



# The Blawenburg Beacon

## April, 2012

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

Dear Blawenburg Church Family,

As Easter grows closer, I look forward to worship, prayer, and proclamation with each of you. Not knowing the traditions of our church, I suggested to the elders and deacons of our Consistory that we switch communion from the first Sunday in April to Easter Sunday. Plus, I suggested a Holy Week Maundy Thursday service of communion with a slight difference. Well, the elders agreed. But, if for any reason you are not satisfied with this arrangement, please do not blame the officers! Since this arrangement is different from what we are used to, please be willing to check it out, if you will, and be open to a new way to prepare for the resurrection celebration of Easter.

Here is what will happen. On Maundy Thursday, which is April 5, at 6:00 p.m., we will gather for communion. "Maundy" is from the Latin word which means "mandate." Jesus gave his followers the mandate, or command, to do this in remembrance of him, referring to the supper he served on Maundy Thursday, almost 2000 years ago. So we will keep the mandate and remember the great story of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Our plan is to be served in groups while the congregation sings. We will actually go to the "upper room" of the sanctuary, into the choir loft, where the meal will be made ready by disciples. For any who have difficulty with stairs, we will help you up and down. For all who absolutely cannot go up the stairs, we will also have the meal at the table downstairs. Our remembrance will be a wonderful reminder of the last supper of Jesus.

On Easter we will celebrate again, with communion by intinction. Our service will be bold, festive, interactive, and joyful! We will put the sermon series on hold and rehearse the great story of the empty tomb. And, as on Maundy Thursday, we will sing, sing, sing!

I hope you will invite your entire family, and perhaps a friend or neighbor to join you for each of these meaningful services.

Faithfully,  
Your Pastor,  
Bob



April 1, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship; children will have SS; adult SS after fellowship  
April 5, 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion  
April 8, 10:00 a.m. Resurrection Sunday Worship/Communion; no SS  
April 8 following worship – Easter Egg Hunt



*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.*

## **Worship Team**

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

### **Which came first, music or faith?**

This egg/chicken quandary has perplexed me for some time as I myself am both a musician and a person of faith, an organist and a preacher, a composer and a theologian. It is certainly not a question one should lose sleep over, since a person can be both a musician and a person of faith without danger to life or limb, but I do believe it to be an examination worthy of our attention because a lot of our lives of faith involve some form of music. Our worship contains music; we sing prayers and confessions and hallelujahs; we hum or whistle or at least attempt to carry a tune in everyday life; we listen to music in the car or at meals or to pass long-distance travel. Music is with us in all places and in all places we are types of music. Because I believe music to be so instinctual to our everyday lives, I also believe that all music is divinely inspired and in one way or another can turn our attention towards our God. I then return to the question: Which came first?

From the beginning of our faith history, recorded in the book of Genesis, music has been in all that we do and are. As God spoke creation into existence, God sang, 'Let there be..., and there was..., and God saw that it was good.' The rhythmic drive of God's creative force spun the universe into existence and put a song in the human heart. Moses and Miriam sang of their deliverance from the hands of their Egyptian oppressors. Deborah sings in the book of Judges of the Israelite defeat of the Canaanites, led by two women. Isaiah hears angels singing God's praises in the temple. Jeremiah sings a sad song over the exile of Israel. Jesus and his disciples sing hymns as they leave their upper room on the night before Christ's death. People of faith seem to have always been musicians; and in the

case of King David, who was a musician before he really knew much from God, musicians are people of faith. Music gives us an avenue to express our faith and, as is the case with those listed above, our faith inspires us to make music. Faith and music don't seem to have a birth order, which gives us pause to be thankful that both are so intricately woven into the fabric of our lives.

Consider two sets of lyrics, as we think more about the relationship between faith and music:

One minute I held the key,  
Next the walls were closed on me.  
And I discovered that my castles stand  
Upon pillars of salt and pillars of sand.  
I hear Jerusalem bells a-ringing  
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing  
Be my mirror, my sword and shield  
My missionaries in a foreign field.

and

Such perfect love my Shepherd shows,  
Whose goodness fails me never,  
Whose hand all things I need bestows  
and watches me forever.  
And so through all the length of days,  
Your goodness fails me never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever.

