



The Blawenburg Beacon

July/August, 2014

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

An Age-Old Question

What is love? This question has motivated poets, writers, musicians and philosophers to produce marvelous pieces of work throughout the centuries. Even today many popular books and movies seem to revolve around this age old question. Perhaps the constant toil to find an answer to this question is revealing of the fact that this question is one of the most profound and necessary matters for the human soul to answer. What is even more interesting is that since this question has been asked throughout the centuries and across cultures, it can probably be inferred that humanity's longing for an answer means that we do not know what love means. Either that or we do know what love is but we do not live it out. My view on that is that we do not know what love is; and since that is the case, we do not know how to live it out. Nonetheless, we choose to live in perpetual chaos and comfortable vagueness in relation to the greatest of all human virtues and the quality which makes us unique bearers of the image of God.

The Apostle John wrote several works of the New Testament canon, the first was the Gospel of John and there are also the Epistles of John. 1 John is a letter with many characteristics similar to the Gospel of John. However, there are two major themes in this letter. First, John responds to the question, what is authentic love? Second, he asks what demonstrates this authentic love?

This summer we are learning to love according to God's word. It is necessary that we as the Church remain rooted and grounded in authentic love as revealed to us in scripture. If we don't, then we will be continuously tossed around and conformed to fluctuating, personal and societal views on love. In my opinion, the constant fluctuation in society is a consequence of working under a lack of definition of love. But the witness of scripture provides a different way and gives a clear definition of love that is anchored in what scripture refers to as 'the word incarnate'. Moreover, the gospel account does not just give a poetic or purely emotive definition of love but points to the reality that love became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Friends, it is belief in this person that brings us into fellowship with God and it is in this fellowship that authentic love finds its residence.

"So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them" - 1 John 4:16

Together, may we learn to love.

Peace of Christ,

Minister Carlos Corro

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!

Summer Worship Schedule

- August 3—Blawenburg—10 AM—Minister Carlos Corro
- August 10—Blawenburg—10 AM—Guest Preacher
 - August 17 – Rocky Hill—10 AM
- August 24 – Blawenburg– 10 AM—Guest Preacher
 - August 31 – Griggstown– 10 AM

During the month of July, Minister Carlos will be preaching on the Epistles of John. Every day, we will be sending out a scripture reading by email, just as we did during Lent. We would like you to meditate on the scripture and, if so moved, write a devotion for a 30-Day Devotional to be distributed in August.

On July 20, we will welcome Martin Tel back to Blawenburg's organ bench, and Katie Connolly will be guest organist at Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church in West Windsor, where Martin currently serves on Sundays. Martin misses his friends at BRC and proposed this neat Sunday swap!

Martin and wife Sharilyn were members of BRC from 1996 until 2007, and Martin served as our organist for seven of those years. Their children Theodore (now 16), Sarah (14) and Kathryn (9) were all baptized at BRC. Martin continues as the C.F. Seabrook Director of Music at Princeton Theological Seminary.



Picture on left: Katie, Barbara, Elmi and Evelyn coordinated their outfits. Picture on right: Everyone was thrilled to have Grace Terhune back in church on Sunday (6/29).

Life-Long Learning Team

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

The Mary and Martha Book Group will not meet in July but will get together the week of August 25th at Bernice’s home. They will focus on “Be Encouraging: Become Their Cheerleader” from *Sandpaper People* by Mary Southerland.



L to R: Peggy Querec, Bernice Van Nostrand, Sonya Hunt and Gracie Johnson posing to have their picture taken by Barb Pavlicek.

The Tuesday Morning Study Group will continue to meet with the Griggstown Reformed Church people (and anyone else in the cafe) throughout July. The discussion will be facilitated by Carlos Corro and prompted by a short, relevant video in the NOOMA series. The videos make the teachings of Jesus very contemporary. Join us for ***Bible & Brew Faith Discussions at 10 a.m., Thomas Sweet Cafe in the Montgomery Shopping Center.*** We're saving a seat for you!

Blawenburg Cafe: Sunday School for All – Linger a while under the trees on the west lawn after fellowship to talk about a topic of your choice, ask a question about the sermon or a thought that you have had, or to pray with the group. This will be a shorter, more casual gathering.





Best wishes to Mike, Nancy & Olivia in their new home in Charlottesville, VA. You will be missed.

And bon voyage to the Sharman family as they head back to Mississippi.



The June 12th Consistory opened with a strawberry shortcake dessert to honor Gracie Johnson, outgoing Elder and V.P. and to welcome Ethel Terhune, incoming Elder.



Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director



Graduation



Miss Karen welcoming everyone to graduation in Cook Hall.



