



The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

Early Spring 2017

Greetings Friends in Christ,

I enjoy making art, but I am nowhere near perfect at it.

For Christmas, I got a new set of watercolor paints. I am really excited to use the paints, but they are a new medium for me. I am just starting to learn the subtlety of how to use them and how they work. I want to be better, but it will take time. I want to be perfect, but there is a learning curve. It will take some practice before I understand the effects each brush can make, and how to account for the texture of the watercolor paper, and the way that different volumes of water affect the pigments. I wish I were perfect, but I'm not.

During this season following Epiphany we have been learning from Jesus' teaching in Matthew, Chapter five, which is traditionally called the Sermon on the Mount. Within this famous sermon, we hear Jesus telling us, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." It is a high bar that Jesus gives us, but I can't help but think that, just like learning how to paint with new paints, Jesus understands that there is a learning curve for us.

There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus wants us to strive for perfection. He wants us, as individuals and as a church community, to be salt and light for the earth. He wants us to approach the world with the perfect love that God has shown to us. He wants us to be perfect, but I have to believe that he knows it will take some learning, some practice, and some time for us to make our way towards perfection.

As I practice with my watercolor paints, I know that I will make little discoveries every time I sit down before a blank page to paint. I know that each time I will learn from my previous mistakes. I know that each time I will get a little better at this or that technique. I also know that I will also continue to make mistakes. Each painting is an opportunity to practice. Each painting is an opportunity to learn. Each painting is an opportunity to get a little better and hopefully there is some joy and beauty in the process of making imperfect paintings.

I think it is the same when it comes to our life before God.

Jesus teaches and demonstrates a high morality, which we feel called to live out in our own lives. We wish we could love our neighbors as ourselves. We wish we could find the strength to pray for our enemies. We wish we could turn the other cheek. We wish we could curtail our anger, refrain from insults, and be better about resolving our disputes. We wish we were more generous.

As we strive to fulfill Christ's teaching, it is important to remember that we can approach each day like a new painting. Each day is a new opportunity to do our best, to learn from our previous mistakes, to refine our technique, and to see what we can learn. Each day is like a blank canvas, and while we might not be perfect, there can still be joy and beauty in the work that we do.

My paintings, and our lives, will never be perfect, but we can still learn, grow, love, and laugh. Imperfection is our reality, but it is not a reason to leave the art supplies on the shelf.

Pastor Jeff

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*Administration Section***Classis Corner**

by Pastor Jeff

Our church is part of a classis. The word “classis” comes from the Latin word for fleet. Like a ship in a fleet of ships, our church does not travel alone, but with the company of twenty-nine other Reformed Churches. Across North America, there are forty-four classes within our denomination. At the end of January, representatives from our classis met for one of their annual business meetings. I, Pastor Jeff, attended the meeting, and here are some highlights:

Churches:

A new church was organized within the classis and it is called Centro Cristiano Palabra de Fe and is located in Reading, Pennsylvania. The Rocky Hill Reformed church officially closed on November 20, 2016 and a committee has been named to help decide what to do with the property. This committee will most likely help to sell the Rocky Hill properties. The revenue from that sale will go to the classis for its faithful use in caring for established ministries and planting new ones.

Amendments Relating to Human Sexuality:

For decades people within our denomination have been discussing and debating issues relating to human sexuality. Most pressing are issues relating to same-sex marriage and the ordination of openly LGBT people. There is a sharp division within our denomination between those who wish to be open and inclusive towards all people, regardless of their sexual identities, and those who hold more traditional views of men, women, and human sexuality.

This year the denomination purposed two amendments to our denomination’s constitution to try to settle the issue of same-sex marriage. One of the amendments would clearly establish that marriage is the union of one man and one woman and the second amendment would hold churches accountable to uphold this definition. To become official, these amendments would need the approval of two thirds of our denominations forty-four classes.

Voting members of our classis voted against these amendments by counts of roughly 40 to 10. It is hard to say why everyone voted as they did, but my sense is this: members would prefer that each church have the ability to decide for themselves who will be married or not married by their minister. This is how our denomination has always worked, and we would like it to stay that way. We will learn the fate of these amendments this summer. Additionally, if you would like to know my thoughts on same-sex marriage or other related issues, please let me know as I would be happy to discuss my views with you.

