



# The Blawenburg Beacon

April, 2011

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

## Local Treasures

When I look back over the last nine and a half years, I'm struck by what a tumultuous stretch it has been in matters of world events. Less than two weeks into my ministry here the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks occurred. A few years later the tsunami in southeast Asia claimed almost a quarter of a million lives. Earthquakes, volcanoes, more tsunamis and monstrous storms seemed to dominate the news every several months, giving rise to a near apocalyptic atmosphere in the first decade of the new millennium - all of these abetted by the ever-present reality of human violence in the form of warfare or individual explosions.

It might make us want to dig a hole in the ground and hunker down until the worst has passed - if it ever does. It certainly provokes many of us to retreat from the world, and turn off the TV.

If there's a bright side to all the troubles out there, that might be it. Maybe God wants us to focus more of our attention on the blessings in our immediate vicinity, and not be so *world conscious*, which is often accompanied by a breathless compulsion to achieve and compete (*get stuff! get ahead!*) in order to protect ourselves from the harsh realities of this capricious natural world and the unpredictability of human behavior.

Of course, that doesn't work. Disaster could find us, anyway. No security measures or investment portfolios will fend off a mighty act of God or a determined act of the devil. And of course, we can't and shouldn't isolate ourselves from human suffering to the point where we stop helping those in need and praying for their deliverance from trouble.

Still, there's something to be said for drawing back from the trials and temptations "out there" and reveling in the blessings to be found in our own neighborhoods.

One of the greatest poets in American history, Emily Dickinson, after a terribly disillusioning visit to Washington, DC, rarely ventured beyond her own front yard in Amherst, Massachusetts, and, given the passionate nature of her creations, no one could say her life was dull.

Similar wonders await us nearby. They can be found in a relaxed walk - in a park or along the canal, paying special attention to surprises and dramas in the natural realm. They can be found in a visit to a flea market, attending a high school play or athletic competition - or a service of worship. They can be found especially watching children learn or play and listening to the sing-song quality of their collective voices (one should be so lucky as to have one's office right next door to a class of four and five year olds).

Sometimes it's best just to sit and watch, wait and listen, revel in times of peace and quiet. God knows, as do we all, there are communities in this world that would give anything to return to the glory days of "mundane" activities and even a little bit of lazy boredom.

If this is where we find ourselves, let's rejoice while we have it.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter!

*Peace, Pastor Rich*

# Congregational Gatherings

by Your Consistory

Beginning in April, Consistory will hold brief (15 to 20 minute) informal congregational meetings on the First Sunday of each month immediately following the worship service. This is to seek input and to keep our members informed throughout the pastoral search process. We can also use these meetings to keep folks advised of progress and developments with the Natural Church Development program. See you April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please try to attend.

Although the actual search process will not begin until after Pastor Rich's retirement in August, we can and should begin work on some of the necessary background tasks now. To do that, we need to appoint a pastoral search committee that should be tasked with designing a self-study and preparing our church profile.

Consistory is asking for volunteers.

Please pray for guidance as we begin this process; for discernment as we choose an interim minister and the assembly of the search team. Talk with GOD about your hopes and dreams for the future of our church community. Share your thoughts with Consistory.



## Congregational Prayer

As we continue to pray for our church, as requested above, let us join our hearts in the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sustainer of the universe,

As we approach Easter, we realize our utter dependence on you. Forgive us when we think we are in charge. Thank you for reminding us you have a plan and you are "working your purposes out" in the world, in our church, and in our lives.

We ask for your presence and your guidance at each and every gathering, meeting, worship service, class, and work session in the month ahead.

Help us to live the words of the old hymn *Trust and Obey*.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Contributed by Bernice Van Nostrand

## **Consistory Highlights**

by Wendy Herbert, V.P. of Consistory

### Consistory Highlights

At consistory's regular meeting on March 10, 2010:

Discussed that there will be four consistory vacancies at the end of terms expiring on June 30: two elders and two deacons. Ethel Terhune, who is a retiring elder will head a nominating committee to put forth names by April 19, for installation at a church service at the end of June.

