



# The Blawenburg Beacon

## October, 2010

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

## The Sixties

Those of us who remember the 1960s know there has never been another decade quite like it. While each ensuing span had something to distinguish it, the '60s stood out in more ways, perhaps than any other.

It was the decade of The Beatles (in the world of entertainment, 'nuff said), of the first man into space and the first men on the moon, of M.L. King, peaceful demonstrations and tragic race riots, the Viet Nam War and student protests, Woodstock, Manson, a President who refused to run again and his successor who would be forced to resign.

Other stuff happened, too, but these things leap to mind.

I've been thinking a lot about the sixties lately, not because I'm prone to nostalgia - because I'm not. It's the *number* that bears increasing significance. This month I'll turn sixty, and for the next ten years (the Lord willing) I'll be reliving the sixties in a way I could not imagine so long ago.

Back in my teens I thought sixty was old - very old. Now it seems more like the prime of life, especially after I have fellowship with some of our octo and nonagenarians, who continue to be lively, contributing members of our church and society. My hair is graying and I can't seem to trim down the paunch, but I feel as strong and healthy as I ever have, perhaps even better than I did as a teenager.

Like that tumultuous decade, my sixties promise to be a time of change and adjustment, loaded with challenge and hope, as we relocate to the mid west and settle into new careers and communities.

Change is never easy. Any decade can teach us that. But without it there would be no improvement, no growth.

Last March the Blawenburg Reformed Church entered its 180's. A whole lot of congregations never make it this far. Those that do continually adjust to changing times and the needs of the surrounding community.

Jesus said: "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8) The wind brings change, and we would all do well to be prepared for it. Those who are born of the Spirit know that God will lead us down unexpected paths. Either we "go with the flow," or we make like Jonah, run in the opposite direction and encounter threatening storms.

Jonah had the good fortune of being swallowed by a whale and transported to the place God wanted him to go. Had he stayed aboard that ship, he and all the other passengers probably would have been lost at sea.

Jesus also said: "No one who puts a hand to the plow and keeps looking back is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62). Basking in the past, resting on our laurels, refusing to change could keep us out of the promised land.

So change we must, as painful as it might sometimes be. If we follow God's lead, change will always be for the better.

I loved the sixties. Beginning next month, I'm going to love them even more.

## **BRC Changes Fiscal Year Launches Stewardship Campaign**

By Dave Cochran

At the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee, the Consistory recently changed the church fiscal year to match the calendar year--January to December. A few years ago, the fiscal year was changed to July--June to match the church year and the BVS calendar. The switch back is designed to match the financial years of members.

The current budget goes from July 2010 to June 2011. At its conclusion, we will have a special six-month budget until December 2011. After that, we will be in sync with the annual calendar.

You may have noticed that the pledges were not sought at the beginning of the current budget in July. Instead, we will launch a stewardship campaign in November, asking members and friends to contribute their time and financial resources to do God's work in Blawenburg.

The Stewardship Planning Committee will meet in October to develop the campaign. Members include Dave Cochran, Bill Herbert, Todd Quackenbush, and Rick White. All members and friends will be contacted in November or December to help support our mission.

We appreciate your support of the church. We encourage you to look carefully at what God has given you and what you can give back to God.

### **MEET YOUR CONSISTORY BY BOB BRADSELL**

**CHARLES "CHIP" PARMELE** was elected to his first term as Deacon in the spring of 2009, and is serving his second year on Consistory. Chip has been part of the BRC family since 2005, when he transferred from the Princeton Alliance Church.

Chip and his brother, Jim, grew up on Staten Island, but 'came of age' right here in Skillman. Chip was 18 when his family moved here, to be near his grandmother, Helen White. Grandmother Helen attended BRC many years ago.

After college, Chip joined the family insurance business in New York City. He's now a partner in the local insurance firm **Parmele, McDermott & Thomas**, a specialty business offering insurance to technology companies and venture capital firms. If you've talked with Chip, you've no doubt recognized the high-energy and out-going personality of a successful business executive. He brings those qualities to the BRC Consistory...Chip's not shy, and doesn't hold back when he sees an *outreach* opportunity for the church. Last season's venture into an evening "lecture series", featuring local experts in various fields, was largely due to Chip's efforts. This season, we may see more of those events.

