thoughtful article on page 4 of the February *Beacon* about the Season of Lent. ([www.BlawenburgChurch.org](http://www.BlawenburgChurch.org))

### **Stories behind the crosses on Lenten bulletin covers.**

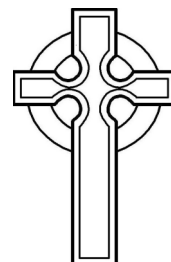
#### **The Ash Cross**—The First Sunday of Lent

Christians across the globe begin their yearly observance of Lent by marking their foreheads with ashes in the form of a cross. Ashes are a reminder of the dust from which humanity was formed in the beginning, and of the dark mark that sin places on our lives. But in the sign of the cross these ashes remind us of Christ, who on the cross atoned for our sins and made us pure as snow.



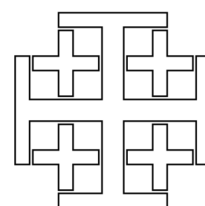
#### **The Celtic Cross**—The Second Sunday of Lent

St. Patrick of Ireland is said to be the first Christian to use the Celtic Cross. The cross design was modeled after pagan monuments found in Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, as a way for St. Patrick to introduce the Gospel in a foreign land. This cross, used mostly within Protestant Christianity, is wonderfully symmetrical, held together by an unbroken ring. The ring is a reminder of the unity of the Trinity, and of the unity of the Trinity with God's plan of salvation on the cross.



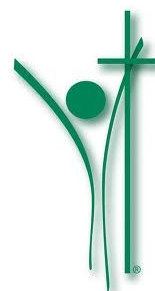
#### **The Jerusalem Cross**—The Third Sunday of Lent

The Jerusalem cross, or the Crusader's Cross, was designed to be worn by military regiments in the First Crusade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The equidistant Latin cross is flanked by four smaller crosses, symbolizing any number of things, such as the four Gospels or the four directions of the wind. All five crosses together could symbolize the five wounds of Christ on the cross--hands, feet, and side--or the first five Christian churches. Regardless of intended symbolism, at the center is Christ, the cross, on which was won our redemption and reconciliation with God.



#### **The Cross Logo** of the Reformed Church in America- The Fourth Sunday of Lent

With this logo the Reformed Church in America declares its belief in Christ, and its mission to spread the good news of the Gospel to all the world. The figure to the left can be many things: a man or woman in a posture of praise, the sun rising like on Easter morning, or the present world balanced between the past and the future. One might also think of birth, when new life emerges into the world. The figure to the left intersects with the cross, reminding us that in all things we belong to our loving savior Jesus Christ.





## Hospitality Team

*“ . . . care for those in our congregation and the greater church community. . . ”*

### Covered in Prayers

By Bernice Van Nostrand

Some members of our fellowship--Sunday worshippers, Tuesday Morning Study Group, Mary's and Martha's, and individual prayer warriors-- have been interested in a more tangible expression of "We are praying for you". A group called *Prayer Quilt Ministries---Prayers and Squares* [www.prayerquilt.org] does just that. Quilts are made and tied as people pray for those who are in special need of prayer.

The group has 3 rules:

1. The purpose is prayer, not admiration for the quilt.
2. The quilt recipient must give permission to be prayed for and to receive the quilt. The recipient states his/her prayer request(s).
3. No one may buy a prayer quilt.

Please consider ways you may want to be involved in this ministry of caring:

- Are you good at choosing colors and patterns?
- Can you hand sew a binding?
- Can you quilt?
- Can you sew the ties into the quilt?
- Can you donate fabric?
- Can you be the person who explains our program to a possible recipient and gets his/her permission?
- Can you pray?

All are needed and invited to be part of our Covered in Prayers Ministry.

(Bernice can be reached at 908-359-6579 or at [vns206@aol.com](mailto:vns206@aol.com).  
Nancy Curtis at BRC1832@verizon.net or at 609-466-3108.)



Our first prayer quilt



## Life-Long Learning Team

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

**Nursery** – Caitlyn Curtis - caregiver—Nursery is in the center room in Cook Hall for children up thru Pre-K.

**K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School** – The Worship Team in conversation with the Sunday School teachers and Consistory have decided that we would like our children to remain in church on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of every month now, in order for them to witness this sacrament to better understand what it might mean to them some day.

