



The Blawenburg Beacon

November, 2014

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

Dear Members, Visitors, and Friends of Blawenburg Reformed Church,

Greetings! I am excited to be writing this to you as Blawenburg Reformed Church's new minister. To those we have already met, my wife Emily and son Gabe join me in thanking you for your warm welcome. All of us look forward to getting to know you better as we settle into the Blawenburg community.

In the Gospel of John Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (10:10). "Abundant life." What does that mean to you? As we all seek happiness and meaning through all sorts of pursuits today, what might Jesus's promise of abundant life have to do with you, with me, and with the congregational life of Blawenburg Reformed Church in 2014 and beyond?

It is no secret that many in our society today possess more, but are not sure what for. Others are falling farther and farther behind. Many in this area have lucrative occupations, but are uncertain of their deeper vocation. Many among us have numerous acquaintances, but yearn for the joy of true friendship. Many of us have deep questions about God and the directions of our lives, but are not sure how to voice them in church, or wonder if participating in church will even make a difference at all. Though there is apparent abundance and expertise all around us in this New York - Philadelphia - Princeton region, persistent needs abound too.

My aim as your minister is to prayerfully discern with you how our congregation may be a place where the promised abundant life of Christ meets the abundant needs of ourselves, our loved ones, our friends, colleagues, and neighbors today. Throughout the Gospels, whenever those in need encountered Jesus their lives were never the same. They left his presence more loving, more grateful, more generous - in a word, more *life-giving*. This is the vision I hope stirs us to create new and faithful ministry for the Blawenburg area today.

I am so privileged to have the opportunity to serve a congregation with a history as storied and a presence as woven into the fabric of a community like Blawenburg Church. Let's honor that history by beginning to construct a bridge together to a vibrant future. Whether you have been a member of BRC for years, are an occasional visitor, or someone who has drifted away from church for whatever reason, I look forward to meeting you and hearing your story. What are your gifts for ministry? Where do your passions lie? Where do you think the abundant life of Christ can meet an abundant need in our community? Drop me an email or give me a call. I would love to hear your responses.

Until then, hope to see you in worship or over coffee soon.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Travis B. Winckler



Our new pastor is hard at work
at the Church Clean Up Day

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The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a family 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

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

Sunday Scripture Readings for November –

Join us in reading ahead the Word on which Pastor Travis will be preaching:

November 2	Matthew 23:1-12	“Under the Mask”	Communion
	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDED LAST NIGHT!		
	WATCH YOUR CLOCKS!		
November 9	Matthew 25:1-13		
November 16	Matthew 25:14-30		
November 23	Matthew 25:31-46		
November 30	Mark 13:24-37	1 ST Sunday of Advent—	Communion

Pastor Travis's Contact info

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 1-4 or by appointment
(Except for the first Tuesday of the month when he is attending meetings at Marble.)

Pastor's Prep Time: Mondays at the PTS library

Pastor's Sabbath: Fridays

Email: traviswinckler@icloud.com

Twitter:

For Travis's musings on life and faith, follow Travis on Twitter: @traviswinckler and make sure you receive BRC's weekly email and monthly newsletter.

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Blawenburg Reformed Church
Consistory Highlights
Meeting of October 8, 2014

David Cochran, VP, welcomed Pastor Travis Winckler to his first Consistory meeting.

Travis then led us in devotions encouraging us to use discernment –where do you see God in your life this week? In your journey? In your church? Let us shift our focus from what we are doing to what God is doing. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

Announcements were made about a Classis workshop; the CROP Hunger Walk; church work day; and old books found in our archive files.

Minutes from the September Consistory meeting were approved.

Correspondence: A thank-you note was read by the Clerk from the Rev. David Kahler for the church's gift for his supervisory guidance during our pastoral search. The VP read a letter of resignation from Nancy Curtis, Administrative Assistant. Pastor Travis refused to accept the resignation.

