



The Blawenburg Beacon

January, 2014

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

January 1, 2014

Dear Friends,

Two and a half years ago we started a new phase in the life of our church. It was the phase of *part-time pastor/full-time church*. We knew several things as we began the new phase:

- a. The new phase would involve the consistory and congregation handling ministry and ministry details that perhaps were usually handled by the office and pastoral staff during previous pastoral tenures.
- b. Pastoral care would be initiated by the congregation and *supplemented* by the pastor. This would be a reversal of sorts from what we were used to.
- c. Many things would be simplified, simply because the church had shrunk and the pastor was traveling the nation for his other job. We streamlined and in some cases eliminated programs or portions of programs.
- d. With the economic downturn affecting us, we would need to be better stewards of our property, through rental to other groups, individuals, and businesses.
- e. The new arrangement, specifically with regard to the pastor, would be temporary.

What a wonderful time it has been! I cannot tell you how enjoyable and rewarding it has been for me to serve the great folks at the "Crossroads Church" of Blawenburg. It has been a time of confirmation for me, that while I truly was called to serve my seminary for a time (and make no mistake, that has also been a rewarding time), it is now time for me to return to church ministry on a full-time basis.

We now enter a new year. As you may know, when I agreed to become interim vice president at the seminary, my responsibilities greatly increased. I met last July with representatives from Classis, and our Consistory to discuss next steps. We agreed that I would serve another six months with regular responsibilities, and along the way, evaluate exactly



what to do next. In November, after a time of prayer with Mary Beth, we came to the conclusion that I needed to cut back on my requirements at Blawenburg. I outlined a plan, submitted it to two consistory members, who agreed that it be brought to the larger consistory in December. The plan was approved with regard to my responsibilities.

Here is the extent and time-frame for my remaining work with our wonderful church. For the next three months I will preach once per month, meet with a candidate who may be able to replace me, plan worship and adult education, and plan for pastoral needs to be met.

For the remaining three Sundays in January Carlos Corro will preach on a supply basis. Many of you know Carlos and his wife Charlotte. Carlos has preached at BRC, and Charlotte has participated in worship leadership (on behalf of Heifer International) and Sinterklaas.

This will be a season for me to begin withdrawing, and for the pastor nominating committee to continue its work in earnest. It will be a time for the congregation to continue full-time as ministers of the church. It will be a time to pray that God would lead us to His best for the next generation of church life at the crossroads.

I have so enjoyed getting to know you, serving with you, and growing among each one of you. Really, looking back, these past 30 months have been something special for all of us, made so both by God's grace and by our willingness to dare to be led by the Holy Spirit.

2014 will be a great new year for our church. Remember, we have had a wonderful past, but the best is yet to come!

Faithfully,
Your Pastor, Bob
Yo te amo en el amor del Senor!



Eberly Family lighting the Advent Wreath

Highlights of the December Consistory Meeting

Pastoral Change

Bob Sharman has done a wonderful job of enriching our worship for the past two years, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to maintain our part-time pastorate and his full-time job as interim Vice President at the Princeton Theological Seminary. He will be transitioning from our pulpit over the first quarter of 2014. We will hire Carlos Corro as a pulpit supply pastor for several weeks in January. Carlos preached at BRC in November.

At the end of January, we will determine our next steps in getting a part-time pastor until a full-time pastor is called. Consistory thanked Bob for his service and devotion to our church.

Sinterklaas

Sinterklaas was a big success. We will have made \$3000 when all monies are in. In addition, we raised \$500 for the Heifer mission. From our profit, we will give \$300 to Crawford House and \$300 to the David Mojica Dominican Republic Mission. Thanks to all who worked so hard for this event.

Recognition for Service

Congratulations to Jean Beachell and Don Terhune, who will be honored at the Lay Recognition Dinner on March 28th for their years of service to our church.

New Mission/Slogan/Purpose

The Church Health Team has proposed a statement that reflects who we are. It says:

Jesus is God. God is love.

You may safely explore both here.

We would like to know what the congregation thinks of this statement. Let any Consistory member know your thoughts or email them to the church.

Eagle Projects

Several Boy Scout Eagle Projects are in the works. This spring a scout will be building a handicap ramp next to the sidewalk on the west side of the church. If you have an idea for a project, let Consistory know.

