



The Blawenburg Beacon

October, 2011

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

GROWING OUR CHURCH

The Church Health Team Invites YOU to Help Plan Our Future

The next step in our *Natural Church Development* process is to gather the entire congregation together again to do a little group think.

The Church Health Team invites you to **join us for breakfast on Saturday morning, October 15th, at 8:30 and help us plan how to move our church forward. We'll wrap up by 10:30...that's a promise.** We know some of you may have plans, but so many of our evenings are booked up with other things and after church can turn into a rush. So Saturday morning it is.

Here's what we want to do on Saturday, October 15th...

In the wake of the survey many of you participated in last winter and our gathering in June, we have a pretty clear view of some changes we'd all like to see here at Blawenburg Church. But **how** we do that is important...and we need your help to figure it out.

We know that "inspiring worship" is a key factor in moving the church forward, and that "music" is high on the list of important subjects to be talked about. Consistory has already taken steps to improve the music elements in our worship. So...looking beyond the subject of music, *The Church Health Team* invites you to ask yourself the following two questions:

- (1) *How can we help ourselves and others move closer to God?*
- (2) *How can we resolve the 'Pressures of Life' dilemma that comes between so many of us and God?*

And we invite you to **think big...think bold...think creatively** as you consider how to answer them. How we answer those questions will help us make real, concrete plans for change.

Thank you. Look for an invitation in the mail. And we'll see you on Saturday, October 15th.

– The Church Health Team / Alan, Wendy, Andrea, Mike, Dave & Bob

NEW BEGINNINGS AT BRC New Staff...and New Assignments

Transitions are tough. People over the age of 12 or so don't generally do well with change of any sort. Most of us here at Blawenburg Church are far beyond that threshold, so it stands to reason that we'd be a little resistant to major changes in how we do things. But we have some really exciting changes going on around here, so check'm out...you'll like what you see (and hear).

A New Face in the Pulpit Whenever a pastor leaves – especially a long-time pastor – it takes a while for a church to right itself...to get its *sea legs*, and focus on what's next. Before charging off in search of a new pastor, it's important for a *transitional pastor* to step in while we sort out who we are – and what should be next. It helps a lot if that *person* is strong on leadership skills, accomplished in church administrative matters, a great preacher, a Biblical expert...oh, and also a humble Christian who works full time, and doesn't mind giving up a couple of days a week to help point a transitioning church in the right direction!

Enter **Dr. William Robert Sharman**. He uses his middle name, mostly...goes by "Bob". He's married to Mary Beth; has two sons, Bill and Tom; a daughter, Mary Katherine; and a red dog named Amadeus.

Bob comes to us by way of the University of Mississippi (Bachelors in Business Administration) / Princeton Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) / Columbia Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry) / many church pastorates (including The American Protestant Church of Bonn, Germany; and the thousand-member Jamestown Presbyterian Church in North Carolina). Dr. Sharman has returned to Princeton where he directs the Office of Alumni Relations at the Seminary. He describes that job as being "Pastor to 11,000"...many who serve as pastors around the world.

Bob Sharman's life experience reflects in bold relief what his formal resume might suggest. He's been an Eagle Scout...a task force staffer for the NJ Supreme Court in Trenton...an understudy to a master preacher at a "tall steeple church" in New York City...part of a street ministry in Philadelphia...a witness to major social and political upheavals in Europe...a church growth leader in Huntsville, Alabama...and a senior pastor at a church with a staff of over 40!

Do you think this man might have something to offer us?

Let Bob Sharman preach to you.

Let him get to know you.

You'll be glad you did.



New Sound From the Pipes

When the *Church Health Team* conducted its survey and met with the congregation on what we'd like to see happen here, it was pretty clear that a renewed and strengthened music program was high on the wish list. Consistory heard that. And on Sunday, October 23rd, we'll all hear what they've done about it. **Andrew Long** joins us that Sunday as our new Director of Music. He'll be familiar to many of us, from his occasional performances here, on the organ – and on the euphonium – and even in the pulpit!

