



The Blawenburg Beacon

September, 2012

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

Worship Team

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

Those who were able to attend our joint services with our sister churches this past month enjoyed many treats – literally and figuratively! Once again, it left us with a renewed feeling of solidarity and shared mission and ministry. Thank you to Griggstown,



Rocky Hill, and Harlingen for welcoming us so heartily.



Dave & Evelyn, Alan, Ruth and Grace enjoying fellowship with Jack & Cary Hunt at Harlingen Church.

For those of you who were unable to join us for our joint service at BRC on August 5th, you missed our own Barbara Antoniewicz, sharing her gift of voice and guitar with us, as well as a group Nancy Curtis found for us. “Voices From the Rock”, three male voices, truly ‘rocked’ the house...a musical gift for all!

Nancy Curtis, Barbara Pavlicek, and Barb Antoniewicz will lead us in **worship on September 2nd**. Who could forget Nancy doing the ‘our Father...’ with ‘God’ in the balcony?! Come find out what she has in store for us this time! [1st Sunday communion will be postponed until the following Sunday, the 9th.]

September 9th will find Pastor Bob back in the pulpit.

Organist needed: If you know of talented organists who might accompany our Sunday services on an occasional or regular basis, please let Gracie Johnson know.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Prayers for:

Vickie Hug DeLaCruz who is receiving treatments for breast cancer.

Sonya Hunt who is recovering from leg surgery



Have Questions? Need Help?
info@TakeThemAMeal.com | 800-915-7715



For those times in life when filling their table will warm their hearts.

A meal schedule has been created using TakeThemAMeal.com, and you've been invited to participate! Meals are needed for: **Vickie DeLaCruz** If you would like to sign up, you can access the meal schedule by [clicking here](#), or by visiting TakeThemAMeal.com and locating the schedule by recipient last name (DeLaCruz) and password (vickie). I have included additional notes about this meal schedule below. If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thanks,
Kathy Galvin
993-945-2093
galvinmk@yahoo.com

Consistory Highlights

We joined the digital age a wee bit at our June and July Consistory meetings as we 'skyped' with our Classis Supervisor, the Rev. David Leung-Kahler, who was serving duty at the VA hospital in Brooklyn. It has been helpful to have Pastor David's advice during the meetings.

Consistory has had a number of rental opportunities offered us, thanks in great part to the hard work of Mike Vande Woude. Mike has been working very hard to help us come closer to balancing our budget and managing our relatively large piece of real estate here with as much rental income as possible. Consistory approved the rental of the parsonage and the theater and kitchen/rec. room in Memorial Hall and decided not to rent any space in Cook Hall for now.

Pastor Bob led a Consistory retreat on Friday, August 24th. We prayed, sang, ate, prayed and sang some more and explored ways we might deepen our own faith, reach out to the community in faith and become a meaningful resource to the community around us. We were blessed to have Nancy Curtis join us for this and thankful to Alan and Louise Taback for arranging nourishment from 'Lucy's'.

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.

Hospitality Team

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

Acts of Kindness and Hospitality

(In June, Mait Van Nostrand suffered a series of strokes and a heart attack. He is currently recovering at Foothill Acres, 39 East Mountain Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844, Room 107.)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your loving support during Mait's recovery. I have often fretted over how best to help someone in the same situation, and you have provided my answer. It is not the grand gesture that helps us most. It's the little things that help us cope. Let me list a few "acts of kindness" that have come our way and are so appreciated. These are suggestions that we can all use.

1. Be specific. "I would like to drive you to the hospital on Tuesday" or "I will visit with Mait on Wednesday in case you need to run errands."
2. Write notes, or leave phone messages that don't require answers.
3. Offer to return phone calls for me/us.
4. Bring small snacks that can be eaten later: trail mix, cookies, fruit.
5. Remember, the caregiver needs company--maybe more than the patient.
6. Pray for us. Even weeks later we still need your prayers.
7. Lend a listening ear as we share our worries. (This works really well over a game of Scrabble!)
8. Take the caregiver for a walk around the hospital or rehab center.
9. Run an errand for us.

Many, many more loving things have been done for Mait and me. I appreciate each and every one. I'm sure Wendy and Bob and Don could add ideas to the list.

