



The Blawenburg Beacon

*Newsletter for the members and friends of the
Blawenburg Reformed Church*

July/August 2015

The Pastor's Pen

*“Take everyone you meet to be a believer,
because God believes in them.”*

– Jurgen Moltmann

I recently heard this saying from a renowned theologian who spoke at a conference at Princeton Seminary. It got me thinking about what we mean when we talk about “evangelism” in church today. What do you think when you hear that word?

If your church experience was anything like mine growing up you probably associate evangelism with trying to convince people to believe in God and come to church. In this understanding of evangelism my role as a Christian is primarily to impart knowledge about God to those I deem do not know God. Taken to an extreme, this view involves a lot of talking and little listening.

Moltmann invites us to consider another way to be evangelists. What if we went into conversations with unchurched people asking ourselves these questions, “How is God *already at work* in this person’s life?” and “How can I *participate in that work*?” I invite you to carry these questions with you this summer as your relational spiritual practice. How might this practice help train you to listen for whispers of the holy in the lives of others? You might be surprised to find glimpses of God’s redemptive love at work in people or places you least expected it!

This is how God’s freedom keeps us on our toes. Just when we thought we knew what God is up to and who God is involved with, we are reminded that being a Christian begins not with us choosing God, but recognizing and receiving the grace of God choosing us. The adventure of being a Christian today is all about helping people recognize that holy grace along their life’s path, wherever those paths have trod.

Travis

In this Issue:

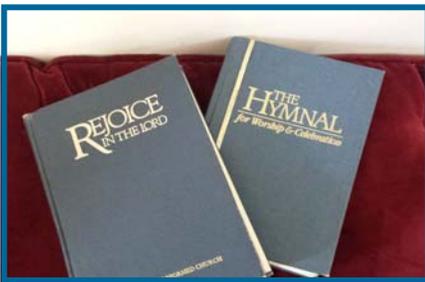
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Read in Worship!

Please let Travis or Gracie know if you would like to participate in our service by reading scripture or opening the worship with announcements or the Call to Worship.

Sanctuary Flowers

Is there someone in your life you'd like to honor by dedicating flowers for Sunday Worship? Maybe an upcoming birthday or anniversary? Please speak with Jean Beachell!



Hymnals

We know there is confusion and some frustration when we use two navy blue hymnals! However there are times when the most appropriate hymn happens to be in Rejoice in the Lord [RITL], our former hymnal. Neither hymnal has all that we want to use for the most meaningful worship experience. A number of people have said that RITL has wonderful words. Realizing that they are willing to be patient with the somewhat awkward music. For now, we will continue our recent practice of providing the RITLs at the entry and ask that you pick up a copy on your way in if you see "RITL" up on the Hymn announcement board.

WORSHIP TEAM

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



**Missed worship?
Listen online!**

Summer Worship Schedule

Life Together in Christ: A Journey through the Book of Ephesians

June 7 – Ephesians 1:1-23 “Spiritual Blessings in Christ”

Preacher: Rev. Travis B. Winckler

June 14 – Ephesians 2:1-10 “Walking Dead”

Preacher: Rev. Travis B. Winckler

June 21 – Ephesians 2:11-22 “One in Christ”

Preacher: Rev. Travis B. Winckler

June 28 – Ephesians 3:1-13 “Mystery of Christ”

Preacher: Rev. Travis B. Winckler

July 5 – **1 Corinthians 12:2-10

Preacher: Nancy Curtis

July 12 – Ephesians 4:1-16 “The Life Worthy of Christ’s Calling”

Preacher TBA

July 19 – Ephesians 4:17 – 5:20 “The Old Life and the New”

Preacher: Colleen Tolan

July 26 – **Colossians 3:1-12 “Inside Out”

Preacher: Kirsty DePree, Marble Collegiate

August 2 – Ephesians 6:10-20 “The Wardrobe of God”

Preacher: Colleen Tolan

August 9 – Ephesians 6:21-24 “Peace Be to the Whole Community”

Preacher: Rev. Travis B. Winckler

*** Even though our guest preachers have chosen scripture outside of our theme we will continue to study Ephesians during our Bible Study.*

HOSPITALITY TEAM

*We commit our gifts to
caring for those in our congregation and the greater community*



Don Thiel (92) on June 20

It's Great Being 90!

