



# **The Blawenburg Beacon**

## **May, 2015**

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

May 2015

Dear Church Family,

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12).

Sunday, May 10 is Mother’s Day. Thirty-one years ago I was born on Mother’s Day. As many of you know, I was raised by a single mother. This day carries special significance for me because I have witnessed up close the sacrifices a devoted parent makes on behalf of raising a child. In my mom’s case, she never had the support of a spouse. She (like many in our society) did the work of parenting all on her own. Working odd hours, including many night shifts as a registered nurse, she did what it took to support our family. When she wasn’t working, she was busy driving me to soccer practice, little league baseball, and church activities. Looking back I recognize now how much she sacrificed her own interests out of love for me.

Mother’s Day is a great opportunity to “honor your mother” and say thank you to all those who have supported and nurtured your life. It is also a great day to say “thank you” to the mothering figures in our church family. So many of our devoted church leaders are committed, competent, diligent women whose strength and character enhances the life of Blawenburg Church in too many ways to count. From my heart to yours, thank you!

Finally, for those who have lost their mothers this year or years prior, let us give thanks to God for their lives. Let us give thanks for those who have loved us well. Let us recognize with gratitude the sacrifices mothering figures make to support our growth in life. And let us remember that those who have passed on are now part of that great “cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1), cheering us on to faithfulness and good works, and still reminding us to eat our vegetables.

Grace and peace,  
Travis



### **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**Blawenburg Reformed Church Sanctuary**

**Thursday, May 7, 7:30PM—9PM**

**People of all faiths are welcome.**

**(See article in the May issue of The Montgomery News, p. 20.)**



**Blawenburg Reformed Church**  
**Consistory Highlights**  
**Monday, April 20, 2015~ 7:30 PM**  
**Cook Hall**

**Welcome – Attendance:** Rev. Travis Winckler, David Cochran, Ethel Terhune, Jean Beachell, Peggy Querec, Barbara Pavlicek, Alan Taback, Catherine Murphy

**Devotions** – Rev. Travis Winckler played an interview clip of David Brooks, author of The Road to Character. Discussion followed about the need to cultivate the inner life, not the outer life. Identify that “thing” that you have. Cultivate a spirit of giving and receiving joy from another person's joy. Consistory members expressed gratitude for our Christian community.

**Announcements** – See *Beacon's* Summary of Dates, e-announcements, and Sunday bulletins.

**Approval of Minutes** from March 16, 2015, meeting – moved, seconded, all in favor

**Correspondence** – Thank you received from Church World Service for donation to cover the cost of shipping the baby and school kits.

**Team Reports**

Worship – Travis Winckler - The Easter Season Theme is “Abiding in the Risen Jesus”. What are we experiencing in worship? What seed are we taking home? What do new people and teenagers get from worship at BRC?

Missions – Barbara Pavlicek - Pastor Travis and Barbara met with a licensed clinical social worker and licensed marriage and family therapist to discuss the recurring theme in Montgomery Township of teenagers and stress and how the church might address this issue. An educational opportunity is being considered for the fall. Discussion will continue on this possible mission to teens and families.

Properties – Ethel Terhune – Tree cut down in front of sanctuary. More trees looking needy. Time to reevaluate our front space—possibly with a sign?

- Boy Scouts helped clean up the woods behind Cook Hall, but another work day is needed.
- Gutters are finished on all buildings complete with leaf guards.
- There is interest in renting space in Memorial Hall, but parking is a major issue. However, we are still looking for a tenant for the warehouse area with limited traffic.

Finance – Jean Beachell – The Congregation endorsed the budget.

- Consistory needs to vote on the use of the 5% from Comingled Fund (\$816).
- \$281,721.59 is the 3/1/2015 ending balance in the Elders and Deacons Fund

Life-long Learning – Alan Taback – Bibles & Bagels is going well.