Andrew is a Master of Divinity candidate at Princeton Seminary. He preaches...he teaches...AND he drives a mean organ. That's a talent combo we don't often see here at our little church, but we're ready!

Andrew's been hanging out with Martin Tel at the Seminary – and he apparently has some very interesting ideas he wants to spring on us. Help us welcome Andrew on October 23rd.

A New Role for an Old Friend

Hospitality Ministry

Adapted from the proposal of Nancy Curtis to Consistory
to formalize a Hospitality Ministry

(Consistory approved this proposal on September 8, 2011.)

*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.*

[BRC Mission Statement]

During her 11 years at Blawenburg, Nancy has felt that her position as Church secretary has been a ministry, a ministry to Blawenburg Reformed Church members and to the community. This ministry has involved being the first contact that people encounter when they call or visit the church during the week. Most recently, this ministry has included the Outreach Lunches, the Thursday Men's Club, and the quarterly Montgomery Seniors' Breakfast. The Outreach Lunch provides soup and entrees for church members to take to shut-ins and to those who are ill. It is also there for people who are in need of a meal and companionship. Recently, a widow expressed her delight to be able to eat lunch with others since her husband passed away.

Most members of BRC know that her door is open for confidential, informal chats, part of her Stephen Ministry training. A few members also know that the cookie jar is usually filled with treats!

Part of being on the front line has also meant that she receives the phone call that someone is ill or has passed away. It would be a natural part of her job to visit these people, or pass the information on to the Transitional Pastor or to a team of volunteers, depending on the circumstances. It would also be natural for her to be the emergency contact number for the church.

Because of all of these activities and responsibilities, she would like to propose the following:

- Tuesday Lunch – count her Tuesday hours as paid hours
- Visitation for Elderly in neighborhood – not just BRC
(also offer as a service for families living away from their families)
- Meals for people who are ill or recovering from surgery
- Coordinate Church volunteers for visitation
- Institute Stephen Ministries (fee involved to register the church plus training materials)
- Be the emergency number for the Church: 908-304-2627

Her hours have been increased from 24 hours to 30 hours per week, at first.

Striving to emulate the radical hospitality of Jesus.

(The Consistory would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for the job Nancy has done reaching out to the community, within and around us. Thank you, Nancy. Also, the Consistory asks everyone in the Congregation to be respectful of her time at church on Sundays. We are all here first and foremost to worship and be renewed for the week ahead. Please refrain from discussing church business. She is available during the week to discuss such matters. Thank you.)

MEET YOUR CONSISTORY

BY BOB BRADSELL

NANCY D’ALESSANDRO was elected as Deacon last spring and is serving her first term on Consistory. Nancy and husband, Mike Vande Woude, have been an official part of the BRC family since about 2002, but they were frequent visitors for some time before that.

Though she doesn’t advertise the fact, Nancy’s led an interesting and colorful life. Her dad was in the Foreign Service – part of what used to be called the U.S. Information Agency, or USIA. An important part of that experience, particularly for a child, is not spending much time in any one place...something Nancy credits with her ability to make friends easily. “When you do something often enough,” she says, “you get quite good at it.” She was born in Munich, Germany. Then it was off to Rio de Janeiro...then back to the states, to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The Cold War was in one of its hotter stages...the Vietnam War was raging...and Nancy’s dad – a Soviet specialist attached to the *Special Warfare Center* – was off to Vietnam, while the family stayed put at Ft. Bragg. After that, it was off to the Congo for a couple of years; then back to DC. “I attended 13 schools,” Nancy says-- “three different high schools.”

Her parents thought she should become a doctor (Nancy actually wanted to be a veterinarian), and sent her off to the University of South Carolina to pursue a pre-med course. Nancy soon disabused her parents of the wisdom of that notion, and headed off to the nursing program at the College of New Rochelle, in Westchester County, New York. She excelled there, earned a BS, and worked for three years at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. Nancy was on duty, in fact, when a badly wounded President Ronald Reagan was brought in after the assassination attempt by John Hinckley in 1981. She wasn’t assigned to the President, but it was her floor he was brought to.