Team Reports: Pastor Travis shared his worship plans with the **Worship Team**. Barbara Pavlicek reported that the **Missions Team** had surpassed its goal by filling 10 Baby Kits and 18 School Kits. The CROP Hunger is coming up on October 19th. Ethel Terhune reported for the **Properties Team** that parsonage projects will start by October 20th. The Team would like help from Marble Collegiate Church on grant writing. Jean Beachell reported that the **Finance Team** is paying the bills! She handed out reports from Raymond James, Princeton Wealth Advisors. Jean explained how the 5% from designated investments will be withdrawn and used. She also read a letter from the Naumann family designating how the Naumann Fund should be used. For the **Lifelong Learning** and the **Health/Spirituality Teams**, Alan Taback reported that he and Pastor Travis will meet to discuss future plans. David Cochran reported that the **Communications Team** will meet on October 13th. The team will cooperate more with Marble Colle-

giate through their website. The team also wants the other teams to bring them information for publicity so it is consistent. Travis shared his plans for visitors. The Com Team prepared news releases about Travis Winckler's arrival for the local media. A story written about Jean Skillman by Bob Bradsell appeared in the Montgomery News. MCC has a Blawenburg partnership page on its website. Our Administrative Assistant is looking into a phone number change for the church to 466-1832. The team will discuss future PR and social media with Travis soon. The **Family Life Team** may have a pot-luck luncheon after church in January. The **Hospitality Team** needs a leader and members as well as to discern its function. The **Student Aid Team** put information in the August bulletin. Our one senior this year will be contacted in the spring. Peggy Querec reported that **BVS, our preschool**, is having a great year. Ethel Terhune reported that Ginny Doremus is the new secretary of the **Cemetery Team**. Team members will attend the Classis workshop. A letter was received about the condition of a grave site. There are plans to raise the price of plots and the amount of burials.

Discussion: Pastor's plans and schedule/emergency contact; Sinterklaas; Stewardship 2015 campaign; people seeking money from the church; forming a Personnel Team; adherents as team members.

Action taken: It was moved and approved that the following people be signators for church accounts—Jean Beachell, Bob Bradsell, and David Cochran

Next month's meeting: November 10, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Closing Prayer/Adjournment: Travis closed the meeting with prayer.

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Life-Long Learning Team

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

Nursery – 9:45—11:30 – Noah's Ark Room – Cook Hall, upper level, east end

Our own Emma Murphy, a Junior at Montgomery High School will be our regular caregiver in the Nursery. Emma is Red Cross Babysitting certified as well as certified in Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED. She worked at GSHNJ resident camp, Camp Lou Henry Hoover, as a summer camp counselor as well as an off-season supervisor. Emma will be there every Sunday from 9:45 AM until 11:30 AM. On rare Sundays when needed, our own Morgan Van Liew, certified as a lifeguard, will sub for Emma. They look forward to playing with and caring for your children on Sunday mornings! Feel free to contact Emma about any special nursery needs or questions you may have. Call or email the church office for her contact information.

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 Mary and Martha prayer and book group

The women's book group will meet on Monday, November 17th at 5:45 PM at the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. All women are invited. Please let Bernice know if you will be coming (vns206@aol.com or 908-359-6579). The group will be reading Waiting for Our Souls to Catch Up by Sr. Carol Perry, Resident Bible Scholar, at Marble Collegiate Church, our partner in ministry. As Roland G. Smith, broadcast journalist, author, and poet, says, “Bring your highlighter and your sense of wonder to a comfortable chair and marvel at what you didn't know about Biblical history. Waiting for Our Souls to Catch Up is a must read for all those seeking a spiritual peace in a high-tech world. But most of all bring your appreciation of Sister Carol Perry's scholarly brilliance in refining prayer, faith, and grace. I love this book. I will always have two, my annotated one and another one to give away.”

Gracie Johnson is ordering copies of the book. Please let her know if you would like a copy. The cost is approximately \$9.00.

Tuesday Study Group

This group of men and women continues to meet with Griggstown Reformed Church folks at Thomas Sweet Cafe at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Montgomery Shopping Center. The discussion revolves around a video shown at the beginning of the hour. The group is facilitated by Pastor Dave, Pastor Travis, or one of the group members. Join them for **Bible & Brew Faith Discussions**. Treat yourself to coffee, tea, and a sweet munchie.

