



The Blawenburg Beacon

October, 2013

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

Dear Blawenburg Family,

What an exciting autumn awaits us! We do not know the fullness of the future but we do know who leads us into the future and that our Lord will bring us into exciting and eternal ministries if we will remain watchful and faithful.

We will take on some practical and doctrinal topics, and we will proclaim some terrific Bible passages. I look forward to worshipping with each of you.

Faithfully,
Bob Sharman

Sermon Information

Worship Team

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

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 6 | 9:00 AM—Hispanic Service in Cook Hall with Rev. Ramon Orostizaga. |
| October 6 | Sermon Series— <i>What We Are on our Knees Before God...Is What We Are: A Brief Study of Prayer</i>
<i>(3) Pause for Practicality: Prayer as Strategy for the Daily Tasks of Life</i>
Romans 8:26-28; Hebrews 7:23-25
On World Communion Sunday, a few strategies for living the prayer life. |
| October 13 | Guest Preacher—Rev. Ramon Orostizaga
Dr. Sharman will be traveling with his family to Oxford, Mississippi. |
| October 20 | Sermon Series continued <i>(4) Don't Talk to Me About Fasting</i>
Exodus 33:12-17; Hebrews 7:23-25
--God's Word and the Bread of Life. |
| October 27 | Sermon Series continued <i>(5) Fasting (cont.) and Why We Must Pray Together</i>
Matthew 6:16-18; Acts 1:1-14
--A look at the connection between fasting and depth prayer. |

Hospitality Team

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

Church Picnic September 8, 2013



Clockwise L-R—Morgan, Gracie & Jotham Johnson, Catherine Murphy, Bernice Van Nostrand, Wendy Herbert, Barbara Antoniewicz

Many thanks to Evelyn Cochran and her “crew” for a welcoming, family kick-off indoor picnic.



Clockwise L-R—Dr. Bob, Ethel Terhune, Barbara Bradsell, Grace Terhune, Patricia, Wendy Herbert, Grace Terhune and Ruthie Patterson



“Crew” Joe Pavlicek & Barb VanLiew



Life-Long Learning Team

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

Long-Range Planning Holds First Meeting

The Team Leaders and Consistory Liaisons held their first long-range planning meeting on September 26th. The purpose of the meeting was to make all teams aware of the various events that will be taking place over the next three months so that they effectively can be coordinated and communicated. This is one of the efforts underway to shore up our team structure to promote the development of Christian values in worship, education, service and activities in our church to help us better spread the good news of God's love.



Nursery – Childcare for young children will be available during worship in the schoolhouse from 9:45 A.M.

Sunday School for pre-K—5th Grade – Children, pre-K through fifth grade, will be dismissed from the sanctuary after the children's message to participate in our **Children and Worship** program with Mrs. Van Nostrand. They will go to the new C&W space in the west end room of Cook Hall. There they will hear a Bible story and engage in age-appropriate activities related to it. There will be activities for the older kids, too! Mrs. Van Nostrand can use a helper each week and would also love to have observers any time. She also teaches her C&W lesson during the week to our BVS pre-school children. You may observe then, also.

The **Sunday Morning Adult and Older Youth Group** was launched this fall with questions and issues of the day. Although the group will follow the international Sunday School lessons on many Sundays, other self-generated topics are more than welcome. One topic that the group will spend a few Sundays on is the issue of homosexuality and the Christian faith, looking at scripture and some of the challenges surrounding this timely issue—including what the Pope has recently said. Another suggested topic was about adult baptism vs. infant baptism. What do you think about baptizing adults rather than infants? Questions arose, too, about the natural disasters we have experienced lately. Is our faith challenged or strengthened by the natural disasters of floods, fires, and earthquakes---not to mention the terrorist attacks and shootings? Come and discuss your thoughts and fears. Reconnect with fellow BRCers and gain strength from each other in order to go about your personal business during the week knowing that your church family is with you in spirit.

The Tuesday Adult Study Group began the fall term by reading the first few chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus was born into a tough society. The study group discovered the power struggle of Herod as well as the Pharisees and Sadducees. How would Jesus deal with the political and social struggles of his day? What do his actions and words tell us about dealing with struggles in our own day? Take a break from your daily chores and join the discussion in the library of Cook Hall at 10 A.M.

The Mary and Martha prayer and book group will meet on October 26th at 7:45 AM. The women will decide on their next book. Try to come with suggestions.