Results from the NCD survey are being tabulated by the RCA. Per NCD guidelines, the church health team identified 30 names from among those who regularly attend worship and participate in at least one small group within the church. The sample was chosen to be representative of all age groups within the congregation. It may take up to 60 days to receive back the survey report. Our NCD coach, Pastor Steve Sayer gave an introduction to NCD, distributed the survey, and held a training session with the church health team following the survey. The cost for administration the survey and tabulating the results was \$200.

Chip Parmele reported on the upcoming lecture series and on a new outreach to the Stonebridge assisted living facility. Chip recently met with Stonebridge staff to discuss holding the Thursday Men's breakfast there, as well as potentially bussing residents to lectures at the church and other joint programs.

Mike VandeWoude reported on church finances. Because we continue to spend more than we receive in offerings, we remain dependent on drawing from our endowment for operating expenses. The choir group and musicians will continue through all services through Lent. Working special programs for Palm Sunday and Easter with emphasis on music. Combine Monday, Thursday and Good Friday services 7:30

We had wonderful fellowship at the last Pot Luck, with great turn out from women from Crawford house. Nancy D'Alessandro and Deacon Lisa White continue their regular visitation of elderly and homebound members and friends of the congregation.

We continue to have a great turnout at the Mysteries and Heroes program for confirmands. Pastor Rich has also done a shorter, though no less comprehensive, "Junior Joggers" class for a younger group who also plan to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

The Properties Team has arranged for painting sashes on 42 windows in Cook Hall and the BVS building at a cost of \$4,000. They are also working on replacement of the tile in the upstairs hallway in Cook Hall due to the fact that we were cited by the State for cracks in the tile.

Memorial Hall may be used for purposes other than school use. It continues to be listed for sale at an asking price of \$686,000. We have two prospects interested, but no offers to date.

## MEET YOUR CONSISTORY

BY BOB BRADSELL

**ERIC PERKINS** was elected to Consistory in the spring of 2007 as an Elder. He's in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his 2<sup>nd</sup> term, and by custom will step down from his post this June. Finding a replacement for Eric won't be easy. He's often called on to wear his lawyer's hat when technical questions come before the group.

Eric's a local kid. Born in Trenton, his family moved to Montgomery briefly, then spent two years in California before returning here. He's a product of Montgomery schools, though he did, like so many, attend Princeton High School where he was president of his class and a member of the football team. For Eric, though, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade often comes to mind . . . a young Bernice Van Nostrand was his teacher.

Eric's Dad was a sales manager for a well-known Trenton manufacturing firm – John A. Roebling & Sons. You may have heard of them, noted for their cable – or “wire rope”. Founder Roebling was the famous builder of the Brooklyn Bridge. Like so many Trenton manufacturers, it's gone. But Eric's Dad started a steel cable business in Cranbury – Brown & Perkins – and it's still going strong. A young Eric worked for his dad and mastered the skill of splicing wire rope. Here in Montgomery, the Perkins family is known to many. Eric's dad served as Fire Chief for several years and as Mayor in the mid-60s. Eric's Mom served as Post Mistress right here in Blawenburg for many years. *The apple, as they say, doesn't fall far from the tree.*

Eric headed off to Ohio University in Athens, OH, then back home to Rutgers for law school. While a student, he served as one of *Montgomery's finest*, and later ran for office and won a term on the Township Committee . . . the youngest ever to serve in that capacity. In an early lesson in humility,

Eric lost a re-election campaign . . . to a candidate named *Grey Jones*.

Like his father, Eric was drawn to the fire department, and it was there that he met firefighter and BRC Pastor Roger Roseboom. Pastor Roseboom had a knack for attracting young folks to our church. Eric was just 24. He's been here ever since. And, like the pastor who brought him, he'll occasionally get the call and have to leave in a hurry to help put out a fire. Eric has fond memories of volunteering for the BRC, including trumpet playing and volunteer work parties to paint and insulate the church and to maintain the cemetery.

