



The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

2016 MARCH

Why Do We Do What We Do?

We're a small, active church. But if you pause for a minute, you may wonder why we do all the things we do. What is the theology behind our activity? The answer becomes clear when we look back at some of our activities in February and look ahead to March.

Here are some things we did in February:

- We held our third Family Worship. In addition to eating pancakes, Emma Murphy and Morgan Van Liew helped young people learn the Loaves and Fishes Bible Story. What's more important than helping young people learn what it means to be a Christian?
- We also helped our Scouts in Troop 46 "be reverent," which is part of their Scout oath. It was great to have many Scouts and leaders from our community in worship on February 7.
- We joined in Lenten reflection, as we remembered the sacrifice made by Christ for the remission of our sins.
- In addition to food, we shared hospitality and fellowship at our Pot Luck Luncheon.
- We also honored Mait Van Nostrand, who did so much for our church, by dedicating the sound system to his memory. It is important to remember those who have helped make us who we are.
- During this month, we collected a large amount of pasta and sauce to help replenish the Montgomery Food Bank.

March holds promise for continued meaningful events.

- We will hold another Family Worship, encouraging more families to learn about God through the story of the Good Samaritan.
- We will invite the ladies of Crawford House to join us in Cook Hall for an afternoon of soup-making and fellowship.
- We will also grow and learn when Mimi Coffey helps us understand Islam on March 6, and the following week when our partners at Marble Collegiate present a program on giving our gifts.
- On Maundy Thursday, we will join in worship and communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Griggstown Reformed.
- And, on Easter Sunday, we will welcome community to our church as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. This is the most important day of our year, and helping others understand Christ's death and resurrection is critical to our mission.

What we do is not just for us. It is to help us and others remember the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbors. This can happen in a variety of ways, but we need to remind ourselves that our activities are purposeful and pleasing to God.

May the peace of Christ be with you,
David Cochran, VP of Consistory



This Issue Includes:

Reflection	1
Worship March Schedule Easter Flowers	2
Hospitality Easter Eggs Pot Luck Lunch	3
Life-Long Learning Understand Islam Giving Gifts Family Worship Mary & Martha BVS Highlights	4
Missions Crawford House	6
Proclaiming Rummage Sale Hope Choir Search Team	7
Admin. Info Consistory Notes AmazonSmile	9
Calendar	10

...and more!

We commit our gifts to **WORSHIP** gathering as a community to celebrate God's presence among us!

March Schedule

March 6—4th Sunday in Lent
 8:32 AM, Family Worship and Breakfast
 (See more on page 4)
 10:00 AM, Service of Holy Communion
 Preacher: **Rev. Leah Ennis** of the Delaware-Raritan Classis
 Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13—5th Sunday in Lent
 Preacher: **Nancy Curtis**
 Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 20—PALM SUNDAY
 Preacher: **Chad Tanaka Pack** of Marble Collegiate Church
 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

March 24—MAUNDY THURSDAY
 7:00 PM, Service of Holy Communion
 Led by Rev. David Kahler of Griggstown Reformed Church
 and the BRC Choir (Service will be here at Blawenburg)

March 2—GOOD FRIDAY
 Sanctuary will be open for
 prayer, 12 Noon to 3 PM

March 27—EASTER
 Preacher: **Carlos Corro**
 John 20:1-18, "Rolling Stone"
 Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt
 following worship!



Missed Worship?

Listen to sermons online at <http://blawenburgchurch.podbean.com/>
 and view the bulletin at
www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar

Field Trip Update

We are still considering the possibility of renting a bus and traveling to Marble Church for worship later

this spring. Please be on the look-out for a formal poll in the weeks ahead, or please send your feedback to Gracie Johnson! Dates we're considering are April 24 or May 22. There is also a possibility of doing this in the summer instead.

Flowers for Easter!

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, please fill in the form below and return it to the church office, along with your payment, **by Sunday, March 13**. You may mail it to or leave it in the church office or on the table in the back of the sanctuary. As with Christmas, we will have a page in the Easter bulletin dedicating the flowers however you wish. All flowers you purchase may be taken home following worship. Thank you!

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Please complete by Sunday, March 13

Name _____

Phone _____

Quantity _____ x \$15 = _____

Check Enclosed _____ (payable to BRC)

Cash Enclosed _____

Dedication — From: _____

In honor or memory of (please circle one): _____



We commit our gifts to **HOSPITALITY** caring for those in our congregation and the greater community.