Chip's *faith journey*, like so many, does not follow a straight line. He doesn't characterize himself as a traditional church-goer in his early years, but -- like many of us -- he found himself in personal turmoil. Following a divorce, he descended into drug and alcohol abuse, and suffered through a period of deep bitterness. *Alcoholics Anonymous* helped him when he reached bottom, and later, Princeton Alliance Church. Today, he finds inspiration from Pastor Rich and his interaction with the BRC family. His personal experience drew him to the *Crawford House* mission -- the local "halfway house" for troubled women. Look for that influence as we add *Crawford House* to BRC's mission efforts.

Chip played competitive tennis through college, and continues to do so today. If he's not in Church on Sunday, chances are he's off playing in a tournament someplace. But on most Sundays, you'll find Chip on the west side of the sanctuary, in the center pews, about five rows from the back sitting with Grace Terhune and his mother, Jacque.

## CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

### August 3:

At our August 3<sup>rd</sup> Consistory meeting, Barbara Pavlicek was named President of the Board of Trustees of the Blawenburg Village School to replace outgoing President, Scott Magliochetti. Thanks to Scott for all his legal work setting the school up as a separate 501c3 corporation. Barbara will serve alongside continuing Board members, Sharon Stevens and Bernice Van Nostrand.

Consistory approved the recommendation of our Strategic Planning Team (Bob Bradsell, Wendy Herbert and Mike Van de Woude) to organize our energies and efforts at BRC into ‘Teams’ around the mandates of our mission statement. The following are the Teams and their Consistory liaisons and chairs, if self chosen yet:

*Stewardship* – how we commit and care for our *gifts* and resources: Liaison –Mike Van de Woude

Administration & Finance – Chair: Dave Cochran

Properties – Chair: Ethel Terhune

*Worship* – Liaison – Gracie Johnson; Chair: Pastor Rich

*Hospitality* – Liaison – Lisa White (includes Care & Visitation and Family Life)

*Life-Long Learning* – Liaison – Pastor Rich

Nursery & Sunday School Superintendent: Deanna McAnear

Youth Group “Communicator”: Catherine Murphy

*Mission* (serving those in need) – Liaison – Joe Pavlicek; Chair: Bill Herbert

*Outreach* (*proclaiming...*) – Liaison – Chip Parmele

Consistory will be meeting regularly now on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month if you have items to bring before us.

### September 16:

- Wendy Herbert reported that the Strategic Planning Team is exploring use of Natural Church Development (“NCD”) process in our church. (*NCD is a church health process that focuses on improving church quality; it has been successfully used in RCA churches throughout the country, and in churches of various other denominations throughout the world.*) Consistory approved the team’s continuing work to determine how NCD might be implemented at our church.
- Consistory discussed that in addition to meeting on Sunday evenings this year, our Mysteries and Heroes of the Bible Group will be joining with Rocky Hill Church Youth Group at 7 pm on the third Sunday evening of each month for “Sunday Night Lights.” Thanks to Catherine Murphy for coordinating this!
- Consistory adopted a new expense approval process and a change to a December 31 fiscal year end, both on recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee.
- Pastor Rich reported on his sabbatical—and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity that it provided him to pursue his passion for writing.
- A handout was received from Bill Herbert for a “Spiritual Life and Christian Ministries Convention” to be held in Hawthorne, NJ, on Oct. 22-23.
- Mike Urbanski volunteered to look into helping make our website more ‘dynamic’.

## Worship

by Gracie Johnson

*"We commit our gifts to worship, ..."*

The Worship Team begs your forbearance while we experiment with different forms of musical accompaniment and expression now that we no longer have the blessed gifts of Chi-Yi to guide us. She has, however, graciously offered to join us when she can. For October we will have:

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chi-Yi Chen on World Communion Sunday
10 <sup>th</sup>	Open
17 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremiah Van Doren on keyboard
24 <sup>th</sup>	Chi-Yi
31 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel Sing-a-long with Pastor Rich and Barb Antoniewicz on guitar and Jeremiah on keyboard

We also will be experimenting with our Bulletin format and our Order of Worship. Please give Gracie Johnson, Nancy Curtis or Pastor Rich your reactions – good or bad.