Health/Spirituality – Alan Taback – A motion was made and seconded with all in favor to present An Evening of Music and Art in Celebration of Community with a group called Blue Pomegranate. See Exodus 28:33-35. The date is tentatively May 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-9 PM in Memorial Hall.

Communications – David Cochran

- The Communications Team is continuing its effort to publicize events in the local media.
- We will be working on a new sound system for the sanctuary using gifts given in memory of Maitland Van Nostrand.
- The blog has been fixed on the web site so that items can be archived, and the current blog will begin on the home page.

Family Life/Hospitality – Evelyn Cochran – Family Life held an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on April 5 hosted by Nancy Meyer and Barb Van Liew.

Care Team – Travis Winckler – A new team has been created focusing on the Biblical basis for caring. A book about caring ministry is being read.

- Prayer Chain being reinstated.
- Team: Chip Parmele, Barb Reid, Lisa White, Alan Taback, Andrea Eberly (Advisory Resource)

### Cemetery – Ethel Terhune

- Eric and Sue Perkins charted and graphed available plots.
- Costs of plots are staying the same until July 1, 2015, but adding a \$200 interment fee.
- It was moved, seconded, and all were in favor to charge a \$200 interment fee until July 1, 2015, when the cost of plots will be increased.

### Personnel Team – Dave Cochran – The team discussed the roles of BRC and MCC

- The Personnel Team has met twice and conferred with MCC regarding the Performance Review process. They will have a draft of the process to share with Consistory by June.

### **Discussion/Updates**

#### Pastor's Report – Travis Winckler

- Progress toward our three focus areas – care, youth, missions
- Big event in June – requesting 4-6 weeks for Paternity Leave – use 3 weeks of vacation. Pulpit supplies will be arranged.
- Travis will draft a proposal for the May Consistory meeting

#### Church administrator position – Dave Cochran

- Interviewing two people the week of April 25 from the resumes that have been submitted. Ideally, someone will be in place before May 15.

#### Looking at Church Teams

Looking at Consistory members for 2015-16.

**Action:** See Approval of Minutes, Health/Spirituality, and Cemetery reports above.

**Reflection:** What happened in this meeting and what is its significance for our church?

**Next meeting** - Monday, May 18 at 7:30 PM. Mark King of MCC will attend Consistory on June 15 at 6:30 PM.

### **Closing Prayer/Adjournment**

## Life-Long Learning Survey

Please let Pastor Travis know your interests for possible  
Small Groups in the Fall of 2015

- 1) The Seven Principles For Making Marriage Work, Dan Gottman and Nan Silver - Are you looking for practical tips and wisdom to help take your marriage to the next level?
- 2) Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be, Frank Bruni - For parents, educators, and all those who care about supporting our high school kids as they navigate the college admissions process.
- 3) The Road to Character, David Brooks - David Brooks writes that career success alone does not make you happy. In The Road to Character he goes on a spiritual journey to locate some steps on the path to happiness.
- 4) The Three Colors of your Spirituality, Christian Schwartz - Have you ever wondered how you uniquely connect with God? Do you want to learn how to better understand and appreciate those who connect with God in a different way than you do?
- 5) Fill in the blank - \_\_\_\_\_

## Worship Team

*We gather as a community to  
celebrate God's presence among us!*

### WANT SOME MORE CHURCH MUSIC?

Radio Station WWFM at 89.1fm (wwfm.org) carries two Sunday programs devoted to music of the church.



Sunday morning 7 – 8 am

*Pipedreams* celebrates music of the organ in particular. Since most organs are found in churches, much, but not all, the program's music is sacred.

Sunday afternoon 1 – 2 pm



*With Heart and Voice* spans the full range of Western sacred classical music, from the Gothic period through 21st century, with occasional surprises from non-western traditions. The program celebrates seasons of the liturgical year and focuses on the richness and beauty of sacred music. *With Heart and Voice* began as a local Sunday morning program in Rochester NY and has been broadcast nationally since 1989.