Ministers:

Rev. Cathy Gumpert, who had been the minister at the Readington Reformed Church, ended her ministry in January and moved to New York. Rev. David Kahler ended his ministry at the Griggstown Reformed Church at the end of January. In March, he will travel to Germany as a military chaplain for a six-month deployment. He does not yet know what the future holds for him following this extended deployment. And finally, the classis celebrated the retirement of Rev. Bill DeYoung, who has been serving as the minister at the Harlingen Reformed Church. Harlingen is currently in the process of searching for a new minister.

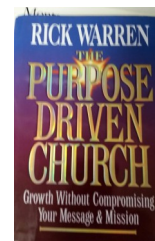


Blawenburg Church Lending Library

by Bernice Van Nostrand and Karen Larsen

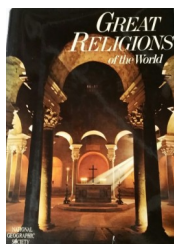
Did you know? ...

BRC has a treasure! It's called a Lending Library. Do you think the Lending Library is just a bunch of dusty old books taking up shelf space? Think again! Oh sure, we have volumes on prayer and various Bible studies like most church libraries. But, the Library has books by some contemporary authors too, like C.S. Lewis, Joel Olstein, and Rick Warren. The BRC Lending Library also has books on trending topics like church planting and world religions. There are books on church history and local history, one by church member and historian David Cochran. You can find out all you ever wanted to know about the Reformed Church in America but were afraid to ask. We have a section of books on Islam gifted to us by our Islamic friends who visited here in 2016.



Do you love spending time with a good novel? Try Land of My Heart by Tracie Peterson or The Twelfth Angel by Og Mandino. We have an extensive set of novels by Janette Oke. as well as some children's books.

If you haven't visited the church's Lending Library in a while, you have been missing out on a great resource. Come by and take a look. Books may be borrowed on the honor system. There are **No** membership fees, **No** due dates, **No** late fees, **No** closing hours, **No** sign out cards. The only requirements: 1.) Peruse, enjoy, learn; 2). Return book(s) to library when done.



If you would like to submit a brief book review on a book you borrowed and enjoyed, contact Karen in the church office so that your review can be published in the next issue of the Beacon.

Kitchen Cleaning

Many thanks to the kitchen cleaning angels who brought a gleam to all our kitchen surfaces and dishware.



Healin' on a Prayer: Is Religion Good for Your Health?

The following article was written by Jason Lewis a writer interested in issues related to faith and health.



Photo courtesy of Pixabay by [cocoparisienne](#)

Each day, countless people around the world suffer through the unimaginable symptoms of painful (and sometimes even deadly) physical conditions. For instance, nearly 13 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year and more than half that number will die from the disease. In the United States alone, over 3 million people are currently living with chronic pain which has no cure and may or may not respond to treatments. Not to mention, nearly half a million people in the UK have sight and hearing loss. Over 22,000 of them are helpless children. Then there are the countless people who have succumbed to drug and alcohol abuse.

These statistics are heartbreaking, especially for the millions of patients around the world who are unable to find cures or even proper treatments for their illnesses. What if there was a way to help them through the power of prayer? What if we could all help these poor souls by simply sending them loving intentions of healing? Although faith-based healing is often met with criticism from skeptics, science is now a few steps closer to proving that there might be more to the healing power of prayer than what we've traditionally thought.

Over the past few years, an increasing amount of research from leading hospitals and universities around the world has shown promising results on the power of prayer in terms of possibly helping the body recover from a variety of physical, mental and emotional conditions. Dr. Harold G. Koenig, MD, of Duke University has recently announced that some research studies have indicated "prayer can prevent people from getting sick - and when they do get sick, prayer can help them get better faster." (Continued on next page)

After performing “an exhaustive analysis” on over 1,500 separate scientific studies from reputable medical sources, Dr. Koenig says the evidence is clear: “People who are more religious and pray more have better mental and physical health.”

