



The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

2016 July—August

Blawenburg Welcomes Pastor Jeff Knol, Jamie ... and Raleigh

“We have a pastor!”, said Church’s VP of Consistory Dave Cochran on Sunday, June 19th. Reverend Jeff Knol, from the Colts Neck Reformed Church, near Freehold, guest preached that day. Following the service, Dr. Cochran convened a meeting of the congregation and it voted a unanimous approval of the Search Committee’s recommendation and the church’s governing body’s decision to extend a “call” to Reverend Knol. Within days, the Delaware-Raritan Classis of the RCA – the governing group to which BRC belongs – approved the action, and Rev. Knol accepted. Pastor Jeff signs on with Blawenburg Reformed Church officially on Tuesday, August 23rd.



“Jamie and I are really excited about this new chapter in our lives,” Rev. Knol said, “and we’re looking forward to meeting everyone at the church.” August 27th, a Saturday, looks like move-in day at the parsonage. Ahead of that, the Knols plan to do some of their own painting in the pastor’s residence.

...And a Baby, Too!

Jamie Knol is expecting, so we’ll have a baby in residence as well. Anticipated due date: Mid November. The Knols are doing it the old fashioned way...they’ll be pleasantly surprised with a girl or a boy.

Here’s a little background on Jeff and Jamie...

Both Jeff and Jamie are from Michigan, originally. They met while attending Calvin College in Grand Rapids. Jeff attended Princeton Theological Seminary and earned his *Master of Divinity* degree there in 2012. He also took specific denominational courses at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. In September 2012, Jeff signed on as a part-time Youth Pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Brunswick, and the following June he became Interim Pastor at the Reformed Church of Highland Park. In the fall of 2013, Jeff became Associate Minister at Colts Neck Reformed Church where he has taught the confirmation class, led a high school youth program, and

This Issue Includes:

Welcome Pastor	1
Warm Welcomes	2
Fond Farewells	3
Prayers	4
Worship	5
Life-Long Learning	6
BVS	7
Missions	8
Mission (Cont.)	9
Proclamation	10
...and more!	

Warm Welcomes

helped coordinate programs for all youth and young adults. This summer, he led a mission trip helping to rehab homes in an economically depressed part of Tennessee.

Jamie Knol works for Princeton Healthcare System, the outfit that operates the new Princeton Medical Center in Plainsboro. Jamie enjoys baking, reading and walking their dog, Raleigh. And she takes great pictures. “God is bringing us together,” Pastor Knol says. “Let’s do some good work.”



Welcome Karen Larsen

Now that Karen has been with BRC for almost two months as our new administrator, I am happy to say that it has been a smooth transition. Her newsletter and copy writing experience with the Samuel Fleming House Museum & Gardens has given her an advantage in producing this newsletter. As owner of Center Point Staging, LLC, administrator at First Step Counseling, and as executive assistant at American List Counsel, we reap the advantage of her website experience, business administration skills, and sense of teamwork. Welcome, once again, Karen. We look forward to a productive and pleasant ministry together.

Barbara Pavlicek, Editor
The Blawenburg Beacon

(See the June, 2016 edition of the newsletter for further information.)



Pondering Finances
with Jean Beachell

Fond Farewells

A Message from Rev. Dr. Mark King



Rev. Dr. Mark King has ended his time with Marble Collegiate and has headed off to his new position as Conference Treasurer/ Director of Administrative Services for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. He recently sent this message and

asked that it be shared with our congregation:

I wanted to share one last word before I move on from my role at Marble and thus my association with the great people of Blawenburg Reformed Church. You have truly been an inspiration to me. I am so thrilled of our time together with the beginnings of the Marble/Blawenburg partnership that has truly blessed both parties. You are such a good and faithful people. You have weathered some storms as all good communities of faith have and endured all the more. But your future is so bright and your hope and faith so strong. I honestly thanked God for you each and every time I was with you. I am so excited about your new pastor coming aboard and know that great days are ahead. Just know that in our time together, you touched me and honored me in allowing me to be a part of you. May God bless you all and keep you all until that one day, here or there, we will meet again.

All the best,
Mark
R. Mark King
Executive Minister

A Message from Sarah Hong

Greetings BRC Family!

Marc, Abby, Ty and I left New Jersey on June 13th and since then we've visited family in Charlotte, NC and closed on our new home in Kentucky. The kids and I have also been spending time with family in Michigan while Marc is back in NJ working on his dissertation to finish his PhD. We look forward to settling in later this month and beginning our new adventure! Please continue to hold us in prayer during the transition, especially as Marc continues to face some minor health discomforts .