Bud Lewis (90) on June 25



Celebrating New Life!

Dave and Evelyn Cochran received a wonderful anniversary gift on June 22 when their daughter Andrea gave birth to Matthew Ryan Jacques. Matthew arrived at 6:06 PM on Monday, June 22. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 20 in. long. Parents and baby are well. Big brother Sean is very proud.

**We look forward to welcoming
Baby Winckler when he arrives!
Keep the family in prayer and listen
for announcements about other ways
that we can support Pastor Travis and
his family this summer and assist them
with the transition to a family of four.**

Peace Be with You



June was difficult for Lisa White and the Querecs as they said good bye to loved ones. Continue to hold these families and others who grieve in your thoughts and prayers.

Sunday School

Do you feel called to use your gifts to teach the Word in our congregation? We are looking for someone equipped to help us re-launch our Sunday School this fall. Speak to Travis if interested.

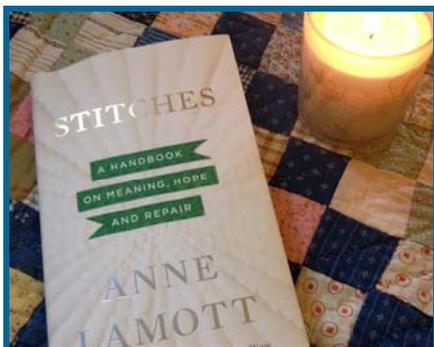
Bibles and Bagels

Our Tuesday morning Bible Study will continue studying Ephesians throughout the summer with leadership from Colleen Tolan. Even though there aren't bagels every week, there is still coffee, fellowship and fun. Come join us!



Mary and Martha

Our women's prayer and book group will continue meeting monthly for food and fellowship at the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. They're reading Anne Lamott's book, *Stitches*. Next meeting is June 28.



LIFE-LONG LEARNING TEAM

We commit our gifts to life-long learning.



Introducing the 'God Squad'

#BlawenburgYouthGroup

The "God Squad" is assembled and on the move! Allison Clancy, Kait Clancy and Barb VanLiew have been working hard to create a space for our youth and there is some exciting news! The youth now have a room over in Memorial Hall and even have a name, "The God Squad." We want you to know that the heart of the youth group at Blawenburg is to give those kids a minute to breathe; to let them feel like kids without the pressure of their peers or school or otherwise. We believe that God wants to meet these kids exactly where they are and offer them new life in Him. And it is the prayer of

this youth group that we be servants to making that as accessible as possible. The God Squad will continue to have activities throughout the summer that include everything from pool parties to service projects. The God Squad has an open door policy and we are always looking for new kids, so if you know someone who wants to come hang out, send them our way! Thank you for working with us. Thank you for praying with us. Your support is so appreciated and we cannot wait to see how God will use this group to reach more youth.

—Colleen Tolan

VBS with Harlingen

Save the dates!

August 17-21

9 AM to 12 noon

Look in the e-news and on our website for more information as it becomes available.



Summer Fun

We will be running summer camps throughout the month of July, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

July 6 – July 10 Garden Week
July 13 – July 17 Camping and the Great Outdoors

July 20 – July 24 Art Expo
July 27 – July 31 Festival of Fun

2015-16 Enrollment

We are currently enrolling students for the 2015-2016 school year. Classes will be offered for students ages 2-5.

Boardwalk Update

The new boardwalk in the playground area has been completed and the kids enjoy riding their tricycles the full circuit. Our Eagle scout candidate, Michael Moubarak, will be returning to stain the boardwalk later this summer.



Like us on facebook to view great pictures from our many events!



Blawenburg Village School

Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

info@blawenburgvillageschool.com

Karen Hill, Director

Congratulations to our 2015 Preschool Graduates!

A small ceremony and celebration for family and friends was held in Cook Hall on Monday, June 23. Kids shared music they learned throughout the year and were surprised with one last 'mystery reader' before leaving BVS, the grandfather of one of this year's graduates.



Chiapas Celebration

The following excerpt is from a report online of our church's General Synod.

Al and Sue Schreuder, the last missionary couple assigned to serve with the Chiapas church, left San Cristobal, Chiapas, this spring after 35 years of offering leadership training and development classes in Bible schools and seminaries, and at retreats, women's groups, and churches.