That’s not the only promising evidence Dr. Koenig uncovered during his analysis. He also found that churchgoers had longer life expectancies in nearly 70% of the studies that specifically examined the relationship between health and religious beliefs. In fact, the idea that prayer is good for our health is nothing new. Over ten years ago, a study from the University of Texas discovered that the more often you go to church, the longer lifespan you might have. Researcher and writer, Tom Knox, says attending church once per week might add upwards of seven years to your lifespan versus someone who never attends church at all. (Knox himself is a former atheist who converted to a regular worshipper after his studies revealed such powerful and promising results about the health benefits of religion.) The University of Texas studies have been backed up by a recent California study in the American Journal of Public Health, which showed that religious people were 36% less likely to die than the non-religious during the time-frame of the study.

Today’s recent medical research of the past few years suggests that prayer, religious beliefs and spirituality might help us in a variety of ways, including: stronger immune systems, lower blood pressure, possibly better cardiovascular functioning, longer lifespan, better stress response and coping mechanisms, increased optimism, less depression or anxiety, and lower rates of suicide - to name a few.

Although more in-depth follow-up research is needed to verify these results, Dr. Koenig believes we now have clear evidence that prayer and religion are indeed good for our health.

On that note, it only seems fitting to end with the following biblical verse:

“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.” (James 5:14)



Memorial Hall Parking

I know some of you might have been inconvenienced by having to shift your parking for Sunday Services to a further spot around the corner. Please know that the 24 Club members attending meetings in Memorial Hall have been told to ALWAYS park on the west side of our Sanctuary, even if it appears there might be available parking space over at #416. That space has to be left for our other renter’s use and for the handicapped. Please greet our friends as they’re going and we’re coming and be extra cautious turning into the driveway as many exit the way we enter. It is actually a cause for joy to see so much activity on Sunday mornings at church! Please let me know if you have concerns that I might relay for you.

Gracie Johnson

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

The Season of Lent

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement, and self-denial. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penance. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God. Lent is traditionally described as lasting for forty days, in commemoration of the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels, before beginning his public ministry. Its color is purple. See Beacon page #11 for “Rooted” Lenten devotions.



Easter Flowers in the Sanctuary

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, April 9**. 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!

Ash Wednesday Service—March 1st

Pastor Jeff and members of BRC were welcomed by the members of the United Reformed church in Somerville. It was an informal service led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Paul Janssen, and included the imposition of ashes. The Ash Wednesday service traditionally begins the contemplative season of Lent, leading up to the celebration of Easter.



WORSHIP - Continued

Holy Week Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 13th – 6 PM

Join us as we ‘break bread together’ in Cook Hall for a special communion service. We will gather around the dinner table, share communion together with a short service and message, and then share fellowship and a simple supper prepared by the Worship Team. Allowing time for people to gather after work at 6, our service should start about 6:15 and supper at 6:30.

GOOD FRIDAY – April 14th – 12 noon to 3 PM

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation.

EASTER SUNDAY – April 16th - 10 AM

Katie is hard at work with the Choir and ALMA and special music for this most important date of our church year. Please join us for a special celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection!

Change in the Order of Worship:

If you’ve been able to join us for Worship in the last month or two, you will have noticed that we have moved the Prelude to follow the welcome and announcements at the start of worship. The intention is to give us time to truly ‘quiet our hearts and minds’ for worship and the response has been positive so far. If you have suggestions about worship, please feel free to contact any of us on the Worship Team: Pastor Jeff Knol, Katie Connolly, Barb Antoniewicz, Gracie Johnson, Barb Reid and Bernice Van Nostrand.

In Memoriam David Terhune January 31, 2017

David was a long time member and friend of our church. He was the son of Ed and Betty Terhune. and the cousin of Peggy Querec. He passed away suddenly and his memorial service was held on Saturday, February 11th at Readington Reformed Church. Pastor Jeff presided over the service. Please continue to keep his wife Jean and son Matthew in your prayers.