Kids have a way of plugging us firmly into the business of the church, and Eric was no different. Many of us watched his daughters grow and mature. Myriah now works for Disney/Broadway (manager for “The Lion King”). Gabrielle works for the athletic department at the University of Denver and will receive a Masters degree in sociology this August. Laura is pursuing a career in music therapy in Boston and will start grad school in the fall. Eric's step daughter Cara is completing the teacher education program at Stockton College. She sometimes assists with BRC Sunday School. Another step daughter, Andrea, is a Junior at Rider University. Eric's wife Sue is employed as the Vice President of Finance and Administration at Middlesex County College and helps out as a Sunday School teacher.

Eric began his professional career in Trenton, first working for the City of Trenton and then as a lobbyist for the NJ Department of Higher Education. Eric has been associated with Mercer Community College for 25 years . . . on the faculty, as vice president for Finance and Administration, even as Acting President for a while. But Eric is, at



## *Perkins, Continued*

heart, an *educator*. Perhaps being surrounded by daughters has had something to do with that. He teaches business law, and runs the para legal program for the college. Eric is a very popular professor known for his interesting stories, patience, and great sense of humor. For many of us in town, however, we've come to know Eric at a fire scene...or in court.

Eric is the Judge for all seasons...make that for all towns. If you've had occasion to appear in municipal court in Montgomery, you've come before His Honor Eric Perkins. For that matter, it could've been in Rocky Hill...or Hopewell...or Pennington...or even Clinton or Union Township in Hunterdon County. For some of us, it might have been costly. But few would dispute the notion that Judge Eric is knowledgeable, and fair...two of the qualities that make him an outstanding Elder at Blawenburg Church. Pastor Rozeboom would be proud.

Say 'hello' to Eric and Sue, and thank them both for their service. You'll usually find them on the west side of the sanctuary, in one of the rear-most pews – near the door, in case the fire alarm goes off.

***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!*

### **Choir Rehearsals**

**9 AM**

**Sundays**

**April 10, 17, and 24**

*We enthusiastically invite anyone who loves singing to join us.*

## **A Holy Week of Music**

Music will be the prime ingredient during Holy Week this year with two choral anthems and two combo songs highlighting both the Palm Sunday and Easter services. On Maundy Thursday we'll be treated once again to Barb Antoniewicz's beautiful and haunting rendition of "Were You There?" (We may even hear it again to open the service on Easter Sunday.) Hopefully, we'll also have a children's anthem on Easter.

Additionally, the services will include participation from our *Mysteries and Heroes of the Bible* group and the *Junior Joggers*.

These services, Easter especially, promise to be as well attended as Christmas Eve's was, so try to get here a little early, and by all means bring your friends!

## **Hospitality Team**

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

Be sure to visit Tom Skillman and Fran Ficken when you are able. Tom would love visitors. The best time to see him is between 1 and 4:30 in the afternoon. Don't forget to sign his new guest book! After her broken hip, Fran is back in her room. She is getting around in her wheelchair and enjoying singing with the group in the afternoon.

## **Life-Long Learning Team**

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

### **Sunday School**

Students will meet on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10AM in the Children and Worship room in Cook Hall to consider the meaning of the *Parable of the Lost Son*. What did Jesus want to teach us in that story? (Children will stay with Mrs. Van Nostrand through the short congregational meeting after worship.)

### **Our Biggest Confirmation Class Ever?**

Last month our *Mysteries and Heroes* group enthusiastically agreed to include the *Junior Joggers* among those to be received into communicant membership on Pentecost, June 12. This brings to 13 the total number of young people who may join our church on that day. Ian and Renee Christenson, Cassie De La Cruz, Patrick Fritzinger, Barry Gurzo, Concetta and Vincent Magliochetti, Ariel Meyer, Emma Murphy, Olivia Vande Woude and Morgan Van Liew will be joined by Linnéa Eberly and Marie Pugliesi.