Salta

Salta will be leaving our campus on February 15th. BVS is considering several ways to use the space.

Worship

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

Jan. 5	9 AM	Hispanic service with Communion in Cook Hall	
	10 AM	Communion and Worship—Dr. Sharman	
Jan. 12	10 AM	Carlos Corro preaching	} See page two Highlights.
Jan. 19	10 AM	Carlos Corro preaching	
Jan. 26	10 AM	Carlos Corro preaching	

- Remember that Nursery and Sunday School are available during church every Sunday!



Families Gathering



It is always fun when the generations come together. Top picture: Jean Beachell with daughter Jill and grandchildren McKenna and James at Sinterklaas.

Right picture: Gracie Johnson with son Tom and granddaughter Harper Grace at Thanksgiving.



Hospitality

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



Big Thank You

A big thank you to Troop 46 Boy Scouts for our Holiday Wreaths. We appreciate them.

Troop 46 donated 6 wreaths for our doors.

Pot Luck Luncheon

The Family Life Committee will host a **Pot Luck luncheon** on Jan. 12th following church at about 11:45. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the company of our friends at church. Mark your calendar now so you don't forget.

Outreach Lunch Menus

January, 2014

by Nancy Curtis

Every Tuesday, from 11:30 to 1:00, we serve lunch in Cook Hall. Lunch is served buffet style and a free-will donation is accepted (anonymously).

Lunches will always have salad, bread and beverages.

January 7

Cream of turkey soup, quiches, lemon bars

January 14

Potato soup, grilled cheese, cookies

January 21

Minestrone, macaroni & cheese, pie

Celebration National Pie Day at the Luncheon (1/23)

January 28

Clam chowder, sliders, dessert

Life-Long Learning Team

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

The Tuesday Morning Study Group will resume on January 7th and meets in Cook Hall lounge from 10 to 11:30. Alan Taback and Barbara Pavlicek facilitate the discussion.

The Mary and Martha Prayer/Study Group will meet on January 18, 2014, at 7:45 a.m., in Cook Hall. They will be discussing *Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren Winner

December Festivities at BVS



Santa came on the Blawenburg Fire Truck and visited each of our Preschool classes with his elves. Each child received a gift from Santa. Left-hand picture—2 1/2 year old class with Miss Karen, Director; right-hand picture—3 year old class.

Note: the elf on the right of the right-hand picture is our own George Gurzo and the elf on the left is preschool dad and fireman Michael Kaufman.



Rehearsal and performance for the BVS Christmas Concert with the 4 year old class.



Blawenburg Village School

P.O. Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

December was a very busy month at the school. We started the Christmas season by traveling to Bethlehem, during our concert. All students participated in the concert which was enjoyed by their family and friends. We made lots of Christmas gifts for our families, complete with wrapping paper. We found some time to play in the snow and we learned about and fed the birds. We enjoyed having Mr. Ron at school, as he played his guitar and sang Christmas carols with us. Our month ended with a surprise visit from Santa! He arrived on the fire truck and visited each class before his departure back to the North Pole.

Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year and summer camp will begin on January 6th. We are very excited to be offering a FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN program. 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. We will be holding a closed enrollment for current BVS students and BRC members until January 17th. After January 17th open enrollment will begin. Please join us on Saturday, January 25th (10:00am-12:00pm) for an Open House. Stop in for a tour of the school and to obtain information on our programs. Information will also be available on our website blawenburgvillageschool.com.

Mom's Morning Out is available January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, 9:00-12:00. Children ages 2-6 are welcome to join us for a morning of fun! The cost is \$30.00/session. Please call or email if you'd like to reserve a spot.

An Enrichment Program is also available for children ages 2-6. Sessions are available Monday-Friday 1:00-3:00. This is a great way to have a few hours to yourself while your child is in a fun safe environment with certified teachers. Cost is \$20.00 for an afternoon session. Enrollment is limited so please call (609-466-6600) to check availability. Please help us spread the word to Moms in the community.

Christmas singing with Mr. Ron



Missions

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

Heifer International

We Bought an Ark!

