



The Blawenburg Beacon

January, 2015

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

January 1, 2015

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! January 4-10 I will be in Arizona with about 80 fellow young pastors serving churches around the country. Each January since 2012 I have gathered with this group for training in pastoral leadership skills (Next Generation Leadership Initiative). After learning about family systems, adaptive leadership skills, and communication and team building strategies over the last few years, this year I will be exploring the insights of Natural Church Development. I can't tell you how much my ministry has benefitted from receiving this training. I am more aware of my own strengths and growing edges as a pastoral leader as well as tuned in to the critical skills required to help the local church fulfill a faithful ministry effectively. You can learn more about the program and its relevance to the life of the local church here:

https://ext.pbucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=353

I am passionate about bringing the gifts of God's people together around a compelling vision of the gospel for the purpose of engaging in a faithful mission in the world. Involvement in this initiative continues to equip me to be the best pastor I can be with and for you at Blawenburg Reformed Church.

I'm looking forward to a great new year in ministry with you, anticipating with joy how we will continue to respond to and share Christ's invitation to "Come, follow me."

Blessings,

Rev. Travis B. Winckler
Pastor and Teacher

Join us at BRC for new opportunities for ministry and mission in 2015! Interested in ministry to families, children, local and international service, projects, faith and spiritual formation? Speak with Pastor Travis to learn how you can get involved in sharing God's love in the New Year.

Christmas Eve 2014

We were thrilled to have 166 people attend Travis's first Christmas Eve at Blawenburg.



And Travis's First Baptism was held On December 28th—Jennifer Beachell and Deryle House had their son, Jack, baptized. James, cousin of Jack, was happy to be included in the family picture.



Worship

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

Sunday, Jan. 4th, our guest preacher will be the Rev. Kirsty DePree, Minister of Congregational Care, at Marble Collegiate Church. The Rev. DePree is passionate about walking with others on their journey. In addition to serving as Minister of Discipleship, she is also the Pastoral advisor to Stephen Ministry, Women's Ministry and the Committed Couples Ministry. Before arriving at Marble Collegiate Church, she served as the Coordinator of Discipleship for the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and also served as a minister in three different RCA congregations in Michigan. Rev. DePree attended Western Theological Seminary and Hope College. She is married to Tim and has two children, Josh and Jeremy.

Jan. 4	10 AM	Worship with Communion (See note above.)
Jan. 11	10 AM	Worship—Baptism of the Lord - Genesis 1:1-5 (We remember our baptism.)
Jan. 18	10 AM	Worship - "Come and see" - John 1:43-51
Jan. 25	10 AM	Worship - "Good news" - Mark 1:14-20



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.

Our choir is currently a seasonal commitment. We begin weekly rehearsals in the first week of February, with optional smaller or individual sessions in January. We usually rehearse in the late afternoon on Wednesday or Thursday (whatever works best by consensus) 3:45 – 4:30. We can consider other options if that matters to you.

Continued on page 4.

Worship, Continued

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

Hospitality

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



Big Thank You

A big thank you to Troop 46 Boy Scouts for our Holiday Wreaths. We appreciate them.

Troop 46 donated 6 wreaths for our doors.



Troop 46 selling wreaths at Sinterklaas

Pot Luck Luncheon



The Family Life Team would like to invite everyone to stay after church on January 11th 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...”

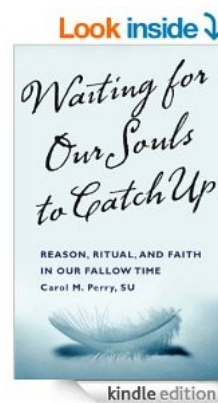
Nursery – 9:45—11:30 – Noah's Ark Room – Cook Hall, upper level, east end

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.

The Tuesday Morning Study Group will reconvene sometime in January. Watch the e-announcements for more information.