Adult Sunday School

Although we now don't have a formal class after worship, feel free to talk over coffee about any questions that may have been raised during the week or during the sermon. Spontaneous discussions are the best classes!



Blawenburg Village School

P.O. Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

The month of October was very busy at BVS. We began our weekly Bible Stories, and Music and Movement Program. We visited Norz Hill Farm where we learned about many farm animals, took a hayride and picked our own pumpkins and gourds. The Montgomery Fire Department shared their fire truck and equipment with our students, and we ended the month with our annual trunk or treat. Many families joined together as our students in parade fashion visited each car in the parking lot. We are looking forward to November as we learn about food, nutrition and Thanksgiving.

Our Mom's Morning Out program is available Monday - Friday (9:00-12:00) for a cost of \$30.00/morning. This program is open to all children ages 2 - 6, so please help us spread the word to any Mom in the community who may need a morning to herself. Students will be provided with a wide range of activities such as; art exploration, science experiments, cooking projects, dramatics and pretend play, stories, music, snack and outdoor activities. Please call or email the school to register.

BVS is participating in Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes are due on November 14th.

Save the Date: The Christmas Concert - A Journey to Bethlehem will be held on Saturday, December 6th at 3:30 in the Church.

We warmly welcome anyone interested in volunteering at BVS. Reading a story, assisting with a craft, or just "playing" is always a fun way to spend an hour. Give us a call or send us an email if you'd like to join the fun.

There are limited openings available in some programs for the 2014-2015 school year. If interested please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to info@blawenburgvillageschool.com.

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We visited Norz Hill Farm where we learned about many farm animals, took a hayride and picked our own pumpkins and gourds.



The Montgomery Fire Department shared their fire truck and equipment with our students



Missions

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

CROP Hunger Walk

Thanks to the six walkers in this year's CROP-WALK and the many supporters in our congregation and community. Blawenburg Church raised \$1865.00 toward Church World Service's work, locally and globally, to feed the hungry and fight the root causes of hunger worldwide. Clare

Schmidt, Barb Pavlicek, Catherine Murphy, Morgan Van Liew, Alex Robson and Gracie Johnson walked the five mile loop from South Branch Reformed Church with Pastor Travis there for

the 'send off' on a beautiful, crisp fall day. We also contributed 11 jars of peanut butter for the local food bank. Special thanks are due to Clare Schmidt who raised a record \$980.00 all by herself! Thank you, Clare!



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HEIFER

Remember Heifer International when planning your Christmas gift giving. This mission project will commence again at Sinterklaas and go through the holidays.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please bring your filled shoeboxes, your bulk purchases, or your financial contributions to Church or to the Missions Table in the basement of Cook Hall by SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

Collection Week:



Nov. 17-24

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Please join us, along with BVS families, in filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, treats and other items suitable for children who are 2-14 years old in countries suffering from natural disasters, wars and endemic poverty. Our young people will be **packing shoeboxes on November 16th**. We hope you can support this outreach effort by packing a shoebox or two or buying bulk items for several shoeboxes and by joining us at Fellowship/coffee hour on November 16! Flat, scored, decorated boxes are available and do not have to be wrapped this year. All you need to do is fold and fill! Then secure the lid with a rubber band only. For packing instructions, go to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ or pick up a flyer at church. (Please note the request for a \$7.00 donation online or put a check made out to Samaritan's Purse in an envelope on top of the gifts in your box to cover shipping and other costs.) If you are unable to join us on the 16th, bring filled shoeboxes, or any variety of gifts for us to fill shoeboxes, to the Mission Table in Cook Hall by the 9th. Items will still be accepted on the 16th. ***If you cannot shop yourself, please consider giving a financial donation, and someone else will shop for you. Make checks payable to Blawenburg Reformed Church with OCC on the memo line. You may also use the Mission Envelopes in the pew or on the back table in the sanctuary for a cash contribution. (Please write your church envelope number on the Mission Envelope to credit your church account if you wish.)***

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, erasers (about 2"), small boxes of crayons or markers, rubber stamps and ink pad sets, small writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS – individually wrapped toothbrush, toothpaste; mild, non-perfumed bar soap like Dove (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth (Home Goods has bulk packaging.), 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), Chapstick/lip gloss.

