



The Blawenburg Beacon

October, 2012

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

**You Can Have a Say In the Future of the RCA
Read On**



***Don't miss your chance to help shape the
RCA's priorities for the decade to come!***

Participation is free!

*Come for a few hours of worship, prayer, dialogue, discernment, and sharing.
You'll work together to discern what the RCA will look like 10 years from now
and determine where the RCA needs to focus in order to reach God's future vision.*

For more information or to register, visit www.rca.org/discovery.

Discovery is a four-hour discernment experience for RCA members. Together, the people at these events will continue to refine the RCA's understanding of its continuing call to mission and ministry. All RCA members are invited to participate. Make plans to take part in Discovery on October 27 at United Reformed Church, Somerville NJ: 9am-2 pm
Register now for a Discovery gathering.

(Gracie Johnson has signed up for this event. She invites and encourages anyone else to go with her. If you need help with registration, she will be happy to give you a hand.)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Continue to pray for: Bob Bradsell, Bob Callahan, Charles Fetter, Fran Ficken, Wyatt Geisel, Vickie Hug, Bette Janutolo, LaFerne Keller, the Kvartha Family, Paula Peters, Winston Peters, Anne (Van Zandt) Somary, Louise Taback, Don Terhune, Clara Throckmorton, Mait Van Nostrand.

Paula Peters
Bridgeway Care Center
395 Amwell Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

The Surgery of Ken Bradsell, former pastor (Thankfully, on the mend)

Description of surgery (September 25th) by brother Bob:

He's getting major surgery. A new 'bionic' aorta (or part of it), because of an aneurism; and a replacement heart valve from a horse.

Update by wife Marcia on day of surgery:

Well....We have made it through surgery with flying colors. Ken's surgery was about 5 hours and it went very smoothly with no complications. It started at 8:30 a.m. and was done by 1:30 p.m. He had the aneurism corrected and the great news was he did not need the valve replaced.

Rachel and I just returned from visiting him (8 p.m.) and he was sitting up eating ice chips. His throat was dry from the tube that had been in his throat. He was in and out of sleeping and we had the greatest conversation about his nurse who was Korean and he could not pronounce her name so kept calling her "Honey" instead of HunHee. (Korean) So he is doing well. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. God surely works miracles and I think God has more work for Ken to do in his ministry.

Visiting hours are noon to 8 p.m. if you care to visit. But just remember rest is most important right now and if you are willing to wait.....our home will be open for visits after Saturday (It looks like the day they are letting him out). We/he would love to have you over for coffee/tea or a bit of wine...in celebration.....(Ha-Ha) God's Blessings to each of you.....Marcia

Gratitude and observation by Bob:

Thanks, Marcia. Not getting the heart valve will probably make his recovery that much easier. The fact that he's flirting with the nurses is def a good sign...

A note from Ken via Bob on Sunday, September 30th:

This one is direct from me. I arrived home yesterday (Saturday evening) after enduring one more 4-hour IV just for fun. Thanks to each and all of you for your cards, prayers, emails, and personal notes. When you are healthy you don't get the opportunity to know how much all those things mean on the long road to recovery...which from today's vantage point looks like a long haul. I suspect Marcia explained, once the surgical team got to my aorta on Tuesday that had to remove two aneurysms, one on the aortic root and one on the ascending part of the aorta. So, twice "spliced" and sutured with synthetic parts. The aortic valve was removed and scraped of deposits, then replaced, a procedure called the

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MEET YOUR CONSISTORY

BY BOB BRADSELL

When many of us think of **JEAN BEACHELL**, we think *flowers*. But there's more to our newest elected Deacon. In fact, she'd probably attach that label to someone else in BRC's past. Jean was elected Deacon last spring, and is serving a first term on Consistory...but not for the first time. She was born in Kansas. And while she has been seen in red shoes, and can, with a click, turn the church into a flowery showplace, Jean's as down-to-earth as they come when the need is for straight-on leadership in a time of change.