A Hint of Spring



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 ESV

WORSHIP - Continued

February's Breakfast Worship



Pastor Jeff tells story to "Jonah"



Jonah and the sailors are on the boat

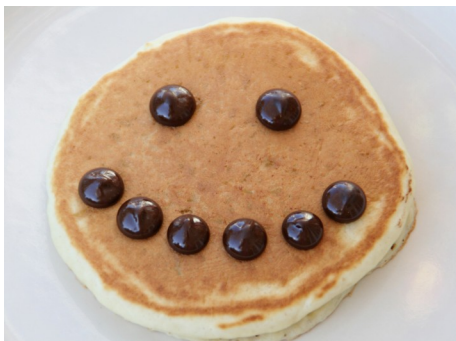


Jonah falls into the sea



Jonah is swallowed by a big fish

The next Breakfast Worship will be on March 12th. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.



Oops! Little sister looks for big brother.

WORSHIP - Continued

Scripture for Lenten Worship Services

| Date | Special Event | First Reading | Sermon Reading | Psalm |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| March 5 | Communion | Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7 | Rom. 5:12-19 | Psalm 32 |
| March 12 | Breakfast Worship | Gen. 12:1-4a | John 3:1-17 | Psalm 121 |
| March 19 | | Exod. 17:1-7 | John 4:5-42 | Psalm 95 |
| March 26 | | I Sam. 16:1-13 | John 9:1-41 | Psalm 23 |
| April 2 | Communion | Ezek. 37:1-14 | John 11:1-45 | Psalm 130 |
| April 9 | Palm Sunday/Breakfast | | Matt. 12:11-54 | 118:1-2, 19-29 |
| April 13 | Maundy Thursday | | John 13:1-17, 31b-3 | 116:1-2, 12-19 |
| April 14 | Good Friday | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Matt. 27:11-54 | Psalm 31:9-16 |
| April 16 | Easter Sunday | Jer. 31:1-6 | John 20:1-18 | 118:1-2, 14-24 |

Consistory Highlights

Cleaning in kitchen by volunteers due to the mouse infestation, more to do to finish. They worked after Bible on at least four different occasions..

The Properties Team is happy with all the current tenants in Memorial Hall.

The Properties Team will focus on the repair of the church doors and door frames as their next project.

Bob Bradsell has submitted articles for the Montgomery News detailing our spring events and the work of our Pastor. Be sure to see the two articles in the March Montgomery News.

The township is putting in a sidewalk from the high school to Blawenburg on the opposite side of the street from the cemetery. The Cemetery Team sees no negative aspect for the cemetery.

The Missions Team is working on a new 4 tier mission plan to be debuted on March 12 in worship and at the covered-dish lunch.

BVS has begun a new Seedlings program. It is a 2 day per week program to help get children ready for preschool. Five children are already registered.

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

Covered– Dish Lunch—February 2017



Food and conversation
go well together!



Philippians 2:2

Make my joy complete by
being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love,
united in spirit, intent on one
purpose.

Next Covered-Dish Luncheon—March 12th

Join us for our last 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

Tuesday morning Bible Study 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.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study—6:30pm The plan is to meet from 6:30pm to 8pm and to spend the time in fellowship, study, and prayer. If you are interested in being involved in the study, please send an email to revjeffknol@gmail.com and Pastor Jeff will include you on the email list.

This Study will meet in members' homes. Watch the weekly Bulletin, Enews, or call the church office for the location. If you cannot arrive by 6:30, you are welcome to come when you can.

Breakfast Worship—Sunday, March 12 at 8:32am 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.

Mary & Martha

The Mary and Martha book study will meet on Tuesday, March 28th in the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. Watch the e-news or bulletin for the discussion topic. All women are welcome.

The Written (and Spoken) Word

Women's Transformation and Leadership is organizing this year's RCA Lent devotions! Their theme is "rooted" and is inspired by Psalm 1. Rev. Adriene Thorne came up with the idea for video devotions last year, and Women's Transformation and Leadership put together its own series of video devotions for 2016. They are honored to bring inspiration through devotionals to a broader audience this year. [Sign up to receive video devotions in your inbox during Lent](https://www.rca.org/resources/lent-devotions)

<https://www.rca.org/resources/lent-devotions>

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN TO HOW TO BE A BETTER CARE GIVER AND LISTENER

Nancy Curtis, a Stephen Ministry leader since 2008, will be leading a workshop on Sunday, March 26 directly following coffee hour on "Caring for People Before, During and After Hospitalization". She will adapt the workshop to include caring for those who are in nursing homes. Stephen Ministry is "one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times." The workshop will focus on caring for individuals and helping them express their feelings and concerns about their hospitalization. Please plan to stay and benefit from this invaluable learning experience.