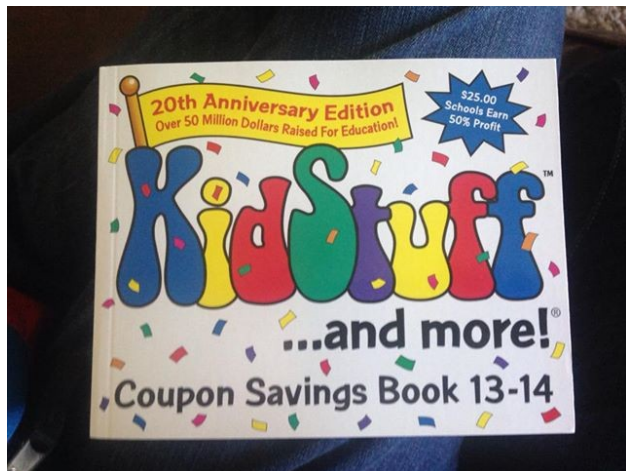
Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

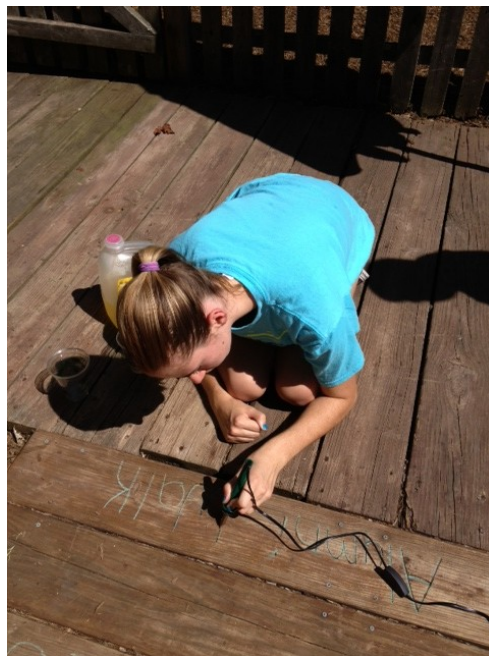
blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director



BVS is selling **KidStuff** Coupon Books for \$25.00. Included in the book are coupons for many local establishments like movies, museums, family activities, and popular retail stores. Please contact Karen Hill or Ethel Terhune for additional details or to purchase a book. If you cannot use the coupons yourself, think about giving the book as a gift.

There are limited openings available in some programs for the 2013-2014 school year. If interested, please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to blawenburgvillageschool.com.



Alex and Morgan burn names of BVS alumni into the BVS Boardwalk. To make up the difference between what Shailen Shah needed to complete his Eagle Scout project (extending the riding boardwalk in the play yard) and what he had, the BVS alumni contributed to this worthy cause.

Missions Team

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

Baby Care Kits--Thank you

Thank you to those who crafted beautiful baby sweaters and blankets for our September Missions focus, Church World Service Baby Care Kits. Crochet hooks, knitting needles, and sewing machines couldn't be put to a better use. Many thanks, also, to those who contributed the other necessary items to fill the kits—diapers, undershirts, washcloths, sleepers, and pins. And a big thank you, too, for the generous cash donations. If all of the money is not used to complete the kits or to fund the processing cost, it will be used toward our November mission focus of Operation Christmas Child.



CROP Hunger Walk Walk With Wendy SUNDAY, October 20th 1:30 P.M.

**Montgomery United Methodist Church
117 Sunset Road, Belle Mead, NJ**

Exercise for a great cause! Please join us as we walk together to fight the root causes of hunger globally and to contribute money and peanut butter to help our food bank locally. Envelopes are in Cook Hall at fellowship for Walkers to use in collecting Sponsors' donations. If you can't walk with us, please sponsor a Walker and contribute peanut butter for us to take to the Walk. Consider donating what you might spend on dinner out for you and/or your family. Twenty-five percent of monies raised will be split between the Somerset County Food Bank Network and SHIP, the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program. We will meet again this year at Montgomery Methodist on Sunset Road at 1:30 on Sunday, October 20th. Wendy will lead you in this attractive 5-mile circular walk which will commence at 2:00 P.M. (If five miles is too far for you to walk, go as far as you can and return via the van provided.)



We wish Sadie a speedy recovery from her surgery and regret that she cannot be a Walker this year.