Singing for family and friends

BVS Summer Camp

Summer Camp will be held July 7th through August 1st, from 9:00am-1:00pm, for children ages 2.5-6. Join us for one or all of the following:

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.*

Please call if interested. See contact information above.

Missions Team

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

One Great Hour of Sharing



The final tally for our May mission event, *We are One with Our Sisters and Brothers*, is \$1,179.66. A check was sent to RCA CARE Network in Grand Rapids, MI. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

BOBO A Huge Success

(Buy One/Bring One)

By Nancy Curtis

On June 18th over 40 people came to the Birthday BBQ in Cook Hall and brought a canned good for the Montgomery Food Bank. BOBO is a Somerset County initiative to encourage people to donate to their local food bank.



Church World Service Kits

Once again, we will be filling School Kits and Baby Care Kits in September. The School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. The Baby Care Kits will be distributed in extreme poverty areas or following a natural disaster. These kits help young mothers care for their newborn babies.

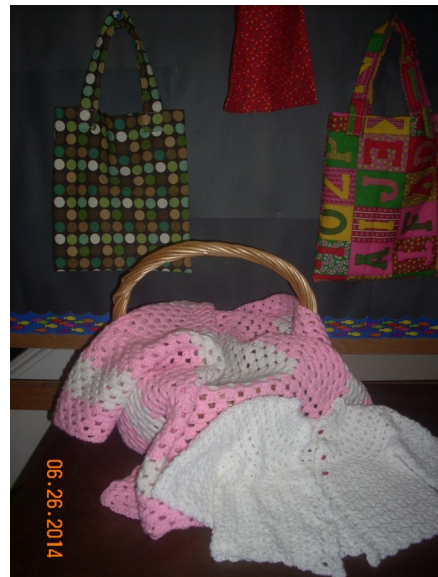
When you see summer sales and back-to-school sales, please think about the very important items needed for these kits. Lists of needed items are on page 11 or can be found at this link:

www.churchworldservice.org/kits. And if you have time in the summer for craft projects, there are patterns on this site for nightgowns, sweaters, etc. . . .

We already have 10 school bags, 10 blankets crocheted by Barb Reid and 2 sweaters knitted by Barb Antoniewicz. Also, Evelyn Cochran sewed the school bags on display on the Mission bulletin board in Cook Hall. Thank you, Ladies, for sharing your talents.

If you don't have time to shop, nor were given the gift of knitting, crocheting, or sewing, you may make a monetary donation for yarn or other supplies and someone else will shop for you. Please write a check to BRC and note on the memo line "CWS Kits". You may also place a cash donation in a mission envelope and mark the envelope with "CWS Kits".

Please see page 11 of this Beacon for the lists of items needed for the kits.



Mission Update

One for the World
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

June 2014

Al and Sue Schreuder

For more information and ways to be involved:

www.rca.org/schreuder

News from Al and Sue

Dear Friends and Supporters,



Mudslide



Last Sunday Al was invited to preach at a new mission in the Chalchihuitan area of the Tzotzil people. We had never been to Xixintontic before but were familiar with the dirt roads in that area. Chiapas has had torrential rains for the past week and we had heard that the road was in terrible condition. Knowing that mud slides often obstruct roads here, we went prepared to walk. This is what we found after traveling an hour from San Cristobal.

Ladies at Xixintontic with Sue

We parked the car and walked through ankle deep mud around the fallen hillside and were able to travel the remaining half hour in a dilapidated car that was stuck on the other side. Arriving safely at the mission, (albeit a bit muddy), we were greeted by the smiles of the five families who make up this group of new believers.



Al and men at Xixintontic



After a shared breakfast of spicy chicken soup and warm hand-made tortillas, we worshipped together in their newly constructed church building. We prayed and sang together and Al preached an encouraging sermon from Psalm 1. The singing was not too robust, since there were only 3 hymnbooks and most did not know the songs, but they are learning! It's always a fun experience to meet with new believers and listen to their stories of coming to faith in Christ.

We had forgotten to make arrangements for the car to pick us up again, so began the long walk back to the mudslide. The day was overcast and there was a cool breeze so walking up and down the dirt and gravel road was actually quite pleasant. We walked through some beautiful scenery and enjoyed the breathtaking panoramas as we rested at the top of hills!

Thank you to each of you who pray for us and encourage us. We appreciate the support that you give us so that we are able to keep on walking the roads in Chiapas!

Blawenburg Reformed Church
Student Aid Fund
Aug. 2014

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 status or age in life.