## Adjustments to Worship Spark Debate

by Pastor Rich

Apparently, my general email of September 30 ruffled a few feathers. This is what I wrote:

*In order to lend a little more polish to Sunday worship and reverse what has become kind of a lax "public meeting" approach that lengthens the service by as much as twenty minutes, the following changes will be instituted for the foreseeable future:*

*\* the service will begin at 10 a.m. sharp (prelude at 9:55);*

*\* there will be no time allotted for vocal announcements (worshippers will be asked to consult the announcements page in the Order of Worship which will be on the inside of the front cover; any last minute announcements may be written on a chalk board to be placed at the back of the sanctuary, or copied and inserted into the Order of Worship);*

*\* Passing of the Peace will follow the Gloria Patri and will be introduced with the words:*

*"Let us now turn to our neighbors and pass the peace of Christ."*

*Hopefully, "tightening up" the service will improve attendance, which last month was the lowest in my 26+ years in the ministry.*

*Please note: announcements are not to be confused with prayer requests, which are welcome without restriction before the family prayers.*

Everything in this email was approved by previous worship committees, except of course my statement about attendance (which was simply a fact - no more).

While I don't feel particularly inspired by heavily liturgical, "high church" services, our approach to worship can become relaxed to the point of irreverence. As much as a third of our congregation arrives well after 10 a.m., because, like movie theater previews, the "show" doesn't start until after the announcements, which can last as long as fifteen minutes. Chatter throughout the sanctuary during and even after the prelude clearly reveals a state of the heart that is not spirit-focused. The "Passing of the Peace" has become a time of casual conversation, a withdrawal from worship rather than a promoter of it.

In my opinion, visitors will more likely be turned off by lackadaisical worship than services that are too formal. I believe we can find a comfortable place in between.

## Missions

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

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD November 15-22, 2010



**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 shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, treats and other items suitable for children who are 2-14 years old in countries suffering from natural disasters, wars and endemic poverty. Our Sunday School children will be packing shoeboxes on November 21. We hope you can support this outreach effort by packing a shoebox or two or buying bulk items for several shoeboxes and by joining us at coffee hour on November 21!

#### **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, washcloth, 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.

## Missions, Continued

### **Church World Service Kits**

On September 19<sup>th</sup> we had 10 students, four youth helpers and three adults for our Mission Sunday-Sunday School session. After a short lesson about serving others, the children sorted and packed up, with the help of three or four more adult recruits during fellowship, 21 School Kits, 15 Baby Care Kits and 25 Hygiene Kits to be delivered to Middletown, NJ, from where they will travel to the Bethesda, MD, warehouse of Church World Service, from whence they get shipped to fill emergency needs in the USA and around the world. A great big 'thank you' to those who sewed, crocheted, bought and packaged kits in order to serve others!

### **CROPWALK – OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Please join us as we walk together after church to fight the root causes of hunger globally and to contribute \$\$ and peanut butter to help our food bank locally. Envelopes are available 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. Please consider donating what you might spend on dinner out for yourself and/or your family. Twenty five percent of monies raised, as well as the peanut butter, go to the Somerset County Food Bank Network. We will meet this year at Faith Lutheran Church in Hillsborough across from the municipal building on the corner of South Branch Road and Beekman at 1:30 PM on Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. The easy five mile walk starts at 2 PM. Call Gracie Johnson (609-466-1862) if you would like a ride to and from the Walk. Last year we had about 12 walkers.



### **New Hands on Mission**

by Bill Herbert

The Missions Committee is excited to announce a new hands-on mission with the Crawford House. Located on Sunset Road in Montgomery Township, the Crawford House is a private, not-for-profit agency providing transitional housing and treatment to women in early recovery from addiction to drugs and/or alcohol.

The purpose of the Crawford House is to help its 22 residents learn healthy new behaviors, achieve active employment, and build sober support systems so that they can become productive members of society.

In our caring and loving partnership with the Crawford House, BRC will be planning some social events where BRC members and Crawford House residents will interact through conversation, soup making, game nights, and other activities throughout the year. Crawford House residents will also be helping BRC with set up of our rummage sale and possibly Sinterklaas.