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.

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Proclaiming

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

Blawenburg Church Men's Breakfast Looks at Using Your Money as a Life Tool

Blawenburg Church's monthly Men's Breakfast will take an interesting look at "wealth management" at its **Thursday, November 13th** event. Montgomery area men are invited to attend this unusual discussion, starting at 7:30am at the Church on Route 518 in the Village of Blawenburg.

Rick White, a partner at **Raymond James Wealth Management** in Princeton, will make a presentation titled *Making the Most of What We Have*, and a discussion will follow. A full, homemade breakfast will be served.

Please make a reservation for this event by November 10th at: 609-466-3108 or BRC1832@verizon.net. There is no charge, but the church does accept donations to defray the costs of the breakfast.

Blawenburg Church is a partner in ministry with New York's Marble Collegiate Church.



SINTERKLAAS BAZAAR Saturday, December 6 9a.m.-2p.m.



The frosts and changing leaves make us think of celebrating winter holidays, of gift-giving, and SINTERKLAAS DAY [actually December 6th]. Plan to join us to celebrate this day and think about how you can help make this event a day of fun and fellowship for our church and our community. We will once again be giving a significant percentage of our profits to missions.

Are you a crafter? Donations for the **SEWING/CRAFT TABLE** will be greatly appreciated by **Bernice Van Nostrand**, Chair. She and her quilting friends have found time to keep up their quilting and sewing this year. Bibs, potholders, knitted dish cloths, baby hats and sweaters, scarves, crazy socks..... what can you think of to make? Hand-made cards, tags and Christmas ornaments and decor? Please put a suggested sale price on your item.

Do you like to cook? Talk to **Evelyn Cochran** or **Jean Beachell** about the **BAKE TABLE**. They can use cookies, candies, breads - like pumpkin and zucchini, cakes and pies, as well as jams and jellies. Please package cookies 6/pkg. All kinds of creative culinary treats are welcome. Please make sure to label everything with all ingredients and your initials.

David Cochran has offered to chair our popular **FROZEN SOUP** table. See his helpful tips on the next page.

It's that time of year again when we will be building up our soup supply for the big sale at Sinterklaas on Saturday, December 6th. Soup sales have been a big hit at previous Sinterklaas events and we would like to continue the tradition this year. We are looking for at least 150 quarts of soup (in pints and quarts). The good news is that if many of us do just a few quarts each, we will reach our goal.



Helpful Tips for Soup Making:

1. Find your favorite recipe.
2. Get soup containers in the basement of Cook Hall. We have both pints and quarts to accommodate different family sizes.
3. Make the soup at your convenience.
4. IMPORTANT: Tape a label on the LID of the soup container that lists the name of the soup and its ingredients.
5. Bring the soup containers to Cook Hall anytime. Be sure to print your name and the name and quantities of your soups in the blue folder near the freezer. Put your soups in the freezer.

That's it! Sit down and relax knowing that you've helped the church raise money for missions and God's work in our church.

Thanks in advance for your help. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask Dave Cochran, Soup Booth Chair at davide99@aol.com.

Have a treasure to pass on? **Peggy Querec** is looking for treasures for the **WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE**. Holiday décor, ornaments and china are appreciated, as well as collectibles and new or gently used items appropriate for gift giving. This will be the spot for any toys this year. Because of our limited space, this is the time and place for your 'treasures', not rummage. Boxes may be left anytime on the floor in the big closet in Cook Hall, clearly marked "White Elephant".

Like to serve and help in the **KITCHEN**? Ask **Gracie Johnson** about her needs for coffee and/or **LUNCH** preparation and clean-up.