I am so grateful for our time together this past year and look forward to staying in touch! Our family will continue to hold you all in prayer through this time of transition and beyond. So excited that Jeff and Jamie will be journeying alongside you; they are wonderful people and they are lucky to be joining such a wonderful community at BRC.

Blessings and Peace, Sarah

Our new address is,:

3031 Radiance Road, Louisville, KY 40220

And I can also be reached on Facebook and via email:

sarahlhong@gmail.com or phone (616) 450 - 9423



Prayers for Our Church Family

An Update on Marcia Bradsell

After worshiping with us and being at our education hour on June 12th, Marcia suffered a heart attack.

She continues to improve and is gaining strength. With the exception of visits to the doctor, she had not ventured out, but was able to do so for the first time last week when she and her family dined at a local restaurant. Family has visited, and will continue to visit throughout the rest of the summer.

Marcia still carries her defibrillator 24/7 but hopes to have it removed permanently after her next visit to the cardiologist in early August. She hopes to begin some very modest rehab soon.

Regarding Ken's return to Oman, the family will decide in early August on the next steps. It is likely that Ken will return for a short stay to wrap up work there. They will not risk compromising Marcia's health by having her return.

Please continue to keep Marcia as well as the Bradsell family in your prayers. She would welcome a cheerful note. Their address is 35 Barrows Rd., Boothbay Harbor, Me. 04538

Prayers for the Miller Family

Please include the family of Dick Miller in your prayers. Dick passed away on Monday, July 18 at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick. Dick and Cheryl are former members and longtime friends of our church. Cheryl is the niece of Martha Van Zandt. Condolences may be sent to Cheryl at 825 Mt. Lucas Rd., Princeton, 08540.



Luke 11:1-2

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

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

Colossians 3:12-17New International Version (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.* ¹⁶ *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.* ¹⁷ *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)*

Summer Worship Schedule

July 24— Nancy Curtis, Chaplin, RWJ Hamilton
10th Sunday after Pentecost

July 31— Nancy Curtis, Chaplin, RWJ Hamilton
11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 7— Rev. Maddy Patterson
12th Sunday after Pentecost—Communion

August 14— Nancy Curtis, Chaplin, RWJ Hamilton
13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 21— Ed Staats,
Student Intern at North Branch Reformed Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 28— Rev. Jeff Knol
First Sunday preaching at BRC !
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Grateful to our guest preachers



June 6 & July 3—Rev. Paul Walther



June 12—Rev. Ken Bradsell
with wife Marcia



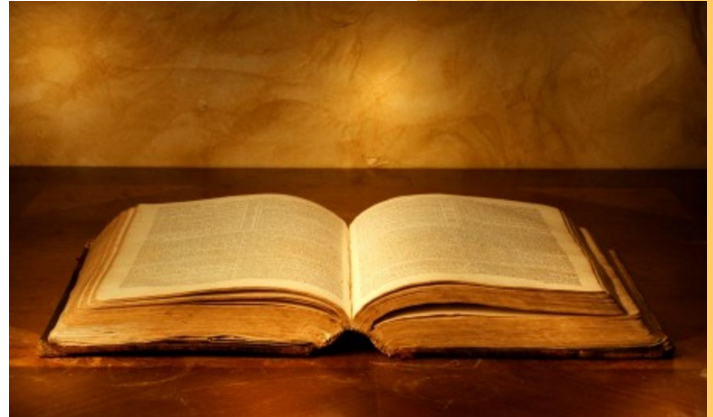
June 19 Rev. Jeff Knol



June 26, July 10 & 17 Nancy Curtis

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

Tuesday Morning Bible has continued through the summer. 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.

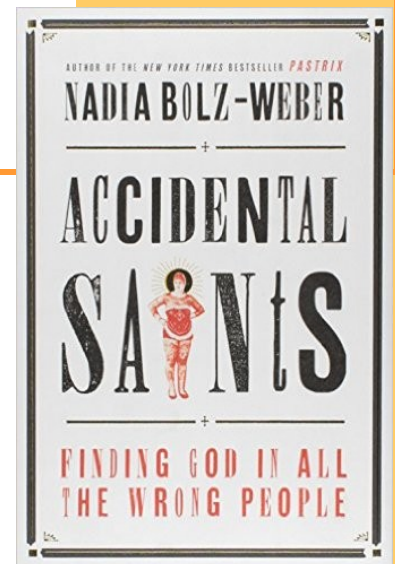


Mary and Martha

The book *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber will be ordered for the October gathering. It comes out in paperback in September. In the meantime, does anyone have a suggestion for a short reading that can be duplicated and distributed for the September dinner, conversation, prayer time? Let Bernice know: [908-244-1115](tel:908-244-1115).