November Mission Focus Operation Christmas Child

As a heads up, begin to think about and purchase shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The collection week of November 10—17 comes around quickly. See the next page for a more complete description of appropriate gifts. Thank you.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November 10 to 17, 2013—Collection Week



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world at Christmas and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This mission of Rev. Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse always comes early! These shoebox gifts reach children ages 2-14 in countries suffering from natural disasters, wars and endemic poverty. The boxes are fun to fill by yourself or with your children. For the ideas of what, and what not, to pack into your shoebox, see items below or go to www.samaritanaspurse.org, where you can also print out an insert form that will allow you to track your package to its destination. The packing ideas and insert forms will be available later this month. Empty shoeboxes are available, but wanted too! If you complete your box at home, remember to wrap it so that the box can be opened but remain wrapped [i.e. top wrapped separately]. We will sort, pack and wrap boxes on Sunday, November 17th to be delivered that following week.

We hope you can support this outreach effort by packing a shoebox or two or by buying bulk items for several shoeboxes and by joining us at coffee hour on November 17.

GIFT IDEAS

TOYS - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - pens, pencils and manual sharpener, crayons or markers, rubber stamps and ink pad sets, small writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. **HYGIENE**

ITEMS toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, wash cloth, etc. **OTHER** - Hard

candy and lollipops (Please double bag all candy.), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries). **A PERSONAL NOTE** - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.).

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



Last year the youth assembled shoe boxes with donated items.

Blawenburg Reformed Church

Student Aid Fund

(This repeated information is to let you know that this financial assistance can be accessed at any time throughout the year. It may also help you in planning for future financial needs.)

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.

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.

A Loving Act of Honesty and Kindness

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

By Barbara Reid

I would like to share with you my incredible experience at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (T.A.S.K.) on Wednesday, September 18.

My small clutch wallet containing my driver's license, a debit card, my cell phone, and an amount of cash disappeared. I realized that I didn't have it with me when I was moving my car from the street to the rear of the building. T.A.S.K. employees were quite insistent that the police be contacted. While we were waiting, Alan (Taback) and I stepped outside. A moment later a staff member came out to inform us that a student was on the phone who indicated that she had my wallet. She found it on the ground outside, took it home with her, and immediately called T.A.S.K. She gave us directions to her home, and Alan and the staff member (Melissa) were kind enough to retrieve it. Everything in the wallet was there when I opened it, including \$67 in cash. It appears that when I was about to move the car, I inadvertently dropped it.

I share this experience for several reasons. First, and foremost, it deepens my faith in the inherent good of people. The \$67 in my wallet might well have been used to purchase groceries for the family of a woman who I have yet to meet named Marilyn, one who without hesitation notified T.A.S.K. that she found my wallet. It also reminds me of the fact that there are many people who care. Both students and staff approached me the following Wednesday to tell me how happy they were that my wallet had been recovered.

I can unequivocally say that Wednesday morning at T.A.S.K. is the highpoint of my week. The time there provides such inspiration, and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

Proclaiming Team

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



Work Days Set for October and November

We need your help to spruce up our church property and buildings. There is plenty to do - house cleaning the sanctuary, washing Cook Hall windows, weeding and mulching, and more. We will gather on two Saturdays, **October 19th and November 23rd**, from 9 a.m. to noon. In addition to members of our congregation, we are inviting people who use our facilities to help us. So mark your calendars and plan to spend a few hours helping. We will work rain or shine.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Sinterklaas...Save the date!

We will be hosting 'Sinterklaas' on **December 7th**. This is just a reminder to put up those preserves while harvest time is here, and also to begin making soups. Remember to label containers (due to allergies) with all ingredients and put labels on the top of the containers. Also think of other 'crafty' projects to tackle! If you are making items like knitted hats or Christmas decorations etc., please let Evelyn or Bernice know. This will help in organizing appropriate display space in their craft booth. Please think, too, about where you would like to volunteer. Your help will be appreciated. Mark your calendars and anticipate a fun day to initiate the holidays. More information to follow in November's *Beacon* and church bulletins. Nancy D'Alessandro and Gracie Johnson will co-chair this event.



Patrons of the Arts

Alan Taback's "Flowers for Wanda" art exhibit was a huge success. (See page 12 of the September *Beacon* for more information.) He sold 23 of his 28 paintings! Way to go, Alan!

Alan is planning another show in December.

L-R: Barb, Don, Carol Ann (owner of Blawenburg Market), Nancy, Diana, & Sonya

Lunches for Locals

October, 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.