Once the educational requirements are fulfilled, all of these young people will have the option to join our active membership. They will appear before the Board of Elders on Sunday, June 4, who will then decide on their readiness to take on this responsibility. Assuming they all "pass," they will receive the laying on of hands and share in the sacrament of Holy Communion on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, this promises to be a very well attended service and a truly joyful one in the life of our church. Please get here early, and bring your friends!

### **Marys and Marthas**

The women's book group will meet on Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 AM and continue our discussion of Small Wonder by Barbara Kingsolver. Come join us as we pray for our church and shared concerns, have a yummy breakfast, and visit with each other.

### **Sunday Adult Study Group**

Join the study group at 11:30 AM after fellowship to continue the discussion of *The Emotionally Healthy Church*.

### **Tuesday Adult Study Group**

Join this study group at 10:00 AM in the basement of Cook Hall for a discussion of the **Gospel of Matthew**.



# Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

**Mom's Morning Out** is available on Thursday mornings from 8:30-11:30am, 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.

We are **currently enrolling students** for the 2011-2012 school year, and are very excited about our new Fun with Fives class. This program is designed specifically for those students who miss the kindergarten cut-off date or who may simply benefit from another year to grow.

**Summer Camp** will be held July 11<sup>th</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am-1:00pm, for children ages 3-6. Cost is \$200.00/week. Join us for one or all of the following:

**Fun with Fitness:** *Join us as we explore various sports.*

**Exploring Nature:** *Let's spend a week with nature and see what cool things we can find!*

**Is it Magic or Science:** *We're going to spend a week doing science experiments.*

**The Great Summer Luau:** *Get out your grass skirt and do the hula!*

**Jammin' in the Jungle:** *Come on a safari and meet some wild animals!*

**Sun, Sand and Water Week:** *Let's explore the beach!*



**Please call the school** at 609-466-6600 if you're interested, and help us spread the word by telling your family and friends!

BVS students will be participating in a community outreach program for TASK this spring. We will be collecting items and assembling hygiene bags. Your help would be greatly appreciated. The following items are needed: toothpaste, toothbrush, men's deodorant, men's disposable razor, soap (*Irish Spring, Zest, Coast* and *Lever 2000* are patron favorites), shampoo, and optionally hand or body lotion. Full-sized items are preferred but hotel/motel sizes are acceptable. Men's items are "unisex" for TASK. A collection box will be placed in the basement of Cook Hall. Thank you for your help!

## Missions Team

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

Recently you received at church or in the mail a Sharing Box (with apple motif) entitled "Sharing Brings Joy—to us, to others, to God". You also received a Sharing Calendar and a guide to help you use the calendar. This is a "sacrifice calendar" for making daily offerings during Lent, to be given at a "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering on Easter Sunday. Using the calendar can be an excellent family activity, and also become a daily reminder of blessings we so often take for granted, as well as a daily opportunity for sharing with others.

Because RCA congregations participated in our One Great Hour of Sharing offering this past year, Reformed Church World Service was able to:

support 56 food pantries in a year that has seen a nearly 30 percent increase in need in many areas of the country;

respond to immediate needs of Christians in Myanmar after their homes were burned down;

contribute to the response by our partner, Church World Service, to the 2010 floods in Pakistan.



These are but a few of the specific ways in which One Great Hour of Sharing offerings were used in 2010 to bring new life and hope to God's children across the globe.

One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical offering that has been widely observed throughout the church for the past fifty years. We invite you to join with us in our 2011 One Great Hour of Sharing offering--not only because it's good for the needy and good for the kingdom, but also because it'll be good for us. The 2011 materials mark the beginning of a new approach to the OGHS offering; we are pursuing a theme that will be carried out over three years. This theme is called "All about Sharing," based on 2 Corinthians 9:8. The first year will focus on how "Sharing Brings Us Joy," the second will highlight how "Sharing Brings Others Joy," and the third year will focus on how "Sharing Brings God Joy." This opportunity to respond to Christ's direct call to service will deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Christ follower and can be a rich and rewarding experience for our church family.