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Blawenburg Reformed Church
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amazonsmile





Blawenburg Village School

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



BVS NEWS

Blossoms Moving On Ceremony

On Monday morning June 20th sixteen children from the two Blossoms classes officially "moved on". Proud parents and grandparents watched and listened as the children presented some of their favorite songs just before receiving their diplomas. A lovely reception followed.

Enrollment

Our 2016-2017 school year will begin on **September 8th**. Information on enrollment can be obtained by emailing Karen Hill, Director

The List of Graduates

MWF Class

Lucia Bergstein
Mia Bitterman
Matthew Fine
Skylar Huss
William McNerney
Vivienne Richards
Sloane Tinsley
Luciana Velez

M-F Class

Mia D'Alessandro
Christian Dressler
Grayson Heide
Luka Klein
Tommy Martin
Keaton Rose
Connor Stubbs
Lily Tesaro
Leo Vecchione

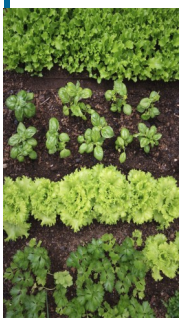
Summer Camp

The campers have been enjoying the camp program. Here are a couple of photos of their safari.



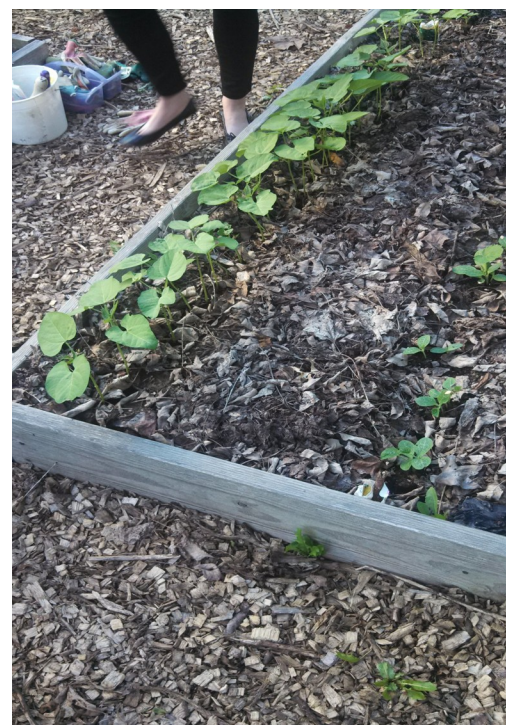
Like us on facebook to view more news and events! #blawenburgvillageschool

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



Gardening at Crawford House

Reaping what was sown, some middle of summer veggie growth. Volunteers were weeding -- and the garden was looking good. Don and Ethel helped by pruning branches. The gardening will continue through October. If you'd like to participate, please contact Ethel Terhune—908.359.6027.



Upcoming Gardening Dates:

August 15
September 12
October 3

View our [calendar online](#) for more dates!

MISSIONS (Cont.)



Church World Service Care Kits

Once again we will be filling Care Kits for our Church World Service September mission. This year, however, we will fill school kits and hygiene kits rather than the baby kits. The CWS program partners and other agencies that had previously received the baby care kits decided to discontinue the use of baby care kits starting this year. Changes in program directions have helped to guide this change. They are thankful for our years of previous support which benefited many families around the world, but they are now asking us to put our energy and resources into making CWS Hygiene Kits and CWS School Kits. Both of these kits are in high demand with partners all around the world.

When you see summer sales and back-to-school sales (especially in ShopRite or Walmart), please think about the very important items needed for these kits. If you want to do a complete kit on your own, please do so. Or if you buy in bulk, please bring your purchases to church or put them on the brown table in the basement of Cook Hall. If you can't shop and want to make a monetary donation, someone else will shop for you. Please write a check to BRC and note on the memo line "CWS Kits". Cash donations are also accepted. You may use the pew envelopes or your Mission Fund envelopes in your offering packet labeling each with "CWS Kits".

CWS School Kit

One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
 Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages
 (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
 One 30-centimeter 12" ruler
 One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
 One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
 Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers removed from the package
 One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
 One 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight, solid colored
 canvas bag with cloth handles (no logos). No reusable shopping bags or
 backpacks.

If anyone has any of the cotton or lightweight, solid colored fabric described above, please consider donating it for the school kits. Last year Evelyn Cochran made beautiful, colorful bags; but this year CWS is asking for solid colored bags.