It wasn’t long before Nancy got the itch to do something else. She hired on with a government contracting firm, originally to do medical transcription work. When the job description changed suddenly, Nancy found herself teaching “business skills” to inner city kids. But when the checks started bouncing, she was faced with a dilemma. It seems the firm was controlled by associates of the infamously corrupt mayor of Washington, Marion Barry. Nancy became a classic Washington *whistle blower*, and contributed to the shutting down of the company.

In need of a job, and armed with some newly exercised data processing skills from her most recent employment, Nancy answered a newspaper ad at the investment firm Merrill Lynch. The ad instructed her to *respond to a Mr. Mike Vande Woude...*

Most of us have not found our soul mates through an ad in the paper. But for the unconventional, *take-life-as-it-presents-itself-to-you* Nancy D’Alessandro, it’s likely she didn’t dwell on the uniqueness of that development. She was hired to run a data center, and that’s what she did. Of course, she and Mike dated, and eventually married.

When Merrill Lynch transferred Mike to New York, Nancy chose to stay in Washington to be close to her dad who had fallen quite ill. When her dad passed away in 1986, Nancy & Mike moved to Brooklyn, briefly, then to Plainsboro, New Jersey, in 1988. Nancy continued to work at Merrill Lynch, in system security, then in an area known as *disaster planning*.

In 1991, Nancy was decked by that bane of New Jersey suburban life...Lyme's Disease. It was a new enough affliction to be misdiagnosed more often than not; and even when correctly identified, there was great debate at that time about how to treat it. Nancy was quite sick...at one point, barely able to walk. She had to stop working, and it took the better part of two years before she was back on her feet.

In 1993, Nancy & Mike moved to Montgomery. By then, Nancy was volunteering for the Holistic Health Association of the Princeton Area, helping direct people to treatment by those who practice *holistic medicine*...an approach that embraces diet and lifestyle issues, along with traditional medical science. It's something Nancy continues to be very interested in. She's studying nutrition now, and is certified to teach *lifestyle health*.

Daughter Olivia arrived in 1998, and as is often the case, played a role in bringing Nancy (raised as a Catholic) and Mike (a kind of Congregational-Lutheran mix) to BRC. "We had visited several times," Nancy said. "And in the months after 9/11, I think we all felt the need for a little more God in our lives. That's when we decided to join the church. We liked the people...and we felt welcome."

Say "hello" to Nancy – and Mike. You'll generally find them, and daughter Olivia, on the west side of the sanctuary, about ten rows from the back. Need a conversation starter? Ask about diet and lifestyle health...or summers on the coast of Maine.



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!

Hospitality

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

New Sermon Series

***Heroes Among Us:
Lesser Known New Testament Folk***

- October 2 - *Stephen: A Circumstantial Hero*
[October 9 – Dr. Sharman is away.]
October 16 - *Philip: Landing in the Cosmic Paradigm of God*
October 23 - *Nicodemus: One Who Thought for Himself*

NAME TAGS

With our new minister needing to learn many names, as well as to help out visitors, we ask that everyone make a special effort to wear their nametags every Sunday. If you have lost yours or never had one, please leave a note on a yellow card on the back table.

GREETERS/FELLOWSHIP

If you are unable to greet or provide refreshments on your scheduled Sunday and cannot find your own substitute, please let Jean Beachell know. She can be reached at (609) 924-7637 or at fortheloveofflowers@yahoo.com.

First Friday Group on Saturday

Our First Friday Dinner Group will meet this month on Saturday, October 8th, at 6:30 in Cook Hall. To accommodate various people's schedules and to include those who cannot make it on Fridays, the day was moved to Saturday. We may use this alternating pattern throughout the year. This will be a game night, so bring your favorite board/card/etc. game for all to enjoy. Children of all ages are welcome. They may bring their favorite games as well.

