



The Blawenburg Beacon

August 2010

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

The writer of our lead article this month is the new Vice President of Consistory. Thank you, Wendy, for compiling your thoughts and those of Consistory to share with the congregation what is being done in this transition period and for presenting the tasks that are ahead for us as a church. —Barbara Pavlicek, Editor, *The Blawenburg Beacon*

Who are we? And where are we going? by Wendy Herbert

Each of us confronts big questions at critical points in our lives. Sometimes the examination is triggered by a crisis—at mid-life, following the death of a parent or other beloved family member, or when health fails and we face our own mortality. Just as important are the times that we examine who we are and where our lives are heading without a crisis, just to be sure that the course we've charted is heading in the right direction. So, too, we as a church must periodically reexamine who we are and whether we're heading in the right direction.

Last summer, Consistory appointed a strategic planning team to assist in reviewing and revitalizing our church and its mission. Over the past year that team has worked to reorganize our somewhat stale committee structure to align more closely with the values to which we as a church are committed. The team recommended five new committees or teams, with each to be focused on one of the five commitments of our mission statement—worship, hospitality, mission, life-long learning, and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. (Take a look at the mission statement if you haven't done so in a while—it's printed in the bulletin each Sunday.) Two administrative committees—finance and properties—will continue to support the work of the five “purpose-driven” teams. In future issues of the *Beacon*, we will spotlight the mission and planned activities of each team.

In the meantime, over the next several weeks each of the five new teams will be taking shape. We will be asking members of the congregation for their support. We need your prayers as well as your time and talents. Please take the time to listen and prayerfully to consider where you can lend your mind, hands, or voice. In Paul's letter to the Ephesian church (Ephesians 4:15-16), he describes the church as a body with Christ as its head; and he speaks of the church growing together and building itself up in love, as each part does its work: Could you sing with the choir? Teach a child? Swing a hammer? Visit someone who's sick? Share your faith with a friend? . . . We live in a community where over-commitment is the norm, but giving back has the power to restore our energy and calm our soul.

The work of the strategic planning team--presently, Mike Vande Woude, Bob Bradsell, and me--is just gaining momentum. With Pastor Rich's announcement that he will retire next August, the team's work for the coming year came more clearly into focus. As a part of the transition from Rich's ministry to calling a new pastor, our denomination requires us to engage in a process of self-evaluation to determine what qualities we are looking for in a pastor and what gifts we, as a congregation, have to offer a prospective pastor's ministry. That is, we are required to look at who we are and where we are going—and here we are, right back with the big questions. In future issues of the *Beacon*, we will keep everyone advised of the processes that we will use to ask and answer those questions.

Peace in Christ,
Wendy Herbert

Worship
by Gracie Johnson

Come Join the Worship Team: If you would be interested in working with the Worship Team and giving input to our music plans for the year and our bulletin and worship format, please email or call Gracie Johnson, Consistory Liaison to the Worship Team, at gtuckerbj@msn.com.

Pledges
by Dave Cochran

Several members of the Congregation have asked about when they will receive pledge cards. You will receive information in September about making pledges in support of the current budget. Meanwhile, we encourage you to contribute weekly or monthly to help our church continue its mission to serve Christ in our community. If it is easier when you are not in church, you can always donate on our web site using PayPal - www.blawenburgchurch.org.

In this issue, we will start a new entry entitled “Meet Your Consistory”. Thank you to Bob Bradsell for consenting to be our “Biographer-in-Residence” (not too much arm twisting!). As the newest member of Consistory, we will begin with Mike Urbanski.

Meet Your Consistory by Bob Bradsell

MICHAEL URBANSKI was elected to his first term as Deacon in the spring of 2010 and began his term on Consistory in July, 2010. He has extensive experience in the financial industry, on the systems management side. Michael currently works for *Credit Suisse* in New York as Director, Information Technology, Risk Management.

Blawenburg Church has benefited greatly from Michael’s talents in the recent upgrade of our office computers.

Michael met his wife, Jean Butcher, at Middlesex Community College where they were both on the ski team. They married in 1995, and found Blawenburg Church through the pre-school in 2001. Sons Max (born in 1999) and Calvin (2003) can typically be found with Jean and Michael on the right side of the sanctuary, near the back, on Sunday mornings.