During the Chiapas celebration, delegates passed a resolution to honor the Schreuders for their

work; a standing ovation followed the resolution. Sue Schreuder then addressed the synod: "On behalf of all the children in Chiapas who can attend Sunday schools because they have trained teachers; on behalf of all the young people who are part of a new youth ministry; on behalf of the women who have found a voice in their congregations; on behalf of the paramedics who have learned to serve their communities; for all of the elders, deacons, and pastors who

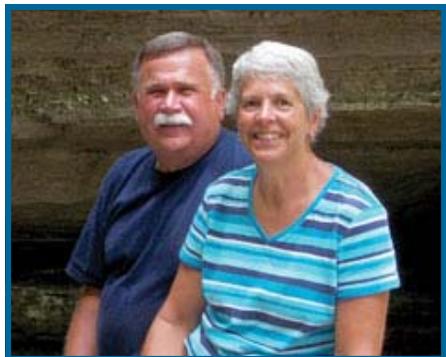
were able to be taught in the Bible schools that you raised with your support, with your hands; on behalf of all of the seminary students who were able to study because of your scholarships... for all of those who have been released from the bondage of poverty, of sickness, of sin, because they've had the translated living Word of God in their hands—on behalf of all those Chiapanecans, I give you thanks."

"When I first arrived in Chiapas in 1980, we had our first mission meeting that we attended, and were told, 'You came to work yourself out of a job,'" said Al Schreuder. "You came to teach the church, to train the church, to be involved with the church, to disciple the church, to help the church to grow, to prosper, to reproduce. You came to help the church of Jesus Christ extend the kingdom of God. And when you're done,

the Lord will send you home."

Al admitted to delegates he does not cry easily, but the Schreuders' goodbye service in Chiapas brought tears of joy "because the church of Chiapas can stand alone now. To God be the glory."

Discover more about the church in Chiapas and the RCA's involvement there—<https://www.rca.org/news/coming-full-circle>



We look forward to a visit from the Schreuders this fall!

Update from Oman

Dear Friends at Blawenburg, Thank you for your continuing support of my work as the Reformed Church pastor at the Protestant Church in Oman, a country about the size of Kansas with a population of 4 million on the coasts of the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. Marcia and I are deeply grateful for your pledge of support, a significant transition for Blawenburg after

your long years of involvement with the RCA's now completed and very successful mission to establish a viable Christian ministry in Chiapas, Mexico.

Marcia and I arrived back in the USA on June 6 and will be "home" for a couple of months so I can work at raising the additional "support shares" necessary to continue the work of this legacy of the RCA's "Arabian

Mission" begun 124 years ago to bring the Gospel to a region of seafaring traders, fishermen, Bedouins and small farms near sources of water (Wadis) in these desert lands.

Let me say just a word to summarize our new overseas home. Of the 4 million people inhabiting Oman today about 1 million, are "expatriates," residents with a "work visa" and a passport from

afar. Many are affiliated with the petroleum industry which still accounts for 80% of the gross national product. But, many more are immigrant laborers (domestics, construction workers, street cleaners, store clerks, food service workers, etc.) from South Asia and Africa. Among these workers are several Christians and recent Hindu converts to Christianity. Almost all send home remittances to care for their spouses, children and extended families and are housed in “labor camps” scattered around the capital district of Muscat and a couple of other large cities. One of our key outreach ministries is called “third Friday” a day on which our parishioners visit labor camps with packages of fresh fruit, canned food, and basic hygiene supplies.

In our congregations we also have some Christian doctors and other medical personnel from the RCA’s historic medical mission in Vellore, India, now the premier teaching hospital and medical school for the Asian sub-continent and the Middle East. It exports its medical expertise as well as the deep faith of its doctors, each one a witness for the Gospel, an emissary of grace at the most critical times in the lives of Omanis and families.

I lead worship weekly for over 500 families in four services in the capital district of Muscat. My 2 ordained colleagues (an Anglican priest and pastor for South India) and I rotate pastoral leadership to provide services for another 450, immigrants in the city of Sohar.