Born Jean Yoder to a farm family near the town of Conway, Kansas, young Jean experienced more than her share of *hard knocks*. Her father had taught industrial arts at a high school in Iowa and coached (hmmm...that's interesting) before answering a familiar call at the time . . . to take over the family farm from his father. But at a very young age, Jean's dad died of lymphatic cancer. Jean, less than a year old, her slightly older adopted sister, Janis, and their mom moved to nearby McPherson, Kansas. Jean's mom remarried when Jean was four, but within a year, she, too, died . . . from nephritis, one of those conditions that today would likely not have been fatal.



Jean with Dave and Alan at Consistory installation.

Jean and sister Janis went to live with her mom's oldest sister, Aunt Vera, and her husband, Dan, in McPherson. It was an unsettling time, to say the least. Jean had just started in school, and while she stayed in the same town, she did have to change schools.

As children, Jean and her sister attended the local *Brethren Church*. The Brethren denomination, familiar in the Midwest, has its roots in the Amish tradition, though it's considered less "strict" than either the Amish or the related Mennonite faith. Jean does recall her "full immersion" baptism, though, at the age of 12.

"Janis was a better student," Jean says. But they both were able to enroll in the local college, McPherson College, affiliated with the Brethren Church. As it turns out, Jean's grandfather had been a trustee at McPherson, and quite influential in its early years. He would have been considered a lay leader in the Brethren faith, and traveled as far as Asia to help supervise the church's missionaries there.

As a sociology major, Jean was drawn to several endeavors that her faith would no doubt have approved of. During summer breaks, she and classmate Rayna headed off to Colorado to help out at the Easter Seal Handicamp for handicapped kids; and to Elgin, Illinois, to work with women in a locked ward at a state-run mental hospital.

Classmate Rayna played another instrumental role in Jean's life . . . introducing her to a McPherson student from New Jersey named Jim Beachell. Rayna insisted that Jean invite this east coast guy to a Sadie Hawkins dance. She did. They dated. *And the rest*, as they say . . .



After graduation, Jean came east for the summer and worked at “The Institute” in Skillman. Jim Beachell’s dad was the Director of Nursing there, and his parents lived on the campus. Jim hadn’t yet graduated from McPherson, so in the fall they returned to Kansas, and Jean found a job as a social worker in Wichita, about an hour away.

In August, 1968, the old Brethren Church in McPherson played host to the Beachell clan from New Jersey as their own Jean Yoder got married. Jim finished his degree work in December, and in January 1969, the Beachells moved to New Jersey. Jim started teaching at North Hunterdon High School, and was soon offered a position at his own alma mater, Princeton High School. They wanted him to teach industrial arts and coach the football team (hmmm . . . that’s interesting). Jim said “yes”. They moved. And Jean signed on with New Jersey Children’s Services – as DYFS was called at the time – as a social worker.

Their own children soon followed. Jennifer was born in April ’72, and Jill came along in November ’75. As we’ve heard in other stories, it’s often the children who bring families to church. So it was in this case, but with a twist. “We were looking for a church for the kids,” Jean says. But Blawenburg members Jane and Larry May introduced them to BRC. They knew them from McPherson where Larry had been a student. The Mays have since relocated in Kentucky.

The Beachell children grew up in our church, and Jean was drawn more and more into the life of the church. “I made lasting friends,” Jean says, “and I felt at home here.”

Ken Bradsell was the pastor when Jean arrived. Jean babysat for his son, Adam. And events like Tootenstelling attracted her. Before long, she was chairing a roast beef dinner, and other leadership roles would come her way. During David Blauw’s pastorate, Jean was elected as Deacon for the first time. Since then, she’s served as Elder . . . twice. Today, Jean is serving on Consistory for the fourth time.

One of the early friends in Jean’s life at BRC was a woman named Ginny Miller. Ginny was into flowers in a big way, and Jean caught the bug. Jean took a course in floral design that Ginny taught, and she eventually worked with Ginny in her local flower shop. Later, Jean took additional courses in floral design. And today, of course, her name is synonymous with beautiful floral arrangements of all kinds. But it was this early Blawenburg Church friend who planted that seed, and set Jean on a path that we’ve all benefited from.