Blawenburg Village School

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

Introducing the Seedling Class!

This is a preschool discovery class for children ages 2-3 which will meet once a week on Wednesday mornings (9:00-12:00). It's a great introduction to preschool and will include lots of hands on activities, music and movement, art, snack time and free play both in the classroom and outdoors.

The class will start on Wednesday, March 1st.
Tuition - \$110.00/month

Summer Camp and Enrollment for 2017-18

BVS is currently accepting applications for summer camp and the upcoming school year. We're excited to be offering a transitional kindergarten. This program is designed as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten. It is intended for students who may be chronologically late, or simply due to the uniqueness of individual developmental readiness (social, physical or academic), need an additional year of growth to better prepare for the years ahead.

Kid's Night Out

March 24th (5:30-8:30pm)

Children ages 2 - 11 are welcome

Organized and staffed by BVS teachers.
Children are served dinner and dessert.
Enjoy a craft, play some games and watch a movie.
Children do not need to be registered students of BVS.

Cost: Registered BVS families - \$15.00 for the 1st child in the family and \$10.00 for each additional child in the family.

Non-registered families: \$20.00 for the 1st child in the family and \$15.00 for each additional child in the family.

Visit our Facebook Page for pictures of the many happenings at BVS!

For information on any programs please contact Karen Hill, Director
609.466.6600 or email khill@blawenburgvillageschool.com



Like us on facebook to view more news and events!
#blawenburgvillageschool

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

Soup for Others

A Mission of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

“More Soup, Less Stress for Others”

The Soup for Others is a new mission of BRC that provides frozen soup to members, friends, and neighbors in the community who can benefit from it. It can be delivered to people by the pastor, care team, or any members/friends of the church when they visit.

The program is designed to resemble our Sinterklass soup effort, but on a smaller scale. Here is the gist of it:

Members and friends of the church make soup whenever they are so inclined...perhaps when they are making it for their families.

The soup is labeled, logged in, and frozen in the church freezer in plastic containers as it is for Sinterklaas.

Whenever someone wishes to visit someone who may benefit from the soup, they may take a container from the freezer to share with them.

We will periodically let the congregation know what our inventory is and if more soup is needed.

This is not meant to be a burden on soup-makers or to change our soup-making for the community at Sinterklaas. Participation is optional and ongoing.

Soup for Others is part of the overall mission program that is previewed in another article in this Beacon. The full program will be explained in more detail on March 12 and will officially begin on that day.

The purpose of Soup for Others is two-fold.

We would like to provide soup to those who can benefit from it, but we also are challenged to reach out to our neighbors to help them in any way we can.

And, of course, Jesus gave us direction that helps guide our whole mission program:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. — Matthew 22:35-40.

When we make soup for others, there is less stress for us and for them. We hope you will participate in this mission.



Thank you from Heifer International

MISSIONS—Continued

CRAWFORD HOUSE SOUP MAKING A SUCCESS!

by Barb Reid

On Sunday, February 26, seventeen women from Crawford House spent the afternoon in the kitchen of Cook Hall. With a bit of instruction from Evelyn Cochran, Hilde Lewis, Bernice Van Nostrand, Sonya Hunt and Ethel Terhune, they prepared a nutritious meal consisting of two types of soup (vegetarian cabbage and chicken and rice), fresh green salad, and blueberry cobbler for dessert.

It became immediately evident that the communal environment in which the women live is a success. Their ability to work together was apparent and inspirational. Because of their efficiency, dinner was served right on time. Once the meal was over, the ladies had the kitchen restored in less than one hour.