2016 Lay Recognition Dinner—Last Chance to RSVP!

On Friday, April 8 the Synod of Mid-Atlantic will be hosting its biennial Lay Recognition Dinner to recognize those who are being honored for their volunteer work in their individual congregation. Blawenburg will be honoring **Evelyn Cochran**. All members of our congregation are invited to attend this event on April 8 at The Imperia on Easton (1714 Easton Ave, Somerset, NJ 08873). Reception begins at 6:30 PM and the formal dinner begins at 7:30 PM. The cost is \$50 per person and you can make a check payable to Blawenburg Church. Entrée choices are Chicken Bruschetta or Stuffed Portabella Mushroom. If you would like to attend, please contact Sarah Hong in the church office (brcl832@verizon.net or 609.466.1832). Reservations are due by March 1st. **Sarah is extending the deadline to Monday, March 7—it's not too late to RSVP!**



Food and Fellowship— Final Pot Luck March 13!

Bring some food, bring a friend, bring yourself, and join the fun at our final winter Pot Luck on March 13. Ovens will be on low heat during worship if you want to keep your dish warm during the service. Drinks and desserts will be provided by our Family Life Team. Meal will officially begin at 11:30 AM. Hope you can come!



We enjoyed having the Corros back with us on February 21 and 28 and we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection with them on March 27! Baby Lemuel brought joy to many who came to worship, including Hilde Lewis.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Thanks to the leadership of Nancy Meyer we will be hosting another Egg Hunt following worship on Easter Sunday (March 27). Gather on the steps of Cook Hall after the service and join the fun! If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Nancy at mandnmeyer@peoplepc.com. There will also be a Community Egg Hunt sponsored by BVS on Saturday, March 19—see page 5.



Condolences

We lift up prayers for the VanZandt family, long-time members of Blawenburg Church. Betsy VanZandt Adams (mother of Nancy Quinn) passed away on Friday night, February 21, in Greenville, South Carolina. She was preceded many years prior by her husband, Rayford (brother of Tootie Stryker).

We commit our gifts to **LIFE-LONG LEARNING** providing spiritual growth opportunities for all.



Family Worship & Breakfast

Families of young children are invited to join us at 8:32 AM in Cook Hall on Sunday, **March 6**. We are looking forward to hearing the story of the Good Samaritan shared by Wendy Herbert with music led by Jen Lizzi (BVS music teacher). Please spread the word! Even if you don't have young children, come join us! You could take part in sharing the story or even role playing or, best of all, just watching the children's faces light up! Let Bernice Van Nostrand know if this is something you would like to do: vns206@aol.com or 908-359-6579. We would also love others to come provide hospitality and serve breakfast! If you're able to help, please contact Ethel Terhune at 908-359-6027. This event will continue to take place the first Sunday of each month through June.

We welcomed a new family on February 7 and look forward to welcoming more neighbors in the months ahead! Thanks to Emma Murphy and Morgan VanLiew for sharing their storytelling skills in February. Ms. Lizzi continues to engage and energize all who attend and we are grateful for her gifts.

Mary & Martha

All women are invited to join the Mary & Martha book group in reading *Pathway of Peace: Living in a Growing Relationship with Christ* by Cheryl Eton. For the **March 15** gathering, the women will discuss Part I only. Dinner is at 6:30 at the home of Bernice VanNostrand with discussion and prayer afterward. Let Bernice know if you're interested (vns206@aol.com) and she will keep you informed. This book is not available through the Somerset County Library System but you can purchase through Amazon or Barnes and Noble. (Use Amazon Smile and support the church! See page 9)

Men's Breakfast

On Wednesday, **March 16**, the men will once again meet @7:30 AM at the Blawenburg Cafe on the corner of Route 518 and Great Road. Let Joe Pavlicek know if you can make it: jpav1999@aol.com or call 908-256-6968. Looking forward to good food and good conversation which makes for good fellowship! Spread the word and bring your friends!

Diving into the Word

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10 AM

March 1 – Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 8 – Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 15 – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

March 22 – Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

March 29—Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Educational Opportunities

Here is a conversation you won't want to miss. At 11:30 AM on **March 6** Mimi Coffey will lead a discussion on **Understanding Islam**. She has led this kind of discussion in this country and abroad, so let's take advantage of her expertise to learn more about this timely topic. Come join us in Cook Hall! (Look for the news article in the upcoming Montgomery News or read it on our church calendar online.)