Family, as always, is important to Jean and Jim Beachell. Daughter Jill married Mike O’Neill in 2007. They live in nearby Bucks County, PA, with granddaughter McKenna, age 3, and grandson James, who is now 1. Daughter Jennifer married Deryle House in 2009. They live a little further away, in Arlington, VA. When Jean’s not busy at the church, or arranging flowers for some event, chances are, she’s spending time with some of these people.

Say “hello” to Jean, and thank her for all she does for the church. You’ll generally find her seated in the center section, on the east side of the sanctuary, about halfway up from the back. And be sure to ask her why she has November 3rd marked prominently on her calendar.



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!*

With Princeton Seminary celebrating its special anniversary, Pastor Bob is being called to travel on their behalf several times in the coming months. As we go to press with this Beacon, your Worship Team is working to fill our pulpit with inspiring preachers and our sanctuary with inspiring music. Our talented and dedicated Barbara Antoniewicz does, after all, need a break occasionally! Barbara, thank you. You make our spirits sing!

	<u>Preaching:</u>	<u>Musical Accompaniment:</u>
Oct. 7	Pastor Bob World Communion Sunday	Kathleen Connolly, Organist
Oct. 14	T/B/A	Matthew Schwinghammer, Organist
Oct. 21	Pastor Bob	Matthew Schwinghammer, Organist
Oct. 28	T/B/A	Gaylord French, Organist

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"David" procedure named after a doctor from, I believe Mass General. This avoided implanting a metal valve and the complications that could cause later in life...plus the life long dread of being called click."

The days ahead will be slow going. First off I am 10lbs heavier...fluid build-up that should go away. I get to wear white stockings which look like panty hose. They are to prevent blood clots and Marcia thinks they are quite attractive! It took from 5:30 AM until 8AM to dress this morning. That included 30 minutes sitting in front of the bathroom sink trying to brush my teeth. Shower is also a sitting experience. As you all know, last weekend I officiated at Adam and Jenny's wedding. Rachel (daughter and assistant charge nurse) said yesterday, "so now I see what all that 'for better/for worse, richer/poorer, in sickness and health stuff is really about, yuck!

Thanks again....time for a walk around the dining room table...the social event of the afternoon. By the way, I am not answering the phone and I am ignoring email...doctor's orders!

Blessings,

Ken

Cheer on Ken and Marcia with a card but **no** email just yet.

They would love to hear from friends far and wide.

405 North Monroe St.
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
KBradsell@RCA.org

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

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

Any adults and/or youth who would like to volunteer occasionally to ‘man’ the nursery during church, please let Gracie know.

We invite kids of all ages to join us for fun activities and lessons planned around our mission projects this fall:

- The women's study and prayer group will meet on Saturday, October 6 at 8 AM. The book they will discuss is Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home by Rhoda Janzen. All women and friends of the church are invited. Come for a light breakfast, fellowship, prayer, and a good laugh at Ms. Janzen's observations of her life.



This group meets in Cook Hall lounge from 10 to 11:30 AM. They are reading and discussing A Gospel for the World (Selected Studies in Romans) by David Bast. Since there were mixed feelings about the book and the author's style of writing, the group decided

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Prayer Is In the Air In the RCA— individually and corporately

by Barbara Pavlicek

Late in September Sonya Hunt, Gracie Johnson, Bernice Van Nostrand, and I and about 100 other women from Reformed churches and other denominations were treated to a lovely breakfast (on china, no less, on a Saturday morning!) at the 22nd Annual North Branch Reformed Church Women's Breakfast. The title of the message presented by Pastor Scarlet Gorton of Brookdale Reformed Church in Bloomfield was "Pray for One Another!" She shared some of her life experiences with prayer and also shared different styles of praying so that we can vary our prayer time. The most challenging style of prayer is the 90-Day Prayer Commitment. Choose a partner, then: set a prayer time; state what you are thankful for; pray for yourself; repeat the prayer for your partner; add a minute of silence; prayer partner keep this commitment over breakfast, and possibly even during the day. This time commitment has definitely been a challenge for them to have stuck to it and are half way