### Rummage Sale

by Jean Beachell and Jean Butcher

#### **We need your help! Really!**

Thursday, April 7th - 4 pm - 7 pm

Friday, April 8th - 9 am - 4 pm and

Saturday Bag Sale, April 9th from 9 am - 1 pm.

We will be accepting items through Tuesday April 5th at Memorial Hall. We will be accepting clothing, linens, toys, handbags, household items, books, small working appliances and bric-a-brac. **Please, no** large furniture, electronics, computers, TVs, or large appliances.

The funds raised at the sale will be used for Missions projects and for repair and renovation for our historic buildings.

Please join us to help get this terrific fundraiser underway! We will continue setting up during the rest of the week as well. Come as often as you like and as often as you can!

We also need volunteers for chair people for the various departments. **Thank you!**

# Crawford Residents Say Thanks for Soup

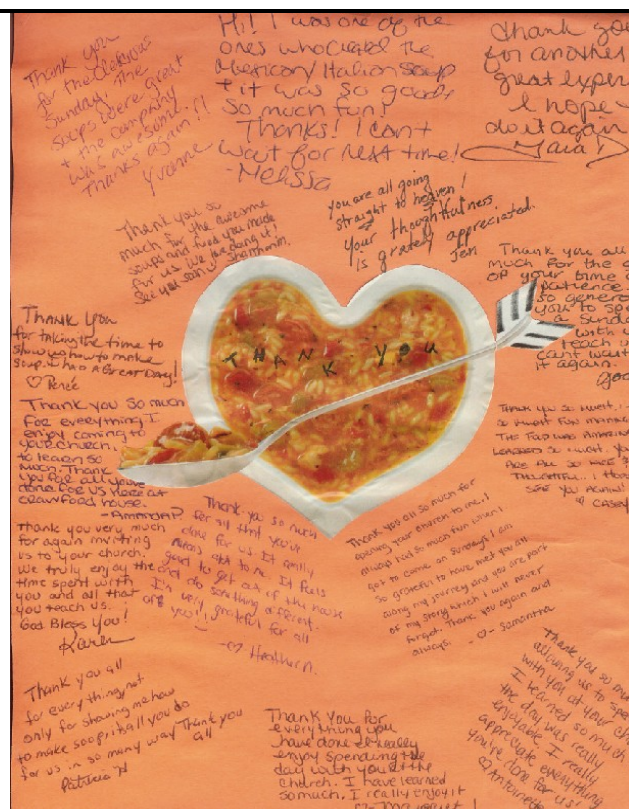
As part of our mission program, members of our congregation have been working with the residents of Crawford House to teach them how to cook. Coordinated by Bill Herbert, the first two sessions brought all 22 residents to Cook Hall to learn how to make soup from scratch. Nancy D'Alessandro led these sessions in February and March and many other BRC people assisted her.

On March 27th, Evelyn Cochran and Susie Van Doren along with others from the church went to Crawford House to teach the residents how to make pumpkin bread, cowboy cookies, and Denver chocolate cookies.

At each session, dinner was served following the lesson thanks to donations from the congregation.

The residents have expressed their appreciation for each session verbally, then followed up with a creative thank you note such as the one to the right.

Some of their comments from this note are listed below.



A thank you note from the residents.

## Many Ways to Say Thank You

Soups were great and the company was awesome.

Thank you for taking the time to show us how to make soup. I had a great day.

I enjoy coming to your church to learn so much.

You are going straight to heaven. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for a great experience. I can't wait to do it again.

I can't wait until the next time.

Thanks for your time and patience. You are all so nice and thoughtful.

