



The Blawenburg Beacon

February, 2015

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

February 1, 2015

Dear Friend,

On February 18 the church will observe Ash Wednesday with a service of worship in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day period leading up to Easter called Lent. Christians across the years have used these 40 days to examine how their relationship with God is going. Some questions worth considering this Lent are:

"How am I distracted from loving God and loving my neighbor?"

"Are there habits or patterns of behavior that have taken over too much of my life?"

"What do I need to let go of in my life so I can more faithfully share the life of Christ in my relationships at home, work, or in school?"

Many try various spiritual practices to remove distractions from their lives and to intentionally draw closer to God. Upper Room Ministries offers great resources to learn more about the meaning of Lent with suggestions for trying some spiritual practices yourself these 40 days. You can find that information here:

<http://www.upperroom.org/lent101>

This Lent I am challenged to consider how I am personally serving the needs of my neighbors in concrete ways. While some will fast or abstain from particular foods or drinks, and others will commit to increasing their prayer life, my Lenten spiritual practice is to try and serve a need in our surrounding community in a practical, hands on way. What about you? Which spiritual practice do you sense God calling you to try this Lent? Let's take this special season before Easter to proactively grow in our faith.

To have the Reformed Church in America's Lenten daily devotional emailed directly to your inbox follow this link:

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

Blessings,

Travis

The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a family 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.

Worship

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



ALL GOD'S CREATURES GOT A PLACE IN THE CHOIR!

Hard to believe, but it's time to plan for the Lent and Easter seasons. We would LOVE new choir members. Don't just take my word for it; ask anybody in the Advent & Christmas choir, any one of the five of them (all women.) They did a great job! But we'd love more company.

Specifically, we'd love more high voices (women or boys with unchanged voices of middle school age and up) and we'd love to have lower voices (men with changed voices of any age.) Any new tenor/bass recruits might draw back some former members who have departed for lack of company. We all feel better in plentiful company.

We usually rehearse in the late afternoon on Wednesday or Thursday (whatever works best by consensus) 3:45 – 4:30, but other options are being considered, *i.e.*, Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:45.

Easter is April 5, so this nine-week commitment ends on that day. If you can offer special music at any other time of the year, we would love to hear from you, too.

If you know of young or old people in the area who like to sing and aren't attached to a church, they are extremely welcome.

Now is the time to indicate your interest, as music for the season needs to be chosen rather immediately. Don't wait! Please contact Katie to discuss your possible interest or just to ask questions.

Kathleen.Connolly.78@verizon.net

609 737-9389

February Worship Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 1	"A New Teaching, With Authority!"	Mark 1:21-28
Sunday, Feb. 8	"A Healing Touch"	Mark 1:29-39
Sunday, Feb. 15	Transfiguration Sunday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Wednesday, Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday	7:30 Worship Service
Sunday, Feb. 22	First Sunday in Lent	Mark 1:9-15



David Cochran, VP of Consistory with Rev. Kirsty DePree, Marble Collegiate Church, and Gracie Johnson, Worship Chair

Hospitality

"...care for those in our congregation and the greater church community..."

Pot Luck Luncheon

The Family Life Team would like to invite everyone to stay after church on February 8th for a pot luck luncheon. Bring along a dish (meat, casserole, vegetable or salad) to share. The ovens will be on warm during worship if you need them.



Drinks and dessert will be provided.

We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing some warm times with friends.

Evelyn
for the Family Life Team

Life-Long Learning Team

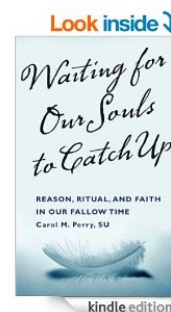
"We commit our gifts to ... life-long learning..."

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.

Tuesday Study Group - For those interested in brushing up on their Bible study, join Pastor Travis for a new small group Bible study to begin on Tuesday, February 10 at 10am at the church.