This will be a hoagie and pizza night. Adults-BYOB. Children-BYOS (soft drink). By October 6th, please let Joe Pavlicek know that you can come and let him know your choice of hoagie or pizza. We will continue the fun and good conversation of last month. The cost of the food will be shared among all of us. Joe can be reached at 609-683-3735 or jpavl1999@aol.com.



Good Food
Good Conversation

Life-Long Learning Team

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

Educational Offerings

by Gracie Johnson

Sunday School started up last week!

PLEASE NOTE: All of our classes this year will be in Cook Hall, sometimes upstairs and sometimes down.

The **Nursery** is now in the center room upstairs - lately the BVS Garden Club classroom and before that our 'Chapel'. Drop off and pick up your children through the regular ground level entrance, then upstairs. Caitlyn Curtis is our caregiver. Remember that we have a monitor system, like restaurants, so that you can be notified while you are in church if your child needs you. The Nursery is manned from 9:45 AM until 12:15, if needed. We're also happy to have children of all ages stay in church for part or all of the service. Please feel free to do what is most comfortable for you!

The **Class for K-6th Grade** will start as usual in church and go to class after the children's sermon. They will meet in the first room down the hall, past the nursery, on the right, except for when Bernice Van Nostrand might lead Children and Worship downstairs. Sue Perkins and Gracie Johnson will be teachers in this class. Feel free to sit in if you think you might feel led to teach with us sometime. We learn so much ourselves. We can also always use one teen helper each week...let us know if you'd like to help occasionally. [We don't want to keep you out of church regularly.] This class will be memorizing the 23rd Psalm, bit by bit, throughout the fall, in addition to our lessons and activities. Ask them about it as they progress.

We hope to have a class for **Teens** in the classroom that was Pastor Rich's study and have this after church starting in about a month.

The **Adult Small Group Class** started meeting after coffee/fellowship from @11:30-12:15. It may alternate between the re-claimed Lounge and the downstairs classroom with video. Our new transitional pastor, the Rev. Bob Sharman, will be leading this most of the time. Please stay and join us when you can.

Mid-week Tuesday Study Group will meet in the lounge, the west end room upstairs. This started back up again on September 27th, from 10-11:30 AM. Nancy Curtis is leading this off with a study of *Wisdom for Life, Studies in Proverbs* by William C. Brownson. Come whenever you are able and stay for our Tuesday Outreach lunch!

The Marys and Marthas, the women's study group, will meet on Saturday, October 8th, at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast in Cook Hall basement. They will begin to share their favorite Psalms and will start with the 23rd Psalm. You don't even have to bring your Bible. Catherine Murphy has printed out copies for everyone.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Come learn and grow with us!

PLUNGE Fall Schedule

School is well under way and so is our Plunge Youth Group. The Plunge Fall Calendar of Events is open to all Middle and High School students.

OCTOBER

- ; **Thurs Oct 6th: 7pm – 8:30pm Youth Leadership Study Break**
- ; **Thurs Oct 13th: 7pm – 8:30pm Youth Leadership Study Break**
- ; **Sat Oct 15th: 1:30 Apple picking and DIY caramel apples**
- ; **Thurs Oct 20th: 7pm – 8:30pm Youth Leadership Study Break**
- ; **Sat Oct 29th: 7 – 9:30pm Halloween Movie night at the RHC Parsonage**



Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

The 2011 - 2012 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 Wednesday, October 5th, 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.

BVS will be having a *YARD SALE* on Saturday, Oct. 22nd. Rent a space for \$15, sell your stuff, and/or find a treasure! There will be many kid friendly items. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will also be available for purchase. For additional information, please call Nancy at 609-466-3108 or email blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com.

The month will end with our annual Halloween festivities on Monday, October 31st.

There are limited openings available in some programs for the 2011-2012 school year. If interested, please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to blawenburgvillageschool.com.

