



The Blawenburg Beacon

July/August, 2013

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

Summer Worship Schedule

Pastor Bob will be leading worship throughout the month of July and on August 11th.

July 7—Spanish Service—9 AM in Cook Hall
Regular Worship—10 AM

July 28—Special music by ALMA

In August we will repeat our recent tradition of rotating Sunday services with our neighboring sister churches. Please help us in showing support and solidarity with each other by attending services when not in our home sanctuary.

- August 4 – Griggstown—10 AM
- August 11 – Blawenburg—10 AM
- August 18 – Rocky Hill—10 AM
- August 25 – Harlingen—9 AM



"It's a tricky theological point.
You say you covet your neighbor's humility?"

How's a pastor to counsel?!?!
(a little summertime humor)

BRC Mission Statement

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!

Music by ALMA

On July 28th, four of our young people will again lead us in worship with their musical talents. The band consists of Angelina, Linnéa, Marie, and Akemi. Come worship together and have a musical treat. (Although the acronym is made up of the first letter of each of their names, the word also means "soul" in Portuguese and Spanish.)



Life-Long Learning Team

"We commit our gifts to... life-long learning..."

Helping Youth Develop Christian Values

By David Cochran

At its first meeting, the ad hoc Supporting our Young Families Committee began to brainstorm ideas that would encourage and support the attendance of young people and their families in church. Our first task was to ask ourselves why we were doing this, and we quickly concluded that **we want our young people to have strong Christian values that will sustain them for a lifetime**. We then discussed many ways to better incorporate young people in worship and education programs. The committee will be recommending specific ideas to encourage youth to become involved in worship, education, activities, and service to others.

The meetings are open to all who are able to attend. The next meeting is on Tuesday, July 2 at 10:00 AM in the basement of Cook Hall. If you cannot attend, please share your ideas by email, phone, or completing an idea sheet that is in the back of the church. We've had many good ideas suggested so far, and we welcome yours, too.



Happy birthday, Bernice.

The Mary and Martha prayer and book group will meet again on September 14th at 7:45 a.m. in Cook Hall. One area of interest (among others) that they will discuss from the book Does This Church Make Me Look Fat? is baptism. Is it a "meaningless sign" for infants to be baptized or a meaningful sign as an adult, "personal choice"? Take a second look at "Double Dip", chapter 12.



The Heidelberg Catechism

By Gracie Johnson

Alpha was just that: A ‘beginning’: learning and sharing together questions about our faith and the meaning of life. One wonderful thing about our Christian faith being rooted in scripture is that “the more things change, the more they remain the same”! Early Christians struggled over the same questions of faith and how to guide our understanding of it. In doing so, they developed ‘confessions’ or ‘statements of belief’ we still use to share our practice of faith today. One such creed or confession is The Heidelberg Catechism, written in Germany in 1563, approved by the ‘Synod of Dort’ in 1619, and thought provoking and relevant as ever to us today! As a teaching tool, it is written in the form of questions. Our Consistorial Report for the denomination asks if we have preached the questions of The Heidelberg Catechism during the year. Because the catechism involves basic questions of faith and scripture, we are always able to answer ‘yes’; however, curiosity about this has excited Dr. Bob! He has found wonderful resources, video and print, for learning and discussion around these questions. We plan to start our next adult Sunday School *in September* around them, and perhaps a mid-week (Wednesday night?) study group, with or without supper a la Alpha. Look for more info to come about this.

Apropos of our creeds and confessions, the following items from our RCA website are on “What We Believe”:



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What We Believe

The Basics

We believe that God created the world and everything in it, including human beings.

God created a perfect world. In the beginning, there was no sin--no hatred, no disunity, and no death. But God also allowed humans to make their own choices.

The first humans, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God, allowing [sin](#) to enter God's perfect world. From then on, every human has been born with sinful desires that lead to separation from God.

But the story doesn't end there. God loves the world and the people in it--so much, in fact, that he made a plan to take away the guilt of our sin.

God sent his son, Jesus, into the world as a human. Jesus gave his life to pay the price for sins he didn't commit. Jesus accepted the punishment for our sins so that we don't have to.

Three days after Jesus was killed, God brought Jesus to life again, defeating the power of death and evil. Jesus still lives today, eternally in heaven with God the Father. One day he will come back to earth to put an end to evil--sin, death, and pain--and renew all things. He will gather all who have believed in him from every time and place to live with him forever.

