



The Blawenburg Beacon

March, 2014

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

*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.*

Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!

This Sunday, March 2nd, join us for a morning of celebration: communion, adult baptism, reception of members, and a time of “thank you” for Pastor Sharman and his ministry with us for the past two and a half years. Stay after worship for an expanded fellowship time in Cook Hall to welcome Shirley Wang and her daughter, Angelina, and blessing Dr. Bob and his family on their next steps.



Two Years in Review

Thank you and Blessings to Pastor Bob and his Family!





Consistory Highlights from Meeting of February 17th

1. Carlos Corro, our Long Term Pulpit Supply Pastor, shared his vision for his time with us. He expressed joy and gratitude for being at BRC. He said his ministry will be guided by Colossians 1:24-29. His goals are: 1) to make the word of God fully known through corporate worship, 2) to cultivate witness of the Gospel through pastoral care and BRC Café/Sunday School for all, and 3) to help the leadership mature through scripture. Carlos will be available for pastoral care on Friday mornings and Sundays before church.
2. Several members from our church are attending a Classis Leadership Workshop in Richboro, PA on Saturday, February 22.
3. Don't forget to reserve your spot at the BRC table at the Lay Recognition Dinner on March 28th. Jean Beachell and Don Terhune will be honored. We need your money by Feb. 28th.
4. In the coming weeks, we will be setting up a Nominating Team to recommend Deacons and Elders for the next year. We ask that you each consider who might be a good candidate to serve on Consistory. Leading our church in a time of change is very important.
5. We had an initial meeting at Marble Collegiate Church to discuss forming a partnership with them to help spread the message of God's love and hope. Consistory voted to invite leaders from Marble Collegiate to meet with the Consistory in March. This is only an exploratory discussion aimed at working together for common goals.
6. Team Reports
 - Missions - The Crawford House soup-making on January 26th was a success. The Team is looking into the RCA CARE Network [the new Reformed Church World Service].
 - Care and Visitation – Lisa White will continue to do visitations. Nancy Curtis will keep track of all the visits that she and others do. Please let her know of persons needing care.
 - Worship – Worship will meet with the Communications Team to evaluate and redesign the Worship Bulletin as needed. Carlos will preach on the Gospel of Mark during Lent.
 - Communications – A mailing inviting the local community to worship with us on Easter will be sent to arrive by April 12. The new web site is up and running. We will post sermons on it soon.
 - Family Life – A covered dish luncheon was held on January 12th. On Feb. 7th, we sponsored a Valentine Fun Night for Blawenburg Village School. Fifty-three parents and children attended.
 - Properties – The doors to the Village School have been repaired
7. Consistory thanked Dr. Bob Sharman for serving as our pastor for the past two years. Be sure to come to church on March 2nd, his last day, and to the fellowship in his honor after the service.

Worship Team

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

[The following is a summary of the sermon miniseries for February which were preached by Carlos Corro, our long-term, pulpit supply pastor. These sermons lead into our Lenten series to the time before the Church was even in existence. We will be on "A Journey With an Unexpected God." (See the next page.) Also, as a community we will be doing a scripture reading plan on the Gospel of Mark from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Stay tuned for the schedule, which Carlos will be sending out in the next day or two. — Editor]

THE CHURCH: GOD'S NEW COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2014 @ Blawenburg Reformed Church

"Come and See"

2/9/14: "How WE serve
2/16/14: " How WE care
2/23/14: "How WE praise"

Our local church is a part of something much bigger than ourselves. Specifically, we belong to and are a part of the holy catholic and apostolic church which we affirm during the reading of the creeds a.k.a The Church (with a big "C"). The Church is what God is most

passionate about here on earth and that is why this month as a community we entered into a miniseries all about "The Church", our purpose and role in it as the body of Christ here and now!

[We ended our miniseries on the Church with the following prayer.]

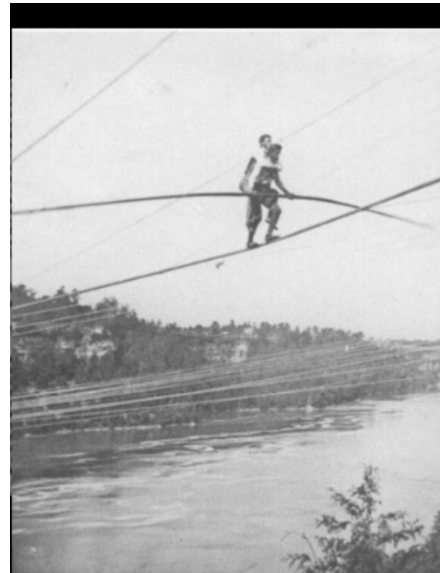
The Mission of God's People: The Church

(adapted from "Our World Belongs to God" Article 42)

Almighty God,

We, the Church, are sent by the Holy Spirit to embrace God's mission in our neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner. We repent for leaving this work to a few. For this mission is a central part to the being of your Church.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



This picture represents our being carried by God. The extraordinary in the ordinary.