Missions Team

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

By Gracie Johnson

CROPWALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

Please join us as we walk together after church 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, as well as the peanut butter, go to Somerset County Food Bank Network. We will meet this year at Faith Lutheran Church across from the Municipal Building in Hillsborough, on the corner of South Branch Road and Beekman Road, at 1:30 on Sunday, October 16th. The easy five-mile walk starts at 2 p.m. Please join us! Vickie DeLaCruz will be registering walkers on the day of the Walk and collecting the peanut butter at church on the morning of the 16th.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

October 30 - November 13, 2011



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.

Coming Up: In November we will join with BVS families to fill shoe boxes 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 Sunday School children will be packing shoe boxes on November 13. We hope you can support this outreach effort by packing a shoe box or two or buying bulk items for several shoe boxes and by joining us at coffee hour on November 13!

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.

Sweet fellowship marks Orahovica church visit

By Nancy Titus

Yesterday, we spent a wonderful family day in Orahovica, a small town about an hour away from our home. Eric preached at the Pentecostal church there, and we enjoyed the rest of the day having fellowship with the pastor and his wife while also feeding ourselves on the beauty of God's creation.

One of the greatest privileges of the day was praying for the people of the church as they came forward. We were honored to do so, and humbled, as one after another asked for the Lord to clear out anything in their lives that kept Him from being the center.

Time spent with Pastor Slobodan and his wife, Lidija, was as invigorating as the hike up to the base of the "Rose City," which is the ruins of a 14th century castle. Once you make the climb, you can stand on a look-out at the bottom of the castle and look down over the city of Orahovica and across to the mountains in Pecs, Hungary, about 50 miles away. The view is worth the effort of the climb. Up a little farther is the castle itself, and traipsing around its old walls fills the mind with possibilities as thoughts go back to those who lived there centuries ago and what happenings the crumbling walls stood witness to.

Slobodan was raised in Orahovica, a picturesque city of about 4,500 named for the walnuts that grow profusely there. He grew up racing up and down the mountain, swinging on the vines, and enjoying the outdoor life through every season. Much of the antics of our trek up the mountain was about how accustomed to it, and incredibly fit Slobodan, at the age of 50 is. Lidija told us how even this past summer, young guys challenged Slobodan to soccer games with great boasting before the game and very little to say afterwards!

All along the way from the church to the lake to the castle and back, Slobodan spoke to every single person we met, encouraging them and joking with them in his natural out-going way. The joy of the Lord flows out from him to anyone within his line of sight and being in his presence – even with our limited conversational skills since he doesn't speak English – was a pleasure itself!

Orahovica's beautiful setting makes it a drawing place. All third graders from our part of Croatia attend a "nature week" there, which is part of the regular science curriculum of the schools. Both of our girls participated in this event with their classes when they were attending Croatian public school.

The Pentecostal church also has used the natural beauty of Orahovica to foster the spread of the gospel through summer camps it runs. Many of today's church leaders point to the significance of their attendance at these camps decades ago when they were young people in their conversion and/or spiritual development.

Renovation of the camp facilities has been one of the major mission projects of the denomination during our tenure here in Croatia. The project was impressive because money was raised mostly from within the church in Croatia. Because it was largely self-funded, it took a long time for the money to come in and the work to be completed. Slobodan himself did much of the work after his secular job. During the four summers the renovations were underway, the summer camps continued on our seminary property. Our daughter, Valerie, was among the group that returned to the Orahovica property in the summer of 2010 even though the kitchen was not completed until this year.

Please pray for Slobodan and Lidija, for their ministry to the people of Orahovica, for the people of their church and for the camp ministry. Among the challenges they face is the huge problem of unemployment, which is leading many young people to leave the town. The lack of funds also is a huge burden as the church tries to reach out to those with little hope. Pray that God will supply everything they need so that the gospel can flourish for the glory of Jesus.