This breakfast speaker made me wonder how we as a church pray either together or individually. These are a few of the ways that came to mind. We pray corporately in worship or individually before Consistory and on re-meetings for our village preschool. The BVS trustees pray before Mary's and Martha's pray on Saturday mornings for each other's concerns and talk a lot [which we say is a kind of prayer, so Bernice consolidates our list it out.) The Tuesday morning Bible study group prays for our church and personal concerns. And, the last man in gets to say grace at the men's breakfast! These are some of the ways our church folk pray. Others have said they pray while sitting at a red light or while driving (certainly beats texting), or at work, or while working in the kitchen with a devotional book propped up on the sink. Still others pray in the dark, sleepless night or in the morning in a quiet corner of the room with a prayer basket that holds her Bible, pen, pad or journal, and snack. We learned recently in a sermon about "dialogue prayer" as a way of getting back to God when you don't feel much of a relationship with Him yourself. (Journaling As a Spiritual Practice: Encountering God Through Attentive Writing by Helen Cepero, InterVarsity Press)

With our denomination as a whole, you saw on the first page of this newsletter that the future of the Reformed Church in America is worshipping, praying, and talking together about our future. It is nice to know that people in our little church in Blawenburg are praying alone as well as together, that women of faith come together for breakfast and prayer, and that the denomination—country wide—is looking prayerfully to the future of our faith. It helps to see the larger picture as we pray in our own way in our corner of the country.



"... and pray for each other. ..."

James 5:16 (NIV)





Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

The 2012 - 2013 school year is off to a great start! All classes have settled in nicely and are looking forward to the many upcoming events in October.

The Children and Worship program is starting this month. The students in all classes will participate in Bible Story with Mrs. Van Nostrand. Our music and movement program will also begin in October. All classes will join Karen Hill weekly to explore the wonders of music.

On Friday, October 12th, we will be visiting Norz Hill Farm in Hillsborough. Our students will be learning about various farm animals, as well as enjoying a hayride to the pumpkin patch, where they will pick their own pumpkin.

School pictures will be taken on Friday, October 19th.

The month will end with our annual Trunk or Treat Halloween festivities on Tuesday, October 30th and Wednesday, October 31st.

There are limited openings available in some programs for the 2012-2013 school year. If interested please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to blawenburgvillageschool.com.



The BVS Highway—Eagle Scout project being well used.



The BVS Buds making applesauce.

* * * * *

Missions Team

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

Mark your calendars to help us with these upcoming mission activities:

October 21st – Cropwalk for Hunger at MUMC – early afternoon (Solicit sponsors/donors 9/30-10/21.)

November 4th-11th – Collect, pack, and deliver Operation Christmas Child shoe-boxes

December 1st-31st - Heifer Project

CROP Hunger Walk
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
1:30 PM
Montgomery United Methodist Church



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 this year at Montgomery Methodist on Sunset Road, at 1:30 on Sunday, October 21st. The easy five-mile walk starts at 2 p.m. Please join us!

Two thousand communities across the country take part in CROP Hunger Walks to raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger fighting. We walk to be in solidarity with hungry people in developing countries who typically walk as many as six miles a day to get food, water and fuel and to take their goods to market. We walk to end hunger 'one step at a time'. In the last two years our walk has raised \$38,680 and collected 233 jars of peanut butter.

Habitat:

On June 30th, Jotham and Gracie Johnson joined volunteers from other area Reformed churches to work on the Habitat house being built in Lambertville. Volunteers are needed on **November 10th** when you would also work with other Reformed church folk. Skilled and unskilled are all welcome and needed. Email Gracie Johnson if interested: gtuckerbj@gmail.com.

Laptops for UFAR:

If you are trading up to a new laptop or iPad for school and have a working laptop you don't need, the organization working to combat 'river blindness' in the Congo could use it. Email Gracie J. She will get it to them.