Thank you for following I Peter 3:8----all of you, having compassion for one another, love as brothers, be tenderhearted..... Bernice and Mait

Check out the Religion page
of the September Montgomery
News for the article on
Blawenburg Hospitality.



Life-Long Learning Team

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

Nursery

Salta summer camp is over and we have the center upstairs room in Cook Hall returned to the Nursery for the year. Any adults and/or youth who would like to volunteer occasionally to 'man' the nursery during church occasionally, please let Gracie know.

Sunday School for K- 6th Grade

Sept. 23rd – First Sunday School class gathering. We will talk about the work of Church World Service and start packing CWS kits and invite adults to join us after church to finish the project at Fellowship time.

Including the activities listed under 'Mission' on pp. 7 & 8, we will be planning hands-on mission activities at least once per month for the children's Sunday School, things like preparing food, writing cards for and visiting shut-ins...doing for others, ways we can share God's love with others. If you know of special needs or ways we can be of help, let Gracie Johnson know.

Adult Sunday School—See next Friday's announcements for the start date of this class.

Adults

In addition to the Tuesday morning study group and the after-church class, both in Cook Hall lounge, check the mission bulletin board in Cook Hall for ongoing postings of learning and volunteer opportunities.

Mary's and Martha's

The women's study and prayer group will resume on Saturday, September 8th at 8:00 a.m. in Cook Hall. They will finalize their book choice for the coming month. The title that has been suggested is Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home by Rhoda Janzen. All women and friends of the church are invited. They will also discuss the possibility of attending the women's breakfast on September 22nd at North Branch Reformed Church. See attached flyer. Also see the attached flyer for the women's afternoon Tea and "Pound" Auction at the First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill. It, too, is on September 22nd.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study Group

This group will meet in Cook Hall lounge on September 18th from 10 to 11:30 AM. Join them to decide what you would like to study this year. One possibility is to read The Story: The Bible As One Continuing Story of God and His People. There is a participant's guide and DVD included.

Pray for One Another!

James 5:16 (NIV)

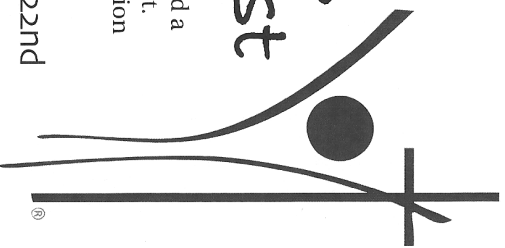
An important way for us to show love to others is to pray for one another. Holding each other up; sustaining each other; God is moved by the prayers of His people.

22nd Annual Women's Breakfast

Please join us for breakfast and a time of fellowship and support. Enjoy an inspirational discussion about praying for others.

Saturday, September 22nd
9:00AM - 11:30AM

North Branch Reformed Church
203 Route 28, Bridgewater, NJ



Scarlet Gorton Guest Speaker

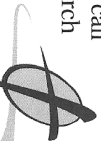
Scarlet is currently serving as pastor of Brookdale Reformed Church in Bloomfield, NJ. Her claim to fame is the amazing things God has done in her life. She has experienced the incredible results of prayer and can testify to the power, grace and mercy of Jesus. Scarlet moved to New Jersey from New Orleans where she was born and raised. She is married to a wonderful husband and has two adult children. She has her Masters of Divinity from New Brunswick Seminary and is currently attending Rutgers University where she and her daughter are working on their MSW and will graduate in May.

Bring Your Daughter!
(age 12 or above)
Bring Your Mother!
Bring Your Friends!

For more information please call
North Branch Reformed Church
908-725-2313

Child care will
be provided.

North Branch
REFORMED CHURCH



"Pound" Auction

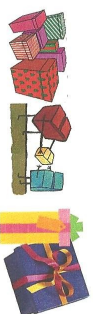
Join us at
First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill

on
Saturday, September 22, 2012,
at 3:00 pm

Got a "Fascinator"?
You know, a "fancy hat".
Wear it!



Bring an item that weighs about a pound -- candy, food, household products, pet treats, useful or just plain fun items. Get creative, then put your "pounder" in an eye-catching wrap or gift bag. Mark it for "male", "female", "child", "pet", or "anyone." Your "pounder" will be auctioned off during the Tea.