#### Full Service Stations

WWFM 89.1 FM  
WKCR HD2 89.9 HD2  
WKVP HD2 89.5 HD2  
WWNJ 91.1 FM  
WWCJ 89.1 FM  
WWPJ 89.5 FM

#### Full Service Stations

Trenton/Princeton, NJ (HD)  
New York City  
Cherry Hill/Philadelphia  
Toms River, NJ (HD)  
Cape May, NJ (HD)  
Pen Argyl, PA (HD)

#### Translator Stations

W224AU 92.7 FM  
W226AA 93.1 FM  
W230AA 93.9 FM  
W245AC 96.9 FM  
W300AC 107.9 FM  
K216FW 91.1 FM

#### Translator Stations

Allentown, PA  
Easton, PA  
Atlantic City, NJ  
Harmony Twp, NJ  
Chatsworth, NJ  
Steamboat Springs, CO

## Life-Long Learning Team

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

### **Nursery – 9:45—11:30 – Noah's Ark Room – Cook Hall, upper level, east end**

Our own Emma Murphy, a Junior at Montgomery High School will be our regular caregiver in the Nursery. Emma is Red Cross Babysitting certified as well as certified in Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED. She worked at GSHNJ resident camp, Camp Lou Henry Hoover, as a summer camp counselor as well as an off-season supervisor. Emma will be there every Sunday from 9:45 AM until 11:30 AM. On rare Sundays when needed, our own Morgan Van Liew, certified as a lifeguard, will sub for Emma. They look forward to playing with and caring for your children on Sunday mornings! Feel free to contact Emma about any special nursery needs or questions you may have. Call or email the church office for her contact information.

**High School youth group** spring BBQ at the home of Allison Clancy. May 9, 6pm. 5 Eamonn Court, Kendall Park, NJ. Grill will be going at 6pm with fire pit time to follow. Bring a friend and dream big for our youth group this summer!



**Vacation Bible School** can happen again at BRC! Pastor Travis is already coming up with ideas, but he needs your (adults and youth) help in planning. Let him know if you can help in the planning stages and/or actually be available in August to offer VBS again on our church campus.

### **Adult Education**

**Tuesday Mornings:** For those interested in brushing up on their **Bible study**, join Pastor Travis for Bibles and Bagels, a small group Bible study, on Tuesdays at 10 am in Cook Hall. Please sign up at the back table of the sanctuary. The group is growing in positive, forward motion.

**The Mary and Martha Prayer/Study Group**—The Mary and Martha book discussion and prayer group will meet on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:45 pm at the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. They will talk about the issues of life that were prompted by the book, Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair by Anne Lamott.



Our Famous  
Easter Egg Hunt

### **Easter At BRC**

The Patterson Clan



Esther and Allison  
on Easter Sunday





# Blawenburg Village School

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Karen Hill, Director

May is full of activities at BVS...

Join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> annual BVS and BRC Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We're looking forward to lots of fun, food and fellowship! Stop by between 10:00am-2:00 and bring your friends.

Our students will participate in a Trike-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital. They've been learning about bike safety while also helping sick children at St. Jude's.

BVS students have their art work on display in the Children's Room at Princeton Public Library, until Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by to see their fabulous Eric Carle-themed crafts.

During the month of May the students at BVS will participate in *Garden Week*. We will become expert gardeners as we transform the flower beds around the schoolhouse. We will also learn about butterflies as each class watches them hatch in their classroom.

May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> will be special days for our BVS Moms, as we honor them for *Mother's Day*. Muffins with Mom will be held in Cook Hall at 9:00am.

Our Summer Camp will run for 4 weeks, July 6<sup>th</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am - 1:00pm.

July 6 - July 10 *Garden Week*

July 13 - July 17 *Camping and the Great Outdoors*

July 20 - July 24 *Art Expo*

July 27 - July 31 *Festival of Fun*

We are currently enrolling students for the 2015-2016 school year. Classes will be offered for students ages 2-5.