I am so grateful to have met you all along my journey. You are part of my story which I will never forget.

Thank you all for everything, not only for showing me how to make soup, but also all you do for us in so many ways.

## Our Mission at Crawford House

- Computer classes each Friday afternoon
- Cooking—Soup and baking so far
- Gardening—Coming this summer

## Proclaiming Team

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

### Spring Lecture Series

by Chip Parmele

The Blawenburg Church's Proclaiming Team will again host a *Lecture Series*, coordinated by Deacon Chip Parmele, in our sanctuary this spring. The program proved extremely popular last year when local celebs like pollster George Gallup and motivational speaker Natalie Gahrman spoke and answered questions. This year's series will kick off on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:30 pm, with noted local entrepreneur and adventurer Greg Olsen talking about his *Voyage to the International Space Station* aboard a Russian Soyuz space-craft.



**Greg Olsen** was the third private citizen to orbit the earth on the International Space Station (ISS). After training for five months (900 hours) at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Moscow, he launched on a Russian Soyuz rocket TMA-7 on October 1, 2005 with Cosmonaut Valeri Tokarev and Astronaut Bill McArthur (Expedition 12). He then docked to the ISS on October 3, and returned to earth on Soyuz TMA-6 on October 11 with Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev and Astronaut John Phillips (Expedition 11). He performed more than 150 orbits of the earth and logged almost 4 million miles of weightless travel during his 10 days in space.

After an illustrious career as a research scientist and entrepreneur, Greg is now president of GHO Ventures in Princeton, NJ where he manages his “angel” investments, South African winery, Montana ranch, and performs numerous speaking engagements to encourage children – especially minorities and females- to consider careers in science and engineering. Greg is currently “Entrepreneur in Residence” at Princeton University. He is active in the New Jersey Technology Counsel (NJTC), NJTC Venture Fund, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the NJ Commission on Science and Technology. His technical interests are now in the power electronics and alternative energy fields.

Greg received a BS Physics (1966), a BSEE and MS Physics (1968) from Fairleigh Dickinson University, then was awarded a Ph.D. in Materials Science from the University of Virginia (1971). He performed post-doctoral studies at the University of Port Elizabeth (South Africa), taught elementary physics classes, and then worked as a research scientist at RCA Labs (Sarnoff Center) from 1972 to 1983. He developed vapor phase epitaxial crystal growth of optoelectronic devices, including laser diodes and photodetectors for fiber optic applications based on the material indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs). He was awarded 12 patents, wrote more than 100 technical papers, co-authored several book chapters and has given numerous invited lectures to both technical and trade journal audiences. Greg is an IEEE LEOS Fellow and the first recipient of the prestigious IEEE Aron Kressel Award. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2010.

Greg founded EPITAXX, a fiber-optic detector manufacturer in 1984 together with Vladimir Ban. It was sold in 1990 for \$12 million. He then founded Sensors Unlimited, a near-infrared camera manufacturer in 1992 with Marshall Cohen. Sensors was sold to Finisar Corp. for \$600 million in 2000, repurchased by the management team in 2002 for \$6 million, then sold again to Goodrich, Corp. in 2005 for \$60 million.

Greg is active in many civic organizations including Trenton Big Brothers and Sisters, Trenton Boys and Girls Club, Trenton Soup Kitchen, Princeton Historical Society, Custer Battlefield Preservation Committee and Fairleigh Dickinson University and University of Virginia Alumni Associations. In his spare time he enjoys golf, country and western music and dancing, opera and horseback riding.

Two additional lectures have been scheduled. On Wednesday, May 11th, Dr. Deforest B. Soaries, Jr., senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey, will speak on ***Breaking Free from Financial Slavery***. Dr. Soaries is the author of a book by the same title. He and his —dfree™ strategy were the focus of an installment of CNN's Black in America documentary —Almighty Debt. Dr. Soaries served as New Jersey's 30th Secretary of State and is a popular speaker at colleges, universities, conferences and churches around the world as well as a frequent advisor to major corporations in the areas of diversity, philanthropy and community relations.