The Mary and Martha Prayer/Study Group will meet on February 16, 2015, at 5:45 p.m., at the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. They will continue their conversation on *Waiting for Our Souls to Catch Up* by Sister Carol Perry from Marble Collegiate Church. The book is available through Amazon.com.



REMINDER: We have a library!

Our library has been reorganized to make it easier to locate:

1. a favorite author such as Max Lucado or Philip Yancy;
2. an old favorite "read" like *In His Steps* by Sheldon;
3. a topic such as prayer or grief;
4. a relaxing book to take your mind off the News of the Day;
5. ample books available to help you in your daily devotions, Bible study and prayer;
6. a book to help us laugh. Yes, there's a book called *Holy Humor*.

The Library is self service and on the honor system. Come, choose, check out and Enjoy!

All Welcome

Blawenburg Reformed Church is excited to offer new opportunities for people to engage with the life of its faith community. On Sunday, February 8th at 7:30 p.m., the Rev. Travis Winckler kicks off a new class exploring how faith can help alleviate our modern anxieties. From financial to personal health to relational stresses, life today presents us with many opportunities to worry. Join Pastor Travis at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 8 to consider how a living faith today can soothe anxious hearts, comfort us in times of need, release us from the guilt of past mistakes, and help us live with hope and focus on what is truly important. Classes will continue each Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. through Palm Sunday on March 29.



Blawenburg Village School

P.O. Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

The students at BVS, along with their teachers will be busy during the month of February making Valentine Cards for those in local nursing homes. If you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving a card, please let us know and we will mail one to them.

Please join us on Saturday, February 7th (10:00am-12:00pm) for an Open House. Stop in for a tour of the school and to obtain information on our programs. Information will also be available on our website blawenburgvillageschool.com.

We will have a Soup with Siblings -Family Fun Night (5:30-7:30) on Friday, February 27th. We will start the evening with dinner in Cook Hall. Winter-themed activities will then be provided in all classrooms in the school house. All church members are welcome to join the festivities.

We have started our enrollment process for summer camp and the 2015-2016 school year. If you are interested, please contact the school so we can be sure church members receive priority placement. Please help us spread the word by telling your family and friends!

Our Summer Camp program will run for 4 weeks, July 6th - July 31st, 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

Children ages 2.5 - 6 are welcome to join the fun! The cost is \$200.00/week. Please call the school (609-466-6600) or check the website (blawenburgvillageschool.com) for enrollment information.

Mom's Morning Out is available every morning from 9:00-12:00, for a cost of \$30.00/morning. This program is open to all children ages 2 - 6, so please help us spread the word to any Mom in the community who may need a morning to herself. Students will be provided with a wide range of activities such as; art exploration, science experiments, cooking projects, dramatics and pretend play, stories, music, snack and outdoor activities.

Please call (609-466-6600) or email (info@blawenburgvillageschool.com) to register.

Missions

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

Crawford House Soup-making Event, February 22

On Sunday, February 22, we will conduct our annual soup-making event for the residents of Crawford House. The residents will come to Cook Hall at 3 PM and learn how to prepare soup and baked goods from scratch. They will then eat what they've made. This has been a popular event for them in the past because it helps them learn a practical skill and gives them an opportunity to socialize with community residents.

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 (4:30 – 6:00 PM)

Make a donation to help offset the cost of food (Cost is about \$200.)

If you have any questions or wish to help, please let Evelyn or Dave Cochran know.

(davide99@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!



Master Calendar

Please remember to list all scheduled meetings on the master calendar opposite the church office. This will avoid any conflicts in the use of rooms.



Fellowship Hour

Jean Beachell is resigning from scheduling coffee hour after church. Would you be interested in taking over this task? We need a volunteer to assign Sunday morning fellowship hour to the congregants. This is a task which can be done at home. If you are interested, please contact Jean Beachell at 609-924-7637 or fortheloveofflowers@yahoo.com.

Reflections of Grace by The Rev. David Blauw

I'm writing to have you consider, at your discretion, including my reflections in the service tomorrow.