Both texts examine the futility of humanity's attempts to provide, build, and survive without the provisions of a gracious God. Both texts also call for a fresh rain of provision, protection, and guidance from that gracious God who is merciful and kind. What the texts do not have in common is their origin and purpose; the first is from the song Viva La Vida by alternative rock band Coldplay which was released in 2008, and the second is a paraphrase of Psalm 23 from the 1868 publication of the Genevan Psalter. Neither set of lyrics is bent on being explicit about God, and neither is without motions of faith. It is from this, and many more

pairing like this, that I know all music to be divinely inspired and about to tell us things about God.

On April 29 at 6:00pm, I will be exploring this quandary even further with a night of music and song in the BRC sanctuary. This concert and singing event is free and open to the congregation and public, and a free-will offering will be collected to support the ministry of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. This concert will be a mix of sacred and secular organ music, and will also include many opportunities to sing--some of the songs we sing you might never expect to hear in church! All in all, ***Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: An Evening of Music at Blawenburg Reformed Church*** will not be an evening to miss, and I encourage you to bring friends and family, invite a co-worker, and tell your neighbors. And before that evening, consider the ways music and faith are tied together in your life, and be grateful to God for two gifts beyond our understanding.

In peace,  
Andrew



## Hospitality Team

*“ . . . care for those in our congregation and the greater church community . . . ”*

We have a new link on our church website for the Hospitality Team. Please check it out and let me know how I can improve the information and what information needs to be added.

Thank you, Nancy Curtis

### Why Do We Serve Lunch?

by Nancy Curtis

Three years ago, when the Elks Lodge made a financial decision to stop serving lunch, we decided to fill this void in the community. We started serving lunch to 15 people in August of 2010 and we have now grown to an average of 40 people per week. From the very beginning, the Outreach Lunch has been about “community” and has never been about “making money”. The success is the guests who come back every week, ask why we don’t serve lunch every day, and tell us they love the food (and us)! So join us when you can on any Tuesday from 11:30 to 1 and enjoy the company of our community.

We do it to bring glory to His name.

## Life-Long Learning Team

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

**Nursery** – Caitlyn Curtis - caregiver—Nursery is in the center room in Cook Hall for children up thru Pre-K.

**K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School** – Because Consistory decided not to have Communion on Palm Sunday, the children **will** have Sunday school with Mrs. Perkins. On Easter Sunday, however, they will remain in the worship service and then take part in an Easter Egg Hunt afterward!

**Plunge Youth Group** - Our schedule, going forward is such:

Saturday, April 14: We'll do something fun.

Wednesday, April 25: Preparing a meal for "Wednesday Welcome" at Rocky Hill Church. Come help me cook.

Saturday, May 12: Something fun.

Saturday, May 26: Beach. (if the weather is decent)

Annie Reilly,

Youth Pastor of First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill



**Mary's and Martha's** – On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the women's prayer/study group will be discussing chapters 3,4,5, and 6 of Mustard Seeds: Thoughts on the Nature of God and Faith by Lynn Coulter. Please join us in Cook Hall at 7:30 for breakfast, discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

**Tuesday Study Group** – meets in the lounge from 10—11:30. Barb Pavlicek and Bernice Van Nosstrand are leading this group with a study from Words of Hope. The new book that we will start on April 3<sup>rd</sup> is What We Are: Images of Ministry by David Bast. Come whenever you are able and stay for our Tuesday Outreach lunch!



**Adult Sunday School Class** – This class is led by Pastor Bob and meets in the lounge from 11:30—12:30 sharp! Join the energetic and thoughtful discussion of Fresh Power by Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, and see why Paul says, “Amazing things happen when ordinary men and women are led and filled by the Spirit of God.”

John 3:8 *The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*



# Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com

Karen Hill, Director

April is a busy month at BVS. We will be having a Family Fun Night at Jump Zone in Hillsborough on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00, and you're invited to attend. Jump Zone is an indoor party and play center containing 11 huge inflatable slides, bounce houses and obstacle courses. It is perfect for children ages 2 to 12. The cost is \$15.00/child ages 2 and over (under 2 free) and \$5.00/adult admission. Access to inflatables, unlimited pizza and a fountain beverage are included in the admission price. Tickets must be purchased through BVS by April 16<sup>th</sup>. Call (609-466-6600) or email (blawenburgvillageschool@yahoo.com) for further details.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting a table at Montgomery's Earth Day Fair from 12:00 -4:00. Stop by Montgomery High School and visit our table.

