



# The Blawenburg Beacon

*Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church*

Mid-Winter 2017

Greetings Friends in Christ,

It is budget season at church. Our church budget helps us to express our vision for and commitment to ministry. The budget for this year reflects the church's commitment to having a full-time minister. For the past several years, the church has not had the full expense of a full-time minister represented in the budget. Pastor Travis was full-time, but a portion of his salary and his benefits were provided for by Marble Collegiate Church. Since Pastor Travis's departure, the financial assistance from Marble Collegiate has come to an end. Thus, the full amount of my salary and benefits is now present in the church budget.

For these reasons, there is a substantial anticipated deficit in this year's budget. The church has resources to absorb the deficit, but ideally we would find ways to address and reduce the deficit, rather than drawing down from our capital resources. Some creative and prayerful work, relating to the budget, will need to happen in the coming months and years. That work will begin immediately. The consistory will be putting together a team to prayerfully explore ideas for addressing the deficit. In March, we will plan for this team to host an additional congregational meeting to discuss ideas with the congregation.

Our goal, as with any church community, will be to find the right balance between being bold in our vision for ministry, while also being reasonable and responsible with the gifts and opportunities that God has given us.

We all have a role to play in finding that balance. The God-inspired and God-empowered giving of our gifts, (whether financial, practical, or spiritual) are what make ministry at Blawenburg Reformed Church possible. I know that we will continue to give as God has enabled us to give. One gift I would strongly encourage you to give is your gift of prayer. Please pray that God will give us wisdom, vision, and insight as we make plans for our future. Ask God to make clear the path we are to walk as we continue to work on being bold and faithful with our church budget.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Jeff



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### December's Breakfast Worship



Pastor Jeff ministering with music



Expanding on his point with Reed



Giving Eloise the giggles.

### January's Breakfast Worship



Walk like an Egyptian!



Aunt Wendy made a special pancake for me.



Crossing the Red Sea

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

### Scripture for Winter Worship Services

Date	Special Event	First Reading	Sermon Reading	Psalm
Jan. 22		Isaiah 9: 1-4	Matt. 4:12-23	27: 1, 4-9
Jan. 29	Nancy Curtis will preach	Micah 6: 1-8	Matt. 5: 1-12	15
Feb. 5	Communion	Isaiah 58: 1-12	Matt. 5: 13-20	112: 1-9
Feb. 12	Breakfast Worship	Deut. 30: 15-20	Matt. 5: 21-37	119: 1-8
Feb. 19		Lev. 19: 1-2, 9-18	Matt. 5: 38-48	119: 33-40
Feb. 26		Exodus 24: 12-18	Matt. 17: 1-9	99

### Advent Candle Lighting



The Liao family on Nov. 27.



Jean Beachell and Ginny Doremus on Dec. 4.



Jeananne Wansor and Tat Hardesty on Dec. 11.



Peggy Querec and Pam Bainbridge on Dec. 18. No photo available. (so sorry)



Emma and Frank Tufano on Dec. 24

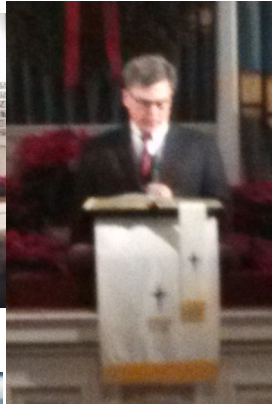
The Knol Family on Dec. 25.

### Christmas Eve Service

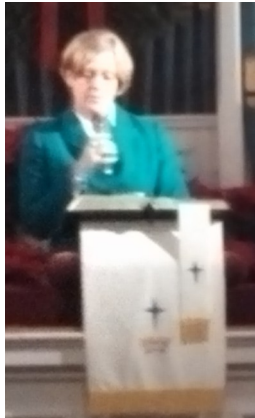


Christmas Welcome

Breathtaking beauty in the sanctuary.



Reader Jim Eberly



Reader Nancy Curtis



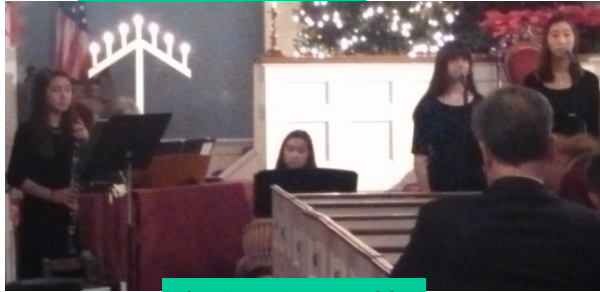
Special Music



Hiking with Pastor Jeff



Katie providing music



The ALMA Ensemble



Bringing Christ's light into the world.



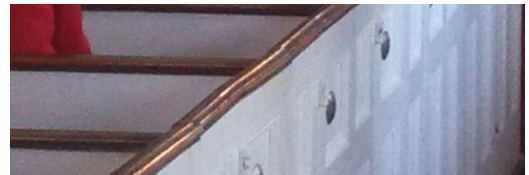
Young ladies enjoy ancient carol



Christmas Day Children's Message with Pastor Jeff



**Christmas Day Fellowship**



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

A church Christmas Open House was hosted at the home of Allison and Kevin Clancy on December 16th. A fun time of good fellowship and yummy food was a great way to begin the holiday season.



**Covered-Dish Lunch**—The annual winter covered-dish luncheon, the first of three, was held on January 8th.



**Next Covered-Dish Luncheon—Feb. 12th**

Join us for our annual winter covered-dish luncheon following worship. Please bring a dish to share and plan to stay and enjoy everyone's company.

Ovens will be on low to keep your food warm. Drinks and desserts will be provided.



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

### **NURSERY HELP NEEDED!**

We are in need of help caring for young children. If you know of someone who might be interested in this paid job each Sunday morning, please let Gracie Johnson know. 609-466-1862

### **Inquirers' Luncheon—January 22nd**

If you are interested in becoming a member, the first step will be to attend an inquirers' luncheon. We are hosting such a luncheon on January 22<sup>nd</sup> following coffee hour. At this time the pastor and leaders from church will share information about the church and what it means to be a member. Please be in contact with the church office or Pastor Jeff if you would like to attend the luncheon.

**Breakfast Worship—Sunday, February 12** in Cook Hall Fellowship area. All are welcome. Our pastor, Rev. Jeff Knol, will be leading the brief, kid-friendly worship following breakfast. Jen Lizzi, the music teacher from Blawenburg Village Preschool, will lead us in music.

We hope you can join us. Please RSVP to [BlawenburgChurch@gmail.com](mailto:BlawenburgChurch@gmail.com) by February 9th with the number who will attend so we can prepare enough pancakes! There is no charge for this event; however, donations are always appreciated.

**Bible study** meets on **Tuesday mornings at 10 am** in Cook Hall. Come join us as we read and discuss scripture for the upcoming Sunday and take time to pray with one another. Coffee and the occasional treat will be provided.

### **Mary & Martha**

The Mary and Martha book study will meet on Tuesday, January 24th in the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. Confessions of a Prayer Slacker by Diane Moody is the next book to be read. All women are welcome.

### **The Season of Epiphany**

The season following Epiphany continues the theme established on Epiphany Day: the spread of the Good News of Christ from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The Lectionary therefore explores the mission of the church in the world. The theme of this season continues in the season after Pentecost, so both seasons together can be called the "Time of the Church." The traditional liturgical color for both seasons, Green, is the color of growth and mission.



Like us on facebook to view more news and events!



# Blawenburg Village School

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

The Blawenburg Village School's annual Christmas Concert, *On the Road to Bethlehem*, was held on December 10th at 3pm. Parents, grandparents, friends, and family all enjoyed the songs and story presented. Thank you to Pastor Jeff who acted as narrator and the ladies of the ensemble who provided other musical selections.



Usherettes and BVS alums



Pastor Jeff-narrator



Angelic Angels



Sundry Shepherds



Wise Ones



The Ensemble



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

Dear Family and Friends,

It is that time of year when one looks on the year past. We can't help but think of all the blessings that God has given to us. When we think of our blessings we think first of the gift of God's own son, sent to be our Lord and Savior. What a precious gift!

We are so grateful for our 3 daughters and son and their spouses and families! We can't even begin to imagine this journey without them. Rebecca and Rogelio, and children Aaron and Kyara live close by and we see them often. Jen and Chris, and children Hannah, Isaac and David live in Fort Worth, Texas. We miss being with them as much as we would like, but keep in touch with phone calls and via internet. Sue was able to visit for a week in late October. Angela and Jason, and children Noah and Hope also live close by and we enjoy their frequent visits and being able to attend their activities. Michael and Mary live in South Carolina and we talk often by phone and had hoped to visit them this year, but life sometimes holds the unexpected.



We spent February – April in our beloved Chiapas, Mexico. It was great to see so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ and share special moments with them. It was during our stay that it was apparent that Al was suffering from weakness and lack of function in his right leg. After returning to the U.S. and undergoing physical therapy and sessions with a chiropractor, it was evident that the situation was worsening. After tests and visits with neurosurgeons, we knew that back surgery was needed in his immediate future.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November we went to the University of Iowa for pre-op labs and tests. In between appointments Al fell and broke a bone in his right hand. So that needed to be immobilized before surgery. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of November Al underwent an 8 hour surgery for a spinal fusion. Two rods and six pins later he is on a long, slow road to recovery. Our children have been such a blessing! All 4 of them were able to be with us for some part of his hospital stay and continue to help us when they are able. It is wonderful for Al to be home and doing a bit better each day.

Through all of this we have been so grateful to our church family, who support us with prayers, visits and tangible evidences of their love.

May God bless each of you this season with His love which surpasses all understanding and give you His peace.

With our love,

*Al and Sue*

## MISSIONS Continued

### Crawford House Soup Making - February 26th, 3-6 pm

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please let Evelyn Cochran know. This is a great time to mix with the girls and show them some of your cooking skills, making sure the measurements are correct and everything gets cooked by 5:00. If you would like to join us for fellowship and the meal, please let Evelyn know by calling 609-466-3539 and plan to come at 5:00 for an hour of fellowship.



This event is one of the highlights for the girls and they are so excited to come and be with us. This is a great local mission.

### Heifer International

Thank you all for your kind hearts and generosity. Your donations to Heifer International will make many people happy and self sustaining. The final tally from the Heifer table at Sinterklaas through Epiphany was \$3,965.00. Thank you from your Church and the Missions Team.



### Greetings from the Hong Family



Marc is now Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Louisville Seminary and loves what he does and the people with whom he works. He's hoping to finish his dissertation this spring.

Sarah has found joy in the role of homemaker and she frequents Louisville parks and libraries with the kids. She continues to work with a few design clients from her time in New Jersey and is hoping to find additional creative outlets in the coming year. Abby attends pre-school five mornings a week. Matthijs attends pre-school two mornings a week.

They send warm wishes for a healthy and happy new year to one and all.

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

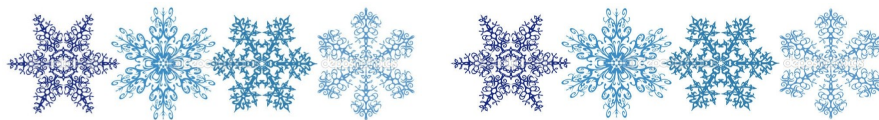
**Family Game Night is Approaching!!!!  
Friday, February 3rd, 7 - 10 pm.**

**Don't let the fun pass you by!**



**\*\*If anyone would like to donate supplies or games for this event, please contact Allison Clancy at (732) 672-6766 (call or text). Thank you!**

**Items Needed: Crayons, Children's markers (water soluble, no permanent please), Coloring Books, Board Games, Card Games, DVDs (family oriented) Reading books (all age groups, children's preferred).**



**Men's Breakfast**



The Men's Breakfast will be held at the Blawenburg Cafe at 7:30 am on Wednesday, January 18th . Let Joe know if you plan to be there— [jpav1999@aol.com](mailto:jpav1999@aol.com). Come enjoy a time of food and fellowship with friends.

**To Our Blue Pomegranate Friends,  
Blue Pomegranate is on Hiatus until April.**

**RUMMAGE SALE**



The date has been set! The Rummage Sale will be April 7th & 8th. Put it on your calendar. Any help is gratefully accepted!!!

## **PROCLAMATION CONTINUED**

### **Welcome to our New Neighbors in Memorial Hall!**

In case you're wondering why many cars are frequently parked on the west side of the church... it is because we have new tenants in Memorial Hall, and they need our parking lot for their numbers! The 24 Club had to vacate their long-term rental space on the back side of the North Princeton shopping center on short notice. We are happy to be able to accommodate them for as long as they need while their more permanent space is made ready for them. The 24 Club is an umbrella organization for a number of addiction-related groups. If you see someone seemingly lost trying to figure out where to go, please help direct them next door to Memorial Hall. [These groups are separate from our own AA group meeting in Cook Hall every Tuesday night.] The 24 Club has rented the whole upstairs west side of Memorial Hall and will occasionally be meeting in the warehouse on Sunday mornings. To access the rec room for Family Game Night, please use the warehouse entrance only. The 24 Club groups meet anywhere from 6:30 AM to 9:30PM every day, but mostly before work, at lunchtime and after work. There may be some confusion between their departure and our arrival for church on Sunday morning. So far they have been very responsible tenants with a variety of helpful skills that they have already put to use to maintain their new space. If there are any issues with traffic or otherwise, please share them with Gracie Johnson [609-468-9475].

If you would like to learn more about this worthy organization, their rules, philosophy or meeting schedules, go to [www.24-club.org](http://www.24-club.org).

### **A SINTERKLAAS 2016 THANK YOU!**

Once again, many thanks to all who baked, cooked, crafted, sorted, cleaned, priced, served, sang and accompanied, sold, and bought to make Sinterklaas a success. It was a beautiful day and we had a steady stream of patrons. The overwhelming feeling of fellowship combined with Christmas cheer truly warmed our hearts.