Sprouts kick off the Trike-a-Thon on 4/30/2015



BVS is on Facebook so please take a minute to like our page! There are great pictures of our many events.

## Missions

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

### Mission Update

### Reformed Church in America

#### News from Ken and Marcia



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our first Lenten season and Holy Week in Oman is behind us. Like all of you, we are in the midst of the season of Easter and moving toward Pentecost. In a few weeks we will baptize 8-10 adolescents and adults who are new to the PCO. On Oman's weather chart we are moving from winter with temperatures in the generally comfortable 80's into summer. Friends and family from more northern climates are fleeing to home where snows seem to have finally seeped to aquifers and streams. We've had 100 degree days and are expecting 108 in the days just ahead. I open this note with words excerpted from a prayer offered some years ago prior to a lecture by Old Testament scholar, writer, teacher, speaker, and prayer, Walter Brueggemann:

We would as soon you were stable and reliable. We would as soon you were predictable and always the same toward us...we find you moving, always surprising us, always coming at us from new directions. Always planting us and uprooting us and tearing all things down and making all things new...Give us that gift of freedom that we may move in new places in obedience and in gratitude. Thank you for Jesus who embodied your freedom for all of us. Amen.

We are still new enough here that on many days we experience the "surprising God who keeps coming at us from new directions, delighting in planting, uprooting, tearing, then making new." There was our first visit to lead worship with our Tamil, Urdu, Telugu, Malayalam language group congregations in Sohar, two and one-half hours north of our home in Muscat. Hundreds of expatriate laborers on their only day off sang with more depth of praise and thanksgiving than I've ever heard in my life, and worshippers came forward in row after row to kneel and receive the bread and wine from the Lord's Table. There was our Maundy Thursday Passover meal seated on mats in random fellowship groups of 10 or a dozen singing classic Passover songs in our varied accented efforts at Hebrew. There was sunrise at 5:30 on Easter dawn in the field (think desert) behind our Ghala worship center with over 500 expatriates from over 40 nations uniting in the classic liturgical greeting, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed."

Some years ago I was leading worship with a colleague at an RCA multi-racial/multi-ethnic congregation in the USA. Looking out from the communion table while the elements were being served my colleague leaned over and said, "I look at the diversity of this place and I can only think this must be what God has in mind for the Kingdom of heaven." I now look out at what must certainly be some of the most diverse congregations anywhere in the world and realize how little I knew and how much I have yet to learn about the rich multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-economic diversity of God's creation.

In a few short weeks Marcia and I, along with a couple of other recruits we've picked up along the way, will begin learning Arabic. We do so not because it is required in our worship services (although I have now had the privilege of leading worship in our Arabic language weekly service). We do so because Arabic is the language of the people of Oman and the entire region. If we are to be a gracious presence seeking understanding across the lines of faith as well as culture, we must learn to be conversant in the language of our neighbors and new friends.

My call here is to teach, pray, preach, and care for those who participate in the life and ministries of the congregations of the Protestant Church in Oman, nine services on three campuses weekly. A significant part of that work is helping our minority Christian community be the presence of Christ in ways that extend grace, care, mercy, and hospitality, foster understanding and acceptance, and strive for peace with our Muslim neighbors. In many ways Oman is an oasis in a deeply troubled part of the world. Oasis can translate "dwelling place." This is a dwelling place where understanding and acceptance across deep divides of mistrust that have grown over generations is finding rootedness, a dwelling place that may one day seed other dwelling places near and far as Christian expatriates who dwell here for a time return to homelands and seed understanding and acceptance in those places also.

Let me end with words of thanks and an update on our financial support. To be the pastor here on behalf of the Reformed Church in America means that we must locate 100% of the financial support for the position (salary, benefits, ancillary costs on the ground, administrative, and communications support from the RCA) from congregations and individuals. We were permitted to begin our work in January with our support hovering just under 80% after beginning fund raising only the previous October. We are thankful to all of you who stepped up in those last months of 2014 after church budgets had been set, and to all our friends and colleagues who sent end-of-year gifts and some ongoing pledges.