LENT

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Mark: A Journey With an Unexpected God

"Come and See"



A Lenten Sermon Series on The Gospel of Mark

3/9/14 An Unexpected
Encounter ,
MARK9:2-13

3/16/14 Unexpected
Greatness,
MARK10:35-45

3/23/14 An Unexpected
Command,
MARK12:27-37

3/30/14 Unexpected
Humanity,
MARK14:32-42

With Gratitude...

Dear Friends,

I want to tell you all how much I appreciate your warm hospitality during my three-month visit to Blawenburg to make music on your fine pipe organ.

I am especially privileged to spend time with our outstanding organist, Katie Connolly. The congregation is fortunate indeed to have her.

Although many churches have chosen to lessen their commitment to the power of quality musical support for communal singing, Blawenburg Reformed Church continues a long and pioneering tradition. David Cochran's history notes that the 1874 organ was one of the first pipe organs to be installed in a church. Its rebuilding in 1926, and its replacement in 1972 by the purchase of the present fine instrument, reaffirm every week the dedication of the congregation to this spirit.

Another treat for me is the opportunity I now have to sing with many of you in the Easter-season choir.

I will be returning to my home in Oregon after Easter with a renewed awareness of the beauty and spirit of the musical life of this church. I thank everyone here, especially Gracie and Katie, for your warm welcome. I look forward to visiting again.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Stephen Adams
Enterprise, Oregon
stefanoadams@icloud.com

Classis Leadership Workshop, an Inspiration

by Gracie Johnson

On Saturday, February 22, Jean Beachell, Bob Bradsell, Carlos Corro, Gracie Johnson and Barb Pavlicek attended the annual Classis Leadership Conference, held this year at the Addisville Reformed Church in Richboro, PA. The keynote speaker happened to be the Rev. Steve Sayer who many of you met as the coach for the start of our Natural Church Development here at BRC. Steve came with a number of members from his church in Bushkill Falls, PA. They accompanied us with their praise band and led workshops on small groups, spiritual growth and others, along with the Elder and Deacon training and Supervision sessions led by our Classis members. Martin Tel also accompanied worship and gave a workshop on the new Hymnal he helped edit: Lift Up Your Hearts. [Gracie bought a copy if you'd like to look at it.] We came away with many ideas, not the least of which were : 1] reading through the Bible with a Buddy and 2] follow what the scripture tells us to do and we will be blessed!

Hospitality Team

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

Super Valentine Fun Night

By Evelyn Cochran

On Friday, February 7th, our church hosted the Village School Valentine Fun Night. We had 53 parents, children, and church members come for pizza, salad, and drinks. While everyone ate, we had a chance to mingle with the parents. The children were a bit shy, but hey, we were strangers. After they had their dinner, they iced cupcakes provided by Karen, our Village School director. The children then went to their classrooms to make Valentine crafts.

A fun night was had by all; and from what I hear, the parents were delighted, the children had fun, and it was a super outreach for our church.

Our hostesses: Ethel Terhune, Ginny Doremus, Bernice Van Nostrand, Evelyn Cochran



Life-Long Learning Team

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

Mary’s and Martha’s— The M&M’s women's group will meet March 1, 2014 at 7:45 AM. They will be reading *Pastrix* by Nadia Bolz-Weber

Nadia Bolz-Weber is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA mission church in Denver, Colorado. She’s a leading voice in the emerging church movement and her writing can be found in [The Christian Century](#) and Jim Wallis’ [God’s Politics blog](#). She is author of *Salvation on the Small Screen? 24 Hours of Christian Television* (Seabury 2008) and the [Sarcastic Lutheran blog](#).



The Tuesday Morning Study Group - The Tuesday morning study group has joined the Griggstown Reformed Church group at the Thomas Sweet Café.

Reverend David Leung Kahler invited a number of area congregations, ours included, to participate in Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 at the Thomas Sweet Cafe, located in the Montgomery Shopping Center.