BVS students will participate in a March of Dimes Wonder Walk on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Our students will learn the mission of the March of Dimes, walk around the church property, and have a special snack. Anyone interested in walking is welcome to join us.

We will be participating in Communiversality in Princeton, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 -5:00. We will provide crafts for the children, and are looking forward to a fun day.

Our Mom's Morning Out Program will meet on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Children ages 2-6 are welcome to join us! They do not need to be registered students to attend. All sessions are taught by a certified teacher and include arts and crafts, dramatics and pretend play, music, stories, snack and outdoor time. Sessions are 8:30-11:30, and the cost is \$30.00/session. Please call or email the school if interested.

Summer Camp will be held July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00am-1:00pm, for children ages 2.5-6. Join us for one or all of the following:

Fun with Fitness (July 9 - 13): *Join us as we explore various sports.*

Under the Sea (July 16 - 20): *Come and Explore the Creatures of the Sea!*

Jammin' in the Jungle (July 23 - 27): *Come on a safari and meet some wild animals!*

Exploring Nature (July 30 - Aug. 3): *Let's spend a week with nature and see what cool things we can find!*



BVS is on Facebook so please take a minute to like our page!



The Sprouts head to Children & Worship to learn the Palm Sunday story. They placed palms and cloaks on the road to Jerusalem.



St. Patrick's Day—learning traditions



Marvelous Monday Rest Time!

BVS

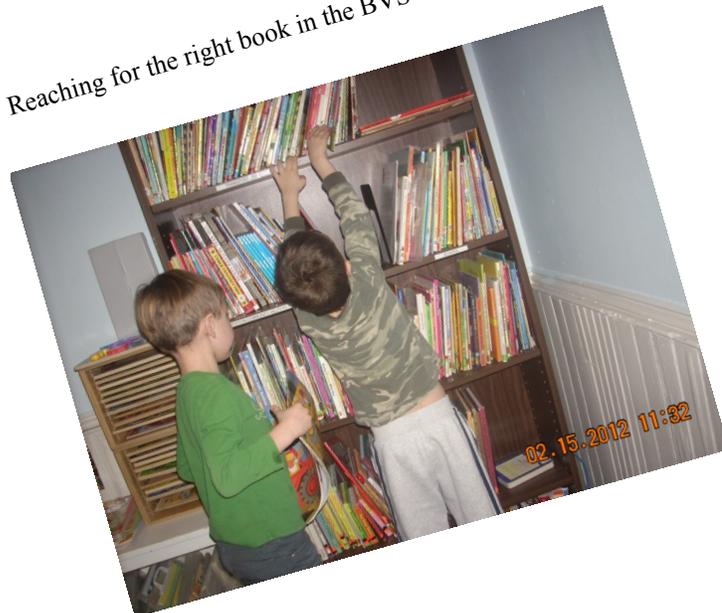
at

work

&

play

Reaching for the right book in the BVS Library



Marvelous Monday—painting birdhouses

Blawenburg Village School  
invites you to a Family Fun Night at



6 Jill Court, Building 23  
Hillsborough  
908-428-8515  
www.jumpzoneparty.com

**Friday April 20, 2012 6-8pm**

**Attractions**

- 11 Huge Themed Inflatables  
Have fun bouncing, climbing  
and sliding
- Arcade Games
- Free Wi-Fi and TV

**Event Pricing**

- \$15.00/child ages 2 and over
- Children under 2 are Free.
- \$5/adult admission for Adults

**Admission includes:** Access to all inflatables (height restrictions may apply), unlimited pizza, and a fountain beverage.

**Return to school no later than 4/16/2012**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Children age 2 and over (\$15 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Children under 2 (free)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults (\$5 each)



Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to Blawenburg Village School**

All admissions must be paid in advance. No Refunds.

Tickets will be delivered to your child by Wednesday April 18

No changes will be allowed on the night of the event.

