



# The Blawenburg Beacon

June, 2014

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

## **A Message from Minister Carlos Corro**

As many of you know, BRC is in a season of transition and approaching critical points of decision making. The board of consistory will continue to lead us as a church as we move forward. I want you to know that this church and its particular members are consistently in my prayers. My prayer is that you will come to a decision rooted and grounded in faith of our resurrected savior, Jesus Christ.

There was a time in my life a few years ago when I was confronted with several major life-altering decisions which led to a number of long nights and constant mental churning. During this time, there was a lot of noise coming from every direction. Some of that noise was advice, some of it was critique, and some of it also was fear. It was not until a good friend of mine, Scott, took me aside and shared the following words, "Carlos, remember that God is not committed to a blueprint. God is committed to you." Friends, my prayer is that you would receive those same words; God is committed to you, and everything is going to be all right!

I am grateful to announce that throughout this summer I will be more present. And I am available to listen, talk, and pray with you in regards to anything but especially in relation to your thoughts and feelings in this season of decision points.

Love you all. I will sign off with words that continue to bring me comfort in times of confusion as well as in times of joy.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all of these things will be added unto you." - Matthew 6:33

In service,

Minister Carlos Corro

See page 8 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday. Please sit in the center section of the sanctuary to enhance our theme "We Are One."

See page 4 for the invitation for a special Prelude on June 8th, Pentecost Sunday.

# **Becoming a Resurrection Community in a Time of Transition**

By David Cochran  
Interim Vice President of Consistory

Our church is in a time of transition. We have been without a full-time pastor since 2011, and we are having trouble sustaining our programs and expenses with our limited resources. Fortunately, we have been blessed with the part-time leadership of Dr. Bob Sharman and now Carlos Corro during this time.

It is in a time like this that we are forced to make difficult decisions. We must decide if we are going to look for new opportunities that will help us grow stronger in the future or if we will settle for the status quo and its inevitable result.

Recently, Carlos preached a sermon that addressed this point very well. He reminded us that all through history Christian churches have had their ups and downs. Some were on the brink of despair, but the ones who kept their covenant with God through Christ grew and were reborn. They often came through their trial much better than they thought they could. They became resurrection communities.

We are poised for growth and change at Blawenburg Church. We live in a community where many people haven't heard the Good News of hope and love that Christ offers. We also live in a changing community that offers much more diversity than in generations past.

What we need is some help and resolve to reach out to our community to let them know that Blawenburg Church can help them find God and enrich their lives. To do this we need a full-time, supportive ministry.

Consistory and the Search Team have been mulling over and praying about what we should do to become a resurrection community. As you know, God doesn't send us a script that says this is what you should do. Instead, opportunities are presented to us in ways we least expect them.

We reported at the Congregational Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> that we are currently trying to define what a partnership with Marble Collegiate Church would look like. This opportunity seemed to come from out of the blue last winter. Meanwhile, the Search Team is interviewing several candidates who seem qualified to lead us in this time of transition.

What will we do? Well, we're going to bounce this one back to God. We know we need help to grow and flourish, but we're not sure where it will come from. We also know that if we keep our eye where it should be, not on what we want, but on what God wants us to do, we will be headed in the right direction.

There is something that we all can do in this time of transition. We all can pray for God to guide us through the important decisions that we have to make and to help us keep focused on His goals for our church rather than our own.

This time of transition is about to get very interesting in the next few months. Let's all pray that we become the resurrection community that God wants us to be.

**June 15th**

Installation of Ethel Terhune as an Elder

Father's Day

Dr. Robert Sharman preaching

## *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!*

Below is a brief overview of our preaching themes for the summer.

June 1st - 1 Peter Conclusion, One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, Communion

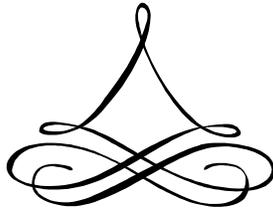
June 8th - A sermon on Pentecost

June 15th - Dr. Robert Sharman

June 22nd - August 3rd: Series of teaching on the Letters of John ( 1, 2 & 3 John): Details to come. In the meantime, please start reading the text for the Holy Spirit's inspiration on music and worship plans.