Interfaith Discussion - On Sunday, January 11, 1:15—2:15, join together in the library at Cook Hall to view a live web streaming of our partners in ministry's annual interfaith discussion between a Muslim scholar, a Rabbi, and representatives from Marble Collegiate Church and the Collegiate Churches of New York. Come learn how these different faith traditions offer faith, hope, and love from their unique perspectives.

The Mary and Martha Prayer/Study Group will meet on January 19, 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.



End the Year and Start Anew

Now that the hectic holiday season is over, this is a reminder to submit your pledge and pay your assessment (\$82.00 each member) for the 2015 church year.

In November, BRC sent a letter to its members and January is the time to put our 2015 budget together. Your pledges are an integral part of this process. If you have not sent your pledge, please do so at this time.

BRC is pleased with its accomplishments, and we hope to grow and continue the path of sending God's love to everyone.



Blawenburg Village School

P.O. Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

info@blawenburgvillageschool.com

Karen Hill, Director

December was a very busy month at the 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 Scholastic book fair which was run by two of our parents, Tammy Collins and Kendra Brito. We are blessed to have them and the many other parents who assisted. We also had a visit from Santa! He arrived on the fire truck and spent time with some of our students and their families after the concert.

Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year and summer camp will begin on January 12th. 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 23rd. After January 23rd open enrollment will begin. Please join us on Saturday, January 24th (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.

A Soup with Siblings Family Fun Night will be held on January 30th (5:00-7:00pm).

Mom's Morning Out is available Monday-Friday, 9:00-12:00. Children ages 2-6 are welcome to join us for a morning of fun! The cost is \$30.00/session. Please call or email if you'd like to reserve a spot.

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 \$20.00 for an afternoon session. Enrollment is limited so please call (609-466-6600) to check availability.



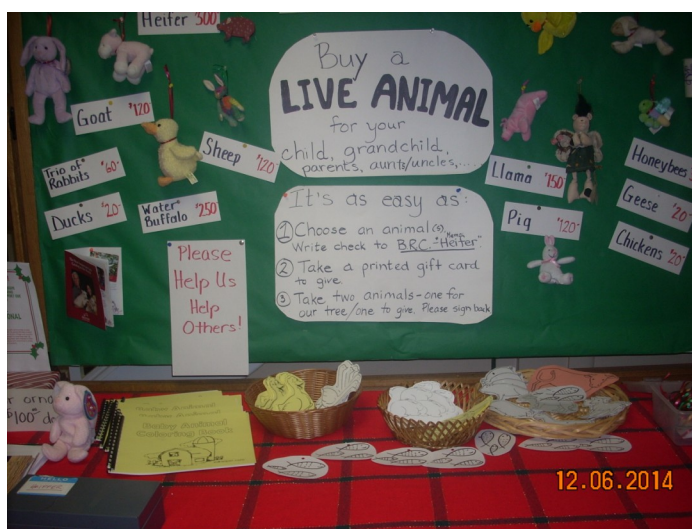
BVS Scholastic Book Fair

Missions

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

Heifer International

This Epiphany (Jan. 6) we celebrate the three kings or wise men bringing gifts to Jesus, the ultimate Gift of God to all mankind! This day also winds up our Heifer mission, 'the gift that keeps on giving'. To date we have raised \$2,160, which means our church and community members have provided animals where they are most needed in the world to help those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. If you would still like to make a donation to buy an animal to provide a family with the means to be self-sustaining, you may do so in the sanctuary or Cook Hall. The gift cards used to honor a friend or family member depict how your gift 'opens doors' for people. Buy the animals now and save the gift cards for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions throughout the year! Please make checks payable to BRC and note 'Heifer' on the memo line. Thank you for your support. *Barbara P. and Sonya*



Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan's Purse

Because of our special mailing labels we now know that our shoeboxes have gone to Angola, Ukraine, Colombia, and Botswana. Please continue to pray for the children who receive our gifts and the gospel from Samaritan's Purse.