## Missions Team

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

### OUR LENTEN MISSION: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Easter morning (or the boxes and offering envelopes for One write a check to BRC with OGHS on lopes will be provided at church on with many disaster relief situations in Thank you for sharing and responding



two weeks after), please return your coin Great Hour of Sharing. You may also the memo line. Additional offering envelopes those days. Your generous support helps our country and all around the world. to Christ's direct call to service.

### Build a House -- Help a Family



The Missions Team is considering joining with Stanton Reformed Church and other churches in the Raritan Valley to help build a house with Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity. This will be a house in Lambertville for a mother and two children. This event helps to bring awareness to homelessness and to live more intentionally into the call of discipleship that Christ has given us. If building is an interest or talent of yours and you would be able to help, please let Bill Herbert know. He can be reached at 609-466-4278. Time is of the essence. There will be a worship and commissioning service followed by a potluck dinner and informational time on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Call Bill with questions.

## **Students ministering in Croatia continue fruit**

*by Nancy Titus*

Over the course of the years that we were in Croatia, you carried us in all our ups and downs as we endeavored to be the best missionaries we could be. Whatever fruit sprouts from the seeds we planted in the people there will continue to accrue to your account.

As we close this chapter of our lives, we think about the people who minister in the former Yugoslavia, especially those we had the privilege of teaching. Space in this last column doesn't permit more than cursory details, but I hope to encourage your continued prayers.

David Kovakevic, Eric's most recent assistant, was a student in both of our classes our first year in Croatia. He went on to receive both bachelor's and master's degrees. In addition to serving as a language interpreter for the school, he teaches classes in systematic theology.

David works alongside his father to care for three growing churches in the area around Osijek. He runs both youth Sunday school and discipleship classes and helps to implement strategies for reaching more people in the surrounding communities with the message of Christ.

David and his family live in Tordinci, a village that fell to the Serbs during the war. David was a small child then, and his family stayed because his father was the pastor of the church. Now, that same fellowship has planted churches in Vukovar, a city on the Serbian border that was devastated in the war, and across a different border into the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Despite the fact that there is so much work to do in the church proper, David is grateful to have a position with the seminary, which provides a small but needed income to supplement this church work.

Another former student, Mirce Manavski, pastors a church in Borovo, a small village outside Vukovar. This village was entirely populated by people who worked at the massive communist rubber company by the same name. The factory is still in operation making shoes but at a tenth of its former size. Though the church is solid, it cannot provide for Mirce's growing family, so he works in construction and other odd jobs whenever possible. His wife, Venesa, another graduate, teaches Hebrew at the seminary and in a local high school in Osijek, where they live. They welcomed their second child last summer.

Their living situation illustrates one harsh reality faced by the church. The 30-minute drive to Borovo represents a significant financial strain on the family, as gas costs about twice as much as in the States. To be near their jobs, the couple lives in Osijek, but that drive in turn limits the outreach to the congregation and beyond to the two or so times a week Mirce can afford to make the drive. The church has a house on its property, and though living there would provide better opportunities for ministry in the church, commuting costs would be prohibitive.

We also have students and graduates poised to make a difference on the economic and political landscape in the region. One couple started a business; another graduate was elected to the city council. These are vital inroads into the betterment of the society, as these young people offer alternatives to the distrust and corruption so commonplace.

We pray that in the years to come you will remember our sacred partnership in this small country of Croatia and will continue to pray for the vitality of the church there – that the gospel would be preached for the glory of the name of our risen savior Jesus Christ! We will continue to look for ways to help our former students in the work of reaching the lost and discipling people into vibrant expressions of a living Christian faith throughout the region. Let us know if you want to be apprised of any such opportunities from time to time.

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Eric and Nancy Titus served as RCA missionaries in Osijek, Croatia, from 2006-2011. They worked at the Evangelical Theological Seminary and with the Reformed Christian Church in Croatia. Their three children are Samuel, 17, Valerie, 14, and Penny, 12.

## Proclaiming Team

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

### *A Page of Thanks*

*Please let us know when we can publish a "thank you" for a kind deed, a job well done, or for any other reason.*

Thank you for selecting me to receive the Lay Recognition Award presented by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Blawenburg Reformed Church is an important part of my life and has helped define who I am. I appreciate all of you, my church family, and all that you do in the name of Christ. I look forward to serving God and others with you through our church for years to come.