Followers of Islam do not come to Christ or embrace Christian-

ity easily or in large numbers. This has been true for the entire history of the mission throughout the Gulf. It is also true that trust, reconciliation, understanding, and respect among Christians and Muslims has been the hallmark of the RCA’s witness in our teaching, prayer, preaching, visitation, and medical work throughout the Arabian Gulf region. As the Apostle Paul says in Romans (11.34), “who has known the mind of the Lord?” The RCA’s witness of Christ’s hospitality over a century has transformed lives, minds, and hearts, a sign of God’s grace and mercy to all.

If peace is to come to the entire Middle East, and if peaceful understanding among Muslims and Christians throughout the world is to be achieved in coming years, decades perhaps, it will happen in no small measure because the leaders and peoples of Oman heard, saw, and experienced the witness of Christian ministers, doctors, nurses and teachers from the RCA. That is not an exaggeration. The leaders of this small nation, both

religious and governmental (including the Sultan) understand Christianity through the lens of the RCA. Today they call on us for advice and counsel, and rely on us to approve visas for all Protestant and Orthodox Church leaders who desire to enter the country. Our work, in addition to providing regular worship and pastoral ministry among Christians on three campuses, is paralleled by our work to guide and support these ministries of religious understanding in a land committed to extending that understanding to its Muslim neighboring states.

We are deeply blessed to be partners in what has become known as the “Switzerland of the Middle East.” It is an honor to stand in a long line of leaders from the RCA who helped this land become what it is today. As I said at the start, we are grateful for Blawenburg’s partnership in this work, and will seek ways to make that partnership more directly meaningful in the time ahead of us.

Blessings,
Rev. Ken (and Marcia) Bradsell



Ken and Marcia in the Grand Mosque in Muscat



Curb Hunger this Summer

Leave food items and paper products for the Montgomery Food Pantry in the back of the church or on the large, brown table at the foot of the stairs in Cook Hall.

Gardening at Crawford

Our ministry partnership with Crawford House continues throughout the summer. We invite you to work alongside women at the House planting, harvesting and weeding. Monday nights at 6:00 PM—July 13, August 10, and September 13. Please call Ethel Terhune (908.359.6027) if you plan to attend.



Care Kits for Those in Need (Church World Service)

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. And if you have time in the summer for craft projects, there are patterns on this site for nightgowns, sweaters, etc. We already have 9 school bags sewn by Evelyn Cochran (bottom photo), 10 blankets crafted by Barb Reid and Barb Antoniewicz, and 10 sweaters knitted by Barb A (top photo).

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 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!



BABY CARE KITS

- 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 knit or crocheted)
- Receiving blanket

Items must be new and under 12 months in size.

SCHOOL KITS

- 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 12" ruler
- One small pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or light-weight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

The Eagles Soar

Troop 46 will be holding their Court of Honor Ceremony on Saturday, July 11 at 1:30 PM in the Sanctuary. All members and friends of BRC are invited to attend and celebrate as the following young men are promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Noah Curtiss—built a wooden walkway through a garden at the Jewish Center, to be used as a platform for teaching children about the garden and provide safer access for the elderly.

Tommy Galvin—constructed a life-sized sundial at the Montgomery Lower Middle School to teach about the earth’s rotation and orbit around the sun.

Justin Corsan—built and installed molding and a shelving unit to accommodate a library cart and 20 storage bins in his temple.

Sahib Singh—designed and constructed a meditation garden behind the Otto Kaufman Center to provide Montgomery residents a quiet retreat.



One of the scouts from Troop 46 (pictured in green) has begun the construction of a nature trail in the woods behind Cook Hall!

PROCLAIMING TEAM

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

Third Thursdays

This monthly Blue Pomegranate Music and Art event continues to be a big success. The June 18 event featured The Tom McMillan Jazz Combo and Collage Artist Stacie Speer Scott.

Mark your calendar for more “Third Thursdays” this summer!
July 16 and August 20
 (the third Thursday each month)

Alan Taback has been scheduling local artists and musicians to showcase each month but other artists, writers, poets, musicians are invited to bring voice, instruments or media of choice!

If you enjoy music, art, and good conversation come and join us.

Soft drinks and snacks provided. BYOB (wine only). FREE event.