We invite parents and their children to check out our new Children & Worship room and our new Sunday School classroom, which have both recently moved into the two classrooms next to the church office in Cook Hall. The C&W room is regularly used for our pre-school classes during the week and occasionally for our Sunday School when Bernice Van Nostrand or possibly Barbara Pavlicek teaches the C&W lesson and then uses our SS classroom for follow-up. Otherwise, our church school classes are all in the new classroom with either Susan Perkins or Gracie Johnson.



Sunday School

Our schedule for the next month is:

March 4 – Communion [No Sunday School – children remain in church]

March 11 – Sue Perkins

March 18 – Barb Pavlicek

March 25 – Bernice Van Nostrand

April 1 – Palm Sunday and Communion [No Sunday School – children parade with palms and then remain in church]

**Plunge Youth Group**—The Youth Group met Saturday, February 25 for dinner and to discuss plans for the coming semester. We had lots of great ideas purposed. I'm going to be working on a schedule this week with all the details. Look for this to be emailed out early in March. The goal is that the Youth Group will meet two or three times each month until May. We'll be doing at least one service project during this time and I'm fairly certain that bowling will happen. Thanks for letting me hang out with your kids. It continues to be a great joy and privilege in my life. -Annie Reilly, Youth Pastor of First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill

**Leadership Workshop** - You still have time to attend the workshops being held by the Classis of Delaware-Raritan at South Branch Reformed Church in Hillsborough this Saturday from 9-2! We all are given various gifts of ministry and there are workshops for many here that could help us all realize or strengthen those gifts. For details see the February *Beacon*, p. 3 ([blawenburgchurch.org](http://blawenburgchurch.org)), or call the office.

**Mary's and Martha's**—On March 10, the Mary and Martha Prayer/Study Group will continue their discussion of Mustard Seeds: Thoughts on the Nature of God and Faith by Lynn Coulter. Please join us in Cook Hall at 7:30 for breakfast, discussion, prayers, and fellowship. We try to be finished by 9.

**Tuesday Study Group** --- meets in the lounge from 10-11:30 AM. Barb Pavlicek and Bernice Van Nostrand are leading this with a study from Words of Hope. The book that is used is entitled Easter Hope: How Jesus' Resurrection Changes Life by David Bast. Come whenever you are able and stay for our Tuesday Outreach lunch!

**Adult Sunday School Class** – Continuation of the discussion of “Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church”. The class meets in the lounge from 11:30—12:30.



# Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

During the month of March our students will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Day, with a visit from the Children's Librarian at Mary Jacobs Library. We are also looking forward to St. Patrick's Day and the first day of spring!

Our Mom's Morning Out Program has the following activities planned for March:

March 1<sup>st</sup>: All about Dr. Seuss

March 8<sup>th</sup>: "The Mitten" Story and Craft

March 15<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day Fun

March 22<sup>nd</sup>: Make Spring Flowers

March 29<sup>th</sup>: Make Chocolate Lollipops

Children ages 2-6 are welcome to join us! They do not need to be registered students to attend. All sessions are taught by a certified teacher and include arts and crafts, dramatics and pretend play, music, stories, snack and outdoor time. Sessions are 8:30-11:30, and the cost is \$30.00/session. Please call or email the school if interested.

We are currently enrolling students for the 2012-2013 school year. If you are interested in a placement, please contact the school so we can be sure church members receive priority placement. The school will be offering classes for students 2 - 6 years old.

Summer Camp will be held July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00am-1:00pm, for children ages 2.5-6. Join us for one or all of the following:

Fun with Fitness (July 9 - 13): *Join us as we explore various sports.*

Under the Sea (July 16 - 20): *Come and Explore the Creatures of the Sea!*

Jammin' in the Jungle (July 23 - 27): *Come on a safari and meet some wild animals!*

Exploring Nature (July 30 - Aug. 3): *Let's spend a week with nature and see what cool things we can find!*

BVS is on Facebook so please take a minute to like our page!



For pictures of our little ones this month, check out the Facebook page.

BVS Open House

Sat. March 24th 10-12

Let your friends & neighbors know.



## Missions Team

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

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#) is an ecumenical offering that has been widely observed throughout the church for the past fifty years. We invite you to join with us in our 2012 One Great Hour of Sharing offering--not only because it's good for the needy and good for the kingdom, but also because it is good for us.