Dave Cochran assisted with the event in a myriad of ways. Among other things, he drove the van to get the women from the house to the church and then back home again at the close of the evening. In addition, he took the eager residents on a tour of the sanctuary. The ladies were particularly interested in the differences between our church and the Catholic church. They also wanted to know why the kneeling benches didn't have pads. Hmm... Dave also socialized over dinner with the ladies, as did Bernice, Hilde, Evelyn, Sonya, Ethel, Don, Gracie, and Barb R. A special thanks to Ginny, for all of her behind-the-scenes work prior to the event itself. The women of Crawford House were able to offer as much to us as we to them. The thought was to teach 17 women how to make soup, salad and dessert in a way that was simple and economical. However, these ladies reciprocated by indicating that both hope and renewal are possible. It was such a gratifying experience for each and every individual who participated in the event.



GET READY TO GARDEN!

Spring is in the air and that means it is time to garden. Even if you don't have a green thumb you are invited to work alongside the ladies of Crawford House as we prepare and cultivate a working garden at their home. We will be meeting the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm, April through September. Our first meeting will be April 10, and then again on May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14 and September 11. If you think that you might be able to participate on any of these dates, please contact Ethel now. 908.359.6027 (home) or 609.922.4118 (cell). Thanks!

MISSIONS—Continued

BRC Restructures its Mission Plan

The Mission Team (Jeff Knol, Dave Cochran, Sonya Hunt, and Barb Pavlicek) has been meeting for several months to re-think how we serve others. The team was guided by Jesus' words from John 20:21. "Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

We are challenged to reach out to help our friends and neighbors as we all struggle through life. Our challenge was to define a program that would have broad participation, low cost, and be ongoing. We received a lot of guidance from a book called *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson.

The program we developed is a four-tier approach to mission. We begin with things we are already doing when we reach out to others to assist them, cheer them up, or listen to their concerns. The second tier is our local missions such as Crawford House. The third tier stretches us into missions in our region such as feeding the hungry in Somerville, and the fourth tier gives us a national and global focus.

No one is expected to work on all aspects of this program, but each of us can assist in some way even if it is as simple as making a phone call to a sick friend to encourage them.

The plan will be introduced during worship on March 12 and will be more fully explained at the Pot Luck Luncheon after worship that day. Meanwhile, here is a general idea of how the program will work. We are already doing many things for mission and we hope that you will find a few ways that you can reach out to serve in our restructured program.

| Tier | Area covered | Missions | Leads |
|------|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Personal | Personally reaching to others and help/serve them in very basic ways – cards, calls, visits, etc. | |
| 2 | Local | Soup for Others – making soup to share with others. | Dave Cochran Barb Reid |
| | | Habitat for Humanity (still in idea stage) | Sonya Hunt |
| | | Daytop at Crawford House – finding other ways to help residents | Dave Cochran Jeff Knol |
| | | SAVE – working with BVS to help at the animal shelter | Jeff & Jamie Knol with BVS |
| 3 | Regional | SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) – helping serve food periodically. | Jeff Knol |
| 4 | National/International | RCA Mission Program – similar programs to what we do now – missionary support, Heifer, Christmas boxes, school supplies, etc. | Barb Pavlicek |

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

Blue Pomegranate to Start Its Third Season

by Alan Taback

Blue Pomegranate, Blawenburg Church's special Music and Art Event will kick off its third season on the **Third Thursday in April (April 20th)**.

The event provides live music and original art along with a welcoming and joyful creatively inspired evening, building community through the love of music and art.

We will be featuring the works of four visual artists and two music groups.

We will have the paintings of Hopewell artist Kaitlin Deering and the photography of Andrew Wilkinson. We are still deciding on the two other visual artists and the second musical group. Kaitlin's work is inspired by elements of nature and is vivid and vibrant and inspiring. She says that she has been influenced by the rigors and joys of her travels and life experiences.

Andrew is a student of perception, bringing culture and subculture with introspection, humor, and wit. He says, "I aim to constantly exploit the aspect of accessibility."

Both artists have exhibited nationally and internationally.

The one music group performing will be the Beagles, a Bucks County group returning to Blue Pomegranate after a rousingly successful debut in the fall and is led by the pulsating rhythmic voice of Lisa Theodore. Bring your dancing shoes!