Want more info?
 Call Alan (609.915.5420)

History of Blawenburg

On June 16, 17, and 18 our sanctuary was flooded with third graders from the Montgomery Public Schools. Dave Cochran gave presentations about the history of our church and village. In Dave’s career as an educator, he never lost sight of the importance of a child’s right to learn. Even after retiring, he continues to make this happen. He gave these third graders the unique opportunity to gain from his knowledge as well as witness his love for our church. He was engaging and the children were filled with energetic excitement. They left with a better understanding of such an historic church and we can only attribute all of the credit to Dave.



Consistory Highlights

Meeting of June 15, 2015—7:30 PM

Fellowship – Consistory began with a time of fellowship of strawberries and ice cream with current members, new members and guests.

Devotions – Led by Pastor Travis with the theme of gardening as an image for ministry. Let us continue to plant, grow, and bear fruit together.

Pastor Travis reported that the youth and mission teams are in place and are attentive to needs of youth in our area and are proactive in creating safe spaces for fellowship and dialogue. The youth would like space in Memorial Hall as their dedicated space. This request was approved by Consistory.

There was an active discussion with the Rev. Mark King of MCC on how we can interact better with MCC. Could we help with a Habitat for Humanity project in NYC? Live-stream Sr. Carol's Bible studies or summer program of other cultures/faiths? Go to South Africa next April to work with at-risk families? Lots of ideas to consider!

The summer missions are on-going---collections for our local food pantry; gardening at Crawford House; planning for fall mission projects.

The properties team reported a discussion of how best to use Memorial Hall---long-term or short-term rentals, one-day event rentals? A motion was made and seconded to offer space for long-term rent.

The finance team met with Bill Martin, Pastor Travis, the Rev. King, and Dave Cochran. They will meet again to further discuss the interesting ideas that came out of this meeting.

Our educational offerings are informative, insightful, fun, and growing. There are good conversations at both the Tuesday morning Bible study and the Mary and Martha women's group. Each provides fellowship and spiritual strength.

The preschool has had many successes this year. It is financially doing well. There are already 36 students enrolled for next year.

The personnel team reported on the method of staff evaluation and goal setting. It encourages a culture of support and growth.

Consistory continues to look into our sound system needs. It is agreed that we need an adaptable system that can grow. We also continue to look at ways to update and streamline our communication and publication efforts. We want everyone to hear well in worship and to be knowledgeable of our events.

We had prayers for our church family –prayers of thanksgiving and for those experiencing difficulty.

The summer Consistory meetings will be on July 20th and August 17th.

SARAH'S SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

July 6 thru July 24
Monday-Friday
9 AM to 1 PM

July 27 thru Sept 4
Monday-Friday
8 AM to 12 noon

*The Blawenburg Beacon
is a publication of*

Blawenburg Reformed Church

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Summary of Dates

(see articles for more details)

July 6 through 31
9 AM to 1 PM—BVS Summer Camp (page 5)

July 11 (Saturday)
1:30 PM—Troop 46 Court of Honor (page 9)

July 13 (Monday)
6 PM—Gardening at Crawford House (page 8)

July 16 (Thursday)
7 PM—Blue Pomegranate (page 9)

July 18 (Saturday)
Curtis/Cornwall Wedding

July 20 (Monday)
7:30 PM—Consistory Meeting

July 28 (Tuesday)
6 PM—Mary and Martha (page 4)

August 10 (Monday)
6 PM—Gardening at Crawford House (page 8)

August 17 (Monday)
7:30 PM—Consistory Meeting

August 20 (Thursday)
7 PM—Blue Pomegranate (page 9)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| July 8 | Will Quackenbush |
| July 12 | Lisa Hunt |
| July 21 | Palmer White |
| July 29 | Todd Quackenbush |
| Aug 2 | Will Herbert |
| Aug 11 | Nancy Meyer |
| Aug 18 | Barb Van Liew |
| Aug 19 | Tom Hunt |
| Aug 22 | Will Martin |
| Aug 24 | Diana Pfannebecker |
| Aug 30 | Winston Peters |
| Aug 31 | Rick White |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| July 12 | Eric & Sue Perkins |
| Aug 11 | Nancy & Mark Meyer |
| Aug 14 | Jotham & Gracie Johnson |
| Aug 24 | Jim & Jean Beachell |

*Check out our
online calendar
for more events!*

PLAN AHEAD

Sept 13—Gardening at
Crawford House (6 PM)
Care Kit Assembly event
in September!

*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.*

Visit us online at www.BlawenburgChurch.org!