He begins by showing a short video put out by an organization known as NOOMA. These videos explore various aspects of our world, taking into consideration the teachings of Jesus. A thoughtful and introspective discussion follows.

Please consider joining us on any given Tuesday. A week to week commitment is not necessary. The videos are individualized. Join us! We're saving a seat for you!

Bible & Brew Faith Discussions at 10am
Thomas Sweet Café in Skillman, NJ (Montgomery Township)



Blawenburg Cafe: Sunday School For All - Gather around Jesus in community for an interactive time of *listening* to God's word, *sharing* and *praying* for one another.

Beginning Sunday March 9th 11:30-12:30pm in the fellowship hall following the Boy Scout Sunday reception.



Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

Our students will start off the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday, and Read Across America. We are looking forward to a visit from the leprechaun as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and we eagerly await the first day of Spring! Hopefully, some of the snow will melt on our playground so we can find our toys.

Our Mom's Morning Out Program is available to children ages 2-6. They do not need to be registered students to attend. All sessions include arts and crafts, dramatics and pretend play, music, stories, snack and outdoor time. Sessions are 9:00-12:00, and the cost is \$30.00/session. Please call or email the school if interested.

Our Summer Camp program will run for 4 weeks, July 7th - August 1st, 9:00am - 1:00pm.

July 7 - July 11 Discovering Dinosaurs

T-Rex, Stegosaurus & Triceratops. Oh my!

July 14 - July 18 Cooking Around the World

Exploring international foods in the kitchen.

July 21 - July 25 Leaping Into Literature

The adventure awaits in reading and books.

July 28 - Aug. 1 The Wonders of Water

We will be exploring all aspects of water.

Don't you wish corporate America had pajama day?

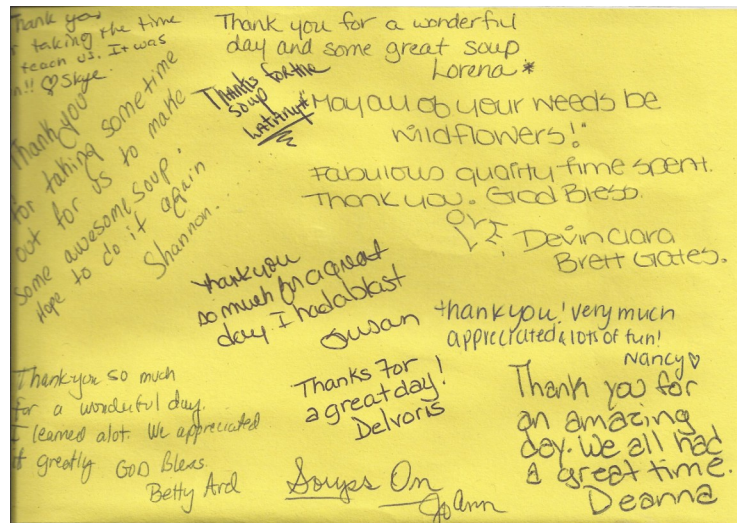
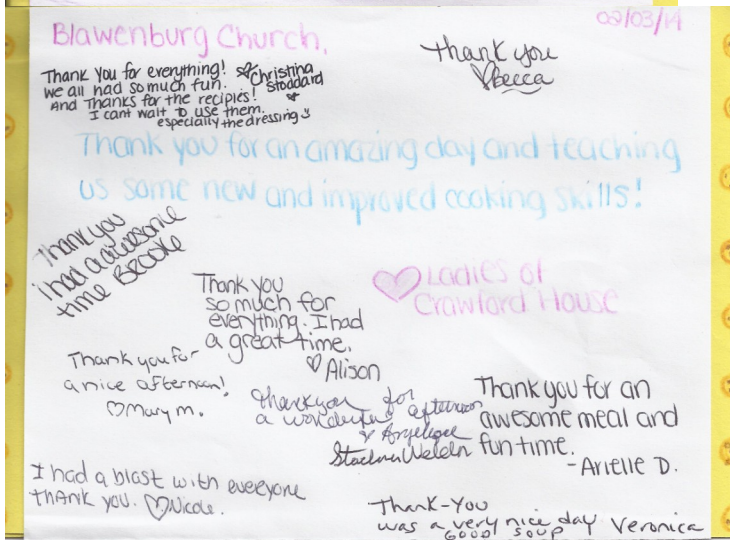
We are currently enrolling students for the 2014-2015 school year, and some classes have almost reached capacity. So, if you or a friend are interested in a placement, please contact the school so we can reserve you a space. The school will be offering classes for students 2 - 5 years old.