On May 25, Linnéa played a beautiful organ offertory by Johann Christoph Bach, a cousin of Johann Sebastian Bach (the Bach family was full of noted musicians for generations before and after J. S.) -- a setting of the *Old Hundredth* psalm tune which we sing each week as the Doxology. Linnéa has been studying the organ since last summer, having studied the piano for several years previously. Students of the organ are not plentiful anywhere, and it is lovely to have one in our midst! We are grateful for Linnéa's dedication and willingness to share her gifts and her work with the church.



## SPECIAL PRELUDE INVITATION

Sunday, June 8 (Pentecost)

9:50 am in the organ loft

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, come early to be part of one of the most popular pieces in the organ repertory, **Widor's Toccata from his Fifth Organ Symphony**. It's exciting, and you are invited to gather in the organ loft at 9:50 for a bird's eye perspective on both this piece and the organ you hear every week.

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) was a French organist, composer and professor at the Paris Conservatoire. He was organist at the Church of St.-Sulpice in Paris for 64 years, and when he retired at age 89, he was succeeded by one of his many famous students, Marcel Dupré.

Widor was integral in a period of the French organ and its repertoire blossoming. The organ as instrument grew "symphonic" in style – warmer, with a vast, orchestral array of new voices, capable of powerfully smooth crescendos and diminuendos. The instrumental development spurred new symphonic composition. Thus, among his other compositions, Widor wrote ten Organ Symphonies for organ by itself.

This Toccata is the final movement of his Fifth Symphony. The toccata form (from the Italian *toccare*, "to touch") dates from the Renaissance period and features fast passages, showcasing musical dexterity. Bach wrote many toccatas, and popular toccatas can be found from every period from the Renaissance onward. A Toccata is a flashy, fiery piece, and it suits this description of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4:

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

--Katie

## Life-Long Learning Team

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

The **Mary and Martha book group** will meet at Bernice's on Thursday evening, June 5<sup>th</sup>, by 6:00 p.m. for a light supper and conversation of Sandpaper People: Dealing with the Ones Who Rub You the Wrong Way by Mary Southerland. The women will concentrate on chapters dealing with times we need to encourage each other and times when we need to confront each other. Now that we are meeting at night, please join us even if you have not done so before. Start your summer months with a glass of wine, good conversation, and prayer.

**The Tuesday Morning Study Group** has joined the Griggstown Reformed Church group at the Thomas Sweet Café.

*There will be only two more sessions before a summer hiatus—June 3 and 10.*

Bible & Brew Faith Discussions at 10am  
Thomas Sweet Café in Skillman, NJ (Montgomery Township)

**Blawenburg Cafe: Sunday School For All** - Gather around Jesus in community for an interactive time of *listening* to God's word, *sharing* and *praying* for one another from **11:30-12:30pm** in the fellowship hall.

**Daily Devotions:** Several people have commented that they enjoyed receiving a daily scripture reading. If you would like to continue to receive a daily devotional, there are several wonderful websites that you can obtain one from. One is from InTouch Magazine (<http://www.intouch.org/Magazine/DailyDevotion.aspx#.U2EGHvldViM>), another is from Words of Hope (<https://woh.org/subscriptions>). If you have a devotional that comes to you by email or text, please let the Beacon staff know and we will share it with the congregation.

### A Thank You

Karen, We just want to thank you and everyone at Blawenburg for your generosity and support with Ryder's illness—it is very much appreciated and has helped with easing the burden these past few months.

Thank you again.

Heather, Rob, Roman and Ryder

*[Editorial Note: The Spring Rummage Sale was able to give a donation to a BVS family whose baby has Retinoblastoma.]*





# Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

BVS students participated in a Trike-a-Thon last month to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital and to date raised \$1390.00!

Our Mom's Morning Out Program has been meeting daily! Children ages 2-6 are welcome to join us. They do not need to be registered students to attend. All sessions include arts and crafts, dramatics and pretend play, music, stories, snack and outdoor time. Sessions are 9:00-12:00, and the cost is \$30.00/session. Please call or email the school if interested.

Summer Camp will be held July 7<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.*

On June 6<sup>th</sup> all classes will be visiting Doyle's Unami Farm in Hillsborough. We will tour the farm, feed the animals, milk a goat, and plant flowers. We will end our visit with a picnic lunch.