BRC 2014 Missions Accomplished

Part of our calling as Christians is to reach out to others locally, nationally, and internationally. As you can see by the list of missions below, we are making strides in this direction. The Mission Team could use some help in the coming year. If you would like to lend a hand in reaching out to others, please contact Barb Pavlicek, BJPMAY1998@aol.com. *(Many thanks to Dave Cochran for pulling together the events and the results.)*

2014 Blawenburg Reformed Church Missions		
When	What	Results
January	Heifer International	\$5,000.00 / 15 pairs of animals
February	Crawford House Soup-making	23 women from Crawford House learned to make soup and enjoyed eating it afterward.
April	Montgomery Township Food Pantry	Food and money were donated to provide Easter dinners for local families.
May	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,179.66 was collected for world missions.
June – September	Crawford House	Church members taught residents how to plant and maintain a vegetable garden.
June	Montgomery Food Pantry	40 people came to a BBQ and brought food for this mission.
August	Montgomery Food Pantry	3 bags of groceries were delivered to the pantry.
September	Church World Service	Kits for babies and school children in poor countries were purchased and assembled.
October	CROP Walk	\$1,865.00
November	Operation Christmas Child	Gift boxes of toys, school supplies, hygiene items, etc. were sent to needy children in poor nations.
December	Heifer International	\$2,160.00 collected as of 12/28
Other	Chiapas (Mexico) Mission	The \$1,450.00 for this mission comes from our budget.
	Crawford House	Food bank deliveries and computer classes were held throughout the year.
Spring	Rummage Sale	\$350 to Washington Mudslide victims \$350 to BVS Family with child with eye cancer
December	Sinterklaas	\$400 each was given to Crawford House and Montgomery Food Pantry.

Proclaiming

We commit our gifts to ... proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

A Sinterklaas Thank You!

Many thanks to all who baked, cooked, crafted, sorted, cleaned, priced, served, sold and bought to make this *Sinterklaas* such a success! In spite of rainy weather, we had a steady flow of traffic and high spirits throughout. Here is our approximate final accounting for the event:

Crafts:	\$ 803.00
Baked Goods:	\$ 645.50
Soup:	\$1,235.75 [net of @\$50 for containers]
Lunch:	\$ 258.38 [net]
White Elephant:	\$1,125.95
Consignments:	\$ 198.21
Misc. Donations:	<u>\$ 96.00</u>
Total:	\$4,362.79
Less % to Missions: -	<u>\$ 800.00</u>
	\$3,562.79 Proceeds to BRC Operation & Ministry

Soup by the Numbers

Thanks to all who made or bought soup at Sinterklaas. It was a record year for soup sales.

Number of soup chefs	18
Variety of soups	41
Containers sold	190 (102 pints, 88 quarts)
Profit	over 1200

In addition to the profit, it's great to hear people talking about how good the soups were. Good job, Team

Sinterklaas Revisited

C
R
A
F
T
S



Jeanne, Barb, Bernice and Pat



Jessie, Diana, and Dave

S
O
U
P
S



WHITE ELEPHANT

Jean, Jeanne, & Jean!!!



BAKED GOODS

Ginny & Jean with church neighbors

DUTCH TREAT LUNCH



Barbara and son, Matthew



Tat, Sally and Ruth

The Service of Installation of the Rev. Travis B. Winckler by the Classis of Delaware Raritan on December 14, 2014



Vice President of Consistory David Cochran announced the official call to Travis by the Blawenburg Reformed Church; the Rev. Ken Lobb, President of the D-R Classis delivered the charge to our new minister; the Rev. Mark King from Marble Collegiate Church preached the installation sermon and congratulates Travis upon his oration and signing of the Form of Declaration as the Rev. Steve Miller (in white), Executive Minister to Classis and other members of Classis officially welcome Travis to the Classis; the Rev. David Kahler delivered the charge to the congregation as our former supervising pastor; the makers of joyful noise: Katie on organ, Barb R. Bernice, Gracie, Evelyn, and Barb A.