The amount of \$500 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. 43 students have borrowed a total of \$33,151.35. The financial responsibility of these students has been paid in full.

The funds from which student aid will be granted will come from interest on investments which the church holds at the time of the request and from donations to the student aid fund. Members and friends are invited to dedicate memorial gifts or to make donations to the Student Aid Fund.

In June, the graduating seniors will receive an application through the mail. However, this year we did not have anyone graduate. If further information is desired, please contact any member of our committee: Evelyn Cochran, (Chair.) Bernice Van Nostrand and Ethel Terhune.



July 13, 2014 • 7:00pm
Ocean Grove's
60th Annual Choir Festival
"WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE"
Directed by Dr. Jason Tramm
Featuring over 1,000 singers,
exciting guest conductors, brass,
and their magnificent Hope-Jones organ.

5:00 - Dinner at Sonya Hunt's
36 Surf Avenue, Ocean Grove 07756

Noon to 5:00 - Beach

RSVP to Sonya at 609-433-0850 or spghunt@aol.com

Proclaiming Team

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

BRC Receives Boy Scout Charter



L-R: Mike Urbanski, Dave Cochran, Tanasha Scott, Richard Epps

On June 2, 2014, Tanasha Scott, the Boy Scout Executive from the Bucks County Regional Office presented Dave Cochran and Mike Urbanski with the 2014 Charter for Troop 46. Our church has been the sponsoring organization for the troop since it was founded in 1936. That's 78 years ago!

The charter says, "Upon application through authorized representatives to carry on the scouting program for character development, citizenship training, mental and physical fitness subject to the provisions of the charter and bylaws and rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America for the period ending December 31, 2014.

Troop 46 has been very supportive of our church by helping with clean up days, rummage sale clean up, and Eagle projects. Our most recent project, the ramp and benches is a good example of a very helpful endeavor. The troop is one of the largest and most successful in the state. There are over 100 scouts supported by 60 leaders. Richard Epps is the troop leader.

Let us be thankful for the opportunity we have to support the scouts of Troop 46 in developing whole-some life skills.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend the service for my ordination on the 6th of July. Please see details below.

The Presbytery of Elizabeth
and
the Congregation of Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras in Plainfield

invite you to attend the Service of Ordination of

David Mojica

on Sunday the 6th of July Two Thousand and Fourteen
at Two O'clock

in the Chapel of

Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras
525 E Front Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060

David is in the Dominican Republic and has created Bible studies and home churches. He is hoping to launch six cluster churches later this summer. For more information, see Gracie Johnson.

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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 18	Barbara Van Liew
August 19	Tom Hunt
August 22	Will Martin
August 24	Diana Pfannebecker
August 30	Winston Peters
August 31	Rick White

Anniversaries

July

12 Eric & Susan Perkins

August

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

Plan Ahead

September Mission Event—Church World Service—
School Kits—Baby Care Kits (See p. 6.)

Sept. 15 6:30 PM Gardening at Crawford House

Summary of Dates

See earlier articles for more details.

July 2	7:30 PM	Consistory - Cook Hall
July 7	9 AM-1PM	BVS Summer Camp begins.
July 13	Noon to 5	Beach at Ocean Grove (See p. 7 for invitation and address.)
	5-7 PM	Dinner at Sonya Hunt's
	7 PM	Choir Festival @ Ocean Grove Auditorium
July 14	6:30 PM	Gardening at Crawford House (Contact person-Ethel Terhune)
July 20	10 AM	Martin Tel, Organist
Sundays	10 AM	Worship with Carlos Corro; afterward, fellowship and SS on west lawn (weather permitting); chairs provided
Tuesdays	10 AM	Study Group at Thomas Sweet Cafe, Montgomery Shop. Ctr.
Aug. 3	10 AM	Worship with Carlos Corro
Aug. 10	10 AM	Worship-guest preacher
Aug. 11	6:30 PM	Gardening at Crawford House (Contact person-Dave Cochran)
Aug. 14	7:30 PM	Consistory - Cook Hall
Aug 17	10 AM	Community Worship at Reformed Church of Rocky Hill
Aug. 24	10 AM	Community Worship at Blawenburg Reformed
Aug. 25	Deadline for September Beacon Material	
Aug. 31	10 AM	Community Worship at Griggstown Reformed

On August 3rd, we will celebrate the end of Carlos's summer internship before he and Charlotte leave for vacation.

To assemble a Baby Care Kit you will need:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be handknitted or crocheted)
- Receiving blanket

Items must be new and under 12 months in size.

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

Please bring items to Cook Hall and leave them on the brown table at the foot of the stairs. Kits will be assembled in September. Thank you.