Our [faith](#) is centered in God's love for us demonstrated in Jesus Christ, his son.

When we accept Jesus' sacrifice for us and commit our lives to following him, God sees us as perfect, the way we were first created to be. We cannot manufacture such faith on our own; it is the result of God's Spirit working within us.

The Reformed View of Christian Faith

In the Reformed view, the **final authority** is the [Bible](#)--known as the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God.

The Reformed perspective is centered in the overwhelming **love of God** toward us. We believe that [God is](#) three in one--God the father, God the son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe that we are **saved by grace** alone through faith, not by what we think or do to earn God's favor. Our good works don't earn our salvation, but are a way to thank God for this free gift of salvation.

The Reformed Church in America celebrates **two sacraments**: [baptism and the Lord's Supper](#). They remind us of God's promises to us and help us to claim those promises as our own.

The RCA is **confessional**, which means that together we have statements of belief, called [creeds and confessions](#). These statements guide our understanding of faith and shape its practice.

The RCA is "Reformed and always reforming," earnestly seeking to know the mind of Christ as it strives to be faithful in a changing, complex, and often troubled world. The RCA's [position papers](#) on **contemporary issues** provide guidance to the members of the church and are a part of the church's witness in society.



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The Heidelberg Catechism



The Heidelberg Catechism (1563) was composed in the city of Heidelberg, Germany, at the request of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the province of the Palatinate from 1559 to 1576. The new catechism was intended as a tool for teaching young people, a guide for preaching in the provincial churches, and a form of confessional unity among the several Protestant factions in the Palatinate. An old tradition credits Zacharias Ursinus and Caspar Olevianus with being the coauthors of the catechism, but the project was actually the work of a team of ministers and university theologians under the watchful eye of Frederick himself. Ursinus probably served as the primary writer on the team, and Olevianus had a lesser role. The catechism was approved by a synod in Heidelberg in January 1563. A second and third German edition, each with small additions, as well as a Latin translation were published the same year in Heidelberg. The third edition was included in the Palatinate Church Order of November 15, 1563, at which time the catechism was divided into fifty-two sections or Lord's Days, so that one Lord's Day could be explained in an afternoon worship service each Sunday of the year.

The Synod of Dort approved the Heidelberg Catechism in 1619, and it soon became the most ecumenical of the Reformed catechisms and confessions. It has been translated into many European, Asian, and African languages and is still the most widely used and warmly praised catechism of the Reformation period.



Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director



Guitars and chairs waiting for the graduates.



Lining up for the processional.



Congratulations to our young graduates. Our best to them in Kindergarten.

God Bless You!



Jammin' in the chancel!

Resting after the recessional.





BVS Summer Camp



Summer Camp will be held July 8th through August 2nd, from 9:00am-1:00pm, for children ages 2.5-6. Join us for one or all of the following:

July 8th-12th Under the Big Top - The circus is coming to town!

July 15th- 19th Kids in the Kitchen - Chefs in training, make your own chef's hat and apron

July 22nd-26th Pirates and Princesses - All pirates and princesses will be creating special crafts to take to their castle!

July 29th-Aug. 2nd Wet and Wild - We will be exploring all aspects of water this week.

Call now to sign up. Some camp weeks are full.



Looking forward to 2013-2014. Call for information and registration forms. Classes filling!

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Karen Hill, Director

In appreciation ...



A thank-you lunch given by BVS Trustees for BRC and BVS staff and supporters.



Fix Up—Clean Up—Spruce Up Time

Thank you to Jim for fixing our bell pull and to Len for making our steps safe.

Thank you to Ethel for rearranging and organizing Cook Hall (again), and to Barb R., Sonya, and Gracie for helping Bernice move and organize the Children & Worship room.

Thank you to Joe for fixing the handles on the pews and the Communion cup holders.

Thank you to Barb A and Katie for their musical talents—duets and Spanish guitar.

Thank you to members who are stepping up to be on the Search Committee and on the ad-hoc education organizational committee.

Missions Team

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

BRC Honored by Crawford House Save the Date

Each year Crawford House honors individuals and organizations that have given it significant support. At their annual Harvest Dinner on October 24, 2013, they will recognize Blawenburg Church's mission efforts.