On Wednesday, May 25th, journalist John Patten will speak on ***New directions in online news media***. Patten has been a journalist and editor for more than 15 years. He's worked for the *Princeton Packet* and North Jersey Newspapers, and for the AllAboutJazz.com website. He is currently the editor of the *hyperlocal online news site, Warren.Patch.com*, using social media and other Internet resources to report local news.

All lectures will be open to the public, and will be offered free of charge. Voluntary do-nations will be accepted. Lectures will begin at 7:30 pm and last for about an hour. Refreshments will be served following the programs, and those who attend will have an opportunity to chat with the featured speaker.

## Lecture Series Volunteers

This year's lecture series is set for April 5, May 11, and May 25 (see article on previous page). We have some needs for these lectures to be successful and for Blawenburg to be presented in its best light.

**Refreshments**—We will be offering a time of refreshments after the lectures. We need people willing to “host” and people willing to bake or purchase food to be served (cookies, brownies, fruit, cheese, crackers).

**Greeting**—We want to have at least two people in the sanctuary before the lecture to greet individuals, help them unlock the pew boxes, and to be ambassadors for Blawenburg Church.

**Sound System**—We have several people trained to be sound engineers. Please step-up and let the church office (609-466-3108) know that you are available on one of these evenings to run the sound system and record the lecture. If you are not trained to work the sound equipment, but are interested, please see Mait Van Nostrand (908-359-6579).

## Men's Breakfast Club

Join long-time church members, newcomers, and friends for the weekly Men's Breakfast Group. The group meets at 7:30 AM in Cook Hall on the first and third Thursdays of the month and at the Red Oak Diner on Route 206 near the corner of Route 518 on the second the fourth Thursdays. Join the seven to 14 men early on Thursdays for good food, conversation, and fellowship.

April 7—Cook Hall

April 14—Red Oak Diner, Route 206 in Skillman

April 21—Cook Hall

April 28—Red Oak Diner, Route 206 in Skillman

## In Appreciation

Many thanks to our Boy Scouts from Troop #46 who did their usual great job in cleaning up the play yard last Saturday.

Many thanks, too, to Ethel Terhune and her crew of helpers for sprucing up the preschool rooms with new paint, scrubbed floors, and clean windows. Believe it or not, the children sing better and learn more with a spanking-clean school!

And don't forget to notice the new floor in front of Nancy's office in Cook Hall. Thanks to our Properties Team for overseeing a job well done by Regent Flooring of Pennington.

We are also grateful for the ongoing efforts of our own J&J (the two Jeans) in our upcoming rummage sale organizing. Thanks to them and their helpers for making order out of rummage chaos.

Thanks to Pastor Rich for taking photographs of our church for the Beacon and Bulletin covers (see front cover).



## New Arrivals

**Sean Michael Jacques**, Cochran Grandchild #4, arrived on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30am. He was 21 1/4 inches long and weighed 6lb.15 oz.. He has dark hair and is quiet and alert. Mommy, Daddy and Sean are doing fine. Grandparents are happy and tired.

Bradsell Grandchild number 7, **Ava Pennie Kugler**, arrived on March 14 at 3:02. She weighed in at 7.78 lbs (that'd be about 7 lbs, 14 oz., for those of us more used to baking recipes), and measured 20 inches tall. Mother and baby are doing fine. Dad Neal assisted, and cut the cord!

**Thomas Martin** arrived on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Thomas is brother to Will and Alison and son of Geneva and Bill.

We are excited to let you know that **Evan Laurence Watring** was born Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:27 PM to Laura, Matt and big brother Hunter. Evan weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long. Everything went well and everyone is doing fine. - Jane and Larry May

## **Outreach Lunch Menus**

April, 2011

by Nancy Curtis

Every Tuesday, from 11:30 to 1:00, we serve lunch in Cook Hall. Lunch is served buffet style and a free-will donation is accepted (anonymously). This lunch has become a great outreach to the community. We average 25 people but occasionally have 40. I can always use extra help either during the morning hours setting up the dining room or later for kitchen clean-up.