Teenagers are the best! Catherine rallied Ariel, Morgan, Emma and Alex to help with the serving and clean up of the Installation Reception



Blawenburg Reformed Church
Consistory Highlights
December 15, 2014

Present: Rev. Travis Winckler, David Cochran, Jean Beachell, Peggy Querec, Barbara Pavlicek, Catherine Murphy, Ethel Terhune, Alan Taback; Nancy Curtis, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome – Dave Cochran welcomed everyone
2. Devotions – Rev. Travis Winckler
Advent Litany from THE HYMNAL – sang “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Reflections on “what is God up to in the world? in the BRC Consistory?”
Rev. Winckler opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Announcements
Pastoral Professional Week – Jan 4 –10--Rev. Winckler will be attending a UCC leadership workshop in Arizona entitled “Next Generation Leadership Initiative: Target 2030.
January 11th covered dish luncheon after church and then a live-streaming video from Marble Collegiate Church with a Muslim scholar, a rabbi, and representatives from Marble Collegiate Church and other Collegiate Churches of N.Y. Time: 1:15—2:15
4. Minutes from October and November 2014 were approved.
5. Correspondence
Thank you letter was received from the RCA for our support of the Chiapas, Mexico, missionaries.
6. Team Reports
Worship – Travis Winckler will preach from the lectionary in Jan. and Feb. on the features of Jesus' ministry. What impact does his ministry have today?
Missions – Barb Pavlicek—Between the church and the preschool, there were 43 shoeboxes packed and delivered. The Heifer International mission raised \$720 on Sinterklaas weekend and \$1880 as of 12/15.
Properties – Ethel Terhune—The Boy Scouts raked many leaves on 12/13. Many improvements have been made to the parsonage as well as other campus buildings.
Finance – Jean Beachell --Budget numbers are requested to Jean by January 12, 2015.
Sinterklaas will donate \$400 to Crawford House and \$400 to the Montgomery Food Pantry
Communications – David Cochran—We had two articles in the Dec. Mont. News and will try to keep our name in the public eye frequently.
Family Life – Evelyn Cochran—will provide light dinner following Travis' installation and will set up for covered dish lunch following church on Jan. 11. See Announcements above.
BVS – Peggy Querec--The Board met and decided the timing of Sinterklaas and BVS Christmas Concert are not working, so next year the two events will be on separate days.
7. Discussion/Updates
Pastor's report – Travis Winckler
What does it mean when Jesus says, “Come. Follow me.”? An invitational ministry. Who is my neighbor?
Not enough for Rev. Winckler to do his job alone. His job is to equip others. What would it look like for Consistory to have their eyes and ears open and invite others to participate in our teams?
Harville Hendrix workshop – Travis Winckler is exploring the possibility of a spring workshop on marriage, parenting, or family.
An outreach to the community / to serve the community
Rev. Winckler asked Ethel Terhune to pray for discernment.
Barbara Pavlicek and Rev. Winckler will continue this conversation.

Missions - Foreign/Local – Consistory is beginning to reevaluate our mission support. Should we continue to support a specific foreign mission or broaden our local mission support?
Who is my neighbor?

Should we support a mission in general or establish a sustained relationship with a family?
Need a mission objective

January 25 - Invitation to the Parsonage

Last Sunday of each month, Consistory is invited to the parsonage for a light dinner and conversation about vision and mission. What is our vision? What is our mission? What two or three things can we do to make our vision into mission?

8. Action – No action items.

9. Reflection: What happened in this meeting and what is its significance for our church?

Who is my neighbor? Building a caring community. What direction are we going? Vision and Mission. The youth of the church/community. Less business/more substance.

10. **January meeting – Monday, January 12, 2015**

Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Spiritual Life—Alan Taback--We have been in touch with some musicians and there is great interest. We will have a meeting soon.