As you may be aware, our connection with Crawford House was started by Bill Herbert. He envisioned us working with a local mission to share our talents not just our money. That was several years ago, and the Crawford House mission has carried on in his memory.

Here are some ways we are involved at Crawford House:

1. Gardening – We work with the residents to plant and maintain vegetable and flower gardens. Ethel Terhune is the gardening leader, and various other church members have helped over the years.
2. Computers – Each Friday from September to June, we teach groups of residents how to use the computers for activities such as creating a budget and writing a resume. Bob Bradsell, Dave Cochran, and Nancy Curtis are the primary leaders of these sessions.
3. Soup-making – The residents come to our church on a Sunday afternoon once or twice a year to learn how to make nutritious soup from scratch. Nancy D'Allesandro has been the leader of these sessions. Our soup booth at Sinterklass is an outgrowth of this idea. Extra funds were donated to Crawford House last year from the sale of soup.
4. Juggling – Jean Butcher meets with the residents periodically to teach them how to juggle, which relieves stress.
5. Food Bank Pickup – About four times per year, we pick up about a ton of food at the NJ Community Food Bank in Hillside. Alan Taback, Dave Cochran, and several others from outside the church assist in this effort.
6. Crawford House Board of Trustees – Dave Cochran serves on the Board of Trustees.

We hope that you will be able to attend this dinner at Princeton Marriott in October. It is a fundraiser, and the price is \$125.00. It would be great if we could fill a couple of tables of eight.

Look for more information in September; and, meanwhile, mark your calendar to attend this honor and support Crawford House on October 24th.



Church World Service Kits

An act of kindness to think about with your upcoming summer plans: collecting again for the Church World Service Kits and putting them together early in the fall. When you see summer sales and back-to-school sales, please think about the very important items needed for these kits. Reminder cards with the items needed will be available soon in church and Cook Hall, but in the meantime you can follow this link to download the lists: www.churchworldservice.org/kits And if you have time in the summer for craft projects, there are patterns on this site for book bags, nightgowns, sweaters, etc. ... all of which we can use. Dora's bags are all gone now! Barb R. is crocheting blankets for us, and Barb A., "We're ready for a sweater or two."

If you don't have time to shop, nor were given the gift of knitting or sewing, you may make a monetary donation for yarn or other supplies. Please note on the memo line of your check or place your cash in an envelope marked CWS kits.



Volunteer Opportunity

T.A.S.K.

By Barbara Reid

Alan Taback and I go to T.A.S.K., the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, on Wednesday mornings to tutor people who have become our friends. We work one on one with those who are dedicated to improving their lives, despite their difficult circumstances. I know that both of us gain humility from our experience—I have been going now for about six weeks; and so far two people have been recognized for receiving their GEDs, and now have become tutors themselves. It takes not much more than a little patience, a bit of being able to adapt, and just having hope that we might have the ability to enrich the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. We invite anyone to join us. Alan and I leave the church parking lot at 8:15 on Wednesday mornings and are both more than happy to drive. We are generally back by 11:00. Should you be interested, give either of us a call. Alan can be reached at 609-915-5420 and I am at 609-558-4471. Or simply join us at 8:15 on any given Wednesday.

Blawenburg Reformed Church
Student Aid Fund

The purpose of the Student Aid Fund is to assist, financially, the members and children of members of the Blawenburg Reformed Church who desire to further their education beyond secondary school. The assistance is also available to church members who wish to further their education after a lapse in their schooling program regardless of their age or status in life.

The amount of \$500.00 per semester is available to applicants. This is an interest-free loan! Students have availed themselves of this financial assistance since 1965 when the fund was set up by the Consistory. Forty-two students have borrowed a total of \$32,651.35. The financial responsibility of all of these students has been paid in full except for one student who is still making payments toward his/her loan.

In June, the graduating seniors received an application through the mail. If further information is desired, please contact any member of our committee: Evelyn Cochran (Chair), Bernice Van Nostrand, and Ethel Terhune.

Proclaiming Team

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

Lunch for Locals
July, 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.

July 2—Grilled cheese, tomato bisque and ice cream

July 9—Pizza burgers, salad, pudding, fruit

July 16—Tuna and egg salads, fruit

July 23—Hot dogs, baked beans, cookies

July 30—Italian wedding soup, bread, salad

WELCOME TO ANOTHER TENANT!