HEIFER: And don't forget to count on our mission table for Heifer Int'l. for your gift-giving needs again this year. If you happen upon small stuffed animals or inexpensive books about the animals we buy for the Ark, **Sonya Hunt** would love to have them to sell along with the donation for the animal. It makes a nice gift package for young children learning about the mission of Heifer. [Cows, sheep, camels, oxen, water buffalo, pigs, honeybees, goats, donkeys, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, geese, chicks, and llamas.]

We can also use help with parking, signage, publicity, etc. Any suggestions about other things we could do or offer?? Let us know. Please sign up in Cook Hall for staffing or call/email Gracie Johnson [609-466-1862 gtuckerbj@gmail.com].

Suzanne Hunt will have her beautiful water colors available for sale and Charlotte Corro will again grace us with her popular jewelry and items from Charlotte's Posh accessories - a huge hit last year! The Boy Scouts will have their wreaths for sale for anyone who didn't yet buy one from Cal Urbanski!

BVS will be starting their Scholastic book sale as a fundraiser for the holidays. They will be set up in the center room upstairs in Cook Hall and will be open for Sinterklaas.

Think about making a day of it with us: work, shop and invite friends to join us for Sinterklaas; help us break down after 2 PM; stick around or return for the pre-school holiday concert at 3:30 PM!

The Way We Were and Are



In the great purge and reorganization of church files that recently took place, Ethel Terhune found this postcard of the church from around 1900. It is a rare find because it shows the old sheds behind and beside the church where the horses and buggies were kept during church services. Note the posts close to the road. Were they part of a fence or hitching posts for the horses? The church looks the same, but most importantly, its mission and message remain the same – to love God and love our neighbors.



Like Us on our New Facebook Page.

We recently changed our Facebook account to the church address. For those of you who may have liked us on our old account, please like us again. We like to be liked. In fact, we like to be loved as God loves us! Our page on Facebook is: Blawenburg Church. Check us out and share our good news with your friends.

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



11/12 Grace Terhune
11/22 Gracie Johnson
11/24 Wendy Herbert

Anniversaries

3 Todd Quackenbush & Pamela Wanner
27 Barbara & Bob Bradsell

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

Nov. 1		All Saints' Day
	Fall Back	Set your clocks back one hour.
Nov. 2	10 AM	Worship with Communion
Nov. 10		<i>Deadline for Men's Breakfast Reservations</i>
	4:30 PM	Worship Team Meeting
	7:30 PM	Consistory
Nov. 13	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast (See page 9.)
Nov. 16	10:30 AM	Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing (See page 8.)
Nov. 17		Deadline for December Beacon articles and information
	5:45 PM	Mary's and Martha's at Bernice Van Nostrand's (See page 4.)
Nov. 20-21	9:00 AM	Parsonage Cleaning
Nov. 23		Christ the King Sunday (White)
Nov. 30		First Sunday of Advent (Purple) - Worship with Communion

Watch the liturgical colors change this month from green to white to purple.

Plan Ahead

Dec. 6	9 to 2	Sinterklaas (See page 9.)
	3:30 PM	BVS Christmas Concert

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IT'S TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



We will be placing Poinsettias in the church sanctuary again this year. Anyone wishing to order a Poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of the Season can do so. The cost will be **\$15** again this year for each Poinsettia. Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page, and return it with payment to the church office (or the secretary's box) by **December 1**. If you have any questions please call Nancy at the church office (609-466-3108) or Jean Beachell (609-924-7637). Additional order forms can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to Jean Beachell.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Name _____

Phone _____

Quantity: Red _____ x \$15 = _____

Check Enclosed _____ (payable to Jean Beachell)

Cash Enclosed _____

Dedication: From _____

In honor or memory of: _____
(circle one)

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*The First Presbyterian Church
Greenville, Mississippi*

*Cordially invites the
Saints of Blawenburg Reformed Church*

*To A Service of Installation of
William Robert Sharman, III as Minister*

*November 16, 2014
Greenville, Mississippi*

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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
Minister: Rev. Travis Winckler
Editor: Barbara Pavlicek
Publisher: Nancy Curtis

Website: www.BlawenburgChurch.org
Phone: (609) 466-3108



Blawenburg Reformed Church



A partnering ministry with Marble Collegiate Church