Church World Service Kits

Many thanks to those who knitted, sewed, shopped, donated and helped wrap our much needed kits for Church World Service. Thanks to all of your efforts, we were able to pack up 7 Baby Kits, 27 Hygiene Kits and 25 School Bags. We will deliver these to a church at the shore from where they are then delivered to a warehouse in Maryland and ready to be shipped at a moment's notice to the next area struck by natural or human disaster- a Joplin, MO or a Sudan! These supplies are rapidly depleted!



Nancy, Alan, Olivia &
Gracie packing the CWS kits.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November 4–11, 2012



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, the 4th and maybe again on the 11th 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 4 & 11!



Mike showing insert form
and wrapped shoebox

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.

Proclaiming Team

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

Facebook - did you know that Blawenburg Reformed Church is on Facebook?

When you are on Facebook, search for Blawenburg Reformed Church and

"Like" us to receive regular updates on what's happening.

Thanks to Nancy D'Alessandro for setting this up.

Men's Breakfast Group

We have decided to have breakfast once a month, instead of every week. We will serve breakfast on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30 AM. Please mark your calendars, but reminders will be sent out.

October 25

November 29

December 27

Our first breakfast was Thursday, 9/27. Four men gathered for conversation, coffee and coffeecake (and bacon and eggs). Mait was greatly missed—there was no one to set the table!



Sinterklaas...Save the date!

We will be hosting 'Sinterklaas' on **December 8th**. This is just a reminder to put up those preserves while harvest time is here, begin making soups, and to 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. We would also love to have brand-new toys donated that you might have leftover from birthday gifts, etc. If you don't have unwanted toys in your home and you see a neat toy on sale, please consider purchasing it and donating it to the sale. 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.



Last year's best Craft Table seller -
Mug Rugs

News from the Administrator's Office

Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00 to 3:00 (possibly out at lunchtime with the Sunday deposit)

Tuesday: 9:00 to 2:00 in the kitchen - feel free to stop by or call my cell

Wednesday: 9:00 to noon; 1:00 to 3:00

Thursday: 9:00 to noon; visitation in the afternoon

Friday: 9:00 to 1:30 then Crawford House

My cell phone is with me and I am available if I am not in the office. I love to text!

If you have a personal emergency, call my cell phone (908-304-2627) and I will get the information to Dr. Bob.

The month of October is busy for Cook Hall building use. The Boy Scouts will be here on October 1 and 30, AA meets every Tuesday evening, and the Sourland Hills Actors Guild will be meeting every Wednesday and Thursday for the entire month.

Lunches for Locals

October, 2012

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 2

Potato soup, chicken parm, brownies

October 9

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

October 16

Vegetable soup, lasagna, lemon squares

October 23

Cream of mushroom soup, sausage & peppers, pudding

October 30

Gumbo soup, taco salad, whoopie pies

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 6	8:00 AM	Mary's & Martha's (See page 6.)
October 11	7:30 PM	Consistory
October 14	10:00 AM	Worship with T/B/A
October 21	1:30 PM	CROP Walk at Montgomery United Methodist (See page 10.)
October 27	9:00 to 2:00	Discovery Event—RCA conversation (See page 1.)
October 28	10:00 AM	Worship with T/B/A
October 29		Beacon Deadline for articles, information, photos and dates for the Summary of Dates

Sundays	10:00 AM	Worship with Dr. Sharman unless otherwise posted
Tuesdays	10-11:30 AM	Adult Bible Study in the lounge (See page 6.)
Tuesdays	11:30 to 1:00	Outreach Lunch (See p. 13 for menus.)

Last Thursday 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Club (See page 12.)

See Other "Dates to Remember" on pages 6 & 9.

Future Dates to Remember:

Sinterklaas—December 8 (See page 12.)
BVS Concert—December 8
Community Christmas Service—December 9

Our resident artist, Suzanne Hunt, was awarded 1st Place in the Mercer County Senior Art Show at Meadow Lakes. The winning artwork is now in the New Jersey Senior Art Show at Meadow Lakes until October 26th.

Suzanne will be showing 34 of her watercolors at the HeART and Soul art exhibit at the Brick Church at 91st & Park Avenue in New York City on October 23rd from 5:30 to 8:00 PM with Terri Lindvall.

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Dated Material

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