Eric and Nancy Titus are RCA missionaries in Osijek, Croatia, where they work at the Evangelical Theological Seminary and with the Reformed Christian Church in Croatia. They have three children: Samuel, 17, Valerie, 13, and Penny, 11.

Church World Service Kits

We will be collecting for these kits and putting them together this winter. They are all so desperately needed. The items needed for kit are listed on cards that are available in the Church and Cook Hall. Keep one with you as a reminder when shopping. Patterns for the school bags, baby gowns and sweaters are available in Cook Hall. Check the list in Cook Hall for an update on what is most needed to round out kits. Donations for the cost of items or shipping are always appreciated. (An itemized list can be found in the September Beacon.)

Proclaiming Team

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

SINTERKLAAS

by Nancy D'Alessandro, Co-Chair

We are gearing up for **Sinterklaas** and would love to have any brand new toys that you might have left over 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. The date is **December 3rd**. Mark your calendars and anticipate a fun day to initiate the holidays. More information to follow in November's *Beacon* and church bulletins. Thank you for your support!

October Lunch Menus

*Every Tuesday, from 11:30am to 1:00pm, we serve lunch in Cook Hall.
Lunch is served buffet style and a free-will donation is accepted (anonymously).
Lunches will always have salad, bread, dessert and beverages.*

October 4th.

*Minestrone soup, pasta & meatballs, pumpkin pie cake,
sour cream cranberry bars*

October 11th.

Chili, baked potatoes, toppings, apple crisp

October 18th.

Manicotti, garlic bread, hamburger vegetable soup

October 25th.

Potato soup, lemon chicken, rice, pumpkin pie

Properties Team

Oversees all matters pertaining to campus buildings and grounds, construction, maintenance, etc.

Update - September

by Ethel Terhune

A lot of work and changes took place over the summer, and in the past few weeks. The pre-school has moved totally into the Old School House. Sunday school, the nursery and our lounge are now back in Cook Hall. The parsonage has been cleaned out and will be occupied for a few months by Linda Pepe, the minister from First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill, and her family.

Many of you have helped in hundreds of ways to accomplish all this work, much of it not visible to most people. Prayers of gratitude and thanks from our Properties Team and from those who want to help but are not able. A Heartfelt thanks to each of you.

Bills & Money spent:

Parsonage Dumpster	\$ 440.00	Endowment \$
Replace cellar window	183.92	Church Funds
Oil burners repaired	2,399.00	Insurance?

Church: Hurricane Irene caused flooding in the basements of the Church and the Old School House. The damage to the heating and AC units has been repaired. We are waiting to see if our insurance will cover the expenses. The floors in both basements still need to be vacuumed out with a shop vac. Thanks, Jim Beachell, Blawenburg Fire Co., Don and Valley Oil.

Parsonage: Lots of stuff had to be removed and we pulled out the carpeting, exposing the lovely hardwood floors. Jim Eberly and Don Thiel delivered two huge TV's to Rich's mother and sister. A \$200 donation from them has been applied to the cost of the dumpster. Lisa White and Nancy D'Alessandro headed up the clean out. And many hands (Nancy, Lisa and Rick, Nancy Curtis, Kyle, Emilio, Barb P, Barb VL, Vickie, Sonya, Jim Eberly and Scout Troop #46) came out on a Saturday morning to do some tossing and heavy moving. Volunteers (Lisa W, Jessica, Jean, Barb P, Lisa H, Evelyn, Peggy, Don & Ethel) have worked hard to wash some windows, remove carpeting tacks, clean all the rooms including the basement, kitchen appliances, air conditioners and de-humidifiers and made repairs. Kevin Weingart has been hired to clean up the shrubs and flower beds around the house.