Total income collected was about \$5910. Baked Goods [\$1029], Crafts [\$1020], Soup [\$1348] and White Elephant [\$1750] all set records and although computer programs have been different from year to year to keep track of our proceeds, 2016 was definitely an all time high: compared to 2008-\$3401; 2011-\$4550; 2012-\$3405; 2013-\$2859; 2014-\$4363; 2015-\$4321. Well done all!

80% of the proceeds has been allocated to pay for BVS and other property improvements. 20% is the portion allocated to missions. The Missions team has earmarked \$200 for Crawford House soup making, with the remaining amount to be allocated in the very near future. In addition, we received \$3,965 to go directly to Heifer International, whose campaign kicked off at Sinterklaas and continued through the Christmas season.

We recently met with the booth chairs and decided on December 2 as the date for Sinterklaas 2017. It is not too early to mark your calendars!

In love and appreciation, Gracie and Barb R.

# PROCLAMATION CONTINUED

## Photo Album Sinterklaas 2016



Setting Up



Brunch Tables



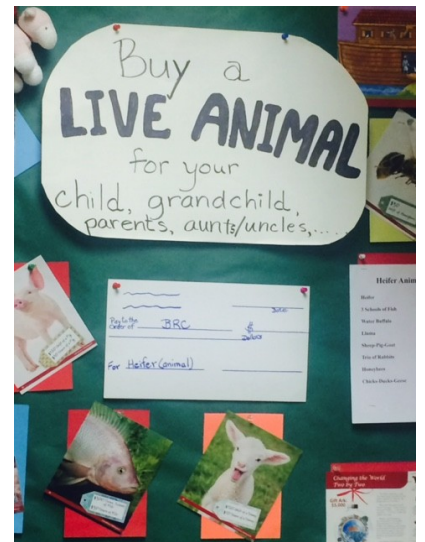
Opening Prayer



Baked Goods Table



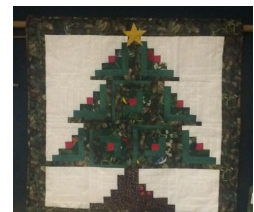
Carolers



Heifer International Display



Happy Helpers



White Elephant Treasures



Busy Craft Table

**OFFICE HOURS**

**MON** 8:30 to 1:30

**THUR** 8:30 to 3:30

**FRI** 8:30 to 11:30

*The Blawenburg Beacon  
is a publication of*

**Blawenburg  
Reformed  
Church**

424 Route 518

PO Box 266

Blawenburg, NJ 08504

**609.466.1832**

blawenburgchurch@gmail.com

**Pastor**

Rev. Jeff Knol

**VP of Consistory**

David Cochran

**Church Administrator  
& Beacon Publisher**

Karen Larsen

**Beacon Editor**

Barb Pavlicek



**Summary of Dates**  
(See articles for more information.)

**Dates in January—March ...**

Jan. 17—Mission Team meeting, 11:30am

Jan. 18—Men's Breakfast, 7:30am

Jan. 22—New Member/Inquirers' Lunch

Jan. 23—29 Pastor Jeff on vacation

Jan. 24—Kitchen Cleaning, 11:30am

Jan. 24—Mary & Martha, 6:30pm

**Planning Ahead ...**

Feb. 3—Game Night, 7-10pm

Feb. 12- Breakfast Worship, 8:32am  
Covered-Dish Lunch

Feb. 15—Men's Breakfast, 7:30am

**Feb. 17—Beacon Deadline**

Feb. 20—Consistory Meeting 7:30pm

Feb. 26—Crawford House Soup, 5pm

Mar. 3— Game Night, 7-10pm

Mar. 12—Breakfast Worship, 8:32am  
Covered Dish Lunch

Mar. 15—Men's Breakfast, 7:30am

**The Beacon has Changed!**

We now have a new Beacon publishing schedule. The church newsletter will be published every six weeks. You can expect the next issue on March 3rd. Please be conscious of the new deadlines.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

January/February

25 Jim Beachell

31 Hilde Lewis

**February**

6 Sonya Hunt

10 Lisa White

28 Elmi Hill &

Barbara Reid

**Anniversaries**

Feb. 10 Tom & Lisa Hunt

*If you don't see your name listed and it should be, please let Karen know so we can celebrate with you!*

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Worship** Sundays @10AM

**Bible Study** Tuesdays

@10AM in CH Library

**AA Meeting** Tuesdays

@6:30PM in CH Basement

**Winter Events at Marble**

For details about events at

Marble log on to

[www.marblechurch.org!](http://www.marblechurch.org!)



**BLAWENBURG REFORMED  
CHURCH**

*In Service to the Risen Christ since 1832*

*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.*