Caroling at Foothill Acres Rehab & Nursing Facility in Hillsborough



NEW! ... Yoga in Blawenburg...

TGR Yoga

THE GREAT REMEMBERING

Blawenburg Reformed Church
 Memorial Hall
 416 Route 518, Blawenburg, NJ

Schedule effective January 2015



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
10-11:15am Yoga in Japanese w/Machiko 6-wk series Jan5,12,19 Feb2,9,23	10-11:30am Yoga for Stress Reduction w/Jenni	10-11:30am Chair Yoga w/Jayadeva	8:15-9:45am Yoga w/Jayadeva		8-9:30am Yoga w/Jayadeva	8am-4pm Yoga Teacher Training w/Jayadeva
5:45-7:15pm Meditation Course w/Jayadeva Jan5-Feb2			10-11:30am Breast Cancer Restorative w/Mireille contact.. BCRC		10-11:30am Multi-level Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Jeanine	6-8pm Bhagavad Gita Study w/Jayadeva open to all FREE
7:30-9pm Effective Movement thru Tai Chi w/Aaron	6:30-8pm Multi-level Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Jeanine		7-9:30pm Yoga Teacher Training w/Jayadeva			

10-11:30am Multi-level Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Jeanine	6-8pm Bhagavad Gita Study w/Jayadeva open to all FREE
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Instructor contact information:

Instructor	Email	Phone
Jayadeva	omjayadeva@gmail.com	609-851-1721
Jenni Jivani	jenni_desio@gmail.com	609-516-4383
Machiko Poot	machikosmile@hotmail.com	609-933-0190
Aaron Craelius	aaroncraelius@gmail.com	609-356-2768
Jeanine Dietz	jeanine@morethanom.com	410-562-2233
Mireille BCRC [Breast Cancer Resource Center]	mfaydel@gmail.com	609-497-2100

Classes at TGR Yoga are offered by the individual instructors.
 For information about each class or to enroll in a class contact the instructor.
IMPORTANT: please contact instructor before attending a class
 ~ contact information is listed to the right ~

www.TGRyoga.com

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



8	Brian Van Liew	19	Doug Wengel
9	Alan Taback	25	Jim Beachell

Summary of Dates

(Please see complete information in body of newsletter.)

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- Jan. 4 10 AM Worship with Communion
The Rev. Kirsty DePree (See page 3.)
Minister of Congregational Care at Marble
- Jan. 6 LAST DAY TO PURCHASE A HEIFER ANIMAL (See page 7.)
- Jan. 4-10 Rev. Winckler will be attending a UCC leadership
workshop in Arizona (See page 1.)
- Jan. 11 11:45 AM Pot Luck Luncheon (See page 4.)
1:15 PM Video Feed—Interfaith Discussion with Marble Collegiate
Church (See page 5.)
- Jan. 12 Enrollment for Current BVS Students and BRC Members begins
- Jan. 12 4:15 PM Worship Team Meeting
7:30 PM Consistory Meeting
- Jan. 13 4:00 PM Properties Team Meeting
5:30 PM Cemetery Team Meeting
- Jan. 23 BVS Open Enrollment Begins (See page 6.)
- Jan. 24 10—noon BVS Open House (See page 6.)
- Jan. 26 **Deadline for February Beacon materials**
- Jan. 30 5 - 7 PM BVS Soup with Siblings Family Fun Night (See page 6.)

Plan Ahead:

- Feb. 1 10 AM Boy Scout Sunday
Especially because we are sponsors of Troop #46, please come out on
Sunday, February 1st, to support our scouts on Scout Sunday. We are grateful for
all the help they've given us over the year, most recently with the huge job of leaf
raking on December 13th.

The Blawenburg Beacon

P.O. Box 266

Blawenburg NJ 08504

Dated Material

The Blawenburg Beacon is a publication of the
Blawenburg Reformed Church
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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.