Because RCA congregations participated in our One Great Hour of Sharing offering this past year, in addition to tremendous relief extended through our global partners, Reformed Church World Service was able to support 68 food pantries here in the US, 12 more than in 2010, at a time when the need for food pantries has grown enormously. This year the theme for One Great Hour of Sharing continues to focus on the ways "Sharing Brings Joy", this year on how "Sharing Brings Joy to *Others*." Our first thoughts on how our gifts bring joy to others focus on the tangible results of our sharing:

A family displaced by natural disaster or political unrest is grateful to receive food, shelter and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives.

A woman who has had to walk miles to carry potable water for her family smiles as she draws water from a clean well near her home.

A child excitedly arrives for the first day of class at her village's new school.

When we "sow bountifully" by giving to others, we reap bountifully by sharing in the joy our gifts bring to those whose basic needs are met through this important work. But in II Corinthians, Paul reminds the Corinthian

church that when Jewish believers in Jerusalem receive gifts from their non-Jewish brothers and sisters in Corinth, they will be moved also by the 'unity in Christ' those gifts represent. As the followers of Christ reached out across socio and economic lines to support one another, the awareness of another's need allowed them to recognize their own abundance as a gift from God, one they were called to share. We, too, then, aware of the needs of our extended global family, see others in need not as recipients of our charity, but as brothers and sisters with whom we are

called to share abundantly. The recipients experience joy in knowing we are willing to share with them, that they are beloved children of the Creator and each one a person of sacred worth.

This year, as you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing, remember all the ways your gifts bring joy to others. Sow bountifully and share abundantly, knowing you are not only helping change statistics, you are helping change lives. May we all give cheerfully and multiply the joy!

Coin collection boxes and Sharing Calendars are available now in the Sanctuary and in Cook Hall. This "sacrifice calendar" is for making daily offerings during Lent, to be given at a "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering on Easter Sunday. Using the calendar can be an excellent family activity, and also become a daily reminder of blessings we so often take for granted, as well as a daily opportunity for sharing with others. *[If you choose to send in an offering, make checks payable to BRC, noting OGHS on the memo line.]*



### **Mission Trip with Hillsborough Reformed Church (from the HRC Newsletter and Carol Luidens)**

Now that the new year is here, you are probably thinking of what to do this coming summer. Well, **save the week July 8<sup>th</sup> thru the 14<sup>th</sup>** and join us [HRC] on a **Mission Trip in Cumberland, Maryland**. The **NAILS Mission Project** serves homeowners that are generally people who are in need of help in order to maintain their homes and live safely with a modicum of comfort. We may be doing first floor rolled roofing, building handicap ramps, repairing porches, painting, siding, remodeling bathrooms, and more. Our jobs will be assigned in relationship to the skills we have. We will be responsible for our own food, so we are looking for COOKS as well. If you are interested, please contact Carol Luidens – email [cluidens@comcast.net](mailto:cluidens@comcast.net), phone 908-874-7530. Carol looks forward to the week.

## Croatia Unpacking begins as Croatian shipment arrives

by Nancy Titus

Our truck came today! Boxes packed up before Christmas were opened this afternoon to reveal mementos of our life in Croatia.

As I unpacked a few of them, I wondered how others would see this eclectic assortment of things we wanted badly enough to ship across the ocean. Even my husband made jokes about some of it, but as I replied to him, if we had lived a champagne life in Croatia, our mementos would reflect that. As it was, ours was a mustard-glass kind of life, and the things we brought to remember it by are, well, glasses that literally held mustard.

I really like that.

We have European-style coffee mugs with no handles that came from McDonald's, "ice cream shovels" as we call the usual piece of silverware used for eating *sladoled*, and a slightly stained tablecloth that served as a backdrop for Croatian lessons and homeschool as well as countless family dinners. Just seeing its aqua blue plaid transported me to my Croatian dining room and instantly brought to mind Kristina Koronovac, our Croatian tutor who was often at our house working with us to learn the language.