Thanks,  
Dave

Thank you, friends at BRC, for honor-Award. We have worked, worshiped, nice to know that whatever I have done pleased with the talents and willingness that this is a shared award. Thank you, by our most talented flower lady!

Sincerely,  
Barbara



ing me with the Lay Recognition and grown together for many years. It is in the past could only have been accom- of many of you to work together. I feel too, for the beautiful flowers arranged



Thank you to Bernice for teaching our BVS children a Bible story every week. On March 29, Bernice shared the Palm Sunday story with the children. See page 6.

*Thank you to Nancy D'Alessandro for the beautiful decorations in Cook Hall. We are enjoying the springtime! And also thank you for creating the Blawenburg Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, like us.*

*When you see construction in the play yard, you will be seeing the Boy Scouts hard at work. This is a project of Eagle Scout candidate Shailen Shah to refurbish and extend the boardwalk for the preschoolers. Shailen is a member of our church-sponsored Troop 46. Thank you, Shailen.*

*Thank you to our visiting Deacons for always being available when you are needed. You know who you are.*

# BLAWENBURG CHURCH YARD SALE!!!

## MAY 4 and 5, 2012



Because we have rented our rummage sale space, Blawenburg Church is moving outside and having a yard sale!! Our sale hours will be Friday, May 4 from 4-6 P.M. and Saturday, May 5, from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M.

Since we are not inside the clothing, shoes, books, electronics,

You may place your items to ternoon, April 29 through Wednes-

Please mark your calendars to ing up.



building, we will not be accepting any or large furniture.

donate under the tents from Sunday af- day, May 2.

help us by donating, selling, or clean-

If you have any questions, or want to volunteer, please call Jean Beachell at 609-924-7637 or [fortheloveofflowers@yahoo.com](mailto:fortheloveofflowers@yahoo.com) .

### Lunches for Locals

April, 2012

Every Tuesday, from 11:30 to 1:00, we serve lunch in Cook Hall. Lunch is served buffet style and a free-will donation is accepted. Lunches will always have salad, bread and beverages.

April 3

Clam chowder, Macaroni & cheese, Cream Puffs

April 10

Tomato soup, chili, baked potatoes, applesauce cake

April 17

Vegetable beef soup, grilled cheese, chocolate mousse pie

April 24

Cream of turkey soup, sausages & meatballs, cake

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



April 1—LaFerne Keller  
 April 2—Katie Mueller  
 April 15—Joe Weingart  
 April 29—Vickie DeLaCruz  
 April 17—Mike Vande Woude

**Future Dates**

May 4 & 5  
 Yard Sale  
 See page 11

May 19  
 May in Montgomery

**Summary of Dates**

See earlier articles for more details.

April 1	10:00am	Palm Sunday Service-Sunday School-Adult Class (see page 1)
April 5	6:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service (see page 1)
April 8	10:00am	Easter Communion Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt (see page 1)
April 12	6:30pm	Administration and Finance Team
	7:30pm	Consistory
April 14	1-3pm	Crawford House--second-phase gardening
April 20	6-8 pm	BVS/BRC Fun Night at Jump Zone (see page 7)
April 22	10 am	Boy Scout Sunday during Worship Watch the announcements for more information.
April 22	12-4pm	Earth Day - MHS (see page 5)
April 23		Deadline for Beacon info (Send to brc1832@verizon.net and bjpmay1998@aol.com .)
April 28	12-5pm	Communiversity - downtown Princeton (see page 5)
April 29	6:00pm	Music, Music, Music Concert (see page 3)
Sundays	8:45 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Dr. Sharman unless otherwise posted Sunday School - after Children's Sermon except for Communion Sun- days
	11:30 am	Adult Sunday School - Cook Hall lounge
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study - Cook Hall lounge
	11:30 to 1:00	Outreach Lunch (See p. 11 for menus.)
Thursdays	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast Group - Cook Hall basement

# **The Blawenburg Beacon**

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material

The Blawenburg Beacon is a publication of the  
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