Blue Pomegranate has a three month spring season (April, May, and June) and a three month fall season (September, October, and November). It is open to all, free of charge; however donations are accepted. Doors open at 7pm.



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be held at the Blawenburg Café at 7:30 am on Wednesday, March 20th.

Let Joe know if you plan to be there—

jpav11999@aol.com.

Come enjoy a time of food and fellowship with friends.

Dear Church Family,

Jotham and I were so humbled and touched by the outpouring of love in the giant Valentine we received upon our return from some R&R in Florida. You truly are our 'family' and lift us up at every turn. Many thanks and much love in return!

Gracie and Jotham



PROCLAMATION Continued

RUMMAGE SALE



RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

Planning for Rummage Sale 2017 is well underway. The dates this year are Friday, April 7 (9:00am – 6:00pm), and Saturday, April 8 (9:00am- 3:00pm, when all items are half price). We are in need of many hands to make this event happen.

Sorting begins on Wednesday, March 29, and Memorial Hall will be open each weekday at 9:00am. Donations may be dropped off in the basement of Memorial Hall beginning Sunday, March 26 between noon and 3:00pm. Donations will be accepted through Tuesday, April 4. We are happy to receive jewelry, linens, household items, books, clothing (adult and children's), clothing accessories, shoes, games and toys, and items that would be suitable to sell outside, such as small furniture and sports equipment. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING LARGE FURNITURE OR ELECTRONICS OF ANY KIND.**

We will also have a bake sale again this year and welcome your treats. You can donate cookies, candies, breads, cakes and pies, as well as jams and jellies. Please place cookies in packages of 6.

In addition to the prep work, we need many able volunteers to help with the actual sale, as well as those who are willing to come in at the end and assist with clean up. Watch for a sign-up poster in Cook Hall which will enable you to indicate to us in which area, and when you can help.

All questions may be directed to the co-chairs of the event: Jean Beachell 609.924.7637 (home), 908.531.5404 (cell) or Ethel Terhune 908.359.6027 (home) or 609.922.4118 (cell).

This event brought in an unprecedented amount last year that exceeded \$9000.00. With your help, we can do it again. Virtually all proceeds are used to do God's work in our church and in our community.



PROCLAMATION Continued



Eagle Scout Honor Ceremony February 11, 2017



Plaque honoring Eagle Scouts
of Troop 46

Congressman Leonard Lance addresses Eagle Scout candidates and presents flags to them.



Candidates pin miniature Boy Scout pins on their parents.



Nancy Gartenberg,
Superintendent of Montgomery Schools



Mrs. Terhune congratulates Raj whom she sponsored. Raj's Eagle project was the 250 foot nature trail behind Cook Hall.



Candidates with their new scarves



Mr. Rich Epp, Scoutmaster,
giving challenge and remarks.

OFFICE HOURS**MON** 8:30 to 1:30**THUR** 8:30 to 3:30**FRI** 8:30 to 11:30

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

Dates in March—Planning Ahead ...

Mar. 3—Game Night, 7-10pm

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

Mar. 15—Men's Breakfast, 7:30am

Mar. 20—Consistory Meeting, 7:30pm

Mar. 28—Mary & Martha, 6:30pm

Planning Ahead ...

Apr. 7-8—Rummage Sale, 9am

Apr. 9—Palm Sunday, 10am

Apr. 13—Maundy Thursday Communion and
Soup Supper, 6pm
Beacon DeadlineApr. 14—Good Friday, Sanctuary open for
prayer noon—3pm

Apr. 16—Easter Sunday, 10 am

Apr. 20—Blue Pomegranate, 7pm

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 April 20. Please be conscious of the new deadlines.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March/April

March

8 Katie Connolly
12 Colby White
19 Joe Pavlicek
24 Cheryl Soos
29 Dot Dorey
Pam Wanner

April

1 LeFerne Keller
2 Doug Hill
Katie Mueller

*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 and
Wednesdays 6:30pm in
homes.

Support our church by shopping via smile.Amazon.com and choosing Blawenburg Reformed Church as your charity.

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.