Sure, we also have some items on the other end of the scale, typical things tourists would buy like the small selection of Bohemian crystal from Prague or the linen milled locally in our region of Slavonia. But most of what we brought are just mundane items that we used every day and that I think will anchor us in years to come to this wonderful and challenging experience we had in Croatia. Like the items themselves, our time in Croatia was much more about the people and things of humble means than the extravagant Europe seen by tourists.

So far, we have only had time to unpack a selected few boxes, checking the most breakable items in case we needed to make a claim with our shipping company. As I write, we still have in front of us the gathering of other materials from their resting places in Oklahoma, Texas, and New York, all the lifting, hauling and moving of boxes and sorting of items as we find a new place for them to be.

Along with the physical unpacking, of course, there is a much larger and slower emotional unpacking of our experiences that will occur over the months and years to come. As you read this, we will have just returned from a re-entry retreat which will be helpful as our family begins that process. So the deeper meanings will have to wait for a later time.

Since I am writing about unpacking, you are probably wondering where this is being done. I am happy to report that Eric has accepted a call as pastor of St. John's Reformed Church in Upper Red Hook, New York.

Accepting this call is like coming home. We have had ministry connections with this church for years. For one thing, it is one of our Partner-in-Mission churches, and in addition to regular prayer and financial support, the church has sent us special project funds that have allowed us to provide students with books, like *The Hiding Place* and *Bruchko* for my English language reading seminars.

Even before that, though, we were connected with St. John's because it is part of the Mid-Hudson Classis, where we have belonged since first arriving in New York 13 years ago. The church is even in the same county where Eric served as a pastor before becoming a missionary, so moving there is going back to familiar places even if they are now viewed from a different perspective. We hope to move in and begin our lives there by late March.

Meanwhile back in Croatia, as many of you have probably read, our friends are experiencing record cold and snow. Amazingly, in Osijek, they have three feet of snow! That is unheard of in that region. Such harsh conditions means a lot of people are struggling to stay warm this winter. Please keep them in your prayers.

Eric and Nancy Titus were RCA missionaries in Osijek, Croatia, where they worked at the Evangelical Theological Seminary and with the Reformed Christian Church in Croatia. They have three children: Samuel, 17, Valerie, 14, and Penny, 12.
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## Proclaiming Team

*... and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.*

### Outreach Lunch Menus

March, 2012

by Nancy Curtis

Every Tuesday, from 11:30 to 1:00, we serve lunch in Cook Hall. Lunch is served buffet style and a free-will donation is accepted (anonymously). This lunch has become a great outreach to the community. We average 25 people but occasionally have 40. I can always use extra help either during the morning hours setting up the dining room or later for kitchen clean-up.  
(Perk of helping—leftovers!)

Lunches will always have salad, bread and beverages

March 6

Minestrone, hamburgers and hot dogs

March 13

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Vegetable soup, corned beef & cabbage with all the fixings

March 20

Corn chowder, tuna melts

March 27

Broccoli soup, shepherds pie



### Music, Music, Music

Andrew Philip Long, Director of Music and Organist,  
and Blawenburg Reformed Church

present a **mix of organ music with song.**

Please join us on Sunday, April 29 at 6PM.

This will be a concert of sorts with singing encouraged.

The evening is open to the public.

Free-will donations accepted to benefit

Blawenburg Reformed Church missions program.

## *Join Us to Honor*

**David Cochran and Barbara Pavlicek**

at this year's *Lay Recognition Dinner*  
*Friday, March 30*

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantics has a tradition of helping us honor God's servants in our congregations at their bi-annual Lay Recognition Dinner. Those who have been honored in the past are Grace Terhune, Bill Herbert, Harold & Jean and Tom & Beas Skillman, Len Hunt, Bernice Van Nostrand, Gracie Johnson and Ethel Terhune. This year Consistory voted joyfully to honor Dave Cochran and Barb Pavlicek. Dave just stepped down from more than a decade as chair of our Finance Committee, one of our most daunting and thankless tasks, researched and wrote our two histories of BRC, and has this past year designed the curriculum and led the team that tutors women at Crawford House every Friday afternoon in computer skills. He now serves on their Board of Trustees.