October 1

Turkey rice soup, chili, cookies and brownies

October 8

Sweet & sour cabbage soup (vegetarian), sloppy joes, apple crisp

October 15

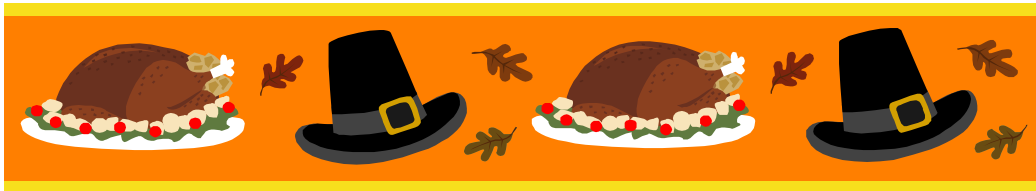
Vegetable soup, chicken paprikash, lemon squares

October 22

Cream of mushroom soup, sausage & peppers, pudding

October 29

Gumbo soup, taco salad, whoopie pies



"You have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests."
Psalm 4:7



Abundant Harvest Community Kitchen

A Ministry of Montgomery Evangelical Free Church

A FREE Hot-meal Served Every Saturday

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Starting October 5th

Open to All!

With assistance from Montgomery Township Food Pantry,
Community Food Bank of NJ, local stores, farms and individuals.

**MEFC is located one mile east of Route 206
246 Belle Mead-Griggstown Rd., Belle Mead, NJ**

**For more information contact abundantharvest@mefc.org,
Visit www.mefc.org or call 908-874-4634**

Some Thoughts and Updates on Buildings and Grounds

By Ethel Terhune

Please use caution when driving through the Church yard. Our Pre-school Children and Salta students going back and forth between the playground and Cook Hall, as well as contractors at work, make for a very busy driveway. Using appropriate entrances and exits, slowing your speed, and parking away from the main entrances to Cook Hall will ensure safety for all.

Remember to use the center concrete steps for entrance to the Church offices on any Church business as well as for entrance to the library. Inside stairs are for going down to fellowship hall and the kitchen. The inside stairs going up are for Salta use only when they are having classes.

Also, please remember that our fenced playground is designed for children aged five and younger. Inappropriate climbing and use by older, heavier children may cause injury or damage to our fence, equipment, and toys. Sand should not be transported, but remain in the sand box. Mulch is required for safety. It's tempting but should not be added to the sand box, used in the playhouse, or on the equipment. Toys should be put away. Shoes are to be worn at all times. For the enjoyment of all, your cooperation is much appreciated.

Construction or repair work continues on our wonderful buildings. The Superstorm Sandy damage to the Old School House will soon be complete--roof and hand rails replaced, concrete repaired. The cellar doors on the Church and schoolhouse will also be painted and repaired. And work will soon begin to re-glaze and paint the second floor, front windows in Memorial Hall.

Many thanks for the: Super cleaning job and prep work done in Memorial Hall; light bulb replacement; shrub and weed clean up around Memorial Hall, Cook Hall, and the schoolhouse; power washing on the Old School House (BVS) siding and fire escape, as well as the eastern stairwell in Cook Hall. And thank you for the hundreds of other tasks performed by our members--all volunteered, all greatly appreciated. Praise GOD.

Don't forget the BRC work day, Saturday October 19th. See you there—rain or shine! (See p. 8.)



Consistory Highlights

By David Cochran, Clerk

Here are some of the highlights of the September Consistory meeting.

Classis is now recommending that Consistories include scripture and prayer in its meetings. We have been doing this for a long time. In this meeting, we focused on listening to God and prayer. These scriptures were referenced: James 1:5, Matt.28:18, Luke 10:19-20 and II Corinthians 10:5.

Deacon Nancy D'Allesandro has resigned from Consistory. Nominations for her replacement are being accepted.

Our committees are now called teams. A list of team members was presented and updated. (See page 12 for team listing. — ed.)

The Spanish service will be held at 9:00 AM on the first Sunday of each month in Cook Hall.

Ramon Orostizaga, a seminary student who is ordained in the Christian Reformed Church, will lead the services at no charge.

Salta, our tenant who is running afterschool and preschool Spanish classes, requested and was granted a rent reduction for two months until they are officially approved as a preschool.

Although its Board of Trustees consists of church officers, Memorial Hall is a separate corporation from our church. It is legally called Blawenburg Holding Corporation, and the Board of Trustees is made up of church officers. The Pastor, VP of Consistory, and two other officers make up the board. Rev. William Sharman, Gracie Johnson, VP of Consistory, David Cochran, and Barbara Pavlicek were elected to this board.