(Perk of helping—leftovers!)

Lunches will always have salad, bread, dessert and beverages

April 5

Lentil Vegetable Soup, Ham and Macaroni & Cheese

April 12

Mushroom Soup, Lasagna

April 19

Vegetable Beef Soup, Lemon Chicken with Rice

April 26

Butternut Squash Soup, Chili, Cheese steaks

## **Why Do We Serve Lunch?**

by Nancy Curtis

Two years ago the Elks Lodge made a financial decision to stop serving lunch. This created a void in the community. You always knew that you could find a friendly face when you went to the Elks for lunch. So Pastor Rich threw out the idea to the Bible Study folks that we could serve lunch. Since I was already making lunch for the Bible Study group once a month, it was a natural transition to open up to the community and serve lunch once a week. We must have hit on something because we had 15 people at our first lunch. We have since grown to an average of 40 people per week—15 of whom are from the church, and the rest are from the community. From the very beginning, the Outreach Lunch has been about “community” and has never been about “making money”. As long as I can pay our cook, Aubrey, and pay for the groceries, it’s a success. The real success is the guests who come back every week, ask why we don’t serve lunch every day, and tell us they love the food (and us)! So join us when you can on any Tuesday from 11:30 to 1 and enjoy the company of our community.

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




April 1—LaFerne Keller  
 April 2—Katie Mueller  
 April 2—Patrick Fritzinger

April 11—Val Reyes  
 April 15—Joe Weingart  
 April 29—Vickie DeLaCruz

### Summary of Dates

April 3	10 AM	Sunday School—Children & Worship Room
	11 AM	Short Congregational Gathering (see page 2)
April 6	7:30 PM	Lecture Series—Greg Olsen—Sanctuary
April 7	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Group—Cook Hall
April 7, 8, & 9		Rummage Sale—Memorial Hall—See article for times
April 8	7:15 PM	Basketball—Otto Kaufman Center
April 9	7:30 AM	Marys & Marthas (see page 6)
April 13	1:15 PM	BVS Task Force
April 14	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Group—Red Oak Diner
	7:30 PM	Consistory—Cook Hall Basement
April 17	10 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
April 21	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Group—Cook Hall
April 21	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Communion & Tenebrae
April 24	10 AM	Easter Sunday Worship
April 25		Deadline for May Beacon Articles and Information
April 28	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Group—Red Oak Diner
Tuesdays	10 AM	Bible Study—Cook Hall basement
	11:30-1:00	Outreach Lunch—Cook Hall basement
Sundays	11:30 AM	in Cook Hall—Adult Sunday School

We have a tradition of filling our sanctuary with an assortment and abundance of potted flowers on Easter Sunday – daffodils, lilies, hydrangeas, hyacinths, tulips, etc. If you would like to purchase plants, which you may take home with you after the service, please fill in the form below. You may mail it to or leave it in the church office or on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary through April 15. As with Christmas, we will have a page dedicating the flowers however you wish.



Easter Flower Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to Blawenburg Reformed Church)

Dedication – From: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

## **The Blawenburg Beacon**

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

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424 Route 518; P.O. Box 266  
Blawenburg, NJ 08504  
e-mail address: BRC1832@verizon.net  
Editor: Barbara Pavlicek  
Publisher: Nancy Curtis

Website: [www.BlawenburgChurch.org](http://www.BlawenburgChurch.org)  
Phone: (609) 466-3108, Fax: (609) 466-8237  
Rev. Richard Van Doren, Minister

*The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a covenant community of God's people united in Christ through the Holy Spirit. We commit our gifts to worship, hospitality, life-long learning, serving those in need, and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.*