Graduation will take place on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> for our Blossoms class. The following students will be graduating:

Hadley DeBruin  
Ella Greenberger  
Maxwell Kaufman  
Zoe Kydonieus  
Allison Martin

Roman Mondillo  
Grace Mulaski  
Ethan Olenick  
Anastasia Poljevka  
Julia Vessoni

We will miss them all and congratulate them on their many accomplishments



St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon  
Township Touch-a-Truck



## Missions Team

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

### We Are One With Our Brothers and Sisters

On June 1st, checks, cash, and coin boxes will be collected during worship for One Great Hour of Sharing. In the past, this offering helped fearful refugees, pregnant women in developing countries, hurricane victims in NJ and NY, and malnourished children around the world. Be as generous as you can. Make checks to BRC with OGHS on the memo line. Designated envelopes are available in each pew. If you cannot be in church on the 1st, please bring your offering on June 8th.



### Help and Get in Shape!

Stretch, pull, lift, dig! Stretch, pull, lift, dig! What better way to take care of yourself than to help create a garden for the women of Crawford House. You will enjoy the camaraderie, fresh air, and . . . stretching! If you can, bring your garden gloves, rake, hoe, shovel, etc. The time is 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Crawford House on Sunset Road. Let Ethel know what date or dates are best for you. Call her at 908-359-6027.

#### Gardening Dates

June 9  
June 23  
July 14  
August 11  
September 15

When making your own gardening purchases, please stop by Belle Mead Co-op and thank them for their very generous donation of seed and plants to our mission project of the Crawford House gardens. (We never know when we are going to be gifted by “angels unawares”.—Hebrews 13:2) Thank you, Belle Mead Co-op.

## Proclaiming Team

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

### Third Graders Learn about Blawenburg and BRC



On May 21, 22, and 23, over 400 Montgomery third graders came in groups of 50 to our church to learn about what life was like in Blawenburg in the past 200 years. They learned about how the church broke away from Harlingen and became the centerpiece of Blawenburg.

There are always humorous moments. This year a young man thought that the church was over 3,000 years old because he added our current year, 2014, to 1832 instead of subtracting to find out how old the church is. When asked what people do in a house of worship, a girl responded, "Worship idols?" (Yikes!) When asked how they knew the church was old, some students said that the church looked old or that the date on the outside was 1830. One student said, "Because there are cobwebs on the door." They were informed that those were 2014 spider webs!

This program has been repeated for many years in partnership with the school system. Students also visit the old schoolhouse that Len Hunt restored behind Orchard Hill Elementary School and the Campbell Farm on River Road

*From the perspective of those of us who were privileged to observe, it was evident that Dave Cochran remarkably made an impression on each and every third grade class in Montgomery last week here at our church. All classes were given the unique opportunity to gain from his knowledge, as well as witness his love for this church. He was gentle as well as engaging. The children were attentive and filled with energetic excitement after their time with him. They left with a better understanding of such an historic church, and we can only attribute such credit to Dave.*

# Birthday B-B-Q



**Wednesday, June 18**

Noon to 1:00 PM

Hamburgers, Hot dogs,  
Salads, and Cupcakes

\$5 per person

*Plus a canned good for the Montgomery Food Pantry  
(in connection with the Somerset County BOBO program)*

Blawenburg Reformed Church  
424 Route 518



# Eagle Scout Project---DONE!!!!

By Jean Beachell

Jon Kaufmann from Scout Troop 46 has completed his Eagle Scout project in the front of Blawenburg Reformed Church. He has given us a resting place consisting of two beautiful cedar benches placed on a gravel area right in the front of the church. These benches have been donated by Memorial money from Frances Ficken and Leonard Hunt and will have plaques placed on them stating that fact. He also placed a cement pad from the west parking lot to the cement walk which helps those who have trouble negotiating the step up from our driveway to the front walk. Blawenburg Church would like to congratulate and thank Jon for all of his planning, meeting, organizing, and hard work to make this project a success. He still has some expenses that need to be covered; so if anyone would like to contribute, you may send a check to Blawenburg Church, made out to Jon Kaufmann, and write Eagle Project donation in the memo line.

As you are driving by sometime, look over and see what a nice looking addition this makes to our church. Or, better yet, come to church a little early and rest a few minutes on a bench! Thank you, Jon.