Grace was aptly named....and was, as was our Lord, "full of GRACE and truth." Her demeanor of gentle strength, mature wisdom and spiritual depth was a great influence on my life as a young pastor. Her intentional, behind the scenes, and in front of the camera leadership was an influence of faith in action and an inward model for me personally as well as countless others. Her love of her family, and my family, was always evident and her commitment to Blawenburg Church "unrelenting". I treasure Grace's influence in my life since 1982. She was, and is, a gift to so many, from the gracious hand of God.

In addition, here is the text of her note of "farewell" when I left the pastorate of Blawenburg Church in June of 1994. I now think these very words in reference to her death.

"How do you say goodbye to someone who touched your life in ways too numerous to count? How do you say goodbye? Our prayers together mean so much. How can we be out of touch. Kindness and understanding were always there, a friend in need in our despair. How can we say goodbye?"

But then God's voice came when I was abed, "You don't have to say goodbye," he said. "You'll always have treasured memories of friendship, of love, of laughter and tears. Carry these with you wherever you go." No goodbye, just "God Bless You! "

~ Bill and Grace Terhune

Peace to you Travis as you remember, celebrate and grieve as a community.

David [Blauw]

[Editorial Note: David also sent an article from the 155th Anniversary which is posted on the downstairs bulletin board in Cook Hall.]


The "Terhune" cousins following the Memorial Service for Grace Terhune. L-R: David Terhune, Peggy Querec, Nancy Landuyt, Mary Ellen Soldavin, Allan Conover.

On the following page is a montage of pictures taken at the funeral reception.





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



6 Sonya Hunt	10 Lisa White
9 Barry Gurzo	28 Elmi Hill
	Barb Reid

ANNIVERSARY

7 Tom & Lisa Hunt

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

February 1	10:00 AM	Worship—Boy Scout Sunday
February 3	4:30 PM	Properties Team Meeting
	5:30 PM	Cemetery Meeting
February 7	10—noon	BVS Open House
February 8	11:45 AM	Pot Luck Luncheon
February 9	4:15 PM	Worship Team
February 18	7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
February 19	10:00 AM	Communications Team
February 22	3:00-6:00 PM	Crawford House Soup Making (See page 6.)
	4:30 PM	"Sharing of Food" with Crawford House (See page 6.)
February 23	Beacon Deadline for Information	
	7:30 PM	Consistory
February 27	5:30-7:30 PM	BVS Soup with Siblings (See page 5.)
	* * * * *	
Sundays	10:00AM	Worship with Pastor Travis unless otherwise posted
Sundays	7:30 PM	Adult Study Group—Feb. 8-March 29 (See page 4.)
Tuesdays	10:00AM	Bible Study beginning February 10th
	* * * * *	

Looking Ahead

March 1	11:45 AM	Pot Luck Luncheon
March 8	10:00 AM	Dr. Michael Brown, Marble Collegiate Church Guest Preacher

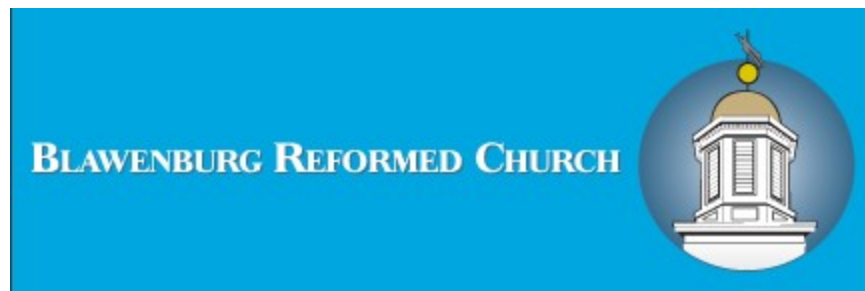
Save your Rummage Items for an April Rummage Sale

The Blawenburg Beacon

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Dated Material



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