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

Missions Team

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



We received the above thank you from the Crawford House ladies for our fun-filled soup making event in January. See the February Beacon for a summary of that event. The original Thank You note is on the mission board in Cook Hall.

Proclaiming Team

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

IT IS RUMMAGE SALE TIME AGAIN!!!

Mark your calendars for the week of April 6th to the 12th! Jean Beachell has scheduled ANOTHER rummage sale for Friday and Saturday April 11th and 12th. She would REALLY like a co-chairman for this event; but, if not, helping in any way that you can will be appreciated. We need people to help in the advertising department, to donate, to help set up, help display the items, to be in charge of a section, to work behind the tables the days of the sale, and/or help break down and clean up. We will be accepting items starting Sunday afternoon April 6th. We cannot accept books, electronics or large furniture. Donations may be put in the west end of the basement of Cook Hall behind the folding doors.

The proceeds from the rummage sale will be divided between maintenance projects for our buildings and for local/global mission. The Property Team has come up with a couple of projects that need our immediate attention (gutters all around Cook Hall and insulation under the preschool) both of which are costly for the church. The mission donation will be determined later.

People tell us how wonderful our rummage sale is and they look forward to coming. So let's take this opportunity to reach out to the community and give our needed capital improvements an extra boost and missions an extra donation.

Please contact Jean Beachell, 609-924-7637, and tell her how you can help. In the meantime, start saving your items you don't need anymore! We need them!



Treasures abound at the BRC Rummage Sale—from Louise's red quilted coat to this little one's odd toy.
Come see!



Synod Lay Recognition Dinner
March 28th at 6:00 PM
The Imperia in Somerset
1714 Easton Avenue 08873

Honorees:
Jean Beachell & Don Terhune

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 28	Pat Wengel
March 29	Dot Dorey
	Pam Wanner

Boy Scout Sunday Sunday, March 9th

Troop 46, the troop that we sponsor, will be joining us in worship on Sunday, March 9th. Join the Boy Scouts and their families in Cook Hall for a time of fellowship, special cake and conversation.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Summary of Dates


See earlier articles for more details.

March 1	7:45 AM	Mary's & Martha's (See page 9.)
March 2	10:00 AM	Transfiguration Sunday —(white parament) Worship with Communion, Baptism & Reception of New Members Dr. Sharman preaching
	11:00 AM	Expanded fellowship time honoring Dr. Bob and welcoming new members
March 5		Ash Wednesday (purple parament)
March 8		Set Your Clocks Forward (Spring Ahead)
March 9	10:00 AM	Worship - First Sunday in Lent Boy Scout Sunday - Fellowship time honoring Boy Scout Troop 46
March 13	7:30 PM	Consistory
March 24		Deadline for April Beacon material
March 27	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast
March 28	6:00 PM	Lay Recognition Dinner honoring Jean Beachell & Don Terhune

Plan Ahead

April	Sponsoring a family for a holiday meal (Montgomery Township Spring Holiday program.)
April 4-5	Synod Women's Retreat at Harvey Cedars (See flyer on Mission bulletin board.)
April 11-12	Rummage Sale (See page 12.)
April 20	Easter Egg Hunt following worship
May	One Great Hour of Sharing
May 2 & 3	2014 Care and Kindness Conference (See flyer on Mission bulletin board.)

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 April 13. 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: _____

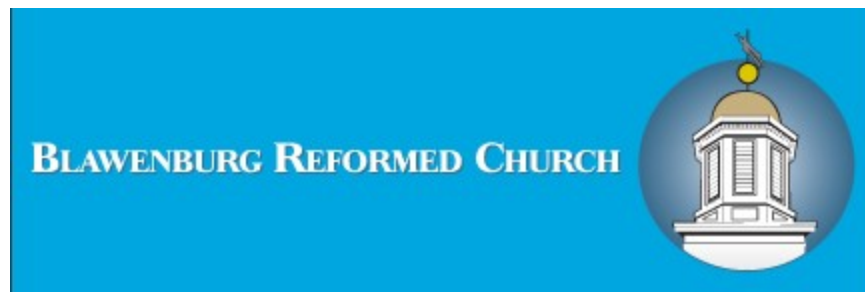
In honor or memory of: _____
(circle one)

The Blawenburg Beacon

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Dated Material



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**Jesus is God. God is love.
You can safely explore both here.**