A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall,
or contact "Bonnie" at 609-924-6450

Make your reservation by September 19th





Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

The summer camp at BVS was a lot of fun. We explored the sea, the jungle, and even our own playground for living things. We also spent a week learning about various sports and team work. Of course, that was the week it was 95-100 degrees outside!

We have officially begun preparing for the start of the 2012-2013 school year, and eagerly await the arrival of our students on September 10th. Our teachers have begun preparing their classrooms and planning wonderful experiences to enrich the lives of our energetic preschoolers.

Our Mom's Morning Out Program will meet every Thursday, starting September 13th. 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 9:30-12:00, and the cost is \$30.00/session.

If you're interested in any programs, please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to blawenburgvillageschool.com.

Check out the BVS page on Facebook to discover more about our daily events!



BVS 2012
Summer Camp



Missions Team

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

We will kick off our Fall with packing up our **Church World Service kits** after church on **Sunday, September 23rd**. For the full list of what is needed for the Baby, School and Hygiene Kits and patterns follow the link to 'kits' at www.churchworldservice.org or pick up the cards at church. This is the best time to buy these items as well as to get treats and gifts for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, whose deadline always surprises us (November)! We particularly need the following items to complete the kits we have started:

For 25 School Kits: (7 completed, thank you)

- 12 large erasers(Pink Pearl types)
- 15 blunt/rounded tip child scissors
- 10 book bags (12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size with handles)
- 9 12"/30cm rulers
- 13 handheld pencil sharpeners
- No more pencils, crayons or notebooks are needed.

For 7 Baby Kits:

- 3 infant t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- 14 baby gowns or sleepers (see website for pattern if want)
- 14 diaper pins
- 3 baby washcloths
- 30 diapers
- No more sweaters or blankets now

For 25 Hygiene Kits:

- 20 hand towels (@16"x28")
- 17 washcloths
- 16 nail clippers
- 23 bar soaps (bath size in wrapper)
- 18 toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- 87 standard size bandaids
- 2 wide-toothed combs

Emergency Clean-up Buckets are also always desperately needed, but are too difficult for us to pack. You are invited to donate the \$56 for CWS to purchase the items themselves or the \$10 for the Hygiene kits, the \$15 for the School kits, or the \$39 for the Baby Care kits. They also request \$2 per kit for processing/shipping. Please place items or \$\$ for buying them in the baskets in Church or Cook Hall by Sept. 16th. Thank you.

We continue to donate non-perishable food items and toiletries to our neighbors at the Montgomery Food Pantry. The collection baskets are in Church and Cook Hall.

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

- **September 23rd** – Pack up CWS Kits to deliver
- **October 21st** – Cropwalk for Hunger at MUMC after church (Solicit sponsors/donors 9/30-10/21)
- **November 11th-16th** – Collect, pack and deliver Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes
- **December 1st -31st** - Heifer Project

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. Pictures attached. Volunteers are needed on September 15, 22 and November 10 on days 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 .



Habitat for Humanity work day

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.

Sinterklaas...Save the dates?!



We are hoping to host 'Sinterklaas' on either Dec. 1st or 8th. This is just a reminder to put up those preserves while harvest time is here, and to think of other 'crafty' projects to tackle!



Our Continuing Mission at Crawford House

Our church will continue the mission work with Crawford House that was started by Bill Herbert. Dave Cochran will be the primary contact, but he would like one other person to help coordinate activities and events related to Crawford House. So far for the 2012-13 year the following activities will continue: computer classes each Friday, soup making several times in the fall and winter, juggling sessions, food co-op pick ups, and the garden project next spring. We are considering other projects, too. One big one is a painting project for the interior closets. We are open to your ideas and help. By reaching out to help these residents who are trying to get their lives back in order, we will be fulfilling our own mission statement as well as the challenge to love our neighbor as ourselves. If you would like to help, speak with Dave at church, email him at davidc99@aol.com, or call him at 609-466-3539.

The following article appeared in the Courier News and the Home News Tribune in early August. In case you don't read those newspapers, we are reprinting it here.

Blawenburg Reformed Church and Crawford House, a Win-Win Partnership By David Cochran

Most churches give generously to missions, and Blawenburg Reformed Church in the historic village of Blawenburg in Montgomery Township is no different. Members give regularly to support missionaries and other Reformed Church of America missions. They even rally to help people devastated by hurricanes and other natural disasters. But the 180-year-old church wanted to do something more. Led by the late Bill Herbert, the church sought ways to reach out to the community with hands-on help in 2009.