By Gracie Johnson

Last month we asked you to make a point of welcoming our tenant Salta! and their families as they come and go from Cook Hall. Their summer camp has started. Check out their festive rooms and decorations. Now we have a new tenant in the parsonage, Kathleen Seneca with her sons Dan and Joe. In preparation for her occupancy, Jim and Jean Beachell, with occasional help from Gracie, have spent two full weeks scrubbing [on top of a stellar work crew in there in March], repairing blinds, installing a.c.'s, changing light bulbs, repairing plumbing, and most importantly tiling the bathroom shower and sink! Our tenant in Memorial Hall, Jack from Step 'n Stone, kindly donated beautiful glass tile and Jim did a superb job of installing it in order to waterproof the wall area around a fiberglass surround that allowed water to get



above and behind it. It is not only utilitarian, but beautiful too! Thank you, Jim! Jim Irish donated the labor to remove a precariously perched dead top of a cedar. We are very grateful for his friendship and occasional favors! Kathleen offered to paint the parsonage for us if we would provide the paint and, wow, is she ever doing a fantastic job! She moves in on July 1st, but has been there this past week with her personal work crew: she's had her sister, mother and sons with her scrubbing [yes, more!], taping and painting.

She is very excited to be moving in to #423 and making it their new home for now. Kathleen works at the Princeton Medical Center. Her sons have been in Montgomery High School where



Joe will be a Senior. Please look for an opportunity to welcome her to our neighborhood!

Outtakes from Third Graders' Church Visits

This spring about 400 third graders visited Blawenburg Church in groups of about 50 for a 45 minute presentation and discussion on the role of the church in the historic Village of Blawenburg. Dave Cochran, who led the sessions, says that he's not sure whether he or the students get more from the session. One of the highlights is always the students' questions and comments. Here are just a few:

When asked why they think there are doors on the pews, one student in almost every group replies, "to keep the kids in the pews."

Church youth a hundred years ago, were paid to pump the organ during the service. Students are told that one Sunday's pay could garner them a soda, candy, and maybe even some cake. When asked how much they would expect to be paid, answers usually start around \$5 – \$10 for the hour with frequent guesses in the \$50-\$100 range. They are always shocked to learn that the pumpers were paid ten cents.

Many students aren't sure what the organ pipes are. This year one boy thought they were the spines of very large books! We're not sure how you would open those books!

One student wanted to know why there were no statues of Greek gods in our church. His teacher felt obliged to say that he was into mythology.

One girl wanted to know how much the taxes were for church members.

Students are always asked to guess how long it took to build the church – 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months, or 3 years. Most guess 3 months or 3 years and are amazed when they learn that it was built in just 3 days. They often respond, "no way," when they hear this startling fact. One student was really impressed by the speed of construction. He turned to his teacher and said, "Now that's customer service!"

Rose Bush Honors the Memory of Pastor Roger Rozeboom

This yellow rose bush, placed just west of Cook Hall, has been planted in the wonderful memory of Roger Rozeboom, pastor of Blawenburg Church from 1971 to 1975.



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



July 8	Will Quackenbush
July 12	Lisa Hunt
July 21	Palmer White
July 29	Todd Quackenbush
August 2	Will Herbert
August 11	Nancy Meyer
August 14	Dave Dorey
August 18	Barbara Van Liew
August 19	Tom Hunt
August 22	Will Martin
August 24	Diana Pfannebecker
August 30	Winston Peters
August 31	Rick White

A belated congratulations to Max Urbanski, who graduated from Montgomery Middle School.

Anniversaries

July

12 Eric & Susan Perkins

August

9 Mait & Bernice Van Nostrand
 11 Nancy & Mark Meyer
 14 Jotham & Gracie Johnson
 24 Jim & Jean Beachell



On Sunday, June 23rd, Barbara Pavlicek was ordained and installed as a Deacon. And Joe Pavlicek received the ritual laying on of hands which was omitted when he was ordained and installed as an Elder several years ago.

In the foreground: Dave Cochran, Jean Skillman, Grace Terhune, Gracie Johnson, Barbara Antoniewicz, Evelyn Cochran.
 In the background: Dr. Bob, Eric & Sue Perkins.



Congratulations to Don Thiel on his 90th birthday!!
 Diana Pfannebecker & Don Thiel, hosting fellowship.



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Dated Material

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