Since our arrival we have received additional pledges and gifts from across the RCA and a few inquiries from churches that are in a discerning time. In order to sustain our continued work in Oman we must raise an additional \$20,000 by September 1st. I close with thanks and a plea. Support shares from congregations have been the bedrock of RCA global mission commitment for generations. Partnering for mission engagement around the world is one of the best ways, perhaps the single best way for Christians in the USA and Canada to engage this broken world God so deeply loves.

"Give us that gift of freedom that we may move in new places in obedience and in gratitude. Thank you for Jesus who embodied [God's] freedom for all of us." Easter Blessings, Rev. Ken and Marcia Bradsell

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#### ***Ken's ministry***

*Ken Bradsell serves as pastor, teacher, and caregiver for the English-speaking congregations of the Protestant Church in Oman (PCO) so that those who are part of these faith communities may deepen their faith and show the light and love of Christ in the places where they live and work.*

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Part of the BRC Mission is Hospitality  
As shown at any of our Fellowship times

## Proclaiming Team

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

We are hosting an evening of music and art in celebration of community. Ted Klett, a local musician and a Christian, in collaboration with BRC will be gathering his band and other musician friends to play music. Artists will be invited to participate in making art along with the evening of music. It will take place in Memorial Hall on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-9:30.

## Rummage Sale a HUGE Success!!!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Barb Reid and Jean Beachell would like to thank everyone who made our rummage sale a huge success this year. The sale cleared \$6,000.00!! The mission portion of our money will go to the family of the BVS student who has cancer and the Montgomery Food Bank.

Barb and Jean would especially like to thank Don and Ethel Terhune who worked from morning til night every day to help us make this a success. Thank you to the boy scouts who pitched in to help us break down and move the tables. There are so many others to thank who also worked with us to donate, set up, separate, organize, price and clean up. It is a big job and takes many hands to create a success.

Many customers return each year and most comment on the quality of the sale and how organized it is.

This is Jean Beachell's last year as chairman of the rummage sale, so I thank you for making it one of our best.

The check-out line



Left picture:  
Early shoppers with  
freebies on the lawn

Jewelry Shoppers



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

# BIRTHDAYS

May 7	Olivia Vande Woude	May 24	Hope Hunt
May 13	Travis Winckler	May 26	Chip Parmele
May 16	Barbara Bradsell	May 27	Don Terhune
May 22	Ethel Terhune	May 31	Eric Perkins

May 21	Sue & Scott Weingart
May 25	Elmi & Doug Hill
May 29	Barbara & Joe Pavlicek

# Anniversaries

## Summary of Dates

See earlier articles for more details.

May 2	10 to 2	Family Fun Day
May 3	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion
May 4	10:00 AM	Communications Team
May 5	4:00 PM	Properties Team
	5:30 PM	Cemetery Team
May 7	6:00 PM	Crawford House Dinner
	7:30 PM	National Day of Prayer— BRC Sanctuary (See page 1.)
May 10	10:00 AM	Mother's Day—Worship with Nancy Curtis Preaching
May 11	4:15 PM	Worship Team
May 12	6:00 PM	Classis Meeting in Hillsborough
May 17	11:15 AM	Celebration Brunch
May 18	7:30 PM	Consistory
May 21	7 to 9:30 PM	Blue Pomegranate Music (See page 9.)
May 22	<b>Deadline for June Beacon Material</b>	

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## Plan Ahead

August	TBD	Vacation Bible School (See page 4.)
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“Brothers From Another Mother”

# **The Blawenburg Beacon**

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Dated Material

The Blawenburg Beacon is a publication of the  
Blawenburg Reformed Church  
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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.***