



The Blawenburg Beacon

February, 2014

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



We are excited that Consistory has agreed to hire Carlos Corro as our long-term pulpit supply. He will be available for some pastoral care and fellowship. We thank Pastor Bob for his ministry these past two years, and his last Sunday with us will be March 2nd. Between Carlos and the Reverend David Leung-Kahler, any weddings, funerals, and pastoral care will be covered. As much as Carlos would like to spend many, many hours in ministry with our congregation, we need to remember that he is a full-time student at Princeton Theological Seminary. Therefore, we need to be mindful of his time commitment to us.



Carlos, Charlotte and Naomi. We enjoyed getting to know Charlotte's mother from Uganda.

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

Worship

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

SURPRISINGLY SOON!

*I got me flowers to strew thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.*

*The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and the East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.*

*Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.*

-- George Herbert (1593 - 1633)



Musical preparation for the season of Lent (beginning March 5) and Easter Sunday (April 20) begins now, and **Choir rehearsals start in the week of February 10!** You are invited!

Can we assemble a Bell Choir?

Your friends in the area who would enjoy a limited-time, seasonal choir experience (and are not attached to another church and/or choir) are also invited. They are most welcome, so long as they can attend rehearsals regularly. As we do not have a youth choir program, 7th graders and above (members & non-members) are also extremely welcome. Again, regular attendance is critical.

From the first rehearsal we'll work on music for the entire season, so please don't think of holding out until later to join us. We'll also sing throughout the season as we are able, though not every week.

Please let me know as immediately as possible your willingness to sing and/or ring?

Katie Connolly
Music Director

609 737 9389

Kathleen.Connolly.78@verizon.net

Hospitality

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

Lunches for Locals

by Nancy Curtis

“We commit our gifts to ... Hospitality”

The following letter was distributed to lunch guests on January 21st.

Dear Lunch Guests,

We love you! We appreciate your loyalty and your love of us.

However, it is with great sadness that we have to stop serving lunches on Tuesdays. Our attendance has fallen off a great deal and it has come down to finances.

Thank you for your support over these last years. (Our last lunch was served on Tuesday, January 28th.)

Blawenburg Reformed Church

Thanks to Jesse Havens, one of our lunch guests, for writing the following letter to the editor at the Princeton Packet.

To the editor:

Sorry folks, the rumor is true — after this week (January 28), they won't be serving lunch at Blawenburg Church on Tuesdays anymore. The loyal team of volunteers is calling it quits after more years than they have kept count.

It's not that Nancy, Barbara and Anna Maria have grown tired of preparing all that good food — everything from soup to pie, freshly homemade. It's just that not enough eager eaters are coming to enjoy it.

Time was when two dozen or more would come tromping down Cook Hall steps before noon declaring happily they wanted to be sure to be on line before the food ran out. Not that it ever did. When more than 40 showed up one day, there was a hasty flurry of activity out in the kitchen; that's all. Nobody went without.

Not disappointing people is how Tuesday lunch got started in the first place. Nancy Curtis, the church administrator, began it when they stopped serving lunch at the Elks Club down the road. To her it was a pity the coterie of locals, with whom Elks' lunch had been popular, had no place to go.

Nancy really does like to cook, so much so, she even attended culinary school. And she does plenty of it with a husband and five boys to feed. Even so, to her, taking on Tuesdays lunches was enjoyable, given the good volunteer help she has always had.

Nancy made everyone feel welcome and they came from miles around. Inevitably, the majority who came to lunch were retired or widowed men, who delighted in a real meal like their wives used to make.

Over many years, those hardy regulars have been dying off, quite literally. Several more are in nursing homes. Attendance has dwindled down while the price of food keeps going up. Until now, reality is the honor system of paying whatever you think your lunch is worth no longer covers costs. End of story.

There are regrets on both sides of the soup kettle. The closing notice placed on the lunch trays read “We love you!” Its parting message gives fond thanks to all those whom they have served so long and so well.

Jesse Havens
Belle Mead

Prayer Quilt Ministry

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.

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 vns206@aol.com. Nancy Curtis at BRC1832@verizon.net or at 609-466-3108.)



Ruthie Patterson with her comfort quilt in honor of her 90th birthday, which she celebrated on December 25, 2013.

This program had a strong start with quilts and prayers for Bill Herbert and Bob Bradsell. Mait did not give us warning of his strokes so a quilt arrived, made by a friend in California, and people tied and prayed as they visited him.

We found that not everyone felt comfortable with the Prayer Quilts, and again, not everyone, like Mait, gave us sufficient warning. So we have made flannel lap quilts with scripture on the back and called them Comfort Quilts. So far, 9 have been given to church members or their family or friends. We have no problem with calling them Birthday Quilts, or Anniversary Quilts, so keep us informed of one’s need for comfort or celebration.

We accumulate fabric from many areas, and it is appreciated. Two lap quilts are in progress and Ginny Doremus is waiting to put in the ties and sew the binding. Evelyn has been enjoying making pillow cases. We gave one pillow case to a sick grandchild. Your part is to keep us informed and maybe visit someone with the quilt. You do not have to sew, but you can be part of our outreach by visiting and delivering a quilt for comfort or celebration.



Grace Terhune under her quilt for a cozy afternoon time of rest.

Life-Long Learning Team

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

Nursery - Childcare for young children is available during worship in the schoolhouse from 9:45 A.M.

K-6th Grade—Children, pre-K through fifth grade, are encouraged to participate in our special program called **Children and Worship**, ably taught by our beloved Bernice Van Nostrand and held in the west end of Cook Hall. After the children’s message in church, children will leave the worship service to hear a Bible story and to engage in age-appropriate activities related to it. There will be activities for the older kids, too! This national program, promoted by the Reformed Church in America and taught by trained Children and Worship teachers. Mrs. Van Nostrand can use a helper each week and would love to have observers any time. If this interests you, Bernice also teaches her C & W lesson during the week to our pre-school children. You may observe then, also. Other children’s events including mission activities, drama, and music are being planned for special occasions.

Tuesday Study Group - The study group is going to try this discussion group on February 4th. Pastor Dave, the minister at Griggstown Reformed Church, will be leading the discussion. Meet you there!

*Bible & a Brew Faith Discussions at 10am
Thomas Sweets in Skillman, NJ (Montgomery Township)*

Griggstown Reformed Church is engaging the community with faith discussions at the local coffee shop through video led teaching, open discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

We're saving a seat for you!

Mary’s and Martha’s

The group will not meet in February. The next time the M&M’s will meet is 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](#).





Blawenburg Village School

P.O. Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

The students at BVS, along with their teachers, will be busy during the month of February making Valentine Cards for those in local nursing homes. If you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving a card, please let us know and we will mail one to them.

On Friday, February 7th we will have a Family Fun Night (5:30-7:30). We will start the evening with pizza and cupcake decorating in Cook Hall. Valentine themed activities will then be provided in all classrooms in the school house. All church members are welcome to join the festivities.

We have started our enrollment process for summer camp and the 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested in a placement, please contact the school so we can be sure church members receive priority placement. Please help us spread the word by telling your family and friends!

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.

We are very excited to be offering a FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN program this fall. The class will meet Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00 with before and after-care programs available. Classes will also be available for children ages 2-5. Stop in for a tour of the school and to obtain information on our programs. Information is also available on our website, blawenburgvillageschool.com.

Mom's Morning Out is currently available on Thursday mornings from 9:00-12:00, for a cost of \$30.00/morning. This program is open to all children ages 2 - 6, so please help us spread the word to any Mom in the community who may need a morning to herself. Students will be provided with a wide range of activities such as; art exploration, science experiments, cooking projects, dramatics and pretend play, stories, music, snack and outdoor activities.

Please call (609-466-6600) or email (blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com) to register.



Fun with chalk in before-care!



Catherine drew her Dad!



Our Buds friends working on a puzzle



AJ and William are very proud of their tall building!



Friends in the Bud's class playing with animals.

Missions

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

Crawford Soup-making a Success

By Barb Reid

On Sunday, January 26, twenty-three women from Crawford house spent the afternoon in the kitchen of Cook Hall. With a bit of instruction from Nancy Curtis, Evelyn Cochran, and Sonya Hunt, they prepared two types of soup (chicken noodle and tomato basil), chicken salad (complete with homemade dressing), and an alternative way of making cookies for dessert.

It became immediately evident that the communal environment in which these women live is successful. Their ability to work together was apparent and awfully inspirational. Because of their efficiency, dinner was served thirty minutes before expected. Once the meal was over, the women had the kitchen restored in less than an hour.

Other church members assisted in the event. Dave Cochran drove the van to get the residents to the church. Jean Beachell, Joe Pavlicek, and Barb Pavlicek joined the group to socialize over dinner.

The women of Crawford House were able to offer as much to us as were to them. The thought was to teach 23 women how to make soup, salad, and dessert in a way that was simple and economical. However, these ladies reciprocated by indicating that both hope and renewal are possible. It was such a gratifying experience for all—the Crawford House women as well as the people of our church.



Photos Clockwise:
Salad making, soup ladling, the groaning board, and more soup ladling.



The Schreuders are the mission couple that our church has been supporting for at least two decades. In December we sent our annual gift of \$1,450 to the Schreuder/Chiapas Fund to help in their mission work in southern Mexico.

Mission Update

One for the World
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We think of all of you in this new year and pray God's blessings for each of you in 2014! We are back in Chiapas, Mexico after our time of home assignment. We left Chiapas the 29th of August and enjoyed a few days of summer with our families in Iowa. It was a blessing to be in our home in Pella for the duration of our time in the U.S. The months of September through November were filled with lots of wonderful times of renewing friendships, visiting supporting churches, sharing our ministry and enjoying precious time with our extended family in Michigan. We traveled many miles as we spoke to churches in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and northwest and central Iowa. We are thankful for all of you, our faithful supporters, who have encouraged and prayed for us throughout our 30+ years of ministry here in Chiapas. When our 3-month home assignment commitments were completed, Al had total knee replacement surgery. The surgery went as expected and December was spent in recuperation and physical therapy. We had tickets to return to Chiapas the first of January, but Al's physician thought he would do well with 2 more weeks of therapy to increase the strength and movement of his knee. So we were able to enjoy 2 more weeks of sub-zero temperatures and lots of snow, in addition to more therapy! During Al's recuperation, Sue was able to visit Jen and Chris and family in Texas for a week. She had a great time with them and was able to share in the kids' Christmas musical at school. Back in Iowa it was a blessing to be able to enjoy the festivities and worship services of Advent and Christmas. What joy to sing the familiar songs of Christmas in English once again! We delighted in seeing Angie and Jason's and Becky and Roge's families on a regular basis in Pella and also to enjoy watching their children in church and school Christmas programs. Michael and Mary flew up from their new home in South Carolina to be with us for Christmas! Jen and kids drove up from Texas in January when they heard our departure was delayed, so all the cousins had fun together. We, of course, enjoyed doting on those seven little ones and filled our hearts with precious memories! Now, we are back in Chiapas for our final term before retirement. The Tzotzil churches, Bible School and Presbyteries are strong and mature. They are self-supporting, except for a small percentage of the Bible School budget coming from the Reformed Church in America. The churches send out their own evangelists and missionaries and do their own teaching. The women's and youth ministries are both going strong and have capable people in leadership. Our task in these last months is to complete or turn over any projects, administration or responsibilities over which we still have oversight. In addition Al will continue to teach at the Bible Schools and Seminary as requested and continue to counsel the youth leaders. Sue will oversee the final printing of the Chamula Tzotzil Bible Concordance and work by the side of the women's ministry board. Please pray for us as we continue the race set before us.

In Christ's Service,
Al and Sue Schreuder

January



2014

[Al and Sue Schreuder](#)

For more information and ways to be involved:

www.rca.org/schreuder



Proclaiming

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

Lay Recognition Dinner

We will once again meet at The Imperia in Somerset to recognize those in our Denominational Synod who are being honored for their volunteer work in their individual congregation.

*This year Blawenburg will honor **Jean Beachell** and **Don Terhune**.*

Reservations are due by February 14. The cost is \$50 per person and the meal choice is either chicken breast stuffed with wild rice & spinach or mushroom & garlic risotto with white truffle oil.



The Erdman Art Gallery Presents
All Things Bright and Beautiful
Works by Suzanne Hunt
January 18 through March 31, 2014

Princeton Theological Seminary
Center of Continuing Education
Erdman Art Gallery (Lobby Area)
20 Library Place, Princeton

Erdman Gallery Hours
Monday—Friday 8:30 AM—4:30 PM
Saturday 8:30 AM—6:30 PM
Sunday 1:30—9:00 PM

✓ The Communications Team, with the
✓ RCA webmaster, have designed a
✓ new website for our church. Check it
✓ out!

✓ www.blawenburg.rcachurches.org

✓ Our original web address, found on the
✓ mailer page of this Beacon, is still an
✓ active domain name and will be for-
✓ warded to the new website.

✓ Are you getting enough information?
✓ Let us know if you would like more/
✓ different information on this website.

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



6	Sonya Hunt	10	Lisa White
9	Barry Gurzo	28	Elmi Hill Barb Reid

ANNIVERSARY
 7 Tom & Lisa Hunt

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

Feb. 2	9:00 AM	Spanish Service with Breakfast—Cook Hall
	10:00 AM	Dr. Bob preaching and Communion
Feb. 7	5:30—7:30 PM	Family Fun Night in Cook Hall and the Schoolhouse
Feb. 13	7:30 PM	Consistory—Cook Hall
Feb. 17	9:15 AM	Communications Team—CH Library
Feb. 20	10:30 AM	Montgomery Senior Citizens' Brunch- Cook Hall
Feb. 22	8:30 AM	Classis Leadership Workshop at the Addisville Reformed Church
Feb. 24	Beacon Deadline for articles, photos, dates for calendar, etc.	
Feb. 27	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast—Cook Hall

* * * * *

Looking Ahead

March 1	7:45 AM	Mary's & Martha's (See page 5.)
March 28	6:00 PM	Synod Lay Recognition Dinner (See page 10.)
April 4-5		Women at the Crossroads —A Retreat for Women (See Mission bulletin board in Cook Hall for flyer.)
May 2-3		2014 Care & Kindness Conference www.careandkindness.org (See Mission bulletin board in Cook Hall for flyer.)

* * * * *

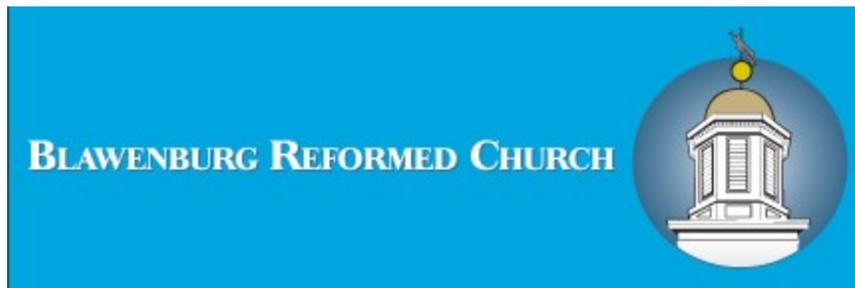
In addition to your hard work at Sinterklaas resulting in donations to Crawford House, David Mojica's Dominican Republic Mission, an Ark for Heifer International and needed church funds, the many treasures still leftover from White Elephant were collected by the Lupus Foundation of America for their use and benefit. A thank you and brochure about Lupus is posted on the mission board for your information. Also, see the thank you notes from CWS/CROP Walk and from Ruth Patterson.

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P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material



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Blawenburg Reformed Church
424 Route 518; P.O. Box 266
Blawenburg, NJ 08504
e-mail address: BRC1832@verizon.net
Editor: Barbara Pavlicek
Publisher: Nancy Curtis

Website: www.BlawenburgChurch.org
Phone: (609) 466-3108

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