Barbara was asked several years ago if she would be willing to be our official 'editor', having been an English teacher. She couldn't have had any idea at that time how many hours it would take each month pulling tidbits of information out of all of us, and then editing them and coordinating the pieces like a puzzle while working side-by-side with Nancy. Our Beacon reflects their combined hard work and creativity! As if that weren't enough, Barb was asked to chair the BVS Pre-School Board, a very challenging task, particularly in an economy that has been hard on pre-schools everywhere. She has done an unbelievable job in working closely with and supporting our Director, Karen Hill, and all the teachers, in reaching out to every parent, and in leading the Board effectively.

Thank you, David and Barbara, for your tireless, faithful, humble and creative service! Please join us as we honor these servants at this Lay Recognition Dinner on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Reservations and checks should be in to Nancy's office by March 10<sup>th</sup>, \$50 per person, payable to BRC. Sign-ups will be available at Fellowship and in the office. We'd like to have two tables. This evening always proves to be inspiring, both in meeting members of churches throughout NJ and PA, but also in hearing the stories of how God is working through them in their churches!



Barbara, far left, with the M&M group.



Dave enjoying fellowship.



## 2012 LAY RECOGNITION DINNER

*"I Am With You Always"*

Matthew 28:20

**FRIDAY • MARCH 30, 2012**

**6:00 p.m. Reception**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner**

**The Imperia • 1714 Easton Ave • Somerset, NJ 08873**

**Be there to share and support in this celebration where**

*Barbara Pavlicek & David Cochran*

**will be honored by our Synod.**

- Great fellowship
- Honor those whose actions show God's presence in the world
- Select honorees and guests to participate in the program and share their stories
- Dinner includes butler passed hors d'oeuvres, salad, Chicken Princess & cheesecake  
Sautéed chicken breast, lightly seasoned with garlic, shallots, Riesling wine, artichoke hearts, asparagus tips, and thin strips of fire roasted red peppers

**\$50 per person**

**To make reservations at our church please contact:**

*Nancy at 609-466-3108 or BRC1832@verizon.net*



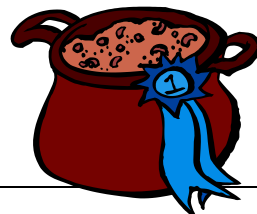
Tear out or print this page . Put it on your frig.  
Make someone's day! Wish them a happy birthday!



March 12	Colby White
March 18	Byron Gurzo
March 19	Joe Pavlicek
March 24	Cheryl Soos
March 26	Mac Harris
March 28	Pat Wengel
March 29	Dot Dorey
	Pam Wanner

### Pot Luck Luncheon

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the last of our winter luncheons on March 11<sup>th</sup> which will start right after church. Bring a dish to share.



### Summary of Dates

See earlier articles for more details.


March 4		Communion Sunday
March 4	2:30	Soup Making with Crawford House
March 5	Noon	BVS Trustees - schoolhouse library
March 8	6:30 pm	Administration & Finance Team
	7:30 pm	Consistory
March 10	7:30 am	Mary's and Martha's (See p. 7.)
March 11	2 am	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 11	11:45 am	Pot Luck Lunch
March 13	5:00 pm	Properties Team
March 24	10 to noon	BVS Open House
March 26		Deadline for Beacon info (Send to <a href="mailto:brc1832@verizon.net">brc1832@verizon.net</a> and <a href="mailto:bjpmay1998@aol.com">bjpmay1998@aol.com</a> .)
March 30	6:00 pm	Lay Recognition Dinner (The Imperia, 1714 Easton Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873)

Plan Ahead  
Sunday April 29  
Mix of Organ Music  
And Song  
See page 11.

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Sundays	8:45 AM	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship with Dr. Sharman unless otherwise posted
		Sunday School - after Children's Sermon except for Communion
		Sundays (See p. 7.)
	11:30 AM	Adult Sunday School - Cook Hall lounge
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Bible Study - Cook Hall lounge
	11:30 to 1:00	Outreach Lunch (See p. 11 for menus.)
Thursdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Group - Cook Hall basement

We have a tradition of filling our sanctuary with an assortment and abundance of potted flowers on Easter Sunday – daffodils, lilies, hydrangeas, hyacinths, tulips, etc. If you would like to purchase plants, which you may take home with you after the service, please fill in the form below. You may mail it to or leave it in the church office or on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary through March 25. As with Christmas, we will have a page dedicating the flowers however you wish.



Easter Flower Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to Blawenburg Reformed Church)

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.***