Old School House: All the exterior wood, windows and doors were painted. The fire escape and shed have been pressure washed but still need painting. The pre-school classrooms and library have been painted. Minor repairs and adjustments made. The cellar window replaced and a window well added. Most all furniture and supplies for the pre-school have moved from Cook Hall to the school house. Many thanks to Morgan, Yuri & Marie and Andrea & Linnéa for organizing and shelving books in our now cozy library on the second floor. Playground equipment cleaned. (Don, Jim & Jean B, Barb & Joe P, Karen, Bruce, Larry, Dave C, Dave D. Gracie, Evelyn, Bernice all helped to make the school shine. Thanks also, to Sharon at Saums Paint Shop for painting and decorating advice, the entry window enhancement, discounts and contribution of materials.)

Memorial Hall: Great Room/Warehouse: about to be rented, tables and chairs have been moved. Some furniture has been moved back to Cook Hall. The AA group meets Tuesday evenings in the Theater, and artist Suzanne Hunt is in the back office. There are still some items in the building that need to be tossed.

Cook Hall: The lounge and Sunday school classroom (old library) are set up. Those carpets have been cleaned. Our library in the lounge will soon be organized, again. The supplies and toys for the nursery, in the former chapel area, are being organized. Salta is settled in the NE classrooms. (Gracie, Lisa H, Barb P, Bernice, Karen and preschool teachers are those workers)

Most regrettably, Mark has asked to be removed as a member of our Properties Team. His knowledge in the areas of construction and code are under estimated. Among the many projects, he was always looking out for our Church, and over saw the exterior painting, the replacement of the slate roof, and the work on the repairs to the foundation. I can't tell you how much he will be missed. Many, many thanks go to Mark for his time and talent.

We are looking for two new members to our Properties Team of Jean Beachell, Don & Ethel and *possibly* Peggy Querec.

News from Our Sister Church

Griggstown Reformed Church would like to welcome its newest staff member:

Pauline Leung Kahler, MSCC, LAPC
Eleos Christian Counseling
A Ministry of Griggstown Reformed Church
1065 Canal Rd
Princeton, NJ 08540

If you are in need of counseling services or would like to know more about what Eleos Christian Counseling offers, you can contact Pauline at 609-474-HOPE (4673).

On a sort of similar note (but free of charge), Griggstown Reformed Church is offering

GriefShare
Thursdays, 7-9pm
Griggstown Reformed Church Parlor
1065 Canal Rd
Princeton, NJ 08540
(908) 359-3604

To find out more about the Biblical material we will be using for the next 13 weeks, view griefshare.org.

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



- 1 Jean Skillman
- 3 Concetta Magliochetti
- 15 Max Urbanski
- 16 Pastor Rich Van Doren
- 20 Tom Skillman - 100th Birthday!
- 23 Evelyn Cochran

Anniversaries

The Rev. Richard & Susie Van Doren
 466 South Woodfield La.
 Bloomington, Indiana 47503
 812-825-4001

28th Mark & Sharon Fritzinger
 31st John & Cheryl Soos

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

October 3	7:00 PM	Church Health Team - Cook Hall lounge
October 8	6:30 PM	1 st Friday Dinner on Saturday—Cook Hall basement
October 9	10:00 AM	Worship - The Rev. Lynn Rubier Capron
October 11	5:00 PM	Properties Team
	6:00 PM	Classis – Levittown, PA
October 13	6:30 PM	Administration & Finance Team
	7:30 PM	Consistory – Cook Hall lounge
October 15	8:30—10:30 AM	Entire congregational gathering—NCD processing (Breakfast included) – Cook Hall basement
October 16	1:30 PM	CROPWALK – Hillsborough
October 22	9 AM—2 PM	BVS Yard Sale – Cook Hall parking area
October 24		Deadline for information and photos for Nov. Beacon
Sundays	10:00 AM	Worship with Dr. Sharman unless otherwise posted
	11:30 AM	Sunday School – after Children's Sermon
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Adult Study Group – Cook Hall lounge
	11:30 AM—1:00 PM	Bible Study – Cook Hall lounge
Thursdays	7:30 AM	Outreach Lunch—Cook Hall basement
		Men's Breakfast Group – Cook Hall basement

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material



Three tenors for some.
Three chefs for us.

Rally Day Picnic 2011

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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.