They didn't have to look very far, for just two miles away is a halfway house that has been helping women recovering from drug and alcohol abuse since 1978. Herbert made the initial contact with Crawford House Executive Director Linda M.

Leyhane to explore what their needs were and seek ways the church could provide support. Within a short time, he found eager church volunteers and the program was underway.

One of the first programs was teaching computer skills to the women. Each Friday from September to June, two volunteers conduct two one-hour sessions geared toward reacquainting residents with basic computer skills. Robert Bradsell, Nancy Curtis, and I are the primary volunteers for this program. Requelle, a current resident of Crawford House, recently expressed her appreciation of the computer tutors. "I knew very little about computers, and the volunteers from the Blawenburg Reformed Church were very willing to help me to learn these new skills. They never tired of showing me how to use the programs and certainly answered all of my many questions."

Led by Don and Ethel Terhune, the church planted a garden and the residents have planted and harvested vegetables for the past two years. They also helped residents restore a flower garden.

One of the most popular connections has been the soup program. Led by Nancy D'Alessandro, this program teaches residents how to make soup from fresh vegetables. Residents come to the church kitchen several times per year where they receive instruction on kitchen safety and food handling. They receive advice on good nutrition while enjoying the soup they make.

To add some levity to the residents' lives, Jean Butcher travels to Crawford House periodically to teach the residents how to juggle.

When Crawford House found it difficult to deploy staff to pick up food, Director Leyhane reached out to the church, which mobilized several groups of community volunteers to deliver several tons of food from the NJ Food Bank in Hillside.

"We appreciate being part of the community and forming the partnerships like the one established with the congregation from the Blawenburg Reformed Church," stated Director Leyhane. "Members from the church are so very welcoming. In addition, they have created some very interesting projects to interact with the women in our program."

The Crawford House partnership is now in its third year, and the church continues to find ways to help the Crawford House accomplish its mission

“to facilitate physical, emotional, and spiritual healing in a safe and mutually supportive community.” Concurrently, the church is also meeting its original goal of community outreach while fulfilling its mission to “commit (its) gifts to worship, hospitality, life-long learning, and serving those in need.” This partnership is clearly a win-win for all involved.

David Cochran is an Elder of Blawenburg Reformed Church and a member of the Board of Trustees of Crawford House.

Donations Needed for Boys at Lindbergh Juvenile Home:

Check out the Township bulletins for a request for men's M-XL new or gently used clothing, sports equipment and board games by Sept. 30th. www.twp.montgomery.nj.us/about/bulletins

Proclaiming Team

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

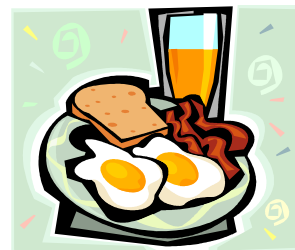
Facebook - *did you know that Blawenburg Reformed Church is on Facebook? If you are on Facebook, search for Blawenburg Reformed Church and “Like” us to receive regular updates on what’s happening. Thanks to Nancy D’Alessandro for setting this up.*

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. The first breakfast will be held on September 27th.

October 25
November 29
December 27

} Future dates





Grace Terhune, with our Scout Master, Rich Epp and a Scout parent at the Strawberry Festival in June



Scoutmaster Rich Epp with two Eagle Scouts



Eagle Scout Candidate Shailen Shah's project nearing completion.

Lunch for Locals
September, 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.

September 4
Chicken rice soup, sandwiches, cookies

September 11
Gumbo, oven roasted potatoes, lemon chicken, apple crisp

September 18
Sweet and sour cabbage soup, pulled pork, puddings

September 25
Vegetable soup, lasagna, meatballs, lemon bars & brownies

Properties Team

by Jean Beachell

Blawenburg Church campus has been rented! Thanks to many hours of negotiations by Mike Vande Woude and a host of helpers, we are able to bring the community to our campus.

Last spring the Rev. Linda Pepe accepted a position at a church in South Jersey, so her family moved out of the parsonage at the end of May. Lisa White supervised the repairs and painting, and a new family moved in the latter part of July. Dennis and Lorraine Sparano and their children are now enjoying "our house."