CWS Hygiene Kit

One hand towel measuring approximately 15"x28" to 16"x32"
 (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
 One washcloth
 One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
 One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
 One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
 One toothbrush in the package
 Ten standard size Bank-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date

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



Eagle Scout Candidate

We have been asked by Eagle Scout Candidate, Patrick O'Brien, from Troop 850 in Montgomery Township to help him with his Eagle Scout Project. He is collecting and donating 100 bags of toiletry items to TASK to help improve the quality of life of its patrons. They give their patrons a toiletry bag consisting of full-sized items of toothpaste, shampoo, bar soap, toothbrush, deodorant, and razor. Please look for Patrick's collection box at the back of the church or in the church office through August. Thank you for providing for the homeless in the Trenton.



Third Graders Learn About Blawenburg and BRC by Barb Reid

On three separate days in June, over 300 Montgomery third graders came to our church in groups of 50 to learn about what life was like in Blawenburg in the past 200 years. They learned about how the church broke away from Harlingen and became the centerpiece of Blawenburg. Dave Cochran presented this program and has been doing so for a number of years.

We continue to be amazed and amused by words that come out of the mouths of babes! Upon entering the west door of the sanctuary, one young lady stopped, did a full panoramic spin and exclaimed, "This is BEAUTIFUL!" Dave asked the children to vote on how long they thought it took to build the church over 180 years ago. They were given the following options: three days, three weeks, three months, or three years.

Most voted for three years. They were astounded when they learned that construction took only three days. "WHAT? WHAT!" could be heard throughout the sanctuary. One young man summed it up best: "Wow! All this in three days!"



From the perspective of those of us who were privileged to observe, it was evident that Dave remarkably made an impression on each and every class in Montgomery who visited our church. All classes were given the unique opportunity to gain from his knowledge as well as witness his love for this church. He was gentle as well as engaging. The children were attentive and filled with energetic excitement after their time with him. They left with a better understanding of our historical church and we can only attribute such credit to Dave.



From the Property Team

The following are some of the work projects we have around the church property.

Parsonage: Pruning, weeding, and mulching is needed around the house. Interior cleaning is scheduled for Monday August 1st, 9am till noon. Jeff and Jamie will soon be here!

Memorial Hall: Some painting, cleaning, and “spiffing” is needed to enhance our attractiveness for possible rentals. In the southwest, front classroom, the old, worn carpet is being removed and the wood floors brought back to life.

Sanctuary: Long overdue is a thorough cleaning and tender care, and some painting. Eric Perkins is planning to spend part of his vacation time preparing and painting one of our exterior doors. It would be great to see both looking fresh and welcoming.

If you are interested, and able to physically help or finance any part of these necessary, but unbudgeted projects, please call Ethel at 908-359-6027. We can arrange times during the day or evening to work together. Wherever you can help and whatever time you can give will be so very appreciated.

By all means, make time to thank God for our many blessings, which certainly includes our wonderful property here at BRC. The Property Team: Ethel Terhune, Jean Beachell, Ginny Doremus, Gracie Johnson, Peggy Querec, and Don Terhune.

If you would like to Adopt-A-Project to help with the upkeep of our church property, please talk to Jean Beachell or Ethel Terhune.

THANK YOU ! Jim Beachell for all the time and effort he has put in at the Parsonage and Memorial Hall.

Help Wanted Many Hands Make Light Work

Parsonage – On Monday, August 1st, volunteers are needed to prune, weed, and mulch around the house. Inside cleaning will also be done. If another day or time is better for you, that can be arranged. Let Ethel Terhune know your availability: 908-359-6027. (See above)

Church World Service Projects – Coordinators are needed for the fall/winter mission projects. You will be working with Barbara Pavlicek, Missions Chairperson, on the Church World Service School and Hygiene Kits (September); CROP Hunger Walk (October)—Gracie Johnson will coordinate this project; Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes (November); and Heifer International (December and January). If you are a busy person with a heart for mission, one of these short-term projects is just right for you. Let Barbara know: 609-683-5523. (See pg. 9)

FunFest – Do you have an hour or two to talk to people and give out information about our church at our Township's FunFest booth at the airport on September 25th from 12pm—5pm? Let Dave Cochran know: 609-466-3539.

Consistory Highlights

Meeting of Monday, July 1, 2016 @7:30 PM in Cook Hall

For a full copy of the minutes, please stop by the church office during open hours (see back page).