This Epiphany (Jan. 6) we celebrate the three kings or wise men bringing gifts to Jesus, the ultimate Gift of God to all mankind! This day also winds up our Heifer mission, 'the gift that keeps on giving'. To date we have raised over \$5000, which means our church and community members have provided 15 units of animals where they are most needed in the world to help needy families. If you would still like to make a donation to buy an animal to provide a family with the means to be self-sustaining, you may do so in the sanctuary or Cook Hall. The gift cards used to honor a friend or family member depict how your gift 'opens doors' for people. Buy the animals now and save the gift cards for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions throughout the year! Please make checks payable to BRC and note 'Heifer' on the memo line. Thank you for your support. *Barbara P. and Sonya*



Sonya, a Mission Team member, with a happy shopper at the Mission table at Sinterklaas.

Charlotte Corro sharing the successful experience of Heifer International in her village in Uganda.



Proclaiming

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

A Sinterklaas Thank You: Mission Accomplished!

Thanks for a Successful Sinterklaas

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make Sinterklaas a success.

Here are the preliminary results:

Booth	Net
Crafts	\$411.90
Baked Goods	\$417.85
Soup	\$828,10
Lunch	\$134.40
White Elephant	\$1,132.75
Heifer mission	\$500.00
Consignment	\$62.00
Grand Total	\$3,358.50



Art & Joan Downs and Suzanne & Chase Hunt

After Sinterklaas, we received more money, so the total profit for the church is about \$3,000. In addition to the Heifer mission, we will donate \$300 to Crawford House and \$300 to the David Mojica Dominican Mission.



Olivia and Emma at Sinterklaas 2013



Carlos and Charlotte Corro selling Charlotte's handcrafted jewelry

Sinterklaas Revisited



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



8 Brian Van Liew
19 Doug Wengel
25 Jim Beachell

Bob & Barbara
Bradsell are
MOVING!



After January 5,
you can reach them at:
207 Green Valley Road
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-497-4958
(Cell#s & email are unchanged)

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

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Jan. 5	9 AM	Hispanic service with Communion in Cook Hall
	10 AM	Communion and Worship—Dr. Sharman
Jan. 6	Epiphany	Last day to purchase a Heifer animal. See page 8.
	8:30 AM	Communications Team—Lounge
	10:00 AM	Search Team—downstairs of Cook Hall
Jan. 9	7:30 PM	Consistory
Jan. 12	10 AM	Carlos Corro preaching
	11:45 AM	Pot Luck Luncheon (See page 5.)
Jan. 18	7:45 AM	Mary's & Martha's (See page 6.)
Jan. 19	10 AM	Carlos Corro preaching
Jan. 26	10 AM	Carlos Corro preaching
Jan. 27		Beacon Information Deadline

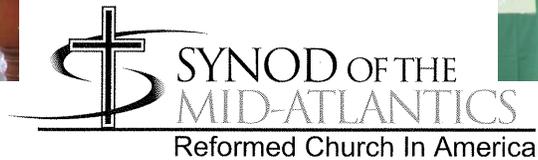


Join the family of
Bill Van Zandt in
Celebration of Bill's
75th Birthday
January 4, 2014
Open House from 2 to 5 PM

Otto Kaufman Senior Center
356 Skillman Road
No Gifts Please



Overdue thanks to Don Thiel, Jim Eberly,
Diana Pfannebecker, and Bonnie Thiel Gurzo
for purchase of the much needed fire lock
box.



2014 LAY RECOGNITION DINNER

Magnify the Lord

FRIDAY • MARCH 28, 2014

6:00 p.m. Reception (with cash bar)

7:00 p.m. Dinner

The Imperia • 1714 Easton Ave • Somerset, NJ 08873

Be there to share and support in this celebration where

Jean Beachell and Don Terhune

will be honored by our Synod.

- Great fellowship
- Honor those whose lives and service magnify the Lord
- Select honorees and guests to participate in the program and share their stories
- Dinner includes butler passed hors d'oeuvres, salad, cheesecake, and choice of entrée
(please specify with your reservation)
French Chicken Breast, stuffed with wild rice & spinach
or
Mushroom & Garlic Risotto, with drizzle of white truffle oil

\$50 per person

To make reservations at our church please contact:

Nancy Curtis at 609-466-3108 or BRC1832@verizon.net

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material

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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.