BRC members will also be helping to train residents of Crawford House in basic computer skills, resume writing and general writing skills.

Linda Leyhane, Executive Director, said their program is designed to facilitate physical, emotional, and spiritual healing in a safe and mutually supportive community. This new partnership will help us accomplish this objective. We are definitely excited.

## **Life-Long Learning**

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

### **Sunday School and Nursery**

Click on “Sunday School” on our website’s title page for this information.

This year the schedule for Life Long Learning will be a little different.

On the **first Sunday** of every month, you may take your children (K-6th graders) directly to the Children & Worship room in Cook Hall (downstairs in Cook Hall behind the divider wall) before worship.

On the **2nd and 4th Sunday** of every month, you may take your children directly to the Sanctuary with you. They will be invited to come forward for the children’s message. After the message, children of Kindergarten age through Grade 6 will go with their teachers to the schoolhouse.

On the **3rd and 5th Sunday** of the month, you may take your children directly to the Sanctuary with you. They will be invited to come forward for the children’s message. After the message, children of Kindergarten age through Grade 6 will go to Cook Hall for a Mission Project.

**Nursery Care:** Younger children (birth to age 4) can start off in nursery or be taken to the Schoolhouse Nursery by their parents after the children's sermon. The nursery is equipped with pagers, so you are only a “buzz” away (like the restaurants) if your child needs you. You are welcome to stay with your child for a few minutes or the whole hour until he/she gets used to the room.

At 11:06 the teachers of school-aged children will close their lesson and walk the children to Cook Hall to meet parents. If it **is** necessary for parents to pick up their children, please wait outside the room until the lesson is finished. The younger children should be picked up in the nursery.

## **Opportunities to Brush Up on Bible Knowledge**

by Pastor Rich

On Wednesday, September 29, the Newark Star Ledger published the surprising results of a recent poll. Agnostics had the highest score when responding to a list of 32 questions about religion in America. Mainline Protestants barely beat out those who called themselves "Nothing" by answering correctly slightly more than 15 questions on average.

For those who would like to see our score improve, several opportunities to learn more about our faith will be offered this fall. Here's the schedule beginning Sunday, October 3:

### **Sundays**

11:30 a.m. (or after fellowship): Faith/Bible-focused discussion on varying contemporary topics, and video-led Bible studies (Cook Hall Basement)

5:45 p.m.: Junior Joggers (thru the Bible), an introduction to the Christian faith for 10 and 11 year olds (Memorial Hall Theater, the first two Sundays of every month through December)

6:30 p.m.: Mysteries and Heroes of the Bible, for confirmation aged youth and anyone else who would like to attend (Memorial Hall Theater, also the first two Sundays)

### **Tuesdays**

10 a.m.: Prayer and Bible Study. We're finishing up Jog Through the Bible no later than the second Tuesday in October, after which we will do a Comparative Reading of the Q'uran and the Bible. If there is sufficient interest, this may be offered on a week night, as well.

Your pastor would be pleased to lead as many Bible studies as are desired, so if there's something you don't know and you'd like to, just ask.

## Care and Compassion Conference

### Words of Kindness

by Gracie Johnson and Bill Herbert

On September 17 and 18 Bill Herbert, Sonya Hunt, Gracie Johnson, Catherine Murphy and Barbara Pavlicek attended a conference on caring and compassion at the Christian Healthcare Center in Wyckoff, NJ. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. James Kok from one of our more famous Reformed Churches, the Crystal Cathedral in California. Dr. Kok's themes throughout his talks were that Jesus came to bring world-changing activities and attitudes and that simple words of kindness can change the world. He gave two inspiring keynote addresses. His first address, based on a book he has written on the same subject, aptly followed Pastor Rich's September *Beacon* letter: "90% of Helping is Just Showing Up"! His second address was entitled, "What Jesus Wants from Us".

The workshop choices we had were:

*Healing: Body, Mind and Spirit*  
*Keep Them Home and Keep Them Safe*  
*Staying Whole in the Midst of Brokenness*  
*The Ministry of Prayer*  
*Empty Place at the Table: End of Life Spiritual Care*  
*Defining Dementia*  
*The Healing Power of Forgiveness*  
*The Force of Kindness: Compassion in Action*  
*An Overview of Depression*  
*Equipping the Volunteer*  
*Dealing with Illness*  
*Current Elder Issues*  
*The Journey Through Grief*  
*So You've Been Asked to Make Visits*  
*Approaching Death with Faith*  
*It Takes a Community to Bring Healing*

We will be sharing our discoveries with you over the coming months. Although some workshops hit home more than others, we all came away feeling energized, motivated, and better equipped as Christians. An equally fruitful time was had discussing our various workshops amongst ourselves.

The Rev. Kok has Five Keys of Care and Kindness that he would like us to remember:

1. *Everyone* needs my care and support and to be noticed by me.
2. I have the capacity, qualities and abilities that can brighten others' lives.
3. Care and kindness build hope in that person's heart and opens them to God's love.
4. Care and kindness to anyone is care and kindness to the Lord.
5. Care and kindness is infectious: others catch it. Pass it on!

**Youth of BRC**  
by Catherine Murphy

Our youth are at the heart of our church, and we're always looking to find more ways for them to interact and engage with each other on both a spiritual and personal level. See the flyer below for the combined efforts of Rocky Hill and Blawenburg Reformed Churches.

If any parents would like to help support any of the Youth programs, please let us know.

# Take the Plunge

## Calling All BRC Youth

The new Youth program "The Plunge" is starting this fall in partnership with the Rocky Hill Reformed Church. Annie Reilly, the Youth Minister at RHRC has fun events planned for all ages.

### Introducing Sunday Night Lights

On the third Sunday of every month, Annie opens the Rocky Hill Parsonage to 7<sup>th</sup> graders and up for fun, food and worship from 6pm to 8:30pm. SNL kick off was last Sunday night. Tie Dye and Manhunt ruled the evening!

Pastor Rich has volunteered to schedule confirmation classes around the SNL dates so there are no conflicts.

#### Meeting Schedule

October 17  
November 21  
December 19

### For All Ages

Halloween Party, Saturday, October 30  
Details to come

Christmas Bash  
Sunday, December 19, 6pm @ RHRC Parsonage

### For 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up

Apple /Pumpkin Picking: Saturday, October 9 @ 2pm  
Bring \$10 to pay for your apples

Game Night: Friday, November 12 @ 6pm

Cookie Baking: Saturday, December 18 @ 1pm  
Cookies from scratch. Unleash your inner Betty Crocker

Meet at Rocky Hill Reformed Church for all events

## Blawenburg FALL Rummage Sale !!! October 14, 15, 16

When the kids go back to school, and the weather turns cooler, it's time to clean the closets!! We can help you get rid of all your extra "stuff".

We will be accepting clothing, linens, bric-a-brac, books and toys at Memorial Hall the week of October 3-9 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. We **CANNOT** accept electronics, small appliances or large furniture.

The sale will be on Thursday evening, October 14, 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.; Friday, October 15, 9:00 A.M. until 4:00P.M.; and Saturday, October 16, 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. On Saturday, items will be half price or \$3.00 a bag.

We need lots of workers, and lots of donations to make this another Blawenburg Rummage Sale Success!!! If you have any questions about donations or want to volunteer to help, call the church office @ 609-466-3108; Jean Beachell @ 609-924-7637; or Jean Butcher @ 609-924-5864.



### Marys and Marthas Women's Book Study Group by Barbara Pavlicek

It's funny how conversations go. As readers of *A Circle of Quiet*, we all pretty much agreed that this book was hard to get into and to stick with for any length of time. However, we agreed that Madeleine L'Engel had many "gems" that made us sit up and take notice. She had a way of giving words of wisdom or thoughtful reflections when we needed them in our individual circumstances. Join the book group on October 9th at 7:30 for breakfast and a discussion of the second half of the book. We anticipate finding more "gems".



# Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

The 2010 - 2011 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 both Pastor Rich and Mrs. Van Nostrand. We will also be starting a music and movement program this year. All classes will join Miss Karen weekly to explore the wonders of music.

Back-to-School Night will be held on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend and learn about the many learning experiences their children will participate in this year.

School photos will be taken on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The photographer will also be available on Tuesday evening, October 19<sup>th</sup> for family photographs. This is a great opportunity to have your family photographed for Christmas gifts or cards. There's no sitting fee or obligation to purchase. Everyone is welcome; just give us a call to make an appointment, 609-466-6600.

On Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be visiting Norz Hill Farm in Hillsborough. Our students will be learning about various farm animals as well as enjoying a hay-ride to the pumpkin patch where they will pick their own pumpkin.

The month will end with our annual Halloween parade on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am, and our 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Night Out, from 5:30-8:30pm. Kids Night Out is an event in which students are invited to join their friends at school for dinner, a movie and crafts. This event is available to all BRC members, BVS students, their families and friends. Cost is \$20.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> child and \$10.00 for each additional child. Please call the school for additional information or to secure a space.

There are limited openings available in some programs for the 2010-2011 school year. If interested please call the school office at 609-466-6600 or send an email to [blawenburgvillageschool.com](mailto:blawenburgvillageschool.com).

Karen Hill, Director

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



## **Outreach Lunch Menus**

October, 2010

by Nancy Curtis

*“We commit our gifts to ... Hospitality”*

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!)

Outreach Lunch Menus

October, 2010

Lunches will always have salad, bread and beverages

October 5

Clam Chowder, Chicken Parm with Pasta, Cookies & Ice Cream

October 12

Sweet & Sour Cabbage Soup, Chili, Baked Potatoes, Dessert

October 19

Potato Soup, Lemon Chicken with Rice, Dessert

October 26

Chicken Sausage Gumbo, Pulled Pork, Dessert

## **Hospitality Team**

by Lisa White

*“We commit our gifts to ... hospitality”*

Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally Day Cook Out – 30 people attended. Lots of good fellowship and food. Unfortunately, we did not have a softball game. Maybe next year!

Look forward to our pot luck lunches the first Sunday of January, February and March.

If you have any ideas for the hospitality committee, please let us know.

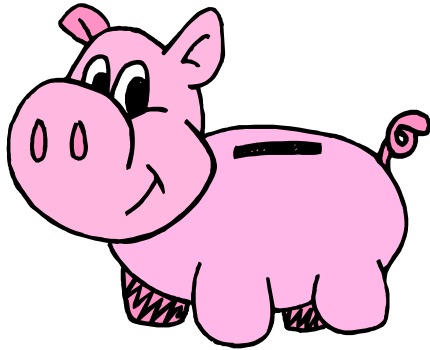
Every Tuesday, Nancy D’Alessandro and I will be visiting members of the congregation. If anyone would like to join us, we will be going at 11:30 following Bible study. If you know of anyone in need of a visit, please let us know.

# Around Town And the Denomination

All flyers corresponding to these announcements  
are on the bulletin board in Cook Hall.

Clover Hill Annual Pig Roast  
Benefits the Church Building Fund  
Saturday, October 9th  
Seatings at 4:15 and 6:15

Take-Outs are Available  
Adults \$12/Children 5-12 \$6/Under 5 FREE!  
For Tickets call 908-369-8451



## Spiritual Life Convention

By Bill Herbert

Bill Herbert would like to invite you to join him in attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Spiritual Life and Christian Ministries Convention on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hawthorne Gospel Church in Hawthorne, New Jersey. The event, presented by New Jersey Christian Ministries, will offer 69 workshops for everyone to participate in (See the enclosed schedule of workshops).

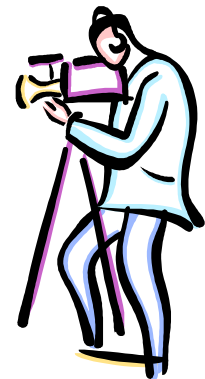
If you are interested in attending either Friday, Saturday, or both days, please contact Bill. The cost is, if registered by October 13<sup>th</sup>, \$37.00 for both days, \$22.00 for Friday only, or \$32.00 for Saturday only. If after the 13<sup>th</sup>, the cost is \$45.00 for both days, \$30.00 for Friday, and \$40.00 for Saturday.

Family Photo Op  
October 19<sup>th</sup>

See Blawenburg Village School article for a family  
photo opportunity and Kids Night Out



Kids Night Out  
October 30<sup>th</sup>



## **Croatia Update—Injured teacher back at work with new children**

*By Nancy Titus*

Good news! Penny's teacher at the local Croatian school is finally back at work after a fall from a cherry tree in May 2009 broke her back and left her unable to walk.

In September, Dobrila Maričić became what is believed to be the only teacher in a wheelchair in Croatia. Her return to the classroom was chronicled in a daily newspaper from Zagreb, the country's capital. (I have emailed a copy of the article to your church if you want to see her picture in the classroom Penny once attended. Of course, the article itself is written in Croatian!)

We are excited about this event for a number of reasons. First, it is an answer to prayer, as many of you who have joined us in praying for her know. Next, of course, we are glad that Dobrila is recovered enough to be able to go back to work. That is good for her personally, as teaching is something she loves. But even more, we are thrilled for Osijek and Croatia to have such a gifted teacher back in the classroom where she can continue to have a huge impact on the future of the country.

In this war-torn land of men with missing limbs, it was not always certain that she would be able to return to teaching, regardless of her recovery. Most people I asked here assumed that a person with such a disability would never be able to teach, and they pointed to the requirement for leading gym classes which is part of the job for teachers of the first-fourth grades. (Here teachers stay with the same class of students for the first four years.)

Dobrila was determined, however. She explained to the newspaper her feelings about the effect of her injury. She didn't want to be someone who would only be pitied by others, but instead she wanted to be an example that physical barriers did not mean the end of her life or her career. She wants to use her most seasoned years as a teacher to show that just because a person is in a wheelchair doesn't mean that person is not useful to children to society to her family or even to herself.

When we first enrolled our children in the local school, Penny was in the first grade (she's now in fifth). One of the first parents I met was the manager of the local school bookstore, where we had to buy the children's textbooks. This woman also had a child entering the same school, and her comment to me when I told her who Penny's teacher was continues to ring in my ears: "Ah, the legend!"

Our experience with Dobrila reinforces why others think of her as an extraordinary teacher and a shining model for post-communist education. A woman who never had children of her own, she has for 25 years poured her life into the children in her classroom. She loves them, and lets them know it, something that stands out in a culture where nurturing is often brusque. She is the very definition of a good teacher: particular but kind, open and inviting, warm and compassionate. When faced with Penny and another American child with little Croatian language ability (and her with little English ability), she gave them time and space to learn the language and culture as well as the specifics the other children were learning. When Penny encountered difficulties, Dobrila was accommodating and went the extra mile to help the little outsider feel at home.

Even her injury itself was sustained while she was going beyond the call of duty. She had invited the children out to her orchard for a day of fun on her own time when the tragedy occurred.

When we heard the news that she was teaching again, we were thrilled for all these reasons, as were her class of first graders and their parents! Glory be to God!

On another note, Eric's doctoral dissertation defense has finally been scheduled. Unfortunately, it was not in September as we had hoped but was set for Nov. 30. Please keep that date in prayer as he prepares for this last step in earning this important degree.\

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



1 Jean Skillman	16 Rev. Richard Van Doren
3 Concetta Magliochetti	20 Tom Skillman
15 Max Urbanski	23 Evelyn Cochran

### Anniversaries

28	Mark & Sharon Fritzing
31	John & Cheryl Soos

### Summary of Dates

See earlier articles for more details

Oct. 3	World Communion Sunday	
	Adult Sunday School Resumes	Cook Hall
Oct. 9	Marys and Marthas at 7:30 AM	Cook Hall
	Youth Apple/Pumpkin Picking at 6 PM	
Oct. 14-16	Rummage Sale	
Oct. 17	CROP Walk - Faith Lutheran in Hillsborough	
	Sunday Night Lights at Rocky Hill Reformed	
Oct. 19	Family Photos	Cook Hall
Oct. 29	1st Kids Night Out	Cook Hall
Oct. 30	Youth Halloween Party	Rocky Hill
Nov. 15-22	Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection	
Dec. 1-31	Heifer Project	
Tuesdays	10 AM in Memorial Hall—Bible Study	
Thursdays	7:30 AM—Men's Breakfast Club	
Sundays	11:30 AM in Cook Hall—Adult Sunday School	

# **The Blawenburg Beacon**

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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.*