Diana & Don and Ginny & Jean enjoying the benches on Memorial Day Sunday.



**Graduates**  
Congratulations to all of our graduates!



College:

TJ Van Liew—Castleton State University

8th Grade:

PDS: Linnéa and Palmer

Montgomery UMS: Marie and Angelina

BVS:

Allison Martin

*We apologize if we missed you. Please let us know and we will add you next month.*

**A Tribute . . .**

. . . to one who has earned the right to be proud, but is so humble that she won't outwardly acknowledge her achievements. Therefore, I have kindly been given the opportunity to do so, and I will take full advantage.

On Saturday morning, May 10, I was privileged to attend the graduation of Nancy Curtis at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. After an arduous two-year program in which she excelled, she received her Certificate in Theological Studies.

Her family, as well as Alan Taback and I, were so proud to witness the outcome of her success. The following picture was taken just after the ceremony. Nancy is joined by David, Caitlyn, and of course, Bernice.

Nancy, your friends at Blawenburg fully recognize your accomplishment. Moreover, we are so appreciative of what you do, seen yet more importantly, unseen.



Bernice, Caitlyn, Nancy and David

Sincerely,  
Barb Reid, on behalf of BRC

**Thank you!**

Thank you to the Consistory and the congregation for their generous gift of paying my student loan. I truly appreciate the thoughtfulness of the gift. The New Brunswick Theological Seminary Certificate program is a wonderful program and I would encourage others to consider taking classes there.

Nancy Curtis

May 15, 2014

Dear Advancement and External Relations Colleagues,

With joy and yet sadness I will be saying goodbye to each of you soon. I have accepted a call as head of staff of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, Mississippi.

My time here at Princeton Seminary has been more exciting and rewarding than I could ever have asked or imagined. Part of the reason is because I have been able to work with each one of you. Thank you for your amazing work, your dedication to PTS, and of course, your good humor! That being said, many of you know that even with the thrill of working here at Princeton, I am without a doubt hard-wired for parish ministry.

In discussing the possibility for this position with President Barnes, we agreed that the unique sense of place that pervades the Delta, along with the rich history of Greenville, makes it an adventure well worth consideration. Consideration soon became a visit, which became a beginning of friendships, which became a call, which has begun a story of love in the Lord.

Having been fascinated with the Delta all my life; plus, like many Mississippians, having pined occasionally for a return to my home state; now I have my chance. I have served churches in the U.S. and overseas; north and south; large and small. It is a good time to go back to my home state.

Many are curious about Greenville. It is the jewel of the Delta, on the Mississippi River, and the largest by far of the Delta cities. It is the central export point for the cotton and produce from the vast farmlands bordering the Mississippi River from Memphis to Vicksburg. It is the home of famous authors such as Shelby Foote (historian, novelist, and a narrator of PBS's widely acclaimed *Civil War* series), Walker Percy, William Alexander Percy, Willie Morris (actually from Yazoo), Hodding Carter, and many others. William Faulkner seemed to go to Greenville every time he needed inspiration, staying months at a time with the Percys. Greenville is home to one of the great regional restaurants of our nation; great blues music; and is, oddly, the tamale capital of the nation. Yes, I *love* tamales!

I will be in my office through May 15, then around (in and out of) Princeton for a couple of more months. I will begin my new ministry in mid-July.

Yo te amo en el amor del Señor.

Faithfully,

*Bob*

William Robert Sharman III, Class of 1984

## Consistory Highlights

### May 15, 2014

Here are some things that happened at the May Consistory Meeting that we thought you'd like to know:

1. BRC will be honored by the local Boy Scout district in June for our 50 years of sponsorship of Troop 46.
2. The One Great Hour of Sharing wraps up on June 1 with a multicultural worship service.
3. The Properties Team has been busy getting new gutters behind Cook Hall, getting estimates for Cook Hall drainage and BVS insulation, and running a workday on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Finance Team is working hard to curb expenses. As a result, we have been able to slightly reduce our draw down from investments this year.
5. BVS is doing well. They have a balanced budget and preliminary enrollment for next year is good.
6. Ethel Terhune was nominated by Consistory to be an elder (again). She is replacing Gracie Johnson on Consistory. Gracie was thanked for her leadership, and Ethel was elected at the Congregational Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
7. Carlos Corro will be doing a 10-week internship through Princeton Seminary this summer. He will preach each Sunday through August 3 except for June 15.
8. Dr. Bob Sharman has accepted a position as the Senior Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Greenville, Mississippi. He has ended his time at the seminary and will begin his new position in mid-July. He will preach at BRC on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
9. We will have combined worship with Griggstown and Rocky Hill on August 17, 24, and 31. Details are still being worked on.
10. Consistory voted to continue our partnership conversation with Marble Collegiate. Rev. David Kahler, Bob Bradsell, and Dave Cochran will meet with MCC in NYC on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Both our Minister Carlos Corro and our Supervisor the Rev. David Kahler will attend General Synod in Pella, Iowa in June.



## From the Properties Team

Thank you to everyone—including our scouts from Troop 46—who came out and helped at the church clean-up day in May.

The Scouts moved many cartons (old records and archives) from Memorial Hall back to Cook Hall. Then they cleared overgrown shrubs and brush along the property line at our Parsonage.



Work to replace shingles on the porch roof of Cook Hall was begun and is now completed! A rotted window and sill in the church basement was removed and its replacement is on order.



Several ladies worked in the church. The globes and prisms on the chandelier and side lights were cleaned. Window sills were cleaned. Some of the pews were cleared of chipped and flaky paint. Then the cushions and floors were vacuumed. More cleaning is needed. We would like to set up a mid-week cleaning time during the week of June 9th or early in July. It could be a morning, afternoon, or evening—whatever works best in your schedule. Please call me if you are able to help. Our kitchen and the church are in need of cleaning. Your time and help will be much appreciated. Thanks.



The Properties Team is reviewing solutions to the drainage problems affecting the church basement and Cook Hall. Insulation and energy efficiency in the Old Schoolhouse remain high on our list of needs.

And FYI—in an effort to cut expenses, we have asked Kevin to discontinue the mowing of the ball field behind Memorial Hall. This should save half of our mowing expense.

Ethel Terhune  
908-359-6027

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



## Anniversaries

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | John & Martha Van Zandt |
| 5  | Rick & Lisa White       |
| 21 | Helen & Art Brown       |
| 22 | Dave & Evelyn Cochran   |
| 24 | Alan & Peggy Querec     |

- |    |                      |    |              |
|----|----------------------|----|--------------|
| 7  | Alan Querec          | 18 | Nancy Curtis |
| 7  | Bernice Van Nostrand | 20 | Don Thiel    |
| 14 | Dave Cochran         | 26 | Ariel Meyer  |

## Summary of Dates

See earlier articles for more details.

- |            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| June 1     | 10 AM   | OGHS multicultural worship service; communion (See p. 8.) |
| June 5     | By 6 PM   | Mary's and Martha's Book Group-Bernice's (See p. 5.)      |
| June 6     | Morning   | BVS to Doyle's Unami Farm, Hillsborough                   |
| June 8     | 9:50 AM   | Special Prelude-organ loft (See p. 4.)                    |
|            | 10 AM   | Worship-Minister Carlos Corro                             |
| June 9     | 6:15 PM   | Gardening at Crawford House (See p. 8.)                   |
| June 12    | 7:30 PM   | Consistory—Cook Hall                                      |
| June 12-13 | 9:00 AM   | Donuts with Dad (BVS Father's Day) - Cook Hall            |
| June 15    | 10 AM   | Worship with Dr. Bob; Installation of Elder Ethel Terhune |
| June 16    | 9 AM  | BVS graduation (See p. 6.) - Cook Hall                    |
| June 18    | 12—1 PM   | Birthday BBQ - Cook Hall (See p. 10.)                     |
| June 25    | <b>Deadline for July/August Beacon material</b> |   |

## Plan Ahead

- |        |           |                         |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------|
| July 7 | 9 AM-1 PM | BVS Summer Camp begins. |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------|

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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](mailto:BRC1832@verizon.net)  
Editor: Barbara Pavlicek  
Publisher: Nancy Curtis

Website: [www.BlawenburgChurch.org](http://www.BlawenburgChurch.org)  
Phone: 609-466-3108, Emergency: 908-304-2627

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