Join us for another Education Hour following the Pot Luck Luncheon on **March 13** at 12:15 PM. We'll be livestreaming from Marble Church, a conversation with the **Barnabas Foundation** focusing on estate planning and giving to the church. Join us for this important conversation about your financial future!



Lots to Learn!





Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504 | 609-466-6600
info@blawenburgvillageschool.com | Karen Hill, Director



The Blossoms: (left) working with model magic to learn about opposites and strengthen fine motor skills; (left) having a wedding for Q and U to help remember they go together.



Like us on facebook to view more photos and get updates about events!
#blawenburgvillageschool



The Buds stamping hearts!



Afternoon Soccer Shots Class using indoor space on a snowy Monday.



The Sprouts having fun with play-doh!

An EGG-citing Event! The BVS Board is asking for members to donate plastic eggs for the Village School Easter Egg Hunt on March 19 at 10 AM. You can also donate wrapped candy, but please, no hard candy or peanut butter. Members of the board will fill the eggs. Drop off donations at Sarah's office by March 11. People are also needed to help man the hunt. Contact Evelyn Cochran or Bernice VanNostrand if you can help. It usually takes an hour. Thank You!

March Events

- February 29 & March 1** Librarian from Mary Jacobs Library will share stories with our students as we kick off Read Across America Week and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday
- March 7:** Parent/Child Class begins
- March 18:** Kid's Night Out (5:30-8:30)
- March 19:** Easter Egg Hunt (10:00am)
- March 24:** School Closed - Staff In-service
- March 25 - April 1:** School Closed - Spring Recess

*We commit our gifts to **MISSIONS** serving those in need both locally and around the world.*

Crawford House Soup-Making!

Once again, we will host the Crawford House residents for a soup-making/eating event. It will take place in Cook Hall on Sunday, March 6 from 3:00 - 6:00 PM. If you would like to help teach soup-making or just join the residents for dinner, please let Sarah know by March 1. This successful event has been going on for over five years. It is a chance for us to reach out as a Christian community to our Crawford House neighbors.



There are several ways that you may like to be involved:

- Help residents as they prepare the food
- Join in the sharing of the food (meal will begin at 5:00 PM)
- Make a donation to help offset the cost of food (Total cost is about \$200.)

If you have any questions or wish to help, please contact Evelyn or Dave Cochran (davidc99@aol.com).

If you would like to make a donation, put it in an envelope marked Crawford House Soup and place it in the offering any Sunday or leave it in the church office. Thanks for your support!

The Power of Pasta

As you can see from the picture, we did well in collecting pasta and sauce for the food bank. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

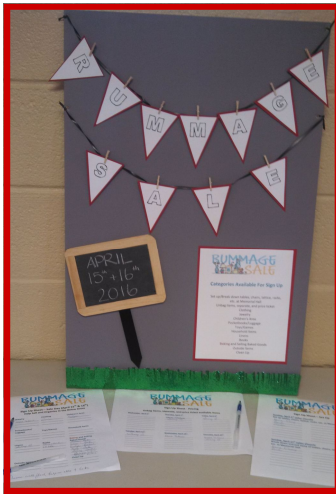


Baby Care Kits for CWS

Church World Service has let us know that they have a generous supply of Baby Care Kits and fewer requests for them. These kits have been a part of our fall mission focus for a number of years; but after this year, they will not accept them. Therefore, if you have been making purchases throughout the year for the Baby Care Kits, you may bring them in to Cook Hall. The Missions Team will put together kits with the items that we have. CWS will accept the baby kits through 2016.



We commit our gifts to **PROCLAMATION** spreading the good news of salvation in Christ.



Don't Forget the Rummage Sale!

The rummage sale committee is already making plans for this year's sale which is scheduled for April 15 and 16. Mark your calendars to spare us some "help" time beginning April 11. A sign up poster is available in Cook Hall for you to let us know the days, times and areas that you will be able to help. We cannot accept electronics but we are adding a **book section** to our sale this year. We would also like to have a **"finger food" bake table**, so we will need bakers! Donations can be placed in Memorial Hall downstairs in the blue room. If you have questions, or want to help, contact Jean Beachell 609-924-7637 or Evelyn Cochran 609-466-3539.



Marble this Month...

• Women's Retreat March 11-13



Marble Collegiate Church invites the women of BRC to join them for their annual Women's Ministry retreat in Basking Ridge, NJ.

This year's theme is Metamorphosis and features great speakers and worship, exploring the transformational power of God's grace.

Many of you have mentioned wanting to attend SATURDAY only - this is an option!

The cost for the day is \$120 and includes three meals.