Women’s Book Group - a.k.a., the M&Ms (Marys and Marthas)

The women’s book study group, the Marys and Marthas, are spending the summer reading [A Circle of Quiet](#) by Madeleine L’Engle. All women of the church are invited to join this early-bird group in Cook Hall on Saturday, September 18th (the third rather than our usual second Saturday). Come at 7:30 for breakfast or at 8:00 for prayer and discussion. If you have any questions, please call Bernice Van Nostrand at 908-359-6579.

Mission

Serving those in need

We will kick off our Fall with packing up our **Church World Service kits** after church on **Sunday, September 19th**. For the full list of what is needed for the Baby, School and Hygiene Kits, go to www.churchworldservice.org and follow the link to 'kits,' or pick up the cards at church to keep in your purse for when you see sales at the store over the summer. This will be the best time to buy these items as well as to get treats/gifts for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, the deadline for which always descends upon us quickly in the Fall. We particularly need the following items to complete the kits we have started:

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|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 large eraser | 3 blunt, round-tipped, child's scissors |
| 16 infant t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies) | 17 baby gowns or sleepers |
| 18 diaper pins | 14 baby washcloths |
| 8 hand towels (approx. 16" x 28") | 5 <u>wide-tooth</u> combs |
| 6 nail clippers | |

Please place items in basket on Outreach table in Cook Hall. 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 Cook Hall.

HANDS-ON MISSION:

Gracie Johnson did work at Faith Chapel, an African-American reformed church in Patterson, NJ. She will plan to go again later in August or September. Call the church office if you'd like to join her.

The first two weeks in August, the Warwick Conference Center hosts volunteers to come and stay for free in exchange for painting. If you haven't been there yet, it is a beautiful piece of country, just over the state border into NY.



Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

During the month of July, BVS campers experienced a luau, visited the jungle and explored the many wonders of nature.

The following camps are available during the month of August:

August 2nd-6th:

Wild, Wild, West... Join us at the BVS Corral as we turn into cowboys and cow-girls!

August 9th-13th:

Ocean Adventures... Discover the many treasures of the ocean!

Call the school office at 609-466-6600 or email blawenburgvillageschool.com if you're interested in summer camp or enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year.

Join us on Wednesday nights at 8:00 during the month of August, for **FREE**, family-friendly, outdoor movies. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Popcorn and ice cream will be available for purchase.

We will be showing:

August 4th: Up

August 11th: Finding Nemo

August 18th: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

August 25th: Charlotte's Web

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

Outreach Lunch Menus
August 2010
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!)

August 3
Manhattan Clam Chowder, Pulled Pork Sandwiches,
Chicken Marsala, Dessert

August 10
Sweet & Sour Cabbage Soup, Chicken Parmesan
Baked Ziti, Dessert

August 17
French Onion Soup, Cheese Steaks
Baked Potatoes with Toppings, Dessert

August 24
Potato Soup, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
Egg Salad, Macaroni Salad, Dessert

August 31
Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Chef Salad,
Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Dessert

You're invited!
Griggstown Reformed Church's
135th Annual Harvest Home Festival

Saturday, August 21
1065 Canal Rd
Free Music and Displays

Support Griggstown Reformed Church's Ministry:
purchase food & merchandise, play the games,
and bid at the ever popular Silent Auction!

Interesting Tidbits

August Birthdays

August 2nd	Kyle Curtis Will Herbert
August 7th	Ginger McAnear
August 11th	Nancy Meyer
August 14th	Dave Dorey
August 16th	Christina Magliochetti
August 18th	Barbara Van Liew
August 19th	Tom Hunt
August 22nd	Grace McAnear Will Martin
August 24th	Diana Pfannebecker
August 27th	Doug Rose
August 30th	Winston Peters
August 31st	Rick White

During the month of August we will be participating in worship with the other area Reformed Churches. .

August 1 - Griggstown Reformed Church, 10 AM, Communion

August 8 - First Reformed Church at Rocky Hill, 10 AM

August 15th - Blawenburg Reformed Church, 10 AM —Rev. Luis Perez, Synod Exec.

August 22 - Harlingen Reformed Church, 9 AM



On July 24th Chi Yi Chen married Jeff Wolbrink in Miller Chapel at Princeton Seminary. The couple never stopped smiling!

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material

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.