Our missions this fall include:

September – Church World Service Baby Care Kits

October – CROP Walk

November – Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

December – Heifer International

There will be church property workdays on October 19 and November 23. In addition to our members, people who use our facilities (i.e., Boy Scouts, AA, BVS parents) will be invited to help with buildings and grounds projects.

A yoga business is renting the front western room in Memorial Hall.

The next Consistory meeting will be on October 10th at 7:30 PM in Memorial Hall.

BRC Teams

Buildings & Grounds

Chair: Ethel Terhune
Liaison: Peg Querec
Don Terhune
Jean Beachell

Communications

Chair: Bob Bradsell
Liaison: Dave Cochran
Catherine Murphy
Barb Pavlicek
Nancy Curtis, *ex officio*

Hospitality (2 teams)

Liaison:
Visitation
Chair:
Nancy D'Alessandro
Lisa White
Nancy Curtis, *ex officio*

Family Life

Chair: Evelyn Cochran
Joe Pavlicek
Nancy Meyer
Ariel Meyer
Barb Reid
Barb Van Liew
Lisa White

Lifelong Learning

Chair:
Liaison: Alan Taback
Bernice Van Nostrand

Missions

Chair:
Liaison: Barb Pavlicek
Sonya Hunt
Nancy D'Alessandro
Gracie Johnson, adjunct

Stewardship

Chair: Mike Vande Woude
Liaison: Jean Beachell
Bob Bradsell
Chip Parmele
Nancy Curtis, *ex officio*

Worship & Music

Chair:
Liaison: Gracie Johnson
Bob Sharman
Katie Connolly
Barbara Antoniewicz
Joe Pavlicek, Head Usher
Ginny Doremus, Communion
Jean Beachell, Flowers

Church Health

Chair: Alan Taback
Liaison: Alan Taback
Bob Bradsell
Dave Cochran
Andrea Eberly
Wendy Herbert
Mike Vande Woude

Cemetery

Chair: Eric Perkins
Liaison:
Don Terhune
Ethel Terhune
Nancy Curtis, *ex officio*

Blawenburg Village School, Trustees

Pres.: Ethel Terhune
Liaison: Peg Querec
Bernice Van Nostrand
Evelyn Cochran

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



Anniversaries

31 John & Cheryl Soos

1 Jean Skillman
15 Max Urbanski
23 Evelyn Cochran

Summary of Dates

October 3 & 4	Morning	BVS Children and Worship begins
October 6	9AM	Hispanic Service—Cook Hall with Rev. Ramon Orostizaga
	10AM	Communion Sunday--Sanctuary
October 10	7:30PM	Consistory—Memorial Hall
October 12	Noon—4 PM	Doris Gwin's birthday party-Cook Hall (See below.)
October 12 & 13		Wedding
October 13	10AM	Worship with Rev. Ramon Orostizaga
October 18	Morning	BVS school pictures taken
October 19	9AM-Noon	(Indoor) Church Work Day
October 20	1:30PM	CROP Walk—Montgomery United Methodist Church
October 21	9:30AM	BVS Board Meeting
October 25	Morning	BVS to Norz Hill Farm, Hillsborough
October 26	7:45AM	Mary & Martha Book and Prayer Group
October 27		Reformation Sunday
October 28		Deadline for November Beacon information
October 30&31	Morning	BVS Trunk or Treat Halloween festivities

Sundays	10:00AM	Worship with Dr. Sharman unless otherwise posted
Tuesdays	10-11:30AM	Adult Bible Study in the lounge (See page 3.)
Tuesdays	11:30 to 1:00	Outreach Lunch (See p. 9 for menus.)
Last Thursday	7:30AM	Men's Breakfast Club

Plan Ahead

November 23	9AM-Noon	(Outdoor) Church Work Day
December 7	9AM-2PM	Sinterklaas (Heifer International)

Please come join the children of Doris Gwin as we celebrate her 90th birthday. Saturday, October 12th, from noon - 4pm at the Fellowship Hall (Cook Hall), Blawenburg Reformed Church. Light lunch and fun will be provided. If you are unable to attend, we would love to shower her with your well wishes and special memory notations. Please send all cards and other tributes to: Roy Gwin, P. O. Box 460, Hopewell, NJ 08525 - to be collected and presented in the "wish" box. Bring your smile!

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material

The Blawenburg Beacon is a publication of the
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, Emergency: (908) 304-2627
Rev. Dr. Robert Sharman, Minister

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.