Go online to register at <https://secure.siteorganic.com/f/?k=XUPTCG5PXIOXNHAA>

(the commuter options are at the very bottom of the form along with other specialty registrations)

If you have any further questions, please contact Anna Nugent or (212) 686-2770, ext. 216

- **LiveStream with Barnabas Foundation** on Sunday, March 13 (see page 4)
- **Jazz Revelation FRIDAY** nights @ 6:30 PM.
- **60+ Fellowship and Program** Wednesdays at 12 noon.
- **Pipe Organ Concert** on Thursday, March 10 featuring Richard Elliot.

Richard Elliott is Principal Organist of The Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake City, where he participates in the daily recital series on the 206-rank Æolian-Skinner organ and accompanies the choir on its weekly radio and TV broadcast, Music and the Spoken Word. Elliott has performed in many of the world's great halls and appeared on numerous television and radio programs, including the NBC Today Show, the CBS Morning Show, CBS SundayMorning, and A Prairie Home Companion.

Hope College Choir at Hillsborough

On **Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 PM** the Hope College Chapel Choir will be performing at Hillsborough Reformed Church (One Amwell Road, Hillsborough NJ 08844) as part of their spring tour. This year's Chapel Choir program features the premier of "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes," a work by Robert Schafer for choir and organ, commissioned to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Hope College, as well as Brahms' "Zigeunerlieder" (Gipsy songs) and a variety of other sacred and secular pieces. The Chapel Choir, founded in 1938, has toured extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and has traveled abroad on eight occasions. Recently the choir toured South Africa, singing at large urban churches, universities, small parishes in black townships, inner city missions and AIDS clinics. **The concert is FREE and open to the public.**

PROCLAMATION cont.

Search Team Update

The Search Team has been working hard. It has been meeting weekly and has finished the church profile and the job listing. The RCA, colleges, and individuals have been sent the job listing. A few applications have been received and will be held until more arrive. The job listing below is on our website — please share!

We're an established RCA church continuously serving an evolving community for 184 years. Our reputation as a successful training ground for First Call pastors, and our partnership with New York's Marble Collegiate Church are sources of pride to our small but sturdy congregation. Our most recent pastor left after a short tenure to support his wife in a major career-starting move, and we're ready to launch the next chapter in a storied ministry.

Our next pastor will be a dynamic worship leader and community organizer unafraid of contemporary technologies and ready to grow our church. We are located halfway between New York and Philadelphia, just north of Princeton.

We hope to narrow the field of candidates by early May for a new ministry launch ahead of the fall season.

This is a full time position. We're open to considering "co-pastoring" arrangements.

Contact: Ms. Evelyn Cochran at BRCSearch2016@gmail.com

Save the Date and get excited about the return of **Blue Pomegranate!** Thursday, April 21 at 7 PM



Celebrating Partnership

We are very grateful for our partnership with Troop 46 and for all the relationships built through the years. Our scouts have contributed to numerous projects on our church campus and throughout the community.

We celebrated with the boys and their families in worship and fellowship on Sunday, February 7.

Do you have information to share in the April Beacon?

If so, please submit your completed articles or photos to Barb Pavlicek (bjpmay1998@aol.com) and Sarah Hong (brc1832@verizon.net)

no later than Monday, March 21.

Thank you for your attention to the deadline so that we can continue to publish the Beacon by the 1st of each month!

We want your voice to be heard!

In addition to publishing information in the Beacon we would love to have a more active **Parish Blog**. Go online to www.blawenburgchurch.com and read what's posted and add your comments!

And if you have a reflection or story you'd like to share, please send it to Dave Cochran (davidc99@aol.com) or Sarah.

Consistory Highlights

Meeting of Monday, February 22, 2016 @7:30 PM in Cook Hall

For a full copy of the minutes please stop by the church office during open hours (see back page).