Unfortunately, during this process, we discovered we have a septic problem at the parsonage, but we are working with an engineer and the township to try to correct the problem.

Memorial Hall now has three renters. A Step in Stone continues to rent the warehouse space, and Suzanne Hunt continues to produce her beautiful paintings in her "studio" area upstairs.

The theater space is now occupied by a new renter, Joy Sayen, who runs a dance movement therapy business.

Salta was back renting Cook Hall for the summer running a camp from July through August. It was great to have the children here during the summer!

In June, Ethel Terhune and Jim Beachell painted, cleaned, and readied a room in Cook Hall for a potential renter. That room is now empty but has been equipped with a wi-fi computer and printer for anyone who would like to use the room for a meeting place or a quick computer stop.

Blawenburg Church still has rental space available in Memorial Hall, but no other leases have been signed as of now. Renting our extra space will help Blawenburg Church cover some of our past and future expenses and will help to reduce our dependence on our endowment fund. All areas that are rented by non-church vendors are subject to Montgomery Township property taxes.

Our BVS School in the old schoolhouse continues to serve our community as a wonderful outreach to the families, teachers and church members. Thank you to Karen Hill, all the teachers, aides and Trustees who work to make every school year a success.

GriefShare

Starting Thursday, September 6, 7:05-8:20pm, Griggstown Reformed Church will host a 13-week, Christ-centered bereavement group in the GRC Parlor, Canal Road, Princeton (Griggstown). Please let your friends know. Suggested donation for the workbook is \$15. This course will be taught by the Rev. David A. Leung Kahler. You can find out more info about the program from GriefShare.org.

Pick a Partner Not a Jerk

Starting Sunday, September 9, 5:30-7:30, Griggstown Reformed Church will host a five-week, Christ-centered seminar for unmarrieds in the GRC Hall. Suggested donation is \$15 for the workbook. This group will meet every other week (Sundays, September 9, 23, October 7, 21, November 4), with a light supper from 5:30-6pm, then teaching and discussion from 6-7:30pm. The course will be taught by certified instructor, the Rev. David A. Leung Kahler. For more info, see Love-Thinks.com.

Farewell and Blessings

July 22nd was Andrew Long's last day with us. He was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament at his home church in Maryland on August 5th and then moved to Enid, OK, where he is pastoring a Presbyterian Church. We enjoyed a glorious service of worship that day, highlighted by Andrew's beautiful organ playing throughout the service. The congregation gave him a portable communion set for him to use in his ministry and a small monetary token of our thanks. Following worship and a brief fellowship, we celebrated Andrew's service with us at a BBQ at the Johnsons' house and sent him off with our blessings!

Andrew Philip Long
c/o The First Presbyterian Church
502 W. Maine
Enid, OK 73701
andrewlongmusic@gmail.com



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



Anniversaries

11 Brian & Barb Van Liew
 Ray & Hope Hunt
 23 Doug & Pat Wengel

2 Mark Meyer	16 Calvin Urbanski	
3 Jessica Weingart	21 Cassandra De La Cruz	25 Dale Weingart
8 Peggy Querec	Daniella De La Cruz	26 Robert Bradsell
15 Jotham Johnson		28 Jean Beachell
Ginny Doremus		

Summary of Dates

September 2	10:00 AM	Worship—Nancy Curtis
September 6	9:30-10:30	BVS Orientation
September 7	9:30-10:30	BVS Orientation
September 8	8:00 AM	Mary's & Martha's (See page 4.)
September 10		BVS Begins—Welcome, Children.
September 13	7:30 PM	Consistory
September 15	All Day	Somerset County Heritage Trail Tour—stopping at BRC
September 17	6:30 PM	Classis Exams
September 24		Beacon Deadline for articles, information and photos
Sundays	10:00 am	Worship with Dr. Sharman unless otherwise posted
Tuesdays	10-11:30 AM	Adult Bible Study in the Lounge (See page 4.)
Tuesdays	11:30 to 1:00	Outreach Lunch (See p. 11 for menus.)
Last Thursday	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Club (See page 10.)

See Other "Dates to Remember" on page 8.



Happy Birthday to Diana Pfannebecker, who celebrated a milestone on August 24th.

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material

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