- Devotions were given by Bernice VanNostrand from Colossians 3:12-17 focusing on the need for compassion, forgiveness, love, peace, and getting rid of hatred—timely thoughts for today's world.
- Pastor Jeff is getting a head start by meeting with Consistory members and Team leaders on August 16, 17, or 18.
- With much persistent and consistent work, the pulpit has been filled with preachers and liturgists for the rest of the summer. Many thanks to Gracie and the Worship Team.
- Time to clean up and spruce up our property. Work will be done on the parsonage, sanctuary, and Memorial Hall this summer. See articles in this Beacon. **REMINDER:** When using any church facility, please clean up after yourself, turn off lights, and lock doors when leaving. Ethel, Properties Team, and Volunteers, thank you in advance.
- Finance and Stewardship Team reported that we are solvent! Good news!
- Communications Team reminds us to keep an eye out for articles in the fall Montgomery News.
- Barb Reid and the Care Team are working on updating a manual. Thanks for keeping us aware of the prayerful needs of our congregation and community.
- We are blessed to have Karen Hill as our BVS director with her diligent, hard work of seeing our preschool through a difficult year of teacher illness, attrition, and interviewing.
- In the fall, Wendy Herbert will present information on Planned Giving.
- Members officially elected Dave Cochran as VP of Consistory for one more year. Election of Clerk was deferred to next month.

Classis Corner

As you may or may not know, our church is one of 30 organized churches and a few church starts or mission churches that make up the Delaware-Raritan Classis. Our Classis along with the Classis of New Brunswick [which our new Pastor Jeff Knol is coming from] and the Passaic Valley Classis and the Classis of Greater Palisades make up the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics. Our Regional Synod along with six other synods across the USA and Canada make up our denomination: the Reformed Church in America, the oldest Protestant denomination in the country. Our Classis has been referred to as a 'fleet of ships', sailing together and supporting one another. We have long been aware that we, as a Classis, have limited resources and manpower to give many churches the help and support they need.

This Spring Classis contracted with Holy Cow Church Consulting to conduct an assessment of our Classis, its ministry, focus and passions, its effectiveness and potential. The survey was called The Landscape. Our Classis Executive Committee and our Congregational Care Committee met on June 14th to go over the results of the survey, which were very helpful. The main points for here and now are that there is lots of room for improvement and most of our church consistories know little if anything about what Classis does! So, as your Elder Delegate to Classis, I will endeavor to share some of that with you here over time.

Gracie Johnson, BRC Elder Delegate to Classis and Chair of the D-R Multicultural Committee.



KAREN'S

OFFICE HOURS

MON 8:30 to 1:30

TUES OFF

WED OFF

THUR 8:30 to 3:30

FRI 8:30 to 11:30

*The Blawenburg Beacon
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BLAWENBURG REFORMED CHURCH

In Service to the Risen Christ since 1832

BRC is a ministry partner of Marble Collegiate Church in NYC.
To learn more, visit www.marblechurch.org/blawenburgchurch.

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.

Summer Summary of Dates

(see articles for more details)

See page 5 for the Preaching Calendar!

August 1—Work Day at the Parsonage 9 am

August 11—Communications Team 10am

August 15—Gardening at Crawford House 6 pm

August 20—Harvest Home @ Griggstown

Reformed 3—7pm

August 22—Deadline for Beacon Submissions

August 23—First Day for our new Pastor

August 27—Move-in day for the Knols

August 28—1st worship service led by Pastor Jeff

August 29—Consistory 7:30pm

Save the Date!

Sept. 11—Church picnic & swim at Clancys' home

Sept. 12—Gardening at Crawford House 6 pm

Sept. 15—Blue Pomegranate 7:30 pm

Sept. 17 - Step into Fall Carnival @ North

Branch Reformed - 3-6pm

Sept. 24—Hopewell Harvest Fair

Sept. 25—Fun Fest @ Princeton Airport

Oct. 3—Gardening at Crawford House 6 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July

- 2 Kevin Clancy
- 8 Will Quackenbush
- 12 Lisa Hunt
- 21 Palmer White
- 29 Todd Quackenbush

August

- 2 Will Herbert
- 11 Nancy Meyer
- 19 Tom Hunt
- 22 Kaitlyn Clancy
- 24 Diana Pfannebecker
- 31 Rick White

ANNIVERSARIES!

- 5 Rick & Lisa White
- 16 Sarah & Marc Hong
- 22 Dave & Evelyn Cochran

WEEKLY EVENTS

Worship Sundays @10AM

Bible Study Tuesdays

@10AM in CH Library

AA Meeting Tuesdays

@6:30PM in CH Basement

Summer Events at Marble

For details about summer events at Marble log on to www.marblechurch.org!