1. **Boy Scout leader**, Keith Mertz, gave an annual report with many thanks and gratitude to our church members for helping the boys with their projects. See future announcements for Courts of Honor and the annual Strawberry Festival.
2. **Family Worship** is gaining momentum. Come and praise the Lord and expect the unexpected with these young worshippers—March 6, 8:32 AM, Cook Hall.
3. The **Properties Team** takes good care of our real estate. Top on the priority list is to fix and weather-strip the doors of the sanctuary and to look into having handrails attached. They are also streamlining cemetery procedures.
4. The **Finance Team** is on top of our finances. As a cost-saving measure, they are investigating the pros and cons of switching our phone service to Verizon.
5. The **Communications Team** encourages you to follow our articles in the monthly Montgomery News and other local news media. You are also invited to share your thoughts on our church's blog. Check out our church's website!
6. Our **Care Team** has worked out a system of communication that enables us to be more aware of who needs a little more TLC and prayers.
7. The **Missions Team** has collected a lot of pasta and sauce for our Montgomery Food Pantry. Thanks for helping to take care of our neighbors.
8. Fun ahead for **Family Life**—pot luck luncheon and two Easter Egg Hunts!
9. The **Search Team** says that applications are coming in!
10. Glad and sad news from **BVS**. Three students added to the roster (glad). Two teachers left unexpectedly (sad); pray for the interview process. Pray for the teacher recently diagnosed with cancer (really sad).
11. The **Life-Long Learning Team** offers “Understanding the Muslim Religions” with our own Mimi Coffey, March 6. There will also be an education hour LiveStream with Marble Church on March 13.
12. **Rummage Sale**, April 15 and 16. Be ready to say, “Yes, I can help (in whatever capacity.)”
13. **Lay-Recognition Dinner** – Register with Sarah by March 1 to honor Evelyn.
14. A **Nominations Team** is being established to choose new Elders and Deacons.

Church Directory Update

FRIENDS & MEMBERS -- This is your last chance to update your contact information for the printed church directory! Please send an email to Sarah by **Monday, March 7**. THANK YOU!



Give back to Blawenburg through **amazon**smile

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Blawenburg Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. If you use Amazon.com on a regular basis, shopping through AmazonSmile is just as convenient and easy, but with just one extra step.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping. Every time you make an eligible AmazonSmile purchase The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the purchase price to BRC. The first time you shop at AmazonSmile **please select Blawenburg Reformed Church as your organization**. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every purchase you make through it will result in a donation. You can manage your purchases and other account information on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile using a single account, or create a new account if you don't have one. **THANK YOU!**

SARAH'S OFFICE HOURS

MON 8:30 to 12
TUES 8:30 to 4:30
WED OFF
THUR 8:30 to 4:30
FRI OFF

*The Blawenburg Beacon
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Blawenburg Reformed Church

424 Route 518
PO Box 266
Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609.466.1832

brc1832@verizon.net

VP of Consistory
David Cochran

**Church Administrator
and Beacon Publisher**
Sarah Hong

Beacon Editor
Barb Pavlicek



BLAWENBURG REFORMED CHURCH

In Service to the Risen Christ since 1832

BRC is a ministry partner of Marble Collegiate Church in NYC.
To learn more, visit www.marblechurch.org/blawenburgchurch.

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.

MARCH Summary of Dates

(see articles for more details)

Sunday, March 6

8:32 AM—Family Worship & Breakfast (p 4)
10 AM—Service of Holy Communion (p 2)
11:30 AM—Understanding Islam (p 4)
3-6 PM—Soup-Making with Crawford House (p 6)

Monday, March 7

Last chance to RSVP for Lay Recognition Dinner! (p 3)

Sunday, March 13

11:30 AM—Pot Luck Luncheon (p 3)
12:15 PM—LiveStream with Marble Church (p 4)
Deadline to order Easter flowers! (p 2)

Tuesday, March 15

6:30 PM—Mary & Martha (p 4)

Wednesday, March 16

7:30 AM—Men's Breakfast (p 4)

Saturday, March 19

10 AM—BVS Community Egg Hunt (p 5)

Monday, March 21

7:30 PM—Consistory Meeting
Deadline for April Beacon materials! (p 8)

Thursday, March 24 (Maundy Thursday)

7 PM—Service of Holy Communion (p 2)

Friday, March 25 (Good Friday)

12 to 3 PM—Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Sunday, March 27 (Easter)

10 AM—Worship (p 2)
11 AM—Easter Egg Hunt (p 3)

*See page 5 for
BVS events!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

8 Katie Connolly
12 Colby White
18 Byron Gurzo
19 Joe Pavlicek
24 Cheryl Soos
28 Pat Wengel
29 Dot Dorey
Pam Wanner

WEEKLY EVENTS

Worship Sundays @10AM
Bible Study Tuesdays
@10AM in CH Library
AA Meeting Tuesdays
@6:30PM in CH Basement



PLAN AHEAD

April 8—Lay Recognition Dinner at The Imperia (p 3)
April 15-16—Annual Rummage Sale (p 7)
April 21—Third Thursday Blue Pomegranate in MH

More events and meetings online!
www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar