



The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

Winter 2019

January 23, 2019

Greetings Friends in Jesus Christ,

I have wonderful news to share with you! Barb Reid has been hired as our church's administrative assistant. For that we give great thanks to God.

This fall Karen Larsen let us know that she would be stepping down as our church administrator in order to pursue other professional opportunities. At that time Barb jumped into action as our interim administrator. She helped the church weather the holidays and my paternity leave and she gave us an opportunity to conduct a search to fill the position.

Dave Cochran was called upon to head up the search team, which included Peggy Querec, Jean Beachell, Gracie Johnson, and me. The search team was unanimous in recommending Barb to our church's leadership board (called the consistory), which was also unanimous in their decision to offer Barb the position. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dave and the members of the Search Team for their efforts!

Aside from her new position, Barb is a wonderful servant to our church. She sings in the choir and is a member of the Worship Team; she teaches Bible stories to the students at the Blawenburg Village School (BVS); she helped develop and lead our current Sunday school program; she coordinates our Care Team (which includes managing the prayer chain and printed prayer requests, meal trains, helping to send cards on behalf of the church, and helping me plan pastoral visits). Barb is a co-organizer of our Sinterklaas Bazaars, she regularly helps out with our SHIP lunches, she is a member of the Communications Team and helps to write and proof-read our internal and external communications. I am sure there are several other things that I am forgetting to include here and I am also sure that you all share my confidence that Barb is a faithful and dedicated servant of the Blawenburg Church and that she will do a wonderful job as the new administrative assistant. I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with Barb within the ministry of our church.

Karen Larsen recently emailed to let us know that the transition into her new position is going well. She and her cats are settling into their new life in Bradford County, PA and Karen is now trained and working as a Behavioral Rehabilitation Specialist, a Clinical Therapist, and will soon be a Crisis Intervention Specialist for an organization called CONCERN that does work with children and their families.

I was also recently in touch with Karen Hill, who had served for ten years as the director of BVS, before she and her partner Bruce moved to Florida this summer to live closer to some of their children and grandchildren. Karen is now working as a kindergarten teacher. She and Bruce love the weather in Florida, but Karen reports that she really misses the culture of BVS.

As a church we can be grateful. We have been blessed with wonderful staff members over the past several years. We also have been blessed to find capable and faithful people to fill our vacancies including Barb Reid and Angela Wright (current director of BVS). We can pray that God will continue to bless those of us who work for the church and that God will also continue to bless those who have moved on and are spreading God's blessings elsewhere in God's world.

Sincerely,
Pastor Jeff Knol

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ADMINISTRATION



Check the Door!

When children are in Cook Hall, or any school building, the doors **MUST** be locked for their safety. It's the law. When coming into Cook Hall, please pull the doors closed behind you. When leaving, please push them shut tightly to ensure that they are locked.

For Your Planning Convenience

Beacon material is due to the office (office@blawenburgchurch.org) and Barb P. (bjpmay1998@aol.com) by the date of the deadline. Also, if anyone would like to contribute photos for future Beacons, we welcome them.

Deadline
February 19

Small Church Resource and Fellowship Retreat Saturday, February 23

In February we have an opportunity to learn from and share our wisdom with other members from local Reformed churches. Our Reformed Church Classis (nearly 30 RCA churches in our area) sponsors a retreat every February. This year the focus of that retreat will be ministry in small churches. Many of our Classis churches fall into the category of "small churches" including our very own. At the retreat there will be a variety of discussions. I, Pastor Jeff, will be helping to lead some of those discussions. I would love for members of our church to come and participate in this time of fellowship and learning. We have a lot to contribute and a lot to learn. The event will take place at the Three Bridges Reformed Church and go from 9am-2pm.

New Church Email Address

Please be aware, the new church email address is office@blawenburgchurch.org. Emails sent to the former address will continue to forward to the church office's inbox.

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



Elders Joe Pavlicek and Eric Perkins serve communion - December 2.



BVS singers in church



Bernice Van Nostrand delivers the Children's Sermon - November 11.



Chaplain Nancy Curtis preaches November 11.



The Blodgetts light the Advent Candle of Joy.



The Puglieses light the Advent Candle of Peace.

Worship Guide

January 20 - 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
 January 27 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 February 3 - 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
 February 10 - 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

February 17 - 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20
 February 24 - 1 Corinthians 15: 35-48,
 42-50
 March 3 - 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

WORSHIP—Continued



The sanctuary on Christmas Eve



Christmas Eve



View from the back of the sanctuary



Children's Sermon on Christmas Eve



Friar and King



Celebration Singers perform Good King Wenceslas



The Lenten Choir Needs You

It's already 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 Blawenburg Choir over the Advent and Christmas seasons, any one of the six of them. They did a great job! But we'd love more company.

Blawenburg Choir is a seasonal commitment, rehearsing several weeks in advance for music we present. Lent and Easter rehearsals begin Sunday, February 24, from 7:25 – 8:45am and continue on Sunday mornings before the 9am service. Seventh graders and

above are welcome, and regular attendance is the sole requirement. If you're reading this or you heard about it from someone, you are invited, and now is the time to let us know you can join us.

Celebration Singers meets next on Sunday January 27, for rehearsal at 8:15am in the sanctuary. This is a "pickup" group meeting only on the mornings we sing to offer music that is easily learned. Absolutely all ages welcome!

If you can offer other vocal or instrumental music for our services, we would love to use you! Please contact music director Kathleen.Connolly.78@verizon.net to offer participation in any musical area.

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

Thanks for a Great Christmas Party, Clancys!



Coach Taback Threw a Memorable 80th Birthday Party



Tabacks (Alan, Louise, and daughter Jennifer) dancing up a storm



Birthday speech with family and friends

HOSPITALITY –Continued

January Brunch ~ A Big Hit



The Hospitality Team organized its first brunch for Sunday, January 6. Thirty-five people attended and two tables of food were provided. This was a great social for those who attended.

Our next two brunches will be **February 3** and **March 3**. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Evelyn Cochran, Barb Van Liew, Nancy Meyer



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

Sunday School



Mrs. Van Nostrand tells the story of the Holy Family.

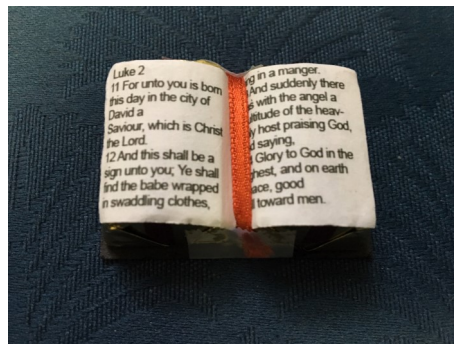


Children respond to the story with crafts.

Mary and Martha Book Group

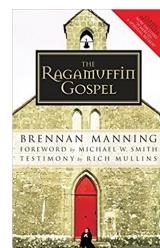


A lovely Christmas table setting



Hilde's handiwork tells the Christmas Story in chocolate.

The Mary and Martha book group will continue their lively discussion of *grace* as described in The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning on Wednesday, January 23, at 6:15pm, at the home of Bernice Van Nostrand. The group will discuss Chapters 3 and 4 and compare and contrast Manning's thoughts about *grace*. Does the group agree/disagree with him? All women are invited to come for an evening of discussion, prayer, and dinner. Please let Bernice know if you would like to come: 908.244.1115 or vns206@aol.com. She will set a place for you at the dinner table!



Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 10am in the Church Library. Come join us as we read and discuss scripture for the upcoming Sunday message and take time to pray with one another. Coffee and an occasional treat will be provided.



Blawenburg Village School

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

December was a very busy month at Blawenburg Village School. We started the Christmas season by traveling to Bethlehem, during our concert. All students participated in the concert which was enjoyed by their family and friends. We also had a visit from Santa! He spent time with some of our students and their families after the concert. Miss Kelly from the Dance Factory came and danced with us on December 17 and on December 19. We had a cookie swap where we were able to share cookies with our friends. This fun week ended with a school-wide pajama party and brunch.



On January 16, Dennis the magician came to entertain us. We had the best time! You could hear belly laughs throughout the entire building.

On Friday, February 8, BVS will be hosting a Kids' Night Out. Your child is welcome to join us for some Valentine fun, crafts, pizza, and a movie. The cost is \$15 (registered students) or \$20 (non-registered students) for the first child and an extra \$10 for siblings.

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year and summer camp began on January 16. Classes will be available for children ages 2-5. We will be holding a closed enrollment for current BVS students and BRC members until January 29. After January 29, open enrollment will begin. Please join us on Saturday, January 26 (10:00am-11:30am) or Monday, January 28 (10:00am-11:00am) for an Open House. Stop in for a tour of the school and to obtain information on our programs.

An Enrichment Program is also available for children ages 2-6. Sessions are available Monday-Friday 1:00-3:00. This is a great way to have a few hours to yourself while your child is in a fun safe environment with certified teachers. Cost is \$25.00 for an afternoon session. Enrollment is limited, so please call (609.466.6600) or email (awright@blawenburgvillageschool.com) to check availability.

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

Heifer International

Thank you to everyone who purchased an alternative gift from the Heifer International table in December. Whether you bought an animal, a tree, an education for a girl, or a stove, you helped someone or a family to begin their journey out of poverty and to become self sustaining. The total amount sent to Heifer International in Little Rock, Arkansas, to begin that journey was \$3,644.00. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

From the \$9,000.00 total income from Sinterklaas, twenty percent of that amount, or \$1,800.00, is designated for missions. That money will be donated to disaster relief in the U.S. such as the California fires and recent hurricane recovery efforts. Specific information will be given in the next **Beacon**.



Our next mission event will be on January 29 with a luncheon in Somerville for the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (S.H.I.P). Further information about this event from Pastor Jeff and Jamie is below.

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9

S.H.I.P. Opportunity ~ January 29



Tuesday, January 29 is our next opportunity to make and serve a lunch with the SHIP program in Somerville. As with the last few lunches, we will be partnering with Griggstown for this event.

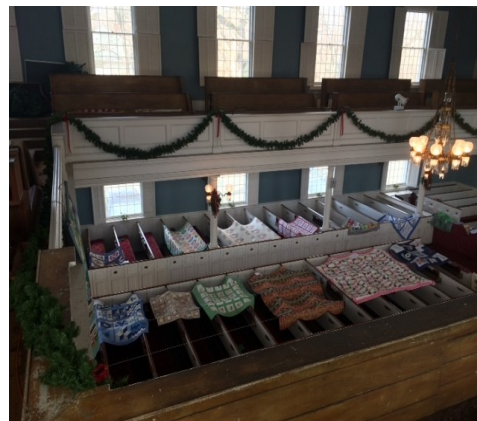
Altogether, we will need around ten volunteers between 10:30am and around 2pm. We will also need sloppy joe sandwich makings, salads, dessert, and all the fixings for around 50 guests. There are many ways to help, including financial donations to cover the cost of supplies. Jamie and Jeff Knol will be helping coordinate the food, donations, and volunteers. Please reach out with any questions or look for the sign-up sheets in fellowship hall.

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

Reaching Out to the Community through Sinterklaas



PROCLAMATION—Continued



A Sinterklaas Thank You!

Many thanks to all of those who baked, cooked, crafted, worked, cleaned, priced, parked, served, sold, and bought to make Sinterklaas 2018 a success. It was a cold but beautiful day that brought us a steady stream of visitors. The overwhelming feeling of fellowship combined with Christmas cheer truly was heartwarming.

Total income collected was \$9,000.00! Twenty percent, or \$1,800.00, will go from the Missions Team to disaster relief for floods and fires. The remaining 80%, or \$7,200.00, is allocated toward the preservation and restoration of our beautiful sanctuary. In addition, we received \$3,644.00, to go directly to Heifer International, whose campaign kicked off at Sinterklaas and continued through the Christmas season.

We recently met with the booth chairs and many other faithful Sinterklaas workers and chose the date for Sinterklaas 2019. December 7 it is! Mark your calendars!

In love and appreciation, Gracie and Barb R.

PROPERTIES

Troop 46 Made Short Work of our Leaves

With help from their dads and scout leaders, the boy scouts made short work of the leaves on our church campus and at the parsonage on Saturday, December 1. Thank you, scouts, for your annual help. We say thanks as well, to the moms who helped wash windows and screens in Cook Hall. All just in time for Sinterklaas.



Ruthie's Big Day Celebrating 95 Years with Family and Friends



Ruthie Patterson with her five children

OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thur—
8:00am -1:00pm

Fri—11:00am—12:30pm

*The Blawenburg Beacon
is a publication of*

**Blawenburg
Reformed
Church**

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VP of Consistory
Bernice Van Nostrand

**Church Administrator
& Beacon Publisher**
Barb Reid

Beacon Editor
Barb Pavlicek

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

Plan Ahead:

January

- 23 Mary & Martha 6:15pm Van Nostrand Home
- 26 BVS Open House 10:00am School House
- 27 Celebration Singers 8:15am Sanctuary
- 28 BVS Open House 10:00am School House
- Montgomery Mosaic 7:00pm Kaufman Ctr.
- 29 SHIP Lunch 10:15am Parking Lot

February

- 3 Potluck Brunch 10:30am Fellowship Hall
- 4 Properties Team 12:30pm CW Center
- 6 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Fellowship Hall
- 7 Missions Team 10:15am Library
- Communications Team 11:00am Library
- 14 BVS Board 9:30am Library
- Worship Team 11:45am Springdale Golf Club
- 19 Consistory 7:30pm CW Center
- Beacon Articles Due
- 24 Choir Begins 7:25am Sanctuary
- 27 Mary & Martha 6:15pm Van Nostrand Home

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

January

- 8 Brian Van Liew
- 9 Jim Eberly
Alan Taback
- 17 Linnea Eberly
Katherine Smith
- 20 Hilde Cavanaugh
- 25 Jim Beachell
- 27 Charlotte Malpeso
- 29 Catherine Murphy
- 31 Tat Hardesty
Hilde Lewis

February

- 2 Elaine Zeltner
- 6 Sonya Hunt
- 9 Barry Gurzo
- 10 Lisa White
- 11 Emma Tufano
- 22 Keith Sickafoose
- 28 Elmi Hill
Barb Reid
Martin Tel

If anyone would like to contribute photos for future Beacons, we welcome them. Please send photos via email to Barb Pavlicek and Barb Reid by the date of the deadline. (See p. 2)

Weekly Events

Tuesday

Bible Study 10:00am

Saturday

AA 8:00pm

Sunday

Worship 9am

Sunday School 10am

BRC Mission Statement

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.



Like us on facebook to view more news and events!